



REINVENTING EDUCATION

strategically, collaboratively, and sustainably

Institute for Democratic Education in America

Learning Tours

- Showcase powerful learning
- Provide inspiration and new ideas
- Support local change efforts

"Most of us exist in our small educational environments almost wholly in isolation, and rarely get the chance to go out and talk to people who are doing the same kind of work."

- Oregon Learning Tour participant





What to expect on a Tour

- Three to four fully arranged site visits over the course of two and a half days
- Focused attention on the intersectionalities of race & equity in educational justice
- Time to observe and engage in dialogue with adult and youth leaders on site
- Full facilitation including pre and post tour communication and documentation
- Open opportunities to reflect and discuss the visits with tour participants
- Local transportation, blocks of discounted hotel rooms, and several meals provided

There is a need to step out of our settings to see what is possible and gain new ideas and inspiration. Learning Tours make that possible.

Open Learning Tours

Open to the public, these tours are held regionally throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Custom Designed Learning Tours

We work with you to customize a tour experience that is tailored specifically for the benefit of your community.

For pricing and more info on both open and custom designed tours, please contact IDEA @ 800-878-5740 x.4

"I didn't think I would find original inspiration after 20 years of being a teacher. I thank you for this experience to find more to bring back to my work."

- NYC Learning Tour participant



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Want to learn more about Learning Tours? Visit democraticeducation.org/learningtours





April 8, 2019

Welcome ASVL cohort of NMEF!

We are excited that you are joining us on this visit to see schools focused on equity and student-centered learning. Our visit takes us to the Bushwick Campus and their community partner Make the Road New York, and to Cornerstone Academy for Social Action (CASA) Middle School. There is more information about these programs in your folder.

Our goal in facilitating these visits is to support your organizing work in your schools and communities. It's important to say that while we believe you will find much of interest during this visit, we don't believe that any school or program is perfect and should be copied directly into another school. What we hope is that these visits inspire conversations and ideas that you can bring back and consider in light of your own school and community context.

Please feel comfortable and welcome to bring your observations and questions to our hosts and to our group reflections.

If you need anything or have any questions, just ask us – no question is too small. Here's our phone numbers:

xxxxxx

Thanks for being here and we hope you find value in the visits,

Albert, Jonah, Dana, and the IDEA Team



**NMEF's Amplifying Student Voice and Leadership
2019 Tour #1 Itinerary: April 8-9, 2019**

Monday, April 8

Arrive by 11:30am	Meet at Bushwick Campus Community School for opening conversations and lunch. Plan to arrive by 11:30am for lunch. We'll start opening conversations at Noon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 Irving Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11237 • Park on the streets nearby • When you arrive, call our contact at Make the Road, Anooj Bhandari, at 216-408-4762 to let you in.
12:00-1:30pm	Opening conversations and lunch in the School Library
1:30 - 4:00pm	Visit Bushwick Campus, hosted by Make the Road New York
4:00 - 4:30pm	Short community walk led by Make the Road NY youth organizers
4:30 - 6:00pm	Debriefing conversations at the Make the Road Grove Street Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 301 Grove St, Brooklyn, NY 11237
6:00pm	Close for the evening, on your own
	<u>Hotel Le Jolie</u> 235 Meeker Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Tuesday, April 9

Morning	Breakfast on your own. Hotel has continental breakfast. Other nearby options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reunion</u>: 544 Union Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211 • <u>Jimmy's Diner</u>: 577 Union Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211 • <u>Bagelsmith Bedford</u>: 189 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211
7:30am - subway departure time	If anyone needs to take the subway to get to CASA Middle School, head out by 7:30am to arrive by 9:00am . CASA Middle School: 3441 Steenwick Ave, The Bronx, NY 10475, inside Rosa Parks Campus. Subway directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From hotel main entrance on Meeker Ave, walk left up Meeker • Turn right on Lorimer St. • Get on the L Train at Lorimer St. & Metropolitan Ave. heading towards Manhattan. • Get off at 14th Street / Union Square • Transfer to the 5 Train heading towards Uptown/The Bronx. • Get off at Eastchester - Dyre Ave (last stop).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk South on Dyre Ave. Crossing Boston Road Dyre becomes Steenwick Ave. • CASA Middle School is in the Rosa Parks Education Campus.
8:00am - driving departure time	<p>For those driving, you'll want to head out by 8:00am to arrive by 9:00am. CASA Middle School: 3441 Steenwick Ave, The Bronx, NY 10475, inside Rosa Parks Campus. IDEA folks will be driving as well and we can meet in the lobby before heading out. These are likely the best directions but check traffic in the morning and your best bet is to use your maps app:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the hotel, turn right on Meeker Ave. • Turn right on Jackson St. • Turn left on Union Ave. • Turn left on Meeker Ave. (you'll cross below the highway and get on Meeker going the opposite direction). • Take the ramp to get on Interstate 278 East (Brooklyn Queens Expressway BQE) • After about 3 miles, keep left at the fork to stay on 278 E towards the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge and The Bronx. • Continue over the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge (there is a toll that you can use an E-ZPass or there is video and bill by mail). • At the end of the bridge, follow signs for 278 E / Bruckner Expressway. • Follow 278 E / Bruckner Expwy for a few miles. • Merge onto Interstate 95 North • Take Exit 12 for Baychester Ave. • From Baychester, take a right on Tillotson Ave. • Take a left on Reeds Mill Lane. It will curve to the right. • Take a left on Steenwick Ave. The school is on the left in the Rosa Parks Educational Campus. • Park on the streets nearby. You might be able to find some spots on either side of the service road of I-95.
9:00am - 12:30pm	<p>Visit CASA Middle School. Our contacts are Principal Dr. Jamaal Bowman and Daniel Mayo. We will start with Principal Bowman at 9:12am. Upon arrival at the school say you are with the IDEA visit group. If you get lost or are running late please call Jonah or Dana.</p>
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00pm	Closing debrief conversations
3:00pm	Close and goodbyes.

Contact #s for any questions or transportation help:

XXXXX

NMEF's Amplifying Student Voice and Leadership 2019 Tour #1 NYC: April 8-9 | Notes and Documentation



Schools Visited: Bushwick Campus w/ Make The Road New York, and CASA Middle School

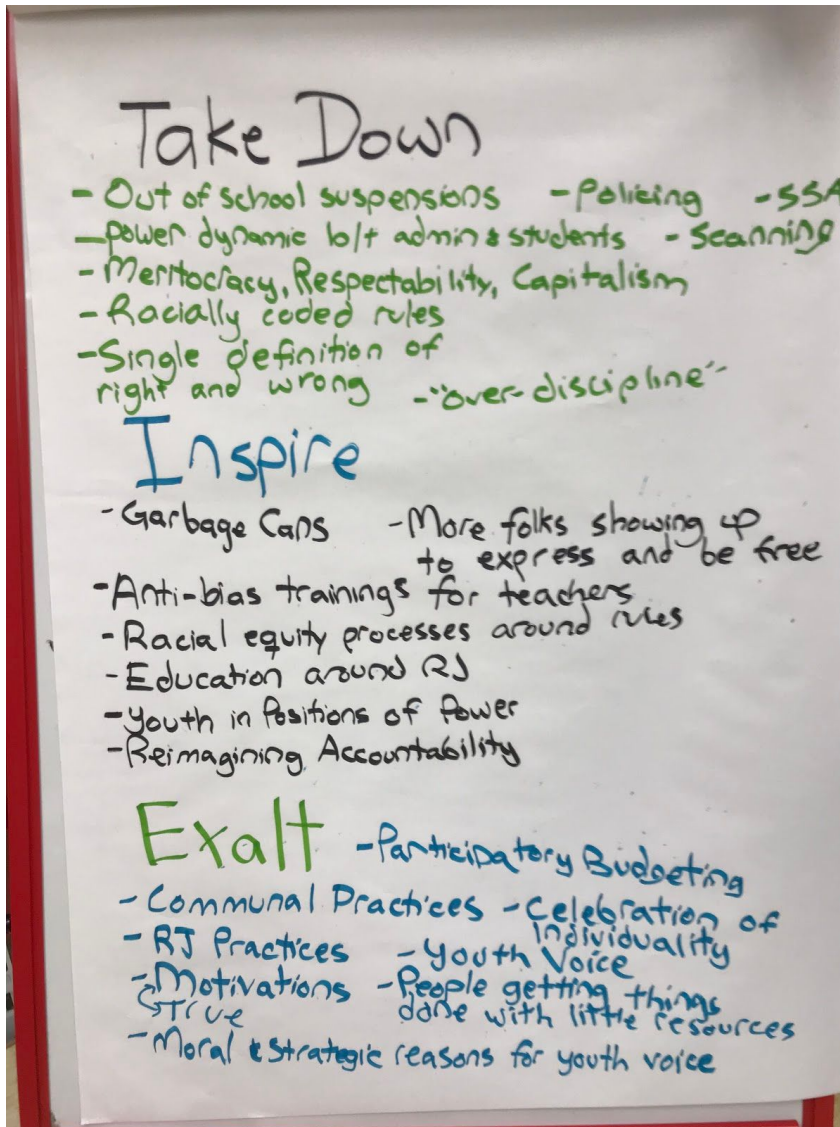
Background Info:

- [Info sheet about both schools/programs](#)
- [Make the Road Youth Power Project and School Programs](#)
- [Trailer for documentary *Personal Statement*](#), featuring a Make the Road alum, Christine, and centers the work going on in student success centers across NYC.
- Report on the [School to Prison Pipeline](#), put together by Make the Road and other youth organizers along with Center for Popular Democracy
- [Community Schools Playbook](#), info and tools relate to community schools
- [Cornerstone Academy for Social Action \(CASA Middle School\) website](#)
- [Trailer for documentary about CASA - An Education Revolution](#)
- [CASA Principal Jamaal Bowman TEDx talk](#)

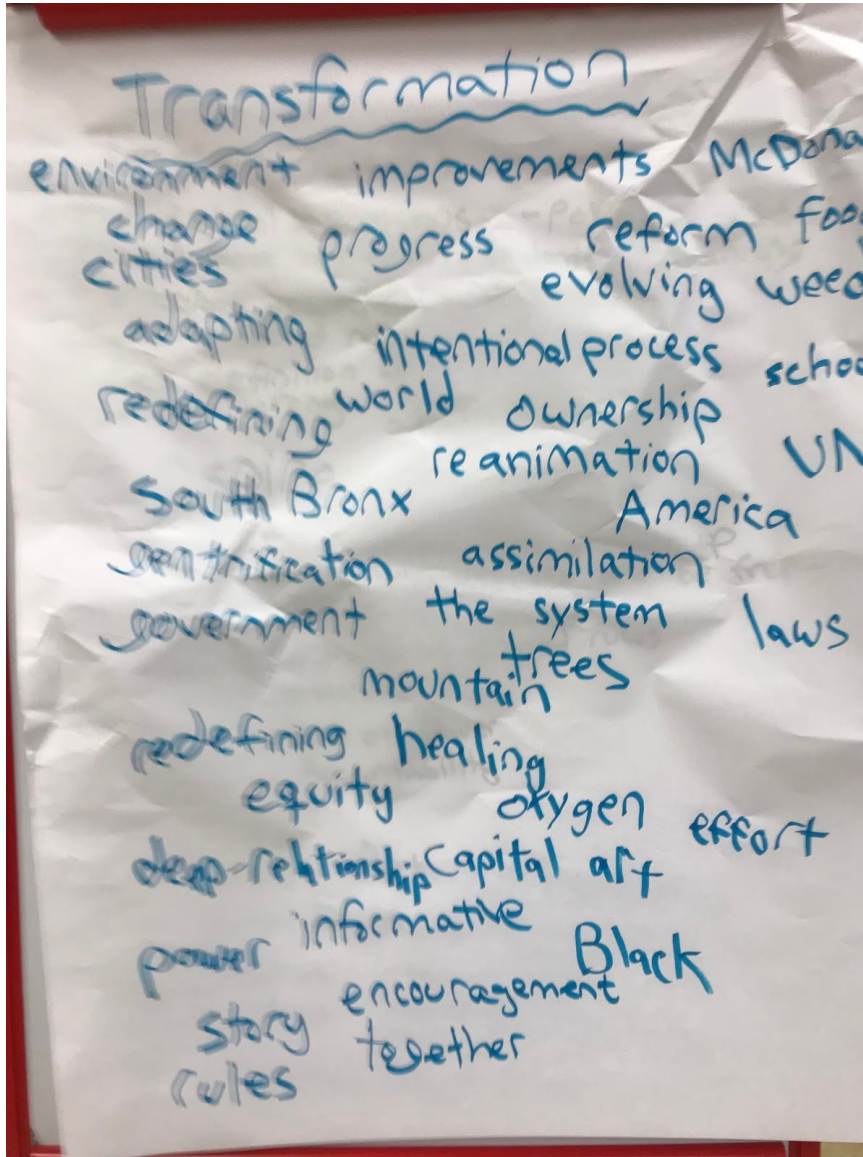
[Link to #ASVltour Twitter feed from both school visit series \(NYC and Boston\)](#)

Chart paper images from discussions with Make The Road New York

What do you want to take down, what is inspiring, what do you want to exact and raise up?



What do you think of when you hear "transformation"?



Quotes from CASA Middle School:

Jamaal Bowman:

"It all begins with love. Love of the students. Love of the community. And love of the self."

"I never understood why there wasn't people who looked like me on the walls at school."

"We engage in literature that is culturally responsive to the students. We read The Hate U Give, Autobiography of Malcolm X, Decoded by Jay Z."



Students:

"I like that we are given opportunities here."

"Teachers aren't trying to just teach me. They're trying to teach me about the world. My experience here is like out of a fable. CASA is like a family. Teachers treat you like you're their own child and push you to achieve what you want to achieve. I don't want to put it to waste."

"If I could go back and give my old school advice, it would be to interact with the students. My old teachers treated me like a paycheck. Here we have community circle where everyone comes together once a week. They treat us like a family."

Final group discussions

What do you want to take from this visit, inspired by this visit, to do when you get back home?

Connecticut Student for a Dream:

- We want to introduce staff to undocumented students to help them learn how to interact with them.
- Also political education around education and help students go to school board meetings. We want to talk to people about how they can make the system better.
- Talk to administration about what we learned here - about freedom in classes and learning, and the support structure.
- How to have this conversation with students during the school day.
- Supports we need: Resources and activities beyond college access. More support going forward as students start to talk to admin and others about all of this.

Students for Educational Justice:

- Wanting more of our team to visualize this. With just two of us here, we want more to see this to help us tailor our efforts and incorporate these ideas into our work.
- Know we have lots to do - CT is still working on getting more teachers of color, for instance.
- How do we get more of our team on fire, not just pie in the sky?
- Make The Road and the schools took partnership with schools/non-profits to the next level, I have not seen that before.

Final quotes from our group:

"Knowing a place like this exists means that what we're doing makes sense."

"Seeing this place gives me hope for the world."