

Saturday Academy

As part of its mission to provide high quality, positive "out-of-school-time" activities, the City of New Bedford Department of Community Services offers a weekly, no-fee Saturday Academy Program for 4th and 5th grade boys from Parker, Lincoln, Swift & Hannigan Schools.

What is the Saturday Academy Program?

Saturday Academy is a 34-week program for 80 4th, 5th grade male students from Parker, Hannigan, Lincoln & Swift schools of promise referred by their principal @ Parker, Lincoln and Hannigan Schools. We also have 6th, 7th & 8th grade students from Normandin who were brought back as Jr. Leaders. As part of the enrollment process, parents agree to have their sons attend Saturdays from September - June from 9AM-2:30 pm and wear the Saturday Academy t-shirt provided every Saturday.

Where is the Program held?

The program is held at the Dennison Memorial Community Center. Transportation is provided at no cost.

Upon arrival to Dennison Memorial, students will have breakfast and then devote the morning to academics. Lunch is also provided, followed by cultural/enrichment activities. One Saturday each month will be reserved for a field trip or community event; special events will be scheduled for students and their families.

What is the Goal of the Academy?

The Academy is designed to reduce the impact of negative risk behaviors by building and strengthening assets. It strives to improve academic performance, socialization skills and self-esteem.

Program Design

Programs operated through the Department of Community Services Human Services Office are based on the positive youth development "asset building" model. Youth are

involved in decision-making and are treated as valued members of the community. Caring adults from the home and community are included in the process so that the young person has someone to turn to as a positive influence. This is the premise of the Saturday Academy.

Evaluation

The Department of Community Services contracts with Brandeis University on program design, implementation and evaluation. The evaluators work with the Department and the Academy staff to establish an individualized "work plan" format for each student in academics as well as positive behavior and socialization skills.

How is the Academy funded?

Funding for this initiative is made possible by the City of New Bedford Invests-In-Kids Program

For more information, contact Monica Castro, Project Manager 508-997-4889

City of
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