



URBAN LEAGUE SCHOLARS

ABOUT US

Each spring, the Urban League Scholars Program at Garfield High School recruits 30 incoming freshmen of African or African American descent who have the desire to accelerate their learning potential and prepare for post-secondary education. The program offers a cohort experience freshman and sophomore years, preparing students for Advanced Placement classes (AP) during their junior and senior years, which, in turn, prepares them for future success at a four-year university. In addition, students receive academic and social support and incentives during all four years of their high school experience. Our program is a cooperative venture sponsored by the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Garfield High School.



BACKGROUND

The emergence of the Urban League Scholars program is a direct result of community and national activity surrounding college awareness, readiness and access to opportunities for African American students. In 2006, after recognizing that the African American Scholars program at Garfield High School required external assistance in order to expand its services to best meet the college preparatory needs of an increasing number of students, the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle incorporated Garfield's program into its Education Department adding college readiness as a key component, and re-naming it, Urban League Scholars. Working together, Garfield High School and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle seek to provide African American students and their families with the academic and leadership skills needed to prepare for, apply to, and succeed in, post-secondary education.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Rigor: Honors and Advanced Placement classes challenge Urban League Scholars to enhance their analytical reading and writing skills. Freshmen year, math is a special double-period class that covers Integrated I and Integrated II in a single year. Scholars receive class schedule evaluations and priority placement for registration.

Sample: Freshmen Urban League Scholars Program Schedule

Period 1: Honors World Literature Period 2: Honors World History
Periods 3 & 4: Integrated I and II Math Period 5: Biology Period 6: Elective

This class schedule places students on the Honors/Advanced Placement track at GHS. Students will be eligible and prepared to take AP History, AP Language Arts, AP Science and Calculus during their 10-12 grade years. This schedule allows students coming in as freshmen in Integrated I (placed in the double math block), to be eligible to take Calculus senior year, thus making them more competitive for college admissions.

Team-Focused: Scholars are placed into two teams of fifteen and "travel" together with their teachers through at least three classes for their first two years. In their classes, each team is joined with fifteen other honors freshmen, so that classes are integrated with students not in the program. Cohort teachers are met with bi-monthly to assess student progress; individualized academic plans are established for students as needed.

Homework Help: Scholars attend a minimum of two-hour, weekly, supervised study club (separated by grade level) after school to support their rigorous schedules and teach study habits. Teachers and tutors work with scholars in small, learning teams.



Community/Mentorship: Scholars receive support through: their peers and their "Scholar Families" through which students plan community service events; quarterly family night meetings, with teachers, and parents/guardians, to enhance



Urban League Scholars

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family involvement; Saturday enrichment seminars with speakers and activities focusing on career opportunities and college planning; mentors from the Seattle Urban League of Young Professionals. The **Scholars Jump-Off** is a start of school event for students and families to meet cohort teachers as well as to build community within the Scholars family. In addition, the **Scholars Jubilee** is an end of year celebration to honor graduating seniors and another successful year completed by underclassmen.

Leadership: Scholars and parents are consistently notified and nominated for various community-based programs and encouraged to participate (i.e. Young Executives of Color, Architecture, Construction & Engineering, BusinessWeek, U-Doc) to help students determine career interests as a way to keep them engaged in higher education.

College Readiness: Scholars participate in ongoing group and individual college readiness planning that includes guest workshop presenters, test preparation, application guidance, financial literacy, and college visit field trips. Juniors are also taken on a **College Preview Tour** where they visit Eastern Washington University, Whitman, University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University and Seattle University. In addition, Scholars are guided through **SAT/ACT** prep and testing before the end of junior year.



Travel Grant: Spring of junior year, Scholars are eligible to apply for a travel grant which pays for a student and parent/guardian to visit an out-of-state college during their senior year. Scholars must have applied to this school prior to visiting. This experience offers students, who would otherwise not be able to afford it, the opportunity to expand their world knowledge and consider colleges outside Washington State.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA - *Applicants will be evaluated on the following:*

- Current 8th Grader
- Application Presentation
- Essay Content & Delivery
- Letter of Recommendation
- Interview
- A desire to attend a four-year university
- Middle School transcript
- Committed and motivated to succeed!

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Serve as leaders to our school and community
- Attend Scholar Family meetings
- Attend Study Club twice a week
- Participate in internship/college readiness opportunities at least once per month (Saturday workshops or apply for an enrichment program)
- Submit quarterly grade reports



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PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- Attend PTSA meetings
- Check The Source weekly: The Source displays student's daily homework and current grade standing in his/her classes. This is the best way to monitor student progress and to identify when student may need additional academic support.
- Contact teachers: Cohort teachers are available by email and phone in order to discuss student progress or needs. Developing a network of support between home and school is vital to ensure the academic success of our children.
- Support/volunteer at ULS events

Urban League Scholars is an excellent program that fosters the academic success of our African and African American students. Please contact Amber Jenkins with any questions at amjenkins@seattleschools.org or 206-252-2312.