

KIPP Ascend Charter School

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Climb the mountain.

Summertime at KIPP Ascend

The long awaited time is here! KIPP Ascend Charter School opened its doors on July 14th to over eighty students. Jim O'Connor, Principal, began the day by welcoming KIPP students (KIPPsters) and introducing them to their teachers. He talked about the philosophy of KIPP, including our mottos, "Team always beats individuals," and "There are no shortcuts." Students learned that they must work hard to earn privileges, including their classrooms.

"Summer Academy was a great opportunity for our students to learn the culture of our school and for our staff to establish and refine our systems and policies for the regular school year," stated Mr. O'Connor.

KIPPsters also spent these three weeks learning their multiplication tables and the parts of a sentence through songs and chants. The students were introduced to mountain formation and mountain climbing. Since we will be talking about climbing the mountain to college every day, we want our students to understand the basics of mountaineering.

Our Summer Academy took place inside Noble Street Charter High School's

facilities. We used four classrooms, dining facilities, and a theater. We are grateful to Noble Street for providing us with a space for the summer. In September, we will move into our space for the year inside the Ronald E. McNair Academic Center, located at 4820 W. Walton St. in the Austin community.

The students, teachers, and the Principal were excited about the summer program. "It has been a joy meeting our children and seeing what they are capable of doing in just three weeks. I am so proud of them, and I now have ninety new children of my own," says the Office Manager, Katherine Richardson.

We celebrated the completion of our Summer Academy with festivities this past Saturday, August 2nd, from 1:00pm-3:00pm in Austin's Columbus Park.

In attendance were Ike Carruthers, our Alderman; Jim Quaid, our Auditor, and 150 students and parents. There were lots of food, fun, and entertainment all around.

Our students worked hard to earn their KIPP uniform t-shirt during Summer Academy. Those student that earned uniforms shirts by demonstrating KIPP values received their shirts on Saturday.

Glad you were here

We welcomed Jamaal Bell to our staff for Summer Academy. He served as an intern as part of his degree program. Jamaal is currently working towards his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.

The Ball is in our court

Harriet Ball, an award winning teacher trainer, visited our school on July 21st and 22nd. She taught our students and teachers her fun yet educational chants. These included, "You gotta read, baby, read" and "This is the room that has the kids that want to learn to read more books and do more math to build a better tomorrow."

Parents dedicate their time to KIPP

Part of parent involvement at KIPP Ascend Charter School is committing at least four hours of service to the school during the year. Two parents are leading the way: Linda Bobo and Pamela Coleman. Ms. Bobo helped Ms. Richardson organize office duties on the first day of classes. Ms. Coleman graciously volunteered her time, her barbecue, and her tables for our Celebration this past Saturday. KIPP has been fortunate to already have parents donating their time and effort. Thanks to all of our KIPP parents!

In the news...



KIPP Ascend Charter School will be featured in the September issue of the *Chicago Magazine*. Look for us the "Frontlines" section!

Student Achievement

The mascot of our school is the Mountain Lion. Each morning, a KIPP teacher gives the "Pride of the Den Award" to a student that has exemplified one of the KIPP values.

Winners of the award for **Respect** include:

D'erick Washington
Kymyatta Ivy
Michael Blair
John Richmond
Cheyanne Flowers



Winners of the award for **Teamwork** include:

Crystal Lewis
Anthony Tousant
Harold Williams
Nicole Hooker
Paris Clark

How can you help?

- Donate office furniture. We are looking for file cabinets, cubicles, and bookshelves.
- Help us find a Director of Development. We are looking for a self-starter with three to five years experience in development.
- Contact Jim O'Connor at 773-294-5301 to help.

Thank you to our supporters:

- Gloria Archbold, Principal of McNair Academy, and the McNair Local School Council for providing our school with a home for the coming academic year.
- Mary Hicks and the rest of her book club for volunteering to plan a fundraiser to build the KIPP Ascend School Library.
- Jose Alatorre for arranging our FREE summer food service.
- Phutthapen Seng for donating her time to create and update our web site.