

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 SOUSA

- Brittany Pascal, Interim Principal
- Serves grades 6-8
- STEAM Academy offering science, technology, engineering, arts, and math



MEET THE CONNECTED SCHOOLS MANAGER!



Ms. Zakiya Cobb has worked in education for eight years. Prior to her role as a Connected Schools Manager, Ms. Cobb was the Attendance Counselor at Sousa.

CONTACT MS. COBB

✉ zakiya.cobb2@k12.dc.gov

☎ (202) 499-0560



AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Sousa's Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) facilitates the partnership between staff and families. In place of traditional parent teacher conferences, Sousa uses a Student-Led Conference model. The Cobra Connection Newsletter, created in collaboration with school leadership staff, ensures that families are up to date on everything happening in the school.



HEALING-CENTERED PRACTICES

Sousa is partnered with Connected Psychology and SMILE Therapy Services to provide mental health support to students, families, and staff.



STRONG STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Sousa has implemented the Advisory Tribe model, which provides every student and family with a trusted staff member as their go-to point of contact.



PLACE-BASED SERVICES

In addition to mental health resources at the school, Sousa hosts a Parent Resource Center, which provides a space for families to gather needed supplies, resources, and food items, as well as to meet with school staff. Sousa also provides weekend food bags to students in partnership with United Way, as well as vision services.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

To support student academic progress and opportunities for students to explore interests outside of the classroom, Sousa partners with several organizations to provide enriching opportunities, such as Words, Beats, and Life, Math Matters, and U.S. Chess Center.

LEARN ABOUT SOUSA PARTNERS!

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Math Matters: In partnership with GWTeach and CityTutor, George Washington University's Math Matters provides high-impact math tutoring for middle school students in Washington, D.C. Tutors build math skills with middle school students while fostering meaningful relationships. Tutors receive quality training developed by GWTeach and the Nashman Center on providing math education and community engagement and service.

The Literacy Lab: The Literacy Lab serves children from age three through grade three by embedding full-time, rigorously-trained tutors in early childhood centers and elementary schools. The Literacy Lab also supports early literacy for families experiencing homelessness.

U.S. Chess Center: The U.S. Chess Center provides students from throughout the Washington metropolitan area opportunities to meet over the chessboard at weekend classes, tournaments, and special events, promoting self-confidence, social skills, and academic success for all.

Words, Beats, and Life: Words, Beats, and Life is a hip-hop-based arts educational nonprofit. WBL offers a range of workshops for students through their afterschool program, including media, visual and performing arts, and music.

ATTENDANCE

District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General: The Office of Attorney General provides attendance support through their Addressing Truancy Through Engagement and Negotiated Dialogue ATTEND and I Belong Here! programming. At Sousa, their programming includes parent workshops, conflict resolution, governmental agencies referrals, and attendance support groups.

East River Family Strengthening Collaborative: The mission of East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc. is to empower families, youth, seniors, and communities to become more self-sufficient through integrated and collaborative community-based services utilizing evidence-based practices that are family-focused and person-centered.

FOOD SECURITY

United Way: The United Way Weekend Food Backpack program provides nutritious, non-perishable, and easy-to-prepare food to elementary and middle school students to help them avoid hunger over the weekend when they cannot depend on school cafeteria meals.

MENTAL HEALTH

Connected Psychology: Connected Psychology provides developmentally based psychological services (in English and Spanish) in Washington, D.C. schools and the local community. Their developmental perspective is synthetic, trans-theoretical, and universally applicable to children and families of all ages across geography, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

SMILE Therapy Services: SMILE Therapy Services is an award-winning mental health and wellness agency focused on helping leaders cultivate a healthy workplace culture that increases employee retention, productivity, and happiness.

MENTORING

College Success Foundation: College Success Foundation coaches and supports students from low socioeconomic backgrounds to prepare for and graduate from college as transformational leaders in order to forge a just and equitable society.

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