

Central Islip School District MBK Newsletter March 2020

My Brother's Keeper

MBK Extended Day Learning Opportunity

Mulligan Elementary students in grades four through six work in small groups with teachers to increase academic achievement through daily homework assistance and additional support in Mathematics and Humanities.

The students are also provided with time to foster social and emotional learning through group activities and time in the computer laboratory and the gymnasium. Students also participate in discussions on preventing youth crime, violence, and gang involvement while preparing for a successful future.

Mulligan students are enjoying spending time with faculty and their peers and are forming positive bonds. They meet weekly on Mondays and Wednesday after school.



The Central Islip School District takes on the MBK Challenge!

Since 2017, the CISD has been participating with the New York State My Brother's Keeper Initiative under the direction of Dr. Tracy Hudson at the Mulligan Middle School and now at the Mulligan Elementary School. There is a focus on closing and eliminating opportunity gaps faced by our students of color by giving them the chance to reach their full potential by participating in extra-curricular activities such as:

- MBK Extended Day Learning
- Men of the Future Junior Program
- Collaboration with other student in the Men of the Future and the "Bring Every Sister Together Program"

Men of the Future Junior Program

This district wide elite male mentoring program is held one Saturday a month for our students in third grade through sixth grade. The students participate in small groups that rotate for sessions of the following topics: mathematics, humanities, physical education, and character development with the Suffolk County Sheriff Department. Sheriff Deputy Brandon Lloyd has built a great rapport with the boys and has presented on goal setting, good decision making, and diversity education as well as the role of law enforcement. Each group is led by a high school student that participates in the Men of the Future program at their school. In the January meeting, the children were provided with new school supplies that were donated by the community.



My Brother's Keeper Continued...

Field Trip to see the movie, "Just Mercy"

On February 4th, 2020, the students in the My Brother's Keeper, Men of the Future Junior, and Men of the Future programs attended a field trip to see a screening of the film, "Just Mercy," at AMC Movie Theatres in Stony Brook, New York. This trip included students from the elementary school, middle school, and high school. Occasionally, film/videos are used in order to illustrate a particular curricular-related concept.



The film, "Just Mercy," follows a young African American lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, an African American man, who was sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Stevenson encounters racism and legal and political maneuverings as he tirelessly fights for McMillian's life. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Stevenson.

What is in store for the future?



The program will receive more assistance from the Suffolk County Sheriff Department in terms of weekly mentoring by Deputy Lloyd for our MBK students who continue to demonstrate poor decision-making guiding them towards more appropriate behavior. The goal of this intervention is to foster healthy masculinity and a sense of responsibility for community impact, so the students gain positive self-esteem. There will also be a field trip for the students to attend an orientation at State University of New York, Stony Brook University campus as well as visit a Historically Black College/University.

The program will continue to focus on historical injustices, current events, and promote goals that have impact on our students of color. In addition to academic-related field trips, the students will have the opportunity to support local sports teams by attending a Long Island Nets basketball game as well as a New York Cosmos soccer game.



A new program for girls started in January 2020 to address the needs of girls of color in the district. The Bring Every Sister Together (B.E.S.T.) Program by the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy is a mentoring program that is designed to help pre-teens cope with problems and issues faced at school and at home. It will take place at the same time as the Men of the Future Junior Program to combine efforts to support our students of color and extend the My Brother's Keeper program. The girls will be able to learn from the Sheriff Deputy similar to the 2019 MBK Summer program. The girls will have the opportunity to learn about character development, financial literacy, and leadership opportunities.