

Charter Voices

*Building Character...
...Achieving Excellence*

Our School in July



Mr. Foglia and Mr. Sheldon confer on dimensions in the Principal's Office. *Below*, a typical classroom.



Above, the gym with basketball hoop. *At right*, a workman transports a door. *Below*, the art room.



Mr. Foglia

A Message from the Dean of Students:

As the 2007-08 academic school year fast approaches, I'd like to introduce myself to the Henry Johnson Charter School community. My name is Joseph Foglia and I've been busy preparing for the position of Dean of Students. Although I am new to HJCS, I am not new to the Albany area. I bring 20 years of experience working with children, 15 of them right here in Albany at the LaSalle School for Boys and the Center for Family and Youth (Project STRIVE). Most recently I was the Student Manager at the International Charter of Schenectady. It was there I had the pleasure of working with HJCS Principal Lillian Turner.

While this is a time of great change for many of us, my objective is to ensure the success of every child that enters our school. This will be accomplished through an open line of communication and by working closely with parents, students, teachers, and staff to help reinforce positive behavior and by establishing a strong school culture of values, respect, and dignity.

I have had the pleasure to meet many of you at our Parent Orientation and developmental screening, and I look forward to working with all of you during the years ahead. If I can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. For now, enjoy the remaining days of summer and I will see you at our open house and barbecue scheduled for September 4, 2007.

Joseph Foglia, Dean of Students

Curriculum Corner

Science

It's been proven that children learn science best by doing science, and the science program we have chosen for our students allows them to see, touch, and feel—to really get their hands into the science topics they will learn about. The **Full Option Science System**—or FOSS—prompts students to ask questions, find answers, and learn with a depth of understanding that is possible only when minds are truly challenged and engaged.

The FOSS program, research-based and developed with support from the National Science Foundation, provides activities and

materials that will help students explore, understand, and succeed in their science quests.

Units of study for Kindergartners include Trees, Animals Two by Two, and Wood and Paper. First Graders will set their sights on Insects, Air and Weather, and Balance and Motion. Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science are thus addressed through these fascinating-for-kids topics.



Technology

These days, computer literacy is one of the basic skills students need to master, and our **TechKnowledge** interactive program will provide them with sound instruction and plenty of practice in using computers to enhance productivity, communication, research, problem solving, and decision making. Weekly lessons in the Media Center will focus on Keyboarding, Word Processing, Drawing and Graphics, Spreadsheets, Electronic Reference, and the Internet. Your HJCS scholar will be clicking along in no time!

Social Studies

Social Studies Alive!, created by Teachers' Curriculum Institute, is a program that empowers teachers to teach social studies with a passion and to bring learning to life for all students. By engaging in hands-on active learning, students experience key social studies concepts through standards-based content. Kindergartners will explore "Me and My World" by producing a collage showcasing the different contributions family members share with one another; brainstorm and practice ways to be handy helpers at school; take an imaginary flight to Japan to share a meal; and identify important ways to help take care of the Earth. "My School and Family," the First Grade theme, helps children discover the value of cooperation; explore and act out the roles of school staff; appreciate the special ways families are different; and experience celebrations from different cultures. In both grades, HJCS scholars work in collaborative groups to practice being part of a community and to understand the vital role they individually play in it.



Getting Ready for September

Developmental Screening

The week of July 9th turned out to be an exciting one for HJCS as parents and children arrived at the KIPP Building for DIAL-3 screening conducted by Henry Johnson teachers. "DIAL-3" stands for "Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning, Third Edition," a screening tool that allows children to demonstrate what they know and can do in Language, Motor, and Concepts areas. In addition, parents had the opportunity to share their insights on their child's Self-Help and Social Development.

The DIAL-3 assessment will enable the school to identify whether each child is developmentally "okay" for his/her age or would benefit from further assessment and possibly support in any of the areas tested.

Parents will receive feedback on how their child did on the assessment, and a make-up day for children who were unable to join us in July has been set for August 8th. Families will be contacted regarding a schedule for the day.

The Henry Johnson teachers who helped with the screening were delighted to meet the youngsters who will be their scholars and were very impressed by the positive behaviors, happy mood, and overall abilities of our Kindergartners and First Graders. They can't wait to see them in September!



HJCS First Grader Kevin Williams builds a child figure with blocks as part of the "Motor" screening during the DIAL-3 assessment.

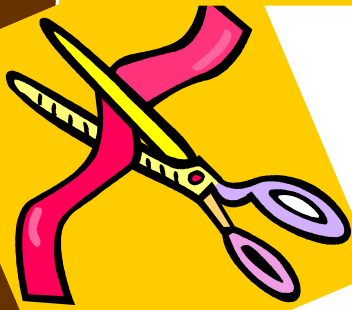


Parent Orientation

What time do students need to be at school? What does a typical school day look like? When do I get the uniform voucher? How can I get involved in the activities of the school? What's the Henry Johnson discipline policy?

These and other questions were answered at Parent Orientations for Henry Johnson families at sessions held at the KIPP Building on June 14th, and again at a make-up session on July 18th. Dean of Students Joseph Foglia and Principal Lillian Turner met

with parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members to share crucial information about the new school building; the academic program; the daily operations of the school (calendar, food, transportation, etc.); its behavior code of conduct; its expectations of students, staff, and families; and what HJCS families can expect of the school. Uniform vouchers were distributed as well as handouts on a few key topics. The *Parent / Student Handbook*, which provides more detail on all these topics, will be sent to HJCS families in August. Thanks for attending one of these sessions; we loved meeting you! If you weren't able to attend, we'll be in touch about a final make-up session scheduled for August 22nd.



HJCS Ribbon-Cutting Planned for September 4

DEDICATION OF HENRY JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK



The newest sculpture of Henry Johnson was recently unveiled in the Henry Johnson Memorial Park on the corner of Livingston Avenue and Henry Johnson Boulevard. At left, Mayor Gerry Jennings addresses those attending. At right, the crowd reacts as the new sculpture is revealed. Vincent Forte, who sculpted the Henry Johnson statue in Washington Park, created this one as well. In this new work, Sergeant Johnson wears his battle helmet.

Please plan to join us on Tuesday morning, September 4th, at 10:00 a.m. when we officially cut the ribbon on our beautiful new school! We'd love to have as many HJCS families there as possible, with our young scholars wearing their school uniforms. Mayor Jennings will attend, and we're expecting Ms Tyra Johnson, Henry Johnson's granddaughter, to join us as well. Come meet her, tour the school, and be entertained by Chocolate Thunder!

Did we say Chocolate Thunder?

You'll be hearing a lot more about Chocolate Thunder as we go through the year because our HJCS kids—*your* kids—will be working with Mr. George Spencer once a week every week all of the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Spencer, Director of this dynamic marching and dancing band, will work with our children on drumming, rhythm instruments, military drills, and marching. This will prepare us for the parades and performances we'll be doing for you, our Henry Johnson family!



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Dates for your calendar....

- ☑ August 8: DIAL-3 Screening Make-up Date
- ☑ August 22: Parent Orientation Make-up Date
- ☑ September 4: Ribbon-Cutting at 10 a.m.
Giffy's Bar-BQ Open House for HJCS Families & Staff
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- ☑ September 5: **The First Day of School!!!**
- ☑ October 2: Picture Day
- ☑ October 15-18: Scholastic Book Fair
- ☑ October 18: Back-to-School Night
- ☑ October 19: Professional Development Day—
No School for Students

☑ ***More Information on All to Follow!***