



## RBA MISSION STATEMENT

In September 2018, Ryan Banks Academy, a new middle school and high school, will open its doors and transform urban education. The RBA mission is to build Chicago's first residential school for urban youth. In our first 1-2 years, we will begin as a day school/boarding school hybrid model, where our students attend day school at RBA, plus our school year will include multiple extended field trips which will allow our students to explore new environments and cultures. During this time, we will be constructing our permanent campus which will include dormitories for our students and residential housing for our staff. Our first class will launch with 7th grade students Fall 2018.

RBA will combine a high-quality, future-facing curriculum with an integrated social emotional education in order to provide the launching pad for students out of poverty and into the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and world-changers. RBA takes a strengths-based approach to learning and building confidence, and believes that each and every one of our students has a legacy within them to change the world.

## ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

- STEAM-focus includes Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts & Math
- Project-based learning empowers students to assume leadership positions within the community. Coursework has real life applications, builds meaningful connections with community members, and teaches reciprocity
- Students are not just encouraged to think critically, but also to expand their idea of what is possible by pushing the boundaries of their comfort zones
- Students focus on cultivating their unique strengths, interests, and passions

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Mental health professionals and mentors support students in managing emotions, dealing with past traumas, developing relationships, and identifying personal values
- Adventure learning focus will include annual expeditions, ongoing team building, and student involvement with the creation of a challenge course
- SEL is incorporated into student life through daily Human Development themes:
  - Mindful Monday: Meditation, visualizations, mindful practice, self-awareness
  - Together Tuesday: Team building, trust activities, challenge course initiatives
  - Wellness Wednesday: Yoga, nutritional & physical health, connection to nature
  - Thoughtful Thursday: Problem-solving, reflection, goal setting, journaling
  - Fun Friday: Residential games, poetry jams, music productions, theatre, comedy