



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. 8, Luis Belliard School
465 West 167th Street
New York, NY 10032

The Luis Belliard School opened in 1995 and the school's collaboration with The Children's Aid Society began in 1996. The school was named after a community resident who was an architect by trade and a political activist and advocate by passion. Luis Belliard died at a young age from cancer, but his fierce dedication to protecting the rights of children will always be remembered.

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Mission Statement

At Public School 8 in Manhattan, the administration, staff, parents and the Children's Aid Society will foster critical, independent thinking and learning. We will afford our children the opportunity to be responsible and creative individuals. We will promote a strong foundation of knowledge, skills and experiences. We are committed to joining our community in an effort to provide children with the best opportunity for learning in a safe environment.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Core Instructional Program

P.S. 8 continually develops and implements programs that are designed to meet the specific needs of its student and community populations. The core instructional program includes a combination of communication arts, mathematics, science and an extensive bilingual program. P.S. 8 continues to expand programs and activities with a focus on literacy, language, mathematics and the Arts in Education Program. Some of these strategic initiatives include: Million Word March, Poem of the Month, Book Talks, Buddy Reading Program, Book Clubs and Dramatic Storytelling.

Extended-Day Program

The programs that are offered after the school day, on Saturdays, and during holidays and summer vacations are available to all students. The staff is composed of counselors and teachers who work together to provide a safe and supportive environment for children during the non-school hours.

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 programs are coordinated through multiple partnerships with organizations such as the New York Public Library's Youth Initiatives and D.A.R.E. Dance. Other activities such as the Chess Club and the Multimedia Club are also offered. In addition, the youth leadership council gives older students the opportunity to help plan and develop extended-day program options. During the summer months, students can register for a summer camp, which is structured around various educational themes.

PHYSICAL HEALTH development is provided through sports teams such as Honor the Game basketball league, dance, open gym time and nutrition classes. Through their involvement in sports, children are taught sportsmanship, leadership skills and self-awareness.

DANCE, ART, THEATER AND OTHER CULTURAL programs such as filmmaking provide students with opportunities to engage in artistic and musical expression.

Other Programs and Services

P.S. 8 offers programs and services for students and their parents, as well as community members. The school serves as a "hub" of activity and support for the entire community.

FOR STUDENTS, programs start before birth with doula programs for expectant mothers, followed by Early Head Start and Head Start programs in which children (ages 0 to 4), their parents and Head Start staff work collaboratively to promote healthy early childhood development and school readiness. The school also offers comprehensive health services through an on-site dental and medical clinic. The preventive services program provides assistance and support for children who are identified by community school staff as being at risk for neglect or abuse. In conjunction with a mental health team, the program provides advocacy for children's rights and individual and family therapy.

FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, educational classes and workshops (GED, Family Literacy Program, computer and higher education courses) are available for community members throughout the school year. Additional parenting workshops inform parents on how to best support their children academically and developmentally. Cultural celebrations and school events are open to the entire community and promote community building while supporting social and cultural development. Vocational, entrepreneurial and skill-building workshops (cake baking, sewing, card making, flower arrangement) also complement the school's commitment to lifelong learning and community development. Eligible children and families are also registered for health insurance through the CAS Health Care Access Program (HCAP).

Number of Students Enrolled

651 enrolled in 2005-2006

Elementary school (Grades K-5)

Early Childhood programs

Early Head Start

Head Start

Student Information (2005-2006)	%
Students qualifying for free federal school lunch	90.3
English language Learners (ELL)	41.3
Arrival to the U.S. in last three years	12.1
Special Ed students in a self contained class	6.4
Student attendance rate	93.5
Latino students	95.2
Black students	4.6
White students	0.1
Asian and other students	0.1