

# JUMOKE JOURNAL

*The latest news and updates from Jumoke Academy*



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## Honoring the Past, Preparing the Future

by Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director



This school year has gotten off to a fast-paced start and I am hoping that all of you are safe and well! It is hard to believe that the Fall Trimester has ended and Winter is here. We welcomed many new and returning families back to Jumoke Academy and it certainly was refreshing to have our scholars return in-person, learning alongside their friends for the 2021-22 school year. While we have experienced similar challenges as last year, I am confident that we will remain resilient and committed to providing academic experiences for our scholars that are rigorous, relevant, and builds relationships.

This year's theme, **Honoring the Past, Preparing the Future** is significant as Jumoke Academy Charter School will be celebrating its 25th year anniversary in 2022. Just as we have done in previous years, (pre-covid-19), we will celebrate this major milestone later this Spring! This year's gala celebration will be a "Silver Soiree" event synonymous with the recognition of being in existence for 25 years.

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# Jumoke Academy Awarded Walmart Grant



In the picture from left to right: Store Manager Raymond Mercado, Executive Director - Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Human Resources Manager - Joleen Fernandez, and Finance Director - Arnel Hines

Jumoke Academy has received a \$2,500 grant from the Walmart Community Grants Team and Facility #2965. The generous grant money will be utilized to provide outreach to our families that may be currently struggling due to economic hardships brought on by COVID-19.

We are striving to provide our scholars and their families the education and support needed through this global pandemic. We received notice that we had been approved for the grant last February 2021 and throughout this partnership with Walmart we have received a multitude of donations.

Walmart has provided us with school supplies, sanitizing products, masks for our scholar community, and there is much more to come! Store Manager Raymond Mercado stated, "Through the philanthropic investments of Walmart.org, we strive to systematically address some of the biggest economic, environmental, and social challenges faced in the world today. But we can't do it alone." Jumoke's newfound relationship with Walmart will be one that will continue to show our scholars and community that we are there to support them no matter what!







## NEW SCIENCE LAB AT JA-HC CREATES BUBBLY REACTION

On Wednesday, November 8, JA-HC dedicated the Science Lab, a state-of-the-art learning environment that embodies the school's commitment to fostering innovation and experiential learning in the classroom.

It's complete with safety features including an eyewash station, a prep room, and sinks. There's also built-in storage areas for equipment, tools and materials with locking drawers for chemical storage.

There are future plans for a station for live animals, specifically an area to hatch and grow chickens. This will be a great opportunity for all classes to be involved in a long-term project that would serve as a focal point for several STEMScope units (Energy Flow, Ecosystems, etc). Some of the counter space will be dedicated to fish tanks, birdcages or lizard enclosures. It will also be a priority to get each student a lab coat for the next school year.

Principal Reid shares, "Having a new fully functioning lab gives our scholars the tools needed to not only learn science at a high level, but to see themselves as scientists. Dr. Seay, our 7th and 8th Science teacher and former Yale researcher, has big plans to make sure that our scholars know their place in the world of Science. He is creating an active learning center that provides hands on experiments and learning for all scholars.

Look out for updates as we support our scholars growth as scientists."



## 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Myron Stewart, Community Representative

Janelle Lester, Community Representative

Yolanda McDonald-Wesley, Parent Representative

Keisha Bailey-Acevedo, Parent Representative

# HONORING THE PAST, PREPARING THE FUTURE

*Continued from Cover Page*

As we prepare for the future, the Academy has strategically focused on 5 areas for improving our school community. Those areas include **1). Developing our curriculum, 2). Human Resources, 3). Facilities Management, 4). Stakeholder Engagement, and 5). Collaboration and partnering with the Connecticut State Department of Education.** In addition to the strategic focus, our District Improvement Plan goals are grounded in our Strategic Roadmap and District Improvement goals, that ensure scholars master grade level standards in core content classes and the develop their social, emotional, communication, and critical thinking skills. As a result of these priorities, I am confident that we will prepare them for the future.

At the onset of this school year, the Academy applied for and received funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) to assist in our efforts to continue to educate our scholars. Our focus has been to improve and utilize these resources to provide education in a safe and secure environment while also identifying the correct staffing, instructional materials, and professional development necessary to do so. Much of our available resources has been spent on improving our technology through Chromebook upgrades and technology platforms, hiring specialized staff, scholar enrichment programming, family community connections, maintaining safe and healthy schools, and support for addressing social and emotional learning.

Every month, we host a zoom meeting with our Executive Director Dr. Monroe, so our parents get a chance to connect with him, ask questions, and learn about new initiatives and programs available to our scholars. This event has been crucial in our reopening this fall and we look forward to continuing the forum on Zoom.



As we continue to focus on improving and ensuring the best educational experiences possible for our scholars, I welcome your input on how we can improve. Please consider participating in my monthly ZOOM chat called **Monthly Minutes with Monroe**, held on the third Thursday of each month. This meeting is open to parents & community members to provide input and stay abreast of all that is taking place at Jumoke Academy. **My door is always open, and I welcome your positive input throughout the year.**

Thank you again for your continued support, collaboration, patience, and cooperation. I look forward to our continued collaboration and partnership to ensure our scholars are celebrated and supported.

*Dr. Monroe*

Troy A. Monroe, Ed. D.  
Executive Director

**MONTHLY MINUTES  
W/ MONROE**

A Monthly Zoom Chat with our Executive Director,  
Dr. Troy A. Monroe, for Parents & Community Members

SEPTEMBER 30  
OCTOBER 28  
NOVEMBER 18  
DECEMBER 16  
JANUARY 20  
FEBRUARY 17  
MARCH 17  
APRIL 21  
MAY 19

**7-8PM**

MEETING ID: 864 0889 2763  
PASSCODE: z9KzrH

DISTRICT UPDATES  
Q&A SESSION  
SPECIAL GUESTS & MORE!

**JUMOKÉ  
ACADEMY**  
CHARTER SCHOOLS



# SCHOLARS OF THE MONTH



Nataniel Albert, TED

The first-grade team, including his teacher, Ms. Bogle, nominated Nataniel for the District Scholar of the Month. Ms. Bogle stated that Nataniel is a very thoughtful scholar.

Last Christmas he asked his grandmother if she could give him a gift so he could give it to Ms. Diane, who works in the cafeteria. When she asked him why...he said she works really hard to make sure everyone gets breakfast and lunch every day. Nataniel follows the Jumoke 3R's very well and at times reminds his friends that they are not wearing their masks correctly. He embodies the Jumoke way by respecting others and being responsible for his work and actions. He is a great role model who is attentive during lessons and eliminates distractions to get his work done.

Congratulations to Nataniel on such a well-deserved achievement.



Kiannah Maragh  
JAH-HC

Kiannah represents the Jumoke way when she displays a respectful, responsible, and ready-to-learn mindset.

She completes all her assignments, takes responsibility for her actions, and shows integrity throughout the day. Her teachers all agree that Kiannah shows impeccable dedication in her classes. She always shows up prepared, attentive, and ready to ask thought-provoking questions.

She is a creative writer who already shows a knack for book-endings in stories and takes initiative to challenge herself in class. Kiannah is very inquisitive in science class and asks complex questions. She is a leader in all her classes and is always ready for the next step.

We all look forward to hearing about Kiannah's amazing future! Kiannah was selected by the 7th and 8th-grade team because of her overall excellent character. She is a great representative of Jumoke Academy Charter Schools. For those reasons, 8th-grader Kiannah Maragh was named the JAH-HC District Scholar of the Month.

Congratulations Kiannah!



Etani Riley  
JAH-SMaRT

The recommended district scholar of the month is JAH-SMaRT's sixth grader, Etani Riley.

Etani's teachers are very pleased with his growth over the last two years. Mr. DeVone, his Math instructor said, "Etani has exhibited tremendous growth and maturity in Math. He is always alert and prepared for class, even when faced with difficult problems; he uses his resources to find solutions."

Ms. Lane, who has covered as his Long-Term substitute teacher in both Math and Social Studies said, "Etani has shown outstanding improvement over the course of the year. He has begun to show and demonstrate the 3 R's and using kind words. He has become less disruptive in class and instead of just quitting when he is confused about his work, he now does not hesitate to respectfully ask for help. He no longer shuts down and has become a joy to have in class!" Moreover, Etani continues to build positive relationships with his peers and staff throughout the building.

Here at JAH-SMaRT, our mantra is #SMaRTStrong. We think that it is without question that Etani Riley is #SMaRTStrong in his growth and achievement to date.



# JAH-SMaRT STEMS it up!

BY DR. GORDON MARIE-HALL

Jumoke Academy is pleased to announce that it has been selected as an Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) school - a partnership between Amazon and Project STEM to improve access to computer science education in communities currently underrepresented in the technology field.

According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, by 2020 there will be 1.4 million computer science related jobs available and only 400,000 computer science graduates with the skills to apply for those jobs.

Many students eager to fill that gap and obtain a high paying job in technology do not have access to computer science in their middle and high schools. Often schools want to offer these courses to their students but do not have access to curriculum and/or teacher support materials.

Amazon and Project STEM are partnering to address this gap by sponsoring teachers and administrators who demonstrate this need and are committed to bringing computer science to their school with access to content such as: CS Explorations 1: Fundamentals in Scratch, Computer Science Fundamentals, AP Computer Science Principles, or AP Computer Science A courses. This content also includes fully sequenced and paced digital curriculum for students, and professional development for educators new to learning or teaching computer science. Interested schools can learn more at

[www.amazonfutureengineer.com](http://www.amazonfutureengineer.com), including how students can access college scholarships and internships at Amazon.

