

RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

November
Edition 2025

Bridging Home to School

*Restoration Academy
Monthly Magnet Newsletter*

Dear Restoration Academy Families,

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we want to express our gratitude to all of the members of the Restoration Academy community: our students and families, partners and volunteers, and our dedicated staff. We thank you!

November went by swiftly, yet the Restoration Academy community still managed to create some amazing moments for which to be grateful. Please see notable November highlights below:



Best Side Foundation Picture Day

Celebrity photographer, Raven B. Varona (Ravie B.), and Best Side Foundation partnered with Restoration Academy for this year's picture day. It was a remarkable experience that gave our children so much more than a typical school photo shoot. The day was filled with music, laughter, and engagement with the Best Side Foundation team. Each student's photo was captured to reflect who they are. Not to mention, the amazing opportunity to be photographed by a celebrated celebrity photographer!

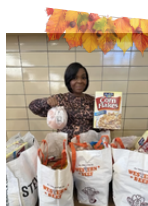


In addition to the experience, Best Side Foundation offered each student picture day for free! The foundation's mission is to ensure that every child feels celebrated. They believe that "Picture Day is an act of dignity. It's more than just a photograph it's a powerful message to each child: You matter. You deserve to be seen." We are so grateful to Best Side Foundation and to Ravie B!!



Thanksgiving Gratitude Gala

There is something very special about sitting together for a holiday meal. This tradition threads through most cultures and times in history. Our Thanksgiving Gratitude Gala is just one of the ways we take the time to express our gratitude for one another and build community.



Attendance Recognition

We were also recognized district-wide for our improvement in Student Attendance. Let's encourage our students to keep up the great work!

Magnet School Minute

Student Ambassadors

Student leadership opportunities at Restoration Academy continues to expand. Students are not only taking the lead in the classroom, but they are becoming the leading voice at school events, tours, and celebrations. Our Student Ambassadors mixed and mingled with prospective families at the District 13 Middle School Fair; representing our school and sharing their experiences. They have assisted in organizing and preparing for school events. And during our series of school tours for fifth graders, they have led tours, assisted in workshops, and conducted Q & A sessions with the visiting students.



Student Government

Student voice and participation in school planning and vision is incorporated through the Student Government. In Individuals & Societies class, students learned about the democratic voting process and then "went to the ballot box" to make their vote.



CONGRATULATIONS to the new Student Council!!

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President, Tressure Crespo
Vice President, Ibrahim Khidir
Secretary, Nickalann Matthews
Public Relations, Shanellia Von Tholl
Historian, Oluwanifemi Phregg
Treasurer, Joshua Felix

Class Representatives:
Felipe Basurto, Aron Ahing,
Jayson Gadsden, Leyanna Aviles,
Trayvon Rodriguez



International Baccalaureate (IB) News:

Community Service as Action is a major component of an IB School program. Although all students at Restoration Academy will have opportunities to initiate and participate in community service projects, an IB MYP requirement for all 8th graders is to complete a Community Service as Action Project. The purpose of this project is to encourage students to "explore their rights and responsibilities to implement service as action in the community". The project will be based in deep inquiry around an issue that interests the student and will lead to them participating in some type of service project that addresses this issue. The project culminates with a presentation before a panel of community stakeholders and a final reflection on the experience.

Please encourage your 8th grader to begin thinking about issues they believe require change. Look out for notices about upcoming information meetings on how you can support your learner.

CURRICULUM CORNER



The District 13 Stem Center is a space created to offer students the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences that may foster an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



This month, Restoration Academy 6th grade students began a series of field trips to the D13 Stem Center. There they explored design thinking and hands-on circuitry. Students spent the day working together as engineers. After collaboratively brainstorming, prototyping, and problem-solving, they had the opportunity to

build and test working circuits. Our 6th graders are looking forward to the next session.



Design thinking and circuits Trip



Our SEL Snapshot

Advisory groups at Restoration Academy are organized by the House System. Each student is assigned to a House where they participate in community building projects and activities, and restorative circles. This year our House system will help us to become better global citizens! We will use the discussions shared and projects created to shape and develop a strong and equitable school culture. The House system also helps us to create opportunities for fun school-wide competitions.



RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER is our way of creating a bridge between the school and your home. Look out for monthly issues for updated school information, events, and celebrations!

Look out for monthly editions!!



Parent-Teacher Conferences were held (virtually) on Thursday, November 20th to discuss student progress and performance in the first marking period. As we begin the second marking period, please continue to engage your child in discussions around schoolwork, check Jupiter for updates on progress, and check in with your child's teachers if you have questions and concerns. A great time to schedule a call with teachers is Tuesday afternoon from 2:20-3pm.

8th Grade Senior News and Updates:

The High School Admissions process is coming to a close. This month, our 8th graders were administered the Specialized High School Admissions test and have begun making final decisions on prospective high schools for next year. Please remember that the High School Admissions Deadline is Wednesday, December 3. Best of Luck!!!



Notes from the Main Office

- School starts at 8 am. Please make sure your child arrives on time.
- Please support us by making sure your child is in full uniform. Dress down day is on Friday!!
- Join the PTA! Contact Ms. Perrin, PTA President or Ms. Tucker, Parent Coordinator for more information.
- If you haven't already done so, please sign and submit your Best Side Media release form.
- High School Admissions Deadline is Wednesday, December 3rd.
- Smile Dental Visit- Monday, December 8th.
- Gingerbread House Family Competition on Wednesday, December 10th (RSVP by 12/5).