

S U C C E S S A C A D E M Y C H A R T E R S C H O O L S

DRIVING EXCELLENCE

A Daylong Seminar That Shares Success Academy Best Practices With NYC Public Elementary School Principals

October 30, 2014

7:30 am–4:00 pm

Since opening its first school in August of 2006, Success Academy has been the subject of keen interest: How do these schools—now 32 of them—continue to produce strong academic results among all segments of their enrollment: children with special needs, English Language Learners, and low-income children of color. In this overview of key elements of the Success Academy design, principals can expect to learn the innovative approaches to teaching and learning as well as actionable take-away lessons that can be applied in any school.

FOCUS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE DAY:

- Excellent student outcomes are about the adults. Participants will learn how we leverage the teacher improvement cycle to improve leader and teacher practice in real time.
- Focus will be on adult intellectual preparation: we will share our methods for ensuring instructional leaders and teachers are phenomenally well prepared.
- Participants will learn and discuss tactics for achieving high levels of joy and rigor around instruction.
- We will share key aspects of THINK Literacy and Success Academy's math curriculum.

MORNING SCHOOL VISITS

Participants will have an opportunity to observe Success Academy's literacy and math instruction and debrief with our principals and curriculum developers at a Success Academy school.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Through a combination of large group sessions, panels, video analysis, and breakout workshops, participants will learn more about how to build an adult culture of excellence. Sessions will demonstrate and analyze the Success Academy approach to rapidly improving teacher practice. Lunch will be provided.

SCHEDULE

7:30–8:00 am	Introductions, Review Schedule for the Day
8:00–8:45 am	Observation: Literacy Instruction
8:45–9:30 am	Literacy Debrief
9:30–10:15 am	Observation: Math Instruction
10:15–11:00 am	Math Debrief
11:00–11:30 am	Participants travel to Faculty House Columbia University, 64 Morningside Drive
11:30–12:00 pm	Check-in and Lunch Pick-Up (provided)
12:00–12:15 pm	Welcome Keri Hoyt, Executive Vice President of Schooling
12:15–12:45 pm	Plenary: Success Approach to Teaching and Learning Arin Lavinia, Senior MD of Academic Excellence and co-author of <i>Mission Possible: How the Secrets of Success Academy Can Work in Any School</i> , will discuss the evolution of Success Academy’s approach to teaching and learning with the focus on improving teacher practice and Success Academy’s qualities of excellent teaching.
12:45–1:30 pm	Breakout Sessions: Qualities of Excellent Teaching Group 1: Danique Loving, Principal of SA Harlem 1 Group 2: Vanessa Bangser, Principal of SA Bronx 2 Group 3: Richard Seigler, Director of Culture and Active Learning
1:35–2:05 pm	Plenary: Intellectual Preparation Participants will hear a presentation and discussion of the connection between intellectual preparation by the adults and excellent student outcomes.
2:10–2:50 pm	Breakout Sessions: Planning Meetings Success Academy principals will lead participants through a literacy planning meeting to demonstrate the SA approach to intellectual preparation.
2:50–3:15 pm	The Essential Role of the Principal Eva Moskowitz, Success Academy Founder and CEO will discuss the critical role of the principal as an instructional leader.
3:15–4:00 pm	Improving Practice in Real Time: Panel Discussion Participants will hear directly from Success Academy principals about the day-to-day implementation of our approach to teaching and learning. Arin Lavinia, Facilitator Danique Loving, Richard Seigler, Vanessa Bangser, Andy Malone

PRESENTERS

VANESSA BANGSER

Principal, Success Academy Bronx 2

After joining Teach for America, Vanessa first taught in a school just one street away from SA Bronx 2, working as a special education teacher, an intervention specialist, and as the school's data manager. At the time, she was an adjunct professor at Pace University, supporting new TFA teachers. In 2007, she was awarded TFA's National Teacher of the Year award, as well as a fellowship to attend Bank Street College's leadership program. In 2009, Vanessa left the DOE to join Success, becoming the founding Principal of SA Bronx 2 a year later. Vanessa received her BA and MST from Pace University and her master's from Bank Street College of Education.

MICHELE CARACAPPA

Director of Literacy

Michele taught in NYC with Teach for America before joining Success Academy as a founding first grade teacher at Harlem 1 in 2006. She served as leadership resident at SA Harlem 4, and later, as the founding principal of SA Bronx 1. In 2013, Michele joined the Instructional Management team as Director of Literacy, where she oversees literacy instruction across SA's 31 elementary and middle schools. Michele has a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in education from Pace University.

IZZY COPUS

Associate Director of Math

Izzy graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Commerce. She joined the Success Academy network in February 2009 and worked in External Affairs before starting as a founding teacher at Success Academy Harlem 5 in Fall 2010. At SA Harlem 5, Izzy taught first and second grade and earned a master's degree from Hunter College through its Teacher U program. After three years at Harlem 5, Izzy joined Stacey Gershkovich to form the first network Math Team in Summer 2013. Izzy now combines her experience as a classroom teacher with her data analysis and project management background to manage K-4 math instruction across all Success Academy schools.

STACEY GERSHKOVICH

Director of Math and Science

After graduating from Emory University with a degree in psychology and sociology, Stacey joined Teach for America in 2004 and taught first grade for two years at PS 138 in the Bronx while earning her MS in Education from Pace University. In 2006, Stacey joined Success Academy as a founding teacher at Harlem 1, where she taught science for two years before leading our science program as Science Curriculum and Staff Developer. In 2010, Stacey founded Success Academy Harlem 5 and led the H5 team as principal for three years. In 2013, Stacey became Director of Math and Science and now combines her many years of experience as a teacher, leader, and curriculum developer in her work to guide math and science instruction at Success Academies in Grades K-8.

KERI HOYT

Executive Vice President of Schooling

Keri Hoyt spent more than 18 years honing her management and leadership skills at The Princeton Review and buttressed her practical experience with an MBA from Wharton. Keri has applied her hard-earned knowledge and experience to Success Academy since 2009.

ARIN LAVINIA

Senior Managing Director of Academic Excellence

A former literacy consultant and NYC public school teacher, Arin has worked tirelessly to develop our THINK literacy program, perfect our teacher and leader training, and guarantee academic excellence across all our schools since 2008. She co-authored *Mission Possible: How the Secrets of Success Academies Can Work in Any School* with Eva Moskowitz.

DANIQUE DAY LOVING

Principal, Success Academy Harlem 1

Before joining Success Academy Charter Schools in 2007, Danique worked for Teach For America and went on to teach in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and New York. A Harlem native and the mother of three teenage boys, she is passionate about providing scholars in her old community with the necessary tools to succeed in the classroom and all the way through college. Danique received her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke.

ANDREW MALONE

Principal, Success Academy Harlem Central

Andy began teaching in Sunflower County, Mississippi, as a member of the 2008 Teach for America (TFA)—Mississippi Delta corps. He joined Success Academy in 2011 as a founding fourth grade teacher at SA Harlem 4. He went on to serve as a student achievement manager and leadership resident before becoming the principal of Harlem Central. Andy has a B.A. in American History and Literature from Harvard University and a M.A. in Education Leadership from Columbia University Teachers College. He is the recipient of Harvard’s Jonathan W. Levin Prize for Teaching and Social Justice, TFA-Delta’s Regional Sue Lehmann Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Serena Williams / John Nash MISSION Service Award. Aside from education reform and middle school design, Andy’s interests include tennis, cartooning, and writing.

EVA MOSKOWITZ

Founder, Chief Executive Officer

Eva Moskowitz founded Success Academy Charter Schools in 2006. Eva’s experience as a teacher, college professor, elected official, chair of the New York City Council’s Education Committee, and public school parent make her uniquely qualified to effectively lead the organization in establishing high-performing schools and pioneering for educational excellence.

RICHARD SEIGLER

Director of Culture and Active Learning

Before joining Success Academy in 2008 as a founding teacher at Harlem 4, Richard worked in banking and as a professional dancer. After two years as a dance and kindergarten teacher, he became Dean and was able to improve school culture and parent relationships. Before becoming Success Academy’s Director of Culture and Active Learning, Richard was the principal of Success Academy Harlem 3. Richard graduated with a degree in sociology and social work from SUNY College at Old Westbury and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

KHARI SHABAZZ

Principal, Success Academy Harlem 5

Born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, Khari graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a master’s in public administration. He worked with the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, investigating allegations of police misconduct. Working in the New York City school system, he held various positions related to behavior management, and in 2007 he joined the Success Academy team as the first Dean of Students for the school and the network. Khari is active in several organizations that aim to empower high school students in underserved communities with leadership skills, global awareness, and academic support.

JESSICA SIE

Associate Director of Literacy

Jessica graduated from the University of Colorado Denver with a Master of Arts in Literacy, Language, and Culturally Responsive Teaching. Prior to joining Success Academy, she taught second and third grade for six years in Denver. In 2011, Jessica taught at Success Academy Bronx 1 before joining the Instructional Management team in 2013. As a Literacy Leadership Resident, Jessica wrote Common Core Standards-aligned curriculum units and created and presented professional development sessions for teachers and leaders. Jessica now supports K-4 Success Academy schools in implementing THINKLiteracy curriculum.

BETH ZHANG

Associate Director of Math

Beth graduated from the College of Charleston with a degree in political science before joining Teach For America in 2008. During her tenure with Teach For America, Beth taught math, science, and health in general education and special education classroom settings and earned a master’s degree from City College in Teaching Students with Disabilities. Beth first came to Success Academy in 2011 as the Student Achievement Manager and then a Leadership Resident at SA Harlem 1. In the summer of 2013, Beth moved to the network office to join the Network Math Team as a founding member. Beth now combines her experience as a classroom mathematics teacher and leader to manage math instruction across all Success Academy middle schools. This year, Beth will manage the Middle School Math team in re-designing all math curricula and will be instrumental in training and coaching teachers.