



CMSA TRIBUNE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



August 2016

Teacher Spotlight : Alex Armonda



Born in Chicago, Mr. Armonda graduated from the University of Iowa, where he majored in English and Comparative Literature. His first experience in education was as a tutor and part-time prep instructor at his alma mater. He came to CMSA one year ago through Teach for America, where he also serves on the regional leadership committee.

Mr. Armonda is currently earning his Master's with an emphasis in middle-level ELA instruction, but when he isn't teaching or studying, you can find him riding his skateboard or playing with his dog, Wednesday.

CMSA Honored with a "Silver" ranking one off the "Best High Schools"



For 2 years in a row, CMSA has been selected as one of the best high schools in the nation by US News. This year we have advanced to a "SILVER" ranking. Here is a link if you are interested in seeing more [:bit.ly/2bmYtD0](http://bit.ly/2bmYtD0)

Chicago Magazine Ranks CMSA Among Top Charter Public Schools



CMSA is profiled in **Chicago Magazine's September 2016** issue of the **Best Public Schools** ranking **CMSA #2** among the top 5 charter high schools in Chicago. The schools' ranking were determined by reviewing the most recent test data available from Chicago Public Schools(CPS) and the Illinois State Board of Education. The data included scores from the state PARCC tests, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, ACT growth and ACT attainment, NWEA/MAP growth in reading and in math, and the 5 Essentials rubric used by CPS. Graduation and attendance rates were also taken into account in the research.

We are very proud of our teachers, students, staff and community for helping us achieve this honor!

New Students & Parents Participate in Orientation Day



Assistant Dean Mr. Ricardo Garcia speaks to parents and students at the annual orientation ceremony. Everyone is excited to start off the year!

6th Grade Girls Enjoy ScienceScape Camp at Purdue University

Student Spotlight:

The entire 6th grade class who is new to CMSA as we begin the 2016-2017 school year! Go Titans!!

Concept School's Parent Blog



We invite you to read the latest entry in the Concept Blog. It gives a recap of our awesome STEM City event this past May 27th. Check it out and see all the STEM FUN!

<http://www.conceptschoools.org/s-t-e-m-festival-organized-by-chicagos-own-children/>

CMSA Ranks as Level 1+



Chicago Math & Science Academy is ranked Level 1+ by Chicago Public Schools. According to their SQRP report, CMSA students made significant gains in key areas:

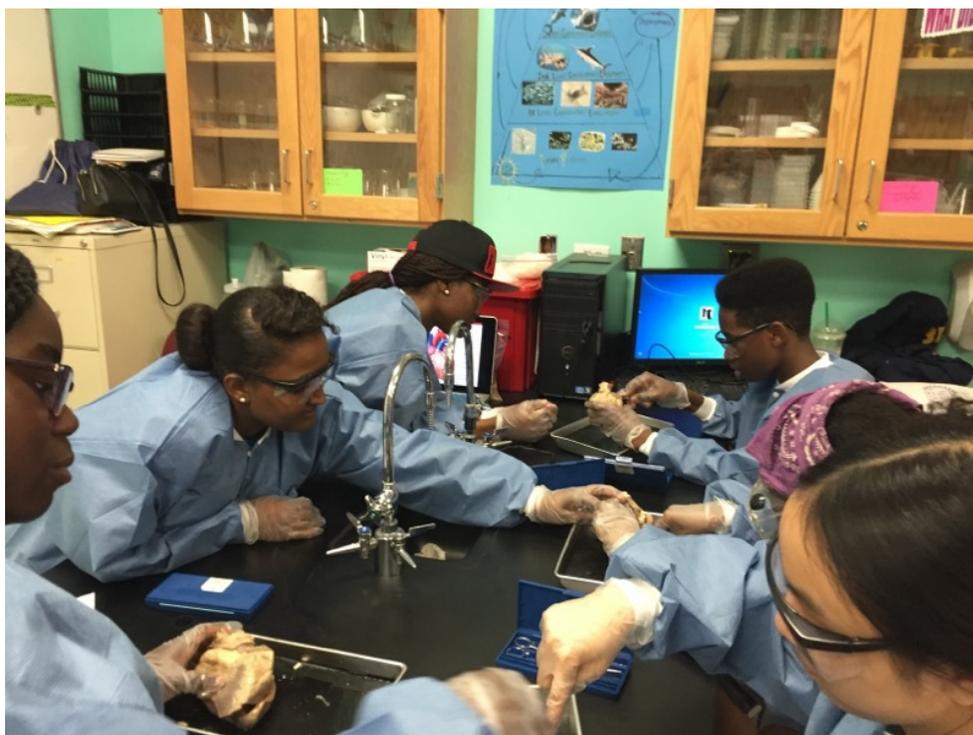
- **Reading growth** on NWEA MAP* (grades 6-8) = is in the **top 15% of schools nationally**
- **Math growth** on NWEA MAP* (grades 6-8) = **s in the top 6% of schools nationally**
- **Growth of EPAS assessment series** (grades 11 PLAN to ACT) = **s in the top 4% nationally**
- **College Persistence Rate** (class of 2013) = **84.6%**
- **Attendance Rate** = **97.3%**

**NWEA = Northwest Evaluation Association & (MAP) = Measures of Academic Progress are nationally recognized norm-referenced assessments used



Ms. Tyfanie Turner traveled with a group of her 6th grade girls to Purdue's ScienceScape camp at the end of June. The students engaged in scientific exploration, met successful scientists, instructors, and college students, experienced college life on the campus of Purdue University, and had tremendous fun with like minded peers on their shared interest in science. The best news is that the group has been invited back for next year's camp! **Well done, ladies!**

IMSA Summer Camp Featured Forensic Science & Medicine



Science, mathematics and technology took the center stage in Summer@IMSA programs as students utilize discovery, exploration, and problem-solving in innovative ways. The programs are designed for students entering 3rd thru 12th grades (Fall 2016), who have an interest or passion for math and science. Ms. Kinney and Ms. Laura led our CMSA student team as they worked with younger children in their explorations of science.

Session One was designed for students entering 5th-6th grade in the fall 2016 and dealt with Forensic Science. Students helped crack a mysterious case requiring expert forensic knowledge. Session Two was designed for students entering 7th-8th grade in fall of 2016 and dealt with medical issues. "Is there a doctor in the house" gave budding medical students a general understanding of human anatomy through hands-on explorations of the heart, blood, bones and muscles. Everyone enjoyed their summer sessions!

You Can Help CMSA!

Please consider making a difference in the education of Rogers Park youth with a tax-deductible donation. We will gladly accept a check, credit card or you can use PayPal through the CMSA website. Your donation will directly help our students

succeed by providing such things as STEM-related textbooks, incentives for academic achievement, equipment for science labs, robotics kits, etc. Remember that every donation received by CMSA gives inner-city youths the opportunity to fulfill their educational dreams. Join us as our philanthropic partner in continuing our excellence in education. You can click the Donate button below. Every dollar makes a difference! We thank you for your support and generosity.



At the end of their 8th grade year, twenty college-bound CMSA students were invited on a VIP tour of the University of Iowa. Students gained first-hand experience as to how University life looks, sounds, and feels. They were treated to an admissions presentation, full campus tour, and even got to eat lunch in the dormitory alongside college freshmen. The CMSA students were accompanied by Mr. Armonda, Mrs. Truong, and Ms. Leja.



Chicago Math and Science Academy:

"Changing the trajectory of our students' lives with STEM-focused education that successfully prepares students for tomorrow!"

Car Wash Helps Raise Funds for Injured Student



A few days after the 2016 High School graduation the CMSA family learned that one of our graduates, Joel Nahimana, had been critically injured in an accident. Even though the students and staff were already on summer vacation they quickly joined forces to host a car wash to help Joel and his family pay for his medical expenses. **The car wash raised \$1,100 towards the cause.**

We are pleased to report that Joel is out of the hospital and proceeding along with his extensive rehabilitation process. The students also created a web page where donations can be made. CMSA is grateful to the reporters Robert Kitsos and Felicia Dechter of News-Star publication and WMAQ-TV, Channel 5's LeeAnn Trotter for their help in getting the word about our efforts to help Joel.

All of us are rooting for your full recovery, Joel!



Rogers Park Web Creators Help Local Businesses





Photograph courtesy of Marlen Garcia, Sun Times

The Rogers Park Web Creators had a very busy summer. The teams continued work on existing projects for Emmah's African Hair Braiding, Fonda Dona Chio and Chicago Workforce Funders Alliance making great progress with all their clients. In addition, a team of students from Rogers Park Web Creators and Team STEMware cashed in on the internships that they won during the Heath Care Service Corporation (HCSC) One-Day Challenge. They spent 3 days per week working at HCSC between June 28th and August 11th.

Plans for this year's program are in the works. Here is a recent article from the Sun Times on our students' achievements: <http://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/marlen-garcia-building-a-web-of-support-in-rogers-park/>

Chicago Math and Science Academy
7212 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60626
www.cmsaonline.net

Phone: 773 761 8960 || Fax: 773 761 8961

