Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Community School

Sisters II Sisters
For the love of the code.

Welcome Handbook

Updated July 2019

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

We live by the code.

We help create history by learning to code. We help to build the next wave of technology. We are not only becoming empowered woman, but we are empowering every girl and woman who hears of our technical powers.

The word *code* also represents our sisterhood. We are advocates, leaders, and role models. We move with grace and positivity.

This is our code.

History

The Sisters II Sisters Girls group program began during the 2014 school year at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 9. With inspiration from the Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley, the founders created an after-school educational program that focused on life experiences for girls. Since creation, Sisters II Sisters has inspired and empowered girls to reach their fullest potential, and has sent School No.9 girls to high school with prevention strategies to lead successful lives.

Sisters II Sisters is commonly known as *SIIS*

Vision

Sisters II Sisters is a social emotional based program that empowers sixth grade girls to be confident, become effective leaders, and make good choices at school and in the community. The program will teach girls to code and support the next wave of technology.

Mission

Sisters II Sisters sixth grade girls will become advocates, leaders, and role models. We will accomplish this with expanded learning opportunities workshops provided by a collaborating staff of members.

Standards

Social Emotional Development and Learning in New York State

This program meets the Social and Emotional Development and Learning (SEDL) guidelines for New York State:

- Outreach to and engagement of families and community
- Attention to school and classroom environment
- Skill acquisition through social-emotional learning opportunities and standards based
- instruction
- After school, out-of-school, extra-curricular and service learning programs and mentoring
- Aligned district and school support personnel policies and practices
- Coordination of school, district and community-based student support service provision

Self-awareness
The ability to accurately recognize one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one's strengths and limitations, with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a "growth mindset."

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception
- Recognizing strengths
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy

Self-management
The ability to successfully regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations — effectively managing stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself. The ability to set and work toward personal and academic goals.

- Impulse control
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Goal-setting
- Organizational skills

Social awareness

The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others

New York State Standards for Academics

RI.6.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

RL.6.11. Recognize, interpret, and make connections in narratives, poetry, and drama, ethically and artistically to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations

RI.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

S.L.6.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator
Demitria Lawton-Greggs

Lead Mentor
Clinetia Green

Program Mentors
Sharon Polland
Chelsea O'Meally
Holly Cornelius
Wilmarie Velez-Feliciano
Jeronda Griffin
Adelina Andreani
Aracelis Ayala
Melinda Henderson
Kimmily Lopez

School 9 Sisters II Sisters Support

Sharon Jackson- *Principal*
Sandy Williams- *School Secretary*
Wanda Labrador- *Community Schools Site Coordinator*
Dianne Felix-Rivera- *Parent Liaison*

School 9 Sisters II Sisters Social-Emotional Supports

School 9 Social Workers
Erica Vera- *Social Worker*
Jaime Hearn- *Social Worker*

Contact

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Our Partners

Nazareth College of Rochester
Baden Street Settlement
Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley

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S.T.E.M. for Girls

The United States needs to find roughly 1 million more tech workers in the next five years. To create a new generation of programmers, tech-education leaders are teaching children early. Sisters II Sisters strives to expose minority girls to the fields of Science and Technology to support their ability to join the expanding technology industry, close the gap of underrepresentation in the field, and allow their creative voices to be heard.

Enrollment

SIIS serves as the social-emotional program for girls at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 9. All girls in 6th grade will be enrolled in the Sisters II Sisters Program. While enrollment is automatic, members are expected to abide by all program expectations in order to participate in all components of the program.

Monthly Meetings

Selected Wednesdays
1:40pm – 3:00pm
No meetings when school is closed.

Sister II Sister meetings have been incorporated into each member's classroom schedule. A meeting calendar will be provided for families. The girls will not miss any classroom instruction. While enrollment is automatic for all sixth grade students, levels of membership are based upon attendance and participation.

This is not an after-school program. All members will be dismissed at normal dismissal time. For afterschool events, families will be notified in a timely manner and all members must have signed permission to stay afterschool, as pick up will be the responsibility of the parent.

ELT

Expanded Learning Opportunities is defined as engaging, creative learning activities that enhance students' social, emotional, physical, and academic development through exploration, inspiration, and discovery of their own passions for continued growth. Each member will participate in an ELT class within the program.

Academics

As a school-based program, members will be encouraged to give effort to all assignments when in the classroom. They will also be encouraged to seek help when needed. Students will participate in project-based learning in which grades will be correlated with classroom instruction.

Every Sisters II Sisters meeting will include literacy instruction. There will be special recognition for girls with honor roll after every report card semester.

Action Service

Community Service projects will be offered through the Sisters II Sisters Girls Program. Members will be assigned a mentor who will collaborate with them to plan an action project. Members will meet with their mentor a minimum of 30 minutes per week. Young ladies will receive a Certificate of Completion after community service requirements have been met. Members will be encouraged to design and implement an action project to better serve her community.

Participation

Members are expected to be fully active participants in the program. To be able to participate in group field trips, activities, and end-of-year *Future Self Presentation*, girls must be active in the program. This includes fulfilling action project minutes, actively participating in biweekly workshops, and maintaining girls group standards throughout the day.

Little Sister Role Model Program

As an additional component of the SIIS program, our members will have an opportunity to provide mentoring to a younger girl that may benefit, in grades K-3. Members may also be assigned to become a "buddy" to new School 9 entrants. The SIIS Role Model Program will provide younger children an opportunity to interact with older students who will provide positive peer interactions, demonstrate DREAM behavior, and effective poise and communication. Students in need of role models (mentees) will be selected based on teacher recommendations and are on a first come, first, serve basis.

Dress Code

Members are expected to wear school uniform daily. Group t-shirts should be worn on days that are agreed upon by the group.

Opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in many enrichment opportunities during the membership year. Workshops and Field Trips Include:

Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley, *Voices of Experience*
Career Day
Rochester Museum and Science Center
College Tours
An Evening of Cultural Presentations
Mommy & Me Night
Understanding Us!: A Night for Female Empowerment
Presenting My Future Self: Royal Ball
Movie Theater Visits

Mentors strive to provide meaningful opportunities every year!

Parent Engagement

We will host many activities including parent seminars, family activities, and Saturday workshops and field trips. Mailings will be sent to homes at least three weeks in advance of the event.

Parent Volunteers & Guest Speakers

Parent volunteers are always welcome to attend sessions of the program. Contact the Program Director if you are interested in attending a session or collaborating with Sisters II Sisters. The group welcomes donations and guest speakers on an ongoing basis.

Contact

Should you have any questions regarding the program, content, or general questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a program mentor or director. We look forward to working with you and your daughter to define the true essence of sisterhood and girl empowerment!