



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.

P.S./I.S 50, The Vito Marcantonio School
433 East 100th Street
New York, NY 10029

Vito Marcantonio was born and raised in East Harlem, and elected to Congress in 1934, where he represented East Harlem's 20th District for nearly two decades. Marcantonio's political career was characterized by his firm convictions for equality and democracy, even in the face of political opposition. He also served as legal counsel to civil rights activist William Dubois. In partnership with Mount Sinai Children's Community Health (MSCCH) and the New York City Department of Education, The Children's Aid Society established a community school at P.S. 50, located in East Harlem, in 2000. A disproportionately large percentage of P.S 50 students suffer from dangerously high rates of medical and emotional conditions inherent to living in a community marked by extreme poverty.

Mission Statement

The mission of P.S. 50 is to create an enriched educational atmosphere and an ethically responsible school community. All students will recognize the need to become productive and responsible citizens. Students, school community and parents will strive to attain higher academics standards and to foster self-esteem. We are committed to design and implement a curriculum that meets the needs of all students and empowers teachers to develop the academic, intellectual and creative abilities of our students. We will continue to collaborate with parents and the community to create an open and enhanced educational haven, which will provide our children with an equal opportunity to successfully enter the 21st century with confidence.

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KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Core Instructional Program

P.S. 50 provides an enriched educational atmosphere with a holistic approach that encompasses a multicultural, technological, creative, experiential curriculum to ensure that General Education, Special Education and English Language Learners work to meet Performance Standards.

Extended-Day Program

The program at P.S. 50 is comprehensive and revolves around themes of fitness, nutrition and healthy habits. The extended-day programs are available to all students and are designed to be comprehensive so that students will 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.

ACADEMIC enrichment is organized around literacy-based curricula that follow a community engagement and, exploration theme. Students engage in hand-on projects and creative exercises that reinforce the academic skills that are learned during the day. Homework help and mentoring programs are also available.

SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL activities are integrated throughout the program with various offerings including community service projects, Madison Square Garden Liberty Club, Oyster Arts, Cornell Coop nutrition classes, Young Women on a Mission (girls group), Rites of Passage (boys group), socialization groups, and arts and crafts.

PHYSICAL HEALTH activities seek to promote fitness through sports and exercise programs including basketball and ballet.

DANCE, ART, THEATER AND OTHER CULTURAL programs are extremely popular offerings in our extended-day program. Movement and expression through the arts also support the community school's mission of promoting physical and mental health. Children integrate the arts into other aspects of the program, such as painting murals for the community, school beautification, Rosie's Broadway Kids, National Dance Institute (NDI), Reading Recovery, Bright Star, City Year and Studio in a School.

Other Programs and Services

The program at P.S. 50 is comprehensive, integrating several areas with an underlying theme of health: medical and dental care; social work services; and parent programming. The CAS program combines the expertise in medical treatment and health education of MSCCH with CAS's expertise in integrating supportive services in schools.

FOR STUDENTS, additional services address issues of comprehensive health care and prevention. A school-based health center operates 12 months a year, during the day, evenings and on weekends, providing comprehensive community health and education intervention. Services include physical examinations, vaccinations and treatment for minor illnesses. In addition, with a focus on prevention, the medical team holds workshops for teachers, parents and students to provide a forum for instruction on age-appropriate health issues as well as ways to identify early signs of medical and/or mental health problems. Basic dental care is also available for students. 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 work with teachers and school staff to assist those students with behavioral disorders.

FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, parent programs are held in the school's Parent Resource Room to support family involvement in the school, help them to feel welcome in the school, and support them with programs that respond to their family's needs. The Parent Resource Room provides a range of services including emergency assistance, family counseling and health insurance consultation. Workshops cover topics including nutrition, community health resources, effective parenting skills, job readiness and how to communicate effectively with your child. In addition, The Children's Aid Society Health Care Access Project (HCAP) guides families through the Medicaid or Family Health Plus enrollment process, providing assistance to children and families who are entitled to much-needed health insurance.

Number of Students Enrolled

536 enrolled 2004-2005

Elementary school (Grades K-8)

Student Information (2004-2005)	%
Student qualifying for free federal school lunch	87.6
English language Learners (ELL)	5.2
Arrivals to the U.S. in last three years	1.9
Special Ed students in a self contained class	7.5
Student attendance rate	89.3
Latino students	51.3
Black students	45.3
White students	1.4
Asian and other students	2.3