

**DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**  
**SAGINAW ALUMNAE CHAPTER**  
**DR. BETTY SHABAZZ DELTA ACADEMY**



## DESCRIPTION

**Catching the Dreams of Tomorrow, Preparing Young Women for the 21st Century: The Delta Academy** was created in 1996 out of an urgent sense that bold action was needed to save our young females (ages 11-14) from the perils of academic failure, low self-esteem, and crippled futures. Delta Academy provides an opportunity for local chapters to enrich and enhance the education that our young teens receive in public schools across the nation. Specifically, we augment their scholarship in math, science, and technology, their opportunities to provide service in the form of leadership through service learning defined as the cultivation and maintenance of relationships. A primary goal of the program is to prepare young girls for full participation as leaders in the 21st Century.

Delta Academy has taken many forms. In some chapters, the Academies are after-school or Saturday programs; others are weekly or biweekly throughout the school year; and still other programs occur monthly. The *Saginaw Alumnae Chapter* has elected to host the Delta Academy at Willie E. Thompson Middle School, which is the only middle school in The School District of the City of Saginaw.

The activities utilized in the program are as ascribed in the Curriculum Framework, of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy National Curriculum Manual (See page 11).

The components of the Delta Academy Curriculum Manual in the form of questions consist of the following, which are not all (necessarily) in each lesson.

- ▲ Unit: What is the ultimate skill or knowledge we seek as a result of this lesson(s) or time together?
- ▲ Focus/Topic to Address: What essential questions will be explored in depth?
- ▲ Module: What is this segment of the lesson intended to do?
- ▲ Goal/Target: What should youth know and be able to do?
- ▲ Materials Needed: What supplies are needed to complete the lesson?
- ▲ Opening Activity: What will we do to prepare youth for what is to come in the lesson?
- ▲ Main Activity: What will the youth do or apply to reach the goals of the lesson?
- ▲ Technology Integration: How might technology be used to present or extend the experience?

- ▲ Adaptation/Extension Activity: What might be done time permitting or to extend interest?
- ▲ Formative Evaluation: How will you know the youth have achieved the desired results?
- ▲ Take Home Message: What might the youth do outside of the Delta Academy with the module skills or knowledge?
- ▲ Resources: What materials, articles, goods are used in the lesson or may be used to extend or enhance the lesson?

**Note: This Delta Academy Manual is distinguished by being developed based on Delta’s 5-Point Programmatic framework providing a wide range of issues for Academy girls to explore. There is a range of two to six activities from which to choose under each program.**

**MEASURE OF SUCCESS**

Ultimately, it is hoped that the participants are able to transfer what they have learned through their experiences in the Delta Academy to other situations. This, in the end, is our ultimate goal.

**BENEFIT**

***A primary goal of the Academy is to prepare these young women for full participation in the 21ST century world.***

**PARTICIPANT SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Delta Academy is designed to offer opportunities to young women of great promise who might otherwise be excluded because they lack support, resources, and encouragement. The Delta Academy recognizes the disadvantages many young women in various communities face because of gender, income, age, and parental resources despite the personal potential of the girls themselves.

Despite advances in psychological assessment, family income remains one of the highest correlates with academic achievement (Rogers, 1996; Valencia & Suzuki, 2001). Even though factors other than income are possibly involved in this association, coming from a low-income family remains a disadvantage with regard to school success (Valencia & Suzuki, 2001). Students from low-income families also tend to be underrepresented in programs for the gifted and talented (Stambaugh, 2007; Swanson, 2006).

**The Delta Academy is designed for young women who meet the following criteria:**

- ▲ Is 11 to 14 years of age.
- ▲ Demonstrates great academic and personal promise; lacks support and encouragement.
- ▲ Shows interest in developing leadership skills.
- ▲ Shows interest in community action and social change.
- ▲ Shows interest in non-traditional STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers.

▲ There is no grade point criteria

**Note: The Willie E. Thompson Middle school administration uses the aforementioned criteria to assist with the selection process.**

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**

▲ The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of fifteen (15) seventh and eighth grade students.

### **Removal from the Academy**

Participants will be removed from the group based the steps outlined in the Risk Management manual. The school administration will be included in each step.

### **Meeting Site/Time**

Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy meets twice monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, at Willie E. Thompson Middle School or at a time that the school administration deems appropriate for the students participating in the academy.

### **QUALIFICATION FOR VOLUNTEERS**

In order to minimize risk factors that may inhibit the success of any of our youth initiatives, chapter members and volunteers must be informed, trained and kept abreast of the policies and procedures for successful programming. Delta Academy volunteers are limited to those members of the Saginaw Alumnae Chapter, who have gone through the Risk Management training, and who meet all requirements, inclusive of a background check. Volunteers should be energetic, able to relate to participants, creative and passionate about youth development.

Subject matter experts may be invited to speak to the participants one time per year and risk management training is not required.

### **SIGN-IN/SIGN-OUT POLICY AND MISSING PARTICIPANT PROCEDURES**

Academy participants will not be permitted to leave the youth program activity without being properly signed out. When a bathroom break is taken, a volunteer will escort the student from the media center, and stand where the student's entrance/departure to and from the bathroom is supervised. The Chapter shall use sign-in/sign-out sheets for all youth participants. The sign-in/sign-out sheets shall be used for on-site sessions, and off-site field trips, if any are scheduled. Since we work with students during the school day, off site field are not likely to occur. The sign-in / sign-out sheets shall be maintained in accordance with Delta's document retention policy. Youth shall be released to return to class in accordance with the policy of the school administration or their designee.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR – RESPONSIBILITIES**

- ❖ Coordinate committee meeting dates/time/locations, as needed
- ❖ Prepare the agenda
- ❖ Assume the leadership role during all Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy sessions, unless relinquished to another member, or the chapter president
- ❖ Choose curricular activity from the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy National Curriculum for each Academy session
- ❖ Coordinate committee planning of Academy activities and resources for each activity
- ❖ Prepare sign-in/sign-out sheet(s)
- ❖ Serve as the liaison between the school and the chapter
- ❖ Assign duties to committee members

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER – RESPONSIBILITIES**

- ❖ Assist with attendance
- ❖ Conduct Academy sessions, in the absence of the chairperson, upon request
- ❖ Step up to secure appropriate administrator/security in the event there is a discipline issue that cannot be resolve with a gentle admonishment of the participant
- ❖ Assist with sign-in/sign-out procedures
- ❖ Assist with planning and implementation of activities
- ❖ Attend all sessions, and arrive on time, when feasible

## **PARENTS**

Per Risk Management, parents must complete the following forms:

- ❖ Parental/Guardian Affirmation
- ❖ Waiver and Release
- ❖ Photograph, Media and Video Authorization Release Form
- ❖ Youth Code of Conduct

**NOTE:** Some of the information used in this document was taken from the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy National Curriculum.