



# Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School Newsletter

September 2014, Issue 1



## IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 10– Superintendent Breakfast
- Sept 10-17– NWEA Testing
- Sept 15– School Picture Day
- Sept 16– Statehouse Rally
- Sept 17– 6th Grade Parent Breakfast
- Sept 22– 5 Week Reports mailed home
- Sept 25– PTO meeting @ 6:30
- Sept 27– Parent Teacher Conferences
- Sept 27-Oct 1: Scholastic Book Fair
- Oct 11– King’s Island Field Trip
- Oct 17– Quarter 1 Ends
- Oct 18– Corn Maze Field Trip
- Oct 20– Report Cards mailed home

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! All of us at Horizon Science Academy would like to make the 2014-15 educational year a successful year for your child. Your active support and cooperation will ensure academic success for all our students. I am proud of our staff, and I feel fortunate to work with such dedicated, talented teachers.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, our Performance Score went up by 3.5 points from last year’s score to 86.3, which could not have been accomplished without your continuous support.

There will be many school activities throughout the year that will give you the opportunity to become involved in your child's education. We encourage you to make these activities a part of your schedule.

We believe that you play an important role in your child’s education and the value of quality education can be instilled in your child by making sure that they arrive at school every day on time, wear school uniform properly, do their homework and always be respectful to their teachers and friends.

We encourage you to demonstrate to your children that you're interested in their schoolwork by setting aside a few minutes each day to:

1. Read to your child
2. Listen while your child reads to you
3. Help with Homework
4. Limit the Television time

Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself to us, or to ask a question about anything that concerns you. We would love to re-

ceive feedback from our parents. Please feel free to email us your comments and testimonials, send it to school in writing or simply find our school on [GreatSchools.org](http://GreatSchools.org) by searching for “Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School” and submit your comments and testimonials as a parent. We look forward to working together as partners in learning.

You made the right decision by choosing Horizon Science Academy, so let’s make it a wonderful school year together.

Mr. Okan  
School Director

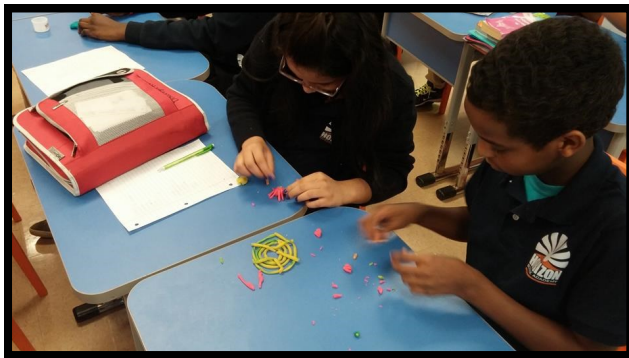
## Home Visits

All teachers are asked to visit at least 8 students' homes throughout the school year. Many teachers have already taken the initiative to reach out to parents early on in the school year. This type of parent-teacher communication provides parents with another outlet for information about their child's performance and progress in school. Teachers also benefit from this experience by seeing their students' lives outside of class and their uniforms.

Pictured to the right is a recent home visit from Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Hughes, Ms. Reese and Ms. Ortiz. Thank you to all the families that have taken the time to welcome our teachers in your homes; we appreciate all you do!



## Learning in the Classroom— An Insider Look around HSA



Above 7th graders in Ms. Lortz's and Ms. Salsbury's classes have fun using play dough in Language Arts to learn about the writing process.

Below 6th grade parents and students took the time in the morning to have a little breakfast and some informal discussion with teachers and administration.



## Statehouse Rally

On September 16, 2014, parents, teachers and administrators traveled to the statehouse in Columbus to rally in support of charter schools and school choice. The *My Choice, My Voice* movement refers to the argument: should parents have a say on where their child attends school? Parents held a conference with the Board of Education to discuss their latest concerns.

Over 400 people from Concept Schools across the state of Ohio including Columbus Horizon Science Academy schools and Noble Academy attended the rally. This was an amazing turnout and we strongly believe our voices were heard. Thank you to everyone for the continued support. Pictured to right are supporters gathered from the day of the rally.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Beginning September 27th during Parent Teacher Conferences, parents will have the opportunity to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Fair. During Language Arts class periods on September 30th and Oct 1st, small groups of students will make their way to the book fair to search for new and interesting titles including the popular novel *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner and pre-sales of the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book.

The Book Fair has something for everyone including school supplies like pencils, movies and much more. This is a great opportunity to stock up on future Alternative Reader books. Every book purchased helps buy another book to add to individual teacher's school libraries. Come check it out and don't worry if you don't have your money that day, you can also order books online at our online book fair website; the link is provided below. Please direct any questions about the book fair to Ms. Lortz in room 121.

Link-

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/horizonscienceacademy5>



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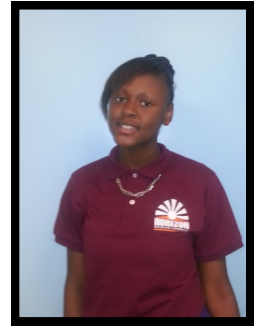
**Enrolling for  
6th, 7th and 8th Grades**

## Teacher Spotlight– Ms. Betsko

Ms. Betsko, both Art teacher and Activity Coordinator did an amazing job on School Picture Day. Despite a few technical difficulties at the beginning of the day, students and faculty took beautiful pictures in a timely manner. During their elective periods, students arrived at the gym and waited in line to take pictures. Afterwards, students took a little “brain break” outside to enjoy the beautiful weather with Coach Lince. A huge Hawk thank you goes out to Ms. Betsko and all the teachers who stepped up at the last minute to make for a successful day of picture taking!

Up next, Ms. Betsko will be planning the school year’s field trips including King’s Island on October 11th and the corn maze on October 18th. Any questions related to school activities should be directed to Ms. Betsko in the Art room.

8th Grader DeAsia Woods is our student spotlight of the month. While attending Horizon, she’s joined the Volleyball intramurals team and continues to earn good grades in all her classes. Ms. Ortiz, 8th Grade Language Arts teacher states “DeAsia is a hard worker and always come into class with a positive attitude.” Nowadays, kids are no longer just kids; they have extracurricular activities, chores, tutoring, homework, social lives and so on. At Horizon, we applaud students like DeAsia for her ambition and dedication to her studies and extracurricular activities. Keep up the good work!



Think you deserve to be the next Student Spotlight? Drop by Rm 144 with a few sentences on a piece of paper explaining what you’ve done to deserve the spotlight; please include your name, grade and HR teacher to be considered. Teachers can also nominate students and should email Ms. Ortiz the same information at [ortiz@horizoncolumbus.org](mailto:ortiz@horizoncolumbus.org)

