



Building Advocacy and Mentorship – B.A.M.

The Building Advocacy and Mentorship (B.A.M.) Student Program is designed to complement the 8th grade transitional conference, Keys To High School Success. B.A.M. is a youth leadership program that enables high school aged boys to become mentors for incoming 8th graders. Their leadership includes mentoring and advocating for new students, and also creates important bonds between the boys to have key connections to help during the big transition from middle school to high school. The B.A.M. mentors also play a key role in the conference, where they not only participate in the workshops with the 8th-grade boys, but they also lead mentor circles at the end of the conference where they help answer tough questions about the transition to high school.



The Keys to High School Success programs seeks students from all of the county's high schools to provide 8th-grade students with information and experiences from each high school's unique culture. Prior to the conference, community partners trained in the 40 developmental assets meet with students selected for the B.A.M program to provide training from the Healthy Communities Coalition 40 Developmental Assets program, as well as orient them to their special roles the day of the conference. The training is 2 hours and will take place in April. B.A.M. students will also attend the all-day conference, scheduled for May 5, 2016 at Fort Lewis College. Students can receive community service hours for this work.

The B.A.M training is focused around the 40 Developmental Assets as established by the Search Institute. The 40 Developmental Assets are an evidence-based framework that defines the relationships, opportunities, values and positive self-perceptions that youth need to become thriving, contributing adults. Studies of more than 4 million children and youth from all backgrounds consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities.

Durango School District 9-R, ManKind Project and the Women's Resource Center sponsor this program.

Students interested in signing up for the B.A.M. program for 2016 are encouraged to email Julie Popp at jpoppp@durango.k12.co.us.

