Teaching Empathy

The kids regularly receive Dream Points for good behavior, helping others, and being a leader at Dream Academy. This day further solidified the importance of recognizing and standing up to bullying in our everyday lives, and rewarding those who are courageous enough to be kind.

Preaching Kindness

In recognition of Unity week, DreamKids dressed in orange and discussed the harm caused by bullying, as well as why strengthening characteristics like kindness, empathy, and understanding is so important in school and at home.

Reaching New Heights

In true spooky spirit, the staff and participants at Dream Academy dressed up and paraded through the halls in their silliest, weirdest, scariest, and coolest outfits. It was a fun day filled with a mixture of activities, delicious treats, and of course, lots of learning.
Clubs, Clubs, Clubs!

Dream Academy expanded our extracurricular options this year by adding many more clubs for our DreamKids to participate in. These small groups meet once a week in 6-week cycles to give the maximum amount of choice and skill-based learning.

Left: Dreamkids Akira & Tymir practice their chess
Right: Riyanna shows off her clay-making skills during a UArts workshop

Check out our New Clubs List:
- Cooking
- Arts & Crafts
- Books
- Zen (Yoga & Meditation)
- Media
- Game Design
- Chess
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Dance
- Sports
- & More

Left: Jahnaya, Chris & Kieem enjoy the Game Room
Right: Larue makes gooey purple slime in Arts & Crafts Club

US Dream Academy prides itself on allowing its DreamKids to grow academically and blossom into children that love to learn. One way we try to encourage children is by reading. As the Education Specialist, Ms. Cassie has attempted to bridge the reading gap by starting a book club for the kids. One of the books they read was Out Of Bounds, a book about basketball. The children enjoyed the book very much, allowing them to kindle their passions for not only sports but for reading books that interest them. Ms. Cassie has the bright idea to try out having the kids do a play based on what they read from their next book.

By focusing on reading comprehension and analysis, Ms. Cassie hopes to teach the DreamKids that reading opens up a variety of doors to academic and personal success. - Rosa Gonzalez
A partner at Dream Academy, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts hosted a community art-making workshop. They made a detailed collage with the DreamKids that represented unity. The pair recently gave a fantastic performance at Dream Academy. They taught the kids about the origin of Irish and Tap dance, as well as demonstrated through their lives’ work the perseverance and determination involved in pursuing dance as a career. The performance was interactive, and the kids got up and tapped their hearts out to different rhythms and beats.

Our Drexel Volunteers

At US Dream Academy, we would be nothing without our dedicated staff, mentors, tutors, and volunteers. One thing to highlight is our partnership with Drexel University. The freshman take up Civics 101, which is spent volunteering at various programs of community outreach. Drexel Tutors help the DreamKids with their daily homework, the ACHIEVE3000 Program, and with elective activities such as video games and board games. This experiential learning partnership exposes Drexel students to the value of community and foundation building for Philadelphia youth. For the DreamKids, it shows that other people care about their success and interests outside of school. Although it is a required volunteering position, there are some Drexel students that stay beyond their required time because they find enriching young minds to be fulfilling. This inspires the next wave of teachers, principals, school administrators, and maybe the next billionaire humanitarian. - Rosa Gonzalez
On Wednesday, November 15, the Dream Academy had its first Parent Night of the 2017-18 school year. It was a successful, lively event, the first in what will be a series of monthly meetings, November’s Parent Night was a chance for parents to see, experience, and discuss some of the tools Dream Academy staff uses to cultivate strong relationships with students; share some of the joys, frustrations, and tips from their parenting experiences, and problem solve community issues together.

Every Match Matters
Ms. Lauren’s goal this year is to match every DreamKid with a mentor. The mentors are matched based on gender and similar interests. Mentoring sessions occur on a weekly basis, and the goal is to foster positive relationships that provide built-in academic and personal support for our DreamKids. Our mentors are exemplary examples of adult role models that share the passions and interests of the students with which they are matched. We hope to develop relationships that last beyond our one year agreement, that see the youth through their elementary and middle school years onto high school and beyond. “We want to see each student paired with mentor, and we want these relationships to help them thrive in both their personal and academic development.” - Lauren Tankersly

One of the Dream Academy’s primary goals in the upcoming months is to grow and strengthen our community. The engagement and interest shown by Dream Academy families during the initial Parent Night show that this is a community with great spirit and potential. Dream Academy plans to make Parent Night a monthly event moving forward. Whether or not you were able to attend the first meeting, the staff and other parents strongly encourage you to come to any future meetings you’re able to make. - Geoff Hartmann

Esme & Ms. Mirela
Global Leader-in-Training and star 5th grader, Esme Pringle alongside her mentor, Ms. Mirela, who was skyping in one week from Albania!
### Calendar Box

What’s coming up at G.W. Childs...

**Flag Football League**  
November 27, 2017 - January 29, 2018

**Family Night**  
December 7, 2017

**Roller Skating Party**  
December 8, 2017

**Parent Night**  
December 14, 2017

**Last Day of Program**  
December 15, 2017

**Global Leadership Training**  
December 18-19, 2017

**Program Returns**  
January 3, 2018

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Photography by Lauren Tankersly  
Design & Print by Amanda Gates
Some new staff members for the 2017-18 Year at Dream Academy