



# BELL Academy

*Bayside Enrichment & Long-Distance Learning Academy – MS 294*

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**David Abbott**  
*Principal*

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March 19, 2021

Dear BELL Families,

BELL Academy had the unique privilege of hosting a visit by the newly appointed leader of the New York City Department of Education, Chancellor Meisha Ross Porter. Chancellor Porter participated in two hands-on activities; one with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class led by Ms. Chu, and another with a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class led by Ms. McCusker. Our wonderful BELL Ambassadors provided the Chancellor with a tour of our school and answered all of her questions. We are very proud of our BELL Academy student ambassadors! Chancellor Porter was very impressed by our strong sense of community and, as I escorted her out of the building, she stated, “When you greeted me, you said, ‘Welcome to the BELL Family.’ Now, it is clear why you refer to your school as a family.”

Highlights of the event can be accessed through the links below:

- Her visit was broadcasted on the Channel 11 Evening News: [Channel 11 News- Chancellor Porter visits BELL Academy](#)
- The story was published in one of our local newspapers: [Queens Chronicle- Chancellor Porter](#)
- Some pictures of the event can be seen here: [Chancellor Porter Visit- Photos](#)
- The visitors posted many tweets on Twitter: [@BELLAcademy](#)

As a reminder, schools will be closed from March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume on April 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are traveling, you must be able to pass the Daily Health Screening upon entering the building.

I would also like to share that we are all deeply saddened by the horrific attacks directed towards the Asian community. This is unacceptable and goes against the core values of BELL Academy. We stand together in support of the Asian community and will engage our students in meaningful discussions over the upcoming days. To promote awareness, BELL Academy will hold a moment of silence Monday morning. Students will be prompted to reflect on ways in which they can support the Asian community and spread the message that this behavior will not be tolerated. In a sign of solidarity, the BELL community will wear red on Wednesday (color selected by students). Students should still wear their uniform pants, but may wear a red shirt to show solidarity for our Asian community.

We hope you all stay safe and well. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

David Abbott,  
Principal