

# Jumoke Journal

Fall Issue 2017

Jumoke Academy Charter School's District Wide Newsletter



## “Working on the Work!”

Executive Director, Dr. Troy A. Monroe

It is with great pleasure and joy that I take this opportunity to officially welcome the Jumoke Academy family back to the start of another school year! We begin this school year with our charter renewed and confirmation from the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSDE) that the Academy is organizationally and financially sound. As a result of the work of many in our organization and the strong commitment from parents and community members, we can now focus on the work ahead in an effort to ensure that the mission of Jumoke Academy continues. To further our work toward ensuring that Jumoke scholars are well prepared to be competitive with other students, our district will focus on this year's theme, *“Working on the Work!”*

While the CSDE confirmed that we are organizationally and financially sound, they also provided direction for the Academy to continue its focus on strengthening our academic program. This year's district theme *“Working on the Work”*, was introduced as a means of reminding every faculty and staff member to be reflective on his or her role and their work within the district in an effort to continue to improve what we do for our scholars. Simply put, we must improve our work so that every scholar learns, succeeds, and is prepared to go beyond Jumoke Academy. This will be accomplished through our continued commitment to professional learning, collaboration with our parents, community, and each other to ensure that scholars are improving their reading and math skills as a priority. In addition, we will also be focusing on improvement in all other content areas.

The Academy was reminded of the importance of *“Working on the Work”* from Convocation speakers Dr. Gerald Hairston, Program Manager for the Capital Region Educational Council (CREC) and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland Baltimore



Dr. Troy A. Monroe,  
Executive Director

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### In this Issue:

#### PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

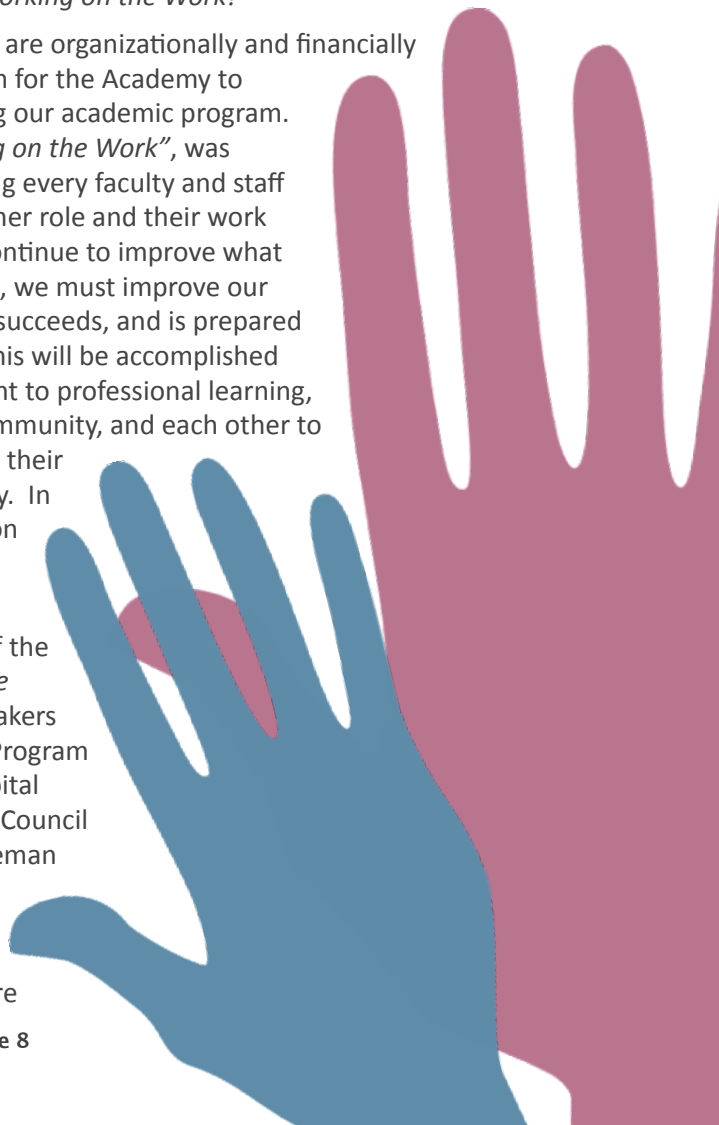
Principal Woodson explains how JAH-HC plans to work with parents this school year.

#### ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Learn about Paris Pruitt, former JAH-SMaRT scholar, and her new mentorship initiative.

#### THIS YEAR AT TED-JA

Principal Dr. Finley talks about the upcoming year at the elementary school.



## Partnering with Parents at JAH-HC

### JAH-HC Principal Nichelle Woodson

During convocation week, the Jumoke staff was challenged by Executive Director, Troy Monroe, to have a year where we commit to, "Working on the Work." The staff at JAH-HC have taken on this challenge in a variety of ways. One avenue we are utilizing is in our work with our parent community. Staff have developed a calendar of purposeful events in which we will partner with our parents in ensuring the academic success of our scholars.

Beginning in October, staff will share with our families, school expectations, Curriculum at a Glance (CAG) documents, as well as, our commitment to "working on the work,"

at our Town Hall/Open House event. The CAG documents outline the scope of classroom instruction for the year, as well as, classroom academic and behavioral expectations for the various content areas. At the Town Hall, parents will be able to engage in brief discussions with their



scholar's teachers around how they can best support their scholar at home. Also in October, we will host a Technology night tutorial workshop for our families. PowerSchool, Schoology and Edmodo are tools used by our teachers to communicate with parents and to share instructional practices and curriculum content with parents and scholars.

Throughout the year we will host different academic workshops. Some of these workshops will be facilitated by subject area teachers to help support parents in working with their scholars at home. The parents will go through simulations of what their scholars experience in the classroom; allowing them to see the learning environment in which their scholar is in on a day to day basis. Other workshops will be focused around assessment; helping parents become more confident in their knowledge about the MAP and Smarter Balance Assessments.

We are looking forward to "Working on the Work" with the parent community this year!

### Upcoming JAH-HC Events:

Town Hall – Oct. 3 @ 5pm

Assessment Night/Technology Night – Oct. 19 @ 5:30pm

JAH-HC Dance and Theater Showcase – Nov. 17 @ 3:15pm

## TED-JA in 2017-2018

### TED-JA Principal Dr. Michael Finley

Thelma Ellis Dickerson (T.E.D.) Elementary held its Open House for parents and scholars on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The teachers and administrative staff enjoyed meeting and getting to know parents throughout the night. There were powerpoint presentations, discussions, and classroom walkthroughs for parents to learn more about the T.E.D. experience that their scholar(s) engage in daily. The

staff at T.E.D. thanks all of the parents that attended the event and look forward to seeing more parents come out to other events in the year.

In support of the district theme, "working on the work" the elementary school will focus on a sub theme of "Breakthrough to Scholar Success." The staff is committed to creating success for scholars by providing love, rigorous instruction and social and emotional support. In addition,

the staff is committed to continuous improvement via in-district and out-of-district professional development to deepen staff knowledge and skills to better support scholars in the classroom.

The mission of Thelma Ellis Dickerson is to prepare scholars

to successfully compete in the global marketplace, overcoming any cultural, social or economic challenges. With a high focus on improving the work of every team member to better support scholars, it puts T.E.D. in the position to successfully implement the mission of our founder, Ms. Thelma Ellis Dickerson.



TED-JA Administrators and front office staff, 2017

## JAH-SMaRT Alumna Spotlight

Jumoke graduate Paris Pruitt launches the I.M.P.R.I.N.T. Initiative and mentors young students

### JAH-SMaRT Dean Amy Beardsworth

As Jumoke Academy enters its twenty-first year since opening its doors, alumni are shifting into adulthood and are actively pursuing their educational and career goals. Those goals, along with her passion of giving back to her community, brought 2010 JAH-SMaRT graduate, Paris Pruitt, back to Jumoke. During the 2016-2017 school year, Paris spoke with scholars at both Jumoke middle schools about her path to college. As a result of one of those visits, she began mentoring one of the Jumoke 8<sup>th</sup> graders as he began his path to high school and beyond.

This past summer, Paris' informal school visits have morphed into a business called The I.M.P.R.I.N.T. Initiative. The combination of Paris' philanthropic activities with her sorority, her passion for education and science, along with her desire to support people of color lead her to I.M.P.R.I.N.T., which stands for Inspire, Motivate, Produce, Reach, Innovate, Navigate, and Teach.

The I.M.P.R.I.N.T. was created to inspire and motivate people of color to discover their passions and reach their fullest potential. Through mentorship,

workshops, and blogging, we will help them discover ways to innovate their futures and teach them the skills necessary to find success in this world.

According to the I.M.P.R.I.N.T. Initiative website, "Our vision is to create long-lasting impacts on the inner city because there are many times when inner city

communities are overlooked. When



Paris Pruitt at JAH-HC in January 2017

changing this view."

During the 2017-2018 school year, Paris will be holding a series of assemblies, college student panels, and small group discussions to help guide Jumoke scholars on their path to find their passions. Her

team of volunteers from UCONN will assist in that mission, thus providing Jumoke scholars with multiple avenues of support and guidance.

As an eighth grader, Paris used to discuss becoming president and making great changes in her community; as a college student, she maintains that same drive to leave her mark, or imprint, on society. As Paris continues on her own personal quest to become a doctor, there is no doubt that she will continue to

give back and support the community. Paris Pruitt is destined for greatness.

### Do you have exciting info on a former Jumoke Scholar?

Feel free to reach out to us! We are always looking to feature Jumoke Academy Alumnae who are excelling inside and outside our community in Hartford. If you have a story to tell us please contact [jumokeacademy@jumokeacadem.org](mailto:jumokeacademy@jumokeacadem.org)

you are born into conditions with limited resources you are often counted out before you have the chance to show the world what you are made of, we are committed to



JAH-HC scholars play their instruments for a crowd at Grandparents day 2017



TED-JA scholars being greeted by a crowd on the first day of school in September.



JAH-SMaRT teachers participate in team building activities before scholars return to school this fall.



Members of the Buffalo Soldiers MC Hartford, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity welcome scholars at TED-JA on the first day of school.



JAH-SMaRT scholars at the Starbase at the Army National Guard Readiness Building at Bradley International Airport.



The entire TED-JA staff of 2017-2018

## Just facts

1. Over the past 4 years, Jumoke scholars have been accepted into 40 different high schools.

2. 22% of our scholars graduated to RSCO magnet schools including the #1 and #2 public magnet schools in the state.

3. 2016-2017 saw 8% of our scholars accepted to private high schools such as Avon Old Farms, The Hotchkiss School, The Ethel Walker School, Kingswood Oxford, and Northwest Catholic.

## 2018 Heritage Gala

Get ready for our premier fundraising event of the year! Tickets are already on sale for this March 3, 2018 event.

Every year, at the close of Black History month, Jumoke Academy hosts its annual Heritage Gala Fundraising event to raise money that goes directly to scholar learning, events, and supplies. This year, the annual gala will be on March 3, 2018 at 6:30pm at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott, and promises to be a fantastic night.



The Heritage Gala committee is already working to make sure this year's gala is the best yet, and is always looking for community members to pitch in a few different ways: We are always on the lookout for outstanding silent auction

items as donations. Do you own a business that can donate a gift card or sought after item that would help us to raise money in our auction? Historically we have auctioned items such as sports memorabilia, home made crafts such

**Save  
the  
Date**  
March 3, 2018

Call us up! We will be happy to custom design ads of any size for you or your company.

Tickets to this much anticipated event are already available for sale on [jumokeacademy.org](http://jumokeacademy.org) or through any of our Heritage Gala Committee members, feel free to contact Samantha Stigliano at 860-206-5407 to purchase a physical ticket, advertise, or donate to the Heritage Gala.



as crocheted blankets and woodworking, gift baskets with wine or student supplies. Let us know! Does your business want to advertise in our gorgeously designed souvenir program?

## Board of Directors meetings

The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors meet on the second Tuesday of every month during the school year. Meetings are open to the public and are held at 852 Asylum Ave. at 6pm. If attending, please check [jumokeacademy.org](http://jumokeacademy.org), as the location of the meetings is subject to change based on attendees expected or other factors. The public can also view agendas and minutes from previous meetings at [jumokeacademy.org](http://jumokeacademy.org).

**October 10, 2017**

**November 14, 2017**

**December 12, 2017**

## Upcoming Events @ Jumoke

We love including parents and guardians at all of our events. You are an important part of how our district runs! Please see the list below of upcoming fall events...



### Grandparents Day 2017 @ JAH-HC

On September 26, 2017, JAH-HC held its annual "Grandparents Day" celebration to honor the grandparents, grand-friends, senior leaders and pioneers in our community. Guests were treated to breakfast, and performances of music and poetry from JAH-HC scholars.

EVENT	DATE
BUTTERBRAIDS FUNDRAISER	SEPT 27-OCT 25
JAH-HC TOWN HALL EVENT	OCT 3, 5PM
EARLY RELEASE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	OCT 4, 1PM
HIGH SCHOOL INFO NIGHT	OCT 11, 5:30PM @ JAH-SMART
JAPA BOARD MEETING	OCT 12, 5:30PM @ TED-JA
MONTHLY COFFEE CHAT W/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	OCT 13, 8AM @ TED-JA
EARLY RELEASE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	OCT 18, 1PM
JAH-HC ASSESSMENT AND TECHNOLOGY NIGHT	OCT 19, 5:30PM
PICTURE DAY, ALL DISTRICT	OCT 25
JAPA TOWN HALL MEETING	OCT 25, 5PM
CHUCK E. CHEESE FUNDRAISER	OCT 26, 5:30PM, MANCHESTER
EARLY RELEASE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	NOV 1, 1PM

## Teacher of the year: Chandra Karhu

Chandra Karhu has been a kindergarten teacher for Thelma Ellis Dickerson – Jumoke Academy Elementary School for the past 15 years! In 1994, Ms. Karhu graduated from Eastern CT State University with Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood and a Bachelor of Art Degree in Studio Art. Ms. Karhu went on to pursue a Master of Science in Reading & Language Arts with a 4.0 grade point average. She holds a Professional Educator Certificate and is endorsed in both Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed., N-K: Elem. 1-3 and Remedial Reading & Remedial Language Arts, Grades 1-12. Ms. Karhu can be described by her peers as a passionate, caring and dedicated teacher. These characteristics are shown

through her daily interactions with her scholars, parents and colleagues. She prepares her scholars by providing them with a warm and caring environment, setting high expectations, and teaching them to be respectful, responsible and ready to learn at all times. In addition to her classroom duties, Ms. Karhu has also contributed to Jumoke Academy as a member of the Leadership Team at TED, member of the PBIS Committee and Teacher Representative to the Jumoke Academy Board of Directors. Ms. Karhu has also been a part of the professional learning community here at Jumoke Academy by presenting information she obtained from a two-day kindergarten professional development

session and designing pacing guides that incorporated Jumoke Academy curriculum for kindergarten. Outside of Jumoke Academy, Ms. Karhu's participation in the education world was also evident as a member of the International Reading Association and Member of the National Writing Project. In 2006, she presented a writing lesson at the first Literacy Essentials Conference at Central Connecticut State University. Ms. Karhu's Teacher of the Year message puts an emphasis on scholars and family. In her words, "A scholar's first teacher is their family." Through ongoing collaboration with her colleagues, principal and district support, Ms. Karhu continues to be a role model for her scholars,

effective communicator with her parents and a valued member of the Jumoke Academy Community. Upon recommendation from Jumoke Academy, Ms. Karhu has submitted an application to the State Department of Education to be considered for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year.



Chandra Karhu

## Building Highlight

TED-JA has some great artwork and bulletin boards this year, take a look at some of the highlights!



The entire TED-JA staff of 2017-2018

## “Working on the work” continued from front page...

...County (UMBC). Dr. Hairston reminded the district of the importance of loving and believing in our scholars', both ideals of which Jumoke Academy was founded upon. Dr. Hairston spoke to us about not giving up on our children. In addition, Dr. Hrabowski, challenged us to think about how and what we do as adults that will have an impact on our children. He also reminded us of the importance of developing reading and thinking skills and to not make assumptions about our scholars abilities based on observations and perceptions of circumstances.

In closing, our work as a community will be continuing support for scholars and working together to ensure that they have every opportunity possible to learn. Please join us this year as we “*Work on the Work*” so that every scholar is successful!



JAH-SMaRT is hosting a “Teaching Garden” in partnership with Covenant Prep School. It is sponsored by The American Heart Association, and Aetna. The teaching gardens promote both STEM learning and healthy eating habits by having scholars tend to the gardens and compete with other schools to yield the most results from their gardens.

NEWSLETTER  
Fall 2017 Issue

# Jumoke Journal



## Jumoke Academy Charter School Mission

to prepare children to successfully compete in the global marketplace despite the social and economic challenges they may presently face. The academy is dedicated to rigorous academic and social standards achieved by holding high expectations for all students during challenging instruction.



[jumokeacademy.org](http://jumokeacademy.org)