



## FAST FACTS

**School:** Urban Science Academy

**Website:** [schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X325](https://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X325)

**Location:** Bronx, NY

**Enrollment:** 301; serves grades 6th, 7th, 8th and Special Education.

**Challenge:** Helping middle school students acquire conceptual understanding of subjects taught, express themselves, show what they've learned, and gain practical skills in the process.

**Solution:** Easel.ly

**Results:** An easy way to assess students' knowledge of the materials they've learned, practical skills gained, an understanding of iteration and a true sense of accomplishment seen in students who use it.

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## A Visual Tool for Digital Teaching and Learning

An innovative teacher from the Bronx helps her students see what they're learning and fosters an environment of accomplishment.



**Seeing her students through.** *Clemencia Acevedo uses Easel.ly with her classes and is a strong believer in providing her students with practical tools that will assist them in their learning. She is presenting at the New York Schools Technology Summit this year. "I'm very excited to share what I know," she says.*

English Language Learners in the past three years. In both cases, there are communication issues that must be overcome. "I find that Easel.ly is very useful for open assessments. It is a great way for the students to show me what they have learned in previous lessons. For example, following a lesson on what causes day and night on Earth, I was able to see what they had learned about the content of what I and my co-

**As a middle** school teacher at the Urban Science Academy in the Bronx, Clemencia Acevedo gives high marks to Easel.ly – a digital tool that inspires and enables users to represent ideas in visual ways. "When ideas are presented visually, they are much more likely to be read and understood," Clemencia points out. "In addition, infographics are fun for students to use and make their expressions easier to follow for others. Easel.ly is a powerful platform that puts infographics at the fingertips of anyone who wants to communicate in clear and powerful ways."

Clemencia has successfully introduced Easel.ly to seventh and eighth-graders in Self-Contained and Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) classes with a high percentage of




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“There’s nothing more powerful than learning by doing,” she states. “Easel.ly not only helps my students grasp the concepts that are being presented, it also gives them a way to show, through creative expression, what they have learned. The students have to organize the text, and they do that by making it visually beautiful in the process. Easel.ly encourages them to be creative, to organize their text, to insert, let’s say, circles or whatever — with colors or other visual devices that make the presentation friendly and visually attractive.”

### A Deep Sense of Accomplishment

Another advantage Clemencia points out is that when her students display their projects, they have a deep sense of accomplishment. “They know they can do the work and are ready to take on more. And then, when the other kids see what one of their classmates has done, they want to do the same – only better. So Easel.ly is reinforcing the knowledge that we want the kids to have, and pushing them to do even more as they gain comfort with this valuable digital tool,” she says.

“When other teachers ask me about Easel.ly, here is what I tell them,” Clemencia concludes. “It’s free. It gives opportunities for kids to create excellent visual works, have fun, and demonstrate what they know. Easel.ly helps teachers spot misconceptions and correct them. It is highly relevant to base skills — and that makes *all* students better learners.” 

**Making Better Learners.** A student in Clemencia Acevedo’s classroom learning about what causes the day-and-night cycle on Earth gets some constructive help from another student, who provides specific notes for improvement. “Easel.ly is reinforcing the knowledge that we want the kids to have,” says Clemencia.

teacher, Mr. Andre Antoine, taught. By sharing their ideas through visuals, I knew where I could improve my teaching and at the same time, my students were building graphic design skills applicable to other projects.”

### Showing What They Know

“Easel.ly encourages students to be creative,” Clemencia continues. “But just as important, it allows them to show their talents relative to an assignment or something that they are learning about through visuals. Simultaneously, I am encouraging them to explore their inner talents, and I am finding out what they have retained and understood.”

**www.easel.ly**  
create and share visual ideas online

