



Daniel Lyalin and Emmanuel Abayev

# DNA

Ad Populum – For The People

Junior Caucus



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## Our Philosophy

We believe in a Junior Caucus that actively represents the best interests of the student body in everything it does. Our boundless enthusiasm to institute reform and to ensure that all members of the Junior community have an equal voice stems from a deep-seated desire for unity. Unity has often been misrepresented as homogeny of thought, and our platform prioritizes anything but that. To us, unity is about accountability, novelty, and diversity. We commit to clarity of records and speech, through the transmission of reports, finances, and decisions directly to the student body. We seek to provide a breath of fresh air to our fellow peers, proposing innovative programs and new solutions to aid juniors in the difficult times ahead. Our administration will work to celebrate heterogeneity of thought and encourage the inclusion of all members of the diverse Stuyvesant community. In promoting unity throughout our cohort, we hope to build bridges between the decisions made by the Junior Caucus and the wonderfully diverse Junior student body.

Yours Truly,

Daniel Lyalin and Emmanuel Abayev

## Our Plan

We, Daniel and Emmanuel, strive to make goals that bring the community together and help others to endure the challenges that remote/blended learning will bring to all of us. This will be done with a multitude of improvements ranging from the restructuring of Junior Caucus to a newly re-energized StuyVantage program to the provision of extracurricular opportunities personalized to each and every junior. Our campaign is complete in its attempt to bring vitality, innovation, and transparency to all parts of the Junior Caucus and to hold it up to the highest standards. Though we acknowledge the magnitude of the tasks we hope to undertake, we believe setting such lofty goals will only serve to motivate and inspire us should we be Junior Caucus Co-Presidents.

## Internal Restructuring of the Junior Caucus

In our campaign to provide greater accountability within the Junior Caucus, we hope that the abolishment of needless positions and the creation of offices specifically suited for the challenges of remote and blended learning will help to provide increases in efficiency and efficacy within the administration.

## Advancement of Caucus Collaboration With the Community

In addition to fostering healthy relationships within Stuyvesant with the Parents' Association (PA), Guidance Department, and administration, among others, we hope to create new, long-lasting partnerships with the greater Tribeca community through our efforts to expand the StuyVantage program on the Junior Caucus level.

## Student Life Improvements

The greatest task which we thrust upon ourselves is that of the beneficence and improvement of junior life with a focus both on increased academic assistance and on the provision of resources that aid in productivity and self-care; outside of the academic realm, we aim to provide events of the finest caliber that can assist in relieving stress during these trying times.

## Transparency and Communication

We aim to enhance the channels of communication set up by the Corr-Sela presidency and to create and utilize new channels through which we can connect with and hear the input of every junior, leaving none unheard.

## Internal Restructuring of the Junior Caucus

After careful review of the offices held in the Corr-Sela administration, we have come to the conclusion that a full restructuring is needed to decrease redundancy and increase relevance; considering the unique environment we will be entering this coming semester, we believe equally unique positions are required to ensure the smooth function of our administration.

### Abolishment of Old Positions

The positions that existed under the Corr-Sela administration were as follows (indicates number of executives holding position): Chief of Staff (2), Head of Awareness and Transparency (1), Heads of Event Coordination (2), Head of Student Affairs (1). This totaled six executives, not counting the two Co-Presidents. Beginning with the Chief of Staff, we find for there to be no reason for two people to be holding the same position where one will suffice. Additionally, we question the relevance of the coexistence of the Head of Awareness and Transparency and Head of Student Affairs; it is our belief that this manpower would be better used in a Chief Technology Officer and a Chief Financial Officer, as evidenced by Corr-Sela's lack of an online presence and as a means to standardize with the other caucuses.

### Creation of New Positions

In place of the offices that existed during the Corr-Sela administration, we propose the following positions: Head of Cabinet, Head of Student Outreach,

Head of Events, Chief Technological Officer, and Chief Financial Officer. The specific jobs of these five roles are as outlined below:

### Head of Cabinet

The Head of Cabinet will be in charge of monitoring staff behavior and administering disciplinary measures as fit, with direct counsel from the Co-Presidents and heads of each department. They will also be in charge of serving as a liaison between and manager of the various departments and making sure all goes as planned.

### Head of Student Outreach

The Head of Student Outreach is in charge of gauging student engagement and distributing caucus materials to juniors, as well as dealing with student affairs, including complaints against teachers and caucus officials. They will also be in charge of encouraging student health and well-being and managing the administration's social media presence.

### Head of Events

The Head of Events is in charge of organizing and supervising both in-person and remote events. They will partner with the Head of Student Outreach to organize events dealing with student health and well-being. They will work directly with the SU Event Planning Committee.

### Chief Technological Officer



The Chief Technological Officer will be in charge of creating and maintaining the Junior Caucus website, and of creating, implementing, and maintaining any necessary technological resources.

### Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer will be in charge of managing Junior Caucus finances and keeping record of where these finances go, as well as finding, creating, and maintaining resources and partnerships with outside organizations (i.e StuyVantage).

## Advancement of Caucus Collaboration with the Community

As Co-Presidents of the Junior Caucus, we promise to uphold and strengthen the existing relationships between the Junior Caucus and various organizations both internal and external to Stuyvesant, as well as creating new ones for the collective benefit of the junior class.

### Collaboration Within Stuyvesant

We promise to foster a friendly, working environment between the Junior Caucus and the following internal organizations: Parents' Association (PA), Guidance Department, ARISTA, Alumni Association, administration, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and Spectator. As part of this commitment, we will seek approval from all necessary and involved parties before changes or events of any kind are undertaken. Similarly, we plan to coordinate events with Stuyvesant Clubs and Pubs, especially those in SPARK, as part of our commitment to diversity.

### Collaboration Without Stuyvesant

In keeping with the policies of the Sophomore Caucus, Student Union, and previous Junior Caucus administration, we will attempt to expand the

StuyVantage program with new academic and non-academic opportunities, including a concentration of efforts on the following:

## Academic Partnerships

The academic businesses and programs which we hope to bring under the StuyVantage umbrella:

- Github Student Developer Pack (<https://education.github.com/students>)
- Quizlet Premium (<https://quizlet.com/upgrade>)
- Duolingo Plus (<https://www.duolingo.com/plus>)
- Kahoot for Schools ( <https://kahoot.com/schools/plans/>)
- Memorize Pro (<https://app.memrise.com/premium/>)

We additionally hope to create a successful pen-pal program to aid in the learning of foreign languages during remote learning and to help students feel less isolated while in quarantine. Possible resources we may use to achieve this goal include InterPals (<https://www.interpals.net/>), HelloTalk (<https://www.hellotalk.com/?lang=en>), and PenPal Schools (<https://www.penpalschools.com/>).

Finally, we hope to aid students in their search for jobs and internships by reaching out to businesses, labs, and museums for possible student internships/apprenticeships.

## Non-Academic Partnerships

We aim to expand the StuyVantage program to new to new eateries and shops in Tribeca and Battery Park City, as well as areas frequented often by Stuyvesant students, such as Chinatown and Flushing. We additionally aim to work on improving and renegotiating existing discounts and reviving expired ones.

## Student Life Improvements

Ultimately, the goal of the Junior Caucus, as with any elected body, is to improve the life of those it wishes to represent, and our Co-Presidency will prove to be far from an exception. We have created a slew of academic and non-academic improvements guaranteed to appeal to every junior.

## Academic Life Improvements

### Online Opportunities Bulletin

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan on creating a webpage where Mr. Blumm's weekly opportunity bulletin is posted and can be filtered quickly by category, including by financial burden, borough, age, grade, time commitment, and topic.

### AP Resources

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan on creating a webpage where a centralized view of AP exam and class prep resources can be found. These will include, but are not limited to:

- Khan Academy
- Albert.io
- SU Study Guides
- Youtube Playlists
- Collegeboard Website
- <https://www.appracticeexams.com/>
- [https://www.varsitytutors.com/advanced\\_placement-practice-tests](https://www.varsitytutors.com/advanced_placement-practice-tests)

- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/advanced-placement-resources>

We additionally hope to host AP review sessions where students can help each other study in the spring semester.

### Teacher Complaints

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan to create a webpage where students can anonymously report a teacher's violation of rules or unfair testing/homework practices. This will allow for the Junior Caucus to act as a representative body bargaining on behalf of the junior class, and allow for students to preserve anonymity while reporting injustices. This will also allow for the Junior Caucus to filter complaints before they reach Assistant Principals, thus streamlining and centralizing the process and saving time.

### Spring Semester Course Selection

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan to create a webpage where students can view anonymous reviews of both teachers and the courses they teach in preparation for spring semester course selection. It should be noted that all reviews will be filtered by the Junior Caucus and/or removed without justification provided should any profanities, slurs, hate speech, or otherwise unfair/unjust writing be submitted.

### Teacher and Guidance Appointments

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan to create a webpage where students can access a centralized view of all teacher and guidance counselor contact information, as well as be provided with the means by which they can directly

schedule appointments with teachers and guidance counselors. To aid in this process, teachers and guidance counselors will be kindly asked to provide both contact info and the hours at which they are available; all appointments will ultimately be accepted or denied at the sole discretion of the teacher or guidance counselor.

### Class Recordings

In collaboration with our IT team, we plan to create a webpage where students can access a centralized view of all class and lecture recordings, with new recordings being uploaded weekly and older ones archived after two weeks. It should be noted that all teachers will be kindly asked to record any classes or sessions they may host for later upload.

### Stuyvesant Diploma

In collaboration with our Head of Events and Head of Student Outreach, we plan to host an informational session where we will explain what the Stuyvesant Diploma is, what its benefits and drawbacks are, and how to drop it should you desire to do so. In addition to this, we will have our IT team upload all the necessary paperwork for dropping the diploma to our website for easier access.

### Pen-Pals

In collaboration with our Chief Financial Officer, Head of Student Outreach, and the AP of World Languages, we plan to continue the Pen-Pals program to assist with World Language classes during remote learning and to provide students isolated during quarantine with an outlet for communication. Possible resources we may use include InterPals (<https://www.interpals.net/>), HelloTalk

(<https://www.hellotalk.com/?lang=en>), and PenPal Schools (<https://www.penpalschools.com/>).

## Non-Academic Life Improvements

### Junior Caucus Website

In order to facilitate our goal of transparency, we plan on having our IT team redesign the Junior Caucus website and add to it links to all the resources/pages listed above and below.

### Social Media Presence

In order to facilitate our goal of transparency and to better communication, we plan on enhancing the Junior Caucus's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, where we will post notifications for all events and regular updates on what we are working on.

### Online Schedule Redesign

In light of the new, nine-to-two, two-day rotation schedule, we plan on collaborating with our IT team to redesign Mr. Brooks' schedule webapp and add to it an analog clock, planner, custom sounds for bells, keyboard shortcuts, and the option to customize period names with student specific-classes using cookies.

### Events

Listed below are three of the many events we have planned for the coming school year.



### So You Want to Be A...

We plan on continuing the “So You Want to Be A...” newsletter with monthly installments, and supplementing each month’s issue with a Q&A at the end of the month with a worker of that month’s field.

### College Visits

If health, time, and resources allow, we plan on reviving the overnight college visit program to allow juniors to experience colleges in preparation for the decisions they will be making the coming year.

### Junior Prom

Though it is too early to make plans, we have many exciting ideas in store for this year’s Junior Prom, and hope only that we have the opportunity and resources to make many of them come true and make this year’s Junior Prom truly unforgettable.

## Transparency and Communication

The third tenet of our campaign is accountability. To provide for an accountable and reliable Junior Caucus, transparency of ideas and communication of plans is required. To achieve this, we've created a comprehensive plan for communication with the junior body, which combines techniques employed by the Corr-Sela administration with new supplementary materials to ensure maximum accountability.

### Reforming Junior Caucus Communications

Utilizing email, social media, and open virtual meetings, we plan on making much of the Junior Caucus's goings-on as transparent as possible. To do this, we plan on releasing a comprehensive, monthly report which will include all meeting minutes for that month, a list of any major decisions made, a calendar for all upcoming events and meetings, a budget report courtesy of the Chief Financial Officer, a poll asking for feedback on key issues, and a feedback form to voice complaints, critique, and suggestions. To supplement this, we will also host an end-of-the-month Q&A forum where students will be able to ask any questions they may have to Junior Caucus Executives.