

STAFF NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to significantly increase student achievement in a safe, clean and respectful school environment.

Einstein Team -

Congratulations on completing your first progress report period. We are halfway through our first quarter! I have been impressed with the skillfulness of your teaching while making my rounds. Keep up the good work.



As educators, we are committed to increasing student achievement, not only by providing rigorous and data-driven instruction but also by addressing student needs, including behavior and support for social and emotional development. At Einstein, we are committed to providing for our students so that they may flourish now and in the future.

As a refresher from our summer PDs, please work with our professional interventionists and mental health teams. They are here to support you and to help you make sure every student attends school every day - arriving on time and prepared to learn. **Always keep in mind that the law requires us to adhere to strict confidentiality requirements.** Please reach out to your leader if you are unsure of how to implement this policy or with whom you need to connect.

I appreciate all that you do and look forward to great things to come!

Respectfully,

Shawn

P.S. - Thank you to everyone who supported our Hurricane Relief efforts. Our schools faculty, staff, students and parents generously donated over 40 cases of water, 4 boxes of food and cleaning supplies for our neighbors in need.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT - Ms. BOWIE'S TRIP TO INDIA

On July 4, 2017 Einstein Charter Schools teacher Alondria Bowie arrived in India, along with a cohort of teachers as part of the Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC). The international trip was the culmination of the TGC program that also included a ten-week online professional development course and participation in the Global Education Symposium in Washington, D.C. in February 2017.

Over the course of 21 days Bowie visited four countries in India – Bangalore, Maharashtra, Agra and New Delhi. Arriving in India, Bowie expected the experience to show her statistical data on how children living in an impoverished country produced students who can achieve anywhere. She planned on taking the data, from a country whose population is the same as the entire U.S. population, and using it in to implement new teaching methods in her Social Studies classroom at Einstein Charter Middle. What she learned was so much more.

“I was in awe at the drive and motivation that these students had to succeed,” said Bowie. “I was truly humbled by their learning experience and the teachers who taught them and how their culture and traditions drive their scholarly community.”

Bowie observed, in crowded and hot classrooms, how the beliefs that if you are successful through life, at home and at school, you are showing the universe a higher respect. Cultural norms, such as respecting the elderly and honoring their customs and standards, are a form of this respect that India was founded on during the Indus Valley civilization.

“The teachers are the true heroes of education,” continued Bowie. “Watching them teach while enduring heat, enormous class size, being paid very little (or not at all) taught me a lot, not only about education but about the peace and ease that these group of people projected.”



“There is not any one thing that they are doing in their classrooms here that produces students who achieve despite their challenges,” said Bowie. “It is simply their culture that makes them see value in everything that they do, regardless to whether they were born into a family of wealth or poverty.”

Celebrating culture is also a part of the Einstein Charter Schools community. The cultural diversity of the classrooms in India is similar to the diversity at Einstein where the demographic make-up is 59% African-American, 21% Hispanic, 16% Asian, 1% Caucasian and 1% other.

“All staff and faculty at Einstein Charter Schools celebrate, foster and embrace our diversity,” said Einstein Chief Executive Officer Shawn Toranto. “We are so proud of Ms. Bowie for her selection to this program and even more proud of the inspiration she has brought back to share with her colleagues.”

Bowie calls the journey “one of the best experiences in my life” and plans to implement what she learned not just in her daily classroom, but also in her daily life. Bowie kept a daily blog of the course of the journey as part of the program. You can read her blog and find additional information at <http://glocallearnerstgc20116.weebly.com/india-travel-blog>.



All About Differentiation: A Crucial Component of the Teacher Toolbox

Einstein Charter is committed to doing everything we can to meet our students where they are in order to support their growth. Differentiation is key to helping students grow. There are four major areas where differentiation can really energize student growth as well as ensure that students are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to content mastery.

Differentiate the process and activities.

Teachers can vary texts, experiments, and methods used to support student learning. Providing varied student graphic organizers to meet different needs can be a great help for students with different learning styles and needs. Flexible grouping of students for different purposes can be advantageous in all classrooms. Personalized Learning and Blended Learning Classrooms can really help assess and individualize learning paths tailored specifically to each student's needs. Using weekly data from blended learning platforms like Lexia, Achieve 3000, Zearn, Kahn Academy, IXL, and Google Classroom can be a tremendous advantage in monitoring student progress and growth as well as targeting additional needs for remediation, support, advancement, and enrichment. Consider the students' personalities, abilities, and needs in order to choose processes and activities that fit the many different students in your room.



Differentiate the product, outcome, or assessment.

Allowing students to choose among product options that are strategically curated in order to meet student needs and abilities often encourages student buy in and commitment to excellence. Book reports, blogs, videos, short skits, and commercial presentations can all serve to assess depth of knowledge and can be a welcome relief to the standard quiz. Through collaborative planning using Oncourse lesson planning platform, teachers can strengthen and deepen student knowledge and understanding by overlapping content whenever possible. Perusing what students are doing in all courses can help teachers make stronger connections between content areas.

Differentiate the content.

Students who are given "just right" leveled reading texts are more likely to grow their Lexile levels. Teachers can also indicate important text sections for students who may struggle with reading stamina. Advanced preparation of multiple texts to study a single concept is always better than relying on just one main text. Providing authentic texts at different levels for individuals or student groups helps students to access, understand, and integrate new information.

Differentiate the environment.

Changing the classroom environment to allow students to better focus, access strategies, and remember anchor information is a quick and easy way to support students through differentiation. Incandescent lights, varying grouping configurations, temporary quiet corners to help avoid distractions, carefully chosen colors, and text rich environments can greatly help students to work both independently and collaboratively. In addition, providing multiple opportunities for a variety of student discussions using accountable talk parameters can give students the power to internalize what they are learning by creating dialogue that explains, supports, questions, and reinforces.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



Find our official page on Facebook by searching "Einstein Charter Schools" and follow us! Help us grow our following by sharing with parents.

To submit a post for consideration please email to april_catarella@einsteincharterschools.org.

SHERWOOD FOREST - OUR LIONS ARE ON THE MOVE!

From Principal Ancker

Shout-out to **Coach Rodney McDonald**

for engaging our students in fitness drills with skills stations. The students are engaged and invested! The positive work you are doing is paying off. Check out great shots below!



Happy HIGH-FIVE to **Ms. Holstein, Ms. Fournier and Ms. Tran** for planning ahead and getting your Donor's Choose projects funded. Congratulations!

Kudos to our **ESL and SPED teams** on two great weeks of connected lessons. Continue to collaborate with your General Education counterparts in the best interest of our students. Way to go Lions!

LION MOMENTS

Students in **Ms. Miller's** Kindergarten class created SLIME in August as part of their Science lesson - what a fun way to engage their interests!



Coach McDonald leads 3rd grade students in circuit training with skills stations - taking time to make sure students are doing the exercises properly!



VILLAGE DE L'EST - WE'RE MAKING HISTORY!

From Interim Principal Goudeau

Open House was a huge success! A Big "OWL" shout out to all the parents, guardians, staff, and students that helped make this such an informative and fun night.



Mr. Varnado for inviting performer Jeronne Ansari to share his talent with students! Ansari performs with Solange & Delfeayo Marsalis.



To "OWL" history makers **Ms. Darby, Ms. Margolies, Ms. Palao, Ms. Harry, Ms. Guerin, Mr. LeBlanc, and Ms. Roberson** for creating very positive environments with learning centers fully in place, Great Job!

OWLS OPEN HOUSE



EINSTEIN CHARTER MIDDLE - OLYMPIAN PRIDE



Einstein Charter Middle launches Summit Learning Program for 7th Grade!

Students (left to right) Legia Mejia-Espinoza, Jimmy Tran and Mighal Martinez work in Summit Basecamp during their Project 2 time in Social Studies.

More information on Summit to be shared in the October newsletter!

ESL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - FROM MS. STEBER

As our ELL population continues to grow at our four Einstein Charter School campuses, we welcomed three new highly qualified ESL teachers to our Einstein family to ensure that we meet the needs and challenges of our ELLs and prepare them for academic success in the 2017-18 school year.

Ms. Stephanie Anders, is assigned to Einstein Charter High School, **Ms. Kelly Spangler** and **Ms. Jackie Talbott** are the ESL teachers at Einstein Charter Middle School. All of them bring special and diverse years of experience to our ELL students and the program. We are excited to have them with us. Welcome aboard!!



Also, kudos to **Mrs. Kelly (Bergeron) Tramontana (Sherwood Forest)** and **Mrs. Ashgan Abdrabo (EHS)** for completing an intensive 4 week English as a Second Language Program (TESL) at Tulane this summer and are now officially ESL endorsed! Congratulations ladies for your commitment and dedication to our ELL students.

On August 9th, 2017 our ESL teachers participated in a special Professional Development training where they were introduced to the new Louisiana Student Standards--ELL Connectors and how to effectively implement these Connectors when constructing lesson plans and delivering instruction. It was an exciting and demanding session that will help teachers and students succeed.

As the school year opens, ESL teachers and students alike are busy with Language Assessment Survey testing, tweaking class schedules, locating new classrooms, meeting and greeting new ELLs/teachers/parents and most importantly delving into instruction. There is a definite buzz of high, positive energy in our schools that we look forward to maintaining throughout the year.

I look forward to working with our administrators, faculty, staff and parents as we strive to promote excellence and equity for all of our students.

EINSTEIN CHARTER HIGH - COME GROW WITH US!



Wednesday, August 23rd - Einstein Charter High hosted a Student Fair where 9th and 10th graders were invited to sign up for Olympian clubs, organizations and athletic teams!

10th grader Destiny Powell told us she advocated over the summer for ECH to add majorettes, dance and marching groups, "I'm excited to have the chance to sign up and I can't wait to represent ECH at athletic games and in parades!"

Way to go **ECH team** for stepping up to sponsor and offer a variety of opportunities for our students!



OLYMPIAN SHOUT OUTS

From Interim Principal Stockman



Special thanks to **all faculty and staff** for helping us get the 2017-2018 school year off to a smooth start. We had a great turnout for Parent Orientation on August 9th, and have had a great two weeks of school. All faculty and staff have demonstrated great enthusiasm and the students are noticing it and following suit. The energy has been great.

Special Kudos go out to...

- **Dr. Deborah Krentel** for all the work with scheduling.
- **Club sponsors and Coaches**...we had over 75 students sign-up for clubs or teams!

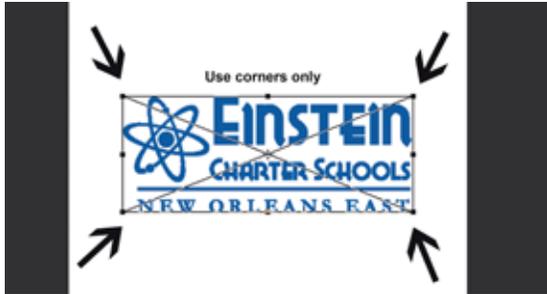
We look forward to September as we get started with our more intensive EOC and ACT prep. Also, progress reports go out, our fall sports kickoff, and spirit week is just around the corner.

Go Olympians!

STAFF ACTION ITEMS

LOGO USAGE - Einstein Charter Schools logos (and mascot logos) are accessible through your school Google account. Google Drive links to the “Logos” folder have been shared by your principal and with your front office. Logos should only be used for school publications and in **no other colors** (except black/white.)

Resizing Logos - When inserting logos into letters, documents or flyers it is **important** to keep the logo intact. When you need to resize logos hold down **SHIFT** and re-size using one of the four corners of the logo box (see illustration below).



By re-sizing using the corners you will constrain proportions and keep the logo intact. The logo will not appear stretched or skewed.

Examples of improper re-sizing of logos:



Improper resize from side
(squeezes logo in)



Improper resize from top/bottom
(squeezes logo down)

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

- October 9-13:** 1st Quarter Exams
- October 13:** End of 1st Quarter
- October 16:** PD Day - No school for students
- October 17:** Einstein Open House - ALL Campuses 5-6pm
- October 18:** 1st Quarter Grades Due
- October 24:** 1st Quarter Report Card Conferences
- October 31:** HALLOWEEN

**Dates are subject to change.*



A FEW MORE TID BITS...

- Replacement staff id badges will be \$5.00. If you lose your id please let your front office know and a reprint will be requested.
- If you missed id photos please email april_catarella@einsteincharterschools.org to set up a time to make-up.
- ECM and ECH faculty - if you have any questions about student id replacements please refer to your front office secretary.

Einstein Charter Schools seeks to ensure that teachers, students, administrators and students from underrepresented groups are served by our program funded by the Charter Schools Program of the United States Department of Education. All meetings are held in handicap accessible areas and personas concerned should contact us at 504.503.0110 to make special arrangements.