

Operation Destiny Boot Camp



Operation Destiny has made an impact on the lives of both students and coaches.



Talbis Howell leads an aggressive street team that helped recruit students to participate in Operation Destiny Boot Camp, see story on Page 3.



Nathan L. Nelson recently took over as interim principal of Burke Middle School, a job he takes very seriously. See story below.

June 30, 2015

Priceless

Charleston, S.C.

Volume 2 No. 1

About Giving!



Coach Littlejohn and Coach "T" with a new flat screen television.

Look beyond surface

Killer's problem not just racism

Kudos for the city of Charleston – and for this nation as a whole. People of all races and nationalities came together in a show of support following the murder of nine people at Mother Emanuel AME Zion Church. That shows what people can do in the face of tragedy. It also exemplified the spirit of humanity, which draws all of God's children together.



Sam Davis
From The Sideline

While much has been said and written about the tragedy, there is an aspect that has been seemingly neglected in this argument. And although Confederate flags are coming down throughout the south, there is a bigger question that we must ask ourselves. What can be done to stop the seemingly senseless murders that see Sideline on 5

Boot Camp allows students to reach their Destiny



What a true joy Operation Destiny Boot Camp 2015 has been for me! Working with awesome coaches who are committed and passionate for our kids has been beyond rewarding. Our team mission was to provide endless opportunities, new experiences, structure and discipline, continuous learning, competitive teambuilding, positive attitude adjustment, respect for everyone, constant encouragement, dream realization, lifelong networking, leadership, hard work ethic, self-esteem and most of all...love and compassion to all kids who entered the door. All of these characteristics are important to building life skills that will carry each camper to higher levels of success as they move through life. As coaches, our goal was to provide role models for each of these traits daily. How amazing for me

to see my kids actually grow and transform into the amazing young people that we all knew were there all along. Some were involved each and every day arriving even before most of the coaches, while others excelled quickly over the course of a few days of attendance. Nevertheless, each day was new and ended with a huge amount of fulfillment and excitement of the futures to come. It has been a pleasure and at times, emotional, as I have watched our kids excel in their own right and realize the importance that they can bring to their own life journey through focus, education, self-esteem and respect for themselves and all others.



Coach "T"

We all have shared in this witness and promise to continue our guidance and support long after camp ends on June 30. This is just the beginning and I look forward to continued successes as we start the new D20 middle school! Our student leaders have just been identified! I have always known that our kids are great! Now, we have solid proof from their amazing growth as young people over the past several weeks. Their developing promise for their own future became a prominent daily visual for us all and hopefully will continue on as they grow into responsible adults who can make a difference for themselves and others. I am SO proud of them all!

- Proudly....Coach "T"

Nelson: Camp is great for skill-building

By Sam Davis

Nathan Nelson hit the ground running after taking over as the interim principal at Burke Middle School. Nelson, a Charleston native, immediately got his feet wet after being named to his current position at the end of May. The momentum was already in place for Operation Destiny Boot Camp and Nelson was charged with the responsibility of helping to recruit students and getting staff members prepared for the

start of the camp. Nelson has also been active in



Nathan L. Nelson reaching out to the feeder schools. Working alongside members of Executive Coaching, Nelson helped

to build momentum for the camp, which serves a two-fold purpose. A grade-recovery program for students who did not perform well academically during the school year and a skill-building program for students who did, Nelson said the camp was a Godsend for its students. "It is great for the students and for the staff," Nelson said. "There are some great things going on in the camp. It is a great opportunity for students working on grade recovery see Nelson on 8



Welcome to Operation Destiny Boot Camp



Taking it to the streets

By **Sam Davis**
Executive Coaching Star

Talbis Howell is a foot soldier in the Operation Destiny Boot Camp adventure. His battlefield is to motivate and inspire students and parents to register for tutoring provided by a school or district. Howell is responsible for the logistics of making parents and students aware of the program’s opportunities and bridging the gap between school and community. Howell said he is comfortable remaining behind the scenes, helping to put the pieces in place for the program to operate within the community. His “Street Team” pounded the pavement in Charleston County, knocking on doors and getting the message out about the Operation Destiny Boot Camp.

“We took a grassroots approach to getting the word out,” said Howell, whose official job title with Executive Coaching Enterprises (ECE) is Vice President of School Partnership and Business Development. “We understand that some students and parents have challenges that

impact their well-being and prevent them from maintaining a strong relationship with the schools. We try to make it possible for them to get past those challenges.

“If there is something that we can do to impact that family, we try to help them in that way,” he said. “We go in with promotional items that they can take advantage of and offer support. We explain our tutoring program and methodology to our parents and let them know how it can impact their children lives educationally and sociably.”

Howell said it is one of his life missions to uplift the community. In doing so, he and his staff make sure the program enhances the community – even after the program is over.

“We wrap our arms around the parents and encourage the parents to become involved in their children’s schools. Not only do we want to sign up children for the program, we also want to sign the parents up to come to the program.” We have an open door policy welcoming parents to come and observe the learning their child receives in the program. We make follow-up phone calls to parents if attendance appears to be a problem during the program.

Howell said he takes his job personally, making sure that he leaves no stone unturned in try-

ing to reach every student within the area that he works. It also involves talking with parents and students and making sure they understand the seriousness of getting the students enrolled in the program.

“We definitely want to motivate the parents and give them a new outlook on life,” he said. “We want to show them that we’re here to help them and their children to achieve. To that extent, we go way beyond the call of duty to drive home the importance of being involved in education. We let them know that if they have anything preventing them from being involved in schools we will come back and talk with them. We want to connect the community back to the school system. We want the parents to be wired up to what’s going on at the schools.”

Howell said he sets the bar high for members of his “street team” so that parents can get the most out of what they offer.

“I push them hard,” he said. “Every morning I ask them, ‘Are you ready to wire up someone today?’” I have to make sure they are ready for the challenge because we need the neighborhoods to see a difference in the community. We all have one common goal – to drive student achievement and parent involvement across the nation.”



This camp became personal for me. I experienced activities and cultures that I wouldn't have experienced otherwise. Kids from different areas in Charleston and different schools, also different neighborhoods and income levels . We worked mostly with the males and encouraged them to purge themselves of their darkest fears and secrets . We encouraged the young men to support and help each other through vision boards and ego robots. The responsibilities and leadership opportunities that were given to students during activities allowed me/us to see emerging stars and future leaders. This camp does not really compare to any other camp nor job that I've ever had. I really believe the campers developed a sense of social responsibility and the sense not to believe in LABLES that have been attached to them for most of their young lives.

This has been not only the best camp that I've attend but also the most fun.The participation from the staff and children was great. I think even more than that is the lasting effect on our children from years to come. Kids have totally been transformed from followers to leaders and the middle of the pact in close proximity to being first. Camps like this one should remain in kids life (at least in the middle years). Hopefully parents will not look at this as the end but the start of a new journey with the same face.

- Coach Anthony Brown



And the Band played on!

Members of the Burke High Steppers, the school band pictured here.

Sideline

from Page 1

occur in this nation every day?
The fact that the Emanuel Nine were

killed in church is what horrified our entire nation. People were outraged by that act

and it drew together people from all races, religions and ethnic origins. The horrific killings made even the most staunch conservative take notice. How could someone go into a house of worship and cold-bloodedly kill nine people? Racists, liberals, republicans and democrats were drawn together by that act.

However, when you look at the overall picture that happens far too often in our society, we see a growing trend that is hard to overlook – once you consider all the facts. A picture has been painted about the suspect, Dylan Roof, the gunman who committed this atrocious crime. It is that of a racist, who was bent on starting a race riot. However, few people are looking at the fact Roof was a high school dropout. He had little to look forward to in life and became fixated on gaining fame.

Roof was a ninth-grade dropout. He also lacked social skills and never fit in

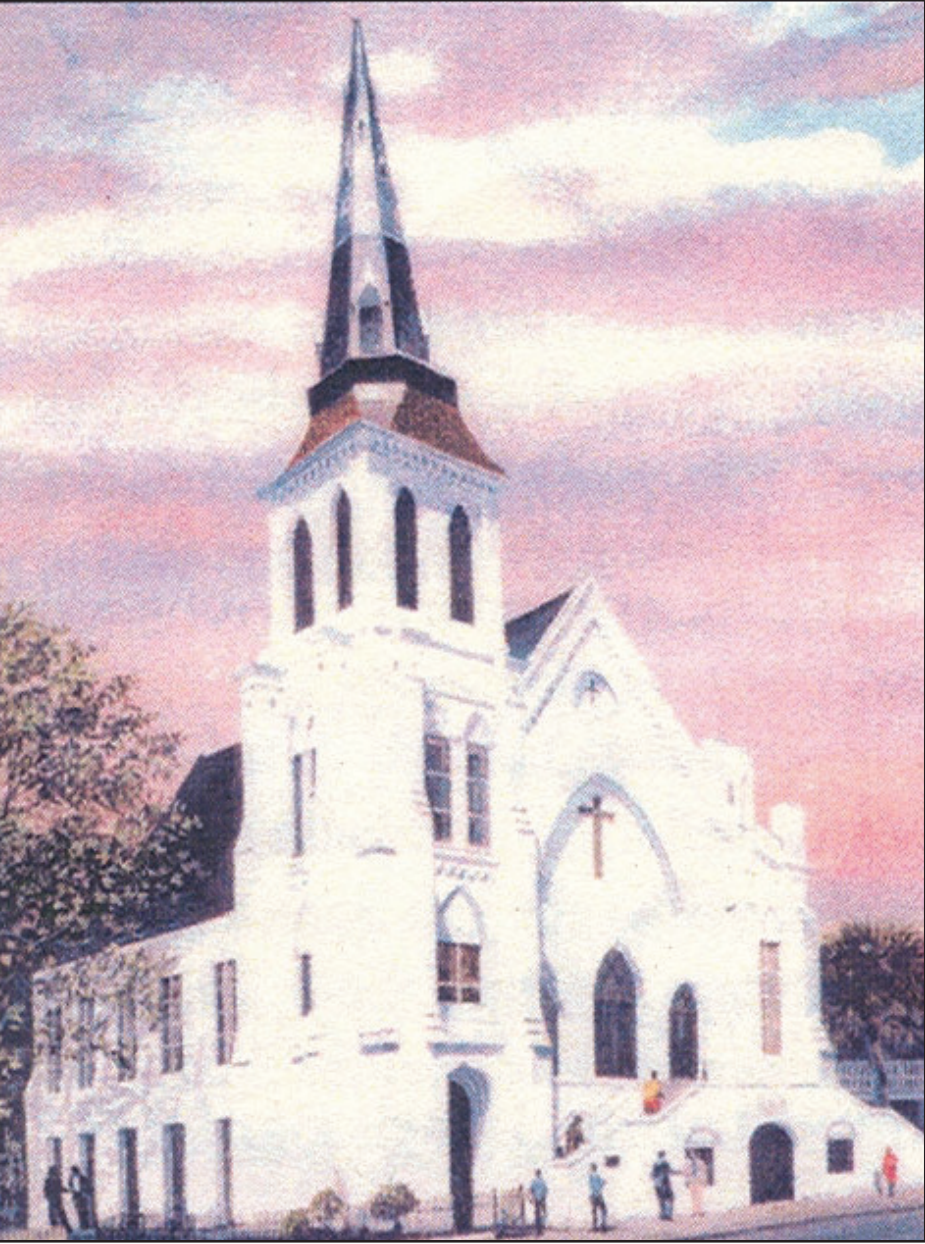
with mainstream society. There are millions of Dylan Roofs in this country. Some are black, some are white, some are Hispanic and from other ethnic origins. It most important attributed to his resorting to violence is the fact that lacked purpose in life. He was never gainfully employed and even his own family shunned him. That is a combination of factors, with the end result being failure.

As a society, we are failing lots of youth today. Many of them feel that no one cares. Dropping out of school is the first step toward failure. If we can prevent students from dropping out of school, that can go a long way in preventing the sense of failure. If Roof had been stayed in school, acquired the necessary skills to become gainfully employed, he might not have had time to focus so much attention on hatred. If he had proper social skills, he might have been aligned to groups that

might have provided a positive outlook on life.

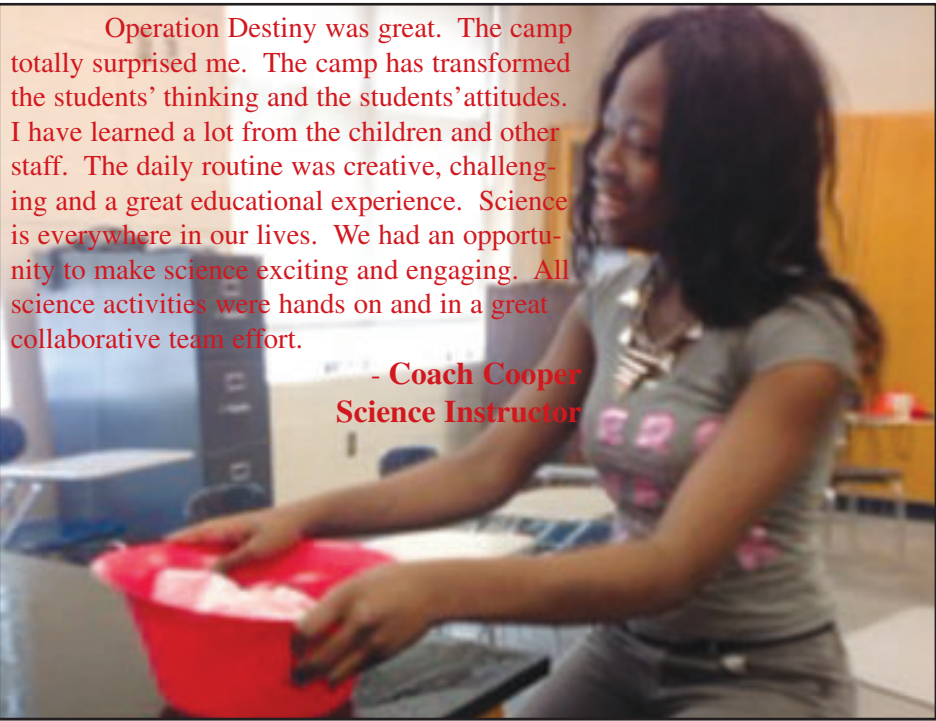
One of the first steps that most youth take when they drop out of school is to begin committing petty crimes. As they get older, the level of crimes they start to commit become larger. Check Roof’s history.

That is certainly true in his case. He didn’t have a lot of close friends and his ties to his family were strained. If he had gone to work every day he might not have had time to do the research that resulted in him choosing to travel to Charleston to commit nine murders. The real problem that Roof, and many other young people in society, face is staying in schools and acquiring the skills necessary to be productive members of society. The sooner we embrace the dropout problem, the sooner we will be on our way of cutting down on senseless murders and crime that impacts our communities.



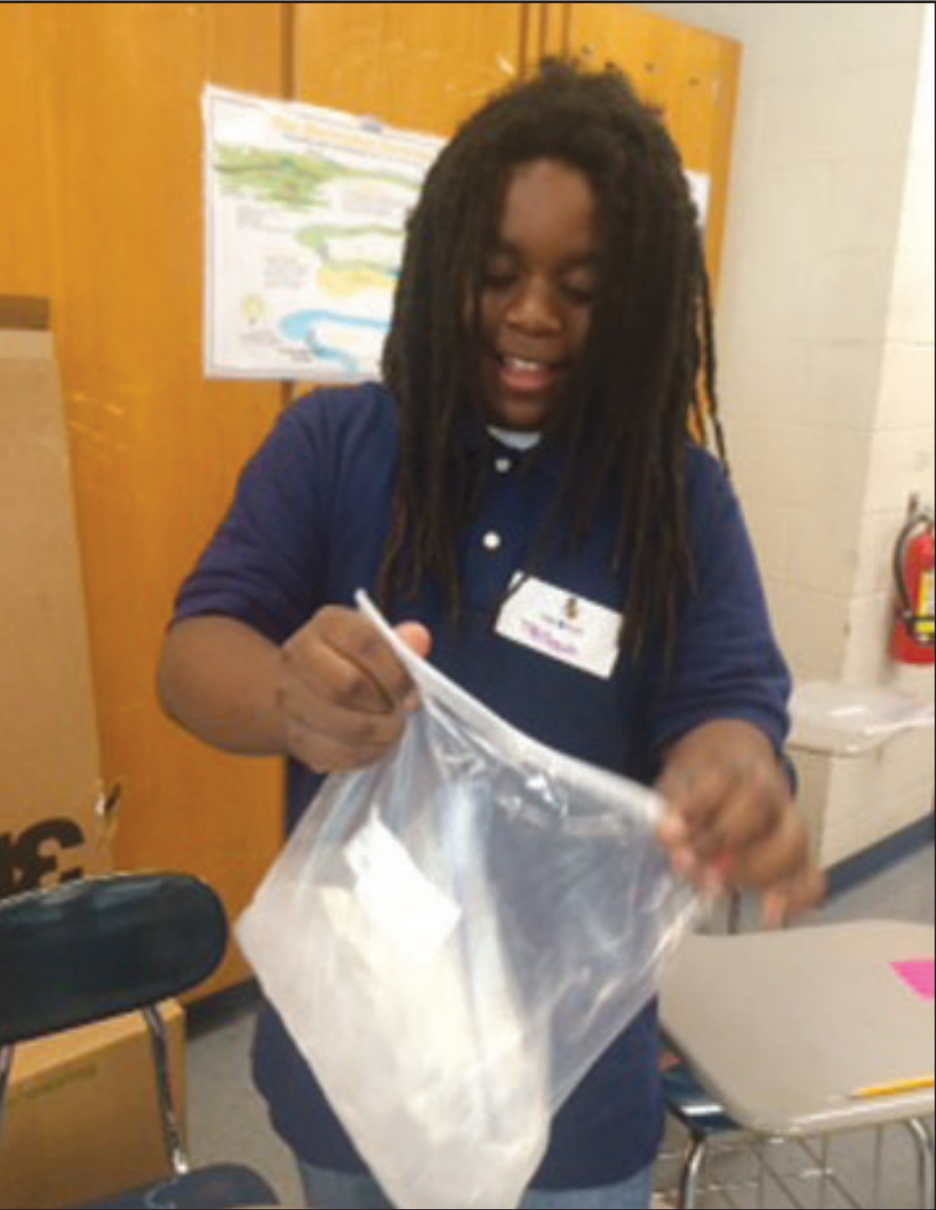
Emanuel A.M.E. Zion Church

Science: Building upon strong foundation



Operation Destiny was great. The camp totally surprised me. The camp has transformed the students' thinking and the students' attitudes. I have learned a lot from the children and other staff. The daily routine was creative, challenging and a great educational experience. Science is everywhere in our lives. We had an opportunity to make science exciting and engaging. All science activities were hands on and in a great collaborative team effort.

- Coach Cooper
Science Instructor



Technology: Making the future brighter

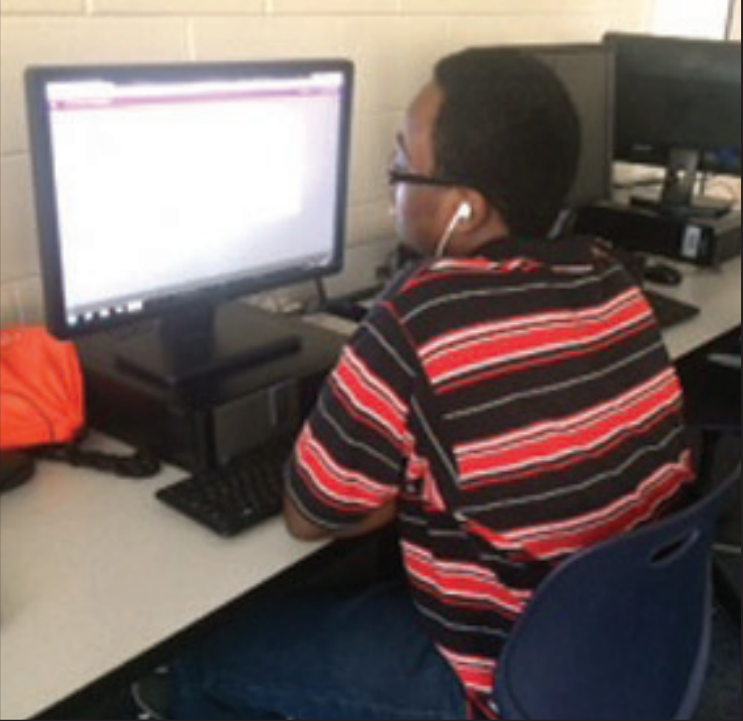
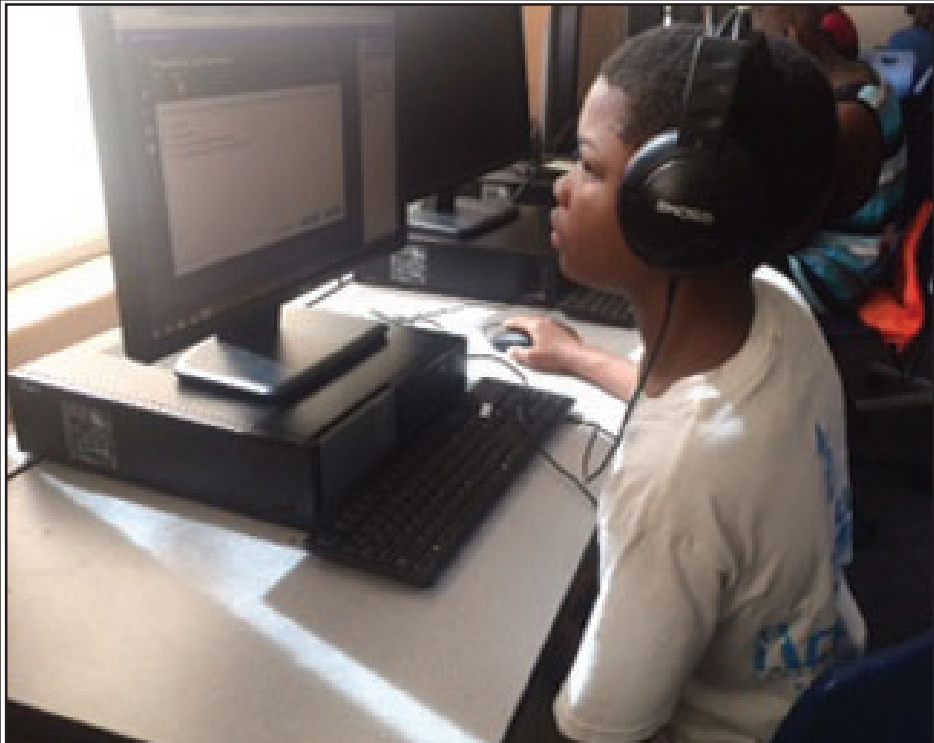
Transformative! Three weeks is not a long extensive time for most summer programs, but when expectations are high and delivery is on point, great things will happen and it did! The students learned teamwork, goal setting, and so much more. Focus and respect are skills that schools, society, and the workforce value and all of these were enforced daily. Operation Destiny camp was inspirational for all students and staff.

- Coach Ingram

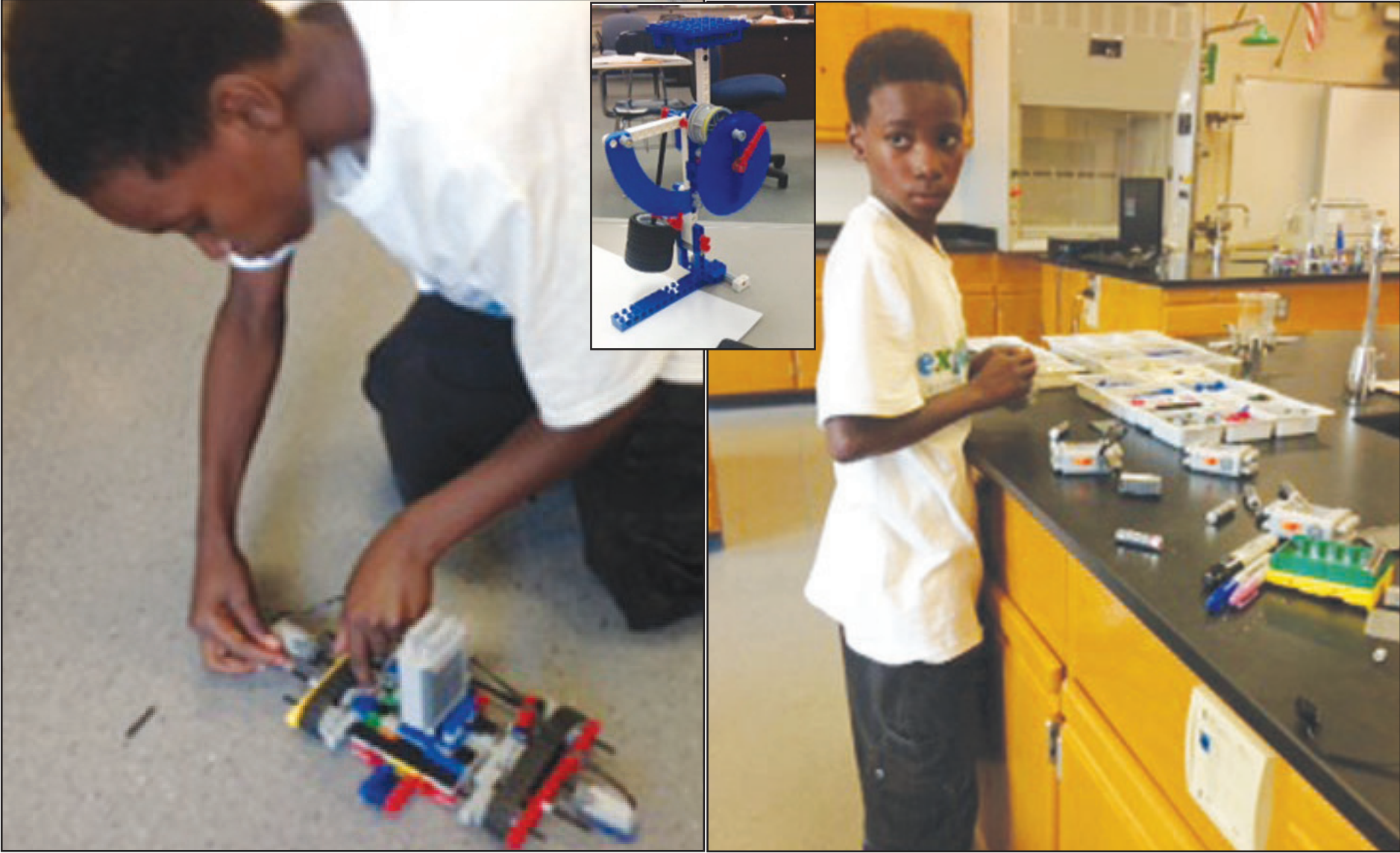


Operation Destiny has been a great opportunity for our students and it's been rewarding to see students open up and explore new possibilities. I wished we had more time to work with the students.

- Coach Schultz



Engineering: Building a brighter future



Culinary Arts, a trade that lasts a lifetime





ARTS!

Step Team!

This Is How We Do It!

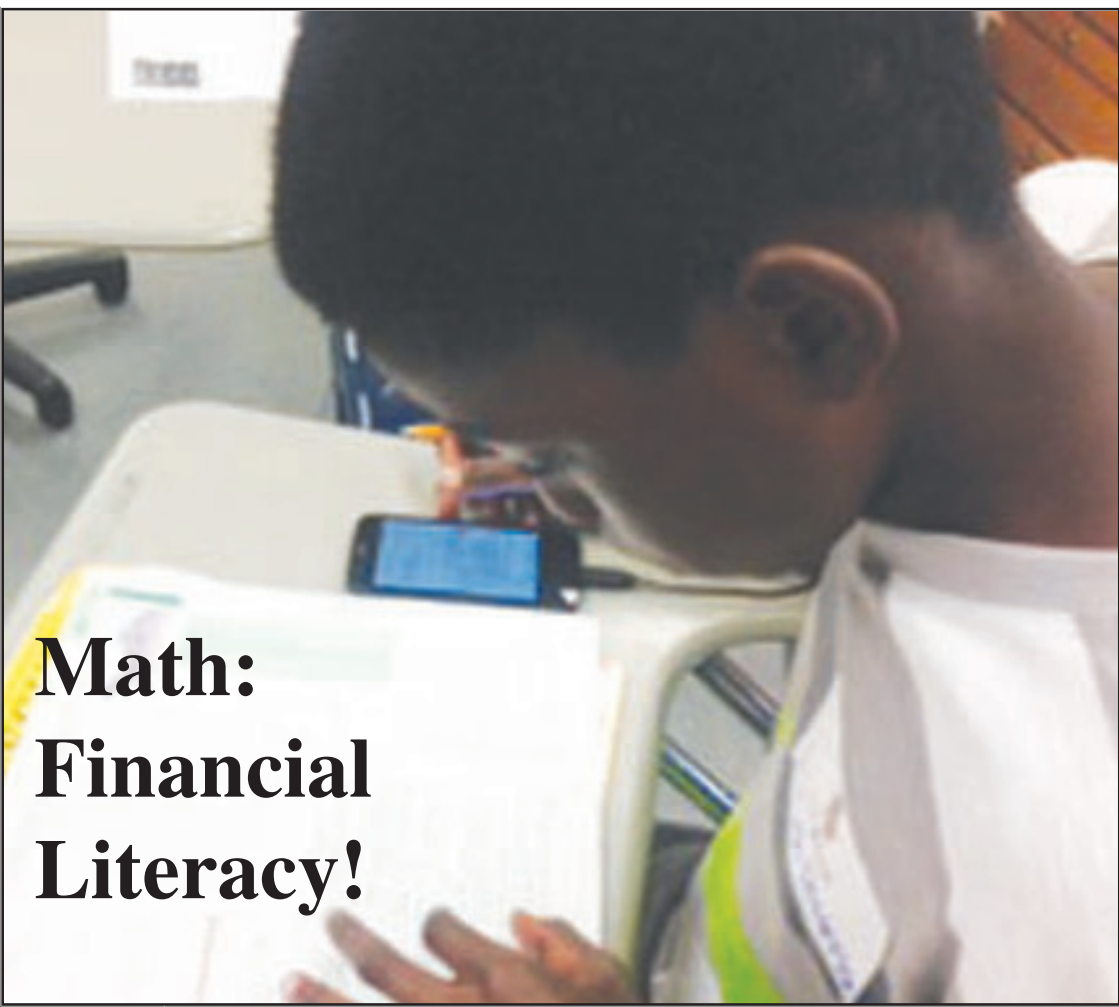
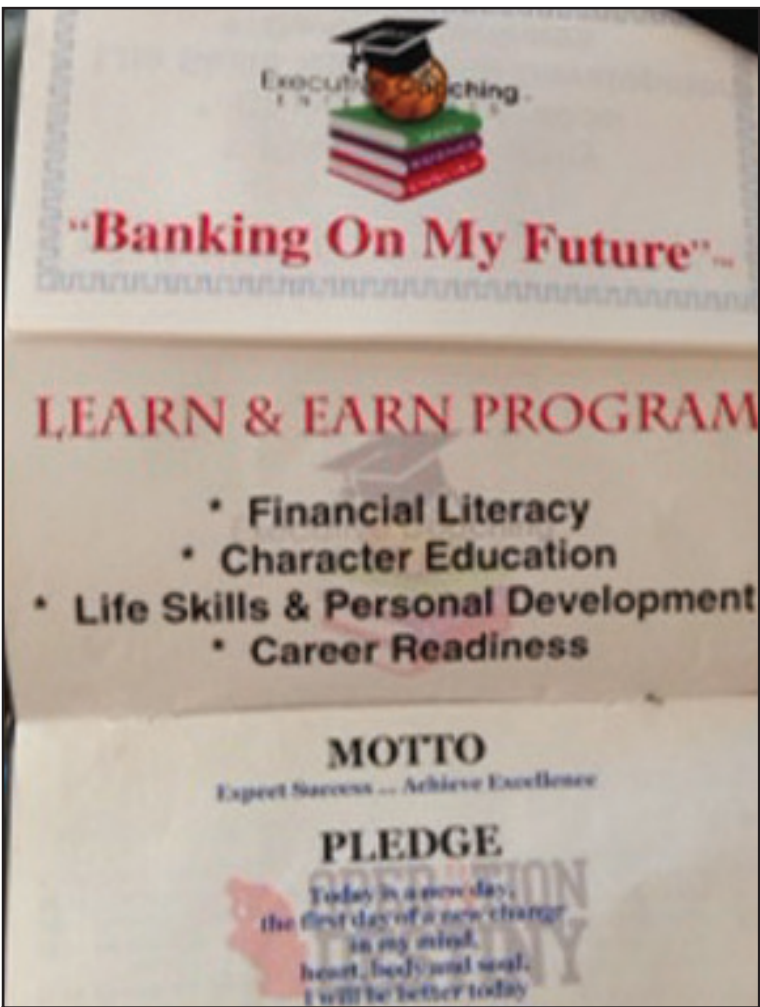


Operation Destiny served students for grade recovery, but also as an opportunity to transform behaviors, disable the labels society has placed on them and build character. I have seen tremendous progress in our students in such a short amount of time.

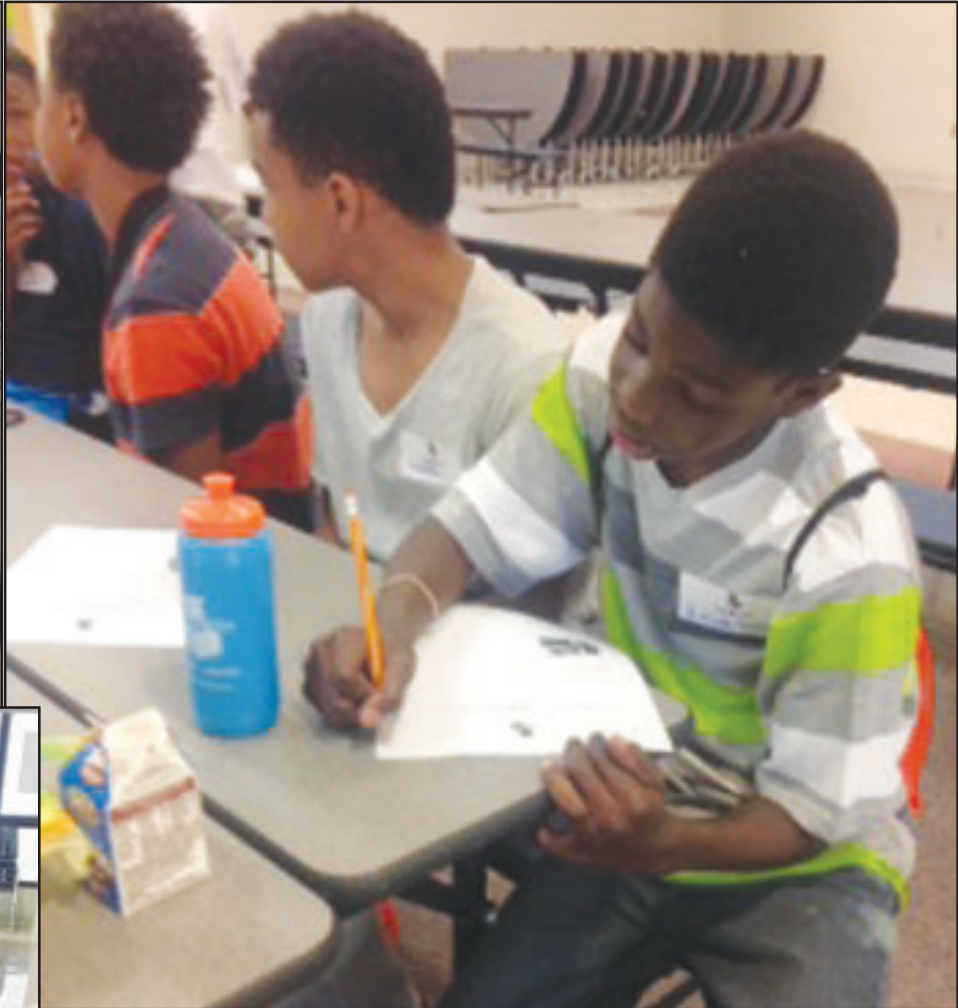
- Coach Waters



Precision Movement!



Math:
Financial
Literacy!



Nelson degree from Charleston Southern Univ. He was a police officer in North Charleston before pursuing a career in education.

and for those who aren't it gives them a wonderful opportunity for them to work on acquiring needed social skills and to learn team-building skills."

After Nelson, who has been active in the community throughout his life, said the camp also gives the coaches an opportunity to build relationships with the students.

"It is a good bridge for both students and coaches to form relationships," he said. "They have an opportunity to form one-on-one relationships between student and teachers. They can build on their academic skills and learn things socially as well."

Nelson has been in education for some 10 years. He graduated from North Charleston High and joined the military out of high school. After finishing up his military service, he earned an undergraduate

After spending some five years in the classroom, Nelson decided to try his hand in school administration. He enrolled in graduate school and received a masters from Capella Univ. That eventually led to him landing at Lang Middle School in Mount Pleasant before being offered the interim principalship position at Burke. Being at Burke and working with Operation Destiny Boot Camp has afforded him an opportunity to connect with students and teachers before the start of the 2015-16 school year.

The school is undergoing a name change and forging a new identity. When it opens in late August, it will have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) component. Students enrolled in

the program will have an opportunity to earn up to three high school credits by the time they enroll in high school. "I am really looking forward to accepting the challenge of leading this school," Nelson said. "I am passionate about education and making sure the kids who are enrolled here are afforded an opportunity to be prepared for the real world."

Nelson is also the Founding Director of Lowcountry Voices and continues to pursue his passion for preserving the cultural legacy and authenticity of African-American music. Nelson began playing drums at age eight. By age thirteen, he began organizing and directing local gospel and school choirs. For four seasons (2008 -2012) he was the music director for the CSO Spiritual Ensemble and the CSO Spiritual Ensemble Chorale. He also served as the Associate Director for the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Gospel Choir.