

LAUNCH BLAST

Monthly Newsletter of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School

NEWS & FEATURES

Message From The Principal
Page 2

Parents Corner & SLCs
Page 3

Hear from our Director of School
Operations & Celebrations Coordinator
Page 4

6th Grade Updates
Page 5

High School/College Awareness
Page 6

7th Grade Updates
Page 7

Celebrations
Page 8

Honor Roll
Page 9

8th Grade Updates
Page 10

Partner Spotlight
Page 11

Multi-Subject Updates
Page 12

Counselors Corner & RJ
Page 13

Calendar/Upcoming Events
Page 14



'Tis The Season

We are deeply grateful for you. This incredible community has supported us during these challenging times. Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from our Crew to your Family.

#TogetherWeLaunch

STAY IN THE KNOW

Please text YES to **67587** to opt in to receive messages from the Launch communication system.

A Message From The Principal

To Our Launch Community,

We are well into Quarter 2 with much to celebrate and appreciate, most recently, our Student Led Conferences! Families, staff and students came together on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23 and 24, to reflect on the first quarter of learning and to share goals that will lead to thriving.

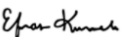
Students expressed themselves with confidence, insight and aspiration at their conference. We applaud every child for their dedication to the process and the high levels of practice they invested to prepare memorable presentations that will take them forward into Quarter 2 and beyond! We appreciate every family member and caregiver who attended, supported, and encouraged their child. You are our partners!

We were also able to celebrate all students who achieved honor roll and perfect attendance in Quarter 1! We had 118 students achieve honor roll grades in all of their classes. We also had 10 students achieve perfect attendance for Quarter 1. All students who were on honor roll and perfect attendance were honored in our community meeting last week. Congratulations!

We continue to focus on the health and safety of our community during this time. Please continue to reinforce the criticality of masking up, distancing and sanitizing to your child. Especially during the holiday season - it is **essential** that students practice health and safety protocols both inside the school building and at home. #stayhealthy

Feel free to reach out to myself or any member of the Launch Crew anytime. We are your partners!

Ubuntu,


Efrat Kussell
Principal
ekussell@launchschool.org
(718) 715-1180



A Message from our Family Engagement Coordinator

Greetings Launch Community,

We are in the season of thankfulness and gratitude, I hope that your Thanksgiving was everything you needed it to be. In these times of uncertainty with Covid still among us it is good to take time out to celebrate something to be grateful for.

Your Parent Circle meeting was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 @6pm. Our Circles are designed to have a safe space to share concerns and highlights of what is going right and what/how we need to improve. Our Assistant Principal (Student Achievement), Ms. Kenlock, was invited to present and update families on the MAP assessments.

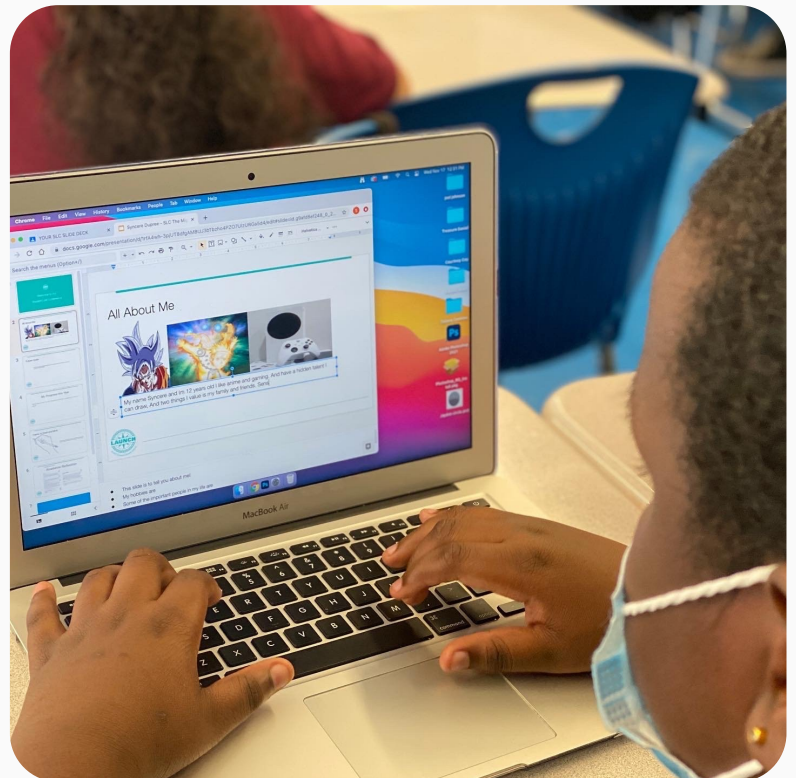
We also have another wonderful summer opportunity for students who have an interest in Science and employment options; please review the link and let me know if your student is interested.

<http://www.SEAPROGRAM.org>

In Unity,
Sdavis@launchschool.org

Student-Led Conferences (SLCs)

On November 22nd and 23rd, all students participated in Student Led Conferences (SLCs). The overwhelming majority of our SLCs affirmed the impact of our daily work with students - students reflected thoughtfully and set aspirational goals. Thank you to all the families who joined us in partnership to uplift, encourage and support their children. Our SLCs showcased our students' imagination, spirit, dedication, practice and brilliance.



A Message From Our Director of School Operations

Health & Safety Measures

In an effort to support our student and staff community, we are reaching out to families to ask for support in reinforcing our health and safety standards and structures here at Launch. To ensure that we minimize the spread of COVID-19, we ask parents to talk with students about the importance of mask wearing and being socially distanced throughout the day (in and outside of our building). Reinforcing the importance of being/staying safe and being cautious around others is a practice that we want students to embody. We will continue to support/remind students to practice safe and responsible actions and welcome the support from our parents and partners to further these conversations at home!

Missing Student Records & Information

During the month of December, the Operations Team will be reaching out to families to collect the following Items: updated COVID-19 consent forms, proof of residency, handbook confirmations, immunization records and birth certificates. Students will be sent home with forms that specify what items are missing from their files. Please return the form with the associated document to the Main Office as soon as possible. In addition, if you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Joseph - Director of School Operations - at SJoseph@launchschool.org or call the Main office at (718) 715-0548.

Immunization for School Year 2021-2022

As a reminder, if you haven't already, please reach out to your medical provider to update your child's Immunizations for the 2021-2022 school year. 6th grader students must receive a Tdap shot while 7th grader students must receive their meningitis immunization from their medical provider. If you have questions related to immunizations or other student records, please reach out to SSavage@launchschool.org.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has communicated the following information for the **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits**.

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through P-EBT, eligible school children receive temporary emergency nutrition benefits loaded on EBT cards that are used to purchase food. Children who would have received free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least 5 consecutive days are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. P-EBT also provides benefits to younger children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) whose covered child care facility is closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance, or who live in the area of schools that are closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance.

HEALTHY SMILES DENTAL PROGRAM

Healthy Smiles is an innovative leader in children's dental care that visits schools throughout New York State.

Healthy Smiles, in collaboration with the NYC Dept. of Health and the NYC Dept. of Education, provides preventative dental care by highly trained dental staff. The services provided include a screening, gentle cleaning, fluoride treatment and sealants. Healthy Smile also provides an interactive educational workshop teaching children how to maintain proper oral hygiene. All treatments are noninvasive and done in the school under the direct supervision of the school staff. A follow up report will be sent home explaining whether the child has any cavities and if they need to visit their primary dentist for further care.

All students are welcomed to participate in the onsite dental program happening on January 10th, 2022. Permission slips for this event were passed out to students on December 2nd, 2021. Please return this permission slip back by January 4th, 2022 to secure your child's spot.

A Message From Our Celebrations Coordinator

This month we will begin planning for our Black History Month Celebration in February! If you would like to be a part of our planning or if you would like to ensure that your child is participating - please feel free to contact me directly via email at Jwelch@launchcharterschool.org.



6TH GRADE UPDATES

Message from the Grade Level Chair

Our 6th graders just completed their first ever Student Led Conferences and did an amazing job! **Congrats to everyone for all of their hard work - and we can't wait to see how you grow before the end-of-year student led conferences.** A huge shout out also to all of the 6th grade Honor Roll students! The transition from elementary to middle school can be tough - and these students are off to an outstanding start! We can't wait to see the honor roll list grow in Quarter 2! Last week in Community Meeting we had our first Launch Spelling Bee! The competition was strong, so a big shout out to everyone who competed! A huge shout out to **Kayshauna** and **Djienaba** who are battling it out in the finals next week!

MATH

In math, we recently wrapped up our unit on Ratios, Rates, and Speed - and more students that ever were able to GO GREEN! This means they earned an 80% or above of their Unit Test! This week we kicked off our unit on Percents, and students showed on Friday's quiz that they are off to a great start on this unit as well! We've seen a ton of growth over the last several weeks - and can't wait to see this continue with dedication and practice!

Shout out to our **Math Student of the Month** this month - **Sarah Watson** - who has shown outstanding dedication and spirit and has made tons of growth this year!

Please remember that every week, math students have homework Tuesday night and Thursday night that is due the following day - and we have a weekly quiz every Friday! Students should be using their daily work packets to study for their quiz each week!

SCIENCE

6th Grade Student Scientists have been exploring Plate Tectonics to answer the Unit Question - **"Why are fossils of species that once lived together found in different locations on earth now?"**

To answer the question, students will use computer simulations, create models and participate in hands-on experiments. On December 2-3, 6th grade students took the Science MAP Test. **This test will help students prepare for the 8th Grade State Science Test, by showing what they know well and what they need to improve upon.**

Shout out to our **Science Students of the Month** for their dedication and excellence as Student Scientists!!!!

- October: Djienaba Bassoum
- November: Elijah Andries-Chester

ART

Students are diving into the world of artist Chuck Close! We are exploring ourselves and expanding our skills by recreating photographs of ourselves! **With practice and dedication we are learning how to draw ourselves step by step and hope to create the most realistic version of ourselves!**



ELA

Our 6th grader readers and writers just completed their Unit 1 Projects! Through dedication and practice, students wrote their first essay in ELA class and did a great job! Shout out to our superstars!

On December 7th, we started our new unit reading the book Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief. In this unit, students meet figures from ancient Greek mythology who are placed in a contemporary setting and evaluate how stories from a different time and place continue to resonate.

Students should continue to read their independent reading book for at least 30 minutes for homework every night. Students will also be assigned homework pertaining to the content we are learning in class, during this unit, 2-3 a week.

Shout out to our **ELA Students of the Month!**

- October: Elias Innocent
- November: Crystal Smith

SOCIAL STUDIES

Over the past few weeks, the 6th Grade Social Explorers have investigated African Ingenious Traditional Religions, Family Structure, and Foods. Next week, we will be starting a project where they will write a **creative recipe** about a food, meal, or something else food-related that's part of their food culture. Students will explore their own culture through picking a food or meal that's important to them. They might want to write a recipe that is special to your heart, is a favorite food, a traditional meal etc.

On December 10th (6.2 and 6.3) and December 17th (6.1), we will be embarking on our first field trip of the year to the Brooklyn Museum. Students will experience the collections and special exhibitions through close looking and conversation, and build connections between works of art. These intimate tours are limited in size for comfort and safety, with each tour lasting approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Students will leave Launch by 8:45am and arrive by 1:00pm for lunch. Students will take the 3 train to and from the Brooklyn Museum.

Please fill out the permission slip and return to Ms. Douyon and Ms. Bright

High School/College Awareness

At Launch our goal in the high school process is to make sure that each 8th grader and their family gets the individualized support needed to go to one of New York City's best high schools. There are more than 400 public high schools in New York City. Realistically, you will not be able to research them all. Our advice: Since students may rank up to 12 schools on the high school application, use our schools [search tool](#) to compile a list of at least 12 schools. Try to visit each school on your list. To help you identify schools that are a good fit, consider the following questions:

How is the commute?

Take a subway or bus ride to the school to see if the commute is doable. Think about what it will be like in the rain and snow, or coming home late in the evening after a sports event or a school performance.

Small school or large?

Small schools tend to offer more personal attention and a sense of community; their college offices may also provide better support than a large school because there are fewer students to serve. Large schools tend to have more sports teams, arts, clubs and choice in courses. There are also some mid size schools with enrollments that run roughly 700 to 1400 that may offer the perks of a large school but are not so large as to be overwhelming.

Fast-track or laid-back?

Some schools are intense. They pile on the homework beginning in 9th grade. Other schools are less intense. They may have a more manageable work-load and encourage kids to relax a bit, especially in the 9th and 10th grade. Think about what's best for you. Will you thrive in an intense or competitive environment? Or, are you more likely to learn and excel when the pressure's off? Regardless, make sure the school offers a true college prep curriculum. Some schools only offer three years of math and science, for example, which may put you at a disadvantage when applying to college and pursuing your studies once in college. Less intense should not mean less rigor.

New school or well-established?

It's nice to go to a school with a proven track record. Most new schools take a few years to develop high level coursework and relationships with college admissions officers, so it can be a gamble to be in the first few graduating classes. However, if you're faced with the choice between an overcrowded, failing school or a new, untested small school, you might be better off going with the small one, if you feel comfortable with the theme and the leadership.

This Month: we will focus on High School Final List submission and having family meetings, which is due by 12/6/2021 please enter list here <https://forms.gle/cvHjvGxubWocMNV7>

In addition, if you have any questions, please reach me (Ms. Logan) - External Affairs Coordinator - at TLogan@launchschool.org or call (929) 390-8439

<p>Congratulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jasiah Howard on his acceptance to Cardinal Hayes HS • Kingston Skeen on his acceptance to Brooklyn Lab High School 	<p>Catholic School Acceptance:</p> <p>Cardinal Hayes HS</p>	<p>Charter School Acceptance:</p> <p>Brooklyn Lab HS</p>
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Alumni Feature

Meet Tamiya

I am a Business Major and Junior at Howard University in Washington DC. I am minoring in entrepreneurship and started my own business called Mia's Good Smells. I am also doing an internship this summer in Los Angeles at Amazon Studios through Howard Entertainment. I graduated from Berkeley Carroll High School where I was passionate about dance, advocacy and speaking up for the Black Lives Matter movement. At Launch and throughout high school I also participated in the Breakthrough NY program.

7TH GRADE UPDATES

Message from the Grade Level Chair

Our 7th graders have had a successful start to Quarter 2! **We finished November by participating in gratitude activities in our classes designed to show our appreciation for those in our community.** As we begin a new month, we welcome our new class changes! Our 7th grade crews and classes have shifted to encourage improved academic focus and new classmate bonds. The month of December is sure to fly by! **We encourage our 7th graders to continue bringing their refillable water bottles to school and be mindful to use the restroom only when necessary to avoid missing class time.** We know that our 7th graders are going to finish the month strong and we look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the next few weeks!

ELA

Our 7th graders are starting their new unit on plastic pollution. In this unit, our readers are learning about plastic pollution and its negative effects on our environment. **We are learning about plastic pollution by watching the documentary *A Plastic Ocean* and reading the book, *Trash Vortex*. Students will develop their evaluation skills as they practice analyzing the effects of the film techniques used in the documentary and by comparing and contrasting written and visual formats.** We encourage our readers to independently read at 20-30 minutes a night. We have many different book options that our students can check out of our class library. Keep up the good work, readers!

SOCIAL STUDIES

Student historians are in the middle of a REVOLUTION. Students have been examining many secondary and primary sources on the issues that led British colonists to revolt. **Before winter break they will investigate the perspectives of many different groups on the American Revolution** and consider who "liberty and justice for all" truly applied to.

Current product in production>>>Two/Three Voice poem

For the next few weeks, historians will write, revise, and perform a short narrative in two voices around the Revolutionary War. Historians have already begun researching their role and will be able to explain what life was like for people with different identities, the struggles that they went through, as well as the way they resisted or reacted to conflicts. Historians will pick a topic to focus on and develop the theme of their poem around **loyalty, liberty, rights, revolution, power, oppression, or independence.** **Stay tuned to see our historians in action.**

Expectations: Work not completed in class must be finished as homework. Please reinforce with your scholars that Social Studies is a reading and writing based class. They are encouraged to transfer their ELA skills into our classroom, in order to produce high quality writing!

ART

Our master photoshop artists are about to wrap up their texture studies (Fire, water, dirt, shading a sphere and metal) and about to begin their BHM community hero stained glass portraits. Students are going to be doing a deep dive into Afro Futurism and an artist study of Kehinde Wiley. **They will then research their community or personal hero and begin to make their base of their portrait.** High Quality Student Work and shout out Awesome Water Texture Study



MATH

In Class: In December we will be working on Unit 4 on proportions and percent. These are two very important skills in 7th grade math that will set students up for 8th grade math and beyond. Unit 4 will feature our first real-world performance task where students will use their understanding of proportional relationships to appropriately scale the ingredients of a family holiday dish. Maybe your student could make the recipe with you and your family afterwards!

Homework: Given every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Due the next day.

Quizzes: Quizzes are given every Friday.

Upcoming Tests/Projects:

- Dec 13 and Dec 14: Recipe Scaling Performance Task

You can also support your student by reviewing the lessons from their text book with them. The LEARN section of each chapter reviews key ideas for the skills they are learning. You can access the workbook virtually by going to this website and entering the following information: <https://www.hmhco.com/ui/login/>. We strongly encourage students to spend 20-30 mins daily reviewing their notebooks from class and working on additional practice problems on the website listed above.

Country: United States

State: New York

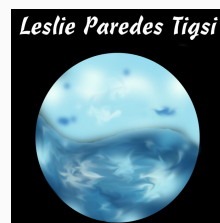
District: New York City Dept of Ed

Username: student's Launch email address

Password: 1580Launch!

SCIENCE

As December starts, 7th grade scientists are completing the fourth and final chapter of our second unit, Forces and Motion. **Students have been focusing on illustrating models, utilizing simulations, and writing arguments to explain how force, mass, and velocity affect collisions in outer space and on movie sets.** Up next, we will be having a Unit 2 Forces and Motion Exam once Chapter Four is wrapped up. Plus, we will be getting started on our first Case Study in the form of Project Based Learning unit, which will continue to focus on what students have already learned about forces and motion thus far.



CELEBRATIONS

Science Shout-Outs

WINNERS

Kayshauna Moncrieft,
 Elias Innocent
 Afta Aldailam,
 Khalia Burgess,
 Jordain Lowe
 Josh (Gimanni)
 Bailey,
 Demmi Forteau,
 Joy Lewis,
 Isis Borges
 Loveasia
 Kai
 Javin
 K-Ci
 Jahnoy
 Kimara

SOCIAL STUDIES SUPER STAR SHOUT-OUTS

Loveasia, Jaden Matthew Alina Daniel, Rebecca Damier Jayden Kawron Shaquany Iquan M. Peyton S. Makayla V. Carlos C. Oldany C. Aliyah J.	Jaylen C. Emerald B. Alya A Kaliyah D. Nixon O Lavon W. Bryanna Shania C Khalia B Cephiar W. Darsen D Gimanni B Tyler N Alayjah A
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PHYS ED SHOUT-OUTS

6TH GRADE- JOY LEWIS, NATURI HUGHES, KESTON WILLIAMS, O'NEIL COLOT

7TH GRADE- NARALI ACOSTA, TATIANA CENTENO, JAH-SIR RIGGINS, DEMETRIOUS

8TH GRADE- GIANNA BROWN, ANNEKA JOHNSON, INFINITY MAULTSBY, DANIELLE MCWILLIAMS

MS.SHANIA, SANTIAGO, AMIR, LEVELL

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ART SHOUT-OUTS!!!

Levell Hayes Cinayhya M.	Aaron Foster Fisher Loveasia N'vy-Jamayka Thomas Joel Johnson Malik Keppel Keymani Tinsley
Taniah Parker Aaliyah Ward Mitchell Aftath Aldailam Shriumar Archer Jeremiah Jones Nazdyr Kelley	Tatiana Centeno Oldany Colot Alya Alsayadi Maurice Medina Peyton Spaight Sean Quaye

MATH SUPER STAR SHOUT-OUTS

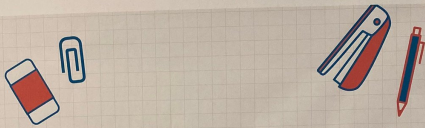
Arianna Willis Oldany Colot Kevisha Martin, Leslie Paredes, Khia Benjamin Carlos Ceballos, Nyliah Burgess	Anneka Johnson Kai Frank Jahnoy Hall Alina Vega Manny Tapia Kayla Jarvis Destra Andrews
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****LAUNCH SHINE****

LAUNCH SHINE!!! ELA SUPER STAR SHOUT-OUTS

KAI F.
 JAVIN H.
 ALAINA B.
 ANDRAY D.
 JOY L.
 JOSH G.
 DAKOTA S.
 ELIAS I.
 MAURICE M.
 LUCIANO M.
 VIOLETTE G.
 TATIANA C.

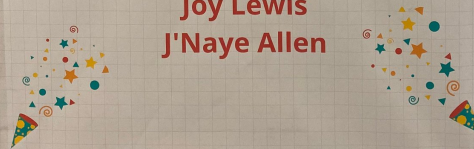

HONOR ROLL



**Congratulations to all of the
6th Grade A Honor Roll
Students!**

Principal's Award (95 and above)
Elias Innocent
Keston Williams
Nazdur Kelley

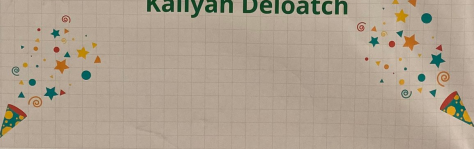
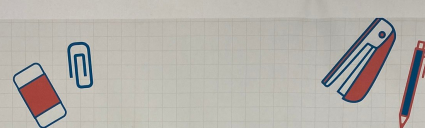
High Honor Roll
Joy Lewis
J'Naye Allen

**Congratulations to all of the
7th Grade A Honor Roll
Students!**

Principal's Award (95 and above):
Omarie Boston


High Honor Roll
Stephanie Leon
Lavon Walker Jr
Kiara Thomas
Kaliyah Deloatch

**Congratulations to all of the
8th Grade A Honor Roll
Students!**


Principal's Award (95 and above):
Treasure Daniel
Derick Nama
Jhonaé Flunory

High Honor Roll:
Kartier Mitchell
Aaron Foster-Fisher
Kalifa Nathan
Danielle McWilliams




**Congratulations to all the 6th
Grade Honor Roll!**

Alayjiah Alcide	Kayshauna Moncrieft
Melanie Aitkens	Andray Dunn
Avian Knight	Aftatah Aldailam
Amari Pierce	Aldrick David
Djenaba Bassoum	Gimanni Bailey
Skyla McNeil	Truth Blair
Aaliya Ward-Mitchell	Nakaij Harvey Woodriffe
Crystal Smith	Joseph Thaurille
Elijah Andries-Chester	Jahmir Caton
Lauren Grant	Tyler Nelson
Nahsir Salinas	Jamel Baxter
Isis Borges	Madison Myers
Bethany Grant Matthews	Anaiyah Battle
Taniah Parker	Dakota Smith
Jahmeir Blackman	Dwayne Wilson
Kendra DeVaux	Jeremiah Jones
	Demmi Forteau
	O'neil Colot




**Congratulations to all the 7th
Grade Honor Roll!**

Saniyah Barrett	Shawn Simpson Jr.
Olive Obi	Abigail Antoine-Johnson
A'Janae Howard	Mountaga Bassoum
Aaliyah Jones Amis	Makayla Vatelina
Jaylen Charles	Layana Jones
Joshua Pabon	Alya Alsayadi
Jaime Green	Jah-Sir Riggins
Tatiana Centeno	Idan Cham
Chase White	Ciranni Pantin
Oldany Colot	Jadiyah Clarke
Narali Acosta	Sean Quaye
Peyton Spaight	Rodney Cofield
Christian Sempritt	<u>Amir Watkins</u>
Nylaih Burgess	Carlos Ceballos
Antawnette Ross	Matthew Satine
Leslie Paredes Tigi	
Keira Chance	



**Congratulations to all the 8th
Grade Honor Roll!**

Shaquany Grant	Poetik Williams
Bryanna Price	Tina Turner
Violette Greenberg	Zion Tucker
Levell Hayes	Nefertiti Hughes
Bryson Bland	Shania Charles
Kayla Jarvis	Mashayla Cobb
Amara Marrah	Tailan Hamilton
Destra Andrews	Marcus Jacinthe
Jeanine Francis	Jeada Griffith
Kai Frank	Jhamaiya Flunory
Jasiah Howard	Kimana Ward-Mitchell
Gianna Brown	Javin Hall
Cinahya McMaster	Damier Ackie
Anneka Johnson	SaQuan Miles
Janiece Padilla	Treance Barksdale
Shania Carr	
Keymani Tinsley	
Kizonnia Bowen	
Jazzmin Robinson	
Janier Espinal	



8TH GRADE UPDATES

Message from the Grade Level Chair

We have seen a strong start to Quarter 2 in the 8th grade. **Across all content areas, students have been engaging in rigorous content that allow them to demonstrate their growth and knowledge.** We are celebrating the hard work and dedication that was displayed by our seniors during their Student Led Conferences. It was wonderful to hear students reflect on their progress and In partnership with Asase Yaa, students are beginning their new culturally enriched classes, including Drumming, Hip Hop Dance and African Dance. Asase Yaa class

MATH

We are starting our Algebra content with Linear equations and Slope. Linear Equations and Slope help our 8th graders to develop and understand the ideas of real world concepts such as wages and hourly rate, cost per unit, budgeting, and age problems. We will be working on these topics as we go into break and when we arrive back in January.

We are giving students a choice of homework assignments where they will be completing 2 Edpuzzles or 2-4 pages in their Extra Practice Homework workbook. Homework is given on Mondays and to be completed by the next Monday (1 week).

Please continue to encourage students to study each day for 10-15 minutes by reading over their notes or completing 4-5 practice problems each day.

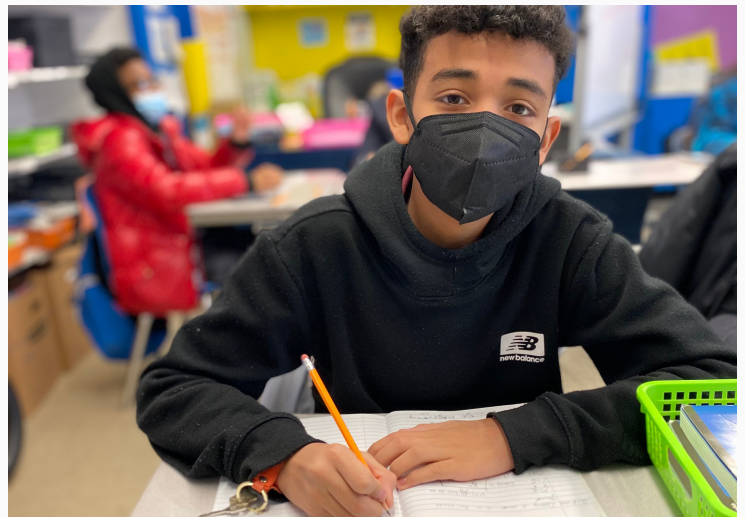
SCIENCE

Science just wrapped up a huge project on how organisms evolve with their environment. Students worked hard researching an organism from our ecosystem and then using scientific reasoning and prediction to imagine how it might adapt to future changes in the environment. **Check in with your child to see what they drew and ask them about their organism's changes. They are ecological experts!** Currently we are doing a brief case study on climate change and its impacts on our local ecosystem. In our next unit we will be studying Human Anatomy! All work is posted on Google classroom!

Students also just got their results from our first Science MAP Test! This year students will be taking two more MAP test to help prepare for the final Science State Exam in June. They will be held in February and May.

ART

Our master photoshop artists are about to wrap up their texture studies (Fire, water, dirt, shading a sphere and metal) and about to begin their BHM community hero stained glass portraits. **Students are going to be doing a deep dive into Afro Futurism and an artist study of Kehinde Wiley. They will then research their community or personal hero and begin to make their base of their portrait.** High quality student work and shout out goes to Joel Johnson. Awesome Water Texture Study



ELA

For our third unit, 8th graders at Launch have been learning all about food. We started the unit with a week-long mini-project that examined food culture—the beliefs and customs about food held by a particular society, group, place, or time. In our discussions, we realized that our cultural backgrounds influence the foods we eat, but the reverse is also true. Food influences culture when it connects to our values, stories, language, rituals, art, and tools, which happens all the time. We examined our own food cultures and wrote recipes for foods and meals that are meaningful to our lives. The final recipes are being compiled onto a website and will be shared in the coming weeks so you can cook some of the delicious recipes at home. **Our next challenge will be to understand and analyze our food system so we can make recommendations about what food choice factors to prioritize to become more conscious consumers. Please continue to support your student with their independent reading homework--they should read a book of choice for 20-30 minutes each night and add it to their log!**

SOCIAL STUDIES

We are currently in the middle of our Westward expansion unit. Students are currently learning about the influence westward expansion and manifest destiny had on the country during the 19th century while also examining the impact Westward expansion has had on American Society and politics today. **We have been making connections between the contributions and mindsets of different leaders throughout the 19th century by taking a deeper look into Andrew Jackson's presidency and his impact on democracy.** In addition, we will start to analyze the effects of Westward expansion on different groups of people such as Native Americans, Black people, and Hispanic/Latinx people. We will be having a Mid-Quarter Assessment to test students' knowledge before we leave for break. When we return in January, we will begin learning about the Second Great Awakening and other major events during that time as we work to gather information for our narrative projects.

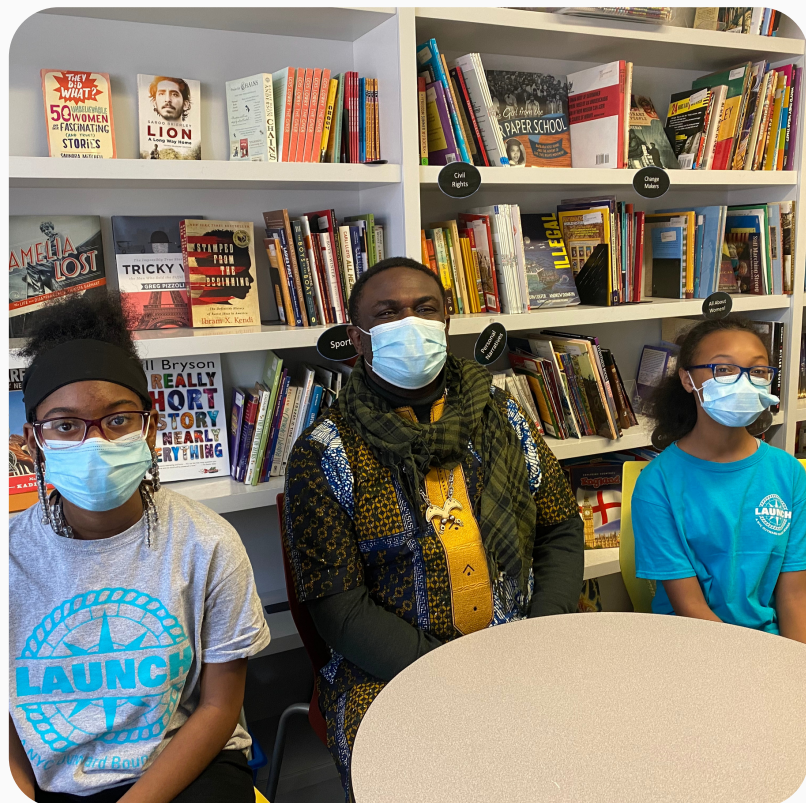
Meet Our Partner: Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation

Academic and Enrichment partners run programs after school and during the summer that Launch students attend. These programs provide high quality academic and extracurricular enrichment that help our students achieve more than they thought possible. One of these partners is Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation.

Our students conducted an interview with, K. Osei Williams, the Executive Director of the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation (video is available on the Launch website's homepage in the highlight section). **His big message to our community is, "Asase Yaa is not just about teaching dance, drumming or theater but also teaching how important you are...because when you understand that you are important then you can do whatever you want to do in life... I want all students to have the confidence to know that you can do WHATEVER you want."** We are grateful for his leadership and the opportunity for our students to learn about their culture and history through djembe drumming and dance.

As we often say "parents are our partners". Parents spoke up and said they wanted their children to have more access to enrichment programming at Launch. The Launch PA quickly hosted a meeting featuring a wide range of enrichment organizations to support families. Launch formally partnered with several of those organizations to provide summer scholarships for about 75 students to attend programs ranging from academic preparation to art and dance and basketball.

At this time, we listened to our families and decided to grow our partnership with the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation. In the past Launch has partnered with Asase Yaa around specific events, now Asase Yaa instructors teach at Launch 3 days a week to serve 100% of our students.



MULTI-SUBJECT UPDATES

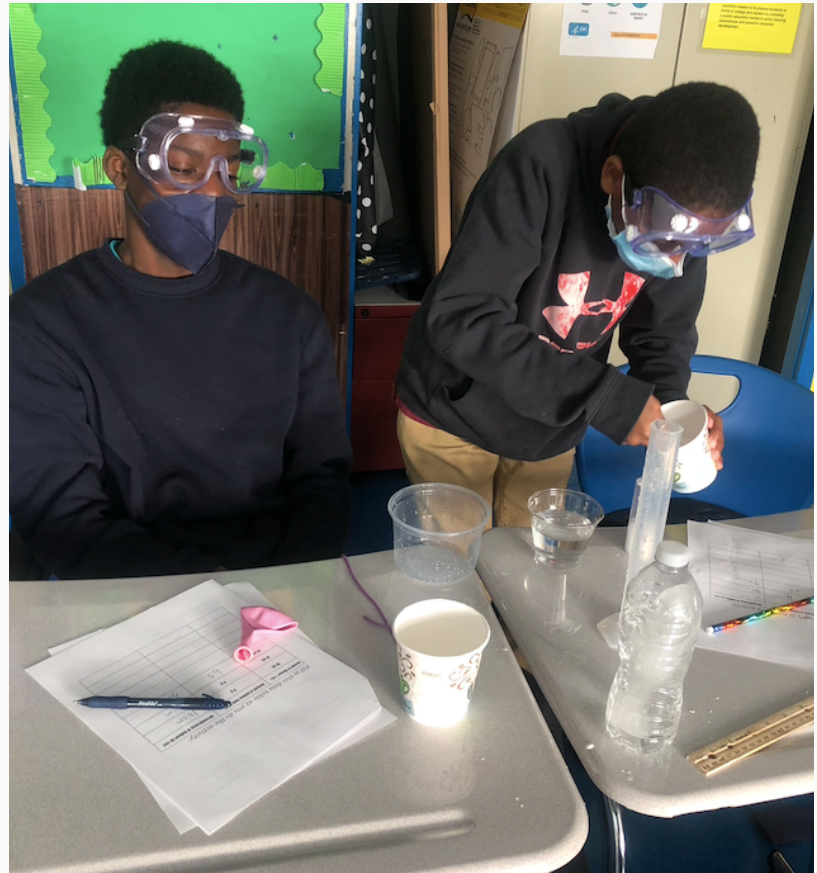
Message from the Grade Level Chair

Going into the 2nd Quarter, Multi-Subject has been having tons of fun learning. The classes are filled with laughter and excitement. We had local trips, Project Based Learning and great laughter during class.

STEM

Chemical Reactions Race Cars and Simplifying Expressions Takeover STEM!!!

Scholars are having a BLAST building chemical reaction race cars as a part of our Project Based Learning Series!! Scholars have built cars using household items and created chemical reactions using baking soda and vinegar to power their cars. Mathematics played a part in helping scholars determine the correct ratio for the solution in order for their cars to run!! Also, we have been BEASTS at Beast Academy and scholars have been strengthening their skills with Pre-Algebra concepts such as simplifying expressions using symbols and substitution! **Frequent celebrations are motivating students to persevere and engage in their work, making our classroom a thriving place to learn! Please continue to support your scholar by encouraging them to log onto i-Ready nightly to do personalized lessons!**

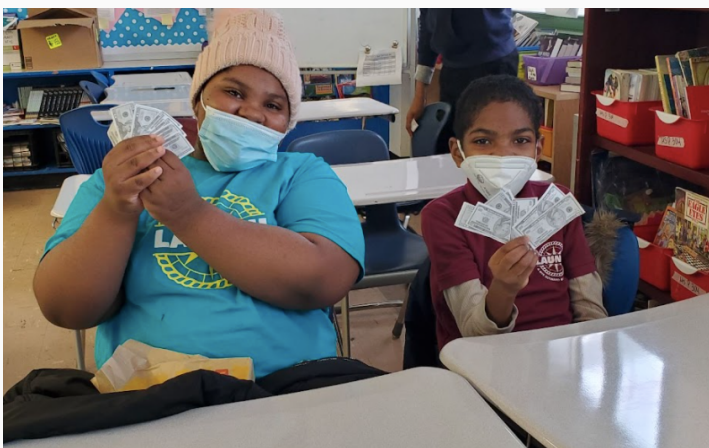


HUMANITIES

There has been so much hands-on learning in MS Humanities. For example, we had fun learning about *taxation without representation* with not-so-real money and exercises in paying your taxes....even when that taxation is not fair. Students also applauded as we finished our first book together: *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. **We will begin reading our next book after the December break. In the meantime, please continue to encourage your children to read daily for at least fifteen (15) minutes.** -- Ms. Andy & Ms. P

Art

Students are diving into the world of artist Chuck Close! We are exploring ourselves and expanding our skills by recreating photographs of ourselves! With practice and dedication we are learning how to draw ourselves step by step and hope to create the most realistic version of ourselves!





Message from our Restorative Practices Coordinator

Hey Families,

Just wanted to announce that we will be rolling out our RJ Student Council in the Month of December. The RJ Student Council will be a group of students trained to help support their peers in mediating some of the day to day conflict that pop up in middle school.

If you have any questions in regards to our RJ practices, please reach out to me

Ubuntu,

Mr. Antoine

Restorative Practice Coordinator

wantoine@launchschool.org

718-559-9064

Message from our Counseling Team

Combatting the Winter Blues

What is it?

Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD) is an acute form of depression that occurs during the winter months. With less sunlight and chilling weather, changes in behavior and increased negative emotions are more likely to persist.

Strategies to Overcome Winter Blues:

1. **Lighten up your space**

- Open Curtains
- Incorporate additional light decor
- Use a light therapy lamp first thing in the AM

2. **Get Moving**

- Daily Exercise
- Taking a walk outside
- Dance

3. **Talk to Someone**

- Connect with a Friend over the Phone
- Reach out to a Therapist
- Join a community support group

4. **Nutrition**

- Drink $\frac{1}{2}$ your body weight in water daily
- Include a vegetable with every meal
- Eat foods high in Vitamin B

5. **Aromatherapy**

- Use a diffuser with Essential Oils
- Boil water with fruits, spices and Herbs
- Use calming candle scents like Eucalyptus, Lavender, and Mint

Want to refer a student for support from a Counselor?

Email **counselingteam@launchschool.org**

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Virtual PA Circle 6-7:30pm	8	9	10	11
12	13 Picture Day Retakes**	14 6 th Grade Family STEM Meeting (Zoom) 5pm-5:45pm Launch Recruitment Open House #3 (Zoom) 6-7:30pm	15 7 th Grade Family STEM Meeting (Zoom) 5pm-5:45pm	16 8 th Grade Family STEM Meeting (Zoom) 5pm-5:45pm	17	18
19	20 School closed- Winter Break	21 School closed- Winter Break	22 School closed- Winter Break	23 School closed- Winter Break	24 School closed- Winter Break	25
26	27 School closed- Winter Break	28 School closed- Winter Break	29 School closed- Winter Break	30 School closed- Winter Break	31 School closed- Winter Break	

Do you know any 5th graders?

The Launch application for the 2021-2022 school year is open! Please spread the word and check out our website (www.launchschool.org) to find the application and recruitment event information.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

This is an opportunity to learn more about Launch culture, our program, and what makes our school unique. Enjoy presentations from our leaders, Parent Coordinator, Student Ambassadors and other Launch staff.

- Launch Recruitment Open House #3 ~ Tuesday, December 14th 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Launch Recruitment Open House #4 ~ Wednesday, January 12th 6:00pm - 7:30pm

If you refer a family who applies, please let us know. We love to thank your current families for spreading the word.

Questions?

Contact Ms. Rubin at 718-715-1191



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Every Launch student thrives in school because they feel like they belong and can succeed.



LAUNCH'S HABITS OF HEART & MIND



INTEGRITY & STEWARDSHIP



IMAGINATION & SPIRIT



KINDNESS & COLLABORATION



DEDICATION & PRACTICE