



DREW CHARTER SCHOOL



Innovation at Work
2013-2014 *Annual Report*

Letter from Dr. Kuhlman and Mr. Doran



Dear Friends of Charles R. Drew Charter School,

It has been a momentous year for Drew Charter School, a year filled with excitement, high achievement and many accomplishments that are highlighted in this report.

We are fortunate to have a strong and stable foundation, thanks to the support of our faculty, staff, students, families and many community partners. We are eager to strengthen these existing relationships and explore new opportunities to continue to foster a preeminent education for our students.

Drew students continue to perform at the highest levels across all subjects and grades. Drew Charter School also continues to be recognized by the Georgia Department of Education and Atlanta Public Schools for its innovative and successful academic model, and was once again recognized as a Reward School for Highest Academic Achievement, among the top 5% of the State's Title I schools. These achievements are extremely meaningful, but we must continue to look ahead.

The opening of the new Drew Charter School Junior and Senior Academy at the Charlie Yates Campus is incredibly exciting. This state-of-the-art facility, designed for 21st century learning, represents the fulfillment of a dream of a cradle-to-college pipeline in East Lake and provides an environment in which students will achieve the highest academic success. When our inaugural class celebrates their high school graduation in May 2017, and for every subsequent graduating class, we expect to award diplomas to 100% of our students.

We are proud of the accomplishments detailed in this report and even more excited about the future for our students and our community. Thank you for helping make this year a success!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Kuhlman".

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Doran".

Don Doran
Head of School
Charles R. Drew Charter School



Drew's innovative academic model is the key to success



STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) is Drew Charter School's map to a successful academic experience for its students. Learning in a STEAM environment, coupled with Project-Based Learning (PBL), sets the stage for students to critically solve real world problems. Students are taught with an interdisciplinary approach with an emphasis on the design thinking process and problem solving leading to application.

This year, Drew soared to new heights with STEAM and PBL. Elementary Academy students engaged in a design process including engineering design, fine arts, robotics and STEM classes. This enabled them to conceptualize, build, and install a STEAM sculpture and "tinker yard" with a STEAM Artist-in-Residence. They presented their innovative projects during STEAM Discovery Day, DESIGNORAMA, and PBL Showcase nights. Across the school, Drew students participated in various robotics competitions including an underwater challenge (SeaPerch) and the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), just to name a few.

Project-Based Learning

Aligned with the STEAM theme, Project-Based Learning has become fundamental to Drew's instruction philosophy.

By solving real-world problems and answering complex questions, students are engaged in learning by doing. Drew students access content and acquire knowledge through long- and short-term projects designed by teachers across disciplines. Project-Based Learning also helps Drew students develop skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity, all important abilities needed for success in the 21st century.



Above and Beyond – Elevating the Essentials

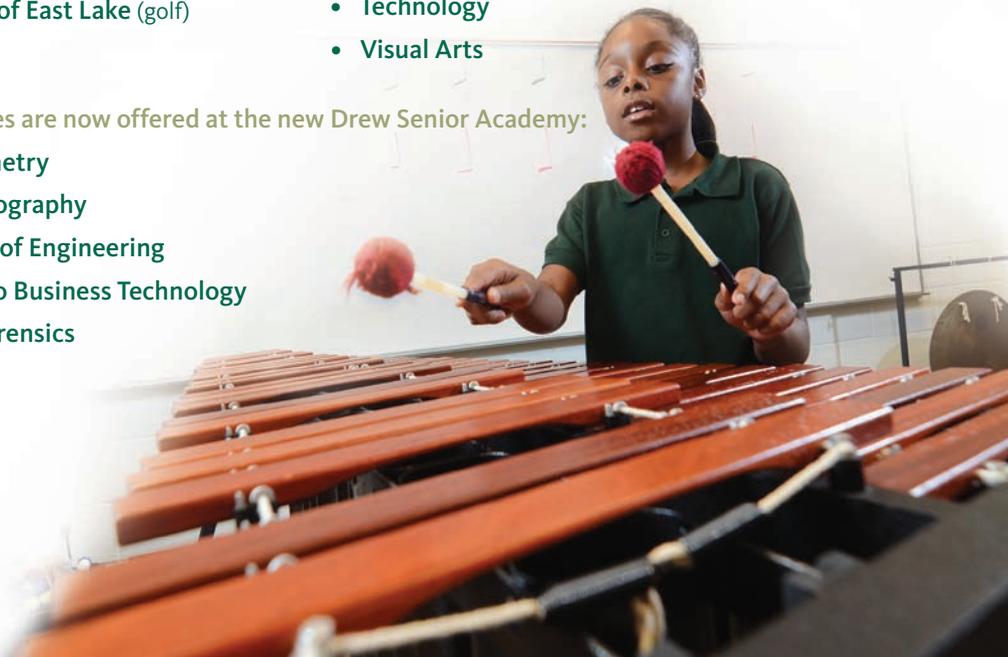
Drew students are exposed to a wide range of opportunities during the school day to enrich their academic experience and broaden their horizons. In addition to scholastic curriculum, students are able to discover new passions and acquire lifelong skills in their co-curricular courses.

Drew's enrichment classes include:

- Atlanta Urban Youth Harp Ensemble
- Band
- Chorus
- Dance
- Engineering Design
- The First Tee® of East Lake (golf)
- General Music
- Orchestra
- Robotics
- Spanish
- STEM Lab
- Swimming
- Technology
- Visual Arts

Even more courses are now offered at the new Drew Senior Academy:

- Analytic Geometry
- AP Human Geography
- Fundamentals of Engineering
- Introduction to Business Technology
- Speech and Forensics



Athletics

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





After School Program

Drew students in Pre-K through 5 have the opportunity to participate in a robust After School Program. Between 4:15 and 5:45pm from Monday-Friday, students receive academic support and participate in enrichment classes such as:

- Cooking
- Golf
- Indian Dance
- Mandarin
- Martial Arts
- Puppetry Arts
- Science
- Spanish
- Urban Taiko
- Yoga



Technology That Enables Learning

Technology is integrated across all disciplines, including the arts, from Pre-K through 9. Drew features SMART Boards (interactive whiteboards) in every learning space and students in grades 6-9 have 1:1 laptops to further personalize teaching and learning.

Completing our Cradle to College Education Pipeline

The innovative PBL academic model informed the facility design for the new Junior and Senior Academy at the Charlie Yates Campus, which opened July 2014. The new building represents the fulfillment of a dream: an excellent cradle-to-college pipeline in East Lake. The new Yates Campus embodies the principles of “The Third Teacher”¹, where students and teachers alike use the unique spaces to best support their projects and lessons.



Partners for Professional Development

Drew Charter School thrives through collaborative efforts and partnerships with several organizations in the Atlanta area. Through those partnerships, Drew teachers are offered numerous professional development opportunities and resources to improve their practice in the classroom. Those key partners include the Center for Teaching at The Westminster Schools, the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University and New Tech Network.



Advanced Academics

With the addition of the ninth grade to the Senior Academy, Drew offers diverse programming opportunities. These range from Analytic Geometry and Advanced Placement Human Geography to extracurricular activities in debate, mock trial, and academic decathlon. Teachers used a collaborative model in PBL to offer integrated courses in Business Technology and Engineering along with Biology and Visual Arts. Through the Race to the Top Innovation grant, Junior Academy teachers collaborated with professors from Georgia Tech's College of Architecture to design projects such as a crime scene investigation (CSI) and Folk Arts and Mathematics.

Foundation of Literacy

Drew students excel by having a strong foundation in literacy. By learning and developing language skills in the early elementary years, through a strong partnership with the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, students are learning to read in Kindergarten and on a path to read to learn by 3rd grade.

In addition to classroom lessons, students who need extra support receive personalized instruction from reading specialists in the Drew Literacy Center.



Recognized for Innovation

Drew Charter School continues to be recognized by the Georgia Department of Education and Atlanta Public Schools for its innovative and successful academic model. In 2013-14, Drew continued its implementation of two Race to the Top grants, and was awarded several other private and public grants to support research, expansion, implementation and a learning network with neighborhood schools.

At the Top

Drew was recognized by the Department of Education as a Reward School for Highest Academic Performance, among the top 5% of the State's Title I schools over the past three years.

2014 test scores confirm

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

Drew students overall consistently meet and exceed Georgia state standards.

The percentage of Drew students (grades 3-8) who **met or exceeded** state standards in 2014 CRCT testing

98%	Reading
98%	Language Arts
94%	Mathematics
88%	Science
93%	Social Studies

Percentage of Drew students who met or exceeded state standards in 2014 CRCT testing.

Grade	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
3	98%	95%	95%	84%	92%
4	98%	94%	97%	93%	93%
5	99%	99%	94%	90%	96%
6	98%	98%	93%	78%	93%
7	97%	100%	90%	94%	95%
8	100%	100%	96%	90%	91%

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



2013 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCPRI)

CCPRI is a comprehensive school improvement, accountability, and communication platform that promotes college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students.

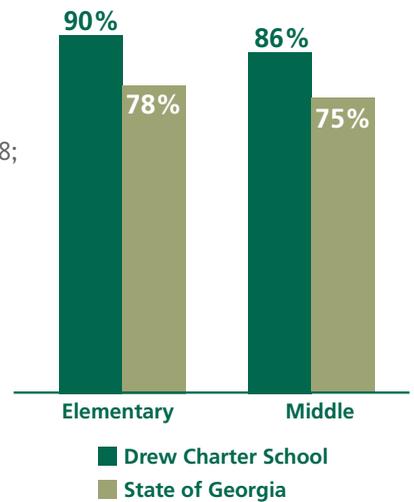
Drew Elementary and Junior Academies ranked in the top of Atlanta Public Schools and the State of Georgia.

The average CCRPI score for Georgia’s **elementary** schools is 77.8;

Drew received a 90.1.

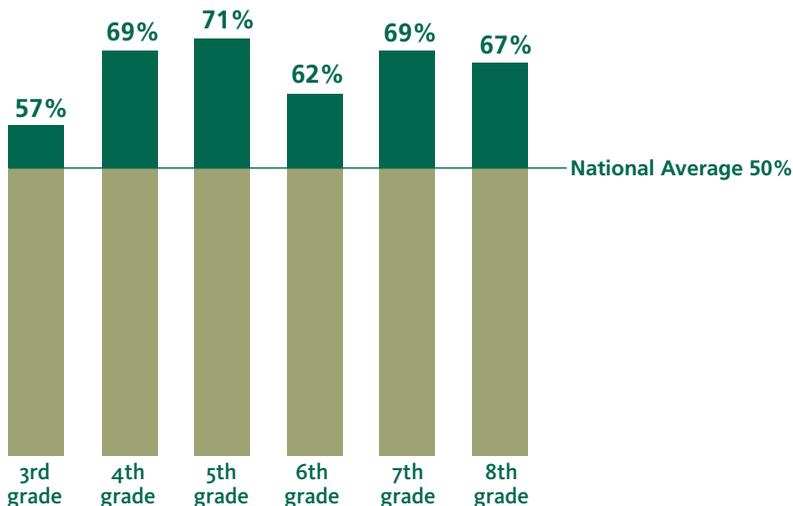
The average CCRPI score for Georgia’s **middle** schools is 74.6;

Drew received an 86.3.



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 that scored at or above the nation in Social Studies.



Notable accomplishments of Drew students

Individual students and teams brought honors and awards to Drew Charter School. The accomplishments, including the following:

Academic Decathlon

Senior Academy students placed 2nd and 3rd in their first APS Academic Decathlon

Robotics

- 89 students in grades K-2 competed in Junior First LEGO League (JrFLL). Four Drew teams swept all top awards at Grady Invitational Tournament
- Drew hosted 25 teams FLL Regional Tournament. Three Drew teams advanced to the Super Regional Tournament at Clayton State College and University. Junior Academy team advanced to the State Tournament and won the Gracious Professionalism Trophy
- Elementary Academy team won 1st place for all classifications at the Sea Perch Invitational Robotics Competition



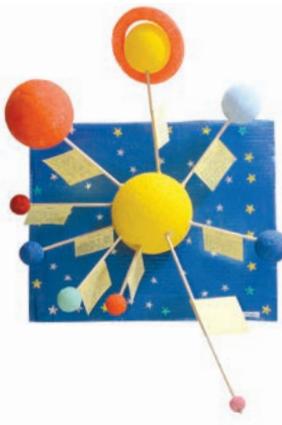
Left to right, front row: **Brooke Turpeau** (9th), **Christopher Harris** (8th), **Armand Johnson** (9th), **Ivy Diamond** (8th). Back row: **Jalil Spearman** (9th), **Kaitlyn Taylor** (9th), **Blake Turpeau** (9th).

Science Fair

- Drew hosted a Science and Engineering Fair that included 312 science and engineering projects submitted by students in grades 3-9
 - 14 projects advanced to the APS Regional Science and Engineering Fair
 - 9 projects advanced and represented APS at the State Science and Engineering Fair
 - Jalil Spearman placed 2nd overall in the Environmental Science category

Science Olympiad (grades 4-5)

- The Drew Science Olympiad team participated for the first time in the Northeast Regional Georgia Science Olympiad Competition at University of North Georgia Oconee Campus
- The team place 3rd overall and advanced to the State Competition at Kennesaw State University. Eugene James, a fourth grader, placed 8th in one category



Strength in Numbers

Drew Charter School's many successes in the 2013 – 2014 year can be attributed to its numerous partners who contribute immeasurable time, talents and expertise.

Drew students receive exceptional education and outstanding enrichment thanks to the commitment of our partner corporations, foundations, universities and individuals.

We thank those partners that ensure that Drew can continue offering its students the very best:



- Atlanta Public Schools
- Bright from the Start
- Center for Civic Engagement at Oglethorpe University
- Center for Teaching at The Westminster Schools
- CF Foundation
- Charlie Yates Golf Course
- Drew Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- East Lake Early Learning Academy
- East Lake Family YMCA
- East Lake Foundation
- CREW Teens
- East Lake Community Learning Garden and Urban Farm
- The First Tee® of East Lake
- Resident and Community Support Program
- East Lake Golf Club
- East Lake Sheltering Arms Early Learning Education and Family Center
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Education, Integrating Science Mathematic and Computing (CEISMC)
- Georgia State University School of Music
- Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- The James M. Cox Foundation
- New Tech Network
- Publix at East Lake
- Purpose Built Communities
- Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School
- Rotary Club of Atlanta
- Southeastern Horticultural Society
- SunTrust
- The TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola

Leadership Team

Don Doran, Head of School

Barbara Preuss, Elementary Academy Principal, Pre-K– 5

Gregory Leaphart, Junior Academy Principal, Grades 6 – 8

Peter McKnight, Senior Academy Principal, Grade 9

Boon Boonyapat, Director of Teaching and Learning

Donya Kemp, Instructional Technology Specialist

Lindsey Luczynski, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Monishae O'Neill, Dean of Academics, Pre-K– 5

Charisse Richardson, Chief Operating Officer

Nicole Tuttle, Director of Literacy

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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.

Charles R. Drew Charter School represents the cradle-to-college pipeline in the East Lake community and is an integral part of a holistic neighborhood revitalization led by the East Lake Foundation.