

Fun Structural Educational

What is The Aster Initiative?

By incorporating the modalities and pedagogies of Bank Street, Montessori, and Reggio Emilia into its curriculum, the Aster Initiative utilizes a proven backbone with measurable results on which to build a program serving each child's development. Designed primarily as an extracurricular program for Pre-K to 5th grade, the program also serves as an extension of the classroom, actively expanding on the continuity of care aspect of progressive education models.

The program's core values are based on the following beliefs:

- All adults contributing to student's development should model the behaviors which reflect positive values.
- Students learn best when they are guided to have a deeper understanding about the people and world around them.
- Instilling a love of learning creates a pathway to lifelong learning.
- Students thrive best in communities that promote collaboration, diversity, and respect for the lives of others.



Our Program

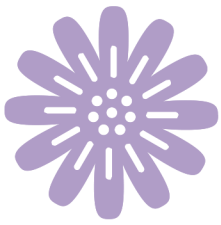
The Aster Initiative believes and advocates for opportunities to advance themselves, by creating educational programming that contributes to the larger community and society. Since its inception, The Katmint Learning Initiative, Inc. the Aster Initiative's parent organization, has been deeply embedded for the last ten years in Bed-Stuy, operating under the belief that students thrive best in communities that promote collaboration, diversity, and respect for the lives of others. A new arm of an existing mission, the Aster Initiative is founded on the idea that instilling a love of learning creates a pathway to lifelong learning and personal growth. Education is pivotal to securing the future success of our young people by actively narrowing the achievement gap, consequently increasing the participation in college preparatory programming like AP, IP, and other college-level learning opportunities.



Why We Started

The Aster Initiative is a unique partnership between public and private institutions, creating an inclusive community that supports the positive growth and development of young people. This collaboration greatly increases the impact of its mission and enables connections that go deeper than if each had operated solely as a separate entity- together everyone is stronger. Aster seeks to reach a greater number of families in the Bed-Stuy community specifically young children of color which makes up 75% of the children in bedstuy district 16 education system. This necessary service supports the community and more importantly provides a positive educational journey for their children, helping to ensure future educational and professional successes. Providing a living wage to our staff, most of whom are based in Bed-Stuy, creates a spirit of reciprocity or a feedback loop of investment and care in each other. As the program develops more areas of interest will be offered





**THE ASTER
INITIATIVE**

What We Offer

Our curriculum develops and promotes resilience— independence skills, academic skills, and social interactions are all primary components of the curriculum. These skills are honed through hands-on experiences in the following areas including but not limited to:

Our program is offered to elementary school students Pre-K up to the 5th grade M-F 2:00pm - 6:30pm. We can operate on select school closures which includes summer July & August. It is generally organized with learning objectives and enrichment programming in mind. The curriculum is used as a guide to expand and extend student's learning. Independence skills, academic skills, and social interactions, are all primary components of the curriculum. These skills are honed through hands-on experiences in the following areas including but not limited to:

- Daily Enrichment/ Clubs (Robotics, Steam, Literacy, Games, Dance , Yoga & More) Enrichment rotates mid year.
- Outdoor & playground visits.
- Enrichment on DOE half Days, School Closures and Summer Closure (Onsite).
- Free Afternoon Snack and Meals.
- Homework & Academic Support
- School Community Events & Cultural Celebrations
- Non-Competitive Sports (Tennis, Basketball, Soccer, Capoeira)
- Offsite learning opportunities & Community Exploration
- Behavioral & Emotional Support in partnership w/ Bankstreet College.



Each year we solicit representatives for discretionary funding, grants and more as another avenue of support. This type of funding is used to cover various program costs and ensure access to quality enrichment no matter your economic status. Scholarships provide financial support to Aster's after school community and help raise awareness about the organization's mission. Families in need can apply for a scholarship or program discount annually. We ask that Aster's measurable successes be actively recognized and supported by local and state governments as well as the generosity of private citizens and sponsors.