



**Building Outstanding Students**

**2012-2013 Annual Report**

## Letter from Dr. Kuhlman and Mr. Doran



Dear Friends of Drew Charter School:

We hope you share our great pride as you review the year's highlights chronicled in this report. This year, Drew Charter School was named Georgia Charter School of the Year — and selected as one of the 25 “Coolest Schools in America” by Scholastic *Parent @ Child* Magazine. When we broke ground to build the Junior and Senior Academy facility, we took a giant step toward transforming our dream of cradle-to-college education into a tangible reality. Our achievements are especially meaningful in light of the fact that when Drew opened in 2000, it was ranked last among Atlanta Public Schools. Today, our Elementary Academy (K-5) is ranked first\*, while our Junior Academy (grades 6-8) is ranked third in the city of Atlanta.

Drew's longer day and longer school year continue to help our students excel. The percentage of Drew students who met or exceeded state CRCT scores was 93%-99% in the different subjects tested. (Please see p. 12-13 for details.) Students brought honor to Drew with awards in robotics, science and other academic areas as well as success in sports and the arts.

All of these accomplishments were made possible by the hard work of Drew's students, staff and supporters. As we look back on 2012-2013, we thank you for helping make the year a success, but also for ensuring our future holds even more promise.

*Cynthia Kuhlman*

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

*Don Doran*

Don Doran  
Principal  
Charles R. Drew Charter School

\*2013 College and Career Ready Performance Index, State of Georgia



When ground was broken for the Senior Academy, Drew took a tremendous step toward realizing our vision of cradle-to-college education.

## Completing our 'cradle-to-college' mission

The new facility will be adjacent to the current Drew campus on East Lake Boulevard and will ultimately serve 1,000 Junior and Senior Academy students, bringing Drew's population to almost 2,000.

This LEED-certified building will include:

- Flexible learning suites to foster classroom collaboration
- Seven project learning labs and seven state-of-the-art science labs



Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal (center) and other dignitaries attended the Senior Academy groundbreaking ceremony in January, 2013.



- Integrated arts studios
- Two specialty labs for engineering and design
- A 500-seat performing arts center serving Drew and the East Lake community
- Two gymnasiums and a full size track and field arena

The new building will open in summer of 2014, while Drew welcomes its first ninth grade class in July, 2013. Drew will add one grade level each year until the founding class graduates in 2017. This exciting addition will be built thanks to the generosity of many corporate, foundation and individual donors. Of the \$73 million needed, a total of \$60 million came from private sources, including \$10 million in bond funding granted to the Drew Partnership for Expansion by the State of Georgia's Race to the Top Innovation Fund award.



## ☆ A Year of Accolades



Great things have been happening at Drew Charter School – and this year, people were taking notice! Drew’s story is one that resonates across America. Recognized for its challenging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) curricular focus, outstanding educators and community leaders, as well as high expectations and drive for student engagement and success, Drew sets itself apart from other schools in the country.



In 2012-2013, Drew Charter School was named:

- ☆ **Georgia Charter School of the Year**
- ☆ **One of America’s “25 Coolest Schools”**  
awarded by Scholastic *Parent and Child Magazine*

## Building scholars

- ☆ High expectations
- ☆ Longer school days, a longer school year
- ☆ Core Values: Wisdom, Justice, Courage, Compassion, Hope, Respect, Responsibility and Integrity



The first step on a child’s journey to a successful life begins in The Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School. Here, four-year-olds begin to discover the joy of learning, from the wonder that words and reading can unveil, to letter sounds and early number concepts. From early learning through high school, Drew Charter School’s programs are focused on supporting children every step of the way on their cradle-to-college journey.

## What makes Drew unique



Atlanta Public Schools' first charter school, Drew has retained the special qualities that have fostered achievement since its inception. Success at Drew is built not only on the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, but also on our outstanding academic model, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

This unique model strengthens and enriches an interdisciplinary curriculum with a robust foundation in literacy. Drew's rigorous academic model produces extraordinary student achievement every year. Robotics, engineering and design are offered at nearly every grade level.

- Science stimulates curious minds through investigation and discovery.
- Technology invigorates teaching and learning through virtual manipulatives, interactive software, video and more.
- Engineering skills come alive as students apply scientific and mathematical concepts to build bridges and win competitions.
- Arts put the "A" in STEAM as students ignite creative thinking and expression every day.
- Mathematics programs are a formula for success at Drew, from primary grades, where numbers and operations count, to elementary grades, where emphasis increases on measurement and geometry. Accelerated math is available for grades four through nine.



Drew offers exceptional opportunities for gifted and high-achieving students, including advanced mathematics, BETA Club and statewide academic competitions.



Drew students are grounded in literacy. Drew's Literacy Center offers individualized student interventions with teachers' support, instruction and resources. Project-Based Learning, which aligns with STEAM, is a vital part of Drew's teaching and learning and is becoming even more important as the new high school develops. This instructional approach is based upon learning activities that engage students' interests and motivation. Designed to answer a question or solve a problem, these activities reflect the learning and work people do outside the classroom. Project-Based Learning connects students to content through 21st century skills: communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

## Beyond the basics – enriching the school day

A wide range of co-curricular opportunities in the arts, sports and other enrichment classes help Drew students discover and develop new talents and interests.



Enrichment classes include:

- Visual art
- Band and Orchestra
- Chorus
- General Music
- Dance
- Robotics
- Engineering
- Foreign Language
- Physical Education
- The First Tee® of East Lake (golf)
- Tennis



At the end of the school day, students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities including:

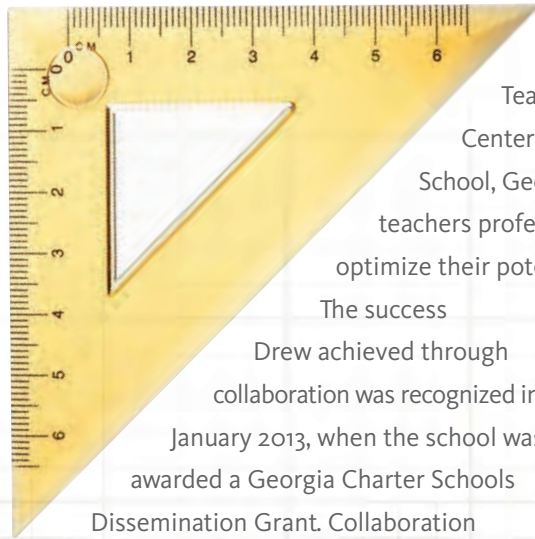
- Soccer
- The First Tee® of East Lake (golf)
- Cheerleading
- Recreational Football
- Softball and Baseball
- Track and Field
- Basketball
- Tennis

Drew offers a comprehensive After School Program each day from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a wide variety of academic and enrichment classes including:

- Science
- Cooking and Nutrition
- Drumming
- Gardening
- French, Spanish and Mandarin
- Soccer
- Book Clubs
- Art
- Puppetry



## Supported along the way



Collaboration and partnership are cornerstones of Drew Charter School. Partners like the Center for Teaching at The Westminster Schools and The Rollins Center for Language and Learning at the Atlanta Speech School, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University offer Drew teachers professional learning opportunities and resources to optimize their potential in classroom leadership.

The success

Drew achieved through collaboration was recognized in January 2013, when the school was awarded a Georgia Charter Schools Dissemination Grant. Collaboration

funded by this grant is expected to be the first step in an effort to create a learning network in our community.



Collaboration funded by the dissemination grant is expected to be the first step in a cluster-wide effort to create a learning network in our community.

Drew Charter School received funding through two different Race to the Top grants, totaling approximately \$1.8 million. Both grants involve the work of several partners, including the Center for Teaching at the Westminster Schools, CEISMC (Georgia Tech), the Georgia State University School of Music, and New Technology Network, LLC.

- The first Race to the Top grant was awarded for Innovation and is focused on giving Drew students hands-on learning experiences in STEM curricular areas and allowing Drew teachers to participate in in-depth, focused professional development.
- The second Race to the Top grant was awarded for Expansion, to support the planning and implementation of the new Senior Academy (grades 9-12). The funds are used for curriculum planning, faculty professional development, experiential activities for students, educational equipment and classroom technology that deepens 21st century learning and skills.

## Drew Eagles soar!

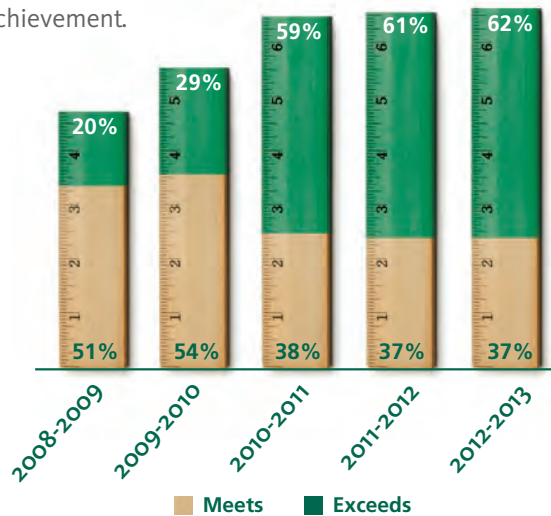
### 2013 test scores confirm:

**Drew students continue to outperform their peers, achieving remarkable results.**

All Georgia students, grades 3-8, take the Georgia Criterion Reference Competency Test (CRCT). The latest scores reflect Drew students' impressive accomplishments and demonstrate their knowledge, proficiency and achievement.

The percentage of Drew students (grades 3-8) who met or exceeded state standards in 2013 CRCT testing	<b>99%</b> Reading
	<b>99%</b> Language Arts
	<b>98%</b> Mathematics
	<b>93%</b> Science
	<b>97%</b> Social Studies

Over time, Drew students continue to perform consistently, meeting and exceeding state standards. Drew third graders continue to show year-over-year improvement.



### Percentage of Drew students who meet or exceed state standards

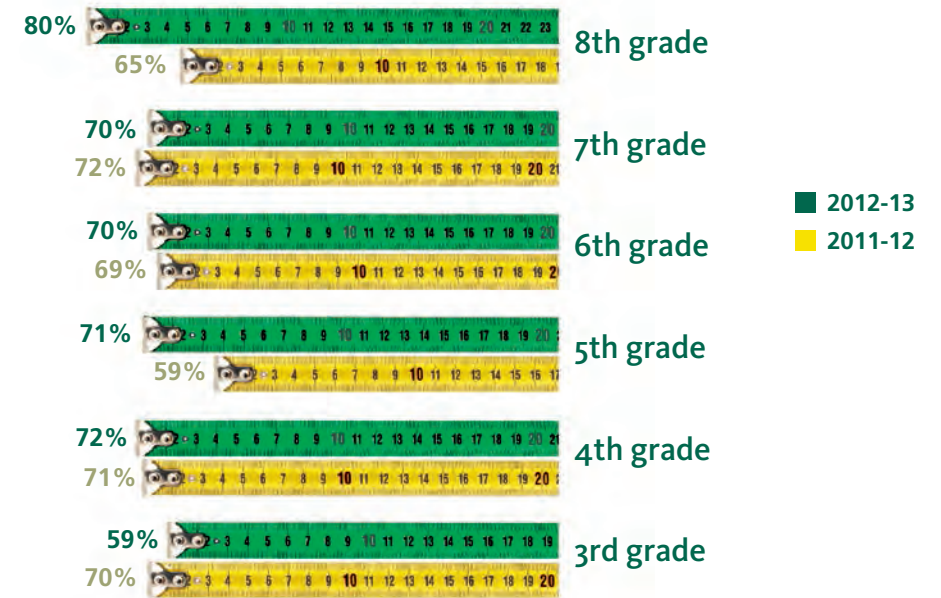
Grade	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
3	100%	98.1%	98.1%	93.3%	98.1%
4	100%	98.8%	100%	98.8%	97.6%
5	98.9%	98.9%	100%	96.8%	97.9%
6	100%	100%	95.2%	84.6%	96.2%
7	100%	100%	96.1%	94.9%	99%
8	100%	100%	100%	93.5%	94.6%

### Drew eighth grade students who met or exceeded standards on the Georgia Writing Assessment outperformed others across the state.



## Students excel on national tests

Drew students are competitive with the nation in all subject areas as measured by the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). Below is the percent of students scoring at or above the national norm in science.



### New in 2012-2013!

#### Georgia Department of Education College and Career Ready Performance Index

Drew elementary grades (K-5) rank #1 in Atlanta Public Schools  
Drew middle grades (6-8) rank #3 in Atlanta Public Schools

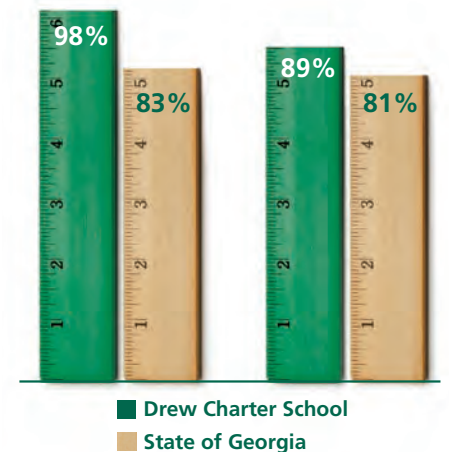
On May 7, 2013, the Georgia Department of Education released the Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), which measures schools and school districts on a 100-point scale.

The average score for Georgia's **elementary** schools is 83.4;

**Drew received a 98.**

The average score for Georgia's **middle** schools is 81.4;

**Drew received an 89.3.**



The CCRPI measures three major areas:

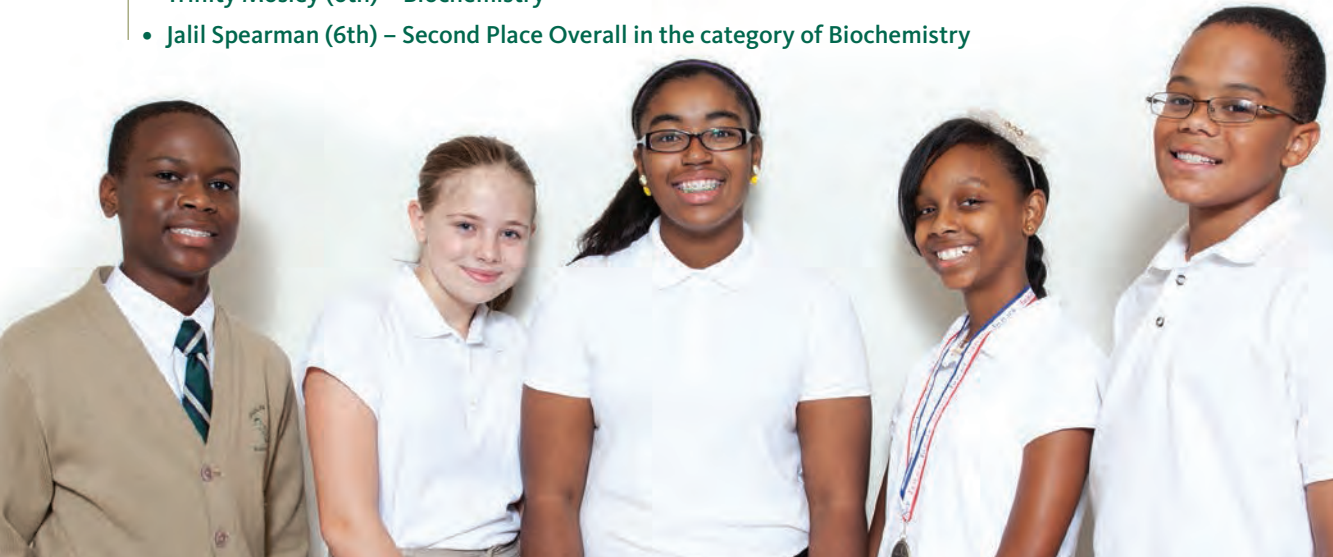
- **Achievement** – 70 points possible (Drew elementary: 64.1; Drew middle: 56.6)
- **Progress** – 15 points possible (Drew elementary: 10.3; Drew middle: 10.4)
- **Achievement Gap** - 15 points possible (Drew elementary: 15.3; Drew middle: 15)

## Students bring home honors in various fields

Individual students and teams brought honors and awards to Drew Charter School with their notable accomplishments, including the following:

At the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair held in Athens March 22-23, 2013, Drew represented Atlanta Public Schools with five out of 13 projects in the Middle School Division and garnered several awards.

- **Alvin Winston II (8th) – Fourth Place Overall in the category of Microbiology**
- **Hannah Strudwick (7th) – Second Place Overall in the category of Behavioral and Social Sciences**
- **Naomi Ray (7th) – Behavioral and Social Sciences**
- **Trinity Mosley (6th) – Biochemistry**
- **Jalil Spearman (6th) – Second Place Overall in the category of Biochemistry**



Right: **Karla Sanford (6th), Kinsley Ray (7th) and Brooke Turpeau (7th)** were selected for the highly competitive Ben Carson Award. They were among an elite group of students nationwide who received a \$1,000 scholarship, which is rarely given to students from a school of Drew's size. Left: **Yanik Gregg (8th)** distinguished himself as Drew's Spelling Bee Champion.



- Five of Drew's Robotics teams advanced to compete at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics Super Regional Competition at Clayton State University in January 2013.
- Drew's teams placed second in girls' basketball and girls' soccer.
- Drew's girls' basketball coach, Tracy Edwards, was named APS Coach of the Year; one of Drew's girls' basketball team members, Kamiyah Street, was named APS Player of the Year.



## Building strong partnerships

Each year, the partners who contribute their time, talents and expertise to Drew Charter School help ensure students receive the very best in education and enrichment. We thank the corporations, foundations, universities and individuals who share our commitment to educational achievement:

Atlanta Public Schools

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
The Center for Education, Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEISMC) at Georgia Institute of Technology

Center for Civic Engagement, Oglethorpe University

Center for Teaching, The Westminster Schools

Charlie Yates Golf Course

The James M. Cox Foundation

Drew Charter School Parent/Teacher Association

East Lake Foundation

CREW Teens, The First Tee® of East Lake, East Lake Community Learning Garden and Urban Farm

East Lake Early Learning Academy

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

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

Publix

Rollins Center for Language & Learning at the Atlanta Speech School

Rotary of Atlanta

Southeastern Horticultural Society

SunTrust

The TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola



## Leadership Team

**Don Doran**, Principal

**Barbara Preuss**, Academy Principal, Pre-K– Grade 5

**Gregory Leaphart**, Academy 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.** (Chair)

**Madelyn R. Adams**

**Tobars Dobbs**

**Amir Farokhi**

**Deborah Knight, Ph.D.**

**Ginger D. Myers**

**Tamara S. Nash**

**Carol R. Naughton**

**Dennis Thomas**



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.