

**Derek Spahr**

**From:** The MATHS Public Charter School [dspahr@mathsbaltimore.org]  
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**To:** dspahr@mathsbaltimore.org  
**Subject:** MATHS Monthly Newsletter: March 2010




# MATHS

## Monthly Newsletter

February 2010

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### Looking for Parent Leaders

Do you want to help us improve the education we provide?

If so, we encourage you to attend the **Advisory Team elections** on **March 4th** at **5:30pm** in MATHS multi-purpose room (**room 436**).

At this event, parents will elect three members to serve on the Advisory Team alongside two members of the community. This team will ensure that *our children receive the best possible education* by helping us create our budget and improve our performance.

Dinner will be served to those who attend the elections.

For more information about the Advisory Team elections, please contact Derek Spahr, Development Associate, at [dspahr@mathsbaltimore.org](mailto:dspahr@mathsbaltimore.org).

### **Now Enrolling Students**

If you know anybody looking to enroll their children in a challenging, college-preparatory middle or high school next year, please tell them about our two upcoming Open House events:

Thursday, March 18  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

Thursday, April 22  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

We are primarily seeking 6th grade students, but we also have limited openings in other grade levels as well.

Please call 410-545-0955 for more information.

### **MATHS & Coppin State Give High School Students a Head Start on Earning a College Degree**

MATHS and the [Helene Fuld School of Nursing at Coppin State University](#) have launched a groundbreaking partnership allowing our students the opportunity to earn college credits towards a nursing degree while still in high school--the first program of its kind in Maryland.

Based on the [Early College High School](#) model, the **Early Entry Nursing Program** allows qualifying students to enroll in classes at Coppin State University while completing their high school classes at MATHS. Students can earn up to 12 credits towards a college degree after completing the program. Students will also receive first-hand exposure to the nursing field through clinical internships, summer programs and mentoring.

While we are able to offer this program to our students for *free* this year, our ability to do so in the future is uncertain. In order to keep this program free, [we need your support](#).

[Please consider making a donation](#) to the **Early Entry Nursing Program** and help our students get a head start on earning a college degree.

For more information about the Early Entry Nursing Program, please contact our College Facilitator, Nkechi Asoluka, at [ncasoluka@gmail.com](mailto:ncasoluka@gmail.com).

### **MATHS Doubles the Number of Students Attending This Year's Harvard Model Congress**

Sixteen of our students attended the 2010 [Harvard Model Congress](#)—twice as many as those who attended last year's event.

Harvard Model Congress is the nation's premier government simulation, giving high school students the opportunity to learn about American government by directly playing the role of an actual member of the US Senate, House of Representatives or Supreme Court Justices. Students attend committee meetings, debate and write legislation, and vote on bills just like actual congressional representatives.

Those students who attended this year's event were: **Zydaysha Abernathy, Cortnie Belser, Kelly Biles, Marcus Bright, Victor Clark, Aaron Foster, Shawdae Harrison, Letecia Kelsey, Richard Jackson, Robert Johnson, Terrell Jones, Makayla Loudermilk, Gregory Parks, Nicholas Smith, Ebony Stavis and Taylor Woodard.**

11th grade students Cortnie Belser and Shawdae Harrison received awards of excellence for their outstanding performance as Supreme Court justices. They were among 70 of 1,500 participating students who received special recognition.

Harvard Model Congress took place in Boston, Massachusetts from February 25 – 28.

### **MATHS Student Places Second in Champions of Courage Essay Contest**

11th Grade student **Shawdae Harrison** placed second in the 23rd Annual Champions of Courage Black History Month essay competition.

"Champions of Courage" is a showcase for students to honor those who have shared the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with young people. The competition challenges students to salute their personal heroes and positive role models who have inspired them to dream, to overcome, and to achieve. More than 5,600 entries were received representing 90 middle and high schools across Maryland.

In addition to winning \$100 in savings bonds by being one of 28 finalists, Shawdae won additional cash prizes for herself and MATHS at the Gala Awards Luncheon on February 21st at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor.

Here is Shawdae's essay:

I always saw courage as standing up and fighting for what you believed in no matter the consequences. My Champion of Courage, Mohandas Gandhi, taught me that fighting for what is right doesn't have to be a violent war; it can be a peaceful revolution for a meaningful change. Mohandas Gandhi was a great leader who peacefully fought for India's independence and exemplified moral integrity. This heroic gentleman possessed strength and courage and that is why he is my champion of courage.

### **6th Grade Students Attend Play About Dr. Ben Carson**

Our 6th grade students attended an inspirational play about famous pediatric neurosurgeon and Johns Hopkins doctor Dr. Ben Carson with other students from Baltimore City Public Schools at Doris M. Johnson High School on February 23rd.

The play, "Ben Carson M.D.", tells Dr. Carson's journey from inner-city Detroit to his current position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

After the play, students discussed Ben Carson's life with their peers and received a copy of his best-selling book, "Gifted Hands."

### **MATHS Basketball Update**

Our JV & Varsity basketball teams are set to start the playoffs after successful seasons. The Varsity team will enter the playoffs as the number four seed, while the JV team will enter the playoffs at the number one spot after an undefeated season. Please see the **Important Dates** section for their playoff schedule.

Our Middle School basketball team recently started their season with two straight wins. The winter storm that closed school for over a week has caused their schedule to change significantly. As the games are re-scheduled, we will e-mail the dates and times as they are announced.

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