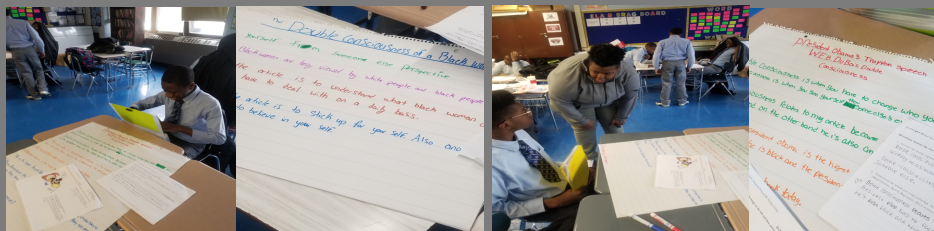


### Educator Spotlights:



Ms. Tuttle's freshman ELA classes are discussing W.E.B. DuBois' double consciousness and using this concept to analyze different topics such as President Obama's Trayvon Martin speech, Black women, and Black athletes!!! Stop by her room and check out the scholar posters.



**Congratulations to Ms. Jones and Ms. Soares for winning last week's educator raffle!!!**

### Upcoming Events

- 4/16- Extended Day begins (Term 3)
- 4/16- Lacrosse Game at 4PM (Boys and Girls HS)
- 4/17- KAVI MS 3PM
- 4/18- Brooklyn DA at 11:30AM
- 4/18-Turner Construction at 2:30PM
- 4/19- Educator PD (HS- B schedule)
- 4/20- KAVI HS at 10AM
- 4/24- PSAT/SAT Day
- Adult Day Dance (5/5) Tickets are on sale NOW!

## Hot Topics in Education

### Excerpt from *The Scourge of Low-Quality Worksheets and How We Can Do Better*

In this Cult of Pedagogy article, Jennifer Gonzalez shares a video of an 18-year-old high-school sophomore going off on his teacher about the "packets" she has students doing. "Yes, this student was disrupting class and his behavior was disrespectful," says Gonzalez. But she hears what he's saying about packets of worksheets being one of the lowest forms of pedagogy. "I've seen classrooms where teachers deliver instruction overwhelmingly through worksheets, or packets of worksheets," she says. "I have seen my own kids' schoolwork come home, and I have asked friends, other parents with school-age kids, and colleagues who consult in lots of schools, and nearly all of them tell me that a lot of our students' instructional time is being spent hunched over some kind of worksheet. That's a problem." Her observations:

- **Not all worksheets are bad.** There's a continuum from what Gonzalez calls powersheets to busysheets. At the powersheet end of the spectrum are graphic organizers that serve as a tool for research, pre-writing, and note-taking. There are also original source documents for close study and annotation; data sheets for a lab; planning sheets for group projects; aids to data analysis and reflection; and helpful formative assessments. At the busysheet end are low-level filling in blanks, multiple-choice questions, labeling, word searches, word scrambles, and doing coloring where coloring doesn't add to students' understanding. Packets are a bunch of worksheets stapled together. "They could contain a lot of powersheets," she says, "but when a student refers to them as frickin' packets, it's highly likely that they are mostly made up of busysheets."

- **Busysheets can be disguised in other formats.** For example, they might be computer programs or apps that have students doing the same thing as busysheets.

- **Busysheet teaching is not real teaching.** That's because a worksheet in which students answer several low-level multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank questions on a short reading passage on Maya Angelou is disconnected from anything meaningful, isolating skills and knowledge from a broader context and higher-level thinking. Reading comprehension exercises like these don't make students better readers and are no substitute for getting them reading a real book in search of evidence that supports a particular idea.

The same is true of busysheets that ask students to label or identify various grammatical constructions; we've known for a long time that teaching grammar outside of a meaningful context doesn't make students better writers, or even improve their test scores. The worst of all, she says, are word searches, word scrambles, and crossword puzzles, which might as well be a list of definitions with blanks next to them. These are pure busywork, says Gonzalez, and have no instructional value. In addition, busysheets get students sitting still for too long and not interacting with each other or their teacher.

- **Busysheets use a lot of paper and give teachers more stuff to correct.** This is truly a double whammy! In addition, counting worksheet grades tells students that making mistakes and learning from classwork (assuming it's meaningful) is not part of the learning process.

Why do teachers use busysheets? From her travels in schools, Gonzalez has a long list: We don't have textbooks. Kids need skills practice. We have to differentiate. We're required to do the same work across our grade. We need substitute packets. Crowd control. Some kids like worksheets. We need bell-ringers and morning work. Students need fine-motor practice.

What to do instead of packets? Gonzalez suggests doing a worksheet audit, asking hard questions about where material falls on the powersheet-to-busysheet spectrum: is it contributing to student learning or just something to keep them busy? If the latter, then consider these higher-level classroom activities:

- Class discussions: think-pair-shares, gallery walks, philosophical chairs;
- Interactive experiences: simulations, role-plays, labs, escape rooms;
- Thought-provoking lessons: concept attainment, inductive learning;
- Group learning: jigsaw, reciprocal learning, games, icebreakers, maker challenges;
- Reading and writing: self-selected reading, research projects, journal writing, short writing challenges, long-term writing;
- Long-term projects: genius hour, project-based learning, service learning;
- Personalized learning: hyperdocs, stations or centers, listening to podcasts, blended learning.

"Frickin' Packets" by Jennifer Gonzalez in *Cult of Pedagogy*, March 26, 2018, <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/busysheets/>

## Scholar Spotlights

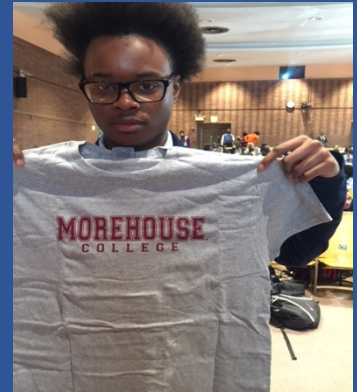
WASHINGTON, DC



Shout out to 6<sup>th</sup> grader Christopher Underwood of Ellington. Christopher spoke at the March for Our Lives national rally in Washington, DC on March 24, 2018. He gave a fantastic speech about his own experiences with gun violence. You can watch his speech here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3B4BIMLnbs>

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we had our first annual Morehouse Day! Seniors from Eagle Bronx and Eagle Queens joined our junior and senior classes to attend a free concert as well as admission session from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Select juniors and seniors even had auditions for the Glee Club! Our Own Eagle Scholars helped put this event together: Carlyle Clarke, Khadim Gueye, Daniel Daleus, Rohan Walker, Jr., Matthias Nixon, Neo Fleurimond, Quincy Canady, Lahray Rivera, Terrell Verneiul, Anthoney Sterling, Jacob Soto, Justin David, Josiah Dobson, Calijah Durant, Jordan Pierre, Brent Daniels



Next year, Anthony Romain has decided to do a gap year in India with Global Citizen Year. He will be working as a teacher's assistant and living with a host family. He needs to raise \$7,000 to attend the program. He has already received \$27,500 in scholarship! Should you be interested in donating, please use the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.gofundme.com/anthonyromainjc>

Dear Friends and Family,  
It's that time of year again!

As you all know, lacrosse is a huge part of who I am. For the last couple years I've been coaching in the inner city. In Brownsville, Brooklyn life is poverty, violence, shelters, and hunger. For two hours a day our boys get a break from that. Please read our story and do what you will. Donate or share our story. Whatever you can do is appreciated beyond words!!

[https://fundrazr.com/eaglelacrosse?ref=tx\\_c6Sud7](https://fundrazr.com/eaglelacrosse?ref=tx_c6Sud7)

