



Community School Fact Sheet

The full-service approach of The Children's Aid Society's community schools addresses the multiple needs of children by recognizing that learning is influenced by ongoing experiences within families, schools and communities. To realize this comprehensive and collaborative approach to young people's learning and development, community schools foster sustained partnerships among parents, schools, community-based organizations, area health care providers, local businesses and universities.

Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics
East 116th Street and F.D.R. Drive
New York, NY 10029

Established in 1982, Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, located in East Harlem, provides students with an intensive curriculum in mathematics and science. This background, coupled with a broad base of liberal arts, enables all students to compete for admission to selective four-year colleges. Collaboration with The Children's Aid Society started in 1998, and partnerships with other community-based organizations continue to expand the services and opportunities offered through this community school.

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Mission Statement

The mission of Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics is to provide a challenging, academic program that enables students to compete for admission to selective four-year post secondary institutions. This preparation includes grades nine through twelve concentrations in science and mathematics, which are completed by the study of humanities and technology. The fulfillment of this mission is implemented through an extended-day academic program, as well as through the full collaboration of staff, students, parents and community. The tenets of our school vision will guide us in implementing our goal.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Core Instructional Program

MCSM is a selective high school that focuses on preparing students for college. The school enhances the basic requirements necessary for high school graduation and fulfills this mission of providing a challenging academic program by requiring additional years of science, math and foreign language. In addition, the school requires one year of computer science and technical education, as well as a life skills "Freshman Seminar."

Extended-Day Program

The extended-day program, focused on youth development, allows students to choose from a wide variety of credit and non-credit bearing classes, clubs and recreational activities. The key components of the program are developed and evaluated according to the students' interests. The program is the result of collaboration among several partners including the New York City Department of Education, The Children's Aid Society, Mount Sinai Hospital, Columbia University, New York University, General Electric and other community-based organizations.

ACADEMIC programs include peer and teacher tutoring and creative academic enrichment classes. A yearlong Freshman Seminar provides an orientation to high school and covers topics such as effective study skills and time management techniques. In addition, students are selected to participate in the General Electric Scholars Program, designed to prepare students for entrance into college engineering programs around the country. The Columbia Mentoring Program allows MCSM students to be matched with students attending Columbia University, and receive guidance through the college application process. Clubs such as the policy debate program, math team and math peer tutoring provide further opportunity for academic enrichment and social development. Extended hours for the library, computer lab and college office is also widely used by students.

SOCIAL AND CAREER programs are organized under the direction of a School-to-Career Coordinator, with most activities focused on career development. Programs and workshops assist students in resume writing, work readiness skills, volunteer and internship opportunities, career exploration and researching colleges. The Mount Sinai Scholars Program helps those students who are interested in exploring careers in medicine or research sciences.

HEALTH programs seek to promote physical and mental health. With several sports and recreational offerings during the extended day such as Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts), dance team and weight training, students are encouraged to integrate physical fitness into their lives. A full-time social worker is also available for students with personal or family concerns. A major focus of this work is support of 9th graders around transition issues through programs such as Freshman Seminar, Freshman Student Council and individual and group sessions, thereby helping to significantly reduce the number of freshman failures.

DANCE, ART, THEATER AND OTHER CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES respond to the varied interests of MCSM students. They include an extensive dance program, Film class, American Ballet Theater Make-a-Ballet program, martial arts program, a full-service photography dark room and a number of clubs including Debate, Aspira, Student Black Union, UMOJA, the DESI club and International Alliance club.

Number of Students Enrolled

1634 enrolled in 2004-2005

School's Level

High School (Grades 9-12)

Student Information (2004-2005))	%
Student qualifying for free federal school lunch	62.2
English language Learners (ELL)	8.0
Arrivals to the U.S. in last three years	4.5
Special Ed students in a self contained class	6.7
Student attendance rate	91.0
Latino students	63.0
Black students	23.0
White students	3.0
Asian and other students	11.0
Students receiving local diplomas (incl. S. Ed.)	7.6
Students receiving Regents Diplomas (inc. Honors	92.4
Students planning to attend four-year college (After Graduation)	65.6
Students planning to attend two-year college (After Graduation)	8.7