



WEEKLY BRIEF

Program Highlight

Administrative Team

Joan M. Indart-Etienne
Principal

Kate Ames
Christina McLeod
Susan Salkin
Assistant Principals

District Team

Glenda Esperance
Superintendent
District 79

Jerry Brito
Deputy Superintendent
District 79

ReStart Academy celebrated a successful school opening by welcoming students to the 2025-26 school year at all of our sites serving middle school, high school and high school equivalency students.

Thank you to all of the site-based staff and main office staff who worked hard to ensure that we were ready on day one to welcome students and meet their academic and social/emotional needs.

Please see the attached First Day of School Collage to print and post at your site.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MAP Growth Testing (9/8-10/17)

All ReStart Academy Middle and High School students must be assessed using the online MAP Growth in both reading and math during the beginning of year testing window. Attached is a memo outlining the administration procedures for this testing window which runs through October 17th. For questions regarding MAP Growth testing procedures, contact your site Assistant Principal.

2. TABE Testing (Testing 9/22-10/10, TABE Data Collection Form due 10/14)

All ReStart Academy High School Equivalency students must be assessed using the online TABE Reading and Math assessments upon intake and once per trimester (dependent upon their admission date). Attached is a memo outlining the administration procedures for this testing window which runs through October 10th. The TABE Data Collection Form is due back to Josh Horsford via email by Tuesday, October 14th. For questions regarding TABE testing procedures, contact your site Assistant Principal.

3. ReStart Staff Forms Due

All staff should have completed the following Microsoft Forms:

- Staff Contact Form (was due on Wednesday, September 3)
- SOPM Receipt Form (was due on Wednesday, September 3)
- Staff Timekeeping Form (last Friday and weekly on Fridays before the end of the day)
- Staff Absence, Early Release, and Vacation Day Request Form (ongoing)

REMINDERS

1. ReStart Standard Operation Procedures Manual (SOPM)

The ReStart SOPM was created to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness at the ReStart sites and main office. It outlines key policies and procedures within our program. As a ReStart staff member it is your obligation to become familiar with all procedures and protocols in the SOPM. The updated SOPM is posted on the Weekly Brief website.

2. Intake Documents

All intake documents must be completed and sent to the main office immediately upon admission of a new student- see attached for a full checklist of requirements. In addition, be sure to provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the updated ReStart Student/Family Handbook (specific to academic track) along with a copy of the Planning Interview Packet and ReStart Admission Letter.

7 MINDSETS

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

"I think anything is possible to anyone who dreams, dares, works, and never gives up."

XAVIER DOLAN

The 7 Mindsets create a common language for all students, educators, staff, and families.



Connection to
Danielson
Framework

2b Establishing a Culture for Learning

Teachers who are successful in creating a culture for learning know that students are, by their nature, intellectually curious, and that one of the many challenges of teaching is to direct the students' natural energy toward the content of the curriculum. They also know that students derive great satisfaction, and a sense of genuine power, from mastering challenging content in the same way they experience pride in mastering, for example, a difficult physical skill.

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
OCTOBER 2025						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
NOVEMBER 2025						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Access the full NYCDOE Calendar [here](#)



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Using Students' Writing as Exemplars for Classmates

In this Cult of Pedagogy article, high-school English teacher Marcus Luther says that at the beginning of each school year, he has an empty bulletin board, on the opposite side of the room from the door, with a small sign in the middle, *Beautiful Language Wall*. As the year progresses, he reads students' writing and watches for especially well-written sentences. He calls them out in class - Here's something I loved about this sentence one of you wrote - and they serve as "an inspiration of what is possible," he says, "all the more powerful because it emerged from our own classroom." After class, he posts these gems on the wall, without students' names.

"Slowly but surely," he says, "that bulletin board tucked in the corner becomes a place students gravitate to in our classroom: arriving early to class to see new arrivals on the wall, hanging back after class with peers to hunt for their own writing I had bragged about earlier in the lesson, bringing other friends not even in the class to show off how their sentences 'made the wall.'"

What kinds of writing are honored? A good title, the best opening line, the "hook," a poignant sentence, the strongest closing. Students with the best exemplars get a cardboard crown, signed by other winners, and wear it proudly for the rest of the lesson. "Too often, I think, the only form of celebration that takes place in the classroom is the grade students receive," says Luther, "and frequently students who don't get the grade they were aiming for look at their work as a complete failure. Instead, by shifting to looking for and highlighting various specific components, it allows you to build confidence in your students in a genuine way while also building the culture of celebration in your classroom."

In a variation on this, Luther clips out five or so exemplar sentences for a particular assignment (for example, comparing King Lear and a 21st-century poem of their choice), posts them around the room (without students' names), and has the class do a gallery walk and take notes on especially noteworthy sentences and discuss how different approaches to the same assignment worked. Of course, students who wrote the exemplars know which ones are theirs and are quietly proud. Luther says one of his goals is to make students better - and more confident - writers, and this activity really helps.

Luther shares one more strategy. At the end of a semester, he asks students to take turns reading an unfamiliar poem aloud. As they read, students realize that the poem is a made up of lines from poems they each wrote a month earlier, with one line from each student woven into a composite poem. "Hey, I wrote that," says a student. "That's from my poem," says another. "I did this," says a third. "Shhhh, keep reading," says Luther.

At the end of one school year, a student remembered this exercise: "It shows how each person, aware or not, is given a spot to be, which seems pretty meaningful to me. The poem truly became a symbol of the community we created - even in a classroom setting."

"The Power of Centering Student Exemplars" by Marcus Luther in *Cult of Pedagogy*, August 31, 2025, excerpt from *Marshall Memo #650*.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAP Test - MS and HS Students.....	September 8-October 17
TABE Test - HSE Students	September 22-October 10
No School - Rosh Hashanah.....	September 23-24
No School - Yom Kippur.....	October 2
No School - Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day.....	October 13
TABE Data Collection Report Due	October 14
Last Day of T1/MP1.....	October 17
No School - Diwali	October 20
T1/MP1 Grade Due	October 21
T1/MP Report Cards Distributed	October 24