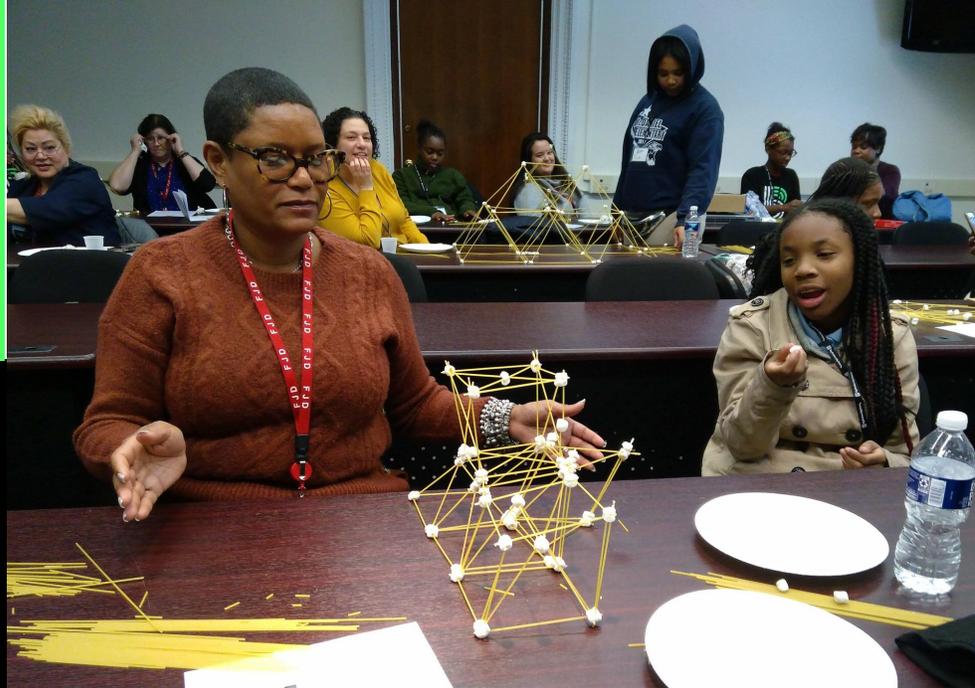




## BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



# CITY HALL & DELAPLAINE MCDANIEL SCHOOL | 2019-2020

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This academic year, 22 matches were supported between City Hall Bigs and Delaplaine McDaniel Littles. In the program, Littles are exposed to various roles in the city government of Philadelphia and the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, including lawyers, judges, clerks, probation officers, and staffers in the city council and mayor's office.

Program visits occur on the third floor of Philadelphia's City Hall, where matches engage in conversational ice breakers, give each other personality tests, engage in competitions, and do a variety of relationship-building activities. Some this year's favorite activities comprised of visiting the city council and mayor's offices, and the annual competition of matches racing to see which match can build the tallest tower made exclusively with uncooked spaghetti sticks adhered together using marshmallow. McDaniel Littles experienced some unexpected adventure this year when their bus was late to take them back to school after program so the Littles made the short walk down Broad Street with the program coordinator to visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence main office, and sit in at board room table while waiting for their bus.

As of Summer 2020, 17 matches are planning on returning for the 2020-2021 school year, in which more civic minded activities are planned, as well as a tour of City Hall and Reverse Day visit McDaniel School, both of which were cancelled in the 2019-2020 school year due to Covid-19.



City Hall began its Beyond School Walls (BSW) workplace mentoring program in 2013, partnering with Delaplaine McDaniel School. In the Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence BSW program, students from local schools meet with their mentors at their workplace. Adult volunteer mentors ("Bigs") representing various departments at City Hall, including the staff members associated with the First Judicial District courts, are matched with fifth through eighth grade students ("Littles") from Philadelphia's Point Breeze neighborhood. Youth in these programs not only have a new adult friend and role model, but are also exposed to a positive work environment and career possibilities. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, 98 matches have been supported in City Hall's partnership with McDaniel School.





**"I feel more confident now and better at talking with adults. My Big Sister helped me open up more and have fun."**

**— LITTLE SISTER TAYLOR**



## **BIG BROTHER MICHAEL & LITTLE BROTHER TYRESE**

Big Brother Michael and Little Brother Tyrese were matched in October 2018 when Tyrese was beginning 5th grade; he is now entering 7th grade. Tyrese and Michael hit it off from the start and enjoyed competing against each other in board games such as Connect 4.

During their first school year together Michael would bring in books for them to read together during breaks in program. Tyrese and Michael bonded over a love of football and Michael encouraged Tyrese to join a team in the future. After the year ended, Tyrese then joined his first football team.

During his second year as a Little, Tyrese helped recruit for the program, telling his schoolmates about how the program is fun, it is beneficial to have a supportive mentor and—perhaps most importantly—there is pizza! Tyrese and Michael are always active participants. This year they won the spaghetti marshmallow tower competition after coming in second the previous year.

One activity Tyrese really enjoyed this year was when Michael brought in a coding ball, which is a remote-control car that is programmed via user coding. Tyrese has taken an interest in coding and Michael wanted to help him get coding experience and show him the fun opportunities that coding can provide. Both Tyrese and Michael are excited to continue in the program for their third year together.

## **2020 PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Big Brothers Big Sisters makes a difference in the lives of both mentors and mentees involved. The BSW program gives Bigs a better understanding of their communities and enhance employee retention. A 2016 Youth Truth survey shows that turnover is 39% lower among employees who participate as workplace volunteers. Our recent survey of Bigs in the City Hall BSW program further demonstrated these results:

- ✓ **100% of Bigs surveyed enjoy the experience of being a Big.**
- ✓ **78% of Bigs surveyed feel close to their Little.**
- ✓ **96% of Bigs surveyed felt being a Big makes them feel more connected to their community.**

School engagement and performance are key indicators of future success. Today's children are tomorrow's workforce and those mentored through Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) have a leg up. According to a 2015 study by the National Mentoring Partnership, young adults who were at-risk for falling off track but had a mentor are 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. A recent survey of McDaniel Littles in City Hall's Beyond School Walls program illustrated further positive outcomes:

- ✓ **100% of Littles surveyed maintained or improved their social competences.**
- ✓ **86% of Littles surveyed maintained or increased their academic performance.**
- ✓ **86% of Littles surveyed maintained or increased their trust levels in their parental relationships.**

## **COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, all in-person school-based programs were suspended in March for the remainder of the academic year. With the support of their Program Coordinator, matches kept in contact by text, email and phone. BBBS staff adapted to the new virtual landscape by facilitating a virtual program meeting over Zoom between City Hall Bigs and their graduating McDaniel Littles, allowing matches to find ways to stay in touch once their match is no longer supported by the BBBSI agency. Further virtual programming opportunities are being explored that include virtual meetings with Bigs to discuss ways to best support their Littles, virtual sessions for Littles to connect with each other and their Program Coordinator, and online facilitated group meetings for matches.