



Mott Hall II
Today's Scholars – Tomorrow's Leaders

Principal, Ana De Los Santos

March 23, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

As the assistant principal of Mott Hall II Middle School located in District 3, it is with great pleasure that I express support and praise for The Science Schools Initiative.

At Mott Hall II, we share Initiative's philosophy and deep understanding that New York City's specialized high schools offer opportunities in terms of exposure to experiences, colleges, and careers that will ultimately enhance our students' lives. Since 2007-2008, we have developed a strong partnership in which select high-achieving, low-income Mott Hall II students have participated in this program. As a result of this critical partnership, Initiative has provided a forum to help level the playing field for some of our best and brightest students who could not otherwise afford a prestigious prep program that would improve their chances of gaining admittance into a specialized high school.

It is with great conviction that I point to the data in terms of the success rate of our students enrolled in this program. For example this year, 2010-2011, four out of seven of our students were accepted into specialized high schools. Of those three that were not accepted, two students had actually scored high enough to qualify for acceptance into one of the specialized high schools - but had run into a ranking issue and thus will reapply in the future.

Having experience with numerous specialized high school test prep programs, we believe firmly that Initiative has been the most successful. We are extremely appreciative of the program's support for our highest achieving and neediest students. In addition, we have great gratitude and respect for Initiative's ambitious efforts and success at increasing the number of low-income, upper Manhattan middle school students' admittance into our city's specialized high schools.

The Science Schools Initiative is our answer to leveling the playing field and opening opportunities for some of our highest achieving students to attend specialized high schools. We strongly support and highly praise this program.

With admiration and gratitude,

/s/

Rebecca Fagin, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal, Mott Hall II