



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.

I.S. 98 Herman Ridder Intermediate School
1619 Boston Road
Bronx, NY 10460

I.S. 98 is named after Herman Ridder, a prominent German American newspaper publisher and politician from the early 20th century. In 1908, Ridder received the influential post of treasurer of the Democratic National Committee. In order to add to service provided to the South Bronx through the CAS Bronx Family Center and the C.S. 61/I.S. 190 community school initiative, The Children's Aid Society entered into a community school partnership with I.S. 98 in 2002.

Mission Statement

The mission of Intermediate School 98 is to challenge all students to gain the academic, social and emotional skills needed to reach high academic standards. By addressing an individual student's needs, by harnessing the creative skills of teachers and by actively involving parents in the educational process, students will become good citizens of the school and of the community. Our goal is to provide a stable environment for all students where they can pursue their interests through the academic programs and through enriched after-school program provided by a partnership with The Children's Aid Society.

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KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Core Instructional Program

Based on the acronym TEAM, *Together Everyone Achieves More*, I.S. 98 seeks to promote students' academic and social success through an interdisciplinary, standards-based curriculum involving teachers, parents, students and community-based partnerships.

Extended-Day Program

Focus groups and needs assessments revealed an overwhelming need for youth development and leadership programs. Accordingly, the extended-day Program at I.S. 98 focuses on conflict resolution and community building, as well as academic enrichment.

ACADEMIC opportunities during the extended-day program seek to reinforce and enhance the regular school day curricula. These offerings include homework help, tutoring sessions and a Department of Education-sponsored enrichment program.

SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL enrichment opportunities are based on a theme of conflict resolution and criminal justice. A pilot site for The After School Corporation's community justice program, I.S. 98 offers students the opportunity to meet with different members of the law enforcement and judicial community to learn more about the system and about their own role in promoting community safety and development. In addition, extended-day curricula such as Overcoming Obstacles, Passport to Manhood and SMART Girls encourage a sense of community among the student body and self-esteem within individual girls and boys. The CAS Adolescent Sexuality and Pregnancy Prevention offers a holistic approach to empower youth, develop a desire for a productive future, and improve their sexuality literacy and understanding of the consequences of early sexual activity.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH activities such as the sports and recreational leagues are extremely popular at I.S. 98. Sport programs such as basketball, tennis, archery and cheerleading have a fundamental purpose of youth development and conflict resolution, while also promoting physical fitness.

DANCE, ART, THEATER AND OTHER CULTURAL opportunities are designed and implemented based on student interests. The community school atmosphere at I.S. 98 is characterized by students' love of performance and, accordingly, staff have scheduled weekly showcases for various arts activities, including drama, dance, step and arts and crafts exhibits.

Other Programs and Services

The I.S. 98 community school is an adaptation of the full-service CAS community school model. Linked to the 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 CAS Bronx Family Center specializes in preventive services, with adolescent health services providing well child examinations, immunizations, acute care (sick visits), services for pre-teens and teens, reproductive health care, health education and counseling. Basic dental care is also available for students. On-site, a social worker addresses the emotional needs of students and their families through individual and family counseling as well as group work. CAS sponsors a Bronx Youth Council, composed of community school and Family Center middle school students, who have identified pressing community issues to research, discuss and address, while also working to raise awareness for other young people through presentations and local youth conferences. Transition programs are also in place to help children through changes from elementary to middle to high school.

FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, parent programs and activities promote parent involvement, help them feel welcome in the school, and support them with programs that respond to their family's needs. CAS provides a range of services including emergency assistance, family counseling and health insurance consultation. Parents are encouraged to participate in advocacy events such as the annual After School Lobby Day in Albany.

Number of Students Enrolled

621 enrolled in 2005-2006

Intermediate school (Grades 6-8)

| Student Information (2005-2006) | % |
|---|-------------|
| Student qualifying for free federal school lunch | 92.5 |
| English language Learners (ELL) | 10 |
| Arrivals to the U.S. in last three years | 16.4 |
| Special Ed students in a self contained class | 8 |
| Student attendance rate | 88 |
| Latino students | 61.6 |
| Black students | 32.7 |
| White students | 0.3 |
| Asian and other students | 5.3 |