

FAMILY MATTERS



IN WEST PARK

Winter 2017

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New school choices

by Rachel Napolitano

There are more assets and more investments in education in and around the W. 140th St. Education Corridor in West Park than the three new public school buildings from PreK-12th grade.

Birchwood School, now Birchwood School of Hawken, just merged with Hawken this fall, Global Ambassadors of Language Academy (GALA) on Lorain Ave. opened this fall in the northern



commercial district of the Corridor, and Luther Memorial expanded from Old Brooklyn to Lorain Ave. in Cleveland's Ward 16.

Birchwood School is a private, co-ed dayschool on the west side with a racially, ethnically, and

see New schools pg 7

Enrolling youth in arts, robotics & more

by Rachel Napolitano and Tammy Tucker

Six locations are buzzing with K-12th graders during the afterschool hours with free programs. Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation's (BPDC) organization of the West Park MyCom (My Commitment, My Community) youth development network is keeping four sites busy after school and BPDC provides in-school and afterschool programming at Robinson G. Jones School (R.G. Jones). BPDC's newest location, Artemus Ward, is a 21st Century Community Learning Center for 6th-8th graders called Partners for Student Success (P4SS).



One West Park MyCom location for 4th-8th graders

see Art, robotics pg 3

Afterschool benefits for youth, families, & communities

from www.youth.gov (published by U.S. Government)

Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families and communities. Afterschool programs can boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents.

- Attending afterschool programs can improve students' academic performance. A national evaluation found that over 40 percent of students attending 21st Century Community Learning Center programs improved their reading and math grades, and that those who attended more regularly were more likely to make gains (Naftzger et. al., 2007).
- Effective afterschool programs can improve classroom behavior (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2010), school attendance, academic aspirations, and can reduce the likeli-

see Benefits pg 3

First year results of 3 high schools at Marshall

by Rachel Napolitano

All three of John Marshall's 9th and 10th grade students learned more in math and reading than the national norm for their grade level in these subject levels last academic year, no matter which school the students and parents choose to enroll: the John Marshall School of Information Technology (JMIT), the John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership (JMCBL), or the John Marshall School of Engineering (JMSOE).

The national norms published by Northwest Education Association (NWEA) expect 9th and 10th graders to grow .8-1.7 Rasch units in reading (known as RIT scores and named after Georg Rasch, mathematician in the education assessment field). Although 1.7 seems like a small number, once students anywhere in the United States

reach high school, learning gains slow, with the most growth occurring in any subject in the primary grades (1-3). Nationally, 9th and 10th graders learn enough math to take their RIT score from 2.3-3.1 points higher.



JMH 9th and 10th graders as a whole moved their learning in math anywhere from 8-23 RIT levels higher and 2-14 in reading. That's not a misprint. The most math growth on campus occurred in 10th graders at the (JMIT) as they increased 20 points in their skill level. The largest reading score gain was a 14 point increase at JMCBL.

All three thematic schools have no minimum grade point average for admission and none of the schools require an admission test. Students with varying academic performance levels, some greatly behind grade level when they

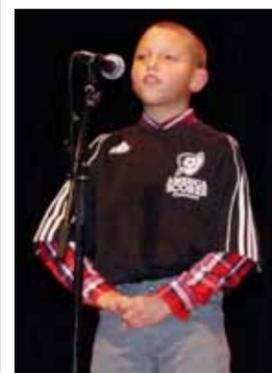
entered the school, contributed to the substantial progress as reported in these average RIT gains. These large gains illustrate rigorous academic work by *all the students*, no matter a student's grade-level proficiency at the start of the year.

see John Marshall Campus results from 3 high schools pg 7

Youth voice: Students score big at local poetry slam

by Kristene Tadese from America SCORES and Rachel Napolitano

On November 18, 2016, America SCORES hosted its 12th Annual Poetry Slam which showcased 20 teams of 3rd-5th graders from 10 area schools at Cuyahoga Community College. Joselyn Leon, the individual poet from the Artemus Ward Girls Team scored the second highest among the individual girl poets that presented. Furthermore, the whole Artemus Ward Girls Team performed impressively, taking second place, the Silver Mic Award, among the Girls teams.



José Caraballo

Besides the team from Artemus Ward, the Newton D. Baker Boys Team took second place (the Silver Mic Award) out of all the Boys teams. José Caraballo scored well among the boys, hailing from the Robinson G. Jones Boys Team.

see Youth voice pg 2

Meet the Amann family

by Rachel Napolitano

Hundreds of teachers depend on West Park for their livelihood at over 20 elementary schools (see page 8) and 5 high schools. But most do not have the luxury to live only four blocks away as teacher and parent, Scott Amann. His commute to Garfield School is only long in comparison to his wife Michelle's.

Scott moved to the neighborhood because he likes to live close to work and values living on major bus routes. After renting on W. 134th for 4 years, he saw his current W. 136th house for sale on his way to the store. He "was tired of throwing money away renting" and became a proud homeowner.

He joined Garfield's faculty in 2009, but he has worked for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District since 2000. He spent four years at the Carl F. Shuler building and was laid off with budget cuts. Then he spent three years at McKinley School after he was called back. He is dual-certified in elementary education and mild-moderate special needs as an intervention specialist.

When Michelle Amann married Scott, she moved to West Park from Brunswick. They started dating in 2004 through a Christian-themed dating site "that probably doesn't exist anymore." Their first

see Meet the Amann family pg 7

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Local teachers win recognition for excellence

by Rachel Napolitano

After a 6 month process, ten teachers were chosen out of over 200 nominations for Excellence in Teaching awards 3 of which came to West Park teachers. An additional three West Park teachers were special honorees, as well. Awardees were honored at a special ceremony at the Drury Hotel in the fall. Each Excellence in Teaching awardee receives a \$5000 award and are asked to commit to share their practice with their peers this school year by doing things like posting sample lessons online, allowing other teachers to observe them at work, and conducting workshops.

Local Excellence in Teaching award-ees are:

- Stephanie Chiarello, 10th grade social studies teacher at John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership (JMCBL)
- Spencer Small, 10th grade computer science teacher at John Marshall School of Information Technology (JMIT)
- Bonnie Whitmer, kindergarten special education teacher at Robinson G. Jones School.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), the Cleveland Teachers Union, and the Gund Foundation started this annual award in 2016 to reward the best teachers in the district.

The Excellence in Teaching Award's announcement quotes the nomination of Stephanie Chiarello, a three year CMSD veteran, as someone who "uses her course content—American History and Economics—to engage students in larger questions about who we are and how we've gotten to this point in our history. ... Her lesson on the 1892 Homestead Strike was one of the most remarkable lessons I've ever seen: every single student fully engaged in learning, thinking on their feet, taking different perspectives, and examining their prejudices ... She provides the vision to ensure we are staying true to our mission of creating principled leaders who will foster a more sustain-

able and equitable city.'

Bonnie Whitmer's recognition included the following quote about her work, which spans 28 years: "Children are all over the classroom working independently, in small groups, at tables and on the rug—wherever they are comfortable. ... Her children are always singing. ... Ms. Whitmer has a thorough knowledge of subject matter, pedagogy and classroom management. Her students take ownership and responsibility for their work and can always articulate what they are doing and why...She champions children with special needs."

see Local teachers pg 8

Youth voice *cont. from p. 1*

Caraballo scored the second highest among the individual male poets. All of these teams and poets contributed to an extremely successful and exciting America SCORES Poetry SLAM!

Each school team wrote a poem together and then performed it as a group for the team competition. America SCORES provided musical accompaniment on the evening of the slam. Each team also nominated one individual to represent their team to perform their original poem for the individual slam.

The event is the culmination of a



Joselyn Leon

semester worth of poetry-writing and soccer-playing for these poet-athletes.. Here are the winning local poems:

Bullying

No one likes to get hurt or feel they're ugly

Wouldn't you rather feel lovely?

More kids get bullied than you think

Don't let bullying rise, make it sink

When you see bullying make it quit
And also remember to put a stop to it
If you see bullying taking place
Go find an adult and plead your case
Bullying is so not cool
And not allowed in any school.

- Joselyn Leon, 4th grade

Artemus Ward School



Artemus Ward Girls Team

Girl Power

Girls are just as important as boys

We don't deserve to be treated like toys

We can be doctors, lawyers, and even President too

There isn't anything we can't do

We work hard, we are kind

We are go getters with a powerful mind

We are mothers, daughters, and sisters too

We aren't disappointers and neither are you

We can do this together

We never stop like the weather

We stand together, make each other proud

As a group our girl power is loud!

We'll take on any test

We fight for what's best

We just want to be ourselves

And be treated like everyone else

Strong as steel, delicate as a flower

Put it all together, it's girl power!

- Artemus Ward School Girls Team

Candy

Candy is so so sweet

Candy is something we all love to eat

It's made all over the world

Loved by every boy and girl!

Smarties, twizzlers, twix and nerds

Snickers, gummies a treat we deserve!

Candy all day! Candy all night!

I just might lose my appetite!

Mom says don't eat too much!

But on Halloween I get a bunch!

When I leave it on the table,

She eats it all and blames it on Mable!

Candy is so so sweet,

Candy is something we ALL love to eat!!

- Newton D. Baker Boys Team

My Color Poem

I am a RAINBOW of FEELINGS....

Color: Red

I feel red when I get mad.

When I heard about 911 and all the people that got hurt,

This is how I feel.

Color: Orange

I feel orange when everyone gets along.

When communities help one another,

This is how I feel.

Color: Yellow

I feel yellow when justice is brought to the people in this world.

When police protect others,

This is how I feel.

Color: Green

I feel green when kindness is shown.

When athletes show good sportsmanship,

This is how I feel.

Color: Blue

I feel blue when I see sadness.

When people are being treated unfairly,

This is how I feel.

Color: Purple

I feel purple when someone is found.

When Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight were found,

This is how I feel.

Color: Pink

I feel pink when I hear about cancer.

When people are hurting,

This is how I feel.



Jose Caraballo, Grade 3

Robinson G. Jones School

Newton D. Baker Boys Team

America SCORES is a national program that ties writing enrichment together with soccer in afterschool programs at participating schools. Learn more about America SCORES Cleveland by visiting:

www.americascoroscleveland.org or calling 216-881-7988

Art, robotics cont. from p. 1

to delve into fun is at West Preparatory Academy. On Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm in February and the beginning of March, youth will build and program robots that they make with Lego Mindstorms®. From April through the beginning of May, youth can make their own beats and songs and use music production software during the same time of day as robotics was offered.

GALA School is opening its doors to the community as the second West Park MyCom afterschool site for arts classes for kindergarteners through third graders. A mini-session already started Jan. 9 and new sessions are enrolling for Mondays 4:15-5:30pm. Chinese New Year is the theme from Feb. 6-Mar. 13th and traditional themes will be used. The next session



Lantern art glows in the dark

of arts is offered Apr. 3-May 8th. The session is entitled “Fun with Clay” and is bound to be full, as past clay classes coordinated with Art House, Inc. (BPDC’s perennial arts partner) have been popular. The art classes culminate in a Parade the Circle family workshops starting in May at GALA

and ending in June at the parade.

Teen Job Club is going strong and could use more teens in 8th-12th grade to drop-in to join any time for access to guest speakers, workshops, job leads, field trips, and leadership opportunities. Skills for success in work, college, career and life are for everyone, so the West Park MyCom club is open to all students in the area and meets Wednesdays at John Marshall Campus in Room 217 from 4-5:30pm.

Fashion Club is for ages 8 and up and meets the first and third Tuesdays at the West Park branch of the Cleveland Public Library from 3:30-5 p.m. This MyCom makers club was popular last school year and new boys and girls are welcome to make fabric craft projects to take home.

The P4SS program is available through a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. BPDC provides a comprehensive and intensive academic afterschool program located in the media center of the school. The program is available for all sixth, seventh, and eighth (6, 7, and 8) graders at Artemus Ward, R.G. Jones and in the surrounding community and it runs now until the end of the summer. Partners for Student Success (P4SS) begins at 3:45pm and ends at 6pm Monday through Friday and provides hands-on teaching, tutoring, mentoring, and academic accountability for our participants. The program accepts new applications all year round and

especially is looking for additional 6th grade students to join.

A partnership with Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) brings Americorps volunteer staff and project-based learning to the P4SS program, to guide students to seek answers to health issues that affect their community and create solutions that may eradicate health issue(s). America SCORES provides soccer and poetry/spoken word curriculum while Neil Chastain provides drumming lessons and helps each student understand the academics of music and mental ability. Angela Montgomery provides Zumba instruction to gain oxygen and free up intellectual acuity and agility.

BPDC’s Wraparound program at R.G. Jones began as a pilot program in 2013 with a three-year commitment with the United Way and is now funded again by the United Way for a 4th year, the entire 2016-2017 school year. This year the focus is on in-school programming for R.G. Jones students, however America SCORES Cleveland has been a mainstay for afterschool academic and soccer enrichment. (See the boys SCORES team and individual poetry recognition starting on the cover page, entitled *Youth Voice*.)

All youth development activities BPDC organizes requires registration, with advanced registration needed for art, robotics, and music classes. Contact BPDC at 216-671-2710 or search www.bpdc.org for more information.

Benefits cont. from p. 1

hood that a student will drop out (Huang, Leon, La Torre, Mostafavi, 2008).

- Participation in afterschool programs has been associated with reduced drug use (Investing in Our Young People, University of Chicago, 2006) and criminal behavior (UCLA National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing, 2007).
- Afterschool programs can play an important role in encouraging physical activity and good dietary habits. Participation in afterschool programs has been associated with positive health outcomes, including reduced obesity (Mahoney, J., Lord, H., & Carryl, 2005).
- Working families and businesses also derive benefits from afterschool programs that ensure that youth have a safe place to go while parents are at work. Parents concerned about their children’s afterschool care miss an average of eight days of work per year, and this decreased worker productivity costs businesses up to \$300 billion annually (Brandeis University, Community, Families and Work Program, 2004 and Catalyst & Brandeis University, 2006).

TUTORING WEEKDAYS
 Kindergarteners - 8th graders
 Rockport branch library
 216-623-7053

West Park Youth Resources

Art & Performance

America SCORES-poetry & spoken word	216-881-7988
Art House, Inc.	216-398-8556
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Brady Campbell Irish Dance School	216-926-4423
Center for Families and Children-RapArt	216-252-5800
Joyful Noise Music School	216-952-4398
Rockport Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360

Academic

America SCORES-writing enrichment	216-881-7988
Building Hope in the City	216-281-4673
College Now	216-870-8611
Riverside Park Afterschool program	216-476-4172
Rockport Branch Library and Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360
RG Jones Wraparound	216-920-7143
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593

Religious

Blessed Trinity Youth Ministry	216-671-5890
Second Calvary Baptist Church Youth Ministry	216-252-1050
St. Paul AME-Youth Ministry Programs	216-941-6767
U-Turn Ministries of Gateway West Community Church	440-941-4238
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593
West Park United Church of Christ Youth Group	216-671-7228
West Park Evangelical Friends	216-251-6976

Employment

Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	216-566-5445

Youth Leadership

AmazinnMe Bridge Program for Girls	216-209-0760
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Boy Scouts	216-861-6060
Girl Scouts of NEO	440-233-6112
Operation StandUP	216-282-5822
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Sports

All American Karate	440-331-0009
America SCORES-soccer	216-881-7988
Cleveland Bombers	216-800-1823
Gunning Recreation Center	216-420-7910
Halloran Recreation Center	216-664-4187
Schools as Neighborhood Resources at John Marshall	216-838-6000
Valley Riding Inc.	216-267-2525
W. 130th Tri-League	216-476-8456
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Other Offerings

Center for Families and Children (counseling)	216-252-5800
Cleveland Metroparks	440-734-6660
Neighborhood Education Committee	216-671-2710
Rockport Teen Center	216-623-7053
West Park Coalition Community Lab	216-941-5050
West Park Kiwanis school-based programs	216-252-1364
West Park Branch Library	216-623-7102
Hasani Management gardening program	216-245-5167

Tuition-free High School Choice

John Marshall High (JMH) School Campus

John Marshall School of Engineering

John Marshall School of Civic & Business Leadership

John Marshall School of Information Technology

Enrollment & Eligibility

Please call the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) office of student assignments to enroll rising 9th & 10th graders at 216-838-3675 or enroll on-line at www.clevelandmetroschools.org and click on the "Parents" tab at the top to see the link to registration and enrollment information.

This school has no GPA requirements. An enrollment form must be completed.

The following documents are required for registration: birth certificate, immunization record (baby shots), proof of address, withdraw form, most recent report card, or transcript, guardian's state ID, and guardianship/custody documents (if applicable).

Special Features

John Marshall School of Engineering focuses students to obtain industry-recognized credentialing, college readiness, and college credit while in high school. Math, science and engineering courses offer hands-on experiences through Fab Lab and Maker-space Lab, designing and building robots, constructing energy efficient cars, and exploring green technology.

Three pathways offered to 9th & 10th grade students to choose from are: 1.) Aerospace Engineering 2.) Environmental Engineering 3.) Civil Engineering & Architecture. In 11th and 12th grade, they begin to focus on one pathway to obtain an industry-recognized credential and the opportunity to receive college credit.

Specialized curriculum offerings and plans

- College credit classes • Algebra I with Robotics
- Principles of Biotechnology/Biology • English I/ Professional Communications • English II/Writing for Research • Geometry with AutoCAD/Solidworks • Pre-Calculus • Calculus • AP Calculus • AP Biology • AP Chemistry • AP Physics • Principles of Chemical Engineering/Chemistry • 3-D Design • Visual Art

Preparing scholars who are ready to be the leaders of tomorrow, they receive a rigorous education and opportunities to work at one of our onsite businesses and are actively involved in community projects. Students will receive hands-on training in entrepreneurship, sales/marketing, finance/operations and non-profit management. The school grooms 21st Century leaders for college or immediate career by stressing seven community touchstones:

- Kindness – treating ourselves and others with compassion
- Stewardship – recognizing that we are guardians of our community and must protect those things placed in our trust
- Responsibility – holding ourselves accountable, striving to meet our obligations and asking for help when necessary
- Integrity – seeking to do the right thing
- Inquiry – actively questioning the world around us instead of passively accepting things as they are
- Reflection – taking time to explore our own thoughts, make our own connections and create our own ideas
- Social Impact – inspiring a new generation of leaders to promote equitable and sustainable development in Greater Cleveland.

There are plans for an internship experience for on-track seniors as a portion of their school day

This is the only school in Cleveland to focus on Computer Science. Students build robots, creating video games, design websites and produce models on 3D printers as part of the thematic STEM curriculum.

Students can explore careers in IT focusing on one of three pathways: Healthcare IT with John Carroll University, Cyber Security with Tri-C Westshore, and Software Development with Cleveland State University. Mentorship by IT professionals will be available and students can earn an industry-recognized credential in their chosen pathway by graduation.

Specialized curriculum offerings and plans

- College credit classes • Computer Science Principles • AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Language (English) • Algebra 1 with Robotics • Algebra 1 with Video Game Design
- Geometry with AutoCAD/Solidworks • Bioinformatics • AP Calculus • AP Biology
- AP Literature • AP Computer Science Application

College Credits

Students may apply to take courses for free at local, public colleges like Tri-C and Cleveland State University and receive both high school and college credit for the courses through Ohio's College Credit Plus program. The program covers the costs of tuition, books, and fees.

Career Readiness

The new John Marshall High School Campus strives to provide opportunities to connect all of the schools' student populations with real world experiences to gain skills and work experience either in the classroom speakers, extra-curricular offerings, field trips, job shadowing, summer jobs, or internships. It builds on the wealth of employment and professionals in the West Park community and providing opportunities for adults in the community to take a stake in the youth in our community. The John Marshall Campus has community partnerships with: PPG Industries, Rising Star Roasters, NASA, Hyland Software, Turner Construction, Alcoa, College Now, Cuyahoga Community College, John Carroll University, St. Edward High School, and Cleveland State University.

Sports

Baseball, Softball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball, Golf, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Weightlifting, Soccer, Dance Team, Swimming, Tennis, Bowling, Powerlifting, Intramurals

Extra-curricular activities campus wide

- Choir
- Yearbook
- Drill Team
- Academic Challenge
- Chess Club
- Drama Club
- School Newspaper Club
- Green Team
- Robotics
- Air Force JROTC
- Student Advisory Council
- Photography Club
- Anime Club
- Band
- Multicultural Club
- Upward Bound

In-school programming across the campus also includes: College Now, Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG), Air Force JROTC

School-specific extra-curricular activities

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASA Engineering Club • Society of Women Engineering • Principal Leadership Council • Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) Program • National Technical Honor Society • Robotics • Environmental Club • Kappa Leadership Development League | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyer's Cafe - a student-run coffee shop that also sells smoothies, located in the concession booth • piloting a youth-run summer landscaping program • W.A.V.E. - peer mediation training • Facing History Club - to build skills like empathy and global citizenship • Police Explorers • Gay-Straight Alliance • Highland Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASA Club - NASA mentors teach computer programming • Hyland Web Corps - Hyland mentors help students learn website development • soldering & building circuits with Progressive Arts Alliance (PAA) • Facing History Club - to build skills like empathy and global citizenship • Snap Lab - using photography apps |
|---|--|--|

Address, school colors, mascot

3952 W. 140th St. is location of the 21st Century John Marshall High School Campus, 216-838-6000, JMH Athletics on Twitter @MarshallLawyers

clevelandmetroschools.org/JohnMarshallENG

clevelandmetroschools.org/JohnMarshallCBL
<https://lawyerscafe.wordpress.com/>

clevelandmetroschools.org/JohnMarshallIT
 Instagram: @johnmarshallschoolofit
 Twitter: @johnmarshallsc1
 Facebook: /JohnMarshallIT

The Lawyer (Ima Lawyer) is the mascot for the entire campus, red & black are the colors

Guide for West Park Families

Bard High School Early College (BHSEC)	New Tech West	Max S. Hayes Career & Technical High School
Enrollment & Eligibility		
<p>Contact Sarah Schneider at sschneider@bhsec.bard.edu or 216-838-9707. Admission is pending an interview with the student. Open house attendance is encouraged and the June 16th open house at 5pm is for those entering 11th grade in August who may want to transfer to Bard. There is not a GPA requirement, but the school seeks to admit students with academic ambition, maturity, and intellectual curiosity.</p>	<p>Please call the CMSD office of student assignments to enroll your child: 216-838-3675 or enroll online at www.clevelandmetroschools.org and click on the “Parents” tab at the top to see the link to registration and enrolment information.</p> <p>This school has no GPA requirements.</p> <p>The same documents are needed as for any CMSD school and an enrollment form must be completed.</p>	<p>Please call the CMSD office of student assignments to enroll your child: 216-838-3675 or enroll online at www.clevelandmetroschools.org and click on the “Parents” tab at the top to see the link to registration and enrolment information.</p> <p>This school has no GPA requirements.</p> <p>The same documents are needed as for JMHS. An enrollment form must be completed.</p>
Special Features		
<p>Many of the classes taught on-site, by professors, are transferrable college credits. The school is a partnership with the district and Bard College, New York. Many classes are taught in a seminar-style. This alternative to traditional high school believes many young people are ready and eager to do college work starting at age 16.</p> <p>College-level Chinese and Spanish are offered in addition to social science topical course of Chinese culture. Literature focuses on the whole of the Americas, including Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Seminars are core to the curriculum, stressing critical reading and interpretation.</p> <p>There is an August summer bridge program for new students.</p>	<p>In addition to traditional high school courses, special emphasis is placed on using technology and workforce preparation. Classes at New Tech are project based, so students are always working in groups rather than a lecture-based class structure. This is designated as a new and innovative school in the CMSD portfolio and the New Tech Network is a nation-wide nonprofit network that is a subsidiary of KnowledgeWorks, a social enterprise.</p> <p>Spanish, pre-calculus, and digital media are offered.</p> <p>Community partners include: Cleveland Indians, Hyland Software, and Progressive Insurance.</p>	<p>This school’s focus is excellent preparation for immediate work in manufacturing and technical fields. Students can choose from career pathways and earn industry credentials in school for these careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programming & Software Design, - Networking • Manufacturing & Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision Machining -Welding -Engineering and Design • Construction Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building & Property Maintenance • Automotive Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Automotive Collision Repairs -Automotive Technology Repairs -Diesel Mechanics
College Credits		
<p>While attending this new and innovative high school students are able to complete two years of college courses (during grades 11 and 12) and may graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree from Bard College.</p>	<p>Juniors and seniors participate in Post-Secondary coursework and may apply to take courses for free at local, public colleges like Tri-C and Cleveland State University and receive both high school and college credit for the courses through Ohio’s College Credit Plus program, including High Tech Academy</p>	<p>Students may apply to take courses for free at local, public colleges like Tri-C and Cleveland State University and receive both high school and college credit for the courses through Ohio’s College Credit Plus program.</p>
Career Readiness		
<p>Provides opportunities for internships, leadership opportunities, and summer camps through one-on-one meetings to explore career interests for each student.</p> <p>Dr. Dumaine Williams, Bard’s principal, provides interested students in internships in the public sector and/or career mentoring.</p>	<p>Project-based work fosters critical thinking, creativity, and communication. Learning is made relevant as students are asked to answer challenging questions and solve complex problems just like in the workplace. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for internships in the community to explore career options.</p>	<p>Besides eight (8) career training programs, it has partnerships with ArcelorMittal, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, E.C. Kitzel & Sons, Inc., Ernst & Young, Greater Cleveland Partnership, HGR Manufacturing, Hyland Software, Jergens, Great Lakes Towing Co., WIRE-Net and more.</p>
Sports		
<p>Basketball is a varsity sport and extramurals include Cheerleading, Volleyball and Baseball.</p>	<p>All New Tech West students may continue to participate in all the sports offerings at Max Hayes for the 2016-2017 seasons.</p>	<p>Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Golf, Track and Field, Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, Swimming and Bowling</p>
Extra-curricular activities		
<p>BHSEC Cleveland Student Activities Center supports student-led groups and connects students to outside service opportunities and activities like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debate team • creative writing/literary magazine • Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club • Model UN • art club • environment club • social justice club • student council and • National Honor Society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Advisory Council • ACE- Architecture Construction and Engineering • Robotics Club • Chess Club • Photography Club • National Honor Society • Art Competition • Science Fair • Yearbook • Boys Club <p>In-school programming across the campus also includes: College Now, W.A.V.E. (peer mediation training), and anti-bullying club.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art competition • Cabin-building • Canoe competition • Student Council • Career Fair • Robotics Team • Science Fair • Ski trip • Book Club <p>In-school programming across the campus also includes: College Now, Student Council, N.O.W. (Not on Our Watch, an anti-bullying club), Ambassadors -Academy of Cleveland (mentoring).</p>
Address, school colors, mascot		
<p>13501 Terminal Avenue, 216-838-9700 www.bhsec.bard.edu/cleveland No mascot Red is the official color</p>	<p>11801 Worthington Ave., 216-838-8700 www.clevelandmetroschools.org/newtechwest Robbie & Roberta Robot mascot, Blue & white are the official colors</p>	<p>2211 W 65th St., 216-631-1528 www.clevelandmetroschools.org/maxshayes Lakers mascot, Blue is the official color</p>

West Park Family Calendar

Ongoing/Drop-in participation:

1.) West Park Fashion Club at the West Park branch library (3805 W. 157th St.) Jan. 17, Feb. 7 & 21, Mar. 7 & 21, Apr. 4 & 18, and May 2. "Design. Sew. Create." Register with Vanessa at 216-671-2170 ext. 218.

2.) West Park Teen Job Club for teens 8th-12th grade. 4-5:30pm at John Marshall, 3952 W. 140th St. "Skills for success in work, college, career and life." Call Vanessa at 216-671-2170 ext. 218 for more information.

Jan. 17-Mar. 23, Tuesday and Thursdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm, YMCA Wellness Avengers healthy families program: "Tuesday's activities will be in the gym, with Thursday's spent in the pool. Experts from Cleveland Clinic Children's will be on hand to discuss stress relief and healthy eating." Call 216-941-5410 to register. \$20/family for members or nonmembers.

Feb. 6, 13, 27, Mar. 6, 13, *Fun with Clay*, children's art club session for K-3rd grade. Taught by Art House, Inc. teaching artists. Free and open to all students thanks to West Park MyCom. Classes are from 4:15- 5:30pm at 13442 Lorain Ave. Register with Vanessa at 216-671-2170 ext. 218.

Feb. 9, College Now Connect Home program on SAT practice on Khan Academy for 11th graders and their parents. 3-5pm. Call 216-978-5527.

Feb. 9-March 9, Robotics for 4th-8th graders free on Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm. Registration required for youth to build and program their own robots with Lego Mindstorms. Open to the community and hosted by West Prep Academy, 13111 Crossburn Ave.

Register with Vanessa at 216-671-2170 ext. 218.

Mar. 1 thru Apr. 15 In-person registrations for baseball, softball, and t-ball with Tri-League registration. Online registrations available currently before the in-person registration, 24/7. In person registration are Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm and Saturdays 11am to 3pm at their office, 4462 W. 130th St.

Mar. 9, College Now Connect Home program on "academic prep/enrichment" for 10th graders and their parents. 3-5pm. Call 216-978-5527.

Apr. 3, 10, 24, May 1, 8, Chinese New Year themed children's art club session for K-3rd grade. Children will work with clay and glaze to make unique and functional pieces of art. Taught by Art House, Inc. teaching artists. Free and open to all students thanks to West Park MyCom. Classes are from 4:15 - 5:30pm at 13442 Lorain Ave. Register with Vanessa at 216-671-2170 ext. 218.

Apr. 6-May 4 4th - 8th graders can create music with music production software on Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm. Registration required. Open to the community and hosted by West Prep Academy, 13111 Crossburn Ave. Register with Vanessa at 216-671-2170.

May 6th, 5th Annual Run Puritas 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run, 8am. It is for walkers and runners alike, strollers and leashed dogs welcome. Registration includes a t-shirt and refreshments. Proceeds benefit neighborhood services. Register you or a team at www.peaceracing.com. Call Veronica at 216-671-2710 ext. 207 to register yourself or a group.

Top destinations for family fun

Parks & recreation

Gunning Recreation Center, Pool, Playground, and Fields: 16700 Puritas Ave., 216-420-7900, free admission, sports lessons & leagues.

Halloran Rink, Pool & Gazebo: 3550 West 117th St., 216-664-4187, free activities like sports lessons & leagues, \$1 skate rental and admission, 25¢ to skate with your own skates.

Impett Park, Pool, Playground & Fields: W. 155th St. & Montrose Ave., 216-664-2570 tennis courts & walking paths, basketball courts, and fields.

Jefferson Park, Playground, Courts & Fields: Lorain Ave. & W. 132nd St., 216-664-2570, walking paths, pavilion, tennis and basketball courts.

Rocky River Nature Center: 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH 44070, 440-734-6660, free admission, classes and workshops, some activities have nominal fees.

Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation: entrance at Puritas Avenue and Grayton Road, 440-734-6660, fields, trails, golf, nature center, natural features, pavilions and picnic tables, playgrounds, splash pools, fishing, outdoor exercise equipment, special events, boating, free except for golf and specialized classes/workshops/showings/rentals.

Emery Park: W. 130th and Emery Ave., 216-664-2570, spray basin, basketball courts, baseball courts.

Crossburn Park: Crossburn Ave. and W. 130th, 216-664-2570, spray basin, basketball, and tennis courts, baseball.

Valley Riding, Inc. (nonprofit AKA Rocky River or Puritas Stables): 19901 Puritas Ave., 216-267-2525, group lessons, group tours, therapeutic riding, camp, prices vary.

Brookpark Skateland: 13445 Brookpark Rd, Brook Park, OH 44142, 216-267-3966, paid lessons & party rental, competitions, inexpensive skate rental, \$5-\$8 rink admission.

Freeway Lanes Bowling: 12859 Brookpark Rd; 216-267-2150, adult with child summer team league, kids bowl free available with online registration, \$3.75 shoe rental, \$3.25-\$4.50 regular per game/per person charge.

West Park YMCA: 15501 Lorain Road, 216-941-5410. Sports, exercise classes, and an indoor pool.

Schools as Neighborhood Resources (SNR): Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 6-8pm for youth and adults inside the John Marshall Campus at 3952 W. 140th St., Viola Ave. entrance. Basketball, soccer, line-dancing, tutoring, arts and crafts, table tennis, dinner for youth, and free community meeting space.

Tutoring, computers, movies, books, & more

Cleveland Public Libraries: The West Park, and Rockport branches are located in West Park. Besides books, they have technology, workshops, classes, and special programs for all ages. There are free afterschool meals for children at the Rockport branch (4421 W. 140th St.). For more information, call:

- Rockport -- 216-623-7053
- West Park --216-623-7102.

True2U mentors reach more local 8th graders, needs more

by Vanessa Lange

True2U expanded its reach to 46 Cleveland Metropolitan Schools this fall! Garfield in the W. 140th Education Corridor, Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy on Valleyside, Clara Westropp on Puritas, McKinley on W. 125th, Valleyview Boys Leadership Academy on Valleyview, and Riverside off of Warren Road participate in the program. What is True2U?

According to the CMSD News Bureau, "True2U, a collaborative effort involving the Cleveland Foundation, the District, the Greater Cleveland Partner-

ship and the Neighborhood Leadership Institute," as part of the MyCom network that Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) organizes in West Park, "guides the students as they prepare for what can be a make-or-break transition to high school, post-secondary education or training and careers."

Each month, mentors from corporations and the community fan out for three hours to participating schools, helping students to envision their future

see True2U mentors pg 8

Student superstars

by Rachel Napolitano

Two superstar high school students in West Park go to the John Marshall High School Campus (JMH), one to the School of Civic and Business Leadership and the other to the School of Information Technology (IT).

Onyango Pearl, a junior at Marshall's School of Civic and Business Leadership, was one of the winning five finalists in the Young Entrepreneur Institute's 2016 Teen Pitch Tank Competition this November. You can watch his pitch on YouTube for the Finger Activated Locker Combination, an invention to help students make locker stops quick since a fingerprint is all that is needed to unlock his combination idea. He was interviewed on

WKYC's Live on Lakeside and won a prize package that potentially includes a scholarship to the CSU Monte Ahuja College of Business!

The Cavs recognizes one All-Star Kid each month of the season at a Northeast Ohio school, and Rochell Bradly, a junior at the IT school, was the December All-Star. She won 4 VIP tickets for herself and her family on December 10th. She was honored on the court and presented the game ball to the team captain. The Cavs's mascot, Moondog, and Cavs's "Hype Man" Ahmaad Crump made a surprise visit to make the announcement at JMH.

She has a 3.92 GPA and was captain of the volleyball team, which is one of 3

School choice is in your hands

submitted by Cleveland Transformation Alliance

The choice is yours for tuition-free schools of all grades and all types in Cleveland, with open enrollment for all public schools.

How can Clevelanders learn more about their public schools? What does "school quality" mean? How can communities work to improve their schools?

These are some of the questions that drive the work of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a nonprofit advocacy organization striving to make sure all Cleveland children can attend quality schools, in every neighborhood.

The Alliance partners with organizations like Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation to highlight what's happening in schools and to work to improve public education. QualitySchoolsCLE.org (the Alliance website) can also be a valuable resource for families seeking the school that's the best fit for their children, and for other members of the community who care

sport teams she belongs to at Marshall. She wants to be a vet or pharmacist and is in AP Computer Science now for the challenge and because she likes computers. Her assistant principal and her sister are her academic supports.

about making schools and neighborhoods stronger.

Look for QualitySchoolsCLE.org's profiles and ratings to be updated for

School choice dates at CMSD

Jan. 23- Mar. 13: Open enrollment for K-12th grades in CMSD

Feb. 1: High School Choice Fair at the Wolstein Center, 5pm-7pm

Mar. 24: Lottery results announced for CMSD school seats in high-demand

Mar. 25: Post-lottery enrollment begins

Don't wait to learn your choices and enroll!

every Cleveland public school – district and charter – along with contacts, enrollment information, and more this February.

These resources includes ratings and reviews of schools by the people who know them best: families, students, educators, and other community members. Anyone who knows a school can provide a review.

Under the Chairmanship of Mayor Frank G. Jackson, the Alliance board of directors brings together partners from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), the charter school sector, parents and educators, local foundations, and other community and business leaders. Board meetings are open to the public.

For more information, contact Cleveland Transformation Alliance at 216-592-2425.

Her sister Camelia Bradly is her role model because she has been raising her ever since she her mother died when she was four years old. Rochell volunteers in the summer to watch children at a Baptist church.

New schools *cont. from p. 1*

internationally diverse student body, drawing enrollment from around the Northeast Ohio region because of its challenging academics. Hawken School in Lyndhurst and Gates Mills are co-ed private schools from PreK-12th grade. Hawken saw the strength of Birchwood as a complementary campus for their far east campuses. Birchwood's founders, Chuck and Helen Debelak, found stability in a similar quality of the academics and social expectations at Hawken and the Debelaks can expect continuity for Birchwood's standards in the future. Also, Birchwood students benefit from automatic acceptance to Hawken's Upper School post-merger.

GALA has no tuition as a public charter and will be offering an International Baccalaureate (IB) academic program as it expands the grades that it offers. An IB education is a Swiss-based program that incorporates academic rigor with an international curriculum that is in 147 different countries. GALA's goal is to offer PreK-8 language immersion, with a Mandarin Chinese and a

Spanish tract. It opened this school year with kindergarten and first grade on the campus of St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, but it is completely independent, just as Birchwood School leases from Blessed Trinity Catholic Church on Puritas Avenue.

Luther Memorial School has pre-school through Grade 8 in Old Brooklyn and had increasing numbers of Ward 16 students, especially newly-arrived to the United States, so they opened a campus here. At Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church's campus, Luther Memorial offers kindergarten through Grade 6. Luther, like GALA, offers a very small class size. It is not a Montessori school, but it does organize students into multi-level classes, which works well for students who may be above grade level in some subjects and at or below grade level in others, according to Principal Nicole Levy. Levy says her students' parents consider the private, Lutheran school a family, especially with daily school-wide assemblies.



Meet the Amann family *cont. from p. 1*

date was at Tower City on her way from picking up her usher's uniform at Progressive Field. Concurrent to ushering, when she was living in Brunswick, Michelle ran her own photography studio. (She graduated in 2000 from Indiana Wesleyan with studies in Photography and Graphic Design.) After the overhead caused her to close her first studio, she worked in real estate for almost a decade. She returned to photography in 2016, opening Urbanography Studio at home. (She also works on-location with an emphasis on family, pet, child, and senior portraits.) Fun fact: after meeting Michelle, Scott also decided to moonlight at Progressive Field for a time, including this World Series.

Scott loves his work in special education at Garfield School and as a parent he feels very lucky to have such an intimate knowledge of both of his neighborhood schools to feel confident he is making the right choices for his children. Besides caring for an infant at home, the family circulates between two neighborhood

schools for their children's development, the local YMCA, and Jefferson Park. One child's best educational fit was at McKinley while the other attends Garfield.



More than just being a homeowner, Scott feels invested in his neighborhood, including his nearby worship community. They had gone to a few different churches separately, and then as a new couple were church shopping when they met Pastor Dan Ghramm at a church in North

Olmsted. Later, they were surprised he was their neighbor, only 20 houses down. When Rev. Ghramm said he was church planting in the West Park, the Amanns followed him to be one of the founding families of Gateway West Church, located at 15135 Triskett Road.

The family shops locally at Rubin's, Caffé Roma, Jefferson West Park Automotive, and Vinny's Beverage.

Scott considers West Park their home and said, "If we were going to move, we'd stay here and move to a bigger house."

John Marshall Campus results from 3 high schools *cont. from p. 1*

Principal Timothy Primus's School of Engineering did its most growth in 10th grade reading skills, jumping an average of 11.4 points on the RIT scale. Besides standardized tests, Primus also reported that 54 of the 189 JMSOE students received college credit in 2015-2016. (Despite traditional underrepresentation in the engineering field, last year 67% of his student body was female.)

Among JMSOE partnerships are Turner Construction, Cleveland State University's Fenn College of Engineering, Alcoa, St. Edward High School, and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) (including having a student on Tri-C's world championship robotics team). Among JMSOE business partnerships, PPG Industries, Inc. awarded JMSOE a \$20,000 grant for a mobile makerspace in 2016. The mobile makerspace is used in special education to enhance learning with 3-D imaging and tools to build models and prototypes.

Three career pathways exist so students can explore and gain career credentials at both JMSOE and JMIT. JMSOE offers pathways in 1.) aero-

space engineering, 2.) environmental engineering, and 3.) civil engineering and architecture to 9th and 10th graders, while students pick one of these fields to focus on their 11th and 12th grade years.

JMIT explores three more pathways and has students choose one pathway to focus on in the upper grades. 1.) Healthcare IT is a new field that John Carroll University partners with JMIT to expose students to mentors and career skills. 2.) Software development is another pathway for JMIT Lawyers with partnership from Cleveland State University. Although all the pathways will lead to mentorship and industry-recognized credentials, the 3.) Cyber Security pathway at JMIT creates a new academic support system at Tri-C Westshore Health Careers and Sciences campus in Westlake.

Of all the changes at JMIT, Chelsey Cook, principal at JMIT, was most excited that it is now an official Facing History school. Facing History and Ourselves is "an international nonprofit educational and professional development organization," according

to its website. JMIT joined its network of local schools alongside Magnificat, Laurel School, Facing History New Tech, Hawken Middle School, and Hathaway Brown Middle School. Cook expects it to transform the student culture with a focus on things like empathy and global citizenship. Cook envisions more meaningful community engagement as a result. For example, the West Park community was invited to campus for a showing of a documentary about a girls' school in Afghanistan, with conversation afterwards on a broad topic like the value of education.

JMIT was awarded Advanced Placement (AP) classes and AP professional development for area teachers from the National Science & Math Initiative. New classes this school year are AP Computer Science Principles & AP Language, which is what AP calls its English course. (AP classes are rigorous and taught in-school, culminating in a test that can reward students with full or partial credit at most colleges.) The whole Marshall Campus will be allowed to enroll in all the AP offerings, and eventually JMIT will have

"through exposure to educational and real world opportunities, ... strives to assist scholars in finding their own mission, passion, and purpose to create the next generation of Cleveland leaders." Scholars completed over twice their goal of community service hours last academic year, logging 738 hours as a school! Further towards its mission, it opened Lawyer's Café, a student-run coffee shop with the partnership of Rising Star Roasters.

This past summer, JMCBL launched a pilot landscaping business and raised matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Principal Sara Kidner plans on students opening a credit union in the future. Kidner wants to add an internship experience for on-track seniors as a portion of their school day.

Kidner previously worked at St. Martin De Porres High School (SMDP), a tuition-free, Catholic, private high school where she gained familiarity with "students-as-interns." SMDP has work experience for all its students, which subsidizes the cost of providing the education.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) brings two programs to JMCBL for 2016-2017: E-City (an entrepreneurial program) and Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) (a workforce development program) to prepare youth more broadly for the world of work. Another new partnership with JMCBL yields student access to take classes at Notre Dame College to fulfill their Cleveland Metropolitan School District graduation requirements.

To build a closer-knit community across the many schools at John Marshall, the schedule changed to an 8am start for all while 9th through 11th grades will dismiss at 3pm and seniors at 2:30pm.

an AP class in every subject area. In future years, the offerings will expand to include: AP Calculus, AP Environmental Studies, AP US History and maybe AP Biology, AP Literature, and AP Computer Science A ("A" is for Application). JMCBL,

HOUSING FEEDBACK

I'm interested in:

- e-newsletter about housing
- rental opportunities
- buying a home in this neighborhood
- home repair fair
- taking a homebuyer classes
- volunteering as a Neighborhood Ambassador
- publicizing a story or person

Please contact me _____ about my interest(s) at:

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135

West Park elementary school choice directory

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PHONE	PRINCIPAL	WEBSITE
Al Ihsan Islamic School	Rocky River Dr.	(216) 676-5006	Haleema Siddiqui	alihsanschool.net
Artemus Ward School	4315 W.140th St.	(216) 920-7055	Christopher Myslenski	clevelandmetroschools.org
Birchwood School	4400 West 140th St.	(216) 251-2321	Charles Debelak	birchwoodschoool.org
Clara E. Westropp School	19202 Puritas Ave.	(216) 267-3706	Francie Watson	clevelandmetroschools.org
Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy	4401 Valleyside Rd.	(216) 267-5969	Victoria King	clevelandmetroschools.org
Garfield School	3800 W. 140th St.	(216) 920-7000	Dawn Imler	clevelandmetroschools.org
Luther Memorial School	12826 Lorain Ave.	(216) 749-5300	Nicole Levy	luthermemorialschool.org
McKinley School	3349 W. 125th St.	(216) 251-4175	Victoria Mousty	clevelandmetroschools.org
Menlo Park Academy	14440 Triskett Rd.	(440) 925-6365	Beverly Veccia	menloparkacademy.org
Newton D Baker School	3690 West 159th St	(216) 252-2131	Wendy Rose-Geiling	clevelandmetroschools.org
Our Lady of Angels School	3644 Rocky River Dr.	(216) 251-6841	Kathy Krupar	olangels.org/school
Puritas Community Elementary & Middle Schools	15204 Puritas Ave.	(216) 688-0680	Meg Colwell	constellationschools.com
Robinson G. Jones School	4550 West 150th St.	(216) 889-4071	Melissa Watts	clevelandmetroschools.org
Riverside Elementary	14601 Montrose Ave.	(216) 838-6700	Paige Baublitz-Watkins	clevelandmetroschools.org
St. Mark School	15800 Montrose Ave	(216) 521-4115	Karen Cocita	stmarkwestpark.com
Valley View Boys Leadership Academy	17200 Valleyview Ave.	(216) 251-3876	Terrance Mitchell	clevelandmetroschools.org
West Park Academy	12913 Bennington Ave.	(216) 251-5450	Michael Jassile	http://the-academies.com
West Park Lutheran	4260 Rocky River Dr.	(216) 941-2270	Nancy Clark	holycrosslife.org/WestPark.cfm
Westpark Community Elementary School	16210 Lorain Rd.	(216) 688-0271	Sheila Delzani	constellationschools.com
Westpark Community Middle School	16210 Lorain Rd.	(216) 251-7200	Mindy Kidd	constellationschools.com
West Preparatory Academy	13111 Crossburn Ave.	(216) 772-1340	Jennifer Heyman	westacademy.org

True2U mentors *cont. from p. 6*

and work on skills required to make that future a reality.

Shana Marbury, general counsel and vice president for the Greater Cleveland Partnership, a metropolitan area chamber of commerce, mentored girls

at MacArthur and told the CMSD News Bureau, "Mentors have undergone training led by Stedman Graham, a leadership consultant and author, and follow a curriculum based on his book, "Teens Can Make It Happen,

Nine Steps to Success." Mentors like Shana help the students assess and develop their decision-making skills, self-image, strengths and values. More mentors are needed to all the eighth graders in CMSD in 2017-2018 school

year.

The Neighborhood Leadership Institute is in charge of recruiting the mentors and is the lead agency for the MyCom network. Call 216-812-8700 to find out how to become a mentor.

Local teachers *cont. from p. 2*

Special honorees were:

- Rebecca Pickens, John Marshall School of Engineering
- Christine Scarella, JMCBL
- Cristina Stratton, Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy.

In addition to an Excellence in Teaching Award, Spencer Small, a freshman math teacher this year with 12 years of experience at CMSD, was recognized by Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) this fall, as well. Principal Chelsey Cook at JMIT announced, "He is one of five teachers to receive this national award from Bootstrap. Mr. Small is teaching the Bootstrap curriculum in Algebra 1. Students build a video game while practicing algebra concepts [with Bootstrap]. We are blessed to have Spencer Small on our team!"

Mr. Small posted to the JMIT Facebook page, "I'm just so excited that the creators of Bootstrap made a coding language that is incredibly algebraic. When I talk about something as fundamental as defining variables I get to relate the coding we do in class with the Algebra and vice versa. The overlap is tremendous and kids recognize it too!"

Interviewed by Infosys Foundation USA, which supports greater access and inclusion in Computer Science education, Mr. Small said, "I teach underrepresented, lower-income kids because I think it's important for them to see somebody like them- to be strict enough, to show them that they love them but still have fun."

His Excellence in Teaching nomination included the following quote: "His Computer Science course combines symposium-like discussions with challenging problem-solving scenarios. He teaches this difficult subject to all students—special education, English language learners—all students. ... Teachers throughout the building observe his classroom because it models an ideal learning environment of respect, challenge and support."



The Family Matters in West Park is produced by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp., a nonprofit serving West Park.

14703 Puritas Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
www.bpdc.org 216-671-2710

Board President, Jackie Kreiger
Executive Director, Bryan Gillooly
Editor, Rachel Napolitano
Contributing BPDC Staff: Tammy Tucker, Vanessa Lange

I WANT MORE YOUTH/FAMILY INFORMATION

My family is interested in receiving news about:

- youth programs (arts, leadership, job prep, college or career exploration etc.)
 neighborhood announcements

Name: _____

by e-newsletter at this email: _____

by mail at this address: _____

Please target information for youth with the birthdates of (mm/dd/yy)

_____/_____/____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135