Teach Syracuse Program Helps Groom Next Generation of Educators

At Lincoln Middle School one morning before school, a group of students is making vision boards to show what they want for their future. Their boards include words and images. Mindfulness. Brave. Be proud. Work hard. Don’t be negative. Listen. Help others.

“We’re thinking about what it takes to be a good teacher,” one of them explains.

At HW Smith after school, students in one classroom are quietly clicking away on laptops. They’re taking an online quiz to help them learn about different styles of teaching.

Both schools are in their first year of implementing Teach Syracuse clubs – with the goal of recruiting SCSD students to eventually become teachers. The idea? Help middle school students with an interest in teaching to develop the skills they will need to be successful as classroom leaders.

“I’ve been thinking about becoming a chemist, a lawyer or a history teacher,” HW Smith seventh grader Lisa Weah shared. “Because this Teach Syracuse group is available to me, I wanted to check it out. It’s helped me learn the process it takes to become a teacher and why my teachers decided to teach – I’m able to figure out if this could be the path for me.”

The Teach Syracuse program started in the SCSD during the 2016-17 school year with the launch of the Urban Teaching Preparation Program at Corcoran, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway of study. This year, as part of a partnership with the Syracuse University School of Education, the Teach Syracuse program expanded into Lincoln and HW Smith as a way to help capture students’ interest in the field of education at an even younger age.

At HW Smith, Teach Syracuse meetings have included discussions about what it means to be a teacher in an urban setting, including the pros and cons. Students have learned how to differentiate in a classroom to teach different types of learners and they have watched TED talks to help inspire them.

“It’s cool to see them developing an interest in teaching,” HW Smith Teach Syracuse Advisor Manny DeJesus said. “They’re coming in with questions and rather than giving them the answers, we’re talking about what resources they would need to find their own answers. Our goal is, as seventh graders, to expose these students to teaching as a career and then keep them coming back. The idea is that we can help them transition into a teaching program in high school and college so they have a head start and a better idea of what they want to do for their career.”

The Lincoln Teach Syracuse group said they hope to visit SCSD elementary schools to read with younger students to practice what they have been learning in the club. HW Smith students say they are eager to work with teachers in their school to help develop their own lesson plans that they could use to teach younger students.

Toward the end of the school year, all of our Teach Syracuse groups hope to take part in the Syracuse University ‘Educators Day’ in which they will visit the SU campus to meet with students and staff in the School of Education.
Dear Parents & Families,

Each May, we celebrate our dedicated teachers and the lifelong impact they have on our students during Teacher Appreciation Week. Please join me in thanking all of our committed educators for their passion and dedication to the children of the SCSD. It is a fitting time of year for us to feature our Teach Syracuse clubs at Lincoln and I.W. Smith, which give students who have an interest in becoming teachers one day a glimpse at the skills it takes to be a stellar educator. We hope these clubs will help develop some future SCSD staff who are already those SCSD graduates!

Thanks to community members who visit Dr. Weeks students and Syracuse University students who visit Westside Academy students, other SCSD schools are also encouraging students’ aspirations through mentoring. At Grant, students are learning to support each other through teambuilding, thanks to a grant funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation. Having the right supports to help encourage our students is so important and we are lucky to have so many programs that help lead our students to #SCSDSuccess.

In this newsletter, you will also learn about the ways students are becoming civic ready by giving back to the community, including the arts, science, math, engineering and more. It fills many of our students’ aspirations through mentoring. At Grant, students are learning to support each other through teambuilding, thanks to a grant funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation. Having the right supports to help encourage our students is so important and we are lucky to have so many programs that help lead our students to #SCSDSuccess.

SCSD Students Attend National NSBE Convention

Students from several SCSD schools attended the 2018 National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Many were recognized with honors, as our students won in six events! The middle school Math team: Morgan Burke (Grant), Kiamesha McMillian (Roberts), Chris O’Brien (Grant) and Cort Surosei (Grant) finished fourth, but Morgan Burke took the top award, Overall National Champion Highest Scoring Individual. The Vex Robotics team: Anita Khamtan (P-Tech), Breonna Bell (Nottingham), Rainah Barnes (Henninger) and Alia Moring (Nottingham) finished third!

SCSD Swimmers Receive Academic Honors

The SCSD boys and girls swim teams reached Scholar Team status, with 75% of the team achieving a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 90! The girls team received bronze-level recognition in the All-American Scholar team awards with a cumulative 3.687 out of 4.0 GPA, while the boys team received bronze-level recognition with a cumulative 3.464 out of 4.0 GPA. Members of both swim teams were also recognized individually as Academic All-Americans in Swimming. Congratulations to Tyonna Davis, Alex Dengel, Noah Endreny, Angel Mensah, Markell Miller (Henninger) and Jazmyn Williams (Nottingham) for their outstanding academic achievements.

SCSD Students’ Artwork on Display at Everson Museum

SCSD students from Henninger, Nottingham and Corcoran High School will have their artwork on display at the Everson Museum of Art’s Spring Exhibition, beginning on May 17th. Congratulations to Henninger student Dung Nguyen, Nottingham student Lily Gaffney and Corcoran student Nasadia Wilson! There were more than 500 submissions this year and just 32 students’ works were selected. What an honor!

SCSD Hosts 3rd Annual Student Voices Symposium

Middle and high school students from across the district came together for the third annual Student Voices Symposium at SUNY ESF. There, they took part in small group discussions – moderated by SCSD staff and community members – to share what matters most to them, what suggestions they have to improve their schools and our district and more. We appreciate our students’ willingness to share their thoughts and their commitment to improving our schools!

SCSD Academic All-Americans

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Seymour Student Recognized with CNY Young & Amazing Award

Seymour fourth grader Abdullah Alzakari was recognized with the Democracy, Burdie & Brown Award for Academics in Math at the 2018 CNY Young & Amazing Awards. The awards recognize standout youth in nine different categories, and along with the recognition, Abdullah received a $500 college scholarship.

Le Moyne Elementary Nurse Receives STAR Nurse Award

Le Moyne Elementary Nurse Anita Rowe was recognized with the School Nurse STAR Award by the New York State Association of School Nurses. She was honored for her ongoing dedication, caring and commitment to students and the profession of school nursing.

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IMPORTANT DATES

May 2018

15 First Day of Ramadan
16 BOE Quarterly Finance Work Session
17 Special Education Community Advisory Council Meeting
19 All City Visual Art Festival, 10 AM, Meachem
21 BOE Work Session
23 NYS Science Performance Testing Begins, Grades 4 & 8 (through June 1)
24 BOE Work Session
24 Elementary & Middle School Interim Report Card Distribution
25 BOE Audit Committee Meeting
28 Memorial Day (No School)

June 2018

2 SAT & Subject Tests
2 CNY Rocket Team Challenge
3 NYS Science Written Test, Grades 4 & 8
5 Regents Exams
9 ACT Test
12-22 Regents Exams
13 Tentative BOE Meeting
14 Adult Graduation
15 Eid-al-Fitr
21 Last Day of School (Full Day)
22 Superintendent’s Conference Day (No School)
22 Elementary, Middle & High School Report Card Distribution
23 Henninger, ITC & Corcoran Graduations
24 PSLA and Nottingham Graduations

Congratulations to Ed Smith students Cecelia Kaftan (1st), Pravat Ingy Agnihotri (3rd) and Madeline Nye-DuCam (7th). Huntington student Isabella Gowing (4th), McKinley-Brident student Premise Richards-Jones (5th) and Roberts student Fatima AlMaliki (6th)!
As part of a grant written by Grant English as a New Language (ENL) teacher Tiffany Duquette and funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation, this activity is intended to help students develop collaborative, problem-solving and language skills.

“We’re learning how to solve problems without fighting,” Omar Rashid said. “It’s helped me a lot by showing me what to do if someone is mean to me. I used to fight, but now I know to tell a teacher.”

Students work to identify the problem in each scenario, talk through the best way to respond and come up with possible solutions. The general message: be kind, respect yourself and each other, and use your words to solve a problem in a positive way.

After working through scenarios, students head to the gym where they put their new skills into practice with fun, life-sized games such as Jenga, Dominoes, Checkers and Connect Four.

“I like the games because when I lose, now I tell someone ‘good game’ instead of getting mad,” Omar added.

“In the future, Ms. Duquette said she hopes to expand the project to other grades. Thank you to the SCSD Educational Foundation,” Tiffany Duquette said.

#SCSDGivesBack

**Bilingual Story Time Helps Franklin Students Build Biliteracy**

Students in mixed language classrooms at Franklin have had a special experience this year: bilingual story time.

Thanks to a grant project funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation, kindergarten and second through fifth grade students have had the chance to listen to books being read to them in Nepali, Karen and Spanish. “Students’ reactions have been really positive,” teacher Emily Voegler said. “The students seem shocked to hear someone reading in their home language, and then they get really excited and ask a lot of questions. It benefits multilingual and monolingual students alike, as the students are all exposed to new languages, cultures and literary styles.”

**Meachem Hosts Special Visitors for Community Musicians Day**

Meachem Elementary School discovered a creative way to help students develop a love for #SCSDArts: the school recently welcomed community members to classrooms to play their instruments for students and talk about their love for music. Guests included Christie Cacino and Meteorologist Kate Thornton from NewsChannel 9, students from Syracuse University, NYSSMA leaders, Onondaga Community College staff, Clary Middle School staff and many others.

#SCSDGivesBack

**Ed Smith Kindergartners Lead ‘Pennies for Patients’ Collection**

Kindergartners at Ed Smith learned about being good citizens and helping others by hosting a ‘Pennies for Patients’ fundraiser, raising more than $655 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. “We did this for sick kids,” Scarlet Garcia explained. “It makes me feel happy, because when people feel sick, sometimes they feel sad. But by getting pennies for them, we can make them happy!”

As a culminating activity, the classes worked together to put together a care package and cards for members of the military serving overseas. Great work, Franklin scholars!

**Webster Students Host Collection for Vera House**

Ms. Magnarelli’s third grade class organized a Webster Elementary School and community wide drive to benefit the Vera House’s White Ribbon Campaign. Third grade students collected items such as shampoo, toothbrushes and soap and made a $180 donation to the Vera House.

**Franklin Students Team Up for Random Acts of Kindness**

Franklin fifth graders in Ms. Hobbs’ class and first graders in Ms. Licari’s class worked together to achieve 100 Acts of Kindness in a month! “I’ve stuck up for people, picked up after people and helped people,” first grader Sofia Holmes said of some of her personal acts of kindness.

About high school and college and their jobs and how they got there. It’s helping us figure out what we want to do in the future and how to prepare. Really, it’s helping us to become mature adults!”

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**Syracuse Latin Students Raise Money for American Heart Association**

Students at Syracuse Latin raised more than $4,000 for the American Heart Association through their annual ‘Jump for the Heart’ fundraiser. Great work, scholars!

**Clary Students Attend College Lectures, Tour SU Middle School!**

Students recently enjoyed a trip to Syracuse University, where they were able to tour the campus and even sit in on college lectures! Students from Syracuse University’s Making Expression and Scholarship Heard (MES) program led Clary scholars through several buildings on campus during a guided tour filled with stops that allowed for students to sit in collegiate lecture halls and share their goals and aspirations for college and career.

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Lincoln Middle School Receives Project Lead The Way Grant

Lincoln has been awarded a Project Lead The Way grant, made possible by Verizon, to implement a new course next school year and beyond: App Creators. The App Creators course will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems. The goal: to learn about budgeting, credit, negotiating with people who don’t have their best interest at hand and ultimately, how to make wise financial decisions.

Frazer Students Create Art in Remembrance of Dr. King

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, seventh and eighth grade students in Ms. Dougher’s class at Frazer were invited to Walmart to create acrylic paintings on canvas. Students were asked to paint with the theme “What does the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. mean to you?” Walmart graciously awarded each student an art kit and a $10 gift card, along with a check for $1,000 made out to Frazer School, as well as 10 laptops for the school!

SCSD Schools Receive Science Equipment from SRC

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I feel like it really helped us prepare for real life,” senior Mahaki Bailey said. “I learned that finances take a lot of conscious decision-making, and you have to think of the long-term consequences of how your decision will impact your future when you’re buying something.”

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The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to: Chief Ombuds/Student Support Services Officer, Civil Rights Compliance Officer/ Syracuse City School District/ 725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210/ (315) 435-4131 Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us