YOUNG AFRICAN
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE | GIRLS
Educated Girls, Educated World
The **Young African American Leadership Initiative (YAALI) Girls** program at Howard University aligns with **First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let Girls Learn Initiative** to foster an enabling environment for adolescent girls’ education; and engage and equip girls to make life decisions and important contributions to society.

Our mission is to similarly allow young Africana (African American, Caribbean, and Latin American) girls to obtain the skills, research and service learning experiences they need to be global citizens. Through learning, researching, and exploring African communities, girls will gain an educational and enlightening experience.

By partnering with Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, YAALI Girls will continue Howard University’s mission to produce global-minded citizens who can use their talents to search for knowledge and service the global community.

The focus of the YAALI Girls program at MS² is to empower young girls by informing them of the historical, political, cultural, and economic challenges countries in Africa face in educating young girls.

YAALI Girls participants will engage in weekly virtual sessions focused on goal setting, leadership, activism, and empowerment. As girls complete each session, they will earn jewels to complete their crown which will mark completion of the YAALI Girls program. In addition to earning their crown, girls will also have curated a portfolio by the end of the program to showcase the materials and skills they have learned.
Find Your Way Back
Girl will begin to learn cultural context of an African country through a common text. By week three, all participants will have received their book so we can begin paced reading throughout the academic year. Text options include: House at Sugar Beach (Liberia), Children of Blood and Bone (Nigeria), and Copper Sun (Ghana)

Power of the Girl Across Continents
Girls will engage in a virtual volunteer experience linking fellows to advocacy and intervention work that aims to create conditions for the elimination of gender disparities and to promote girls’ education and development.

Brown Skin Girl
Girls will have a discussion on colorism and the personal connections they have with the issue. This discussion will continue into the following session’s focus on Black hair and the portrayal of beauty in the media.

Hair Love
Girls will watch the Academy Award Winning Animated short “Hair Love” by Matthew Cherry. Following the screening, girls will interact in an intergenerational conversation on hair and beauty in addition to being introduced to the Crown Act.

Finding Your Voice
Building off of “Hair Love”, Girls will learn more about the Crown Act and how they can make a difference through political action. Girls will be encouraged to find their voice in whatever social justice issue that moves them.

Leaders of Today and Tomorrow
This session will serve as a personal branding workshop. Girls will be introduced to a number of influential black women on all levels that continue to make a difference. After reflecting on characteristics these women have, girls will discuss the type of leaders and role models they will strive for.

YAALI UN
Similar to Model United Nations, Girls will participate in a modified conference focused on African countries and issues. Girls will be responsible for research their assigned country, and taking a stance on the proposed issue. In addition to building on inquiry and research skills, girls will also have the opportunity to practice public speaking when presenting their position.