



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.

Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School
1001 Jennings Street
Bronx, NY 10460

Fannie Lou Hamer was a civil rights activist. Fannie Lou Hamer always wanted to help others and in the early 1960's she became involved in voter registration in the south. She was arrested several times and subjected to physical abuse during voter registration activities. She soon became a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She led the Mississippi freedom democratic party in their challenge to the seating of the segregated Mississippi delegation at the 1964 democratic convention. Until the very end of her life, Mrs. Hamer remained an active advocate for people's rights. After a long illness and fight with breast cancer, Mrs. Hamer died on March 14, 1977.

Mission Statement

The aim of Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School is to teach students to use their minds and prepare them to live productive, socially useful, and personally satisfying lives. The school's academic program stresses intellectual development and political/social involvement in our society. The Five Habits of Mind are stressed across the curriculum: (1) learning to critically examine evidence; (2) to be able to see the world through multiple viewpoints; (3) to make connections and see patterns; (4) to imagine alternatives (What if? What else?); and finally, (5) to ask, "What difference does it make? Who cares?" These five are at the heart of all our work, along with sound work habits and care and concern for others: habits of work and heart.

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KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School

Core Instructional Program

Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School is an enriched educational atmosphere with a holistic approach, which encompasses using a multicultural, technological, creative, and experimental curriculum to ensure that General Education, Special Education and English Language Learners work to meet Performance Standards. All students demonstrate their learning through portfolios. At Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School, all students must successfully complete a portfolio for each grade in order to earn a diploma. The portfolios are the culmination of learning that will be presented to members of the community, families, staff and students in a public performance required for graduation. Students develop critical thinking, research and analytical skills that prepare them for both high school and college. Our interdisciplinary program allows our teachers to work in-depth with a small number of students as they complete hands-on projects in all subject areas.

Extended-Day Program

The Extended-Day Program at Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School is comprehensive and revolves around themes of academics, fitness, nutrition and healthy habits. The extended-day programs are available to all students and are designed to be comprehensive so that students find support for their academic, social, health, psychological, physical and emotional needs in one place. It involves parents to improve the overall health of children and families and drastically reduce the high rate of student absences.

ACADEMICS

Opportunities during the extended-day program seek to reinforce and enhance the regular school day curricula. These offerings include homework help, tutoring, a technology class, and the Learning Zone, an Overcoming Obstacles Program, EXCEL and Youth Leadership program. In technology students learn about the components, how to assemble and many other aspects of a computer. The Learning Zone provides students the opportunity to access the Get Your Learn On website, a web-based educational program where students play educational games to improve academic performance. The EXCEL program encourages our students to further their academic success by helping them to set goals and rewarding them upon their academic improvement.

SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The social and vocational aspects of the program revolve around two main components, Overcoming Obstacles and Smart Girls. These programs encourage a sense of community among the student body and self-esteem within the individual girls and boys.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

We provide students with recreational activities and programs, such as intramural sports, open gym and Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts) to encourage fitness. Intramural volleyball and basketball are the main sports offered during the gym session as well as some open gym for the students to decide on the activities. Capoeira is an energetic, often acrobatic, dance-like style of martial arts.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Students are provided the opportunity build on their love of performance through music and art programs. The goal is to help students create a showcase revolving around the arts activities of their choice.

Other Programs and Services

The Fannie Lou Hamer Middle school is an adaptation of the full-service CAS community school model. Linked to nearby CAS Bronx Family Center, students and families are provided with comprehensive health and dental services, mental health, family wellness and youth leadership programs.

FOR STUDENTS, The Children's Aid Society offers additional services addressing issues of comprehensive health care and prevention. The CAS Bronx Family Center located at 1515 Southern Blvd, just about 3 blocks from the school, offers many services for our students and their families. This facility offers pediatric and adolescent health services that include: well child examinations, immunizations, acute care (sick visits), services for pre-teens and teens, reproductive health care, health education and counseling. Comprehensive health care would not be complete without dental services. Youth under 21 years of age can receive oral exams, preventive dental care and treatment. For many decades, The Children's Aid Society has provided comprehensive health services in convenient settings that are family-centered and sensitive to the unique needs of New York City's children. A social worker addresses the emotional needs of students and their families through individual and family counseling as well as group work. In addition, mental health staff works with teachers and school staff to assist those students with behavioral disorders.

FOR PARENTS, The Parent Association at Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School offers workshops such as helping children with school assignments, making scrapbooks, technology assistance, making holiday crafts, understanding Regents exams and portfolio panels, academic classes and many more. Our school offers referrals for medical services and counseling. The Children's Aid Society Health Care Access Project (HCAP) provides workers to guide families through the Medicaid or Family Health Plus enrollment process, providing assistance to children and families who are entitled to much-needed health insurance.



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Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School
1001 Jennings Street
Bronx, NY 10460

Our school was named after Fannie Lou Hamer, who was a civil rights activist. Fannie Lou Hamer is one of the first small high schools in the Bronx and we have been successfully educating students in our own building for more than 10 years. As an academic high school dedicated to high expectations and high levels of support for all students, we offer a curriculum that emphasizes the development of research, problem solving and communication skills expected of those pursuing a post-secondary education. Portfolio requirements emphasize writing and critical thinking skills. All students are assigned to advisors to help guide them through their academic requirements.

Mission Statement

The fundamental aim of Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School is to teach students to use their minds well and prepare them to lead productive, socially useful, and personally satisfying lives. The school's academic program stresses intellectual development and political/social involvement in our society. Five "habits of mind" are stressed: (1) learning to critically examine evidence; (2) to be able to see the world through multiple viewpoints; (3) to make connections and see patterns; (4) to imagine alternatives (What if? What else?); and finally, (5) to ask, "What difference does it make? Who cares?" These five are at the heart of all our work, along with sound work habits and care and concern for others: habits of work and heart. The curriculum affirms the central importance of students learning how to learn, how to reason, and how to investigate complex issues that require collaboration, personal responsibility and a tolerance for uncertainty.

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KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Fannie Lou Hamer High School

Core Instructional Program

Fannie Lou Hamer 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, through The Children's Aid Society, the school requires one year of Freshman Seminar to all incoming freshmen. This for-credit course is designed to help students make a successful transition from middle to high school by learning important life skills, (such as time management, stress management, study skills, planning and goal-setting).

Extended-Day Program

The extended-day program focuses on youth development, which 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 and The Children's Aid Society.

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. At our school we offer assistance for SATs and PSAT preparation for our students. Along with the many programs we offer our students, we also offer them the opportunity to earn college credits, as our school has teamed up with Hostos Community College. Programs such as the Peer Mediation, Tutoring and Flagship provide further opportunity for academic enrichment and social development.

SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL in division 1 (9th & 10th grade) students are required to do community service as apart of their curriculum. Through community service, students begin working hand in hand with their community. In division 2 (11th & 12th grade) students are required to do internships as a part of their curriculum. Many of our students have done internships with a variety of well known sites such as the American Museum of Natural History, PBS Channel 13, Bronx Lebanon Hospital and many more. At this stage in their progress, they begin to experience the world of and to develop a positive work ethic. The Leadership Program seeks to promote physical and mental health. With several sports and recreational offerings during the extended-day such as Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts), archery and weight lifting, 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.

Other Programs and Services

The Children's Aid Society offers additional services addressing issues of comprehensive health care and prevention. The Bronx Family Center located at 1515 Southern Blvd. approximately 3 blocks from the school, offers many services for our students and their families. This facility offers pediatric and adolescent health services, which include: well child examinations, immunizations, acute care (sick visits), services for pre-teens and teens, reproductive health care, health education and counseling. Comprehensive health care would not be complete without dental services. Youth under 21 years of age can receive oral exams, preventive dental care and treatment.

Fannie Lou Hamer Middle School

Number of Students Enrolled

254 in 2005-2006

Intermediate School (Grades 6-8)

Student Information (2005-2006)	%
Student qualifying for free federal school lunch	83
English language Learners (ELL)	22
Arrivals to the U.S. in last three years	0
Special Ed students in a self contained class	22
Student attendance rate	93
Latino students	67
Black students	32
White students	0
Asian and other students	1

Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School

Number of Students Enrolled

448 enrolled in 2005-2006

High School (Grades 9-12)

Student Information (2005-2006)	%
Students qualifying for free federal school lunch	80
English language Learners (ELL)	9.7
Arrivals to the U.S. in last three years	1.8
Special Ed students in a self contained class	11.7
Student attendance rate	83.7
Latino students	65.5
Black students	33.0
White students	0.9
Asian and other students	0.5