

**We are excited to kick off this year's Eleven+ Speaker Series and welcome Janine Brown!**



**Janine Brown** has been an educator in the Jersey City Public School District for over 10 years. Her tenure began at Watters School 24, where she taught primary and middle school -and then transitioned into crisis intervention. Realizing her desire to work with high school students, she has now taken her talents to Dickinson High School where she continues much of the same work. She focuses on the social emotional learning of her students; oversees the implementation of positive behavior intervention strategies; and provides resources/programs that build character and strengthen families. Using Hip Hop Education pedagogy and restorative justice practices, she challenges traditional systems of education and makes a conscious effort to create culturally responsive and trauma-informed environments.

She takes a fervent interest in the success of all students and takes even greater pride in offering them meaningful experiences that contribute to their development in and outside of the classroom. **Recognizing a need for more equitable and culturally responsive programming, she conceived Brown Brilliance, LLC, to provide teacher training and character-building workshops for youth utilizing an original hip hop social emotional learning curriculum.** As a board member of Kismet of Kings, her curriculum is currently being implemented within the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission in various detention centers across the state and encompasses topics such as self-awareness, healthy relationships and responsible decision making.

Janine is a community-oriented educator. She devoted much of her early career to the Boys and Girls Club of Hudson County and then moved on to become a founding Program Director of Haven Adolescent Respite Center. Under her leadership, she conceived programming ideas based on need and secured funding to implement those programs. She is most proud of her work in piloting a juvenile diversion program in partnership with the JCPD which has now been expanded to serve the entire county of Hudson.

Janine is a lifelong Jersey City resident and a product of the Jersey City Public School system. She is a graduate of Rutgers University and University of Iowa, as well as a former Teacher of the Year. While she enjoys giving back to her local community, she looks forward to continuing to impact youth and their families; and contributing to positive and sustainable change on a larger scale.