

**John F. Kennedy Magnet School
Port Chester UFSD
Port Chester, New York**



John F. Kennedy Magnet School is a K – 5 math, science, and technology magnet school in Port Chester, a low-income city in otherwise prosperous Westchester County. An active port, the city has long drawn immigrant families; with a recent influx of new citizens from Central and South America, 85% of all 725 JFK students come from Spanish-speaking homes (nearly 60% of students are English language learners) and 78% of all students qualify for subsidized meals. Despite these challenges, the JFK Magnet School is one of the top elementary schools in New York State. With strong support from the central office, Principal Lou Cuglietto and his staff have been aggressive in meeting students' needs.

A comprehensive Bilingual/ ESL Program of instruction in Spanish, using the same curriculum used in classes taught in English, removes language and achievement barriers for non-native English speaking students. Spanish-speaking students in lower grades receive most of their instruction in Spanish, transitioning to English over time. The number of teachers highly proficient in English and Spanish has risen from three to 23 and dual language proficiency is a key hiring criterion.

In addition to a full science lab where all students learn science through inquiry and experimentation, JFK leaders have formed strong and enduring partnerships with neighboring corporations, universities, and organizations to make technology—and ongoing training for teachers—accessible schoolwide, from electronic blackboards in classrooms and the auditorium to netbooks for every student. JFK is one of six schools nationwide field-testing a new teacher-friendly, comprehensive digital learning platform.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

725 students, K – 5

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| Hispanic or Latino | 86% |
| Black or African American | 9% |
| White | 3% |
| Asian | 1% |
| Two or more races | 1% |
| Student mobility rate during the past year | 10% |
| Limited English proficient students | 57% |

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| Students eligible for subsidized meals | 78% |
| Students receiving special education services | 8% |