

STARR

DETROIT ACADEMY

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

Our History • Starr Commonwealth

Starr Detroit Academy was born from Starr Commonwealth in February 2011. The academy was created to empower the youth of Detroit through an excellent education, a nurturing environment, and a belief that all students can achieve at high levels.

In 1913, Starr Commonwealth Founder Floyd Starr purchased a broken down barn and 40 acres of land in Albion, Michigan. With this and a dream, he started what would eventually become an internationally recognized child and family services organization that impacts an estimated 1.3 million people worldwide each year.

Starr Commonwealth was founded on the belief that there is no such thing as a bad child. The organization learned that through creating positive environments where children were nurtured and supported, a child's troubled past did not have to lead to an equally troubled future.

Nearly 100 years later, the organization is still bringing the strengths of children to light and equipping them with the tools they need to be successful in life.

On the west site of Detroit, Starr Commonwealth's Detroit campus provides programs for foster care families, support for youth in the juvenile justice system, substance abuse prevention, and several other opportunities for positive alternatives. Starr Detroit has served the families of Detroit for the last 20 years and remains a beacon of light in the community. Starr Commonwealth also services families across the region, with facilities in Battle Creek, MI and Columbus, Ohio.

Starr still believes, as did its founder, that when you treat a child with dignity and respect, it changes a child's heart. And that, in the end, is what changes a child's life. Starr Detroit Academy was formed so that we could further this great mission and make a lasting impact in the lives of Detroit's children and their families.

We look forward to continuing the commitment and great work that Floyd Starr started nearly 100 years ago.

Block Party • Rejoicing in Ravendale

On Saturday June 9, Starr Detroit Academy hosted its inaugural block party and barbecue for the Ravendale community on Detroit's eastside. Despite the record-high heat, Starr Academy families and friends danced, laughed and enjoyed the food and festivities. We had over 150 people in attendance at the event on Harper Avenue. Students were treated to professional face painting and bounce houses as well as basketball and balloon competitions. Parents and students met school administrators and visited with their future teachers.

"I have not seen my kids have this much fun in some time," said Ms. Arnold, a future Starr Detroit Academy parent. "I'm so grateful we came out to experience the block party! This gets an A+ from me!"

It was truly a memorable event and we are grateful that so many families came out and joined us for an outstanding time. Thank you for making it such a great success!

We look forward to seeing you all back out for our biggest block party yet on July 21 at Starr Detroit Academy, located at 19360 Harper Ave. Yes, the block party will be back once again with fantastic food, entertainment, fun games, and give-aways. The afternoon promises to be an excellent opportunity to meet staff and connect further with other Starr Detroit Academy parents. Bring a friend, your family and folks in your neighborhood, and be prepared to have a wonderful time.

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1: June 2012

Upcoming Events:

Kindergarten Round Up

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Saturday, July 21 @ 10:30AM

Starr Detroit Academy Block Party

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Saturday, July 21 @ 12:00PM

School Update

We are excited to share the beautifully restored campus with you. School tours will start as soon as the renovations are completed and we obtain the proper permission to invite our families to join us at our Harper Woods site.

Please be expecting additional information on our school tours in upcoming issues of your newsletter.

Photos from the July 9th Block Party



UPDATES • Uniforms and Transportation

Uniforms

At Starr Detroit Academy, all students are treated as equals. School uniforms are one way to ensure students are aligned, focused on their academics, and ready to engage with their work.

Our official school uniform consists of two parts, a top and a bottom.

- Navy blue polo shirt or crewneck sweatshirt with Starr Detroit Academy embroidered on the chest
- Beige colored khaki pants or knee length shorts.

The school uniform top must be purchased from Fellowship Uniforms. They will sell uniforms from the school building during the school year and at all upcoming events.

Uniform costs:

- Polo shirt : \$13-\$15
- Sweatshirts : \$16-\$18

Transportation

Our transportation program is designed to reliably bring students to school each morning and home safely each evening. Our goal is to have students present at school every day. Each day a student is absent equals 10 hours of missed learning.

Please see below a few updates for the transportation program.

- Finalized bus routes will be released in August.
- Buses will pick up students at designated neighborhood stops. Our goal is to keep kids from traveling further than five blocks to get to their bus stop.
- Bus safety and protocol are very important to us as busing is a privilege not a right. The bus ride is an extension of the classroom and all of the same rules and consequences will apply.

A Southside Chicago native, Ramon has vivid memories of witnessing his close friends, and even family members, get entangled in violent gangs and drug-led lifestyles. Ramon was motivated by the trouble around him to stay extremely focused on his education. Every successful report card represented a passport to a brighter future, a future that was not at all guaranteed to him.

Ramon's relentless work ethic led him to receive his Bachelors in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice from Dillard University. As the Director of School Culture for Starr Detroit Academy, Ramon is responsible for creating and maintaining a positive school environment where all students thrive and embody the Starr Detroit Academy values.

Ramon brings over five years of experience working with urban youth in the juvenile justice and education systems. He also spent time working at one of the most successful charter management organizations in America: The Knowledge is Power Program, better known as KIPP. At KIPP Polaris Academy for Boys in Houston, he created positive behavior systems and led small group instruction. He was most recently employed as the Dean of Students at Samuel J. Green Charter School in New Orleans. At every stop in Ramon's career he has inspired students to use education as a ticket to a more promising future.

Ramon, who is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, is eager to welcome all the students to Starr Detroit Academy and to have a fantastic school year filled with hard work, perseverance and learning.

Meet the Director of School Culture • Ramon Griffin

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