



December 2016

Scholar News

Community News

Network News



Seasons Greetings

Concept Schools wishes you Happy Holidays and much joy and success in the New Year!



SCHOLARS

Chicago Math & Science Academy Seniors Admitted to Top Universities



The Class of 2017 is beginning to commit to universities across the country. Two outstanding students from Chicago Math and Science Academy have just made their intentions public.

Amaka Nwaezeigwe (on left) has been selected for admission to Northwestern University. Jocelyn Perez (on right) has been admitted to the University of Chicago.

In addition to this honor, these ladies are matched with the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship program and have received admission with full, four-year scholarships worth over \$200,000 each. These scholarships covers tuition, fees, housing, books, and travel expenses.

"When I grow up..."

Charter Schools Art Contest Winner

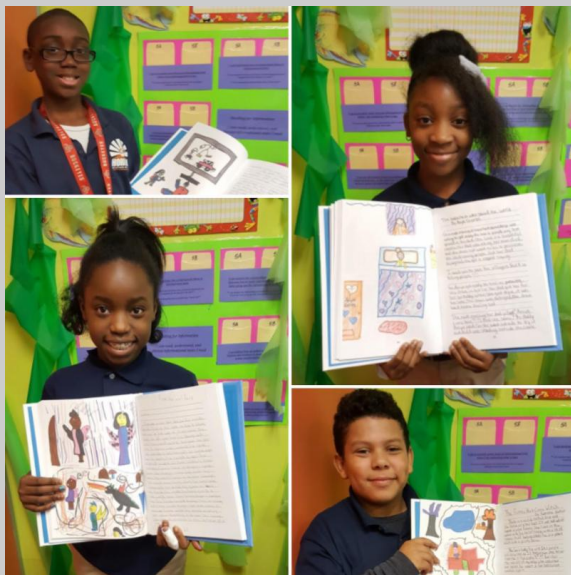
The National Charter Schools Institute recently announced its 2016 Midwest Charter Schools Art Contest Winners. Nearly 2,000 students from across the Midwest submitted their self-portraits of where they see themselves in the future.

Lilianna Vaughn, a 4th grader from Horizon Science Academy in Lorain, Ohio, earned 3rd place with her submission: *To Change the World*.

Congrats to Lilianna for demonstrating such creativity and uniqueness!



Scholastic Books Publishes Young Authors from Horizon Science Academy Springfield



Scholastic Books encourages students to find their voice, improve writing crafts, build writing portfolios, and publish final pieces. Scholastic offered a national publishing opportunity via it's website that generates a hardcover book for young writers, free of charge.

With direction from Michelle Thomas of Horizon Science Academy Springfield (5th Grade Teacher/English Department Head), students were given a fiction writing prompt, and asked to draft a short narrative following the writing process of brainstorming, drafting, revising, polishing, and publishing. Each student took the narrative in surprising, and engaging directions- -while integrating state standards such as including dialogue, and developing characters throughout the plot of a text.

COMMUNITY

Gateway Science Academy Smiley & Girl Scouts Partner to Install Buddy Bench

Gateway Science Academy Smiley and local Girl Scout Brownies Troop 233 partnered to install a Buddy Bench on the playground. With financial and material aide from the local Hilton Hotel, Vinnie's Restaurant, and Kaldis Coffee, this effort truly represents a community partnership.

The Buddy Bench is a place you can go when you are feeling sad, lonely, bullied, scared or you just need to cool off. When you sit on the Buddy Bench others see that you need a friend or someone to talk to. The Buddy Bench reminds all of us to be kind and always think of other people's feelings.



Click the image for a video dip produced by Troop 233

NETWORK

Horizon Science Academy Columbus High School
Recognized for Academic Achievement



Earlier this month, the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools presented Horizon Science Academy Columbus Principal Mr. Davut Piraz an award for academic achievement its 10th annual conference.

"I'm humbled and honored to receive this award," stated Mr. Piraz. "The HSA Columbus staff and I are very proud of the academic achievement and growth of our students."

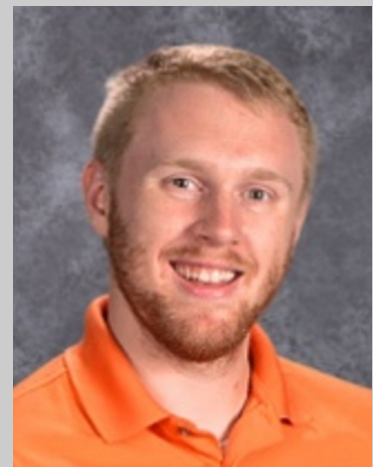
A promotional graphic for MathCON. It features a young girl in a red shirt with her arms crossed, standing in front of a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations and diagrams. The text on the graphic includes "5+ Register Math Brighter Future", "Registration is now open!", "Register online: mathcon.org", "MathCON ONLINE TEST January 16, 2017, until Friday March 3, 2017", and "MathCON FINALS April 22, 2017". There is also a logo for "MATHCON ONLINE MATH COMPETITION" at the bottom.

Click the image for more information about MathCON

Network Teacher of the Month

We are very proud to announce that the recipient of Concept Schools Teacher of the Month Award for November is Joshua Connell.

Mr. Connell is the Social Studies teacher at Minnesota Math and Science Academy (MMSA) which is K-8 school with 90% students with Somalian background. In addition to teaching Social Studies, he is also a middle school student advisor, Concept Young Scholars Program advisor, student council advisor, character education teacher, "Leader in Me" team leader and PBIS team member. Mr. Connell's remarkable and genuine care has been evident all along. We would like to share about one of the many times he has gone the extra mile to safeguard all his students' rights and well-being:



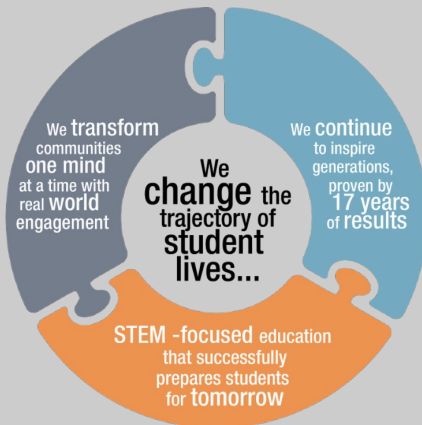
Mr. Connell had a day off after the Election Day to present at a conference on "engaging millennials in vocational reflection." Despite staying up late and being anxious about his presentation, he came to school very early in the morning and recorded a video in which he gave assuring messages to his students that they are loved and cared for and that they did not have to worry because MMSA is committed to being a safe place for all students. He included the video in his sub plans, so that students could view his message right at the time when they needed such

assurance.

MMSA and Concept Schools Network is proud to have such caring teachers like Mr. Connell.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Joshua Connell for serving as an inspiration to us all through his dedication, commitment, love and care.

CONCEPT SCHOOLS



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

Who are we?

We are a nonprofit charter school management company that manages or operates 30 public charter schools across the Midwest.

Our college-prep curriculum is STEM-based, and each school in the Concept Network regularly collaborates with its respective school district and charter authorizer or sponsor. Schools within the Concept Network are continuously recognized for their excellence in education.

[We change the trajectory of student lives...](#)

STAYCONNECTED

