Are you looking for Brooklyn’s best kept secret? Well, look no more. Take a train ride over to East New York and you’ll find it neatly tucked away in an industrial, five-story building that is the Trey Whitfield School (TWS). A fixture in the East New York community for the past 27 years, TWS has been featured in the New York Times, supported by many celebrities and politicians over the years, and is highly acclaimed as one of NYC’s top private institutions. With students reading as early as age three and solving high school math problems in sixth grade, it is undeniable that there is something special about this school.

Founded in 1983 by Janie C. Whitney and A.B. Whitfield, TWS is a warm and nurturing private educational environment, catering to over 400 students in grades Nursery through 8. The school’s mission is to equip students for life by providing an affordable high quality education in a safe, loving, and respectful environment that also nurtures the development of faith and character.

Formerly known as Bethlehem Baptist Academy, the school occupied three modules up until 2004, when it moved to its current location and was renamed in memory of the founders’ late son Trey Whitfield. Trey, a former New England Prep School academic and athletic All-American, lost his life while rescuing a classmate from drowning, just days before his high school graduation. He was a 6’8, 240 lb. basketball power forward and was rated one of the top players in the country. Off the court, he always encouraged youngsters to take advantage of any opportunity to further their education. Today, his powerful legacy lives on through TWS, its offerings, students, families, and supporters.

The curriculum, taught by a dynamic, experienced staff, consists of the core subjects of math, language arts, science, and social studies as well as physical education, music, dance, theatre, robotics, art and Spanish. Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum and library skills are taught as part of the Language and Reading curriculum. In addition to its accelerated curriculum, the school spacious facility offers its students many amenities, including a fully equipped computer lab, full-service library, and spaces for physical education, dining and all-school assemblies.

The wide range of extracurricular activities that the school offers develops students into well-rounded individuals who excel inside and outside the classroom. Students participate in the TWS Concert Choir which travels around the United States annually. Weekly chapel services allow students to explore their faith in an unhindered environment. Boys and girls meet after school and on weekends in the Boys’ and Girls’ clubs to address gender-specific topics, learn life skills and have fun in an informal setting. An annual trip to the United States Capitol helps lessons about government and politics come alive for 5th and 6th graders. Other extra curricular program offerings include weekly African dance classes, a student government, basketball team and a cultural exchange program with the Chinese Transfiguration School in NYC.

Even after graduation, the students continue to thrive. TWS graduates have gone on to prestigious boarding, specialized, parochial and college preparatory high schools including Brearley Academy, New Hampton School, Dublin School, Bishop Loughlin High School, Bronx High School of Science, Brooklyn Technical High School and many more.

The strong foundation that students receive at TWS helps them succeed even beyond high school. Alumni go on to renowned American colleges and universities including Columbia, Emory, Georgetown, Penn State, Duke, Howard, Fordham, and various state universities.

“If the future of our world depends on our students, then I believe we are truly in great hands,” remarked Mr. Whitfield. “We work hard to equip our students with a strong foundation and the tools they need to excel beyond the doors of our school, and the success of our alumni has shown us and the world that our model works.”