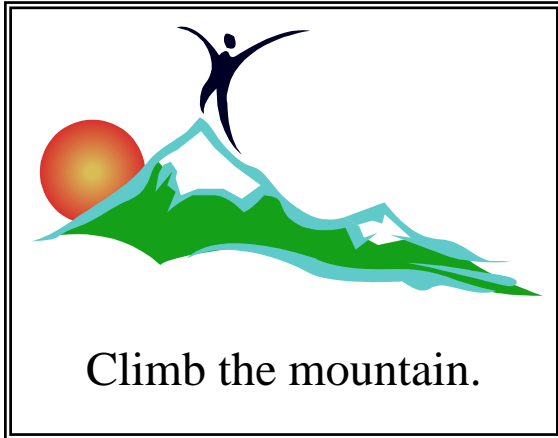


KIPP Ascend Charter School

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Our New Home

Thanks to our supporters in the Austin community, KIPP Ascend Charter School opened its doors in August on the 3rd Floor of the Ronald McNair Academic Center. The building houses the McNair School, a Pre-K to 6th grade Chicago Public School, and KIPP Ascend.

The Principal of McNair, Dr. Gloria Archbold, graciously offered classroom space to our school for the next year, as her school grows to eventually serve Pre-K to 8th graders over the next two years.

The building is located in Austin at 4820 W. Walton St., near the intersection of Cicero Ave. and Augusta Blvd. on Chicago's West side.

Our regular school year began on September 2, 2003.

Please come by and visit us at our new location anytime between 7:30 AM and 5 PM! We would love to give you a tour and show you how much we are learning.

Checking-In With KIPP

Our students went to school for three weeks in July and for two days in mid-August. The August "Check-In Days" gave our teachers a chance to review what they had taught earlier in the summer. Our students also had a chance to turn in their homework packets and get some help from their teachers.

Our students are learning about our "no shortcuts" approach. As one of our students, Carmella Pride, says, "We have got to work hard to get ready for college."

During the summer, our students focused on learning a few things well including: our school rules, multiplication tables, the parts of a sentence, and cursive handwriting.

In the news...



KIPP Ascend Charter School was featured in the September issue of the *Chicago Magazine* that is on sale at newsstands now. Look for us the "Frontlines" section!

The writer, Cassie Walker, spent two days at our staff development and came to our parent orientation before writing a very informative essay about the school.

Our school was also included in the August issue of the *Charter School Chalkboard*. The *Chalkboard* covers the news and views from the Illinois Charter School Community. The article explained parent involvement at KIPP Ascend.

Our school will be featured on ABC Channel 7 News at 5:00 PM this Thursday, Sept. 11. Ms. Hill, our writing teacher, and Ms. Alexander, one of our parents, were both interviewed by Harry Porterfield for the piece.

Our Board Members

The KIPP Ascend Board of Directors is made up of six members of the Chicago-area community. Each of them brings valuable expertise to our school. Our Board members are:

- **Mashea Ashton:** Midwest Trailblazer, KIPP Foundation
- **Bob Bregenzer:** Principal, Inverness Communications
- **Darryl Cobb:** Director of Operations, KIPP Foundation
- **Mary A. Hicks:** Program Director, Rochelle Lee Fund
- **Damian Jones:** Vice Principal, Francis Parker School
- **Thaddeus Wilson:** Attorney at Law, Brookins and Wilson

Thank you to our Board members for volunteering your time to govern our school.

Check Us Out On-line

The KIPP Ascend Charter School website is up and running. Go to www.kippascend.org to check us out. Visitors to the website can read recent press, look at newsletters from the past, see our school calendar, and learn about job opportunities.

Our website was created by Phutthapen Seng, a student at Columbia College. Students in Columbia's web design class this spring each built a

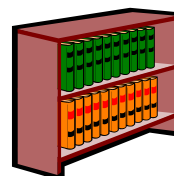
website for our school, and Phutthapen's website was chosen as the best.

Parents and students can monitor their progress using our new student information system called PowerSchool. By following a link off of our website and entering a unique password, parents and students can check on the student's grades on individual assignments and determine any school fees that they owe.

We are excited to work closely with our families to increase student achievement and to monitor student performance via PowerSchool.

How can you help?

- Help us find a Director of Development. We are looking for a self-starter with three to five years experience in development.
- We are also looking for books for our library. Class sets of thirty or sets of five of the following novels would be a great help to our program:
 - *Holes; Because of Winn-Dixie; Dear Mr. Henshaw; The Giver*
- Contact Jim O'Connor at 773-294-5301 to help.



Thank you to our supporters

- Minooka Grade School, Minooka Intermediate School, and Marie O'Brien for donating paperbacks to our school.
- Damian Jones for organizing a donation of books from the Latin School.
- Rebecca Deaton, a Vice President at Brownson, Rehmus, & Foxworth, for donating her financial planning services to our teachers.