Greetings, Students and Parents,

The Erie City Mission's Urban University Youth Program empowers 7th-12th grade students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, mentorship, service learning, and faith formation.

Steps to apply:

- Parent and student: review course schedule and program contract (see below).
    - Program spots are limited. Before applying, please carefully consider the schedule commitment of each course. You will be expected to be in attendance for every class/course you are applying for.

- Student: complete and submit the online leadership questionnaire.

    - First Time Student
    - Returning Student

- Schedule an interview with Program Director.
    - Both parent and student are expected to participate in the interview as we see this communication and connection as a critical part of the equation in partnering with you in the character development of your child.

We look forward to meeting you,

RoseMarie Croce

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
814-572-2365 Cell
rmcroce@eriecitymission.org

2027 Winter/Spring Semester After School Course Schedule:

Leadership In Action: Your Legacy Starts Now

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions (January 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, February 2, 4)
Your legacy starts now—with the choices you make, the strengths you develop, and the impact you have on others. Through the DISC Profile assessment, students will discover their unique personality and leadership style, learn how to build on their strengths, and recognize opportunities for personal growth. We'll also explore the lasting legacies of Harriet Tubman, notable Erie natives, and emerging leaders whose stories are still being written, challenging students to recognize that leaving a meaningful legacy isn't just about what you accomplish, but how you choose to live and influence others along the way. This is the fifth of five courses that are part of our history, civics, and government series.
Course Lead: Mrs. Cindy Heintz
Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)
Cost: $30.00
Student Showcase: Thursday, February 4 (Further details TBA)

Graphic Design & Entrepreneurship

Mondays and Wednesdays/8 sessions total (February 15, 17, 22, 24, March 1, 3, 15, 17)
Great design isn't just about creating what you like, it's about understanding what someone else needs and bringing their vision to life! In this hands-on course, students will be given a client-inspired design challenge and work one-on-one with Mercyhurst University students to develop a T-shirt or hoodie design using Inkscape and Canva. Along the way, they'll practice creative problem-solving, learn key design principles and the basics of silk-screen printing, and experience what it takes to turn a client's idea into a finished product.
Course Lead: Mrs. Jodi Hopper, Dean of the School of the Arts at Mercyhurst University
Location: Mercyhurst University (501 East 38th Street)
Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
Cost: $30.00

Music & Technology

Mondays and Wednesdays/6 sessions (March 29, 31, April 5, 7, 12, 14)
Discover where music, creativity, and technology come together! In this hands-on course, students will explore both traditional and digital music while designing digital instruments, creating unique sounds, and developing valuable technology skills. Through exciting projects involving Arduino microcontrollers, 3D printing, programming, basic circuitry, and more, students will discover innovative ways to bring their musical ideas to life. No musical experience required—just curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to explore!
Course Lead: Mr. Will Mzumara, Mr. Tim Brown, Wabtec Engineers
Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)
Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
Cost: $25.00

Know Before You Go: Washington D.C.

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions (April 20, 22, 27, 29, May 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13)
There's a lot to see in Washington, D.C.—but there's even more to understand! Through special guest speakers, interactive discussions, and intentional preparation, students will discover the stories, people, history, and significance behind many of the places they will visit during our four-day journey to our nation's capital. Our **April 27 session** will bring students and parents together for a final pre-trip meeting to review important details, expectations, and instructions.

We'll conclude on May 13, following the trip May 6-9, with a special Student Showcase, where students will share their experiences, reflect on their greatest takeaways, and celebrate how this journey has challenged and inspired them to grow as leaders.

Note: This course is for students and mentors already registered for our Washington, D.C. trip.

Course Lead: Ms. RoseMarie Croce
Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)
Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
Student Showcase: Thursday, May 13 (Further details TBA)

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Each course accepts between 8-12 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- Please note that our program meets regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you will consider dates such as vacation, family events, appointments, etc. against our schedule so that you may ensure your students' attendance for every session, unless they are sick.
- Scholarship are considered at interview.

STUDENTS APPLY HERE

Program Contract

Our Mission:

Urban University (UU) seeks to develop junior high and high school students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, commerce, service learning, mentorship, and faith formation.

Students and families are not required to be of Christian faith to participate in UU; however, components of the program incorporate life and leadership principles from the Bible which are encouraged and practiced for character development and life-long success.

We (the parent and the student) agree to the following expectations of the Urban University program.

1. Participation: *I have decided to be a part of this program; therefore, I will take full advantage of the opportunity.*
2. Challenge: *I am willing to stretch myself to grow.*
3. Respect: *I understand the importance of respecting my leaders, my peers, and the property and materials I have the privilege to use.*
4. Grades: *I commit to giving my best in my education*
5. Language: *I will use my words to build others up.*
6. Cell Phones: *I understand that cell phones and media devices are not permitted to be used during program hours unless a leader allows it for an educational purpose or experience. Cell phones are collected upon arrival to the program and redistributed upon dismissal.*
7. Communication: *If I do not understand a UU policy or decision, I will take responsibility to share my questions or concerns with a staff member.*
8. Travel: *I will practice respect when traveling in UU vehicles, properly using seatbelts, demonstrating appropriate noise levels, and keeping my hands to myself.*
9. Dress Code: *I understand the dress code is neat and modest—no tank tops or camisoles, no visible undergarments, no hoods worn during program, pants must be pulled up to waist, shorts must be at least fingertip length, closed toe shoes are required.*
10. Attendance: *I understand, as the student, that I am committing to 100% attendance and to giving my best. I understand, as the parent, that I am expected to communicate in advance if my student is sick or not able to attend the UU program.*

We (the parent and the student) understand that if these expectations are not followed, or if any of the following misconduct occurs, it will result in immediate dismissal from the Urban University program.

1. Behavior that threatens any person's right to feel and be safe.
2. Behavior that includes inappropriate touching of a person's body, and/or using disrespectful or sexual language, inferences, or actions.
3. Behavior involving purposeful destruction of property, or theft.
4. Use of vaping, smoking, drugs, or alcohol.
5. Disrespect or refusal to follow directions of Urban University staff or mentors.

By completing the Urban University Program Application, we (the parent and the student) acknowledge that we have read and carefully considered these program expectations and commit to giving our best to get the most from this opportunity.

Biblical Leadership Principals

Compassion

- "And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32 MEV)
- "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

Excellence/Giving Your Best

- "And whoever compels you to go a mile, go with him two." (Matthew 5:41 MEV)
- "Don't let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity." (1 Timothy 4:12 CEV)

Integrity

- "Say only yes if you mean yes, and no if you mean no." (Matthew 5:37a NCV)
- "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us." (Titus 2:7 ESV)
- "God delights in those who keep their promises and abhors those who don't." (Proverbs 12:22 TLB)
- "Put the word into action. If you think hearing is what matters most, you are going to find you have been deceived." (James 1:22 The Voice)
- "Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right." (John 7:24 ERV)

Perseverance

- "And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." (Galatians 6:9 TLB)
- "Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete." (James 1:2-4 TLB)

Positive Attitude

- "Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected." (Philippians 4:8 NCV)
- "Do everything without complaining or arguing." (Philippians 2:14 NCV)
- "A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired." (Proverbs 17:22 MSG)

Power of Words

- "Your speech should always be gracious and sprinkled with insight so that you may know how to respond to every person." (Colossians 4:6 CEB)
- "My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily." (James 1:19 NCV)
- "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." (Ephesians 4:29 NLT)
- "Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body." (Proverbs 16:24)
- "A gentle answer makes anger disappear, but a rough answer makes it grow." (Proverbs 15:1 ERV)

Respect

- "Treat people the same way you want them to treat you." (Luke 6:31 NASB)
- "Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself." (Romans 12:10 CEV)

Service

- "When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others." (Philippians 2:3-4 NCV)
- "Help each other in troubles and problems. This is the kind of law Christ asks us to obey." (Galatians 6:2 NLV)