

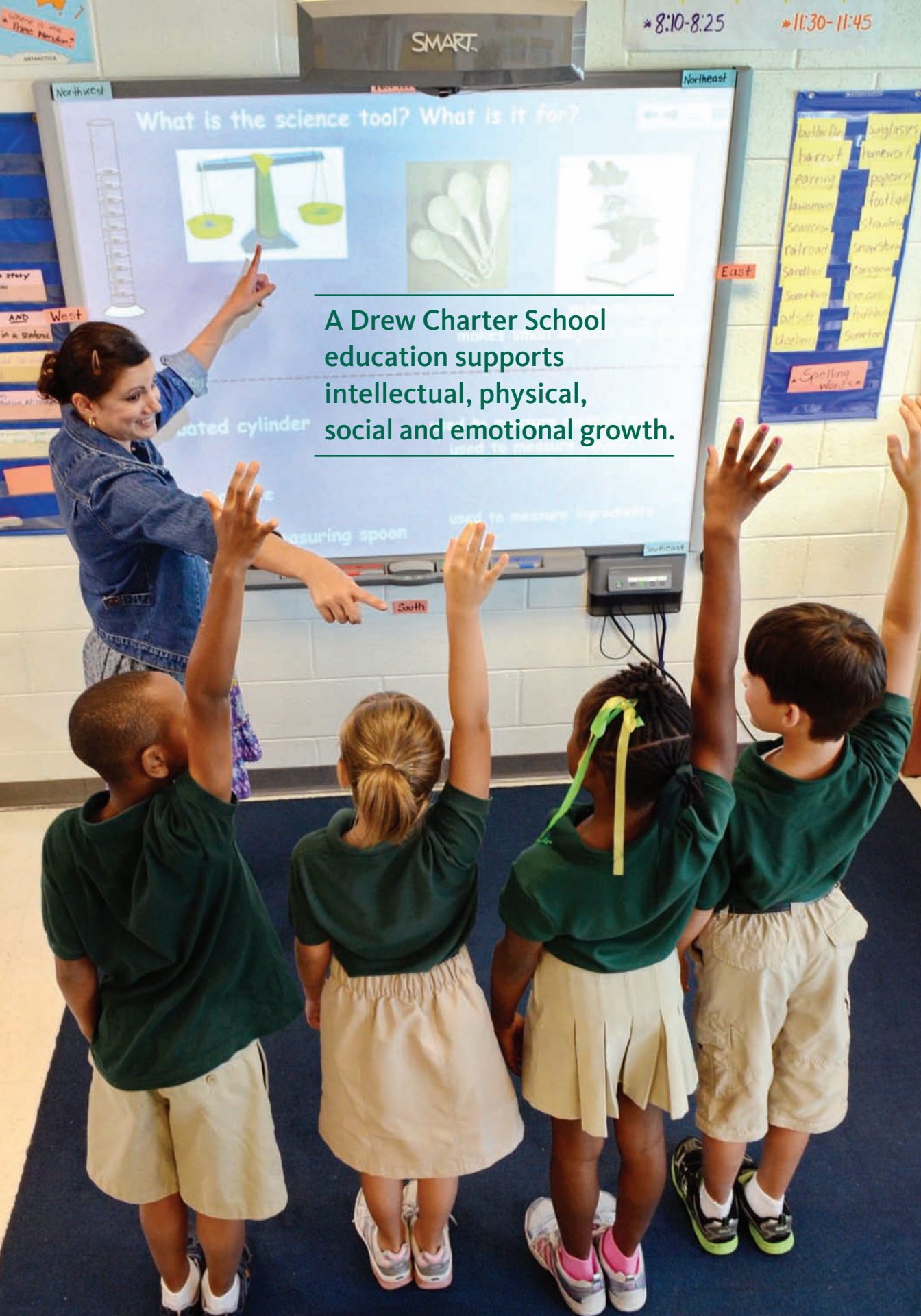


A Community



of Learners





A Drew Charter School
education supports
intellectual, physical,
social and emotional growth.

Charles R. Drew Charter School celebrates success, from Pre-K through grade 8!

As the first charter school established in the Atlanta Public Schools' system, the students, families and professional staff at Drew Charter School are becoming accustomed to going above and beyond their most ambitious goals.

From the academically challenging **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)** curriculum to the creativity inspired by Project-Based Learning, there are exciting things happening in every classroom at Drew.

This year, the State of Georgia recognized Drew's commitment to excellence by awarding a **\$1 million Race to the Top grant** – an investment in innovation that will allow Drew students to compete with the best and brightest students across the nation and around the world.



What sets Drew apart:

- ☆ Outstanding teachers and administrators serve as models of life-long learning through their own professional development
- ☆ High expectations for student achievement and support for all learners
- ☆ Rigorous, authentic assessments and a commitment to continuous improvement
- ☆ An extended school day and school year to provide more time for learning
- ☆ Enrichment opportunities including art, dance, physical education, chorus, robotics band, orchestra and Spanish

Character and ethics are every student's responsibility and the center of Drew's core values:

Wisdom

Justice

Courage

Compassion

Hope

Respect

Responsibility
and Integrity





Dear Friends of Drew Charter School:

As we complete another successful year, we're proud to present you with this recap of the many fine programs and accomplishments brought to life in 2011-2012 here at Drew.

From being named a Georgia Charter School of the Year finalist, to receiving a \$1 million Race to the Top grant, to making great progress on our dream for a Senior Academy, the year just ended has most definitely set the stage for Drew's continued success well into the future.

Our standardized test scores continue to improve, and we are now seeing well over 90% of all students, in all grades, meet or exceeding state standards in all subject areas.

We are fortunate to have a strong financial foundation, thanks to the support of our many community partners as well as the considerable time and talents provided to Drew by the families and friends of our students and the neighboring communities. We are also privileged to have the most talented team of teachers and administrators here at Drew – each one committed to bringing the very best education to Drew children.

We encourage you to spend a few minutes reviewing our year through this Annual Report. We're confident you'll see why we say Drew is, indeed, a great choice for a choice education.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kuhlman, Ph.D.
Chair
Charles R. Drew Charter School

Don Doran
Principal
Charles R. Drew Charter School

Drew students receive over two years more instruction than the average Atlanta Public Schools student between kindergarten and eighth grade.



Mr. Doran with a
Drew Pre-K class

Drew's Commitment to Excellence

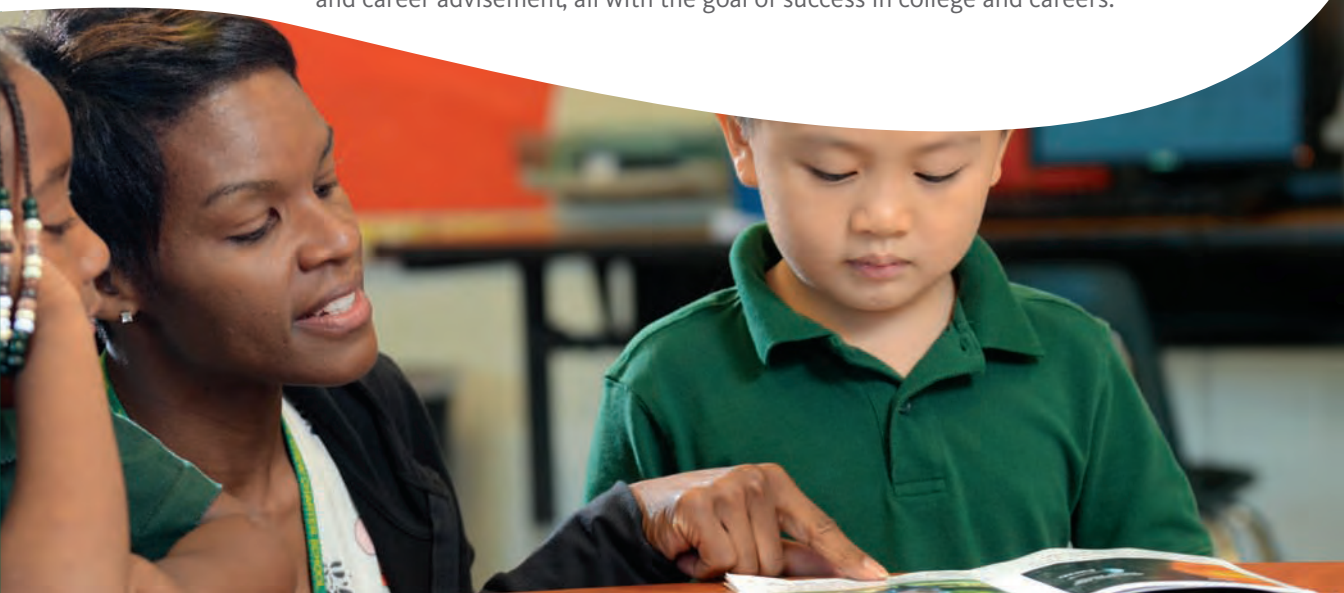
Drew Charter School takes a “cradle-to-college” approach to quality education. Drew is organized into three small, flexible academies which are “schools within a school” and are a model that provides students with age-appropriate experiences in a smaller community. This model also ensures that curriculum and quality are continuous as the children move from Primary Academy, to Elementary Academy, Junior Academy and, in the future, on to the Senior Academy for their high school years.

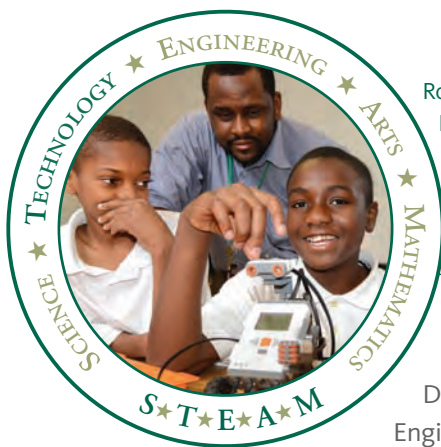
When a student enrolls at Drew, the entire family becomes part of a larger Drew community of teachers, staff and volunteers.

The Drew “cradle-to-college” approach

Drew Charter School's grades K-8 are bookended by both early learning and a high school support program. We are proud to partner with two early learning programs, East Lake Sheltering Arms Early Learning and Family Center and the East Lake Early Learning Academy. Drew is also home to the Cox Pre-K Program, preparing 66 children each year to be ready for kindergarten, with an intense language and literacy focus through the school's partnership with the Rollins Center for Language & Learning at the Atlanta Speech School.

Funded by the East Lake Foundation, CREW Teens™ (Creating Responsible, Educated & Working Teens) provides more than 400 students each year with academic support, leadership training and career advisement, all with the goal of success in college and careers.





Robotics teacher Mr. Jones with students
Rico Wilson and Denodra Benford

The Drew Charter School Experience

Academic Programs

Drew's unique academic model, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), along with a strong foundation in literacy, is the key to our success. STEAM challenges students with a rigorous academic curriculum that yields continued improvement, year after year.

Science ignites inquisitive minds through investigation and discovery. At Drew, students develop engagement in, and understanding of, the nature of science through hands-on inquiry and investigation.

Continued investments in **Technology** keep Drew's 21st century infrastructure up-to-date for students and teachers, bringing new life to teaching and learning through virtual manipulatives, interactive software, video and more.

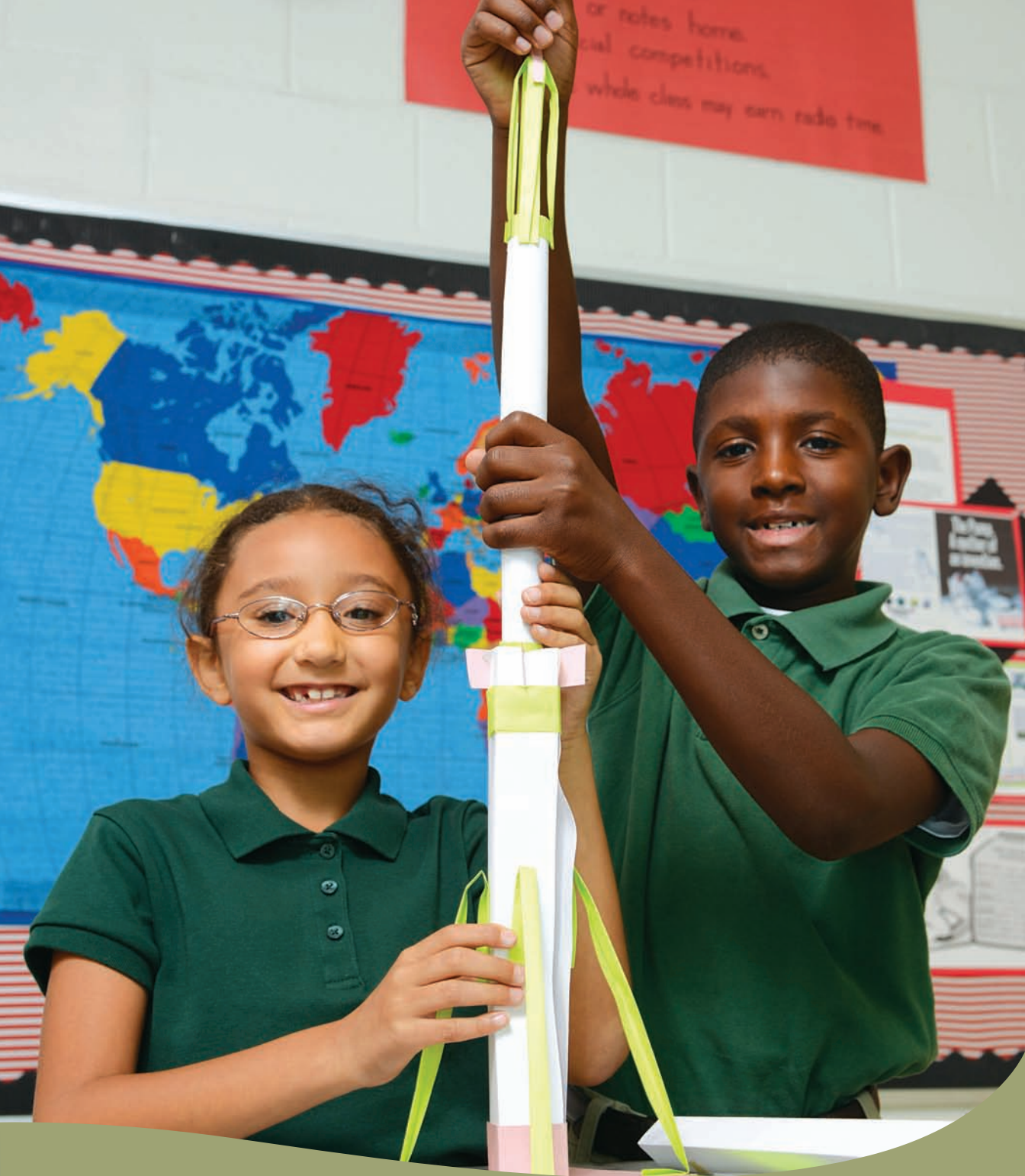
Robotics rule at Drew! **Engineering** skills and concepts are brought to life as students apply scientific-mathematical concepts in engineering design, building bridges and winning competitions.

From dance to drawing, orchestra and chorus, **Arts** programs engage Drew students in curricula that inspires creative thinking and expression every day.

Drew's **Math** programs add up to success! Primary grades learn numbers and operations, while elementary students are exposed to an increased emphasis on measurement and geometry. Accelerated math for grades 4 through 8 leads to high school math in grade 8. The Math Support Center targets students who need additional support.

Finally, Drew students are grounded in **Literacy**, with reading and writing core functions of every school day, including corporate and civic-led reading activities. Drew's Literacy Center provides individualized student interventions, while providing teachers support, instruction and resources.





Project-Based Learning

Drew supplements the STEAM curriculum with Project-Based Learning: Teaching and learning strategies based on critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, innovation and

problem solving. The \$1 million Race to the Top grant awarded to Drew this year supports our efforts to effectively deliver STEAM education through Project-Based Learning.



Performing Arts

- ☆ Georgia State University School of Music provides hands-on experience from professional artists
- ☆ The Sound Learning Program connects music to lessons in language, arts, geography and math
- ☆ The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra provides age-appropriate concerts and pre-concert lessons
- ☆ All third graders learn to play the violin
- ☆ Drew's performing arts program now includes four bands, five choruses, two performing dance troupes and an orchestra



Malik Ingram is playing drums

The Drew Difference

What Makes Atlanta's 1st Charter School Its Finest Charter School

Enrichment classes

Two each day for every student in art, foreign language, orchestra, golf, swimming, tennis and more.

Athletics

The Drew Eagles soar with the best in basketball, soccer and track in APS interscholastic leagues and in football and cheerleading in the Luke Sports League. A Drew team of cyclists trained for, and participated in, the 500-mile Bike Ride Across Georgia. Swimming, tennis and, especially golf, remain at the core of community wellness for all Drew students and their families.

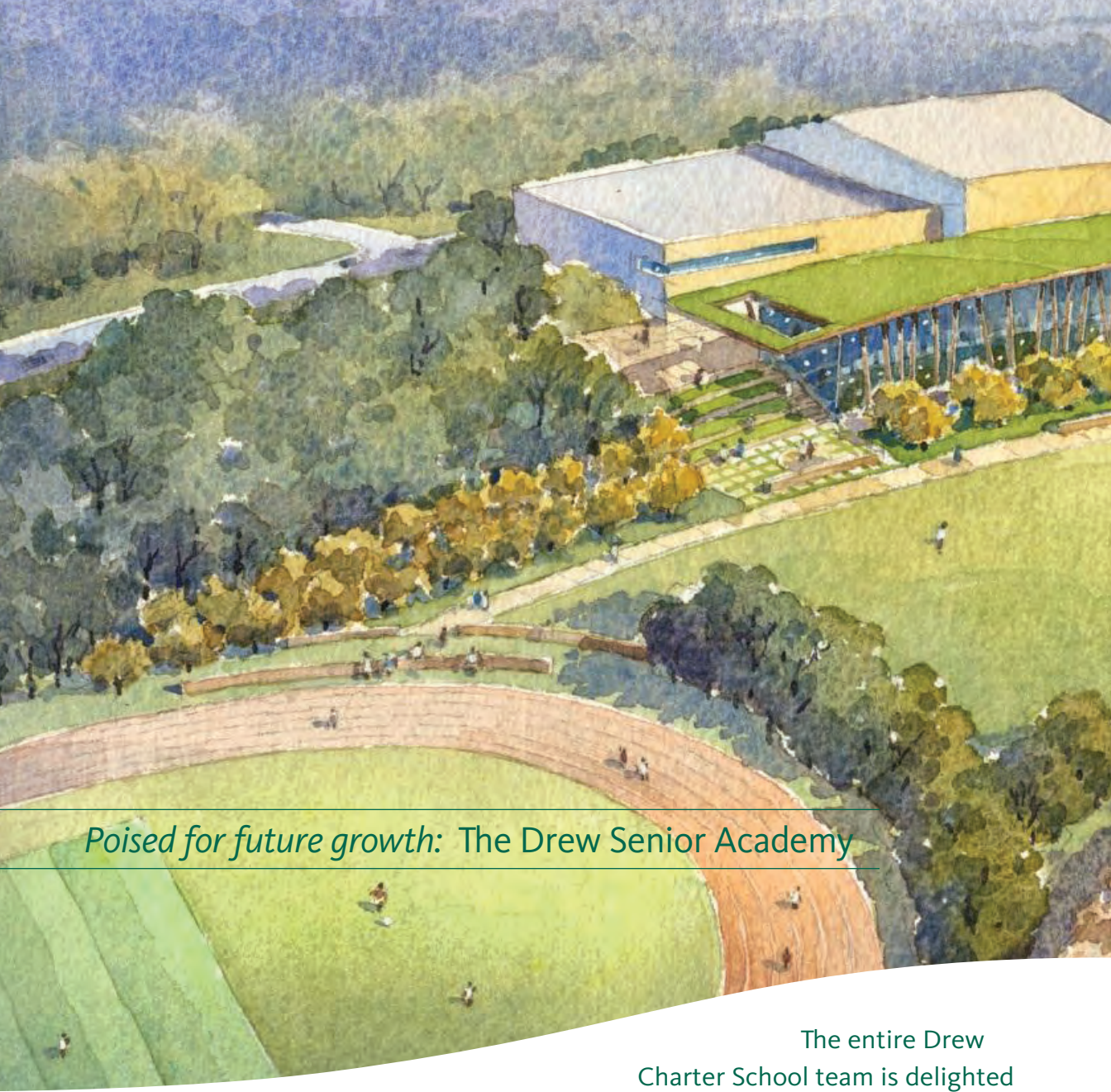
Before and After School Programs

- ☆ Before School Care: 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. A bright, safe start to the day!
- ☆ After School Program: 4:15 to 6 p.m. Drew's comprehensive After School Program offers a wide range of enrichment activities plus tutoring and homework assistance.

Teacher Development

Drew teachers never stop learning! All Drew teachers have two planning periods a day, with one devoted to professional development. Throughout the year, teachers participate in additional, deeper-dive trainings around their areas of expertise.





Poised for future growth: The Drew Senior Academy

The entire Drew Charter School team is delighted to be seeking approval on an amendment to our charter, giving us the opportunity to add a Senior Academy, grades 9 through 12. The Senior Academy will employ a student-centered education philosophy, developing leaders who inquire, inspire one another and harness innovation to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

We expect to break ground on the new, state-of-the-art facility in early 2013 and plan to open the building for the 2014-2015 school year. By 2023, Drew Charter School hopes to be at full enrollment, serving over 2,000 students from cradle-to-college.



Ambitious Goals for Drew Graduates

100% of Drew Charter School students will:

- ☆ Graduate high school
- ☆ Engage in advanced coursework
- ☆ Successfully apply to college

Drew leaders, parents and East Lake community representatives participated in Senior Academy visioning sessions early in 2012. These engaging sessions helped inspire architects to design a high school that will encourage a culture of creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

An environment where learning matters:

- ☆ A 200,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility, expanding the East Lake campus
- ☆ Flexible learning space to nurture collaboration
- ☆ Seven Project-Based Learning labs, seven science labs
- ☆ 21st century learning commons, facilitating research and communication
- ☆ A 500-seat performing arts theater and outdoor classroom
- ☆ Competitive gymnasiums and indoor walking track
- ☆ Full-size outdoor track and field facility



Karla Sanford placed first at the Atlanta Public Schools Regional Spelling Bee competition and represented APS at the state competition.

Drew students continue to excel

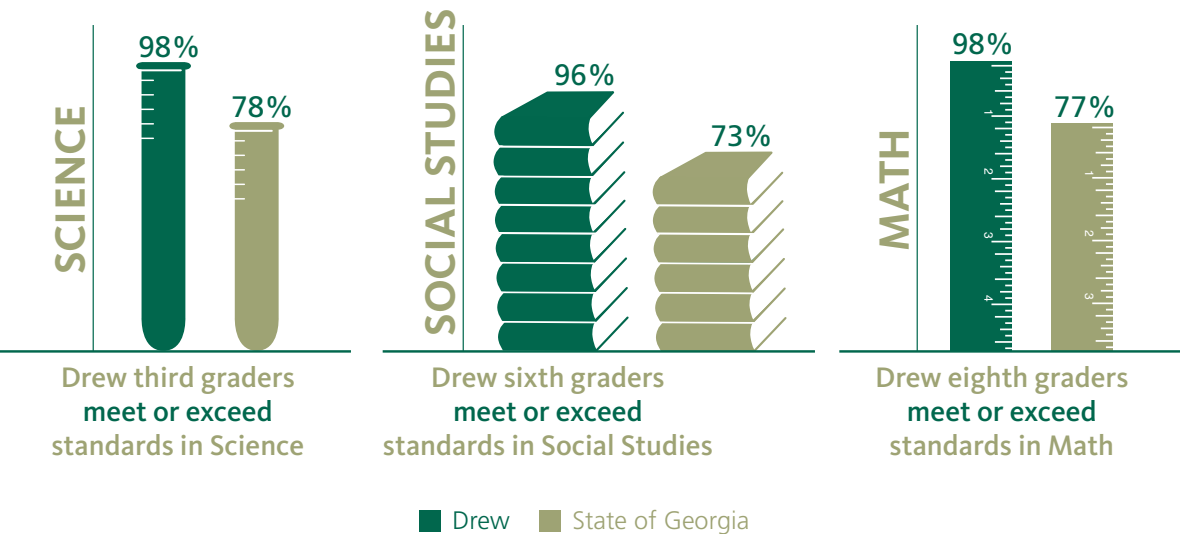
Another year of outstanding academic results

Each year, Drew students set the bar for academic success higher than ever before, and are recognized across the state and within Atlanta Public Schools for outstanding accomplishments. Recently, Drew received the prestigious **Platinum Award** from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, the state’s highest honor. Most importantly, Drew students outperformed schools across Georgia in the state Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT).

2012 CRCT Scores

The % of Drew Charter Students **who meet or exceed state standards**

Grade	Reading	Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
3	100%	100%	97.5%	97.5%	98.7%
4	98.9%	100%	94.8%	97.9%	96.9%
5	98.7%	98.7%	97.4%	92.1%	96.1%
6	97.9%	100%	98.9%	91.8%	95.9%
7	100%	98.9%	100%	97.8%	95.6%
8	100%	98.9%	97.8%	91.1%	92.2%



Drew students outperform their peers across the state of Georgia



Jalil Spearman (6th Grade), Fatima Hendricks (6th Grade), Alvin Winston II (7th Grade), Nia Anderson (6th Grade), Solomon Dobbs (5th Grade), Jayla Thrash (6th Grade), and Tyler Sturdivant (7th Grade) – APS Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners

Drew teams outperformed in academics and sports:

- ☆ 1st place for Inspiration: Drew Robotics Team at FIRST® Lego® League State Championship
- ☆ Seven of eight Drew projects advanced to the March 2011 State Science & Engineering Fair
- ☆ Seven of 13 overall Drew science projects advanced to the state level in Middle School division
- ☆ Drew placed three of five Gold Key winners in Middle Schools Science Fair
- ☆ 3rd place in Statewide BETA Science competition
- ☆ 1st place: Fifth and sixth grade soccer team in the Luke Sports Championship
- ☆ 2nd place in citywide girls and boys basketball, Luke Sports flag football, girls citywide softball, citywide cheerleading competition
- ☆ 3rd place: citywide track

Kudos to these talented Drew achievers!

- ☆ **Bobby Sandimanie III** – 1st place in robotics; one of 15 projects representing APS at the March 2011 Georgia Technology Fair
- ☆ **Karla Sanford** – 1st place at APS Regional Spelling Bee
- ☆ **Brooke Turpeau** – Scholarship for Ben Carson Summer Research Institute at Morehouse College
- ☆ **Alvin Winston II** – People To People Ambassador Program to Australia
- ☆ **Gold Keys for projects at Science and Engineering Fair**
Jakari Harris, Jakayla Moore, Jalil Spearman
- ☆ **Silver Keys for projects at Science and Engineering Fair**
Tyler Sturdivant, Alvin Winston II, Fatima Hendricks, Nia Anderson, Jayla Thrash, Solomon Dobbs



Sixth graders Kaitlyn Taylor, Julia Blackwell, and Brooke Turpeau – 1st Place Inspiration and Gracious Professional Awards, FIRST LEGO League Food Factor Challenge

The percentage
of Drew students
(grades 3-8) who met
or exceeded state
standards in 2012
CRCT testing

Reading	99 %
Language Arts	99 %
Math	98 %
Social Studies	96 %
Science	95 %

Drew Partners Make Success Possible

Drew's unique approach to cradle-to-college education attracts partners from around Atlanta and the state of Georgia. We appreciate the relationships Drew Charter School has developed with universities, foundations and businesses who share our commitment to giving Drew students the best educational opportunities and who supported Drew in 2011-2012:

Atlanta Public Schools

**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Center for Civic Engagement, Oglethorpe University**

Center for Teaching, The Westminster Schools

Charlie Yates Golf Course

The James M. Cox Foundation

CREW Teens

East Lake Foundation

East Lake Family YMCA

East Lake Golf Club

East Lake Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center

Georgia Department of Education

Georgia State University School of Music

Publix

Rollins Center for Language & Learning at the Atlanta Speech School

Rotary of Atlanta

SunTrust

**The Center for Education, Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing
(CEISMC) at Georgia Institute of Technology**

The First Tee® of East Lake

The TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola



Make Drew Charter School a part of your life

Drew is more than a school – it's a community. A place where students love to learn. A place where teachers, staff and volunteers dedicate themselves to each child's success. A place where parents choose to send their children.

Give your child the Drew advantage

Drew Charter School takes seriously the responsibility of educating your child for a successful life ahead. Give your child the opportunity to excel. Applications for new students are accepted annually during a published enrollment window.

Volunteer with Drew

We offer flexible, rewarding opportunities for tutors, classroom assistants and library aides. Parents, college students, small groups and individuals are welcome!

Join the Drew team

Drew teachers are the best! Daily common planning time and a team instructional approach, coupled with regular professional development, make Drew a special place to work.

For more information, please visit www.drewcharterschool.org.



Art project created by the 5th grade, "Golfer"

Leadership Team

Don Doran, Principal

Barbara Preuss, Associate Principal, Preschool – Grade 5

Gregory Leaphart, Associate Principal, Grades 6 – 8

Boon Boonyapat, Director of Teaching and Learning

Lindsey James Luczynski, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Donya Kemp, Instructional Technology Specialist

Nicole Tuttle, Literacy Coordinator

Theresa Cartwright, Operations Manager

Board of Directors

Cynthia Kuhlman, Ph.D. (chairman)

Madelyn R. Adams

Tobars Dobbs

Amir Farokhi

Deborah Knight, Ph.D.

Ginger D. Myers

Tamara S. Nash

Carol R. Naughton

Dennis Thomas

Report design by Growe Creative, LLC | Photography by Duane Stork



Drew student Dezmond Jack in the Drew STEAM All-Pro Dads Soap Box Derby Car

Our school is named for Dr. Charles R. Drew (1904-1950), a pioneering African-American physician, medical researcher and inventor. Dr. Drew was instrumental in developing blood plasma processing, storage and transfusion therapy. His groundbreaking work has saved untold lives and paved the way for today's American Red Cross blood program.