

JUMOKE JOURNAL

Together We Soared: Highlights from a Remarkable School Year



Rooted in Love, Growing in Purpose: A Year of Progress and Partnership at Jumoke Academy

by Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO / Superintendent

As we bring this academic year to a close, I am honored to reflect on a season filled with intentional growth, meaningful partnerships, and unwavering commitment to scholar success. In this issue of the Jumoke Journal, I am proud to spotlight key accomplishments that not only reflect our mission but also reaffirm what we value most as a community—our children, our families, our educators, and our collective future.

This year, we witnessed a renewed sense of community and commitment—a spirit that permeated every classroom, every event, and every initiative. Together, we leaned into our shared belief that scholars' success is our top priority. This momentum was visible in a number of significant ways:

- **A Phenomenal Gala with Purpose:** Our annual fundraising gala brought together families, educators, and supporters in a celebration of love and legacy. Funds raised are already making an impact on scholar enrichment and extended learning experiences.
- **Standing in Solidarity:** In the true spirit of compassion and service, Jumoke extended support to a neighboring state in crisis, reminding us all of the power of collective action and empathy.
- **Opening Doors to Empowerment:** The grand opening of our Parent, Community, and Professional Development Center was a major milestone. This space now serves as a vibrant hub for workshops, learning, and deeper engagement with the families and professionals who help shape our scholars' lives.

These highlights, and so many others, are evidence of what we can accomplish when we align our efforts with love, vision, and purpose. We remain rooted in our mission: to prepare children to successfully compete in the global marketplace, overcoming any cultural, social, or economic challenges.

To achieve this, we will continue cultivating strong, strategic relationships with community partners who are invested in the lives and futures of our scholars. One such partner is Liberty Bank, whose newly formed collaboration with Jumoke Academy underscores the momentum we carry into the next academic year.



Dr. Troy A. Monroe

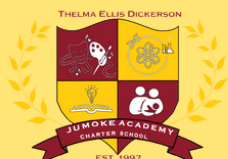
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A Night to Remember: Jumoke Academy's Gala Shines Bright



Spotlights beamed. Drumlines echoed. Applause roared. On March 28, Jumoke Academy hosted its 27th Annual Fundraiser Gala — A Night of Stars — at The Russell in Hartford. Though the lights have dimmed and the evening has passed, the impact of this extraordinary night continues to illuminate our path forward.

More than just a celebration, the Gala served as a rallying cry for our mission: to unify our campuses under one roof and shape the next generation of culturally confident leaders. With every ticket purchased, every auction bid, and every word spoken in support, our community said loud and clear: we believe in the scholars of Jumoke Academy.

Thanks to the generosity of our families, sponsors, community partners, and friends, we raised \$48,000 — just shy of our \$50,000 goal!

While we didn't quite cross the finish line, the momentum and spirit generated will fuel our continued push toward that future. And we're not stopping here. Planning is already underway for the 28th Gala, where we hope to surpass our goal and bring our shared vision even closer to reality.

The night was hosted with poise and heart by two-time Emmy-winning journalist, Tracey McCain, whose presence anchored the evening, weaving together our themes of celebration, remembrance, and action. Our HC campus scholars captivated the audience with a moving scene from *Hamilton*, seamlessly blending history with artistry. The room fell silent in awe — then erupted in applause. Earlier in the evening, our electrifying Jumoke Drumline reminded guests that excellence here is not a goal — it's a rhythm that pulses through our very foundation.



This year's honorees reminded us that leadership takes many forms:

- Jocelyn Rodriguez, recipient of the Preserving Our Legacy Award, exemplifies the spirit of homegrown impact — a Jumoke alumna turned educator who now shapes the lives of the next generation.
- Fabia Woodbine, honored with the Educator Award, brings love and faith into every lesson she leads.
- Lisa Cowell, our Bridge Builder Award recipient, bridges corporate partners with classrooms, ensuring our scholars access real-world tools.
- And the Hartford Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., recipients of the Community Award, continue to pour mentorship and service into our neighborhoods.

But perhaps the most visually stunning contributions came from our scholars themselves. The walls of the event space were adorned with student-created artwork from THE Campus — not simply as decoration, but as tangible representations of imagination and voice. Select pieces were featured in our live auction, alongside other coveted items ranging from Adirondack chairs to curated travel experiences. Each bid wasn't just for an item — it was a vote of confidence in the dreams and talents of our young artists.

The Gala's success is the result of collective effort. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, partners, and every guest who attended. To those who donated, volunteered, and amplified our message: thank you. Your belief in our scholars energizes our mission every day.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that every child at Jumoke Academy is supported, seen, and celebrated. The dream of one unified campus is not far off — but we can't reach it without you. **Join us. Support us. Walk with us. Because when one scholar rises, we all rise.**





Jumoke Academy Rallies to Support California Wildfire Relief Efforts

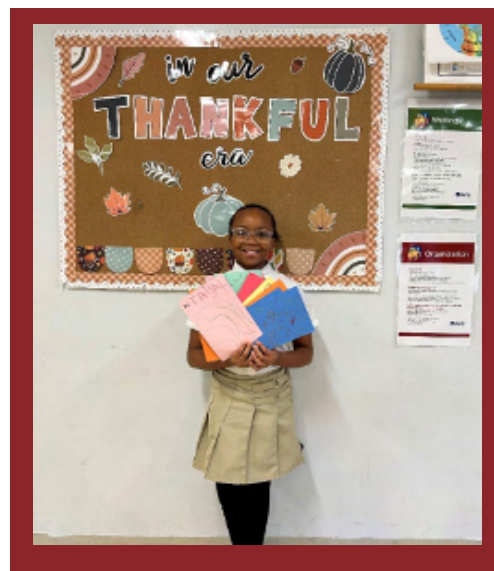
By Dr. Tera Harris

On January 24th, the Jumoke Academy school community came together to raise funds for individuals affected by the devastating wildfires in California. Driven by a shared desire to help, students across all three campuses worked collaboratively to support peers who experienced displacement due to the fires.

This fundraiser not only allowed scholars to raise money but also gave them the opportunity to engage with a significant humanitarian crisis. Through their efforts, students gained a deeper understanding of the ongoing challenges caused by the wildfires and expressed their empathy by creating heartfelt cards of support.

After brainstorming ideas, scholars decided to organize a "dress-down day" for staff and scholars, assigning different monetary values based on participation. This creative initiative has already raised over \$500, with donations continuing to pour in.

All proceeds will be directly donated to organizations supporting California wildfire relief efforts. The Jumoke Academy community is proud of its scholars' compassion and dedication to making a difference, showing that even small actions can have a meaningful impact.



Faith W., a 5th-grade scholar at Jumoke HC, proudly showcases some of the heartfelt cards created for those affected by the wildfires.

"The Jumoke Academy community stands united not just in education, but in action. Our students' efforts to support those affected by the California wildfires reflect our commitment to empathy, leadership, and global citizenship."

Summer Learning Packets

We believe learning doesn't stop when the school year ends, that's why we offer summer learning resources to our scholars. These resources are designed to keep minds engaged, reinforce key skills, and help prevent summer learning loss.

By providing these tools, we're empowering our scholars to take ownership of their learning and continue growing, even during the summer months. The Curriculum & Instruction department has put together summer reading and math review activities for extra practice.

The goal of the summer learning work is to support each scholar's transition to their next grade level by providing them with a focused review of prioritized concepts and skills over the summer break. Each campus sent packets home with scholars on the last day of school. The work is also available on our website.

NEW ROOTS ON BLUE HILLS: JUMOKE ACADEMY CELEBRATES A BOLD NEW CHAPTER

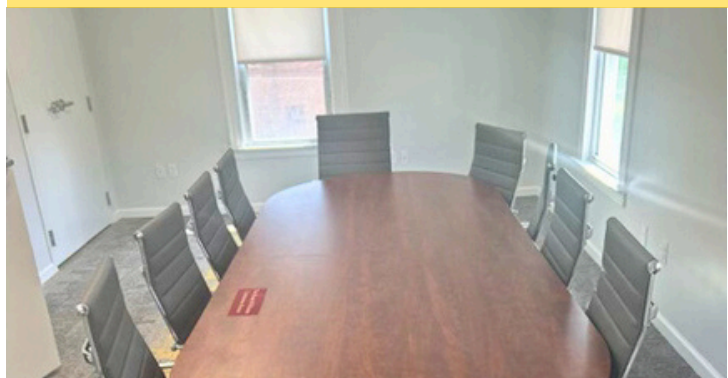


In the heart of Hartford's Blue Hills neighborhood, a new symbol of possibility now stands: 325 Blue Hills Avenue, Jumoke Academy's new Parent, Community & Professional Development Center. On May 2, 2025, under clear skies and the hopeful gaze of scholars, staff, and community partners, a ceremonial ribbon was cut—marking not just the opening of a building, but the beginning of an expanded vision for community, connection, and academic excellence.

Scholars stood proudly beside Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent, to officially open the center. The honor of cutting the ribbon was a shared moment, one that reflected the school's deeply rooted belief in scholar agency, community voice, and collective empowerment. "This isn't just a space," said Dr. Monroe during his remarks. "It's a promise—a promise to invest in our families, our educators, and our children's futures. A promise that we are here for the long haul."

The center, located just minutes from Jumoke's main campuses, will serve multiple purposes:

- A welcoming hub for parent-teacher conferences and prospective family meet-and-greets
- A professional environment for staff meetings, community workshops, and district collaborations
- A versatile space available for public use, creating new bridges between the school and the surrounding neighborhoods.



The event itself was a testament to Jumoke's growing influence. All attendees gathered in support—not simply to celebrate a physical expansion, but to affirm the academy's ongoing evolution as an anchor institution in North Hartford.

Attendees were invited to tour the facility, connect with school leaders, and hear firsthand from scholars about what the new center means to them. "It feels like we're being heard and supported in a new way," one middle school scholar said, "like we have a place where our voice matters even more."

The decision to open the space for public rentals is also deeply intentional—part of Jumoke's broader philosophy that schools should serve not only as educational centers, but as civic sanctuaries. The center is designed to bring together families, educators, and local changemakers in a space where real solutions can be built.



With light refreshments in hand and conversations flowing, the ribbon cutting wasn't just a moment—it was momentum.

In an era when so many communities feel disconnected from their schools, Jumoke Academy is doubling down on transparency, proximity, and trust. The center is more than a building. It is a reflection of Jumoke's belief that education doesn't begin and end in the classroom. It begins in community. It ends in transformation.

And with the doors at 325 Blue Hills now open, transformation has a new address.

The Why Behind the Work: Inside Jumoke Academy's End-of-Year Reflection



POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS AT JAH-HC
"THE JUMOKÉ WAY"
RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE
READY TO LEARN AT ALL TIMES



The end-of-year meeting is more than tradition. It's a cornerstone of how we move forward with intention. This year, it served as both a finish line and a starting gate. Plans for the 2025–2026 school year are already in motion. Recruitment is ongoing—and we're not just hiring; we're curating a team. A team of professionals who believe that education is sacred, equity is non-negotiable, and every scholar deserves to be seen, heard, and supported.

In a world where the pace of education rarely slows down, it's rare—precious, even—to pause. But that's exactly what Jumoke Academy Charter School did in June, as principals, deans, and district staff gathered for the district office's annual end-of-year meeting: a two-day reflection, reckoning, and reaffirmation of why we do what we do.

The sessions went beyond logistics and data. They centered people. Leaders engaged in open dialogue about scholar achievement, instructional growth, and the high expectations we hold for ourselves and one another. Honest conversations sparked connection. Shared goals reignited our purpose.

Dr. Monroe closed the first half of the second day with heartfelt tokens of appreciation for staff who went above and beyond—those who lived out the values of Jumoke with resilience and grace. "This is the kind of leadership we want to replicate," he said.

There were also moments of laughter, team-building, and rediscovery. We learned about each other—and ourselves—through shared activities that deepened trust and reminded us why we do this work.

As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, plans are already in motion. We're not just hiring—we're building a team grounded in purpose and passion. For those considering joining us: this is more than a job. It's a calling.

We wish our community a restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone—new and returning—at our August convocation. At Jumoke, we don't just educate. We elevate.

"To anyone considering joining the Jumoke family: know this. You won't just be filling a position. You'll be stepping into purpose, alongside educators and leaders who care deeply—and who are deeply committed to caring."

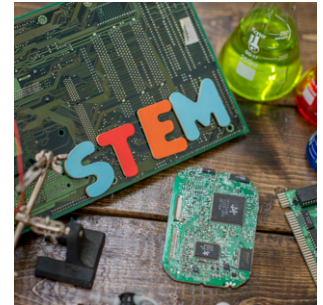


WHERE INNOVATION BEGINS: JUMOKE SCHOLARS HEAD INTO THE FUTURE WITH STEM AND SUPPORT FROM LIBERTY BANK

This summer, in partnership with Goodwin University, Jumoke Academy is launching its most dynamic Summer STEM Academy yet—an immersive four-week experience that invites rising 5th through 8th graders to explore aerospace, drone engineering, AR/VR, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing.

Hosted on the cutting-edge campuses of Goodwin University and Connecticut River Academy, the program is designed to give scholars real-world, hands-on exposure to industries that are shaping the future.

The initiative is powered in part by a generous grant from Liberty Bank, whose support underscores a growing movement to expand access to meaningful STEM education for all scholars—especially those historically underrepresented in these fields.



A Parent's Perspective: STEM in Action

For many families, the STEM Academy is more than just a summer program—it's a life-changing experience. One parent, Susannah Oliver, who has enrolled both of her daughters in the program over the years, shared a heartfelt reflection on what the academy has meant to her family: "I enrolled my youngest daughter in STEM after seeing the impact it had on her older sister during the program's first year—back when it was online during COVID," she shared. "It gave them knowledge about planes, how they function, and introduced them to careers they never would have imagined at their age. That kind of exposure matters."

Now entering 7th grade, her youngest daughter has participated for several summers, each year building on the last. "One year it was planes and their measurements. The next, it was rockets. Last year, they even took a trip to an aerospace show in upstate New York. It was the first time scholars had a real-world experience tied directly to what they'd been learning—and they came back buzzing with excitement."

The impact wasn't just academic. "My daughter talks about these high-tech machines like an engineer in training. She understands calculations, how things are built, and why precision matters. STEM has shifted how she sees the world—and what she believes she can do in it."

This parent, like many others, has become one of Jumoke's strongest advocates. "I tell other parents all year about Jumoke and this program. I check early for when applications open so I can be one of the first to register. I would never want my daughter to miss it."

In Partnership with Goodwin University, Jumoke Academy is offering a Summer STEM focused experience for rising 5th - 8th grade students, with hands-on learning in Next Frontier Industries.

Space is limited. Sign up now!



"This STEM focused summer program will bring Jumoke Academy scholars to the extensive campuses of Goodwin University and the Connecticut River Academy. The curriculum will reinforce ELA, Math, Science and Preparation for College and Career Readiness standards."

Summer STEM Academy facts:

Free Breakfast & Lunch
All students will have access to FREE breakfast and lunch every day of the program.

Shuttle Provided
From Jumoke Academy (250 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford) to Goodwin University daily.

Exploring Next Frontier Industries:

- Aerospace & Airplane Technology
- AR/VR
- Life Sciences
- Advanced Manufacturing

July 7 - August 1, 2025
Sign up DEADLINE: JUNE 6

8:30am - 3pm, Monday - Friday

- 8:10-8:30am - Breakfast @ Jumoke
- 8:30am - Shuttle to Goodwin University
- 8:50am - Classes Begin
- 3:00pm - Shuttle back to Jumoke

- STEM focus daily
- Team Building Exercises
- Intro to Drone Technology
- Real World Connection Field Experiences

\$50*

Payment due by 6/16
Non-refundable registration fee

Space is limited, Sign up ONLINE today!
JUMOKEACADEMY.ORG/SUMMER

860-216-9636
jumokeacademy@jumokeacademy.org

Jumoke Academy District Office
999 Asylum Ave. Suite 200

A Curriculum With Altitude

Scholars begin their day with breakfast before being shuttled to Goodwin's campus. There, they dive into project-based learning experiences with real-world applications:

- Drone piloting and aerospace mechanics
- AR/VR simulations
- Biotech experiments
- Career-building workshops and trade exposure

Guided by faculty and experts, students move from theory to practice—seeing how math, science, and creativity intersect in the industries they may one day lead.

The dream? More experiences. More trips. More exploration. And more scholars realizing that their dreams of becoming engineers, pilots, inventors, or scientists are not just valid—but possible.



Rooted in Love, Growing in Purpose: A Year of Progress and Partnership at Jumoke Academy

To achieve this, we will continue cultivating strong, strategic relationships with community partners who are invested in the lives and futures of our scholars. One such partner is Liberty Bank, whose newly formed collaboration with Jumoke Academy underscores the momentum we carry into the next academic year. Their generous \$10,000 grant, in support of our Summer STEM Academy in collaboration with Goodwin University, is already helping to expand scholars' exposure to Next Frontier Industries and the careers of tomorrow.

As we look to the future, we do so with deep appreciation.

To our parents and families, thank you for trusting us and standing alongside us through every challenge and triumph.

To our community partners, thank you for investing in our mission and believing in the potential of every scholar.

To our teacher leaders and staff, thank you for your dedication, innovation, and for being the heartbeat of our schools.

Let us continue this journey with confidence, passion, and a clear focus on what matters most—loving scholars, nurturing minds, and empowering futures. Here's to a summer of reflection and recharge—and to an exciting year ahead!



Dr. Troy Monroe, CEO/ Superintendent of Jumoke Academy, proudly accepts a generous grant from Liberty Bank in support of our Summer STEM program—empowering scholars to explore, innovate, and lead.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Marie Gordon-Hall, Ed. D

As we close out another remarkable school year, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Jumoke Families for your unwavering partnership, support, and trust.



To our Jumoke families, I want to thank you for being our scholars' first and most important teachers. Your involvement, encouragement, and commitment make a lasting impact. Whether you are supported with homework, showed up for school events, or partnered with educators to help your child thrive, you are truly appreciated.



To our community members and partners, your collaboration continues to enrich our work and expand opportunities for every scholar. Your presence reminds us that education is a shared responsibility - and a shared joy. Thank you for being a part of our "village."

This year has been a journey filled with growth, resilience, and achievement. Our scholars have demonstrated incredible perseverance and curiosity. They've explored new ideas, engaged in rich learning experiences, and elevated their voices in meaningful ways - reflecting the strength and spirit of our school community.

"It takes a village —and we're grateful you're part of ours."

As Chief Academic Officer, I am proud of the progress we've made together and inspired by what lies ahead. We are already planning for a strong, purpose-driven new school year, grounded in equity, excellence, and opportunity for all.

On behalf of the academic team and district leadership, thank you for walking alongside us. We wish you a safe, joyful, and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall, ready to soar even higher.

Teaching at Its Finest: Mr. Alejandro Alfonso Named Jumoke Academy's 2025–2027 Teacher of the Year

Every great school has its heroes—those educators whose influence echoes far beyond the walls of their classroom. At Jumoke Academy, those heroes are not just acknowledged—they are celebrated. And this year, one such educator has been honored with the district's highest recognition for teaching excellence.

Introducing Jumoke's 2025–2027 Teacher of the Year: Mr. Alejandro Alfonso, JAH-SMaRT.

Mr. Alfonso was selected from a deeply respected group of nominees, each one a powerful force in their own right:

- Mrs. Carmen Cotton, TED-JA
- Ms. Miranda Gazaferi, JAH-HC
- Ms. Kelley Howe, JAH-SMaRT
- Mr. O'Neil Palmer, TED-JA
- Mr. Najeeb Woodbine, JAH-HC

Each of these educators was nominated by colleagues and administrators for their extraordinary commitment to excellence in education, passion for student growth, and unwavering support of Jumoke's mission. Together, they represent what's best about the teaching profession: heart, integrity, and the courage to go above and beyond—daily.

The Award, The Meaning, The Moment

The Teacher of the Year Award at Jumoke isn't just a title. It's a symbol—an embodiment of what it means to educate with purpose and to lead with love. Spanning a two-year recognition cycle, the award honors a teacher who doesn't just excel in the classroom, but also uplifts the entire community.

Through innovative instruction, a deep understanding of scholar needs, and a collaborative spirit that energizes the staff around him, Mr. Alfonso has shown what it means to be a teacher-leader. His approach is rooted in empathy, rigor, and an unshakeable belief that every scholar has a future worth fighting for.

A Culture of Celebration—and Purpose

This year's nominations reflect the culture Jumoke Academy continues to build: one where educators are seen, supported, and celebrated.



“We are fortunate to have such talented and passionate educators shaping the future of our scholars.” - Dr. Gordon-Hall



And while Mr. Alfonso now carries the official title, the truth is every nominee embodies the spirit of this honor. Their work affirms a powerful truth: at Jumoke, teaching is not a job—it's a calling.

As we step into a new school year, we do so with fresh energy and deep pride. Educators like Mr. Alfonso remind us that we are not just preparing students for tests—we are preparing them for life.

To Mr. Alfonso and all our 2025–2027 Teacher of the Year nominees: thank you. You inspire, you lead, and you are the heartbeat of Jumoke Academy.



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INVEST IN EXCELLENCE

YOUR IMPACT:

- Allows us to provide an enriched & dynamic learning environment.
- Enhances the availability of academic resources.
- Shapes the next generation of leaders.

LET'S CREATE A
BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR THEM!



SCAN TO MAKE A DONATION TODAY!



THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR SCHOLARS, FACULTY, AND STAFF AND THE WORK THAT WE DO ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY EVERY DAY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND MOST IMPORTANTLY MAINTAINING A LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS TO COME!



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Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds, and Empowering Futures.



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