

EMOC



EMPOWERING MALES OF COLOR



A MOVEMENT IS BORN

Following President Obama's lead and call to action with his 2014 My Brother's Keeper task force, the District of Columbia launched the Empowering Males of Color initiative!

The program signaled a commitment by the DC government to provide enriching co-curricular programs for Black and Latinx boys across the district. The program's focus was in mentoring, leadership development, and addressing the opportunity gaps that exist in the district.

Who We Are ▲▲▲▲

Empowering Males of Color (EMOC) aims to support in developing programs that enhance the student experience, increase achievement and engagement, and prepare our young men for college, career, and life. EMOC partners with schools across the district to support the success of our students via need-based engagement, bolstering school programs, and offering experiential opportunities.

EMOC's Rites of Passage (ROP) is an intentional 3-year curriculum-driven chapter (cohorts) middle school program at partnered schools that provide spaces for young male-identifying students, particularly those furthest from opportunity, to participate in co-curricular chapters that bolster their sense of belonging, and develop leadership, social, and civic engagement skills. ROP program intends to support members across their middle school experience in three phases. Phase 1 (6th grade): Bonding & Community Building, Phase 2 (7th grade): Critical Thinking, Global Awareness, and Knowledge of Self, and Phase 3 (8th grade): Oath of Dedication & Rite of Passage.



We firmly believe that students deserve rich, exciting, and fun filled co-curricular opportunities that will help prepare them for their future adventures! The goal of EMOC is to foster positive sense of belonging for students and to challenge them to be leaders who are empathetic, authentic, and community-driven!

— Victor Javier Rodriguez (he/him/él), Coordinator, EMOC

EMOC's Objectives ▲▲▲▲



Leadership

EMOC engagements provide opportunities to have opportunities to engage with peers, staff, and community leaders to learn more about positive social change leadership and what it means to utilize their voice as students and members of the community. Leadership topics range from racial justice to environmental, and student advocacy.



Identity

EMOC engagements provide opportunities to explore a wide range of topics pertaining to social identity development, particularly around race, ethnicity, gender, masculinity, and orientation. Students are encouraged to explore their authentic self and to challenge and dismantle misconceptions of what it means to be a man. The goal behind this pillar is for our students to develop positive views of their own identities, to live authentically, and engage in empathy for other individuals and their lived experiences.



Wellness

EMOC engagements provide opportunities to explore various topics of personal mental, physical, and social-emotional health! Our programs also explore positive relationship building, conflict resolution, and self-care.



Community

EMOC engagements provide opportunities to aim to build and enrich member's view of community; not just in their schools but of the District. ROP Chapters emphasize the importance of civic engagement, advocacy, and fellowship to strengthen members' sense of belonging and build future leaders of tomorrow.

◀ EMOC ROP Schools (as of SY 22- 23)

- Brookland Middle School
- Cardozo Education Campus
- Columbia Heights Educational Campus (Lincoln Middle)
- Ida B. Wells Middle School
- Johnson Middle School
- Kramer Middle School
- Kelly Miller Middle School

- Stuart-Hobson Middle School



◀ Rites of Passage Initiative 12 Curricular Pillars

- Mind, Body & Spirit
- Leadership Development
- Pan African & Latinx History
- Dismantling Sexism & Misogyny
- Sexual Education & Responsibility
- Drugs & Substance Abuse
- Conflict Resolution & Violence Prevention
- Political Education
- Educational Achievement
- Economic Systems & Financial Literacy
- LGBTQIA+ Justice
- Environmental Justice