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OLIVER MENTORING PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Oliver Mentoring Program is to encourage the development of successful, confident, and well-adjusted Oliver Scholars by providing them with the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with positive, caring, adult role models with whom Scholars can identify.

The Mentoring Program was initiated in 2004 to augment the support services of the Oliver Scholars Program. Our Mission is to promote social equity by introducing extraordinary New York City students of African American and Latino descent and their families into the *Oliver Scholars Program*... a community of supportive educators, sponsors and peers who champion them on a transformative lifetime journey: pursuing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service, providing Oliver Scholars the access and opportunity to work for the benefits of an independent school education and the subsequent college education that follows.



Mentor/Mentee match: Latoya Massey & Isis Richardson

“It feels good to have someone tell you they’ll be there for you.”

OLIVER SCHOLARS

Oliver Scholars involved in the Mentoring Program have volunteered to participate or have been identified by Oliver staff as individuals who can benefit immensely from additional support. Scholars are presented with the opportunity in April at the end of their 8th grade year, once they are placed at independent day and boarding schools. They hail from New York City’s public middle schools throughout the five boroughs and are at the beginning of their journey into elite independent schools. Scholars participate in a Summer Immersion Program, an academic and socially intensive 5-week experience, preparing them for the rigors of independent school. 60% of our Scholars matriculate to boarding schools, and 40% attend day schools in NYC.

Scholars have unique experiences at independent schools and their struggles include: academic and financial challenges; navigating different social situations; feelings of alienation, homesickness, insensitivity or over-sensitivity to race; and having few role models with whom they can relate.

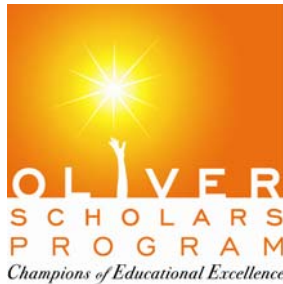
OLIVER MENTORS

Oliver Mentors are adult professionals who provide career advice, personal counseling, and academic and financial guidance. As a role model, a mentor shares his/her unique perspective and experiences with the Scholar. Relationships are developed uniquely within each match according to the needs and personality of the Scholars and Mentors.



Oliver Mentors (1 to r): Grace Lee, Dahni-El Giles, Marlon Keys, Latoya Massey, and Eric Low

“I visualize my experience as a mentor as being one in which I can empower a student to feel confident in making sound decisions.”



OUR CURRENT MENTORS & SCHOLARS

Oliver Mentors work at the following organizations and companies:

ABC networks • Achievement First • BNY Mellon Wealth Management • Convent of the Sacred Heart • Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP • ING Investment Management • NYMosaico.com/The Tympanum Group • Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP • Primerica Financial Services • PS149K • SEEDCO • Oliver Scholars Program • The Center for After-School Excellence • The Edward R. Murrow High School • West Brooklyn High School

Oliver Scholars participating in the Mentoring Program are currently attending the following independent schools:

Day Schools: *The Berkeley Carroll School • Brooklyn Friends School • Collegiate • Elisabeth Irwin High School • The Horace Mann School • Nightingale Bamford School • Trinity School*

Boarding Schools: *Concord Academy • George School • Governor's Academy • The Groton School • Milton Academy • Peddie School • Phillips Academy Andover • The Westtown School*



First Mentor/Mentee Matches at High Ropes Course

MATCHES & EXPECTATIONS

Mentors are matched with Scholars typically in the summer, or on a rolling basis. The minimum time commitment for a mentoring relationship is one year. Matches meet each other and create a contract that will guide the relationship, i.e. when to keep in touch, how often, and best forms of communication (email and/or phone). These contracts become the blue print for the match; much of the time spent together relies on each person. Relationships are monitored on a bi-monthly basis and year-end evaluation. Matches must attend at least 2 of the 6 Oliver Group events throughout the year and keep Oliver staff informed of the mentor-mentee relationship.

GETTING INVOLVED

Interested mentors fill out an application, go through a screening process: interview and fingerprinting, and receive training.

For more information or to apply, contact:
Candy Crary, 212-430-5980 x1102
ccrary@oliverscholars.org



Class of 2009 & Class of 2010 at Kimball Union Academy