

Back-To-School Edition

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

T.E.A. Recognized School 2008 and 2009

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...Breaking with Tradition...

Blending School and Work

Welcome back everyone! We are happy and inspired to see each of you! We have an exciting school year planned for you. Celebrating another year of academic success, T.E.A. Recognized 2009, we continue our move towards excellence.

This year, Young Scholars is “Breaking With Tradition... challenging traditional learning environments, traditional systems of accountability and perceptions of security.”

Our new project, “**SCHOOLWORKS FOR ALL**,” blends the traditional school year, school day and real life work experiences—training and employing approximately 180 students (preschool through eighth grades) this school year. All youth will build academic,

social responsibility skills, receive job development training and work experience in various fields of employment.

Over the next two weeks of school, you and your child’s school experience will involve participating in **SCHOOLWORKS**—developmentally appropriate projects involving orientation, student job fairs, resume development, networking, student interviews, application-contract processing and student evaluations. Other developmental facets of the project, including employment cycle, board membership, business partners will be shared and implemented as we move through **SCHOOLWORKS**.

Global opportunities and challenges require impeccable, state-of-

the-art, cutting-edge skills—not only in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, but also in the areas of Communication, Interpersonal, Decision-Making and Life Skills.

Get ready for an education transformation!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG & SEP

August 2009

Mon 24—First Day of School and **SCHOOLWORKS** begins

September 2009

Mon 7—Labor Day Holiday (Young Scholars closed)

Tue 8—Students Return

Sat 12—Open House

Fri 25—Choir Audition

More activities will be added to the calendar for the month of September...See September

SCHOOLWORKS Optimal Learning Environment Plan

What will it take to accomplish tomorrow's global opportunities and challenges? Optimal Learning Environments for every student!

What are optimal learning environments? Environments which are Safe, Healthy and Nurturing for families and staff.

What is **SCHOOLWORKS Optimal Learning Environment Plan**? A comprehensive social management plan aimed at increasing academic and social productivity.

The primary **goal** of this plan is to achieve excellence by increasing social responsibility.

SCHOOLWORKS promotes positive guidance and dis-

cipline, establishing expectations for students, staff and parents.

The **objective** of this plan is to ensure: fairness and consistency when carrying out our roles and responsibilities—whether student, parent or staff. The plan incorporates: Rules, Evaluation and Reporting Process, Rewards, Consequences and Mentoring.

SCHOOLWORKS 10 Universal Rules are:

1. *Listen Attentively!*
2. *Respect Self, Others, and their Belongings!*
3. *Safety Above All Else!*
4. *Responsible Preparation!*
5. *Cooperation Accomplishes Much!*

6. *Courteous Please, Thank You!*
7. *Honesty Shows Integrity!*
8. *Order A Must!*
9. *Compassionate Means Walking in My Shoes!*
10. *Healthy Living!*



Preparing for tomorrow's global opportunities and challenges...

Communications Between Home and School

Here at Young Scholars, we are known for a family-centered approach to meeting the needs of our families.

As we move towards excellence in student achievement, so to are moving towards excellence in communication between home and school. As always, Parent

Communication Forms are available anytime to convey concerns, suggestions, commendations or inquiries.

Connect-Ed will be used to communicate school notices. Emailing, text messaging, school website and/or communication folders are also modes of com-

munication that will be used to support communication between home and school.

Whatever the mode, please know we are here.

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Before and After School Options Available

Young Scholars Child Development Center, separate from the charter school, offers before and after school care for students that need to be dropped off before 7:30 and/or picked up after 3:00 p.m. Before and After School care is "strictly" underwritten by parent fees. Parent fees underwrite **child care staff** salaries, activities...

If your child is not enrolled in our before or after school care and requires an early drop off or a late pick-up, a child care supervision fee will be assessed and is expected at the time of drop off or pick-up.

Parents who desire Before or Afterschool care may secure a copy of our schedule and fees. You will find our fees nominal. Students enrolled in our after-

school program shall be provided opportunities to participate in academic enrichment, receive homework assistance, participate in social networking and much, much more.

For more information about Before and After School Care Options, please see one of the secretaries.

School Hours Visitation Policy

In order to provide optimal learning environments for all youth, Young Scholars School Hours Visitation Policy prohibits classroom visitation after 8:00 a.m. and before 3:00 p.m., except scheduled volunteer opportunities, our open-

door policy extended to infant parents and our flexible child development schedule for parents of toddlers. When teachers are distracted from providing optimal supervision for "all" youth in their care, it creates an unsafe learning

environment for youth and staff. It also contributes to distractions during the transition period. Please be mindful of Universal Rules # 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9! Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!

Two New Positions...Charter School Assistant Principal and I.T. Coordinator

Congratulations are in order for Rachel Riles, who now serves as Charter School Assistant Principal. Many of you know that Rachel is Texas Certified and holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction; she has served us well as Classroom Teacher and Dean of Instruction. Rachel

has been very busy over the summer attending training and planning project-based activities. Again, congratulations!

Welcome aboard our new Information Technology Coordinator, Angela Amira-Moody. Angela has been

very busy restructuring our website. She comes to us with extensive experience in programming, application development...she holds an undergraduate degree in biology and Master's Degree in Comparative Anatomical Studies..Happy to have you aboard!!!

Young Scholars Faculty

ADMINISTRATION

Anella Coleman, Principal
La Tasha McGlory, Administrative Assistant
Rachel Riles, A.P.—Charter
Greta Ramsey, P—Business Manager
Angela Amira-Moody, IT Coordinator
Ruby Spiller, Counselor
 Brittney Wheaton, Account Clerk
Cynthia Kelly, Receptionist
Tiphany Burrell, Community Relations (Parent Representative)
Ina Ballard, Youth Empowerment (Parent Representative)

DEPARTMENTS

Pre-School—Kindergarten

Jewel White, Reading/ELA
Donna Seabrooks, Environ-

ment (Science/S.S.)

April Metoyer, Math

1st-2nd Grades

Ashley Bailey, Science/Math

Rachel Riles, Reading/ELA/Social Studies

Joaquina Spiller-Cummings, Para-professional

3rd—8th Grades

Taneisha Riles, Math

Markeita Williams, Science

Christina Cooper, (4-8)
 ELA./S.S.

Anella Coleman, Reading

Tayhlor Coleman, Paraprofessional

Fine Arts

Roderick Davenport

Student Relations and Assistance

La Tasha McGlory, Administrative Assistant

Ruby Spiller, Counselor

Shirley Huey

Early Care and More...

Ruby Spiller

Linda Golden

Sylverta Hill

Olivia Minger

Belinda Smith

Tamera White

Parents of Young Scholars



Friendly Policy Reminders

The following are friendly reminders:

1. Secure a Copy of Family Handbook on the web—www.ysafe.org
2. 2009-2010 Financial Policy is available
3. Review the Parking Policy as it will strictly be enforced.
4. Appropriate attire and conduct are ALWAYS expected when visiting Young Scholars—anything else is strictly prohibited.
5. Car illegally parked will be towed at owner's expense—no exceptions!
6. Students are expected to be at school and on time. When tardy, secure tardy slip before proceeding to class.
7. School Uniforms a must!!!

SCHOOLWORKS Business Partners—Our Parents

One of the most important aspects of **SCHOOLWORKS** is membership. Each student becomes a member upon completion and submission of their employment application and contract. Each parent becomes a **SCHOOLWORKS** Business Partner. Business partners support the project solely through volunteer opportunities..

There are five (5) Levels of Participation:

1. Bronze Level—8 hours or \$60+ Donation per year
2. Silver Level—16 hours or \$80+ Donation per year
3. Gold Level—24 hours per year or \$180+
4. Platinum Level—40 hours per year or \$500+
5. Diamond Level—\$1000+ per year

Investments made in **SCHOOLWORKS** become working capital for members (Student Council Board and the student members) of **SCHOOLWORKS** —our next newsletter will list parents that have already acquired various Participation Levels, including Diamond Status!!!

Stay tuned for more exciting news about Business Partners investment opportunities!

Transition-to-Preschool I and II...Toddler Time

All Aboard as we set sail for Toddler Land...

What happens in Toddler Land? Language and Intellectual Development, Social and Emotional Development and Physical De-

velopment.

Your child's lesson plan should be posted weekly with activities planned for each developmental area listed. You should receive a daily Scholartale provid-

ing you with information on your child's day, including how your child responded to planned activities. Progress reports are available as well.

Please let me hear from you if there are concerns.

Infant Corner

...And who says we can't take part in sensory activities...Yes, we can! This is where it begins...writing preparation, reading preparation, problem-solving, building trust... Please review your child's lesson plan as it will provide you with important information on areas of development.

You should receive daily Scholartales and periodical progress reports. Parents of our infant program are welcome to visit anytime.

Please let us hear from you if there are concerns.

