

Your child is enrolling in Youth Guidance's BAM program. Here is some information you should know about the program and what you and your child should expect.

About BAM

- BAM is a character education and academic enrichment program for youth in grades 7-12. It is a completely voluntary program.
- Youth will develop social and emotional skills through the core values of Integrity, Self-Determination, Accountability, Positive Anger Expression, Respect for Womanhood, and Visionary Goal Setting.
- BAM groups meet once a week for 45 minutes during the school day in a designated classroom. Participants can be pulled from non-core classes with the expectation that they complete assignments. Individual counseling and brief encounters occur on an as needed basis.
- Youth may have access to afterschool activities including field trips, sports mentoring in some schools, and cultural activities.

Expectations for Participants

Youth Guidance (YG) program participants are expected to follow the school's behavioral guidelines and the Code of Conduct at all times. The school district Code of Conduct is available from the school's main office, the YG office, or by visiting the school district's website.

In particular, YG expects participants to demonstrate respect for themselves and others. Participants should understand and practice confidentiality as it applies to group rules. The following actions or behaviors are not allowed: abusive or harmful language; physical aggression; bullying; taking property that does not belong to them.

In addition, Youth Guidance program participants are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Participants must not be in possession of school district contraband items, i.e. cigarettes, drugs, weapons, etc.
- Unless they are given specific permission, participants are not permitted to use electronic devices during YG programs, including: cell phones, portable music players, headphones/earbuds, hand held gaming devices, personal computers, and the like. Unauthorized items may be confiscated by program staff and returned at the appropriate time.
- Youth Guidance is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- BAM participants are expected to complete all course assignments if pulled from a class for a BAM group.

Expectations for Parents and Family Members

Parents and family members are valued partners with Youth Guidance in their child's success in school. YG encourages parents to become involved with program activities as appropriate. You should expect open communication with the BAM Mentor who works with your child. This may include...

- Introductions to the program and BAM Mentor.
- Updates on your child's progress or concerns about program involvement, academics, behavior at school or home.
- Invitations to participate in program, school or parent activities.
- Planning for periods when school is not in session.

In addition, YG requests the following from parents of our participants...

- Provide signed YG consent for services for your child to participate. Without proper consent your child will be asked to leave the program.
- Attend Parent Orientations, Report Card pickup, and other program and school events.
- Encourage and support your child in the skills they are learning in the program.
- Advise BAM Mentors of any changes at home that would impact your child's progress or if you need related support.

Thank you, and we look forward to a terrific school year ahead!