

Brooklyn student goes from hating to loving school, all thanks to Legos!

BY Jake Pearson

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Rosier/NewsMarquis Henry, a 10-year-old student at Public School 233 in Canarsie, proudly poses with some of his team's Lego robots.

Fifth-grader [Marquis Henry](#) hated school so much he would cry when given a homework assignment. In class, he daydreamed and refused to participate. His grades dropped. His attitude was bad.

But since the [Brownsville](#) 10-year-old started learning how to turn Lego toy pieces into a motorized robot, he has been motivated to go to

school like never before.

"Since the Lego program, he wants to do his assignments," said his mom, Eronie Henry, 42, a private school teacher in [Crown Heights](#). "Before, it was like pulling teeth to get him to do his work."

Henry is one of 10 students on the first Lego robotics team at [Public School 233](#) in [Canarsie](#) - which along with 19 other [Brooklyn](#) teams will compete in the citywide competition in March. The PS 233 crew won the borough's regional competition two weeks ago.

"I'm not saying I'm really good at [[Legos](#)], but one day I might be a professional," said Marquis, who for Christmas wanted a 3-D, motorized dinosaur Lego set. "I like it a lot."

Marquis' newfound interest in school - and his love for Legos - comes from the help of [Carole Chen](#), a 23-year-old chemical engineering master's student at [Polytechnic Institute of New York University](#) in downtown [Brooklyn](#).

"When Marquis sees me, he smiles, knowing that it's Lego time," said Chen, who helped the PS 233 team build its Lego robot. "He comes up and gives me hugs all the time."

Chen is one of a dozen postgrads Polytech sends to elementary and middle schools in central Brooklyn - schools that without the help wouldn't be able to coach competitive Lego robotics teams in the annual competition.

Beginning in October, Chen came to PS 233 twice a week to help Marquis and his teammates build a Lego robot and learn about magnetic cars, the theme of this year's competition.