



COMMUNITY
SCHOOL PROGRAM

FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS
A BETTER CHANCE
Manlius, NY



A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1963.

A Better Chance is a national non-profit organization. Our mission is to increase substantially the number of well-educated students of color capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. Since our founding in 1963 we have been opening doors to greater educational opportunities.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS FAQs

What are Community School Programs?

Community School Programs (CSPs) are organizations that operate houses in communities with outstanding public schools. A Better Chance Scholars live in the houses in order to attend the local high school in town.

Who operates CSPs?

Each CSP is established by a local group of citizens in partnership with the national A Better Chance organization and the local public school district. Most CSPs are managed by a volunteer Board of Directors with a residential staff overseeing the Scholars.

How many CSPs are there?

A Better Chance is the only non-profit organization in the country that has anything like CSPs. There are 23 CSPs operating 27 houses in 6 states. 12 are all male, 6 are all female, 4 operate a boys' house and a girls' house, and 1 operates a co-ed house. Most CSPs have 5-12 Scholars in a house, supervised by 2-5 adults.

Why would somebody move away from home to attend a public school?

The public schools that our Scholars attend are vastly different from typical urban schools. They are truly college-preparatory schools, with the majority of their students graduating and going directly to 4-year colleges. They offer a wide variety of educational course offerings as well as extracurricular activities. Additionally, Scholars at CSPs have a lot of academic support as well as opportunities for personal growth.

What kind of academic support do Scholars receive at CSPs?

All CSPs provide tutoring. Many have tutors that live in the house. Many have Academic Advisors/Liaisons that assist Scholars in selecting courses, monitor academic progress, and provide college advisement. CSPs have strict academic requirements and provide extra support mandated for Scholars who don't meet standards. They even hire extra subject-area tutors when necessary.

What are Host Families?

In addition to the adults supervising the house, each Scholar is paired with one or two Host Families in the community. Host Families serve as additional sources of support for Scholars. Many have their own high school aged children so that Scholars will know somebody else at the school. Scholars visit their Host Families mainly on Sundays once a week or every two weeks and in some programs Scholars spend one long weekend a month with their Host Families. Host Families involve Scholars in their normal household activities. Most Scholars stay in contact with their Host Families through college and beyond.

WHAT ARE SOME ADVANTAGES TO CSPs?

FAMILY-LIKE ATMOSPHERE

Scholars live with other A Better Chance Scholars, so everyone in the house is going through the same experiences.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OFFERED

Host families, academic advisors, tutors, and dozens of volunteers are there to help Scholars have the best experience possible.

EXTENDED FAMILY/COMMUNITY

Hundreds of members of the community give money, time, and other support to the programs.

AFFORDABLE

There is little or no cost to families. Most CSPs even pay for Scholars' transportation between the program and home at the beginning and end of the school year and on major holidays. Financial aid is not a factor at CSPs.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY IN A CSP LIKE?

Before School:

Scholars have breakfast.

Going To School:

Scholars ride the bus or walk to school.

During The School Day:

Scholars take high level college preparatory courses.

Lunch:

Lunch is provided by the school in the cafeteria.

After-School:

Scholars participate in extra-curricular activities (sports, art, theater, journalism, music, dance, community service, etc.)

Free Time:

Houses have basketball hoops, weight rooms, TVs, and other entertainment options.

Dinner:

All Scholars and adults in the house eat family style. Dinner is prepared by a hired cook (or Resident Directors).

Study Hall:

CSPs have mandatory study sessions with tutors 5 days a week.

Lights Out:

Time for bed. Most Scholars share bedrooms with one roommate.

Weekends:

In addition to free time, CSPs plan excursions to malls, museums, sporting events, spend time with Host Families, and other fun activities in the community and beyond.



Fayetteville in the Fall

FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS A BETTER CHANCE

Manlius, NY

ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Fayetteville- Manlius High school is located in the southeastern suburbs of Syracuse, New York. The Syracuse area is located in Central New York State, approximately 200 miles northwest of New York City. Central New York boasts abundant parks and recreation spots including the Erie Canal, Green Lakes State Park, Mill Run Park, Labrador Ski Mountain and Toggenburg ski center. Central New York is home to Syracuse University, LeMoyne College, Hamilton and Colgate Universities as well as several other smaller colleges and professional schools. There are many visual and performing arts venues including the Everson Museum, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and Syracuse Opera. Sports fans can enjoy professional hockey and baseball as well as college football and basketball. For shopping there are major malls in Syracuse and Fayetteville as well as multi-ethnic restaurants in Syracuse, Fayetteville and Manlius. In 2010 Forbes magazine rated Syracuse 4th in the top 10 places to raise a family.



Ice Skating in Downtown Syracuse

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Fayetteville-Manlius A Better Chance has owned and operated its residence in the center of Manlius, NY since 1974. The house has a capacity for six female Scholars, two in each of three large bedrooms in the 200 year-old renovated house. The Scholars enter the program and Fayetteville-Manlius (F-M) High School in the 9th grade.

QUICK FACTS

- The house has a capacity for 6 female scholars.
- Our Program began in 1974.
- Since 1974, our program has had 72 graduates.
- Recent graduates have attended Cornell University, Syracuse University, Wesleyan University, Mount Holyoke College, Wellesley College, University of Rochester, Ithaca College among other prestigious schools.
- Our Resident Directors are a married couple who live in an apartment at the back of the house.
- The two Resident Advisors who live in the house are both college graduates.
- Each scholar has two host families in the community. Scholars spend each Sunday afternoon with one host family.



Fayetteville-Manlius Scholars (2010)





Fayetteville-Manlius High School

FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL

Manlius, NY

ABOUT FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL

- There are 1600 students in grades 9-12.
- FMHS has 15 Advanced Placement courses.
- 97% of this year's graduating class will pursue education beyond high school.
- Twenty-three seniors were named National Merit Commended students in 2010, three were named National Merit Finalists and one senior won a National Merit Scholarship.
- There are multiple opportunities for other college level courses through Syracuse University Project Advance, LeMoyne College and other higher learning institutions in the area.
- High level honors classes are available in all subject areas.
- State of the art science, music, and art facilities.
- Over 60 clubs and organizations.
- F-M's art students have been awarded numerous Gold Medal awards in fine arts and photography at the Central New York Scholastic Art Show.
- F-M has its own student run, state of the art TV station.
- F-M's Womens Cross-Country team has been the National Cross-Country Champions for the past 3 years.
- F-M high school is ranked as one of the best public high schools in the country by USNews and World Report.
- 26 out of the 29 varsity teams won the New York State Public High School Scholar Athlete team award for having a collective GPA of 90% or higher.
- One of many yearly fund raisers, Dance Marathon, raised over \$121,000 for Camp Good Days and Special Times last year.
- The Buzz, F-M's student newspaper, received a first place award by the American Scholastic Press Association.
- FM's Science Olympiad Team won both the regional and state competitions, and placed 10th in the national competition in 2010.
- The 2009 edition of our literary magazine, Voices, was awarded the rank of Excellent by the National Council of Teachers of English.
- The NAAM Foundation named F-M a Best Communities for Music Education recipient.



Home of the Hornets



View of High School Entrance

