



## Detroit Writes Detroit

This year our teachers have been busy working with students on writing skills. Students have been excited about their writing. Teach for America held a writing contest of 900 submissions from 20 different schools. Out of the 900 students, Starr Detroit Academy had 16 winners, including nine kindergarten students and seven second graders.

We are so proud of our students and their writing skills. These students will be invited with their teachers and families to celebrate on May 30 at the offices of Teach For America. The celebration will include refreshments and copies of "Detroit Writes Detroit" for them to take home. We are very proud of our winners. GO STARR SCHOLARS!

## Muffins with Moms

In honor of Mother's Day, our kindergarten classes sponsored Muffins with Mom on May 8. Parents came to their child's classroom to watch videos of their child from the start of school until now. Included in the video were all the activities that the kindergarten students participated in all school year.

Our parents were so proud to see how much growth had taken place from the beginning of school until now. Each kindergarten class sang a few songs to their parents and passed out gifts made from the students. After all the singing and celebrating, moms ate muffins and drank tea with their kindergarten child.

## Summer School Time

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. As parents take this time to prepare for summer family fun, we want you to remember that during the summer, students lose important academic information.

At Starr Detroit Academy, summer school will start on June 30 and end July 25. This is a great opportunity for students to keep learning and enjoy the summer at the same time.

We want to make sure our scholars come back on track and ready for another school year of learning and excitement. All summer school letters will go out in the next two weeks.

## Newsletter

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*Starr Detroit Academy is dedicated to the mission of preparing kids for academic mastery, college, work and life.*

## Upcoming Events

**May 16:** Soccer PAL  
Tournament - Jamboree Field

**May 20-22:** Covenant  
Community Center Dental  
Days

**May 22:** Spring Concert

**May 23 & 26:** No School

**June 30-July 25:**  
Summer School



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## Staff Profile: Vanessa Carter



As a startup school, it can sometimes be difficult to attract well-respected educators who have significant experience.

These teachers are a serious commodity to school districts, as they set an example for younger teachers to follow.

Vanessa Carter, a teacher with 15 years of experience, saw Starr Detroit Academy as an opportunity to help younger teachers -- and grow her own skill set.

"I was at a point in my career that it was time to grow," Carter said. "Starr Detroit Academy provided me with the opportunities and experience to progress as an educator. I believe in the vision and values that Starr has adopted, and it has been a great fit so far."

Carter has been leading her own classroom while also participating in a mentorship program with a first-year teacher. She sees her role as a challenging but rewarding.

"I enjoy the freedom to be creative and being able to see how the school is progressing each year," Carter said. "With any school or job in life, there are going to be challenges. I believe those challenges ultimately make us stronger."

In addition to her teacher and mentor positions, Carter is also the school's transportation coordinator. She works with students, parents and the buses to make sure the program is running as smoothly as possible.

Carter is from Mansfield, Ohio, and graduated from Ashland University with a bachelor's degree. She also earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University.

She believes the relationships between staff, students and parents have contributed to the success of Starr Detroit Academy.

"The reward of working at Starr Detroit Academy is being a part of the successes that have and will continue to take place," Carter said. "I am encouraged by the students' achievements and have a wonderful relationship with my colleagues. With the support of parents and our leadership team, I believe SDA will be a model school for others in Detroit."