

# Jumoke Journal

WINTER EDITION 2019-20



**Pictured:**  
Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Howe, and  
Principal Dr. Gordon-Hall cut  
the ribbon at JAH-SMaRT  
middle school at the Grand  
Opening of the science labs.

## CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL UPDATE

Close to 200 people attended and supported the charter school renewal of Jumoke Academy Charter School Inc. at a public hearing Jan. 30, 2020. It was a great testament to the work we've accomplished over the past few years in restructuring and overhauling this historic charter school district. This process was the second step in the Academy's pursuit of a 5-year charter renewal and gave the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) the opportunity to hear advocacy and supportive comments from our extended community.

Those in attendance included parents, scholars, alumni, faculty and staff, past and present board members, and community partners. They reaffirmed that we are one district, one family, with one goal – Excellence. About 60 people spoke to the positive impact the Academy is having and has had on its scholars and the community. During this public hearing, I highlighted that in 2022, Jumoke Academy will be celebrating 25 years! I also shared

that the Academy has over the last two years made significant changes in personnel to help us go from Good to Great. Amongst those changes, we have

- ▶ Hired 35 new teachers
- ▶ Hired 13.5 non-certified staff
- ▶ Hired three new principals
- ▶ Hired three new deans
- ▶ Forged new strategic partnerships to enhance the educational experience of our students

In my closing remarks, I pointed out that these substantive changes were necessary to move the district forward and remedy a crisis that threatened the long-term viability of Jumoke several years ago. We weathered the storm and have come out of it with a fresh outlook and poised for strategic growth.

I would like to thank all who took time out of your busy schedules to help support the Academy's charter school renewal. The next steps in this process include our responding to any corrective action cited by CSDE, followed by a final review and vote by the State Board of Education at its May 2020 board meeting.



**Dr. Troy A. Monroe**  
Executive Director

I am optimistic about the outcome of this process and expect that we will be granted the maximum number of years for renewal that will allow us to continue to improve our district through the implementation of our new strategic plan.

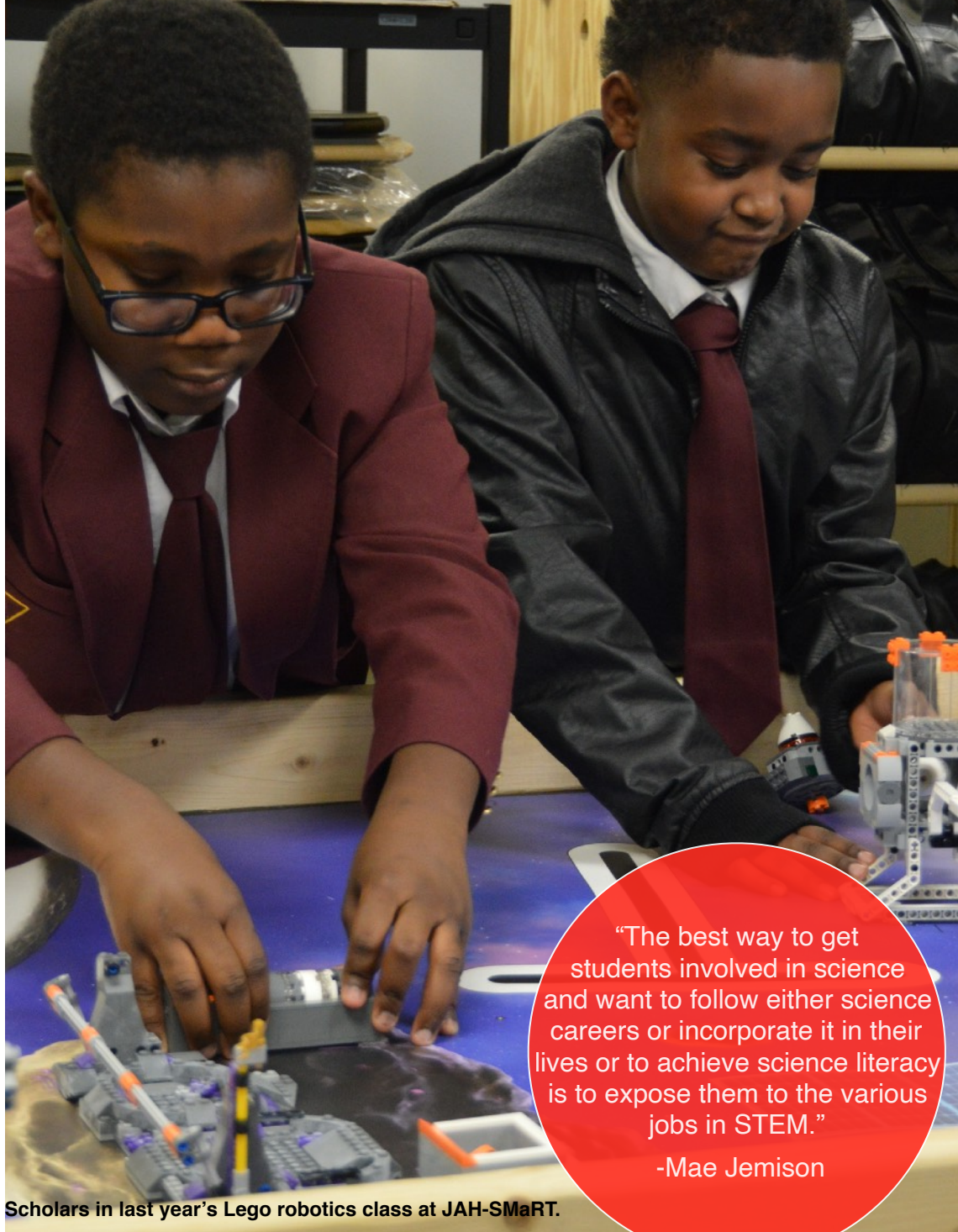
See you at our Annual Heritage Fundraiser Gala March 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott Hotel!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Monroe*

Executive Director

# One District, One Family, One Goal: EXCELLENCE.



Scholars in last year's Lego robotics class at JAH-SMaRT.

"The best way to get students involved in science and want to follow either science careers or incorporate it in their lives or to achieve science literacy is to expose them to the various jobs in STEM."

-Mae Jemison

## **LEGO ROBOTICS @ JAH-SMART PRINCIPAL DR. MARIE GORDON-HALL**

A Lego Robotics Club has come to JAH-Smart, which means our scholars will learn one of the most important skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners. The ability to program a computer or robot is going to be a basic skill needed by people regardless of their career path.

During this club, hosted by STARBASE 2.0, scholars are learning how to program robots provided by Lego. The club, held on Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., started January 7 and will run through March 10.

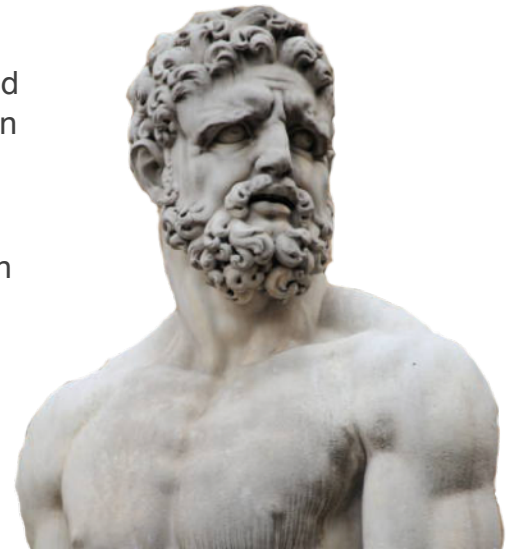


## JAH-HC MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS PRINCIPAL TAMARA GLOSTER

Jumoke's HC scholars performed at the Bubbles and Brunch Gathering and African Fashion Show in January.

Their drumming was in support of the African fashion show, and scholars showcased rhythm patterns learned in their cultural drumming course this school year.

The fifth grade scholars learned about Native American regions and the tribes who live there. They also learned about the shelters, lifestyle, tribal customs, and culture of different Native American tribes.



Above: Scholars at TED-JA doing a Lego League Lesson with Mr. Callender

### FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT... SCHOLARS IN ACTION



Scholars who received Honors and also participate in the after school martial arts program!



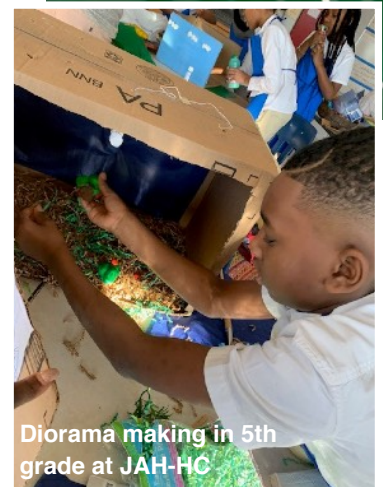
Above:

### JAH-HC SCHOLARS MEET RANDAL GOOSBY

Jumoke orchestra scholars attended the Hartford Symphony's performance of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" Jan. 17. In addition, the scholars meet accomplished solo violinist Randal Goosby.

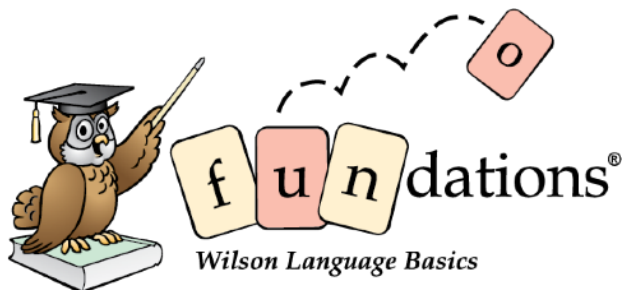


Middle school scholars visit Achievement First for a tour.



Diorama making in 5th grade at JAH-HC





## FUNDATIONS AT JUMOKE

READING INTERVENTIONIST LINDA PARSONS

Foundations is a multi-sensory and systematic program that benefits all of Jumoke's K-3 scholars. This program is research based and demonstrates success for a wide variety of learners. Our overall goal is to prevent the domino effect of children developing weaknesses in foundational skills which later can lead to fluency and comprehension difficulties. Some key features of Foundations include:

- Teaching the foundational skills that significantly support the reading, writing, and language standards found in the common core.
- Guiding teachers on how to meet individual student needs by differentiating instruction, ensuring that all learners are getting what they need.
- Encouraging parental involvement through use of its Home Support Packet – (if you're not receiving, you can ask your child's teacher for a copy)

Aside from Foundations, home activities that foster development of vocabulary and comprehension skills are important for all children. You can do this by simply reading with and to your child every night. Reading aloud to your child and

**"Foundations teaches the foundational skills that significantly support the reading, writing, and language standards found in the common core."**



Scholars at TED-JA

having discussions with them about the meaning of the text exposes them to more advanced concepts in books they may not be able to read independently. Encourage your child to express themselves, to think critically – this helps them to develop oral and mental skills and will improve their self-image so they'll want to continue to exert effort in reading. Finally, research has shown that reading ability is positively correlated with the extent to which how much a scholar reads – in other words, readers learn to read by reading! So, Read, Read, Read!!

## MLK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

RADIKHA MORRIS

Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday is celebrated annually at Jumoke Academy. It's a time when we come together as a community to remember Dr. King. This year, Jumoke scholars performed part of a Dr. King speech, read motivational quotes, and sang songs about what is happening in our community. The MLK committee would like to thank all the parents and staff members who attended, participated by donating items for the breakfast and volunteered their time to make this event successful.



Performance and crowd at the 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pancake Breakfast



MR. NICK KELLY  
7TH & 8TH GRADE  
SCIENCE



## JUMOKE SPOTLIGHT MR. NICK KELLY - JAH-HC

Jumoke Charter Schools has hired many new staffers over the past 2 years. Over the next several editions, we will introduce you to these new Jumoke family members in our "Jumoke Spotlight".

### 1. WHAT HAS YOUR FIRST YEAR AT JAH-HC BEEN LIKE?

*It's been a very interesting first year. It's not only my first year here, but also my first year as a teacher. I have had the privilege of getting opportunities to do many things at the school from being a Team Leader to coaching three different sports. It has made this year very interesting and busy for me, but I love working at Jumoke and enjoy being able to*

*be apart of the community whenever possible.*

### 2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY?

*My favorite part of the day is whenever I am teaching. The scholars are showing a really strong interest in the topics being covered. I truly enjoy watching scholars explore through hands-on activities and seeing them connect the concepts to real world problems.*

### 3. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU AREN'T TEACHING?

*When I have some free time I enjoy spending time with my beautiful girlfriend Kim and cat Sushi. I also enjoy playing hockey in Men's League at Trinity College.*



AN INVITATION FROM JUMOKE ACADEMY

## 6TH ANNUAL HERITAGE GALA FUNDRAISER

MARCH 7TH

6:30 PM

DINNER, DANCING, AWARDS, SILENT AUCTION

HARTFORD / WINDSOR MARRIOTT  
WINDSOR, CT

\$80 TICKET | AVAILABLE THROUGH 2/27

THE  
**ROARING  
TWENTIES**  
*is this year's theme*

## SUPPORT OUR 6TH ANNUAL HERITAGE GALA!

- ☒ PURCHASE AD SPACE
- ☒ PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS
- ☒ PURCHASE EVENT TICKETS

VISIT:

**BIDPAL.NET/  
2020HERITAGEGALA**