

# BARACK OBAMA

MALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY @ BF DARRELL

Parent/Student Handbook 2011-2012



"The School of Today for Tomorrow's Leaders"

4730 South Lancaster Road

Dallas, Texas 75216

972.749.2100

[www.dallasisd.org](http://www.dallasisd.org)

FREQUENTLY NEEDED NAMES AND NUMBERS  
OFFICE: 972.749.2100 FAX: 972.749.2101

## **SCHOOL BOARD & ADMINISTRATORS**

Superintendent: Alan King, CPA  
Trustee: District 5, Dr. Lew Blackburn

**Learning Community:**  
Southeast Elementary  
Ms. Shirley Ison-Newsome , Executive Director

**Campus Administrators**  
Principal: Mr. Nakia Douglas  
Associate Principal: Mrs. Michelle Neely  
Counselor: Ms. Keisha Johnson



## Faculty and Email Addresses

Subject Area	Teacher	Room	Email Address
<b>Science</b>			
6th	Mr. Alain Mota	150	amota@dallasisd.org
7th-9th	Mr. Xavier Almaguer	153	xalmaguer@dallasisd.org
Robotics	Vacant	155	
<b>Math</b>			
6th	Mr. Kerry Shelton	101	KShelton@dallasisd.org
7th-9th	Mr. Muhammad Abdul-Jami	111	MABDJAMI@dallasisd.org
<b>English</b>			
6th	Ms. Courtney Crouch	102	CCROUCH@dallasisd.org
7th-9th	Mrs. Yolanda Drawhorn	112	ydrawhorn@dallasisd.org
Reading/ Debate/AVID/ Speech	Mr. Brian Hennig	140	bhennig@dallasisd.org
<b>Social Studies</b>			
6th	Mr. Robert Edison	103	redison@dallasisd.org
7th-9th	Ms. Angela Fulbright	113	afulbright@dallasisd.org
<b>Electives</b>			
Latin/Spanish	Mr. Jeremy Mitchell	135	jmitchell@dallasisd.org
Mandarin	Mrs. Molly Chai	139	MCHAI@dallasisd.org
Arts	Mr. Dane Larsen	109B	DLARSEN@dallasisd.org
Instruments	Mr. Clarence Texada	105	ctexada@dallasisd.org
Voice	Mrs. Billie Roberts	107H	broberts@dallasisd.org
Physical Cond./ Health	Mr. Lester Geason	122/123	LGeason@dallasisd.org

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# *Welcome to Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy!*

Greetings:

Hello and welcome to the Inaugural 2011-2012 school year of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy at BF Darrell. I hope that each of you had a restful and enjoyable summer. I trust each of you are now ready to embark upon an exciting and enjoyable year at Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy (BOMLA). We, the faculty and staff developed this handbook in order to provide valuable information about the campus, including our policies, procedures, and important dates throughout the year.

Inside this handbook are guidelines each of you will need to adhere to in order to be successful, productive learners. I expect each of you to work hard this school year and I am asking you to make a habit of keeping this handbook/planner with you each school day in order to foster organizational skills, know important dates, assignments, or other information pertinent to your education with your parents.

Our campus' motto is *The School of Today for Tomorrow's Leaders*. The entire faculty and staff is here to assist each of you in your quest to become leaders for our society of tomorrow. Our mission and my pledge to "develop young men into impactful leaders through the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social and emotional skills for the global society of tomorrow." At our campus, you will experience an educational environment that encourages critical thinking, inspires student confidence, and nurtures both the intellectual and social development necessary to graduate and become successful leaders in tomorrow's society.

We value and expect to develop students who are focused on their academic excellence, college preparedness, responsible leadership, and life skills that will transcend through their maturation into manhood. I wish each of you a triumphant year and look forward to serving each of you.

Respectfully yours,

# ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

## Student Arrival

Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy's academic day is from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Parents may drop off students at the entrance on the south side of the building. Due to the large volume of cars that will frequent the parking lot in the morning, please do not leave cars unattended or idle for more than two minutes. District school buses are never to be blocked by parked vehicles.

## Attendance

The Texas Education Agency defines the school year as 175 consecutive days. Students are expected to attend school every day of the school year. If a student is absent, a note must be submitted to the registrar within two days. The note should include the child's name, identification number, reason for absence a daytime contact number and a signature.

## Inclement Weather

In the case of a cancellation due to inclement weather, the following official weather and television stations will be notified through the Dallas ISD website or local stations.

## Changes in Address or Phone

Please notify the attendance office of changes related to contact information and the safety of each students. Make sure the primary and secondary contact information is clear.

## Directory Policy

The Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Handbook is prepared and published for the sole use of students, parents, faculty, and staff. Information in the Directory must not be used for personal gain, or made available for commercial, political, or solicitation purposes.

<b>Attendance office</b>	972.749.2100
<b>Nurse</b>	972.749.2100
<b>Counselor</b>	972.749. 2100

# **BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.**



## **A Brief Explanation of the Blazon of Arms**

As depicted above, a "coat of arms" consists of several parts: the shield, the mantling, the helm, charges, and the crest (note that not all arms have crests). The official, written description of the coat of arms is called the "blazon of arms."

The book is symbolic of the gift of knowledge. Additionally, the book represents the myriad of opportunity provided through the acquisition of knowledge. Hermes' winged sandal symbolizes swiftness, strength and reliability, characteristics necessary for health and wellness. The handshake is symbolic of the importance of building genuine relationships among peers, mentors — either a new beginning or an ending to a situation. The Scales of Justice are representative of the significance of inner balance when decision-making. The American Bald eagle, shown with its wings spread, is symbolic of the strength and freedom of America. The various parts of the crest represent the areas where each of us have inherent opportunities for growth. When viewing the shield holistically, we can see that it takes a great deal of dedication, discipline, and awareness to become a leader.

### **Our Goals, Mission and Vision**

The motto of the school, The School of Today for Tomorrow's Leaders was developed by Principal, Nakia Douglas, to commemorate the vision required to educate the whole child--a synthesis of head and heart and knowledge. At the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy each young man deserves a challenging education. Expect and accept nothing less.

The motto: "Believe. Achieve. Succeed." reflects the aim of the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy to prepare talented young men for the colleges and careers of their choice by challenging their minds with excellent academic programs, molding their character through the value of education, and offering them guidance with both understanding and discipline.

# Mottos and Missions

**Dallas Independent School District Mission:**

“We educate and graduate students ready for college and the workforce”

**Southeast Learning Community Motto:**

“Where EXCELLENCE is the ONLY STANDARD and GOAL”

**Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Mission:**

Develop young men into impactful leaders through the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social and emotional skills for the global society of tomorrow.

**Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Motto:**

“The School of Today for Tomorrow’s Leaders”

**Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Campus Creed:**

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

# School Symbols

Crest



Mascot: Eagle



Colors: Navy Blue  
and Gray



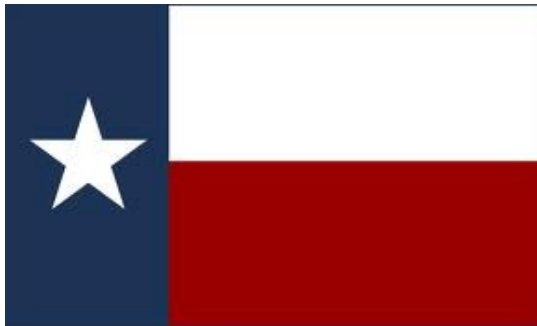
# Pledges

## Pledge To the United States Flag



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America  
and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## Texas Flag Pledge



"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one  
state under God, one and indivisible."

## **Mission Statement**

Develop young men into impactful leaders through the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social and emotional skills for the global society of tomorrow.

## **Motto**

*Believe ∞ Achieve ∞ Succeed*

## **Creed**

We are the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy  
We believe in the transformative powers of knowledge and wisdom  
We believe that success is brought about by perseverance, not chance  
We know our actions are governed by strength of character, rather than whims of emotion  
We resist excuses, holding ourselves accountable for our actions  
We are successful through honesty, humility, and the pursuit of intellectual excellence  
We are loyal to our family  
We are our Brother's Keeper  
We are committed to our community  
We are servants of mankind  
We have the audacity to hope  
We have the audacity to succeed!

## **School Song**

We are the brothers of BOMLA

With the goal of becoming the best in U.S.A.

We believe perseverance, not chance, is the way to  
achieve.

Our activities are governed by character, honesty, hu-  
mility.

Excuses don't exist!

We are loyal to our family

Committed to our community

Servants of mankind and humanity

# THE VISION BECOMES REAL

The Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy opened in fall 2011. Trustee Dr. Lew Blackburn recommended the school be named for the President. The creation of an all-boys school is something that some trustees, including Dr. Blackburn, had talked about since the district began an all-girls campus in 2004. Dallas ISD's newest magnet school will offer a small, focused learning environment where young men are prepared for leadership roles in school, the community, and society.

The curriculum at Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy at B.F. Darrell will include pre-AP and AP classes, foreign languages, robotics, accelerated math and science, journalism, writing, and public speaking. Students also must participate in at least two extracurricular activities, which include debate and a variety of arts programs. Non traditional sports such as rowing, lacrosse, golf, soccer, tennis, and physical conditioning also will be part of the academy experience. Additionally, the young men will be required to complete a technology-based project and a community service project each year.

The school will operate on a three-semester year. An additional grade level will be added each year until students are served through grade 12 with the first graduating class being in 2015. Each of the campus programs provided are under the direct guidance and supervision of the Principal with an integral link between the school, parents and community. The Principal is responsible for instructional leadership, safety & security, discipline and the formation of partnerships to guide the academic and personal growth of all students. Both the Middle and Upper school are under the authority of the Principal who will interpret and carry out the mission of the Dallas Public Schools: to prepare all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to become productive and responsible citizens.

*The Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and education policies, athletic programs, and other activities. Admission guidelines are posted on the Dallas ISD website at [www.dallasisd.org](http://www.dallasisd.org).*

# UNIFORM POLICY

**ID Badges:** When students are representing BOMLA, the identification badge will be visible at all times. It is to be clipped to the left side of the blazer.

All BOMLA uniforms must be appropriate to the student's body size, situation, and grade level involved. Inappropriate clothing and appearance are disruptive to the school program and the Administrators will enforce adherence to this policy. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school. In addition, the student may also receive a disciplinary consequence for violating the school's dress code policy. Violations of this policy shall be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The Principal has final authority to decide if clothing complies with the rules. No student will be denied attendance due to financial hardship or inability to purchase the BOMLA uniform. The PTSA and the SBDM will be available for assistance options. Parents are asked to notify the campus principal if assistance is needed.

**BLAZER:** Navy blazer is to be worn at all times when students are in the hallways and common areas. However, the blazer may be taken off when students are in class.

**SHIRTS:** a blue oxford shirt, long or short sleeve with collar to be worn under blazers. Shirts must be tucked in and appropriately sized. During cold weather, a navy sweater may be worn over the collared blue oxford shirt under the blazer. All tee shirts worn underneath the uniform shirt should be white.

**TIE:** Middle school students wear a gray tie (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) ; Upper school students wear a navy tie (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

**PANTS:** All attendees will wear gray dress slacks.

**SHOES:** Black slip on or lace up. No athletic wear except during the appropriate class

**BELT:** Black belt. No oversized or inappropriate buckles

# ACADEMIC INFORMATION

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at the BOMLA must grow in integrity and maintain an atmosphere of honesty and a readiness to help others. Each teacher should specify his or her expectations both inside and outside the classroom, and to avoid any unauthorized use of sources that could constitute cheating or plagiarism. Teachers will help students understand what forms of help are welcome and appropriate.

Cheating and all forms of plagiarism may constitute serious offenses. Problems in this matter will be dealt with by the Principal if repeated.

## **Homework/Test/Grading**

Students should expect regular homework, lesson reviews and additional materials presented in class to be part of their Homework. Students are encouraged to memorize important information, read ahead in preparation for an upcoming class, and participate in extension activities to learn new concepts introduced in class. Due to the academic nature of the school, students may have as much as three and one half hours of homework. Teachers generally assign homework twice a week, so students must use the syllabi and academic calendar to stay abreast of all upcoming assignments.

## **NG Rating**

Homework is due at the beginning of each class period. Upon review of the assignment, if the teacher feels that the homework does not meet the established criteria and standard, the student may be issued a 'No Grade' (NG) rating.

Students have 48 hours to re-submit assignments that received the 'NG' rating. According to the discretion of the teacher, up to 15 points may be docked from the resubmitted assignment. Teachers will not accept incomplete work and partial credit will never be given for any assignment that received an 'NG' rating.

Students who repeatedly submit work that does not meet standard may be assigned to a Reflection Hall to analyze their personal behavioral patterns and choices.

## **Tardies**

Students with excessive tardies shall be referred to the associate principal. Send the Attendance Referral to the office.

Students must be in attendance ninety percent (90%) of the time each semester in order to receive credit in a course. Absences that cause a student to attend less than 90% of a semester will be reviewed by the School Attendance Committee. The committee will determine whether the absences are excused.

If documentation is presented to substantiate the following types of extenuating circumstances, the absence may be excused:

- Religious holy days
- Medical or dental appointments
- School-approved [extracurricular](#) activities
- Family emergencies or unforeseen or unavoidable instances requiring immediate attention
- Participation in a treatment rehabilitation program
- Absences related to being a migrant student
- Approved 2 days per year college visitation for juniors and seniors

## **Discipline**

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal Punishment is no longer administered as a form of discipline for any students.

### **Minor Disciplinary Problems**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> – Warning/Classroom-based consequences
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Student/Teacher conference- Advisory Mentor Contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Parental Contact
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Referral to Principal’s Office

### **Serious/ Persistence Disciplinary Problems**

Referrals will be written for serious disciplinary infractions. If a student is cited for an incident that is deemed Serious or Persistent, the student will face consequences from the Dallas ISD Student Disciplinary Policy and campus administrators. Serious and Persistent Disciplinary incidents could lead to removal from the BOMLA campus.

## **Student Oath of Agreement**

- I will be committed to my Intellectual, Moral, Social, Emotional and Physical development and that of my Brothers at BOMLA.
- I will properly represent and respect myself, family, brothers and the campus at all times in my work and play.
- I will attend school each day and be prepared to actively participate in all of my classes.
- I will ensure that I am dressed in the appropriate school uniform each day.
- I will complete my designated community service hours each school year.
- I will maintain a Digital Portfolio each school year.
- I will be actively involved in at least two extracurricular activities and/ or clubs each school year.
- I will attend and actively participate during each required Saturday Academy (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>).
- I will attend and actively participate during the mandatory summer program.
- I understand that failure to adhere to this Oath of Agreement could cause me to lose various BOMLA privileges and could lead to my removal from the campus.

## **Parental Oath of Agreement**

- We will actively support, encourage and participate during our child's education at home and school.
- We will ensure that our child regularly attends school each day. Should our child have to be absent, we will call the school that day to notify the school of the absence.
- We will ensure that our child wears the appropriate school uniforms each day.
- We will ensure that our child attends each required Saturday Academy and we will provide the appropriate transportation.
- We will ensure that our child attends his mandatory summer program and we will provide the appropriate transportation.
- We will attend and actively participate during all Parent Conferences.
- We will attend, sponsor and/ or support at least two school events including but not limited to: extracurricular activities or clubs (i.e. PTSA, SBDM, Booster Club, Teacher Appreciation Week, Chaperone, Campus Volunteer, etc.).
- We understand that failure to adhere to this Oath of Agreement could cause our child to lose various BOMLA privileges and could lead to my child's removal from the campus.



## **Missed Assignment Policy**

Each student is responsible for making up any work he misses because of absences. It is, however, in his interest to return to school prepared for all assignments insofar as possible. On his first day back to school, the student should meet with his teachers to determine which missed assignments he should make up and when he should do so. It will be up to the individual teacher to determine how and when a student is to make up missed work.

## **Middle School Grade Weights**

### **Major Exam, & Testing Policy**

Semester exam dates are indicated on the Dallas ISD testing calendar, and major exams are reported in advance.

Class/Homework	40%
Test/Exams	20%
Projects/ Participation	20%
Six Weeks Test	15%

## **Upper School Grade Weights**

### **Major Exam, & Testing Policy**

Semester exam dates are indicated on the Dallas ISD testing calendar, and major exams are reported in advance.

Class/Homework	40%
Test/Exams	25%
Projects/ Participation	20%
Six Weeks Test	15%

## **Digital Portfolios, AVID Binders and Salutations**

### **Digital Portfolios**

The semester digital portfolios provide the Brothers of BOMLA with the opportunity to display what they have learned with greater independence and personal responsibility. The students must exercise individual decision making and responsibility at several stages:

- selecting a project for their portfolio,
- planning an approach,
- scheduling conferences with the grade level committee, and meeting deadlines.

The projects will represent a substantial amount of work; therefore, early approval is suggested.

### **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)**

An in-school academic support program for grades 4–12 that prepares students for college eligibility and success. All students are expected to maintain an AVID binder whether or not they have the course.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS for all students**

Good quality, 3-ring binder, 3” or 5” rings

8 Large Colored Dividers with tabs to separate **each Course** including AVID

30 Smaller Dividers with CLEAR tabs to use **within each Course**

Pencil pouch to store supplies

2 or more black/blue pens

2 or more pencils

Erasers

1 or more highlighter pens

Notebook paper (college rule)

**Other suggested Supplies:** Calculator, Notebook dictionary and/or thesaurus, 6 inch ruler

### **Salutations**

Students will address each adult as either Mr. or Mrs. Students will address each other as “i.e. Brother John Davis.” Additionally, students will be addressed as “i.e. Mr. or Brother John Davis by faculty and staff members.

## **Academic Award Programs**

The school will conduct Honors programs at the end of each semester to honor those who have exhibited exemplary performance. Recognition includes all grades on the report card:

- Principal's Honor Roll - reflect 95% or above
- "A" Honor Roll - reflect a 90 or above
- "B" Honor roll - 80 or above
- Perfect Attendance
- Citizenship Awards
- Obama Effort Award.

The BOMLA students will also be recognized for outstanding participation and recognition in Key Club, National Junior Honor Society, Debate, UIL and other academic competitions.

BOMLA will also host events including but not limited to:

- Student, Faculty & Staff Induction
- Middle to Upper School Transition ceremony
- Upper School Graduation.

## **The Counseling Department**

The counseling department will focus on the academic, moral, physical and social development of the student body. These areas of development will be fostered by activities such as, classroom guidance, individual counseling, group counseling, and school-wide activities.

## **Library/Media Center**

The library is open from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. Students must have a completed official pass from a core teacher to come to the library during the day. No pass is needed before/after school or during lunch. During lunch, students will not be admitted after the tardy bell rings; they must stay throughout the assigned lunch period. Students must sign-in when going to the library. If a student is to return to class, the librarian will sign the pass and indicate the time.

## ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR

### Overview

Physical Education and Athletics form an important and necessary part of the BOMLA curriculum. Each student is encouraged to perform on the level of his own capability within the framework of teams and in the pursuit of a common goal. In this manner, boys come to understand teamwork and sportsmanship. At BOMLA each student must participate in two extracurricular activities such as clubs, UIL, or sports. Participation teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school.

### Physical Evaluation/Medical History

The medical history form must be completed annually by a parent (or guardian) and student before an athlete can tryout or participate in athletic activities. The form can be downloaded from [www.uiltexas.org](http://www.uiltexas.org) website.

### CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to their regular academic work and their involvement in sports, the students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. The activities provide a framework in which the boys can pursue special nonacademic interests, develop leadership skills, and serve the BOMLA community. Participation in an activity is required as part of the school day. After Lyceum, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday student will report to their Brotherhood (Advisory). After Lyceum on Tuesday and Thursday, students will report to their specified club.

Chess Club	Photography
Math Olympiad	Garden
Debate	Community Service
Academic Pentathlon	*Additional clubs may be formed based on student interest with an Adult advisor.
Art Enrichment	
UIL competitions	
Performance Choir	
Debate Team	

## Houses

Competition is an integral component of an all male educational setting. BOMLA will meet this requirement through the establishment of four competitive Houses. Each House is named after one of the symbols on the BOMLA crest:

- House of Decree Handshake—Open Book
- House of Alliance
- House of Justice—Scales
- House of Expedition—Winged Foot

Every student at BOMLA will be assigned to a House, for which they will be a member through their entire academic career at BOMLA. Houses will compete academically, athletically, through citizenship and community service.



**Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) Team/  
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)**

SBDM Meetings will be held on the First Thursday of each month in the Media Center at 6:00 pm.

PTSA meeting will follow at 7:00 pm.

**Dates:**

September 1	October 6	November 3
December 1	January 5	February 2
March 1	April 5	May 3
June 7		

**Saturday Academies (2nd and 4th)**

August: No Meetings	September: 10 & 24
October: 8th & 22nd	November : 12
December: 10	January: 14 & 28
February: 11 & 25	March: 24
April: 14 & 28	May: 12

