

Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University



Gesu School

Address	1700 West Thompson Street Philadelphia, PA 19121
Supervisor	Sister Ellen Convey, Principal Denise Jackson
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Transportation	Approximately 15-20 minutes by car
Clearances Required	FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus

Description:

Gesu School is a catholic elementary school over a hundred years old and is run jointly by the IHM Sisters and the Jesuits. Gesu is more than an elementary school. Safe, warm, colorful, orderly — within its walls, the 425 African-American children who attend find themselves not only students, but also members of a family. At once loving, demanding, challenging, nurturing and forgiving, the Gesu environment affirms the value and talents of each child, and in turn expects the very best from them. Instructed by a dedicated faculty whose members make financial sacrifices to teach there, Gesu students become academic achievers, while learning to be good people, too.

Student Role:

Students will work with elementary and middle school students on various classroom activities; games, homework help, tutor, arts, music, etc. Some students may run an after school program relating to business/stock markets, and work as mentors to students.

Unique Features:

For the children in its care, Gesu is a home, a sanctuary, and oasis from the hardships and perils that surround their young lives. Within their walls, children find themselves immersed in an inspired mix of academic knowledge and spiritual values that offers them the promise of a principled, fulfilling life. The dangers are all around, but at Gesu, they are kept outside.

Orientation / Requirements:

SJU and Gesu School policies require 4 clearances to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting and Minors on Campus Training Video. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents and at Placement Awareness Training.