



THE RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL

March 2022 Issue

Parents Corner



March Menus:

Breakfast Lunch Supper PreK-3 Lunch

Important Upcoming Dates:

- March 2nd: Picture Day – You can sign up to buy a package at mylifetouch.com and use our school code EVTF8KFMX
- March 8th 6PM: CSG Meeting [JOIN HERE](#)
- March 10th 9AM: Open House – Invite family and friends who may be interested in their children attending Renaissance! [JOIN HERE](#)
- March 16th 6PM: Parent Association Meeting

Links for all meetings will be posted on the [website calendar](#)

Love our school? [Leave us a review](#) on [greatschools.org](#)!

Many students are not aware that some things they post on social media sites may not only be inappropriate, but can lead to disciplinary action, or even more serious consequences. As a parent or guardian, you can take steps to help prevent this from happening. Please read [THIS LETTER](#) from Vinnie Garelick, the Dean of Student Support.

Shout Outs

Yumeris's last day

Thank you Yumeris for your many years of service at Renaissance, and good luck in your new principal position!



PA hosted their first monthly Sweet Treats sale and raised over \$800. Thank you PA and parent volunteers!



According to a new [study from Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes \(CREDO\)](#). On average, it only took 3.5 days for charter schools to transition to remote learning in March 2020—while most district-run schools didn't transition until May. Go TRCS!!

New Staff Spotlight

Hi, my name is Atsushi, and I currently teach music classes to 6th through 11th graders at TRCS. I have a BA in China Studies, a Master in Asian Studies, and Music Performance. My primary instrument is the saxophone and I specialize in Jazz improvisation, but I also studied piano and played clarinet with the Hunter College Symphony. In addition, I taught private music lessons for many years before becoming a classroom teacher. I'm originally from Seattle but spent time in Beijing and Honolulu before moving to New York.

Best,
Atsushi



Hello everyone! My name is Betsy Flores and I am so excited to be part of the TRCS community. I am currently the first grade teacher and it has been a pleasure to work with everyone around the building and getting to know our students and their families.

I was born in Queens and I moved to Jackson Heights at the age of 5 and I have been living here ever since. I attended P.S. 148 and I continued my education in the public school system. As long as I can remember, I always wanted to be a teacher. I always loved school and I always wanted to share that love of learning to others. As I started to get older and working at various sites, I realized how much I enjoyed being around children and helping them learn. I attended The City College of New York to pursue that dream and I graduated in Childhood Education and Psychology. As I work with my students, I see myself in them, in their strengths and in their struggles. I want to give every student my very best and I want to make sure I am helping them in every way possible which is why I am now pursuing my masters degree at Hunter College in Special Education: Learning Disabilities. As I continue to grow, I hope to share my love for learning with our students and seeing them grow!

Sports Desk



Last night the TRCS HS Varsity Basketball Team won 50-34 over Chelsea and advance to the next round of playoffs!

Program Highlights



Students Noel Hernandez and Gavriela Catala in the leadership class Art as a Career with Robert Evangelista

Career & College Bound Office

The College and Career Office (CCO) of the Renaissance Charter School, in keeping with the mission of our school, is dedicated to developing leaders with an abiding respect for peace, human rights, the environment, and sustainable development. We strive to foster educated, responsible, and humanistic young leaders who have a thorough understanding of New York City's unique heritage and who will spark a "renaissance" in our city. We seek to prepare students to become independent learners with unconditional regard for others and themselves, able to achieve academic success and acquire the skills they need to participate productively as global citizens.

The components of the College and Career Office include classes to support students' success in high school and orient them to the college application process, individual conferences with students, and evening meetings with parents based on grade-level needs. In addition, the CCO coordinates our high school's Leadership Program, which pairs students with community opportunities to develop leadership skills and lifetime capacity for active citizenship and civic engagement. The College and Career Office staff work with all high school students during each grade to provide nuanced attention to individual students' needs and our unique school culture to create a support structure that has resulted in a 4-6 year graduation rate between 93-98% over the last 10 years.

URBAN WORD NYC: Through the transformative power of spoken word poetry, Urban Word provides young people with the tools they need to discover their own poetic voice and rewrite the narratives that shape their lives. It amplifies the diverse stories and perspectives of teen writers through poetry slams, live performances and creative writing workshops. In Urban Word's workshops, participants examine culturally relevant poetry and explore topics that are central to the lives of young

people as an entryway to writing and performing their own original works, regardless of prior experience.

SADIE NASH LEADERSHIP PROJECT: is a feminist youth organization that supports young women and gender-expansive youth of color through social justice advocacy, leadership development and community building. Join us as we dive deep into conversations about self-care & wellness, college knowledge & education justice, healthy relationships and sexual health, diversity and inclusion, conflict resolutions and other important social justice concepts. We touch on all of these topics while also finding time to have fun through interactive team building games and the creation of siblinghood. (Only for female identifying individuals)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD: delivers evidence-based programming for high school-aged youth that promotes positive futures, discourages risky behaviors, and offers age-appropriate sexual health information.

ELITE WEB DESIGN: Through computer science, students will use HTML, CSS, and Javascript to publish their very own webpages. The program will cover writing web content in HTML, designing and linking to a CSS stylesheet, and utilizing Javascript to make websites responsive. The course focuses on utilizing coding and syntax skills for creative expression. Students will be expected to publish a multiple-page proofread website at the course culmination.

CAREERS IN ART: The focus of this seminar-style course is to introduce students to the various careers in the visual arts while assisting them with building a visual art portfolio for College admissions. Scheduled museums and professional artists' work space visits, college presentations and visiting artist lectures will take place throughout the year. Each student will develop studio ethics, knowledge and educational requirements to make meaningful decisions about an art (arts) career of choice. Areas of study Studio art, architecture, visual design, animator, film production, art education, gaming and technology, Fashion, photography and more...

TREA (Teens for Racial and Ethnic Awakening): is a program for teens, by teens, where teens in the neighborhood can discuss varied topics. Some topics of discussion have included: Activism, Capitalism, Disability rights, Drugs & foreign policy, Environmental awareness & action, Gender roles, Graffiti, Healthy Dating and Relationships, Homophobia, LGBT issues, Immigration, Music share, Racism, Teen dating violence, Self-esteem and identity, and Stereotypes. TREA MEMBERS participate in weekly discussions.

Keeping Busy at Renaissance!

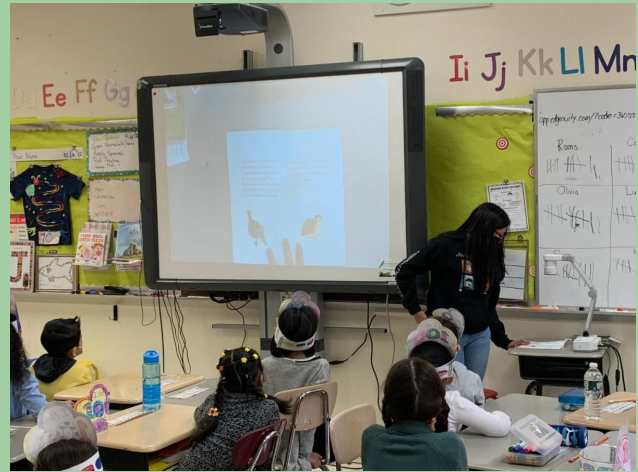


Pre-K students working hard!

11th grader Dario Javier Molina helping out in the office



First graders celebrating the 100th day of school wearing their crowns that say "I am 100 days smarter!"



Riaad Etheridge and Janice Vasquez' 12th grade agriculture class created informational texts for elementary students. Senior students then presented their work as a science lesson to our younger students. Senior, Daisy Gomez, presented her book on Bronze Turkeys to Betsy Flores and Ana Fonville's first grade class. Daisy's younger brother Danny is in this class. It was a great success!



We love sharing the amazing people and events in our community. We are also encouraging families to send recipes. So, if you or someone you know would like to submit a Shout-

Out, recipe, or something else, please email newsletters@rencharter.org.

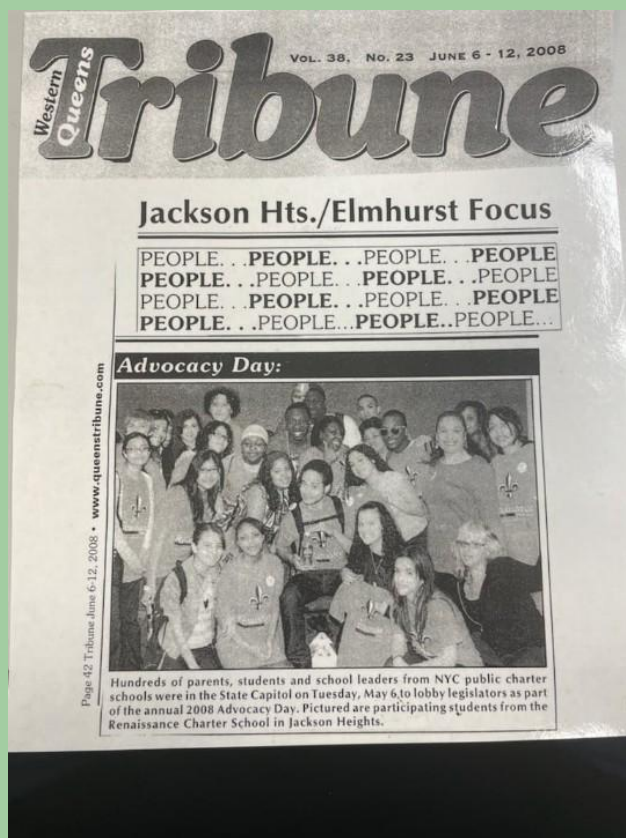
Alumni



Staff members Pierina Arias and Marlen Castro catching up with Matthew Bedoya class of 2020

BLAST FROM THE PAST - 2008

Advocacy Day was always an annual trip up to Albany that our school was involved in. This was a state-wide event with hundreds of schools participating. We would take a bus load of students and parents up to talk to legislators about charter schools, many of whom didn't know the difference between charter schools and private schools. We advocated for more funding, as we receive less per capita funding than a traditional DOE school, and also to allow more charter schools to open. Advocacy is still an important way that parents can make their voices heard about the need for more choice in education. Renaissance receives far more applications than seats that we have available, showing that there is a great need, and desire for, more school options for families in our community.



Alumni Spotlight

Neil Reyes, Class of 2005, has always aspired to be a music teacher ever since he was 12 years old. He is currently a full-time music director at Ethel Dwyer MS. Since 2016, he's led Dwyer's



Vocal Ensemble (formerly Chamber Choir) to three consecutive all-superior ratings in their vocal and sight-reading performances for their SCVA choral festivals (2017, 2018, 2019), a first-place finish with gold ratings in their 2019 Heritage Festival, and earning four consecutive invitations to perform at the CMEA All-State Choral Festival (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022). Dwyer's Choirs have also been invited to participate in the Nationals for Top Choirs hosted by Choirs of America at Carnegie Hall, New York City, in March of 2022. He also co-conducted Wind Ensemble (Dwyer's advanced band) when they received all-superior ratings in their SCSBOA Festival of 2017.



Outside of teaching, he enjoys spending time with his wife & daughter, picking up new illusions as an amateur magician, and watching Manchester United Football Club games.



His school's choir recently [performed the national anthem](#) at a Harlem Globetrotters game and will be performing at [Carnegie Hall](#) on March 26th at 6pm. We hope to see you there!

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Aspiring Educators and Leaders Scholarship
\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND, COMMUNITY-MINDED CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Apply by April 1st

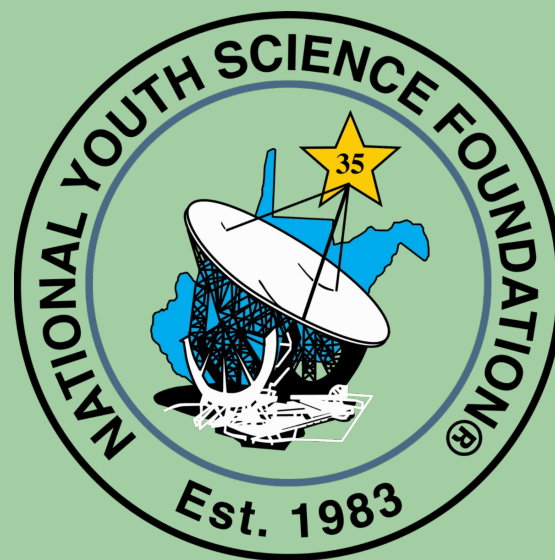
Applicants Must Submit:

- School Transcript
- Essay (1000 words max)
- Video or Paper Resume

Applicants can submit their materials through the form on NYCSA website at: <https://nyscharters.net/what-we-do/charter-students/>

New York Charter Schools Association

ASPIRING EDUCATORS AND LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP – New York Charter Schools Association



Applications are now being accepted until May 2nd from high

\$1,000 scholarships for college-bound, community-minded charter high school seniors.

Applicants must submit:

- School transcript
- Essay (1,000 words max)
- Video or paper resume

Applicants can submit their materials through the form on the NYCSA website [HERE](#) until **April 1, 2022**

school seniors to represent New York State at the 2022 [National Youth Science Camp](#) (NYSCamp). Two students will be selected from each state and Washington, D.C., as well as eight countries, to attend the virtual camp, which will be held from **June 27 through July 20, 2022.**



AllStarCode*
2022 SUMMER INTENSIVE

SUMMER INTENSIVE
Our flagship 6-week Virtual Summer Intensive coding program teaches high-school men of color concrete web development and leadership skills, that they can use to further their education and their future careers. We close the digital divide by providing laptops and hotspots to ensure equity in learning. The Summer Intensive culminates in our flagship Demo Day, where students present original, working digital projects to their families and community.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

WEEK 1	JavaScript Fundamentals + Growth Mindset
WEEK 2	Game Design + Build Your Brand 1
WEEK 3	Web Design + Build Your Brand 2
WEEK 4	Web Development + Networking
WEEK 5	APIs and Databases + Career Talks
WEEK 6	Demo Week!

96% * **66%**
feel more confident in computer science after our Summer Intensive
of All Star Code Scholars created their own business or project after completing the Summer Intensive

All Star Code: HS aged young men of color – **2022 6-week Virtual Summer Intensive Coding Program.** No fee, applications accepted through April 15. [APPLY HERE](#); [MORE INFO HERE](#).



High School Students: [InSpirit AI](#)

Our Artificial Intelligence education program program is taught exclusively by Stanford and MIT alumni and students with years of AI expertise. By the end of the program, students will have completed a mentor-led socially impactful AI project. No programming or computer science experience is required. We are now accepting applications for our Summer 2022 AI Scholars Live Online Program.



6th-12th Graders: The NYS Education Department announced that the NYS Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) will offer a total of \$150,000 in scholarship opportunities for high school students to attend regional summer arts programs for summer 2022. To be eligible to apply, students must be entering 6th - 12th grade in fall 2022. Applications are open until May 1st. For more information, visit the [New York State Summer School of the Arts web page](#).



The **Van Cortlandt Park Alliance** offers paid internship programs for High School Students: Garden 2 Market Internship and Urban Eco-Teens: [High School Students Applications are now open for the Urban Eco-Teens Summer 2022 Program](#). Deadline is **May 6, 2022**.

GIRL BE HEARD presents GIRLS MAKE MOVIES

Make your film. Share your voice. Change the world.

SIGN UP NOW

Girls Make Movies is an immersive hybrid (virtual and in-person) program offering a deep dive into film making, script writing, and storytelling with a social justice lens.

Weekly workshops will begin on February 22, 2022. Among other skills, participants will learn:

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

- Understand the narrative structures and stylistic expectations of documentary filmmaking
- Expand writing skills in both analysis and interviews
- Develop an understanding of the pre- and post-production skills necessary to create a film, including storyboarding, thematic development, and video editing
- Create a 15-25 minute documentary which meets industry standards for style and structure and can be entered into film competitions and festivals

ELIGIBILITY:

- Social justice oriented girls, young women, non-binary youth ages 14 - 18

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with a priority given to applicants who submit before February 18, 2022.
- For enquiries, please contact: Neil Johnson, neil@girlbeheard.org

How to turn a documentary idea into a unique, engaging storyline

Tips and tricks for capturing film at home with a smartphone and/or introductory camera

Key production steps to transform a documentary into a final polished product

APPLY TODAY!
GIRLBEHEARD.ORG/GIRLSMAKEMOVIES

[Girl Be Heard: Make Movies - Apply Here](#)



The Planeteer Alliance is a free program open to all young people between the ages of 10-23 who are ready to act for the planet. Learn more [HERE](#).



The Renaissance Charter School is proud to announce the return of the:

Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA)

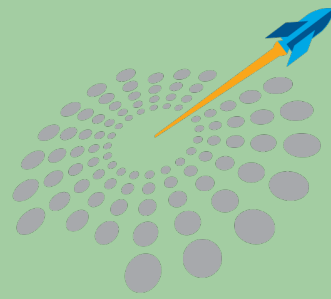
Beginning weekly on Wednesday January 12, 2022 for grades 7-12

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Auditorium

This group provides a safe supportive space for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. Attendees will learn about LGBTQ+ history with guest speakers and special presentations. In addition, we will explore LGBTQ+ arts, film, TV, fashion, drama, literature, identity, culture and much more!!!

Contact: Brian Belovitch, group leader
with questions or suggestions
brianbelovitch@rencharter.org

Brian, from the GSA, is asking for your support: "This past January we started the Gender and Sexuality Alliance group from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm on Wednesday in the auditorium. Attendance has been good but we could always use more support. If you could, please announce this group to your students grades 7-12 who might be interested in attending. We will have special guests from diverse backgrounds and refreshments will be served.



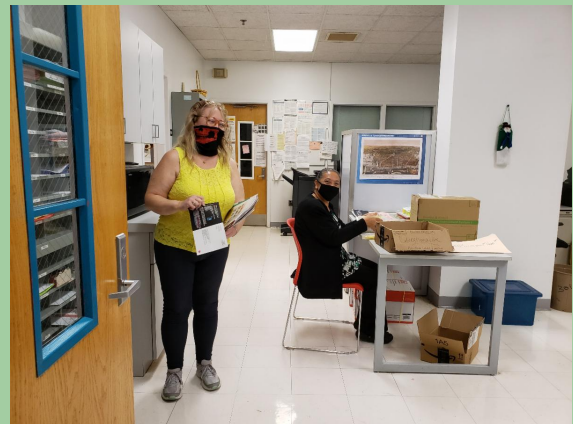
MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT

Million Girls Moonshot's inaugural Flight Crew is committed to creating equity for girls in STEM by elevating youth voices and inspiring future STEM leaders. They are looking for teens who identify as female or gender-expansive, who are budding scientists, engineers, inventors, builders, and leaders. Those selected will be eligible for a \$1,000 stipend, an all-expense-paid trip to the annual Million Girls Moonshot summer 2022 event, and an all-expense-paid opportunity to go to Space Camp for summer 2023. Learn more and [Apply here](#)

Check us out on any of our Social Media Pages!



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[TRCS Website](#)



[Alumni Instagram](#)

Sponsors and Partnerships



heartfulness
advancing with kindness

CARNEGIE HALL

SADIE NASH
LEADERSHIP PROJECT



THE
**GILDER
LEHRMAN**
INSTITUTE
of
AMERICAN HISTORY