

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL Partnership



SEPTEMBER 2013

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE LEARNING

ISSUE ONE



Left to Right: James, Sam, Isaac, Kyla, and Elijah.

Welcome!



OUR MISSION We, as a Gately staff, strive to create a culture of positive relationships by honoring youth perspective, showing interest, and being mindful of our young people. Our program recognizes PLAY as a critical component to positive youth development. Through this practice we develop improved life skills, a heightened sense of self-worth, and a sense of connectedness to the community.

OUR GOAL The Middle School Partnership is ready for a school year focused on building **Leadership** skills of our young people by sharing control, decision making, and responsibility in the program.

Our Center-wide initiative in **Service Learning** will launch this fall with each respective program (Preteen, MSP, and Teen) participating in a service project. We are encouraging our middle school youth to think critically about how they can effect change in their community.

Check out **OUR Timeline** in the **CLUB HOUSE** where youth are posting artwork, pictures, and artifacts from the school year. Come in and take a look !



Creative 7th grader and Gately veteran: Javon Carpenter



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facebook.com/gatelyyouthcenter

WHAT'S NEW?

The Clip Chart

We have done away with the "Star Chart" and have brought in the Clip Chart. This new system promotes leadership skills of our young people through recognition of their efforts and by being held accountable when they break a community agreement. So far, we have seen our youth adapt well to the system, where many of them are landing in the Super Leader category!

Super Leader
Role Model
Excellent Effort
Ready to Play
Make Better Choices
Take 5
In-House Project + Reflection

iLead!

When signing in youth are asked to pick a responsibility from the iLead chart. Designed after an iPhone (thanks to Youth Worker, Amber!), each child then selects a job for the day using their customized popsicle stick. With leadership, comes responsibility and we're happy to see youth following through with this new expectation.

Please support us with these new efforts by asking your child about their leadership level and daily iLead job. Your encouragement makes it possible to hold our youth to such a high standard of excellency.



STAFF FOR A DAY

(Top Row: left to right: Jazzlyn, Jahel, Nadaija and Jahel Bottom Row: Jonathan and Angelica)

What is BRAIN Time?

If you've heard about Brain Time, we're hoping it wasn't all bad! In an effort to move away from the dreaded HOMEWORK word, we encourage youth to THINK about what they learned in school or to do something CREATIVE with the hope that they become INDEPENDENT learners.

Please encourage your child to use an assignment book, as this allows us to monitor the progress of their school work. We all know how tricky it can be to help when they say, "But, I don't have any homework!"

Each young person has chosen a MY SPOT in the center that best fits their learning style. Every room has a designated staff member to assist with assignments and provide encouragement. We are not a tutoring service, but check homework and provide a quiet and productive space where youth can learn.

The MATH CENTER has opened up and is where youth can sign up for one on one help in math assignments with our staff member, Amber. They can sign up daily for this upon arrival.

Please contact us if you have any specific questions regarding your child's homework.

Melinda has been promoted to LEAD YOUTH WORKER for the dedication, passion, and creativity she brings to the Middle School Partnership.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love being able to meet new kids and build relationships with them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY?

Being there right when the kids come in from school! I get very excited to tell them about what is going on for the day.

Staff Spotlight:

Melinda Maxwell

