

# Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy

14311 Woodworth Avenue  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44112  
 216-838-8800



## Upcoming Events

- October 11, 2019 Last Day of the first Marking period
- October 16, 2019 Picture Day
- October 22, 2019 Board Meeting at Riverside school @6:30 p.m.
- October 23, 2019 Parent-Teacher Conferences (early release at 11:20 a.m.)
- October 31, 2019 Peace and Action DAY
- November 6, 2019 Parent Like a Champion

### Message from the Head of School, Mr. Holifield

Greetings KCBLA families,

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the scholars at Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy. We are committed to excellence and we know that with your assistance, we will reach our school's goals. On October 11, 2019, we will complete the first marking period of the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to seeing you all at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our parent involvement goal is to have 100% of our parents attend at least one Parent-Teacher Conference and one school event this school year.

One of my favorite school events is the PEACE & ACTION DAY. Many of our scholars deal with the effects of traumatic experiences. We use this day to highlight and reinforce the strategies that we have in place while seeking new ways to address and act on one of many solutions to complex issues that we face. Peace and Action will include workshops around appropriate responses to bullying, the power of words, respecting women, accountability & leadership training.

Lastly, our after-school enrichment program will begin on October 22, 2019. Permission slips were sent home with scholars. Please reach out to Mr. Blair if you have any questions or concerns. The program is reserved for the first 75 scholars to turn in their permission slips.

Please continue to use us as resource as we continue to *build the men of tomorrow, starting today.*

### Parent like a Champion

Last week we held our first Parent like a Champion event, we had over 35 parents attend the event. Chief Portfolio Officer, Christine Fowler-Mack and Chief Engagement Officer, Trent Mosley joined us to discuss long-term planning for Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy. During the next Parent like a Champion Event on November 6, 2019, we will plan for the Parent Advisory Committee and practice numeracy strategies.





# Parent-Teacher Conferences

## October 23, 2019 – Early release at 11:20 a.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences are approaching quickly. Please plan to attend the conferences. Please remember that the purpose of the conferences is to discuss scholar progress and create an action plan moving forward.

Our scholars are not the experts at life. We must not blame them if they are not progressing at the level we expect. We must look inward and discuss what we can change to be more of assistance to our

scholars while addressing our shortcomings as a support system. We are in this work together and we must open our minds and seek the best for our scholars at all times.

If any parent would like to request an appointment with Mr. Holifield, please schedule an appointment with Ms. Berry at 216. 838.8800.

### Parent like a Champion & Board meeting update

At the October Parent Like a Champion event, we discussed attending a board meeting to advocate for parent voice at the table when decisions are made about the future of Kenneth W Clement Boys' Leadership Academy. Please remember to arrive early and ask to sign up to address the board.

**BOARD MEETING –October 22, 2019**  
**Riverside School**  
 14601 Montrose Ave, Cleveland, OH 4411 at 6:30 p.m.



## Third Grade Reading Guarantee

**Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG)** identifies students from kindergarten through grade 3 that are behind in reading.

Schools will provide help and support to make sure students are on track for reading success by the end of third grade. Ohio's Third Grade Guarantee ensures that every struggling reader gets the support he or she needs to be able to learn and achieve.

During Open House, we will discuss your scholar's reading progress and parents will practice strategies that will help scholars be successful on the test. For the last two years, 100% of our scholars passed the test.

Scholars will get three attempts this school year to pass the test. They will take the first Ohio State Test during the week of October 21, 2019.

Please make sure that scholars are able to get to bed at a reasonable time and please make sure they arrive to school on time to eat breakfast.

# Service and Leadership

One thing that was surprising was that Carl Stokes dropped out of school and then he went back to school and eventually went to law school. He later became the first African American Mayor of a major city! – Daveion Sims, 8th grade scholar



This school year we have an added focus on service and leadership experiences. Once a week, Mr. Douglas, our Dean of Engagement will lead leadership courses with each grade. Topics include character building, social and emotional learning, leadership, meditation and the role of the man in the household.

In addition to our new leadership course, bi-weekly on Fridays, we engage in service and leadership field experiences for grades K-8. During our second set of trips, grades Pre-K-2 went to a Pizza farm to learn about the process that farmers use to make a pizza from scratch. The trip was a great

environmental sustainability experience for our scholars.

Grades 3-5 are scheduled to visit Famicos foundation to learn about community development and neighborhood progress from one of Cleveland’s leading community development corporations.

Our middle school scholars had an opportunity to go to the History Museum to learn about the unique leadership qualities of two great leaders from Cleveland, Carl and Louis Stokes.



Learning about the Carl and Louis Stokes was inspirational. It taught me that anything is possible if you put your mind to the test.  
- Tyriq Gainer, 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholar

## Mission

Kenneth W. Clement Boys’ Leadership Academy develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while advocating for and servicing our community.

## vision

The Objective of Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy is to stimulate the ambition of its scholars; prepare and educate young men to be successful at high performing 21st century high schools; and to encourage leaders who are of high moral character and academic distinction.

## Motto

Building the men of tomorrow, starting today! -school motto

We are committed to high expectations for every scholar, every minute, of every hour, every single day!

- Teacher motto

## State of the Schools highlights momentum

Cleveland's public schools have a long way to go but are gathering momentum, CEO Eric Gordon said Sept. 26 in the annual State of the Schools address.

Speaking to a packed ballroom at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, Gordon repeated a theme sounded after a new state report card raised CMSD's overall grade from an F to a D. He has said the District will not celebrate a D but will celebrate the report card's many signs of significant progress.

In his speech, hosted by the City Club, Gordon described that progress by using references to the laws of the 17th Century physicist and mathematician Isaac Newton. The CEO said the District had, with strong community support, moved from a state of rest to motion.

"In Newton's terms, the mass that is the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is not only accelerating its progress, but it is gaining momentum," he said.

Gordon cited highlights from the report card, including improvement in K-3 literacy, overall test scores and the graduation rate, which has reached the latest in a series of record highs for the District. CMSD's growth in those categories outpaced that of most school districts in the state. He followed examples with "That's momentum."

The CEO also peeled back the label of the letter grade to reveal complex learning widely found in "joyful, adventurous classrooms."

He put faces and names on students who successfully made synthetic fuel for a car, developed an app for the Northern Ohio chapter of the Federal Bar Association, converted and operate school bus that now serves as a food truck, wrote and produced a powerful play about gun violence, performed community service featured in a current Cleveland History Center exhibit and more.

"One needs only to visit a classroom in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to see and feel the difference, to understand what momentum is, what it looks like in action and what impact these changes are having on the way Cleveland's kids think, learn and act," Gordon said.

Jonah Medina, a senior at the John Marshall School of Information Technology, helped create the app and was present for the State of the Schools address. The project helped him prepare for a career in software development that he hopes to study for at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"It was a great experience," he said. "It's not every day a student gets to make something of that importance."

The CEO praised Mayor Frank G. Jackson and the community for plucking the schools from the brink of academic emergency and bankruptcy.



The comeback began with broad support for *The Cleveland Plan*, a sweeping set of customized reforms that were written into state law in 2012. Gordon also pointed to voter approval and renewal of an operating levy that made the reforms possible and passage of a bond issue that continued construction and renovation of school buildings.

Most recently, the community raised money for Say Yes to Education, a 25-year initiative that funds scholarships for CMSD graduates and support services to help students and families overcome barriers to success.

The program, which was announced in January, is widely seen as finishing a path that can nurture and guide students from high-quality preschool to a choice of school options to college and career. But Gordon said the District will need continued support from the public to keep going.

"To the people in this room and across this community, whose vision and unwavering support brought us here, I am happy to report that the state of our schools is stronger and measurably better than at any time in recent history," he said. "Each of you helped put the District in motion. So, now let's accelerate the gains we are seeing. Let's build on that momentum."

After the speech, the CEO fielded questions from audience members, including a number of students. About 250 students were present, thanks to table sponsors.

Students asked about the future of high schools that will be the focus of planning meetings that start Sept. 28 and the potential for arts programs that will be addressed in a District arts plan. They asked about help for students who are victims of violence in the community or get in trouble that students with more resources could address with legal assistance. Gordon said the District's social and emotional learning program and Say Yes will provide assistance.

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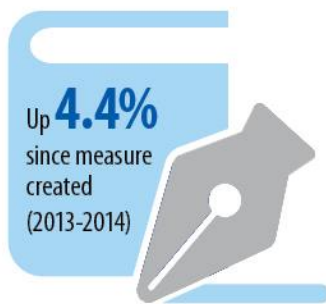
## State of the Schools highlights momentum *(continued from page 4)*

One student asked what single change Gordon would make if he had to choose. He said it would be to dispel the false perception of "CMSD stink" perpetuated by people who believe nothing good ever happens in the Cleveland schools.

"They don't know you," he replied. "They don't know all of the kids who are doing amazing things in our classrooms and all the educators who are doing amazing things in our classrooms."

# CMSD outpaces many districts in growth

### K-3 Literacy Improvement



Top 15% K-3 literacy improvement 2014-2019

CMSD's new state report card shows growth that outpaces the rates of districts throughout the state.

The District's overall grade rose from an F to D, but the better news can be found by sorting through the numbers and seeing how those compare with others.

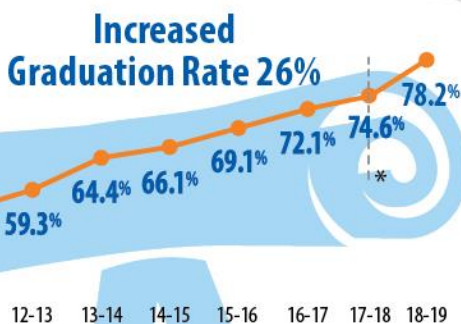
"We are not celebrating a D; we are celebrating progress," CEO Eric Gordon said. "And while we have far to go, the progress is good."

Here is what the report card shows:

- The District, which achieved a gain of 2.6 percentage points in K-3 literacy improvement last school year, has improved by 4.4 points since the measure was created in the 2013-14 school year. CMSD is the only urban district in what is known as the Ohio 8 to see an increase in that period of time and ranks in the top 15 percent for growth among Ohio's 609 school districts.
- The performance index, a composite of all test scores in the third through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, has increased four consecutive years and gone up 5.4 percentage points since the new Ohio State Tests were put in place in 2015-16. That is the second largest gain in the Ohio 8 and ranks CMSD as the 25<sup>th</sup> fastest improving district in Ohio, meaning it's in the top 4 percent statewide.
- CMSD's four-year graduation rate, 78.2 percent, is up 26 points since 2011. That's the fourth fastest growth in Ohio, ranking the District in the top 1 percent for growth.
- The five-year graduation rate of 81.5 percent is the highest graduation rate of the Ohio 8 districts.

On the morning after the report was released, the CEO discussed the comparisons with WTAM 1100 radio host Bill Wills

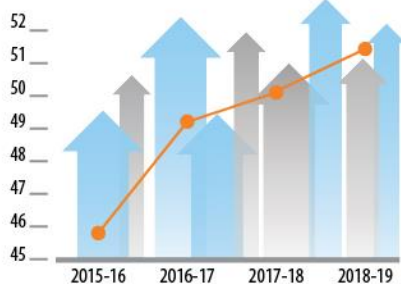
"That's what's exciting to us," Gordon said in the interview. "We're not going to stay at a D. If we keep moving at that fast rate, catching up with our peers, that's how we get to a C, a B and then an A."



Fourth fastest improving among all Ohio districts  
Top 1% in graduation rate growth 2011-2019  
\*Ohio changed graduation requirements

### Performance Index (PI)

Continuously improving for four straight years



Top 4% in Performance Index growth 2016-2019

# School planning meetings resume

CMSD has begun another round of meetings to plan the future of the District’s academic programs and facilities.

The first five meetings are focusing on all high schools, allowing the District to share data and collect feedback on academic quality, enrollment trends and forecasts, and building use and conditions. The next five meetings will include presentation of proposed recommendations for both K-8 and high schools.

Meetings on K-8 schools were held in the spring.

The District is trying to efficiently use limited resources, which could mean consolidating some schools and closing some buildings. The goal is to keep the pledge, included in *The Cleveland Plan*, to make quality education available to every neighborhood.

CMSD has more than 100 schools, and enrollment in a majority of the schools is below capacity. As a result, programs and resources are stretched. The challenges are not limited to the District; charter and private schools are affected, too.

The school board and the Bond Accountability Commission recommended that CMSD revisit a five-year-old building plan

based on current neighborhood population and enrollment patterns, changes in academic programming and rising construction costs. The commission is an independent watchdog created to monitor an ongoing modernization program that the District is paying for with state funds and a local bond issue.



## CMSD Family Partnership Institute to meet



CMSD’s new Family Partnership Institute will hold its first meetings in October.

The District created the institute to provide families with important information on District initiatives, goals, supports and more. The institute will emphasize the importance of working together to ensure students’ success.

The free sessions will include a keynote speaker, workshops, a healthy meal, displays by community partners and networking.

The first two sessions will be held Wednesday, Oct. 16 at the Lincoln-West Campus, 3202 W. 30th St., and Wednesday, Oct. 30 at East Tech High School, 2439 E. 55th St. Additional sessions will be held Wednesday, Feb. 19 and Wednesday, March 4 at locations that are to be determined. All of the sessions will run 5:30 to 8 p.m.

To register for the first session, [click here](#). To register for the second session, [click here](#).

For more information on the Family Partnership Institute contact **Carla Hempstead** at 216.838.0336 or email her at [carla.hempstead@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:carla.hempstead@clevelandmetroschools.org)

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14311 Woodworth Avenue  
 Cleveland, Oh 44112  
 Derrick Holifield  
 216-838-8800  
[Derrick.holifield@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Derrick.holifield@clevelandmetroschools.org)

