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Moses montefiore academy

School Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM -4:00 PMAbout:Moses Montefiore Academy is a special school of the Chicago Public Schools. It currently serves students with moderate emotional disorders in grades 3-8. All students attending Montefiore have Individualized Education Plans. The cornerstone of Montefiore's therapeutic setting is the MENTA Method program. Through this methodology students grow skills to support their reintegration into the regular education environment. Students at Montefiore participate in a rigorous progressive academic program. The program incorporates web-based academic curricula, iPads, desktop computers, smartboards, and more. All lessons are individualized to meet students unique learning needs. Students participate in the NWEA assessment three times a year. Testing takes place in the fall, winter, and spring. Dates for tests are scheduled by CPS. This year students maybe participating in the PARCC assessment. The assessment replaces the previous ISAT assessment. Testing on this measure might take place in the spring. Dates will be announced in the near future. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. In late 2014, Vice aired Last Chance High, a documentary about the Near West Side's Moses Montefiore Academy—at the time, CPS's only elementary school for special-needs students. About a year later, CPS announced that it was closing Montefiore; this March, the lot was sold to the Urban Prairie Waldorf School. When they found out that the school might close, Last Chance High directors Craig and Brent Renaud returned to Chicago, where they began to film a sequel to the 2014 series. Chicago spoke with Craig Renaud—Brent, his brother, was in Mogadishu, working on another project about East African militant group Al-Shabaab—about what they found when they came back to the story of the school and the people who had been a part of it. The series premiered Tuesday and will air weekly. What led you to revisit the story of Montefiore? When we were making the first series, there were a lot of rumors that the school might eventually close because attendance had been dwindling for a while. We heard it being discussed by the staff as something they were nervous about. Reverend Hood, one of the local school council members and main characters from the series, let us know about the public hearings going on [in late 2015 and early 2016]. He also told us that none of the parents knew about them. So we picked up the camera and followed him to one of those hearings. And then we decided to pick back up and see what happened to the original kids after the school closed. When you returned to the students from the school a few years later, what did you tend to find? Many of the main kids we had followed from the first series and picked back up with, like Cortez and Keontay, were actually not doing very well. Cortez was getting death threats. Keontay had been shot on three different occasions by over a dozen bullets and managed to survive. He's deeply involved in gang wars at this point. Six of his friends have been killed, and another one of them is paralyzed from the neck down. His mother has lupus and has been battling that—she's very sick, she's in a wheelchair. I think of myself back when I was 15 or 16 years old and some of the stupid stuff I did. You think you're invincible as a 15-year-old. Most of the kids that Keontay is fighting with are the same kids he grew up with: These are kids who went to grade school together, they've been in each other's homes. And one of the things Keontay says is, I might decide to quit and start being positive, and I'm gonna be walking down the block, and these guys aren't gonna forget about it and they're gonna kill me. And we saw it happen during the filming: he was walking down the street, and somebody drove by and spotted him. They opened fire and he got shot again. What are the former staff members doing now? Coach Williams was probably one of the most popular people in the viewers' minds from the first series. Staff members like him tend to get very involved with these kids. The students at Montefiore were special needs students, and Coach Williams had always said to us that these kids required more than just showing up to school and trying to teach. In the original series, he and his wife talk about how, when he goes home at night, he dreams about these kids. And it broke my heart to come back and pick up with him. After 17 years working in the school system, they just cut him loose—they closed Montefiore and cut him loose. I did an interview with [the student] Cortez recently, where he said Montefiore was the one time he felt like he was doing okay and people were checking in on him. And he talked so highly about people like Coach Williams. Now Williams is laid off, no job, he's burned through all of his savings. And still, he's been talking about trying to figure out some sort of way to raise funding to do something. He said he'll bump into former students all the time on the West Side. He's just constantly learning about another kid getting shot. And it's obvious when you watch him with those kids how much he loved and cared about them. Is there any room for optimism in this situation? You certainly see the uphill battle. I never want to say nothing is hopeful, but with those particular kids it's very easy to take a pessimistic view. My son has autism and gets a tremendous amount of therapy, and I can only imagine what it would be like if he grew up in a situation where he didn't have the resources or the funding to help with his behavioral stuff. I've had a lot of conversations with Derek Brown, who runs a grassroots organization out of the garage of his house. [In Last Chance High, he visited Montefiore to work with the students.] He tries to keep up with as many kids in North Lawndale as he can. You'll catch him on some days where he's very optimistic, and you'll catch him on some days where he's completely burned out. He'll just be like, "Man, some days I just don't know what to do with all these kids." It's heartbreaking, and it's hard to not be pessimistic when you have these deep conversations with people like Coach Williams and Derek Brown. They're very concerned about the lack of hope with these younger kids, and how willing all these kids are to pick up a gun and be involved in shootings. It's tough. It must be especially difficult when there's been such an erosion of social services in most of Chicago's low-income communities. I think it's hard to lecture to these young people about doing something positive, because what opportunities are really being offered to them? If their schools keep constantly closing, and they're forced to bounce from school to school. If there's no budget or summer jobs. I've probably done four or five different documentaries in Chicago over the last ten years. I remember we did a piece about eight years ago, and it was remarkable to see the difference of violence in North Lawndale when they had summer jobs. Reverend Hood's told me a number of times this summer that when he gets a call from someone like Keontay's mom saying, "What can we do? What can we figure out for him to do?" he's like, I don't even know what to tell them anymore. A lot of your documentaries cover vulnerable or troubled youth. What do you find compelling about that topic? My brother and I both used to work at a community television center in New York, where we also taught classes to high school-age kids. So I've always really liked working with kids that age. After we finished the first iteration of Last Chance High, we felt like we had only scratched the surface about mental illness and how that plays out in adolescents. We wanted to dive deeper into that, so we spent a year at the Covenant House in New Orleans, which is an emergency shelter for youth, and made the film Shelter. A lot of those kids are in very similar situations as the kids in Last Chance High, but now they're 18, 19, 20 years old. If they've gone untreated and are schizophrenic or bipolar, that's when those kids get pushed out of their households because families don't know how to deal with them. There's not a lot of education about mental illness in those communities, and they get kicked out on the streets. I would say the Covenant House is almost the next step after a school like Montefiore—it's what happens if the kids don't get services. You've also spent a lot of time in Chicago. Is there something that brings you back to the city as a subject? Chicago violence tends to make national news in very superficial ways: however many people were shot over July 4 weekend. You don't see a lot of really in-depth storytelling. And I think after we'd initially been introduced, we kept those relationships. If I hadn't met Keontay when he was 12 years old, I couldn't have stepped into his life right now and been able to film. Because we had this long-term relationship with him, that provided an opportunity to show something I think is very hard to capture, just because of the situation those kids are in. It's not abnormal for us to revisit subjects and characters and keep up with them. I still have soldiers [who I met during previous projects], ten years later, who I talk to on a weekly basis. I could definitely see us coming back to this story in a few years and following up. Viceland is supporting and soliciting donations for Derek Brown's North Lawndale Boxing League and other groups that help students like Keontay and Cortez. Find out more. 'Last Chance High' is a documentary series released in 2014 that follows various students of Moses Montefiore Academy in Chicago, Illinois. Most of these kids were asked to leave their previous academic institutes due to various reasons like aggressive behavior. Hence, their time in this particular school might be their last chance to complete their education, and the staff of this particular establishment certainly seems dedicated to making the dreams of their students come true. Now nearly a decade since the show first aired, people are curious about where the cast members are these days, and we are here to explore the same! Cortez Shields is Facing Long-Term Imprisonment Now Since his time in the documentary show, Cortez Shields seems to have gone down a path that has landed him in much legal trouble. He was first sentenced to prison for three years in 2018 for firearm possession, but the sentence was discharged. However, in 2021, he ended up getting charged and convicted for the same crime, getting a sentence of three years. Additionally, he was imprisoned for 25 years for one count of armed robbery at the same time. Since January 20, 2023, he has been an inmate at the Western Illinois Correction Facility in Western Illinois. His upcoming parole date is December 9, 2033, while his projected discharge date falls on December 10, 2036. Montreal "Spanky" Almond is Facing Legal Troubles View this post on Instagram A post shared by Monquavious Pyor (@spanky_93) Up next, we have Montreal "Spanky" Almond, who worked alongside Coach Frank Williams to overcome the struggles posed by his speech condition. Under his guidance, Spanky was able to move to a "conventional" school and made much progress in the field of basketball as a power forward. However, on February 18, 2022, he was arrested by the Chicago Police Department at 19 for one count of soliciting unlawful business and one count of possession of a controlled substance. Agustin Bartolo is Living a Low-Key Life There is not much public information available on Agustin Bartolo owing to his preference to seemingly not disclose the details of his personal life. However, reports suggest that he was charged with domestic battery/bodily harm around three years ago, though, as of writing, records indicate that Agustin is not a part of the Illinois prison system. How Did Keontay Hightie Die? On June 8, 2022, Keontay Hightie was shot to death while apparently being involved in an argument. Pronounced dead at the Stroger Hospital, he had shared his history of being involved in illegal business in the show and got into legal trouble after the production of the series. His death impacted his mother, Takita Hightie, and his two children. At the time of his passing, Keontay was only 21 years old. Iriel Spaw is Living a Private Life Now Iriel Spaw was arrested on December 31, 2022, for one count of property damage worth less than \$500. At the time, she was 21 years old, and the arrest was made by the Chicago Police Department. However, as of writing, it does not seem like Iriel is part of the Illinois prison system. Coach Frank Williams is Focusing on His Health Today Due to his heavy involvement in the lives of many of his students, Coach Frank Williams became much respected by those who watched the show. However, following the closing of Moses Montefiore Academy in 2016, the sports teacher did not have an easy time. Apparently, he was sent a letter of dismissal in July 2015. The school board allegedly tried to deny many of his benefits, citing that his retirement before age 65 was the reason behind it. Due to the two-year-long battle that Frank's son, Frank Williams Jr, faced against a cardiac condition called Aorta Inefficiency, the coach's savings had depleted heavily by 2017. However, on July 13, 2017, Frank Jr was able to undergo a heart transplant surgery in Atlanta, Georgia. The added expense of interstate travel in order to take care of him also drained the family financially. Gwendolyn Williams, Frank's wife, even started a GoFundMe to help with the same, and, as of writing, they have been able to collect \$9,360. Reverend Robin Hood is Seeking Justice for Grandson's Death We are saddened to inform you about the tragedy that took place in the life of Reverend Robin Hood recently. On July 21, 2023, his 16-year-old grandson Ra-Shaun Hood was shot near 81st Street and Racine Avenue in Auburn Gresham, Chicago. The incident in question took place around 10 PM, and Ra-Shaun was taken to Comer Children's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Given Reverend Robin Hood's own efforts toward decreasing violence in the community, the incident has undoubtedly shaken him. "If we don't get our hands on these kids and get these guns out of the hands of people that shouldn't have guns, we're going to continue this vicious cycle," Reverend Robin Hood said. "Whoever killed my grandson, the family deserves justice. My grandson deserves justice." Apart from being a man of faith, he is the Founder of Mothers Opposed to Violence Everywhere. It has been announced that \$10,000 will be made available to the person who helps the investigators with crucial information about the incident. The impressive amount of money is a joint effort by the Leaders Network and St. Sabina's Fr. Michael Pfleger. Read More: Best Teen TV Shows Rate video Ø Rating: 4.75 Category ChildrenEducation & Learning On Chicago's West Side, there is a school for the city's most at-risk youth — the Moses Montefiore Academy. Most of the students at Montefiore have been kicked out of other schools for aggressive behavior, and many have been diagnosed with emotional disorders. Last Chance High takes viewers inside Montefiore's classrooms and into the homes of students who are one mistake away from being locked up or committed to a mental hospital. In the first episode of the eight-part original VICE News series we are introduced to two 14-year-old Montefiore students, Cortez and Crystal, who were sent to the school after violently attacking teachers. Cortez's mother blames the boy's father, who is serving a life sentence for murder. Crystal has stabbed her classmates and been caught shoplifting since arriving to Montefiore — which has left her mother on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Though the task can be overwhelming, the Montefiore staff never gives up trying to reach the city's most difficult and volatile student population. In the second episode of "Last Chance High" we are introduced to the young Montreal "Spanky" Almond who fights a daily battle with a crippling speech impediment along with his fellow students' derision, mockery and bullying at the Moses Montefiore Academy in Chicago. Share: X Facebook ShareCopied to clipboard On Chicago's West Side, there is a school for the city's most at-risk youth—the Moses Montefiore Academy. Most of Montefiore's students have been kicked out of other schools for aggressive behavior, and many have been diagnosed with emotional disorders. VICE News takes viewers inside Montefiore's classrooms and into the homes of students who are one mistake away from being locked up or committed to a mental hospital. In the first part of the eight-part documentary, we meet two 14-year-old Montefiore students, Cortez and Crystal, who were sent to the school after violently attacking teachers. Cortez's mother blames the boy's father, who is serving a life sentence for murder. Crystal has stabbed her classmates and has been caught shoplifting since she arrived at Montefiore, which has left her mother on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Though the task can be overwhelming, the Montefiore staff never stops trying to reach the city's most difficult and volatile student population. By signing up, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy & to receive electronic communications from VICE Media Group, which may include marketing promotions, advertisements and sponsored content. Screenshot: VERMILION .Studio Screenshot: Shaun Cichacki Screenshot: JSS Games Image by Veronica Booth Screenshot: Shaun Cichacki Photo: Shamal Deare By signing up, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy & to receive electronic communications from VICE Media Group, which may include marketing promotions, advertisements and sponsored content. Screenshot: Fire Totem Games Screenshot: Epic Games "Miss Freedom" atop the Georgia State Capitol Building. (Photo By Raymond Boyd/Getty Images) Public school in Chicago, Illinois, United StatesMoses Montefiore AcademyAddress1310 South Ashland AvenueChicago, Illinois 60608United StatesCoordinates41°51'53"N 87°40'00"W / 41.8647°N 87.6668°W / 41.8647; -87.6668InformationSchool typePublicFounded1929ClosedJune 2016School districtChicago Public SchoolsGrades5-12GenderCoedCampus typeUrbanMascotMavericks Moses Montefiore Academy (also known as Moses School or simply Montefiore) was a special school of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Established in 1929,[1][2] The school was located Near West Side of Chicago, Illinois and served students with severe emotional disorders.[3] The school closed in 2016, with the building being torn down in 2024. In 2010, the school had 62 students in grades 5-8. Prior to 2010 there had been a decline in enrollment and Micah Maidenberg of the Chicago Journal wrote that "Staff and administrators at Montefiore had feared closure".[3] In 2010 CPS announced plans to add a high school division to Montefiore with a plan to make it a 6-12 school; at the time the district administration was recommending Bartholome De Las Casas Occupational School, which had 82 students, for closure. Ron Huberman, the CEO of CPS, stated that the Montefiore facility is superior to the De Las Casas facility for special education.[3] Vice made a documentary series on the school, titled "Last Chance High".[4] As of April 2015, most Montefiore students had been expelled from other schools due to violent behavior.[5] As of August 2015, the Chicago Public Schools eliminated all students and most staff from the school (except an assistant principal and a clerk) but claimed that the school was not closed.[7] According to "Last Chance High" the parents were told the school was closed while the teachers were told they were getting more students in 2016. This was done so that no parents would know to show up for the "public hearings" to decide if the school should be shut down. Since no parents were told about public hearings or that the school was technically still open, they were forced to either put their children back into public schools where they were expelled from previously or pay for private therapeutic schools. The Chicago public school district stated that letters were sent to the parents regarding when hearings would be held but no parents ever received these letters. The school closed in 2016 and had been bought by another private school known as the Urban Prairie Waldorf School that opened in 2018 before it too shut down in June of 2024.[8][9][10] Teachers and administrators in the Chicago Public Schools often used the threat of "being sent to Montefiore" as an effective disciplinary tool. As of September 2024, the Montefiore Academy's building has been torn down, set to be replaced by new residential development.[11] On September 22, 1988, 40-year-old Clemmie Henderson shot and killed officer Irma Ruiz and wounded her partner Gregory Jaglowski in the school. Also killed at the school was Arthur Baker, a custodial worker for the school, who was unloading trash when the gunfire erupted. Earlier, Henderson killed two people at Comet Auto Parts before arriving at Moses Montefiore. The shooting spree left five dead, including Henderson, who was shot dead by Jaglowski and two others wounded. [12] ^ Chicago Tribune, MONTEFIORE PRINCIPAL A SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS, Karen M. Thomas, Education writer, February 28, 1990. Retrieved December 11, 2019. ^ 1982, A Study of Social Adjustment Education in Chicago, 1929-1981, Mary Ann Pollett, Loyola University Chicago ^ a b c Maidenberg, Micah. "High school at Montefiore Archived 2014-04-19 at the Wayback Machine." Chicago Journal. 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"Demolition is underway of school buildings at 1310 South Ashland Avenue". Chicago YIMBY. Retrieved January 2, 2025. ^ William Recktenwald and Rudolph Unger (September 23, 1988). "GUNMAN SLAIN AFTER KILLING 4 ON WEST SIDE". Retrieved August 12, 2019. Moses Montefiore Academy "Last Chance High." Vice. Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Retrieved from "The latest episode of Last Chance High, the series that documents the experiences of youth in Chicago, airs Tuesdays on VICELAND. A little after 5 p.m. on September 5th, 14-year-old Melvin James Jr. was shot in the leg and abdomen a few blocks from his home in South Chicago. He was taken to a nearby children's hospital, where he died at 2 a.m. on September 6th. Melvin was a former student of the now-shuttered Moses Montefiore Academy, a school for high-risk youth on Chicago's West Side. According to the Chicago Sun-Times' Homicide Watch, police said the shooting was gang-related. Melvin's family said he had never been in any gang, and that local gang members had been harassing him. Murders like this — where the victim is a young black man in a violent neighborhood — barely make the news, so it becomes easier to blur them as faceless statistics. But if you've watched Last Chance High, then you will not find Melvin faceless. You can see him in Episode 5, with Coach Williams holding his shoulder and telling him he'd lead the basketball team next year. Coach Williams was — and remains — among the most beloved figures to come out of Montefiore. When he was laid off, and when the school closed, he became a mentor without any kids. And without Montefiore as a haven, the kids he was able to stay in touch with were scattered and without protection. By Williams' count, Melvin was the eighth Montefiore alum killed in the two years since the school closed. VICE Impact previously spoke to Williams over the summer, when he first began trying to crowdfund his son's heart surgery. Yesterday we spoke again, to help him make his voice heard as he remembered Melvin, and the importance of places like Montefiore for so many kids like him. Check out more videos from VICE. VICE Impact: You met Melvin when he was 11 or 12 — did he start off playing basketball for you? Williams: He was my third baseman. He could throw the ball from third to first like it was nothing. He wanted to play basketball, but that's where he had his problems. But when we took him to softball, the way he play third, he could throw a ball from third to first like, 'Oh my god, baby baby.' Couldn't nothing get past him on third. If we was playing basketball and he was mad because he didn't do something he was supposed to do, I just told him, I said, "Dude, you mine, next year you my number one." He was quiet. He loved to eat, though, he loved sweets. He'd smile when he got on the bus because teachers would give him some candy or something sweet. He was one of my stars, that's all I know. Somebody, they called me and said, "Your boy's gone." I said what y'all talking about? The security guards called me and said it was Melvin, and when I saw who it was, I lost it. I tried to find out when the funeral was but I couldn't find out. I don't know. I just know somebody called me and told me he was killed. I'm trying to find out. All I know is my boy gone. Another one of my people, another one of my kids ... that was another year we could have kept them in there, we could have kept them safe. And Montefiore closing unexpectedly left them exposed and on their own? If I'd had him another year, I mean we were planning on a next year, but there wasn't no next year. When I was holding him I'd say, "Man, next year you gonna be better, you gonna be better." But we didn't have the next year. We didn't know it was gonna close. Every time we don't have our kids with us, something happens. And we told them, they need to stay with us, they need to stay close to us, but I mean, every time. When they not protected they do stuff, or stuff happens — when we were in Montefiore we could protect them. I can't take much more of this, tell you I can't take much more. I don't know what to do now I can't help no kids, ain't got no kids to help. I don't know what to do no more, I don't know, I don't know. Now I just help my son, trying to keep my son. He's doing better, with the heart transplant. Medicine costs two arms and two legs, and he has to go back to the hospital and do something just about every other week. READ MORE: These Stats Show the Shocking Reality of Violent Crime in Chicago Another one, another one another one of my kids going down, I can't take much more. Those my boys and my girls, too. It don't make no sense, every time you put them back in them damn regular schools, they can't take 'em. All them kids are smart. They are smart. But if you don't give them attention they will act up- and they don't mean it, they just gotta do something. People scared of them. How you gonna be scared of something you don't know nothing about? Gotta stop and listen to them. If you do, they will tell you everything. And then you just have to hold it, you have to hold it now. And that's what I did, hold stuff for my boys, just hold all the stuff they keep telling me. Check out how you can help organizations like the North Lawndale Boxing League above help kids like in Last Chance High. You can still donate to Coach's GoFundMe page too.