

## KREWE KORNER

# Newsletter

## Teacher Spotlight

*Submitted by Jason Owens*

Alex Kinard, Star Academy science teacher at Guinyard-Butler Middle School (GBMS), believes that students must actively engage by making connections to the real world. He enjoys facilitating the project-based learning opportunities for his students in Star.

Mr. Kinard understands the intricacies of Engage thoroughly and has embedded his best practices approach while facilitating. One practice has been the development of a growth wall to show completed modules. Mr. Kinard shared that celebrating the small achievements sets the stage for the big achievements to come. Mr. Kinard relates well with his students and empowers them to be agents of their own learning, evidenced by their high engagement during class. He holds them responsible for inventory and materials management via an effective inventory process.

When asked what inspires him as a Star teacher, Mr. Kinard shared that his biggest inspiration is the smiles, laughter, and the wow moments of his students as they are engaging. Mr. Kinard is active with NOLA Education teacher forum and was a key contributor during the 2023 Summit. His efforts last year in Star Academy and beyond earned him recognition as the GBMS 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Kinard strives to get better as a teacher and is always eager to discuss his goals, plans, and vision for the GBMS Star Academy.



## Meet Your NOLA Krewe

*Submitted by Jay Wehrer*

Ken Goode joined the NOLA Education team in October 2022, from a referral from another one of our rockstar team members. Ken has both a military background and a degree in musical theatre.

Ken has a strong affinity for serving people. His work history contains many examples of providing unimaginable service. Our mission to help children through Star Academy and Ken's desire to be of service are a match.

Ken came into the operations team in December 2022 taking over the help desk role and Zendesk platform as an Operations and Support Liaison. He is at the intersection of operations and education services. He takes input from the field that range from materials needs, technology support and software support. It's been his job to decipher the fast path to resolution. This has him



working directly with the Ed team, warehouse, procurement, and the software development team.

Over the past year, as he has become more knowledgeable about the education space and software development space, he's become more efficient and faster. This is reflected in the feedback received from the Ed team as the point man in front of an operations team that proves his dedication in providing unimaginable service to our schools and our teammates.

## Educator Insight

*Submitted by Lakeside Middle School*

Lakeside Middle School Principal, Dr. Vera Wright, is thrilled to have Star Academy on their Middle School campus encompassing their entire 7th grade population.

Mrs. Tenesha Banks-Emerson, a dedicated Mathematics educator at Lakeside Middle School, expressed her enthusiasm for the program, stating, "This is how learning should be. Watching students develop their individuality and accomplish goals has been magical. Transitioning from a teacher to a facilitator has been an interesting journey, and I am learning more about my students, daily."

Mrs. Sarah James, an inspirational Social Studies educator at Lakeside Middle School, expressed her optimism for the program, stating "The collaboration occurring in the classroom is evident and powerful for our students. Learning is truly happening."

Lakeside School District's ongoing commitment is to provide innovative initiatives to its students. Lakeside Middle School and the Lakeside School District look forward to sharing the success and excitement of their Star Academy program.

## NOLA On My Mind Artwork

*Submitted by Courtney Fangue*

Our company takes pride in sharing the rich cultural tapestry of our beloved city, New Orleans, especially during one of its most iconic celebrations – Mardi Gras. Rooted in deep traditions that make our home unique, we've established a tight-knit community known as the Krewe of Astraea.

In the coming weeks, we will present each of our Star Academies with an original artwork, *NOLA On My Mind*, by our very own Terrance Wills. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



## Professional Development Insights

*Submitted by Heidi Broussard*

During our time at the summit, we focused heavily on the human behind the number. This is wildly important because it sets the stage for you and your students for the remainder of the school year. We must always remember the importance of the relationship building with our students. By first recognizing and acknowledging the human (student), we are able to tear down barriers that allow us to use data in the most beneficial ways.

So, what's happened since the summit? We are at midyear and if you haven't already, it's time to start using your student data to drive every decision you

are making in the classroom. Some key engagement indicators you might want to investigate are attendance and behavior. What does your student engagement look like? Are your students coming to school more/less than they did at this time last year? Has their behavior/discipline increased or decreased as compared to this time last year?

Now that you've laid the groundwork and built relationships with your students, let's start taking a closer look at all of the other pieces of data we know help to push student achievement forward. As always, your Education Support Specialist is your partner on this journey, and we would love to support you as you travel down your path of data driven decisions.



## Admin Spotlight

*Submitted by Cassandra George*

Each year at the Star Academy Summit, one educator is selected as the Krewe of Astraea Grand Marshal. This year at our Summit in New Orleans, Crissy Klober was selected for this honor. Crissy, Magnolia Middle School's Assistant Principal, has been honored as the 2023 Krewe of Astraea Grand Marshal, a significant accolade rooted in New Orleans' Mardi Gras traditions. The Grand Marshal symbolizes dedication, inspiration, and commitment to the community, particularly within the Star Academy education network.

Crissy's journey into education was shaped by her Aunt Lorett, a second-grade teacher in Arkansas, fostering a passion for teaching. Her love for sports seamlessly merged with her career, leading to a commitment to coaching and mentoring.

What sets Crissy apart is her unique blend of compassion and high expectations. As an administrator, she goes beyond leadership, serving as a mentor and advocate for students and colleagues. Her dedication extends personally, hosting over a hundred educators for professional development at Magnolia Middle School. Known as a "rockstar educator," Crissy's approach is deeply personal; she knows every student by name and builds relationships on high expectations. Principal DJ Graham sees her as the heart of the school, aligning with Magnolia Middle School's theme, "Heart of a Panther." Superintendent Skipper Ward recognizes her as a true win for the students, the school, and Star Academy.

Crissy's journey, from an inspired child to a dedicated educator, exemplifies the transformative power of passion and dedication. Her unwavering belief in her students' potential serves as an inspiration. In an era where education shapes futures, Crissy Klober represents excellence—a reminder that the path to success involves unwavering dedication, high standards, and a heart full of compassion.

## Events Recap

*Submitted by Cassandra George*

Star Academy sites have hosted many events since school started to showcase what is going on in their classrooms and engage the local community and local guests. This section of our newsletter will provide a snapshot of some of these events that help to share the inspiring stories and showcasing impactful learning experiences in Star Academy.

The following Star Academy programs have hosted ribbon-cutting celebrations to unveiling their new programs to their community:

- Lakeside Middle School
- Bogalusa High School
- Opelousas Junior High School
- Franklin Junior High School
- Haywood County Middle School
- Morgan Village Middle School
- Evangeline Parish
  - Bayou Chicot Elementary School
  - Mamou Junior High School

## Student Spotlight

*Submitted by Heidi Broussard*

*Regina Robinson - 9th Grade  
McIntyre Comprehensive Academy  
Montgomery, AL*

Regina Robinson is a 9th grade student at McIntyre Comprehensive Academy in Montgomery, AL. Regina is a model student and a great teammate. She was recently selected as her site's Student of the Month for the month of October.

Leaders and teachers at her school had this to say about her. "She deserves to be student of the month because she puts in a lot of effort. Her attendance has improved drastically since being a part of Star Academy. She started off as a student who argued with other students. Now, Regina does an awesome job showing her character through compassion, honesty, trustworthiness, optimism, and responsibility. She was also elected to the school's Student Government Association. We are very proud of her.

