Youth Writing Festival

The Youth Writing Festival (YWF) offers students an opportunity to work on their writing skills and address the issue of students backsliding over the summer on progress made during the school year. The main focus and topics of the creative writing prompts will be on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). STEAM related activities, visitors, and field trips will be offered.

An Anthology of the students' written works is published and the YWF ends with a public reading where the young writers share their work with their families and friends.

Carlos, 11, has been in this country just two years. He was learning English quickly but his spelling embarrassed him. Both his spelling and his self-confidence improved at the Youth Writing Festival where he could practice writing in a safe and creative environment. He's now becoming fluent in two languages, and has excelled in his school work. Since the Festival, Carlos has moved from embarrassment to pride, from great difficulty in school to tremendous academic success.

About the Multicultural Institute

Our mission is to accompany immigrants in their transition from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation

Founded in 1991, the Institute has continually nurtured partnerships with diverse civic, business, and religious leaders. A board of directors oversee MI’s work. We are a tax-exempt, charitable, nonprofit organization. Federal Tax ID# 91-1823468

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Mentoring for Academic Success

a program of the Multicultural Institute
Since 1999, Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS) has assisted families who have had difficulty maneuvering the educational system. MAS offers a continuum of academic support and interactive and stimulating STEAM education lessons for students from third grade through high school. Its goal is to help reduce racial inequality in education, leading to students’ readiness for academic success.

MAS currently serves students primarily from West Berkeley, Richmond and Redwood City/North Fair Oaks. The program is comprised of small study groups led by enthusiastic, carefully selected and trained tutors who also act as mentors and role models for the students.

What is MAS?

MAS Tutors

MAS tutors form an ethnically and socio-economically diverse group. They demonstrate a variety of skills. They explain complex ideas clearly, enjoy challenges, improvise well, and possess great senses of humor. They know that education can remove barriers. They share a commitment to serving their community and love helping youth learn.

MAS tutors work 4-8 hours per week, and may work as a volunteer, intern, or as a work-study student. Majority of tutors study at UC Berkeley. Volunteer tutors include local high school students who are former MAS students who will soon make their own transition to university education.

How MAS Students Benefit

- Math, reading, and writing skills continually improve with regular work and tutorial assistance.
- Students’ overall confidence increases, enabling them to challenge themselves and pursue academic excellence.
- Students establish habits of responsibility and healthy decision-making, and learn to approach their studies with enthusiasm.
- Students cultivate an interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) fields and studies at a young age.

MAS IMPACT

The program has a very positive impact on students, their parents, and entire families.

“In summary, the parents’ overall perceptions are that the MAS program is incredibly valuable and has a positive effect on the education and growth of their children. They appreciate the family atmosphere and wide-ranging support offered by MI and they truly see these programs as a lifeline for both their students and their families.” (Outside Evaluators)

“I used to have a hard time with my kids because I don’t know how to help them. It was very hard and there were arguments and some screaming going on... Now it’s love. It’s amazing. The MAS program provided the support my children needed to improve not only their academics, but also their relationship with me at home.” (Rafael father of three MAS students)

“I love the fact that the tutors motivate my son think of higher education.” (Maria mother of one MAS student)