

ABOUT CONNECTED SCHOOLS

Connected Schools are schools that partner with the community to provide an integrated approach to academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. The Connected Schools Model is the DCPS version of a full-service community school.

ABOUT BALLOU

- Dr. Willie Jackson, Principal
- Serves grades 9-12
- Redesign school offering 3DE Case Methodology



MEET THE CONNECTED SCHOOLS MANAGER!



Ms. Jasmine Stewart has worked in education for nine years. Prior to her role as a Connected Schools Manager, Jasmine was a chemistry teacher and Family Engagement Lead Teacher at Ballou.

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AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Ballou established a Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) in 2021 to ensure that families are the most important partners in their student's education. This team of Ballou staff leads school-wide strategies for building trusting relationships with the Ballou community.



HEALING-CENTERED PRACTICES

As a Project Aware school, which stands for Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Schools, Ballou focuses on staff and student wellness and care. Ballou also partners with SKY Schools to offer mindfulness and breathing workshops to students and families.



STRONG STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Ballou established the Family Support Team and the Ballou Strong Survey so that families have a system for requesting support with things like groceries, transportation, toiletries, technology, and mental health support services. Ballou also has the Go-To-Knight program, which assigns a small cohort of students to a staff member who serves as the champion for those students and families.



PLACE-BASED SERVICES

Ballou provides a number of place-based supports, including food security resources and fresh monthly groceries, access to basic needs essentials like uniforms and toiletries, mental health services, and a School-Based Health Center in partnership with Children's National.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

To support student academic progress and opportunities for students to explore interests outside of the classroom, Ballou partners with several organizations to provide enriching opportunities, such as BEYA, College Track, and Teens Run DC.

LEARN ABOUT BALLOU PARTNERS!

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

BEYA SMP: BEYA SMP supports the cultivation and empowerment of socially engaged leaders for college, career, and global success.

Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project: The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project is a nationally recognized law related education program that promotes democratic engagement, constitutional literacy, and legal advocacy by placing talented upper level law students in high schools to teach yearlong courses in constitutional law and oral advocacy.

FOOD SECURITY

Capital Area Food Bank: Capital Area Food Bank's Family Success Market program provides a monthly food market at the school for families to get groceries at no cost.

Martha's Table Joyful Food Market: The Joyful Food Market is a pop-up monthly market where school cafeterias and gymnasiums are transformed into joyful environments with music, dancing, and colorful tables filled with baskets of fresh produce and healthy non-perishable food. Markets also feature kids' activities and recipe samples designed to get children excited about healthy eating and cooking.

MENTAL HEALTH

Latin American Youth Center: LAYC is a certified Core Service Agency (CSA) through the Department of Behavioral Health to provide mental health rehabilitation services to youth. Services are provided in English and/or Spanish. LAYC is also certified as a Specialty Provider to provide Community Based Intervention (CBI) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to youth in the District of Columbia.

MENTORING

Do the Write Thing DC: DTWT's vision is to help young people find their voice when they feel powerless. Its primary guiding philosophy is to help youth become their best selves as activists who will learn from one another, celebrate cultures targeted by hate, figure out what it means to live in this time and equip them as creative and effective citizens.

Teens Run DC: Teens Run DC empowers youth to envision and work toward the achievement of personal goals through distance running, mentoring, community service, and social-emotional learning.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

School-Based Health Center: In partnership with Children's National, Ballou offers a School-Based Health Center to all students. A school-based health center (SBHC) is a health center located in a DCPS school and provides comprehensive primary health services to enrolled students. The SBHC is staffed with health professionals. They are focused on the prevention, early identification and treatment of medical and behavioral concerns that can interfere with a student's learning. The target areas of health provided by SBHCs include: obesity, mental health, asthma, substance abuse, lead exposure, well-child care, dental health, and sexual health.

SERVICE LEARNING

Access Youth: Access Youth provides youth with access to resources, support, and services that empower them to transform themselves and make life choices that positively impact their future. At Ballou, their programming includes restorative justice/suspension prevention and truancy prevention, gender focused groups, community service, social emotional learning and life skills.

This is a sample of partnerships. To learn more about community partnerships and all program offerings at Ballou, contact Ms. Stewart.