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Eleanor roosevelt high school admissions

Traditional college prep curriculum and strong college offices Some openings for students outside the district, the small gym Eleanor Roosevelt High School (SINGKAṬnya ELRO) has a motivated student body, a traditional college preparation curriculum and an excellent college admissions record. Wide hallways, polished floors and clean modern bathrooms make the former Sotheby's warehouse one of the city's most fun school buildings —albeit a small cafeteria and gym. In a city where many schools have themes and specialties, Eleanor Roosevelt stands out for her gimmick-free curriculum and no-nonsense approach to teaching. Although class discussions and some project work are encouraged, many rooms have tables in rows and lessons led by teachers standing in front of the classroom. All students take four years of college prep math, science, English, history, and foreign languages; many took several advanced placement exams. The English curriculum focuses on classics: 9th grader reads The Epic of Gilgamesh, Oedipus the King, Beowulf and Macbeth; Year 10 students read Dantes Inferno (as they studied the Italian Renaissance in history) and Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities (when they studied the French Revolution); 11th grader reads The Scarlet Letter (as they study U.S. history.) All 9th grader takes geometry and a special class called the mathematical foundation, which is designed to improve algebra skills. Most seniors take calculus. The Spanish classes we saw were taught entirely in Spanish. There are not many options, said Principal Dimitri Saliani. We expect you to take chemistry. We expect you to take physics. Sometimes, there is a choice between louder or harder, he said. For example, grade 10 students can choose between the global history of Regent preparation or the history of advanced placement. That said, there are a number of options, especially in technology. Students can develop applications for the iPhone, learn robotics, use a 3-D printer, make movies, or learn computer programming. While many schools ban mobile phones and block access to YouTube and Facebook, ELRO gives students access to all websites and pushes them to BYOD (bring your own devices). Children should learn to deal with distractions, the principal said. Students can leave the building for lunch. Teachers work hard to build a sense of community among students and, in a school this small, everyone knows everyone. In September, entering 9th grade attending an overnight camp to work on team building skills. There are many clubs, including model UN as well as Lego art and jazz ensembles. told us the burden of homework was heavy but not oppressive — two to three hours a night. College: Full-time college counselors meet with all students and their parents at least twice for 40 minutes each time. Almost all graduates go on to four-year colleges; a large proportion go to private colleges, some in Scholarship. Students have been admitted to the University of Chicago, Tufts, Carleton, Barnard, the University of Michigan, Oberlin, Occidental and the Rochester Institute of Technology. Special education: The school has several team teaching classes, which mix children with special needs and public education students and has two teachers. Students with disabilities who qualify for team teaching classes do not need to meet the same standards of admission as other students. Admissions: The school has nearly 6,000 applicants for 125 seats each year, making competition for entry difficult. Students must have a good attendance, a level 3 or 4 on a standardized test, and a score of at least 90 in core academic subjects. Priority in admissions is given to students who live or attend secondary schools in District 2, and there are very few openings for children outside the district. Sometimes there are seats available in the upper class. (Clara Hemphill, October 2014; updated 2018) Read more Standing in a gym class last year at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Manhattan, Irfane Soumanou's ears were plugged. Soumanou, who is black, had just heard a white student use the n-word. The culprit, a junior, was chatting with another white student, recalling Soumanou and his friend, Zara Dershowitz. Excuse me? Soumanou, a freshman at the time, told the juniors. He said, Oh, my fault. Dershowitz noted that he WAS OK to say it in front of white people but seemed embarrassed when Soumanou confronted him. That's sad - he felt he could get away with white students, said Dershowitz, who is white. The story is a window into the fearful culture of Eleanor Roosevelt, a prestigious and screened Upper East Side high school where diversity is preached but not always embraced, the sophomore young woman said. Although the school is generally friendly, they say, it's also a school where two students recently gave black students tampons with racist messages scribbled on it, prompting student-organized sit-ins and community meetings. Now, Soumanou and Dershowitz want to build support to address what they believe is the root cause of the incident: the lack of racial diversity created by the admissions process that gives preference to high school applicants who live or attend school in District 2, which includes affluent neighborhoods around it. Of the 541 students enrolled there this year, only 3 percent were black, 12 percent were Hispanic and 17 percent were Asian, while 64 percent were white. About 47 percent of all District 2 students are black and Hispanic. I felt, like, welcome at school, but then again I didn't see that looks like me, says Soumanou, whose growing activism has caught the attention of at least one vice chancellor. Students' interest in addressing school diversity is part of a larger conversation about occurred in New York City, which has one of the most separate school systems in the country. The renewed debate centered largely on an overhaul of admissions at eight city-specific high schools, which recently gave only 10 percent of its admissions offer to black and Hispanic students. In one of the most striking data points, only seven of the 895 offers at Stuyvesant High School, considered one of the most prestigious, went to black students. But the lack of diversity reaches beyond elite schools, which enroll only a fraction of the city's 1.1 million students. Schools like Eleanor Roosevelt have largely flown under the radar. The school screens applicants from across the city at various steps before making an admissions offer but gives first preference to those who live or go to schools within the district, including those attending private schools. Last year, of the more than 5,400 applications submitted to Eleanor Roosevelt, the admissions offer was solely to students who live or go to schools in District 2, which includes SoHo and TriBeCa in addition to the Upper East Side. If it happens in a special high school, it happens in other schools as well, Soumanou said. People need to be aware of that. Soumanou and Dershowitz's efforts are part of an increasing movement led by students themselves, such as the lockout of students at fieldston's elite private Ethical School of Culture. Anger over racist incidents has also surfaced at other private schools and Brooklyn Tech, one of the city's special public high schools. And student activism more generally has increased since the 2016 presidential election, observers say. I wouldn't say all children focus on school segregation, said Matt Gonzales, who advocates the integration of the school with the nonprofit Appleseed. But I just think in general, young people are very oriented in terms of activism and, kind of, distraction, because I think it has a lot to do with the president. Getting rid of priorities - which would require collaborative decisions between schools, their superintendents, and the Student Enrolment Office - would likely only be a starting point in making schools more diverse. Because schools also set competitive admissions standards - averaging scores of 93 per cent and four or higher on standard assessments - further integration is likely to require reconsidering those admissions screens as well. Chancellor Richard Carranza has called the screen antithetical to public education and supports the removal of high school screens in Brooklyn's 15th District, but he has not proposed a specific plan for high schools. Soumanou and Dershowitz, who were close friends, first started district 2's revenue priorities this year. They realize that if all offers are given to District 2 students, and most schools are white, so racial makeup should be related in part to priority admissions policies. Then, about two weeks ago, word spread that two students had written a message n--- had no rights to tampons and handed it over to a new young woman who was black, according to the New York Daily News. The freshman told several friends, who later reported the incident to school staff. The school arranged a meeting with parents and students last week. The next day, students held a major sit-in at the school - in one video provided to Chalkbeat, at least 120 students can be seen sitting on the hallway floor. The school's principal, Dimitri Saliani, greeted students, and some questions were raised about the school's lack of diversity, prompting one student to raise District 2 priorities, according to Dershowitz. Saliani asked the crowd who supported scrapping this acceptance preference; most hands go up, Dershowitz said. Saliani did not answer specific questions from Chalkbeat, except to say in an email that the school planned safety-related training and inclusivity for staff and similar workshops for students. Racism and bullying have no place in our schools, and I want to create opportunities for students, staff and families to share their thoughts and discuss this troubling incident, Saliani wrote. Dershowitz began approaching adults, including school counselors and principals. They say getting rid of the district's priority policies will be difficult, given the sharp backlash against other plans including an overhaul of the mayor's proposed special high school admissions. Dershowitz was frustrated. No one's going to give me anything like, 'This is what you have to do,' she said. And he's not alone. Students across the city seem increasingly dissatisfied with being cut from the conversations - and policies - that ultimately affect them the most. In December, the advocacy group Teens Take Charge, which has student members, held a highly publicized event in which teens talked about their frustration with the school system. And in February, they held a press conference criticizing the city's School Diversity Advisory Group for not offering firm solutions to improve integration. Soumanou and Dershowitz were among those who saw a link between the disturbing incidents they had witnessed or experienced in school and broader education policies. They both remember sitting in their advisory periods - where older students lead discussions on whatever topics young peers want to discuss - and hear students ask why it is wrong to use the n-word. The same students, Soumanou said, once said students of color are better than white students because they are able to secure more opportunities. All these microagations happen all Dershowitz said, and I don't feel anyone really wants to talk about white privilege because our school is very white and very special. At a recent event organized by the Manhattan community education board, which encouraged Principal Dershowitz to attend, Dershowitz walked into the microphone and asked fellow student activists how they could change the system? That's when Vice Chancellor Hydra Mendoza, who focused on community outreach and was sitting in the front row of the auditorium, got up and gave Dershowitz his card. The audience applauded. The simple exchange of contact information is very encouraging for all parties. The idea that they don't know where to go, or that they have no contact at the DOE, or that they've talked about this in the past and no one is responsive, prompted me to say, 'Well, this is a new day.' Mendoza said in an interview. Mendoza and the students have since exchanged emails and are looking for time to meet. Meanwhile, Dershowitz and Soumanou sought to build support among their Eleanor Roosevelt classmates, planned to attend an April meeting of the Panel for Educational Policy, the city council that voted on key education decisions, and was part of an equity club throughout the school. On a recent afternoon, the young women met some supportive friends. Dershowitz showed off Mendoza's business card as they discussed future plans. I knew that there would be a lot of counterattacks, so I'm not saying it's going to be easy, Dershowitz said. But what I'm saying is, there's a real way to start. Start.

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