MACS is proud to announce that our 8th grade students have been recognized for their work to establish the restorative justice system of Youth Court at Manchester Academic Charter School.

Through the tremendous work of our staff and amazing volunteers throughout the legal community, our students have demonstrated a competence of restorative justice.

After working with our partner attorneys and members of the Youth Court Initiative of Western PA, the 8th grade students of MACS Youth Court were trained to serve as jurors, judges and advocates, handling real-life cases involving their peers.

With the support of Schanader Law Firm, Pennsylvania Bar Association and the MACS Board of Trustees, on October 15th, the Class of 2016 traveled to Harrisburg where they were welcomed and hosted to lunch by the Office of Jake Wheatley followed by a tour of the capital. The MACS Class of 2016 was also recognized by the Pennsylvania Counsel for Social Studies and presented with the Presidential Award for their Youth Court Initiative. The following morning the MACS Team of staff, volunteers and students hosted a restorative justice workshop and presentation demonstrating Youth Court to the conference attendees.
At Manchester Academic Charter School, the focus on “the Arts” has increased in the last year. A dance studio has been added to the extracurricular activities at the Sarah Heinz House along with a weekly collaboration at the Manchester Craftsman Guild. Elementary was paired with Young Men and Women’s African Heritage Foundation (YMWAHA) for music and art. The organization’s mission is: “to provide school aged children and their families with Cultural, Artistic and Educational tools necessary to become positive and active members of society.”

In the music room, some of the students keep the beat on a cajon drum while others bang out notes on xylophones. Next thing you know, the students have recognized the tune of a popular new song and have began singing along. Their teacher Mr. Chapman hails from Trinidad and instills within his students the same level of love and respect for the instruments, beats, and melodies that he clearly holds himself.

Meanwhile, in the art and technology class some of the students are practicing filming, lighting, and being in front of the camera. They learn about the boom mic and the right height and angle to hold it, in order to capture the actor’s voice while still staying out of the shot. On the other side of the room some of the students are filming and editing dancing clips.

Jailyn Thompson from Mr. Kuban’s class explains “We’re directing right now, making a documentary of ourselves. Mr. Gamble lets us bring out our phones and use them to film ourselves and other people.” Mr. Gamble is one of the four teachers provided by YMWAHA, two music teachers and two art and technology teachers. Jozlin from 5th grade comments “I like how there’s different teachers so we get to know different things and how to make new things.”

The dance classes have the same amount of variety, allowing the students to choose from ballet, tap, and hip hop jazz, with African dance coming soon. All of which are led by dance teacher; Mrs. Terrae Davis, who directs and owns Dance Academy of Praise in West View. Despite the occasional complaints about strength training exercises, the students seem to have really taken to Mrs. Davis and dancing, working hard and expressing a genuine interest and excitement to learn. This was evident in their performance during MACS Junior High Honors Recognition and Project Showcase. Mrs. Davis watched on, beaming with pride and explains the importance of dance and the arts, describing how it saved me from typical teenage behaviors. “Teaching dance gives me the opportunity to provide the same outlet to children that will hopefully spark their interest enough to keep them out of trouble,” said Mrs. Davis.

MACS has always held the Arts in high esteem and we will continue to have our amazing students do amazing things.

Expansion of the Arts: Music, Dance, & Film

ALUMNI CORNER: Dennis “DJ” Boyce

His journey began in the Training Wheels program at the age of 2. Dennis was always treated like family and felt safe during his tenure at MACS. In 2009, he was an eighth grader; not only did he graduate that year, but one of his most memorable moments occurred.

An overnight field trip took place for the first time. He expressed that no one knew how it would turn out, fortunately everything went well. The overnight trip was to Washington, DC, where they toured the White House and other historic landmarks.

“It’s hard to leave after 8th grade, I wouldn’t have changed anything while I was at MACS; it was a great experience!” Boyce exclaimed.

Dennis is currently a student at Bethany College in West Virginia. He is eligible to graduate a semester early, majoring in Finance. This past summer, Dennis participated in the SEO-Wall Street Internship program. He learned the ins/outs of the Finance field, which has been a huge help towards his major. The programs provided crash courses, career coaching, and resume building. Dennis will find out within the next few months, if he is selected to participate again this summer in New York.

“MACS is one of the best elementary and middle schools around,” Dennis Boyce stated.

Favorite Subject at MACS: Math - Mr. Orr
Favorite Teachers at MACS: Ms. B, Ms. Tria, Mr. Henderson, & Mr. Kuban

Donor Corner: The Heinz Endowments

Manchester Academic Charter School is always thankful for donors and their generosity! The Heinz Endowments has always shown their kindness and support over the years. MACS recently secured a grant for the next 3 years; this grant will support MACS move to a more innovative, 21st century learning environment. It will support blended classrooms and allow a more hands on project based learning environment as well. Programs like I-Own,
**LISTEN TO WHAT MACS STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY**

- **Kaiden Glenn, 1st Grade:** “If I had a million dollars I’d get a house for my mom and a closet full of jackets and toys for my little brother and a thousand candies for me.”

- **Malina Sanders, 3rd Grade:** “My favorite animal is a puppy because it’s cute, adorable, fluffy and cuddly. But I would want to be a lion because I could be the king of the jungle!”

- **Marcus Dixon, 4th Grade:** “The other day I read 185 pages in two hours because I liked the book so much.”

Future City, Mock Court, and Robotics will be enhanced. Students and staff will do this while using a “restorative justice” model.

The Heinz Endowments has committed to the success of MACS and we are appreciative and look forward to working with their team for years to come. Thank you, Heinz Endowments for adding value to our students, teachers, staff, and community!

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**PARENT CORNER (PTO):**

As we start the new year, we would like to welcome Ms. Shallegra Moye as the President for MACS PTO. Ms. Moye will assume all of the responsibilities that Ms. Sharon Pugh had. So get ready for an exciting remainder of the year.

**PTO Goals:**
- to celebrate student progress
- to continue to support the teaching staff
- to expand opportunities for families
- to engage in MACS activities

“The recipe for student success is families, school and community demonstrating shared expectations of achievement, accountability, and inclusion. I am excited about this new endeavor and looking forward strengthening relationships with everyone!” said Shallegra Moye.

We encourage you to participate!

For more information, please contact **Shallegra Moye** at 412-559-3561 or shelleemoye@yahoo.com.

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**NEW POSITION AT MACS: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

After the retirement of a couple of staff members, someone had to fill the void of the roles and responsibilities. MACS wanted to create a promising position that would be both useful and beneficial in all aspects. Instead of replenishing the positions, Mr. Scoumis decided to hire someone who would be in a role that is unique and diverse all around; a role where many hats are worn, not just one or two.

I am Miss Haeshah Z. Cooper, the new Director of Communications; I will handle communications with parents, teachers, and students. Communication will be through social media, blogs, press releases or other outlets.

I have a Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications-Print Journalism and a minor in English from Claflin University and a Master’s degree in Community Leadership from the School of Leadership and Professional Advancement at Duquesne University. With an extensive communications background and expertise working with non-profit organizations in the Pittsburgh area, this was a perfect match for me to join the MACS family.

I am more than pleased to be a part of such a successful and vibrant charter school. With my knowledge and experience, I know I will fit right in, without a doubt!

As the Director of Communications, my door is always open and I welcome your input. I can be reached at hcooper@macsk8.org or 412.322.0585 Ext. 164.

I look forward to meeting you and most importantly communicating with you on behalf of Manchester Academic Charter School.
Our Mission:
We foster the dreams of all children by providing an outstanding and dynamic education in a nurturing environment.

Our Vision:
We will continue to be an educational center of excellence and become a community pillar of support where students excel, families are engaged, teachers are empowered, and alumni flourish.