

August 2010

# Florida's Charter Schools News

**The 2010 Florida Charter School Conference**

**November 8-10, 2010 · Orlando, Florida**

Florida's 400+ charter schools are "Rising to the Challenge" of providing high-quality educational choices to over 135,000 students. Learn how these schools are meeting the needs of Florida's diverse student population.

- Keynote Speakers: Dr. Howard Fuller, Founder and Director of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning and Ms. Deneen Frazier Bowen, Author, Educator and Technology Consultant
- 36 breakout sessions from state and local leaders
- Two-day exhibit hall with 70+ exhibitors
- Register online by October 22 to receive the discount rate of \$195

**FCSC**  
Florida Charter School Conference

*Dr. Howard Fuller*      *Ms. Deneen Frazier Bowen*

**Inside this issue:**

Call for Student Performances	2
Paperless Communication	2
Merit Award Program	2
Extreme Makeover Miracle	3
G-Star School Graduation Rate Increases	3
Academy of Arts & Minds	4
Conferences/Workshops	5



## 2010 Charter Conference – Call for Student Performances

There are several opportunities for student performances at the conference. If you would like your school to be considered to perform at the Charter School Conference, please send a performance VHS tape or DVD by August 27, 2010, to the following address:

*Florida Charter School Conference  
c/o Noelle Bonard  
325 W Gaines St, Rm 522  
Tallahassee, FL 32399*

Please include your name and contact information, along with a list of the songs your students would perform at the conference.

The Program Committee will review all submissions and select the performances for the conference. Selection notifications will be sent out by the end of September.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Noelle Bonard](mailto:Noelle.Bonard).



## Sign Up For Paperless Communication

In an effort to communicate with Florida's educational community in a timely and cost efficient manner, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) has developed the means of notifying interested parties when official correspondence is posted on the DOE Web site. By signing up and indicating your topics of interest, you will receive e-mail notices containing links to messages, reports, legislative updates, technical assistance papers and official memorandums issued by the DOE. All messages will link to

PDF files which may be viewed, downloaded to your computer, or printed at your discretion. For more information on the DOE's paperless communication system please visit the DOE Web site at: <http://data.fldoe.org/communications/>.



## Upcoming Deadline for Merit Award Program (MAP)

Charter schools that wish to participate in the **Merit Award Program** (1012.225, F.S.) for the 2011-2012 school year must submit their plan by October 1, 2010. Please include the cover sheet with your Merit Award Program plan and submit by mail to our office at the address indicated below. To meet the deadline, plans must be **received in our office by October 1, 2010**. The Commissioner will complete a review of each plan submitted and determine compliance by November 15, 2010. For more information about the Merit Award Program please visit our Web site at [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/Charter\\_schools/TA\\_Publications\\_Resources.asp](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/Charter_schools/TA_Publications_Resources.asp).

Return your Merit Award Program Plan and cover sheet to:

*Florida Department of Education  
Attn: Jacqueline Hitchcock  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 522  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400*

If you have any questions, or to obtain a copy of the cover sheet, please contact Jacqueline Hitchcock at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at [Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org](mailto:Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org).

## Dayspring Academy Charter School's Lowes "Extreme Makeover" Miracle



In this time of ever-shrinking budgets, sometimes help comes from the most unexpected places! Lowes Home Improvement Store decided to make **Dayspring Academy for Education and the Arts** their summer 2010 "extreme makeover" project.



Lowes not only talked about their commitment to students and education, but delivered, literally, on the back of their flat bed trucks. They delivered with new wooden floors for the teachers to teach dance to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. They remodeled the bathrooms with new sinks and vanities. Lowes employees installed a new kitchen, a kindergarten playroom, landscaping, office makeovers and more. Lowes crew not only invested in material, they invested with their time and energy. Over 25 volunteers worked all week painting, cleaning, and using their talents to make Dayspring a more attractive place for struggling young students.



Lowes demonstrated that a community store can support community schools. The 490 students, families, and staff at Dayspring are very appreciative and are in awe of the generosity and hard work of Lowes and its employees.



Thank you, Lowes, for investing in education and students!

*Article submitted by R. Suzanne Legg, Administrator*

## G-Star School Graduation Rate Increases



G-Star students with actor Barry Bostwick

The numbers are in, and the **G-Star School of the Arts for Motion Pictures and Broadcasting**, a charter high school in Palm Springs, Florida, has turned in a stunning performance for the school year 2009-2010. G-Star increased its graduation rate from 96% of its seniors to 99% of its seniors. The rate of students going on to higher education at the university level increased from 95% to 97% also.

In her first year as new principal, Mrs. Kim Collins' educational program has been a remarkable success. In these modern times when school scores in Writing, Reading, Math and Science are at best flat or at worst decreasing - and a 1% or 2% increase in learning proficiencies is hailed as "excellent progress" - the G-Star School of the Arts increased in every category by as much as 12% in Writing, 8% in Reading, 3% in Math and

7% in Science. G-Star's overall passing rate for Advanced Placement exams (college level courses) increased 14%, with a 90% increase in student participation in the courses.

Mrs. Collins spent last summer working with the G-Star staff and the Palm Beach County School District to research and implement proven successful educational systems and numerous original systems customized for the needs of G-Star students. "I'm very proud of our dedicated staff of professionals who worked so hard with me this year to accomplish our goals," says Collins.

*Article submitted by Greg Hauptner, Founder/CEO*

## Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School ~ *On the Plaza*

Coconut Grove's **Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School (A&M)** did a tremendous job with its **Advanced Placement (AP)** college level course work this past academic year. Scores have risen steadily as Director **William Machado**, entering his third year at the helm, strives to make A&M the premier charter institution in the Greater Miami Area. A&M founders **Manuel Alonso-Poch** and **Lili Renteria** joined Director Machado in acknowledging the fine work done by both students and AP instructors **Luisa Barrios** (Spanish), **Nathalie Milian** (English Literature), **Margaret Dianne Machado** (English Language), **Mary Abreu** (Studio Art and Studio Art 3-D) and **Carlos Veciana** (European History, Psychology, US History) for increasing the number of A&M students receiving college credit. All A&M students are being encouraged to take the most rigorous academic program available at the charter school. From the looks of the 2010 – 2011 master schedule, it appears that the advice of Counselor **Caryn Zusman** and Director Machado is being taken seriously.



A&M founder Manuel Alonso-Poch congratulating Director William Machado, counselor Caryn Zusman and AP Master Teacher Margaret Dianne Machado for a job well done.



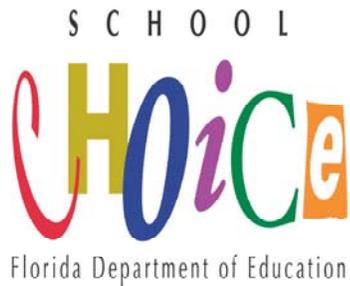
AP Master Teacher Margaret Dianne Machado looking at the AP English Language scores for her class with A&M Registrar Sandii Sellers.

In July, A&M welcomed a new music director **Sam Lussier, Ph.D.**, who immediately organized a summer music camp during the second week of August. Dr. Lussier brought in highly esteemed master musicians **Dr. Jamie Ousley** (bass & cello), **Dr. Frederico Bonocosa** (guitar), **Mr. John Kricker** (low brass), **Mr. Brandon Cruz** (percussion), **Mr. David Fernandez** (saxophone & jazz improvisation), **Mr. Michael Klotz** (violin & viola), **Mr. Tom Moore** (violin) and **Mr. Gary Gottfried** (oboe, English horn, & flute). The intensive musical experience was open to all senior high band/orchestra students throughout the Greater Miami Area and included more than ten hours of personalized instruction for all band and orchestra instruments, as well as guitar. Instrumental ensembles included: Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.

Retiring in June from Homestead Senior High School's administrative team, **Ileana L. Valdes** enters A&M as Assistant Principal. Active in all areas of public school administration, Ms. Valdes is a specialist in curriculum, supervision, student services, discipline, community service, Miami-Dade Community Partners and attendance. Highly qualified, Mrs. Valdes was nominated for Assistant Principal of the Year while at Coral Reef Senior High School and is already proving to be an asset for A&M as seen during the recent student/parent orientation sessions. Her experience includes – but is not limited to – curriculum management, master schedule development, staff hiring, school wide testing coordinator, School Improvement Plan, textbook and professional development, faculty observations, EESAC, SACS and PTSA. Director Machado and staff welcome her into the A&M family.



Rising senior Stella Dominique Herard working with A&M's new Assistant Principal Ileana L. Valdes.



**Office of Independent  
Education and Parental  
Choice**

Phone: 850-245-0502  
Fax: 850-245-0875

School Choice Hotline:  
1-800-447-1636

[www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)



**Update your  
contact  
information!**

Each charter school is encouraged to update its contact information on the charter school database as soon as changes occur. Paperless communication is our way of getting pertinent information to you in a timely fashion. Please help us to help you in keeping abreast of events and information vital to the success of each charter school. You can access the Web site at [https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/login/login\\_charter\\_school.asp](https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/login/login_charter_school.asp).

## Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/ Workshop	Location	Contact Information
Sept. 9 –12, 2010	Florida Reading Association Annual Conference	Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.flreads.org/">http://www.flreads.org/</a>
Sept. 24-25, 2010	Florida Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Annual Conference	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.fascd.org">http://www.fascd.org</a>
Sept. 27-28, 2010	Best Cooperative Practices Between Charter and Traditional Public Schools Conference	Columbus, Ohio	Amy Black, <a href="mailto:ablack@oapcs.org">ablack@oapcs.org</a> , 614-744-2266, ext. 226
Oct. 4-7, 2010	2010 Dropout Prevention Institute/ School Attendance Symposium	Hilton Walt Disney World® Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL	Tameka Thomas @ 850-0845 or <a href="mailto:tameka.thomas@fldoe.org">tameka.thomas@fldoe.org</a> or Dr. Kimberly Davis at 850-245-0551 or <a href="mailto:kimberly.davis@fldoe.org">kimberly.davis@fldoe.org</a> or Dr. Gria Davison at 850-245-7837 or <a href="mailto:gdavison@usf.edu">gdavison@usf.edu</a>
November 8-10, 2010 <b>Important Dates:</b> August 27 - <a href="#">Call for Student Performances</a> September 3 - <a href="#">Booth Reservation</a> October 8 - <a href="#">Hotel Reservations</a> October 22 - <a href="#">Attendee Registration</a>	<b>The 2010 Florida Charter School Conference *</b>  The theme for this year is <i>"Florida's Charter Schools: Rising to the Challenge."</i>  * Required for CSP Grant Recipients	DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando  Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.charterschoolconference.com/">http://www.charterschoolconference.com/</a>