



## Current Events

### • Athletics

The OCS Middle School Flag Football team took second place this year in the Charter School Athletic League, with a record of 7-3.

The JV Basketball team took second place in the CSAA League, finishing with a record of 6-2.

Our Varsity boys and girls teams have had several scrimmages and show the same potential that led them to become champions last year.

Our Middle School Basketball team completed tryouts and is currently practicing for the upcoming season.

### • Extended Day

Mandatory Regents Prep Courses for all High School Students

January 4 - January 21  
Monday - Thursday  
4:00pm - 5:00pm

## Calendar Corner

January 4-8, 11-15, 19-21  
Regents Prep for High School

January 18  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
School Closed

January 19-22  
Midterm Exams

January 20  
Opportunity Parents for  
Success Meeting

January 26-29  
High School Regents Exams

## Clinical Connections at OCS:

### Building Relationships and Developing Social Skills

OCS recognizes that the social/emotional well-being of its students is an important part of having a successful academic experience. Social workers provide services that support a student's ability to perform and function in their academic setting. Social workers meet mandated counseling requirements, and provide general counseling support to students and families, collaborate in the writing of educational/behavioral plans, and provide case management and referral services to students and families as needed. In general, social workers manage the health and wellness of the grade to which they are assigned.



### The Interview with Curtis by Drew Rosenzweig – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Worker

Curtis and I have been playing "Social Skills Bingo for Teens", which helps students to learn more about how to positively interact with their peers as well as with adults. Since the game is designed for teenagers, many of the words and phrases are new for Curtis. By playing the game several times and my explaining the definitions, Curtis is able to use the repetition to not only learn new words and ideas but to also start incorporating the words into his vocabulary. One of Curtis' favorite new phrases is "regulate voices." Curtis has learned that it is important to monitor the sound level of your voice depending upon your surroundings. Often in the hallway Curtis will whisper hello to me and remind me that he is regulating his voice! Curtis has been successful in learning new phrases and ideas in session and then applying them to the classroom setting.



Curtis has enjoyed his transition to OCS. Curtis states "I like making new friends, having fun, doing my work and getting my education". He thanked staff for being so nice to him and his mom for "taking him to this charter school". Part of what has made Curtis feel welcome in the school is the support he feels from all the adults at OCS. A big portion of the OCS 6<sup>th</sup> grade social worker's job is to help their students transition as smoothly as possible from elementary to middle school. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade is having to make new friends and learn new systems. Curtis tells me that, "Ms. R helps me learn about anger and my emotions" by playing games such as "Social Skills Bingo". This in turn has helped teach Curtis about his strengths, how to interact more appropriately with his peers, verbalize his needs, thoughts and feelings and learn one of the 5 OCS Expectations; tolerance.

Curtis commented, "I'm just a regular kid. I want to be nice to people. I want to be accepted [for] who I am and I will accept you and try to always help you as best as I can".

The Clinical Department would like to extend an invitation to parents, families and staff to stop by Room 421 and get to know the department.



Our parents. Our partners. *An Important Piece*

# THE SPOTLIGHT HONORS



## Our parents. Our partners: An Important Piece

### Parent Volunteers!

Parent volunteers are active participants and encourage other parents to get involved. Their dedication to OCS must be commended. We would like to thank our parent volunteers Ms. Olga Rivera, Ms. Amada Flynn and Ms. Lisa Bennett for their continued assistance in our office.

If you would like to become a parent volunteer, please contact the Office of Family and Student Services at (212) 866-6137 ext .



TeacherEase is the web-based gradebook system used at the Opportunity Charter School. It is available to teachers, parents, and students. Teachers save time, communicate with parents, and improve student performance by using this system. Please contact Family Services for your login information to TeacherEase. Follow your child's attendance, grades, and performance from home! Email your child's teacher directly through TeacherEase. Take a minute, visit the site at [www.teacherease.com](http://www.teacherease.com).

### Did You Know?

Adults 21 years or older can register for GED classes at:

Mid Manhattan Adult Center  
212 West 120th Street  
Phone: 212-666-1920.

Register in January to begin classes in February. Two semesters of study and the cost is **FREE**

### Special Thanks

We recognize those parents who attended the Parent/Teacher Conference Nights. A parent's support shows that they care about their child's education.

## High Honor Roll

3.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) and Above

Arana, Giovanni	Caraballo, Allen	Espinoza, Stephanie
Asmerom, Michael	Cowell, Jevon	Irby, Daquan
Bowen, Gary	Daniels, Nashay	Martinez, Tayna
		Rivers, Ric
		Williams, Jordan

## Honor Roll

3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) and Above

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Boiter, Robert  
Bradley, Cherena  
Camara, Bakary  
Carbon, DaJour  
Dishmey, Jannel  
Gonzalez, Anthony  
Herviey, Tatyana  
Jones, Ajee  
Lebron-Martinez, Kenrick  
Lewis, Tatyana  
Lokley, Allison  
Moorer, Brandy  
Murphy-Simmons, Eternity  
Nealous, Ayana  
Rivera, Jose  
Rosario, Isis  
Rosario, Jeremy  
Sappe, Alexis  
Vazquez, Dennis

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Brown, Jamie  
Cabrera, Maishly  
Camara, Niakale  
Grant, Tyron  
Gueye, Mouhammed  
Guzman, Tiffany Amber  
Holder, Terrell  
Johnson, Valencia  
Marshall, Terrence

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Baptiste, Joshua  
Brown, Carl  
Brown, Jadrian  
Brown, Jordan  
Coles, Aisha  
Devaughn, Carl  
Flynn, Darrion  
Gonzalez, Marissa  
Infante, Lydia  
Johnson, Domonique  
Liranzo, Luis  
Louissant, Justin  
Phillips, Rainelle  
Wimbish, Raeqwon



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Baptiste, Mikail  
Cole, Dave  
Cummings, Devin  
Emanuel, Camelle  
Rivera, Adrian  
Schou, Gloria  
Yisrael, Noelia

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Aquino, Malaynie  
Baptiste, Twinkle  
Crosby, Davie  
Jimenez, Brandon  
Rouse, Tracy  
Shawe, Aaron  
Stevens, Kyonna  
Waltower, Shynise

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Brunson, Nakea  
Coleman, Laura  
Duperroy, Luis  
Graham, Kenasia  
Grant, Teonica  
Traore, Aminata  
Williams, Craig

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Connelly, Shanell  
Hines, Shanelle  
Loadholt, Erik  
Simmons, Carlana  
Watson, Korey

Students were recognized during the honors assembly on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Afterwards, a reception was held for the honorees and their families.