

May & June College & Career Readiness Newsletter

As the school year comes to a close, **Global Kids** sends a huge shoutout to all of our **incredible Seniors across NYC!**

This year, our Seniors gathered at **Global Kids HQ** for an unforgettable celebration—connecting with fellow students from across the city, sharing memories, and honoring all they've achieved. With **82% of students accepted to college and 70% enrolled**, we couldn't be more proud! Students have been accepted to many universities including **Coppin State University, Fordham University, Hunter College, Co-Op Tech and The Apex Technical School** just to name a few.

Global Kids thrives because of students like YOU—your leadership, your passion, and your commitment to making a difference. We're so proud of everything you've accomplished and can't wait to see what's next.

Whether you're heading to college, starting a career, or exploring a trade, you're setting a powerful example for the students who follow in your footsteps.

Wherever your journey takes you, remember: **you'll always be part of the GK family.** Don't forget to visit and share your success stories—we'll be cheering you on every step of the way!

Congratulations, Class of 2025! ♥



**Congratulations to All
the GK Scholars. You
All Rock and Good
Luck**

MEET EVELYN PEÑA

GK SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2025

Each month, a student is nominated by the GK staff at their school to be recognized in our newsletter for their outstanding service, leadership, and contributions to both their school and the Global Kids community. We share different scholars' postsecondary paths as inspirations and models of the many routes to success for GK Scholars.



Evelyn Peña, a determined and dedicated senior at Independence High School, is set to graduate on June 25, 2025. With the guidance and support of her Global Kids counselors, **Ms. Emily Ortega and Finnisha Hunter**, Evelyn discovered an exciting path forward through Co-op Tech.

This fall, she will begin a new chapter by enrolling in **Co-op Tech's Nursing Assistant Certification Program**—taking her first steps toward a promising career in healthcare. A certification program is a short course that helps you learn specific job skills and earn a certificate. It shows employers you've been trained and are ready to work in that field. These programs are often hands-on and can be taken during or after high school. They're a great way to jump-start a career or get ready for college!

Co-op Tech offers a variety of hands-on programs and certifications for students interested in career and technical education. If you're a rising junior and want to learn more, connect with your GK staff at school or scan the QR code below for more information.

We're incredibly proud of Evelyn and can't wait to see all she accomplishes on her journey. Congratulations, Evelyn!



<https://bit.ly/45LKVL8>

MEET JOVANDA DARDEN

Supporting Students at International High School

Each month, a staff member is nominated by CCR leadership to be highlighted for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to their school community and their support of students' postsecondary success. We share their stories and their work so that you can connect with them as a resource for you or your student.



At **International High School**, **Jovanda Darden** is at the heart of what makes Global Kids special—helping students feel connected, supported, and empowered every day!

A proud **Lehman College graduate and current grad student at CUNY School of Professional Studies**, Jovanda brings her personal experiences into the classroom to inspire others. She's not just a leader—she's a mentor who truly cares.

As a Program Coordinator, Jovanda creates fun and meaningful workshops and lessons that help students prepare for life after high school. This year, students at International have had amazing opportunities to explore careers through trips to **Columbia and Lehman College**. Students also had the opportunity to attend a cooking class at Riverbank State Park.

She also works closely with school staff to make sure activities support English language learners—especially important since most of our students speak Spanish at home. Outside the classroom, she helps organize fun tutoring, using tools like **Wordle and Bananagrams** to help students improve their vocabulary.

We're lucky to have Jovanda as part of our school community. Thank you for all you do!



Hey International students! Be sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to Jovanda and make the most of all the amazing resources Global Kids has to offer!

RESOURCE HUB



STAY CONNECTED WITH GK THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

**Scan the QR code Below to Get
Connected With Your GK Staff
Member**



<https://bit.ly/4eIDLPS>



SUMMER JOBS NYC

**Scan the QR code Below to Find
Summer Job Opportunities in NYC**



APPLY NOW

<https://bit.ly/3HU4GpU>

ACE THE JOB APPLICATION

**Scan the QR code Below to Find:
Resume Templates
Interview Strategies**



<https://bit.ly/4k2hCar>

RESOURCE HUB PT 2



A LOOK BACK: CELEBRATING THE 2024– 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

As the school year ends, we want to pause and recognize your hard work, growth, and achievements. From late-night study sessions to championship wins, performances, and service projects—you've made this year count.

Whether you're a rising senior preparing to lead the class of 2026 or a rising junior ready to level up, this is a milestone worth celebrating.

SUMMER GOALS: WHAT'S NEXT?

Rising Seniors:

- Finalizing your college list
- Drafting your personal statement
- Requesting recommendation letters
- Scheduling college visits (virtual or in-person)
- Taking or retaking the SAT/ACT (if needed)

Rising Juniors:

- Exploring career interests
- Starting a resume or activity list
- Beginning SAT/ACT prep
- Getting involved in leadership, community service, or other extracurricular activities

ACADEMIC CHECK-IN: KNOW WHERE YOU STAND

- **Rising Juniors:** Now is the time to reflect on your transcript. Are your grades where you want them to be? Are you challenging yourself appropriately? Junior year is the most critical year for academic success.
- **Rising Seniors:** Review your GPA and make sure you're on track to meet graduation and college admission requirements. Reach out if you need summer support or transcript reviews.

PARENT CORNER

Global Kids is dedicated to supporting our students and their families. We strive to provide resources for students and families

WHY COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Junior and Senior Years = Big Changes
From harder classes to college and career planning, these years can be a lot. Regular check-ins help teens feel supported and stay on track.



WHAT DOES COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR STUDENT LOOK LIKE?

STEP 1:

A Safe Space to Decompress:

- Ask for help without judgment
- Talk through big decisions
- Take a break from pressure

STEP 2:

Conversation Starters

Rising Junior

- Have you talked with your GK staff or counselor about college or careers yet?
- Have you thought about taking any SAT/ACT practice or prep?
- Is there a career or subject you're curious to learn more about?
- What's one thing you'd like to improve or focus on this year?

Rising Senior

- Have you started thinking about your plans after graduation?

- Is there a college, job, or training program you're interested in?
- What support do you need this year to stay on track?
- Have you started your college or job applications yet? Need help?

STEP 3:

Tips to Keep in Mind:

Be consistent:

Regular check-ins, even if brief, go a long way.

Talk about goals and challenges:

Support them in thinking ahead—college, career, or next steps.

Celebrate progress, not just perfection:

Acknowledge effort and growth.

Use positive language:

Encourage, uplift, and show you're proud—even when offering feedback.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US

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