



The Bloomingdale Family Program serves preschool children in upper Manhattan, with priority given to children and families in poverty and children with special needs. Our mission is to provide an educational foundation that will allow our children to succeed in school and in all the areas of their lives after they leave us—healthy in body, in mind, and in their feelings. This includes involving parents in the educational process and strengthening them as advocates for their children, as policy makers, as Bloomingdale staff, and as explorers and achievers of their own dreams and aspirations.

José Velilla
Executive Director

Marilyn S. Barnwell
Delores Mims
Education Directors

MAIN OFFICE
125 West 109th Street
New York, NY 10025
Tel: 212-663-4067/8
Fax: 212-932-9243

PROJECT GROWTH
171 West 107th Street
New York, NY 10025

PROJECT HOPE
987 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10025

After-School Tutoring and Homework Help Program . . .

Even after students leave us, Bloomingdale is there to support them in making a successful transition into elementary school. To help our children meet the challenges of increasing academic and homework demands, Bloomingdale offers our “graduates” a highly successful After-School Tutoring and Homework Help Program. Four afternoons a week, children in First through Fourth Grade come to Bloomingdale after school to work with their tutors and mentors. Here the students complete their homework assignments and find enjoyable ways to strengthen their reading and math skills.



From left to right: **above:** Melanie Ciprian and Kharyana Carthy; **top right:** Adalberto Delgadillo with Sissi Benito, Kharyana, Melanie, Edwin Rivers, and Liam Escamilla; **below right:** Isaias Urena and Edwin.



...leads to a new passion — playing Chess

Several children in last year’s Homework Help group showed an interest in learning to play chess and began to tackle the rudiments of the game after completing homework tasks. This September, thanks to teacher Adalberto Delgadillo, assisted by Bloomingdale Alumna Amanda Yopez, Bloomingdale launched its first Chess Club, where students from the Homework Help group are continuing to build their skills.



The Value of Chess

Adalberto and Amanda appreciate the intrinsic value of chess and its role in strengthening skills that young Bloomingdale alumni can extend to all aspects of their development. Some of the benefits young learners gain from playing chess include:

- *becoming effective problem solvers and decision makers.* In chess you have to make decisions influenced by your own judgment.

- *improving perception and the ability to concentrate.* The game requires focusing on a primary goal—to checkmate.
- *increasing perseverance and patience.* You need to wait for your opponent to move while figuring out a strategy to become the victor.
- *learning independence and self-motivation.* Chess encourages you to search for the best move, to plan ahead, and to adjust your plans as the game unfolds.
- *developing logical thinking, memory, and creativity.* The game encourages you to be inventive, to employ logic and strategy, and to memorize different opening patterns.
- *building skills related to science, math, technology, and social skills.* Chess develops a scientific way of thinking, involves various kinds of calculations, engages the player in a search for a better move in a limited amount of time, and enhances the ability to interact with others.

Because chess is a game for people of all ages, Adalberto and Amanda look forward to the day when their chess novices will be successfully taking on their parents and teachers.

Chess Club Schedule

The Chess Club meets every Friday from 4 to 6 PM in the Yellow Room at Bloomingdale’s 107th Street Site.

Upcoming Events

Men Matter Dinner
Friday November 20 at 6 PM

Photo credits: Adalberto Delgadillo and Amanda Yopez