



**Welcome:** Bethesda Urban Community Development Corporation, Inc. (Bethesda) is pleased that you have chosen to become the newest member of its community of support for Bethesda After School Academy (ASA).

**History:** Bethesda has expanded its former tutoring program at Greater St. Paul Ministries to institute Bethesda ASA. One hundred and twenty-five of Omaha's most underserved youth will be targeted by the Academy's efforts to ensure that vital learning continues beyond the bell at Lothrop Magnet School, located at 3300 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> St and Druid Hill Elementary, located at 4020 N. 30<sup>th</sup> St. Bethesda's Academy will serve students from extremely low-income, high-mobility families attending school in Omaha Public School's yellow attendance zone—northeast Omaha. A third site, 5116 Terrace Dr., is planned to offer Bethesda ASA to northwest Omaha. Structured learning experiences have been designed to increase and accelerate student achievement in the areas of reading, writing, science and math. Research-based frameworks have been utilized to build sound student behavior management and parent partnership development.

**Mission:** To equip, empower and encourage youth to achieve academic success and the skills necessary to succeed in life.

**Goals:** Bethesda and its partners, including the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Service Learning Academy, anticipate a variety of positive outcomes from the proposed program that include an improvement in student learning, and increase in positive behavioral change, and an increase in family involvement.

**Programming:** Bethesda ASA at Lothrop is held mornings daily from 7:30 to 8:30 am, and after school Monday through Thursday from 3:45 to 6:00 pm on days when school is in session. Bethesda ASA at Druid Hill is held after school Monday through Thursday from 3:45 to 6:45 pm and on selected days when school is not in session. Schedules for the summer and northwest site are yet to be determined. Following is the school year daily schedule:

- Rec, Read & Feed allows students outdoor or indoor recreation time, independent reading or read aloud time, and nutritious snack time. Recreation and reading opportunities will reinforce specific character traits of focus.
- Homework Hideout & Skill Drill focus on completion of homework assignments, tiered and peer tutoring, school day spelling word/vocabulary study, narrative and descriptive writing, and math facts memorization.
- Enrichment Academies offer smaller learning communities designed for future preparation unlike any after school program in the nation. Through an innovative model meant to mirror career-themed mini-university departments with the collaboration of local universities, Enrichment Academies empower students to become active citizens who successfully go on to higher education and professional practices of their choosing or creating.

All youth must "major" in **Leadership Development for Community Affairs** to

- develop in them an awareness of their own leadership potential
- assist them in developing essential leadership skills that enable them to act responsibly and respectfully
- equip them to meet present and future challenges in their community
- provide them with opportunities to learn and practice essential leadership skills within a learning community

Youth can choose a "minor" to explore their interests through project-based learning activities, field trips, shadowing experiences, speakers, class assignments and service learning projects in the following academies:

**Fine Arts, Communications & Technology**  
**Health, Biotechnology & Public Safety**  
**Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing & Finance**  
**Agriculture, Environment, & Food Services**  
**Human Services, Education & Administration**  
**Engineering, Manufacturing, Architecture & Distribution**

*growing to greatness everyday*