



Mastery

We strive to graduate students who are “confident because they excel in a particular passion,” becoming “architects of lives that transcend the ordinary.” Through Mastery, we provide high school students who choose it with the space, time and resources to identify and then pursue that passion in depth, over multiple years. Mastery empowers students to develop exceptional knowledge and skills—often at levels not experienced until college or beyond— in a field of their choosing. With the freedom to pursue what is most important to them, the program asks each student to develop a dream of his or her future and courageously state, “I am going there.” Now in its twelfth year, Avenues Mastery is a global leader in the field of self-determined learning. We see the sophisticated project work that students have completed on our campuses not as endpoints, but as points on a learning journey started at Avenues and extending well into our students’ futures.

“Whenever I see students working at these exceptional levels in Mastery, I inevitably begin to wonder, ‘where are the limits to this type of work?’ The answer is, we haven’t found them yet. As educators, we have to constantly ask ourselves what we can do to push the learning, the projects and the experience even further next year. We have an obligation to seek those limits with our students.”

MARK GUTKOWSKI
GLOBAL ACADEMIC DEAN



How it works

In 9th grade, all students are enrolled in our **Principles of High Intensity Practice (HIP) and Mastery Seminar** which examines the connection between HIP thinking and the applied practice of Mastery. In this class, students will build essential thinking skills through persistent practice and then will apply those skills to the exploration of their passions.

At the end of 9th grade, families will have the opportunity to apply to the **Mastery Learning System (MLS)**, a selective course of study for students who desire the challenge of a self-driven and independent pathway in their academics. MLS students explore the Avenues curriculum, exchanging traditional classes for time and space to work collaboratively, through the design of complex, interdisciplinary projects.

Mastery Outcomes

Mastery has been a distinguishing feature of an Avenues education since our campus opened in New York in 2012. To date, students in New York have embarked on and completed ambitious Mastery projects that have propelled them into college and beyond. **Below are just a few examples.**



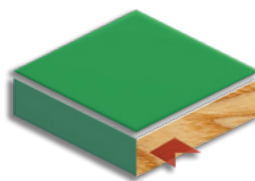
BIOLOGY: Ant Biodiversity in NYC

Sophia conducted original research, sampling over 40 sites to investigate changes in ant biodiversity between traffic medians and urban forests across Manhattan and Brooklyn. Her work earned her First Place in her division at the Terra STEM Fair and, also, a Silver Medal in science at the international Genius Olympiad competition.



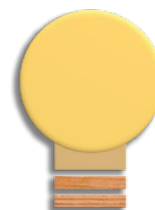
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A Financial Literacy App

Marie created an app to teach financial literacy to young women, specifically in Central and South American countries, in order to break a cycle of oppression and provide young women an opportunity at financial independence in these countries. She is a Grand Prize winner of Prudential’s Emerging Visionaries Award.



LAW: The country’s first high school law review

Olivia founded the Avenues Law Review, believed to be the first high school law review in the country. She received letters of congratulations from four US Supreme Court Justices, including Chief Justice John Roberts.



ENGINEERING: Building a drone from scratch

Michael designed and built a programmable quadcopter from scratch. He later published an article about his project on the Ultimaker website titled “How the Tools We Use Influence the Designs We Make.”