

# The Academy Charter School

Summer 2013

## The Academy Charter School Celebrates 2013 Graduates

The Academy Charter School Class of 2013 Commencement Ceremony was held on June 7, 2013 at The Summit Academy Chapel. Thirty –two students and their families participated in this special event. The Summit Academy vocalists performed several songs and featured a student saxophone player. Guest speakers for this year’s graduation included Pittsburgh Public School Board Member, Theresa Colaizzi, The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark , President Judge of Allegheny County Juvenile Court and Pittsburgh Steeler, Charlie Batch. After the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed a banquet reception hosted by Summit Academy. Each of the graduates has earned the Samuel A. Costanzo Scholarship, which offers a \$2,000 academic award payable to the post-secondary program of their choice. The Academy Charter School faculty and staff are very proud of these students and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.



2013 Academy Charter School



Judge Clark shares her keys to a successful and happy life.

Each of the graduates has earned the Samuel A. Costanzo Scholarship, which offers a \$2,000 academic award payable to the post-secondary program of their choice. The Academy Charter School faculty and staff are very proud of these students and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.



Graduating seniors celebrate their achievement with a class luncheon just before the “big” day.

## Senior Class Luncheon



### In This Issue

- Charter School Graduation Page 1
- Senior Luncheon Page 1
- Spring Academic Bowl Page 2
- “Get Ur Good On” Day of Service Page 2
- Academy Summer School Page 3
- Summer Reading Initiative Page 3
- 2013-2014 School Calendar Page 4
- How to Enroll in the Charter School Page 4

## The Academy Academic Bowl

In the tradition of the NCAA “March Madness” Tournament, The Academy Charter School holds an annual Academic Bowl. Each Spring, students are challenged to select a topic of interest on which to write a research paper. They then work with teachers to create an oral presentation on their topic. From there, students are given the opportunity to enter their project and presentation into The Academic Bowl. Upon entry, they present their projects to a new panel of judges during each round of the competition. The judges score students on content, quality of presentation and use of visual aides. At the end of each round, the top scoring presentations are selected to move on to the Sweet 16, Elite 8 and ultimately the Final 4. In the final round, each of the Final



4 participants is recognized for their hard work and effort throughout the competition but only one presentation can be crowned the winner. This year the Final 4 (pictured above) included Essence M. who presented on fashion design, Deven K. who spoke about becoming a beautician, Junior K. who presented on the sport of football and Andre T. who chose the topic of world peace.

The Academic Bowl is designed to promote improved research, writing and oral communication skills while incorporating technology and media applications into their presentations. We congratulate Essence M. for winning the competition and all of the students for their hard work and participation.

## 2013 “Get Ur Good On” Day of Service

On Friday, May 10, 2013, The Academy Charter School once again participated in their annual “Get Ur Good On” Day of Service. The program is affiliate with Pittsburgh Cares, an organization that gives students and faculty members avenues to strengthen their relationship with volunteer and community service opportunities. Service stations were set up around campus for students to make various items to be donated to different organizations throughout the Pittsburgh area.



Students participated in the day’s activities wearing “Get Ur Good On” t-shirts designed by their classmates & printed by members of the Summit Academy Screen Printing Trade Class.

This year the students made “adopt me” bandanas to benefit the Western PA Humane Society, pillows for a local homeless shelter and “birthday in a bag” kits to be donated to the Food Bank. They also painted picnic tables which were donated to the McKeesport Redevelopment Authority.

In addition, students had the opportunity to participate in a College and Career Fair held throughout the day, as well as a “Kicking it for a Cause” student/staff kickball game. They were then treated to a picnic lunch.

We are proud that our students have carried on this service tradition for the past fours years and we look forward to continuing this event and providing them with unique opportunities to be involved in serving the communities they live in.

## Summer School Provides Important Academic Opportunities in the Summer Months

The Academy is once again providing a Summer School program for students in 7th–12th grade. This exceptional program offers students the opportunity to earn up to two credits over an eight-week session.

The Academy Summer School is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and staffed by state-certified teachers. Door-to-door transportation is provided by our staff members and students enjoy a hot lunch daily.

Courses offered this summer include English, Chemistry, Biology Algebra 1-2, U.S. History, Geometry, World Cultures, Civics, African American History, Environmental Science, Pre-Algebra and Physical Education.

Last year, 78% of students enrolled received transferable credits to their home school district. The Academy Summer School students not only work to improve their progress toward their ultimate goal of graduation but the educational improvement they achieve also enhances their chances for academic success once school is back in session in August.



### Charter School Summer Reading Initiative

Summer vacation is every student's favorite time of year. Teachers know that it is a critical time to keep kids thinking, learning and especially reading to maintain the skills they acquired in the preceding school year.

At the end of the 2012-2013 school year, members of The Academy Charter School Faculty created the Summer Reading Initiative. Students were given a brand new book from the school library, a special bookmark and a challenge... read, read, read. Students have been encouraged to utilize their time over this summer to not only read the book they received but as many books as they can. They will then bring the bookmark back with them on the first day of school and share what they learned about the books they read to earn a reward.

To encourage students to stay on task and focused on positive activities, they are receiving letters of encouragement over the summer, as well as additional bookmarks to promote continued interest and reading. We hope Ms. McMullen's office will be FULL of bright bookmarks on August 26th for our first day of school.



The Academy Charter School | 2013-2014 CALENDAR

**19-23** In-Service/ Teachers  
**26** First Day of School

AUGUST 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**14** In-Service-No School  
**17** Presidents' Day- No School

FEBRUARY 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**2** Labor Day No School  
**20** In-Service No School

SEPTEMBER 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**5** Open House- No School  
**14** In-Service No- School  
**17-28** 8th Grade PSSA-Reading/ Math  
**31** 8th Grade PSSA Make-Up Exams-Writing Begins  
**25** 4th Quarter Begins

MARCH 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**14** In Service-No School  
**16** Open House/ Senior Parent Meeting-No School  
**18** School Picture Day  
**29** 2nd Quarter Begins

OCTOBER 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**1-4** 8th Grade PSSA Writing Exam, R/M Make-ups  
**7-11** 8th Grade PSSA Writing Make-Ups  
**14-18** Spring Break  
**28-30** 8th Grade PSSA Science

APRIL 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**1** In Service- No School  
**11** Veteran's Day- No School  
**27-29** Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**1-2** 8th Grade PSSA Science  
**5-9** 8th Grade PSSA Science- Make-ups  
**12-23** Spring Keystone Exams  
**26** Memorial Day- No School

MAY 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**2** In-Service- No School  
**3-13** Winter Keystone Exams  
**23-31** Winter Break- No School

DECEMBER 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**4** Last Day of School  
**5** Graduation Ceremony  
**14** First Day of Summer School

JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**1** Winter Break (Cont.)  
**17** In-Service-No School  
**20** M.L. King Day- No School  
**16** 3rd Quarter Begins

JANUARY 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**4** Independence Day

JULY 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*If your child or someone you know would benefit from the exceptional educational opportunities provided by The Academy Charter School, please contact Penny Tinsley at 412 885-5200 to learn more or to schedule an appointment to tour the school and meet our staff. You may also visit us on the web at [www.theacademyschools.com](http://www.theacademyschools.com).*