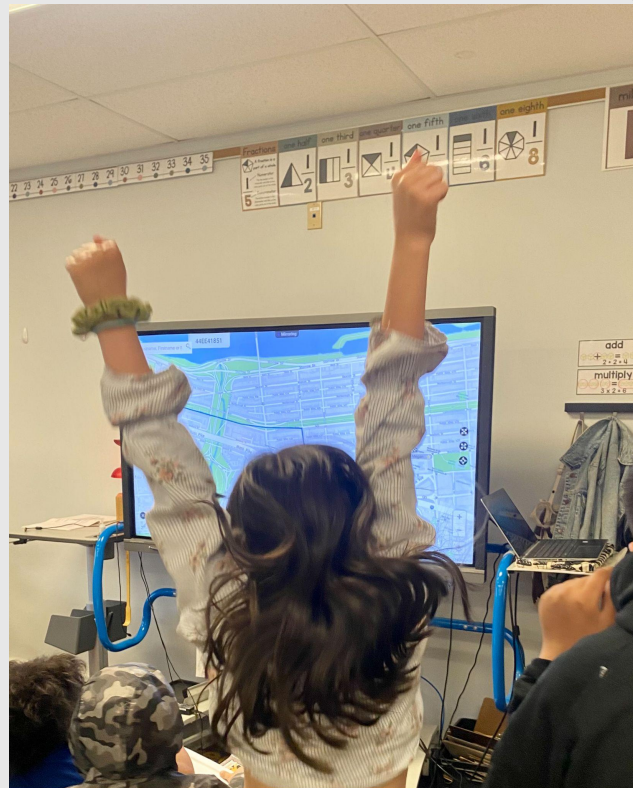


Curriculum & Instruction Report

April 25, 2023





Charter Renewal

4 p.m. May 16
Public Hearing



Context

Every five years, charter schools in Missouri must apply for a renewal of the charter that allows them to operate. This application process is coordinated by our sponsor, the Missouri Charter Public School Commission, and should be complete by Aug. 1, for a target renewal date of Oct. 2023.

This process includes:

- School quality review (completed in 2022; copy in board packet)
- Annual site visits
- Review of student achievement and other relevant data
- Public hearing and board interview (planned for May 16)
- Written application that outlines priorities in identified areas of improvement
- Graduate profile that includes a definition of quality

Areas of Focus

Our sponsor identified four specific growth areas that should be addressed in our application:

- Rigorous instruction and access to grade-level content for all students
- Professional development plans that ensure curriculum continuity across classrooms
- Governance: Succession Planning & Staff Diversity
- Facilities Planning

Hearing Logistics

- Introduction by the Missouri Charter Public School Commission (start at 4 p.m.)
- Brief presentation by KCIA school leaders
- Public comment period
 - Parents and families
 - Students
 - Staff
 - Community representatives
- Board Interview (start at 5 p.m.)

C&I Updates

- MAP Testing in progress
- Fourth LETRS training for the year complete (40% of eligible staff passed coursework one month early!)
- District Literacy Plan & Evidence-Based Reading Instruction
- Planning for summer enrichment opportunities
- Planning for the 2023-2024 school year!

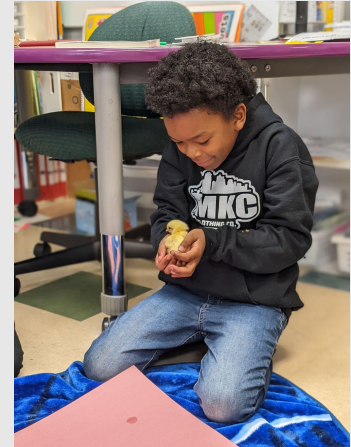
Fourth-Grade Musicians

Check out [this video](#) of Walt Brown's fourth grade students playing xylophones, identifying musical notes, and connecting those notes to written music. I am so impressed by their ability to play back what they heard!



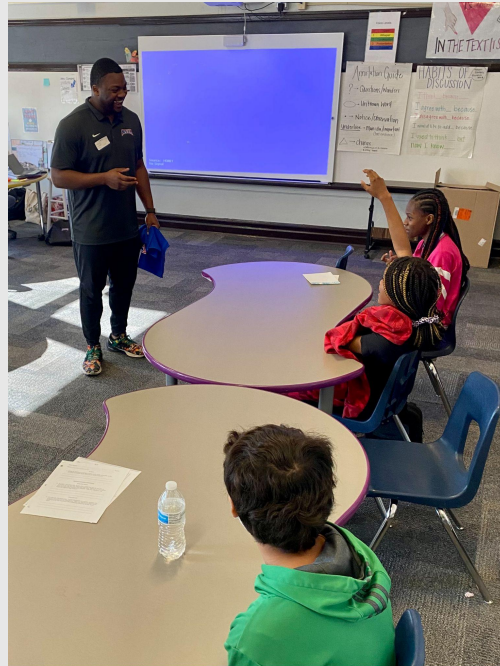
Dogs & Chicks

Animal friends visited upper elementary classrooms this spring through Wayside Waifs' [No More Bullying Program](#) and MU Extension's embryology program. Students learn so much about kindness, empathy and care for others through their interactions with furry and fuzzy companions.



Career Day

Middle school students asked great questions as they learned about different career options on Wednesday. They met firefighters, landscape architects, commercial truck drivers, artists, lawyers, athletes, welders and many more representatives from different fields.



Advocates for Justice

Eighth-grade ELA students wrote letters to the Clay County Prosecutor's office this week to demand justice for Ralph Yarl. Listen to students discuss the event [here](#) and read a letter below. Thank you to their teachers for centering student voices and helping them find an outlet to express themselves in such a powerful way.

Prosecutor Zachary Thompson
James S. Rooney Justice Center
11 South Water Street
Liberty, Missouri 64068

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Hello Mr. Thompson, we are two 8th grade students that go to Kansas City International Academy, our names are Dayana Holguin and Leila Cleggett. We are writing on behalf of Ralph Yarl and what happened to him.

First, we would like to bring up the arrest of Andrew D. Lester, the man who shot Ralph Yarl on the night of April 13th, 2023. After Mr. Lester shot Mr. Yarl, he was released and didn't go to jail until Monday, April 17th, 2023. We don't think it is fair. If this was a black man who shot a 16 year old white boy, he would have been in jail the exact same night and we all know that. We also are led to believe that the shooting was racially motivated as well because if that man heard the doorbell, it is common sense to believe he didn't just grab a gun. We can only assume he looked out the window to see Ralph first and then got the gun. Not only did he shoot Ralph once, he shot him twice. This means it couldn't have been an accident. It was intentional, and we all know it.

Next, we would like to talk about the stand your ground law which may be used. We want to talk about how it shouldn't be. In the stand your ground law it says " (1) The actor was the initial aggressor; except that in such case his or her use of force is nevertheless justifiable provided: (a) He or she has withdrawn from the encounter and effectively communicated such withdrawal to such other person but the latter persists in continuing the incident by the use or threatened use of unlawful force" the law says that if Ralph had initiated any kinds of aggression that would make Mr. Lester felt unsafe, he could have done something to Ralph and it would have been justified. Ralph didn't show any threat or do anything wrong, so it isn't justified at all. The law also says that if they had a conversation and Mr. Lester was trying to get away from Ralph or that Ralph was chasing or pursuing him to fight then Mr. Lester could have the right to defend himself against Ralph. But as we know, none of the situations happened. Ralph did not

have any conversation or try to intrude into Mr. Lester house. Using the "Stand Your Ground Law" would be unnecessary and not useful at all, and he shouldn't have the right to use it at all.

Ralph was an innocent boy that went to high school. He played music; he had a great life and would never do anything to hurt anyone. He surely didn't hurt this man. This makes us and our communities scared because that could have been anybody. We could have been picking up our little siblings and getting treated unfairly because of the color of our skin. Martin Luther King said something in his "I Have a Dream" speech that connects to this. MLK said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" Think about this quote, instead of thinking about his four kids replace that with all black children. Ralph was judged by the color of his skin not the content of his character. After all this time we still don't have justice. Justice for Ralph is necessary. Justice for all African Americans and everybody who has unfair treatment based on the color of their skin is necessary. Our names are Leila Cleggett and Dayana Holguin and we seek justice.

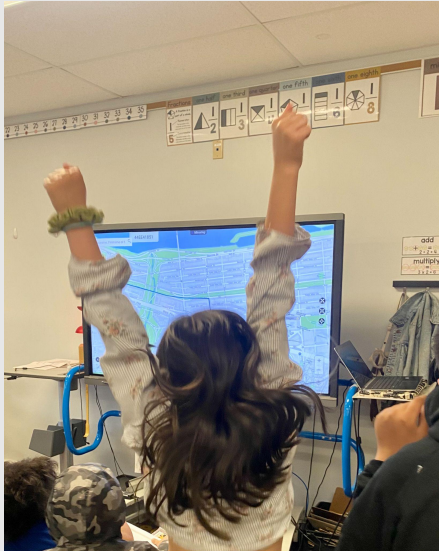
Best regards to you and your team.

Sincerely,

Leila and Dayana

KCIA's Marathon Runner

Congratulations to Megan Jefferson for representing KCIA at the Boston Marathon this week! Students at KCIA cheered her on from school and she earned our school a mention in the [New York Times](#)! Megan connected her marathon experience to her teaching through a study of Eliud Kipchoge, a Kenyan long-distance runner, with her multilingual learner WINN groups.



2:33

LTE

moment I'm fit enough, then actually, I can go through everything."

Kipchoge's Zen-like bravado — his slogan has become "no human is limited" — has turned him into a folk hero across the globe. In Kansas City, Mo., an elementary school class with many African refugee children who worship Kipchoge, was assigned to write an essay with the prompt "no human is limited." Their teacher, Megan Jefferson, is running the marathon on Monday, too.

But this race has toppled greats before. Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who was the barefoot Kipchoge of his era, finished fifth in Boston in 1963, the only time he completed an international marathon without winning it.

Thanks for reading The Times.



The New York Times

"No human is limited."

— Eliud Kipchoge

What does this message mean to you?

How will you show the world you are not limited?

This message means to me that I can have a free life that's not limited by nobody. I will show the world I can write at least 10-20 paragraphs when I grow up. I want to also show others we can do anything like any human being. In my classroom we have are goals that we want to achieve. "No human is limited" means there's no maximum or limit of what your doing. I also think no human is limited means there's no time for you to stop.



Questions?

