

JUMOKE JOURNAL

The latest news and updates from Jumoke Academy



WELCOME BACK MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO/ SUPERINTENDENT

by Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO / Superintendent



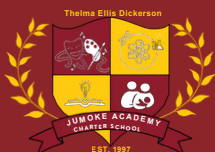
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EXPLORE. ENGAGE. ELEVATE.



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The 2026-2027 school year is in session, and I am thrilled to welcome our community back after what was a very hot and busy summer, culminating in the exciting return of our scholars on August 25th!

The Academy and its partners, the Horizons Program at Ethel Walker and Summer STEM Program at Goodwin University, supported by a Grant from Liberty Bank, hosted over 250 scholars over the summer to ensure that teaching and learning continued! As a result, our children returned to this school year with little educational loss and ready to embrace a new year of challenge and preparation for academic success.

Speaking of academic success, we were pleased to see significant growth in state standardized testing in the areas of Math & ELA for 2025-2026 compared to data from 2024-2025! While there is still much work to do toward having more scholars perform at proficiency and above, our growth report indicates Math increased by 13% and by approximately 6% in ELA.

This type of growth answers the question, "Are scholars learning at Jumoke Academy?" It further underscores the importance of summer programming experiences from year to year.

As we gear up for the 2026-2027 school year, one of our major milestones is our Charter School Renewal. Similar to an educational accreditation, the renewal confirms that our school is operating in alignment with best practices. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will facilitate the renewal process beginning with a Public Hearing at Jumoke Academy on November 17, 2026. This phase provides an opportunity for the public to voice support for the district's charter renewal, sharing how the Academy has positively impacted our children and the community we serve.

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PREPARING FOR A STRONG START: *Convocation Week 2026*

Before welcoming scholars back for the 2026–27 school year, Jumoke Academy staff came together during Convocation Week to reconnect, align around district priorities, and prepare for the year ahead.

The week began by welcoming new and returning staff and reaffirming the shared expectations that guide Jumoke's work. Through team-building, professional learning, and collaborative sessions, staff focused on strengthening relationships, reinforcing accountability, and recognizing the role every team member plays in scholar success.

Strengthening Instruction

A central focus of Convocation Week was preparing for strong classroom instruction. Staff reviewed Jumoke's instructional expectations and explored the district's E³ Framework: Explore, Engage, Elevate, with an emphasis on what rigor looks like in daily practice.

Teams also revisited AVID Essential Skills and WICOR strategies, strengthening a shared approach to instruction and identifying ways these practices can be incorporated consistently throughout the school year.

Using Data to Drive the Work

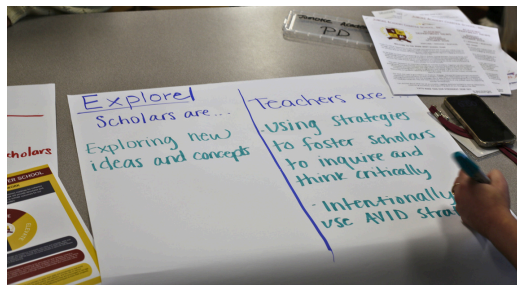
Staff celebrated areas of growth while also examining scholar achievement data to identify opportunities for continued improvement. These conversations helped connect classroom practices with Jumoke's broader academic goals and priorities for 2026–27.

The week also provided time to align around the district's Corrective Action Plan, turnaround priorities, Professional Learning Communities, and academic goals, ensuring staff began the year with a common understanding of both the work ahead and their collective responsibility for achieving it.



Ready to Explore, Engage and Elevate

Convocation Week set the foundation for a strong start to the school year bringing staff together around shared expectations, effective instructional practices, and a continued commitment to helping every Jumoke scholar succeed.



Summer 2026 at Jumoke Academy

Summer at Jumoke Academy was filled with opportunities for scholars to learn, explore, and stay connected while staff prepared to welcome families back for the 2026–27 school year.

Discover Jumoke Days

Throughout July, Jumoke hosted Discover Jumoke Days at locations across the district, giving scholars and families opportunities to participate in themed activities, connect with staff, and learn more about Jumoke's programs and resources.

Summer Learning in Action

From July 6–23, scholars participated in summer learning experiences at TED Elementary and Goodwin University. The Jumoke Summer Bridge Program provided focused literacy and math support alongside STEM and hands-on enrichment. Partnerships with The Missing Piece and Hartford Public Library added engaging experiences designed to make summer learning both meaningful and interactive.



Through the Jumoke/Goodwin Summer STEM Program, scholars explored STEM in a college setting through hands-on activities, weekly field trips, and conversations with professionals in engineering, artificial intelligence, and other STEM-related careers. A trip to Boston's Museum of Science gave scholars an opportunity to explore science and technology exhibits, including Spot, the Boston Dynamics robot.

Additional scholars participated in Horizons programs at Ethel Walker and Westminster, where they experienced academics, STEM, enrichment, field trips, swimming, and other activities designed to broaden their exposure beyond the classroom.

Ready for a New School Year

Summer concluded with Jumoke's Back-to-School Festival on August 21, bringing all three campuses together before the first day of school. Families met teachers and school leaders, connected with community partners, confirmed transportation information, and enjoyed food, music, and activities.

From summer learning and enrichment to community outreach and back-to-school preparation, Summer 2026 created opportunities for Jumoke scholars and families to explore, connect, and prepare for the year ahead.



Welcome Back Message from our CEO/Superintendent!

It is my hope and expectation that our parents and community will come out to support our school and children as we look forward to continue this important work. After this phase, the CSDE will return to Jumoke Academy to facilitate Focus Group Meetings with small groups at Jumoke Academy on December 3, 2026.

The Academy will also begin its first year as a Turn Around School district and will be entitled to significant grant funding to help in our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education we are providing for our scholars. That said, the Academy has recently completed an application for the School Improvement Grant (SIG) where up to 500K could be awarded to further our work. We expect to hear an update on our application in the coming weeks and understand that this support could be in place for the next 3 years as we work toward demonstrating academic improvement resulting in the removal of the turnaround designation status.

While there are a couple of significant priorities for the Academy this year, one thing for certain is our continued love and commitment to the scholars we serve. We continue to work toward **preparing children to successfully compete in the global marketplace, overcoming any cultural, social, or economic challenges**, which is our mission.

As I reflect on the Mission of Jumoke Academy and my commitment over the past 12 years ensuring that we live up to this mission, it is with mixed emotions that I share my decision to retire from Jumoke Academy and conclude my 37-year career in public education. My commitment and dedication to public school education, a system that prepared me to contribute in meaningful ways toward positively impacting children and communities, has always been a priority! I consider myself to have been given a huge responsibility to teach children early in my career, partner with an incredible network in which you are a part of along with our entire parent community, families, and many colleagues, while also leading with honor, integrity, professionalism, and commitment to our community.

It has been an honor to serve in education, advocate for our children and community both locally and nationally and align with leaders and board members who truly care about why and for whom we do this work for.

“We continue to work toward preparing children to successfully compete in the global marketplace, overcoming any cultural, social, or economic challenges, which is our mission.”

I wish to thank you for your partnership, collaboration, and support over the years! The work at the Academy will continue despite my departure and I am happy to support the transition of the newly appointed Interim Executive Director and current Jumoke Academy Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Marie Gordon Hall, who will lead the district effective October 31, 2026. Effective October 30, 2026, I will be retiring and no longer serve as the CEO/Superintendent of Jumoke Academy Charter School, Inc.

Thank you and best wishes!

Sincerely,
Dr. Monroe

Troy A. Monroe Ed.D.
CEO/Superintendent



“We were pleased to see significant growth in state standardized testing in the areas of Math & ELA for 2025-2026 compared to data from 2024-2025! Our scholar growth report indicates Math increased by 13% and by approximately 6% in ELA.”

A NEW YEAR, *A P.R.O.U.D. Beginning*



**PRINCIPAL DANIELLE
HARRISON-RAMIZ**
TED Elementary

Welcome back, welcome back, WELCOME BACK! From Principal Ramiz in my best Nas voice. There is something special about the beginning of a new school year. The energy in the hallways, the excitement of scholars reconnecting with friends and teachers, and the opportunity for all of us to begin again with renewed purpose. This year, our work at TED is grounded in a simple commitment: building sustainability for staff, achievement for scholars, partnership with families and community, growth, strength, and excellence for all.

We are beginning the year TED P.R.O.U.D. Our scholars are learning what it means to be Prepared, Respectful, Optimistic, Unstoppable, and Dependable, while our staff are committed to modeling those same values by being Professional, Relational, Optimistic, Unified, and Data-Driven. These are more than words for us; they represent the culture we are intentionally building together.

Families can expect a continued emphasis on strong instruction, joyful school experiences, consistent routines and expectations, enrichment opportunities, scholar attendance, and meaningful communication between home and school. Most importantly, families can expect us to continue strengthening our partnership with them. We know the best outcomes for children happen when schools and families trust one another, communicate openly, and work toward a shared goal.

To our families: thank you for trusting us with your children. We recognize both the privilege and responsibility that come with that trust. We are committed to leaving our scholars, families, staff, and school community stronger than we found them. We want you IN THE BUILDING at times that are collaborative, productive, and meaningful. Stay connected on ParentSquare, and keep the feedback coming!

Here's to a year filled with learning, laughter, partnership, and progress.

We're back, and we're TED P.R.O.U.D.!

With love and partnership,
Principal Ramiz



“As we begin this year, my encouragement to our scholars is simple: Don’t stress. Do your best. You are loved. Come to school ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to discover something new about yourself and the world around you.”

Meet Principal Wilson! A New Chapter at JAH-HC



Jumoke Academy is pleased to welcome Principal TaLoria Wilson as the new principal of Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory (JAH-HC).

With more than 20 years of experience in education, Principal Wilson brings a wealth of knowledge, a passion for scholar success, and a strong belief in the power of creativity, community, and limitless possibilities. As she begins her first year at JAH-HC, she is looking forward to building meaningful relationships with scholars, families, and staff while continuing to strengthen the academic and arts-integrated experience that makes the Hartford Conservatory campus unique.

We sat down with Principal Wilson to learn more about the leader behind the vision and what she hopes to build alongside the JAH-HC community.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and your journey in education.

I am a lifelong educator with more than 20 years of experience in education, including 13 years as a classroom teacher and several years in instructional and school leadership. I've had the privilege of serving scholars across elementary, middle, and high school settings. I'm excited to bring that experience, passion, and belief in what is possible to JAH-HC. **I truly believe that when arts have no limits, neither do we.**

"When I'm not working, I love spending time with my amazing son and family, traveling, listening to music, and exploring new places. I'm also a voracious reader, so you'll often find me with a book when I'm not at work."

What message would you like to share with JAH-HC scholars and families as we begin the 2026–27 school year?

Welcome to a new year and a new chapter at JAH-HC! This year, I want us to believe in the limitless possibilities that exist for our scholars and our school community. Together, we will dream boldly, create intentionally, and take ownership of our success.

Q: What inspired you to become an educator and ultimately a school leader?

I became an educator because I believe every scholar deserves someone who sees their potential, believes in them, and helps them discover what they are capable of achieving. I became a school leader because I wanted to expand that impact and help create schools where scholars can **Dream It, Create It, and Own It!**

Q: What drew you to Jumoke Academy and JAH-HC?

I was drawn to JAH-HC because of its unique identity as an arts-integrated honors school. I believe the arts give scholars opportunities to express themselves, think creatively, and see possibilities beyond what they may have imagined. I see tremendous potential in this community, and I'm excited to help JAH-HC embrace the belief that **Arts Has No Limits; Neither Do We.**

"I want scholars to feel safe, seen, valued, challenged, and inspired. I want them to know that JAH-HC is a place where they can be themselves, explore their talents, take intellectual and creative risks, and discover that there truly are no limits to what they can become."

Q: What are you most excited about as you begin your first year with our scholars and families?

I am most excited about building relationships and creating a strong sense of community. I look forward to getting to know our scholars and families, supporting our staff, and creating a school environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and inspired to dream big and create something extraordinary.

Q: What are some of the priorities or goals you have for JAH-HC this school year?

Our priorities are academic achievement, strong Tier 1 instruction, scholar growth, positive school culture, and meaningful family engagement. We will also strengthen our systems and consistency so that every scholar has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our theme captures the mindset I want us to carry throughout the year: **Dream It. Create It. Own It.**

Innovation Starts Here: A Year of Learning & Growth

By Principal Kashay Green

As we begin another exciting school year at JAH-SMaRT, I am looking forward to all that we will accomplish together. This year, we remain committed to creating a school community where Innovation Starts Here and every scholar is challenged, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

A major focus of our work this school year will be academic achievement, high-quality instruction, and scholar ownership of learning. A major part of this work will be centered on the use of the AVID framework. AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an approach that equips scholars with the academic skills, habits, and confidence needed to be successful in school, college, career, and life.

At JAH-SMaRT, AVID is not limited to one classroom or subject. It becomes part of how scholars approach learning every day. Scholars practice asking thoughtful questions, taking meaningful notes, staying organized, collaborating, communicating their thinking, setting goals, and reflecting on their progress. These are skills that support academic success today while building independence for the future. Families can help bring AVID home through simple, everyday routines. Encourage your scholar to check their planner, organize their backpack and AVID binder, prepare materials for the next day, create a routine for completing assignments, and set weekly academic goals. These will be essential pieces of your scholar's success this year. At home you can support by asking your scholar questions like, "What did you learn today?" "What challenged you?" or "What is one goal you are working toward this week?" These help create small routines that reinforce organization, reflection, communication, and responsibility which are all skills we are developing at school.



"As we begin this year, I encourage our scholars to come to school each day ready to learn, willing to take academic risks, and determined to grow."

When school and home reinforce the same habits and expectations, we create a powerful partnership that helps scholars become confident, independent learners. My team and I are looking forward to an amazing year. Together we will help our scholars explore possibilities, engage deeply in their learning, and elevate their potential. Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and commitment to our scholars. Here at JAH-SMaRT will continue to set high expectations, celebrate growth, and ensure every scholar has the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

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STUDENT
SERVICES



PARENT
PORTAL





Explore. Engage. Elevate.

As we move through the year, our commitment remains the same: providing every scholar with an excellent education every day. Together, we will continue Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds, and Empowering Futures. **Together, we will Explore • Engage • Elevate.**



A Strong Academic Start to 2026–2027

by Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

As Jumoke Academy begins the 2026–2027 school year, the Academic Department is focused on one clear goal: ensuring every scholar receives high-quality, engaging instruction and the support and challenge needed to grow. This work continues to reflect our district theme, “Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds, and Empowering Futures.”

At the center of teaching and learning this year is Jumoke Academy’s Explore • Engage • Elevate (E³) Instructional Framework, which describes what great learning should look and feel like across our classrooms. Scholars are encouraged to Explore by asking questions, investigating ideas and making connections; Engage by collaborating, discussing their thinking and taking an active role in learning; and Elevate by applying what they have learned, reflecting on their progress and challenging themselves to think at higher levels.

Families Are Part of the Team

Families play an essential role in scholar success. Supporting learning can be as simple as asking, “What were you curious about today?” or “How could you use something you learned today outside of school?” Daily reading, checking assignments, regular attendance, arriving on time and celebrating effort and growth can also make a meaningful difference.

What’s New This Year



Scholars will also benefit from new and continuing curriculum resources designed to strengthen learning across subject areas. K–8 scholars will use HMH Into Math, while HMH Into Reading and Into Literature will continue supporting reading, comprehension and writing. New resources include HMH Social Studies for grades 6–8 and Studies Weekly Science for grades K–5, alongside continued instruction in elementary social studies and health, wellness and social-emotional learning.

AVID also continues as an important part of the academic experience, helping scholars develop habits that support success in school, college, careers and life. Through WICOR, scholars strengthen skills in Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading, giving them tools to become more independent and engaged learners.