



MAKING THE CASE

JVLA'S SUMMER REMEDIATION PROGRAM IS RIGHT FIT FOR XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

In 2017, Xavier High (NYC) moved to having JVLA's summer program serve as the primary means of remediation for its students. In this interview, Xavier's Dean of Academics Lou Lovallo reflects on the schools' first-year experience.



JVLA

Describe your school's situation regarding summer remediation before taking advantage of JVLA's program.

LOVALLO

A number of years ago we decided to "outsource" summer remediation because it was just not financially viable for our school to run a summer remediation program. Unfortunately, the quality of remediation courses at other schools was not on par with what Xavier student's needed. Additionally, further summer obligations were beginning to impede on a student's ability to attend a "brick and mortar" school for remediation courses. Students had legitimate reasons for needing an alternative, for example, a summer job that helped to offset the cost of tuition. This led me to explore online platforms for remediation. Unfortunately, quality, cost-effective online platforms were challenging to find as well.

JVLA

Did JVLA's program help?

LOVALLO

JVLA's summer remediation program solved a number of these problems. First, I knew that the platform and quality of instruction would be on par with what Xavier students deserved and needed. Second, it was often more cost-effective for our students to enroll in JVLA summer remediation courses than ones offered by local schools or other online platforms. Third, JVLA's "directed delivery" option removed many of the concerns parents often have when enrolling their children in online classes by providing more structure than the traditional online course. It also allowed me to remain up-to-date with student progress in the course.



Lovallo and Xavier students.

JVLA

Were there other things about the program that were particularly valuable?

LOVALLO

One unexpected benefit, although it should not have been, was the *cura personalis* shown by the JVLA summer remediation instructors as well as JVLA's administrative team. They were easy to work with to meet the individual needs of students requiring remediation. Additionally, the weekly progress updates sent by JVLA allowed me to more closely monitor the remediation and offer necessary assistance when needed.

JVLA

What are the challenges that still remain?

LOVALLO

Honestly things worked out really well. I offered Xavier families the option of coming to Xavier to have their remediation supervised but with the structure of the "directed delivery" model this ultimately was unnecessary. Not sure yet if I will offer the supervised remediation in the future.