

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

GEAR UP goes to Tallahassee— FSU/FAMU Trip

On October 16 and 17th our GEAR UP program took Blake High School and Memorial Middle School students and their parents on an educational field trip to Florida Mechanical and Agricultural University (FAMU) and the Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. A total of fifty-four (54) students and thirty-seven (37) parents/chaperones attended from Blake High School.

Our students, parents and GEAR UP staff had a great time! We toured both campuses, had several guest presentations from different colleges within each university including: the College of Business, Social Work and the College of Medicine at FSU and the college of Pharmacy at FAMU. Students received information about admissions criteria and listened to motivational speeches from current students and faculty from FSU and FAMU. An empowerment presentation by Dr. Brenda



Jarmon gave students and parents very useful information about coping skills, overcoming life's challenges and becoming productive citizens. Collectively these speeches and presentations inspired many of our students and their parents.



Our campus walking tours of both campuses were enlightening- we had great tour guides and trekking up the hills of Tallahassee was good exercise too! Overall the trip was educational and fun.



Inside this issue:

Tallahassee Field Trip	1
Summer Program	2
Parent Corner News	2
Captions from Summer Program	3
College Admission/Scholarship	3
Homecoming Court and Essay Contest news	3
YAR Grant Awarded	4
SAT/ACT Testing	4

Summer Program at USF

We served eighty-three (83) students during our three-week summer program from June 2 through June 19, 2003. The summer program was housed at the Louis de la Parte, Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida. The first two weeks of the program were run as a day camp, focusing mainly on academics and enrichment activities, while the third week was run as a residential program incorporating a day camp academic curriculum.

GEAR UP provided transportation, food and a wide range of activities for our students *all free of charge*. The program was very comprehensive in its blend of Academics, College Tours- Career Awareness, and Recreational and Social awareness activities.

The academic portion occurred Monday through Thursday 9:00am until 12:00pm each day. Students were divided into three groups and each group rotated between the three fifty-minute classes (English, Math and Science) daily along with case managers. GEAR UP students were involved in a variety of 'hands-on' projects and were actively involved in the learning process. Among other tasks students built bridges in Math, reviewed evidence of a crime scene in Science and gave presentations on their perceptions about themselves in English classes. In addition, a number of experts presented various topics including leadership, self pride and law enforcement.



A handful of our students were able to job shadow in certain professions such as Nursing and Social Work at the University Community Hospital. Others observed an infomercial being filmed at USF WUSF TV station and a couple of students took a brief tour of the USF campus police station.

A college tour to Bethune Cookman College, a four-year historically Black College and Embry Riddle, an aeronautical university, provided an exciting day trip for our students. Among other highlights of the Summer Program for our students was the one week spent on campus living like real college students, ice-skating, bowling, and a trip to MOSI.



Thanks to the entire GEAR UP staff for putting together such a comprehensive program and to our teachers and tutors/mentors who worked throughout the entire three-week period!

Written by Ruby Joseph, Project Director

Parents Corner News

High School demands the best study skills in order to succeed. If your child does not have them already, now is the time to help him/her learn them. Here are things teachers say will help your child do their best:

Know when he/she needs help and ask for it .

Pay Attention in class.

Come to class prepared with the right materials.

Start about a week in advance to study for most tests, even more for finals.

Hand in assignments when they are due.

Save social time for between classes, and before and after school.

Spend quiet class time on studying or reading .

Source: Michael Martin and Cynthia Waltman-Greenwood, " Solve your Childs School-Related Problems"

Captions From Gear Up 2003 Summer Program

“What I have learned from the Gear-Up program is to control my behavior. I believe if it wasn’t for the gear –up program I will still be acting a like a clown in all my classes. Please keep up the good work.” **Leo Grant, Junior**

“The Gear up summer program was a new experience for me. It was fun having a chance to be exposed in a college atmosphere. I’m looking forward to participating in the gear up program this upcoming year.”

Kayla Vickers, Sophomore

“I really enjoyed my experience this summer with the Gear up summer program. I received a chance to be expose to college life with the residential part where we were exposed to living on campus for a week. I would also want to thank all Gear up staff and helpers for providing such a positive program.” Anonymous.

“ This is my 3rd year participating in Gear up. The program if full of exciting things to do. The program has helped me understand the process of preparing for college. I have enjoyed every field trip especially Busch Gardens.”

Tiara Heggs, Junior

What Is Love

By: **Ashley Ebanks**

Love is being by your mates side through thick and thin

Being there to the end .Thinking about that person all the time

Can’t get them off your mind Love is Patience, Love is kind

Love is doing what is divine

There should not be any lies or deceit .There is anything you can defeat my love for you is very true Love is only for a game of two You stole my heart Right from the start Just take it Please don’t break it Now my heart belongs to you Let it remain pure and True.

Congratulations ”GEAR UP” Homecoming Court Candidates !

Abdullah, Quinton

Black, Jeremy

Davis, Kayla

Delaney, Kemyetta

Hassan, Winnie

Henderson, Damarcus

Johnson, La “Dreauna

Mcleod, Starlisha

Mosley, DeMario

Rodriguez, Terrance

Chaney II Donald

College Admission/Scholarships 2003-2004 School Year

Students who are planning to enter a college or university, as well as qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and NCAA Clearinghouse, must take the SAT or ACT college entrance exam. If you are a high school junior or senior, register for an exam as soon as you can. Registration packets are available in the Guidance Office here at school or students may register online (preferred method) at www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org for more information, call at (319)337-1270 or (609) 771-7600



Essay Contest

On Saturday, September 27th, the winners of the first Annual Youth Heritage Essay Contest were selected from a large group of entrants. The essay contest, which accepted essays from July 11th through August 29th, was sponsored by the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs (TOBA) and Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance, Inc. the ceremony was held at the African Art Gallery on Kennedy Blvd. The contest winners were presented scholarships as prizes for their essays. The contest was open to high school seniors in Hillsborough County. The students were asked to submit an essay on the theme of “Content of Character, My Goals That Are Part of Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream” A senior at Blake High School, **Earlecia Summerline** maintains a grade point average of 3.3 she is actively involved in community service and holds membership in several organization including GEAR UP and the Black Gospel Choir.

YAR Grant Awarded!

Congratulations to **Faye Austin** and **Quinton Abdullah** who were successful in gaining a Youths as Resources (YAR) grant award of \$1,200 for our GEAR UP program. The grant will be used to help these two bright students along with some 20 other GEAR UP students contribute to our community by cleaning thirty senior and elderly apartment homes in the West Tampa community.

There's still time to get involved and be part of this worthwhile cause.

SAT I and II Testing*

National Test Dates	Registration Deadline
December 6, 2003	October 30, 2003
January 24, 2003	December 22, 2003
March 27, 2003	February 20, 2004
May 1, 2004	March 25, 2004
June 5, 2004	April 29, 2004

ACT Testing*

National Test Dates	Registration Deadline
December 13, 2003	November 7, 2003
February 7, 2004	January 3, 2004
April 3, 2004	February 27, 2004
June 12, 2004	May 7, 2004

* See Project Manager, Bryce Pride for information regarding scholarships for SAT/ACT registration.

Upcoming Events

December 2, 2003: Hillsborough Community College (HCC) tour
December 3, 2003: YAR Grant - Clean-up of apartments for the elderly

GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

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Howard W. Blake High School



What Is Gear Up?

GEAR UP is a federally funded U. S. Department of Education program, which is also supported locally by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. The program helps to prepare students for High School success and post secondary education. This academic, social, and cultural enrichment programs leads to early understanding and awareness of undergraduate programs and 21st Century careers.

What can your child gain from participation in GEAR UP?

- Assistance in Math, English, Science
- Information on test-taking strategies
- Urban Scholars tutoring
- Information on college preparation
- Saturday Program
- In-class tutoring
- One-on-one case management

<http://gearup.fmhi.usf.edu>