

THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings Meyzeek family. *The State of the School* highlights a few items from this school year and for the next, 2007-08. Meyzeek is in constant pursuit of its mission: to provide a rigorous education in a developmentally-appropriate setting. *The State of the School* shows significant steps taken this year and insight into what lies ahead. ~Keith Look, Ed.D.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

In preparation for 2006-07, Meyzeek's site-based decision-making council (SBDM) spent strategically-saved money on two mobile laptop computer labs. The two labs, each with over thirty laptops a piece, complemented a third mobile lab purchased by the district and our pre-existing hard-wired labs. That is six full labs at Meyzeek (one for every two departments)!



Student working on a new laptop

New technology classes in 6th and 8th grade exceeded expectations in the first year of implementation.

personal narrative movies and multicultural, multi-application projects. The technology department is discussing curricular improvements for 2007-08.

Teachers in math, science, and special education employed tablet PCs and projectors acquired through the district's "TIP" initiative. This summer, the district will roll-out 2000 more tablet PCs via an application process open to all teachers. Meyzeek

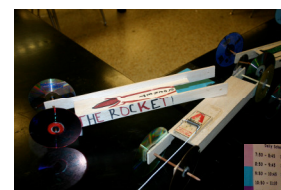
increased dramatically. Teachers participated in monthly professional development to hone and expand their skills.

Student ability to manipulate JCPs Online grew exponentially. Collaborative projects between technology teachers and core content teachers emerged and produced

Student access and usage

SCIENCE EXPLORATION

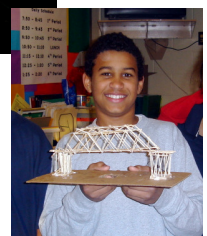
A unique hiring opportunity was made possible just before this school year began. Ms. Victoria Johnston relocated to Louisville from North Carolina and brought with her the talent, desire, and experience to create an innovative science-based elective. From mouse-trap cars to bridge-building, Ms. Johnston took advantage of the curricular flexibility and Science Exploration was born. Next year, with PTSA fundraising support, the class is aiming to include a Robotics component. And, we might have an extra-curricular Robotics team!



Mouse-trap cars



Toothpick bridge



Toothpick bridge

HOW MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED

Funds reach middle schools through a variety of funding streams:

1. **Flex Focus Funds.** Flex Focus Funds come from the state to pay for textbooks, professional development, and extended school services.
2. **General Fund.** The General Fund comes

from the district and is based upon student enrollment and average daily attendance.

3. **District Add-On Funds.** District Add-On Funds are a district allotment which pays for special education and other positions the district

deems necessary for particular schools.

4. **Title I Funds.** Though federal money, the purse reaches the state via a block grant. Funds are dispersed to each district, and then the district determines the eligible schools and amounts they

The district raised the minimum percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch for schools to be eligible for Title I funds.

“Facing a \$140,000 shortfall, the SBDM successfully maintained targeted programs and services for all students at all levels.”

The SBDM faced challenges in generating the budget for 2007-08. Working on fewer funds than in years prior, the SBDM found ways to maintain the staff and services necessary to support Meyzeek’s diverse student offerings.

The most significant change for 2007-08 comes with the loss of Title I funds. The district raised the minimum percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch for schools to be eligible for Title I funds. Under the new district threshold, Meyzeek no longer qualifies for Title I funds.

Without the Title I federal purse strings, Meyzeek will not fall subject to No Child Left Child (NCLB) consequences. The loss also means that NCLB-tutoring services offered to students will no longer be paid by the district.

To address the funding change, SBDM scrutinized the budget, looking for inefficiencies and creative ways of funding services, supplies, and personnel. Facing a \$140,000 shortfall, the SBDM successfully maintained targeted programs and services for all students at all levels. The delivery of those programs and services may be done in a different manner. Nuances are explained here:

1. Struggling readers will be serviced through Corrective Reading courses. Daytime ESS for these students will be maintained.
2. High school transition work - such as transcripts, scheduling, and Individual Growth Plans - will be coordinated by the 8th Grade Administrator.
3. Band and orchestra offerings will be synchronized in parallel structures. Both will

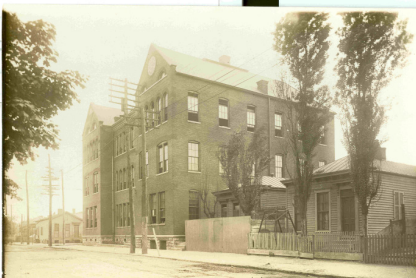
form 6th, 7th, and 8th grade performance troupes.

4. Overtime for classified employees (i.e. clerical, security, etc.) will be paid as-needed from school savings.
5. The district agrees to pay half the cost of our School Maintenance Worker position—this year and all years following.
6. The following General Fund line items undergo slight reductions:
 - Office of the Principal
 - Library
 - Technology
 - Teacher Supplies

Dr. Look is grateful for the hard work contributed and even harder decisions made by the SBDM to maintain a sustainable model of successful education at Meyzeek.

ALUMNI CELEBRATION: BOOKER T WASHINGTON ES & JACKSON JR HS

Calling all alumni from Booker T Washington Elementary School and Jackson Junior High School! Save the date for your first ever reunion: 19 May 2007. Long before Meyzeek Middle School was established, these two institutions thrived in serving the Smoketown



Original Booker T Washington ES
Courtesy JCPS Archives & Records Center

and Shelby Park communities. Many of today's civic leaders trace their roots to these institutions which resided on what is now the Meyzeek campus. This spring, Meyzeek will honor their contributions and resiliency. Stay tuned for more information.

Save the Date!

*Booker T Washington
ES & Jackson JR HS*

~ Alumni Reunion ~

19 May 2007

MEYZEEK CELEBRATES: THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

Meyzeek Middle School will host the first ever "Pursuit of Perfection" on Saturday March 31st from 3:30—5:30 pm.

The event will feature the variety of talent that embodies the students, faculty, and the community of Meyzeek.

The celebration includes:

- Hands-on Science Exploration Lab
- Science Fair
- Style Show
- Gourmet Food Show
- Art Exhibit
- A talent program featuring singing, dancing, poetry, the Meyzeek step team, orchestra, band, cheerleaders, and the Dribbling Bears

The program promises to entertain and showcase the talents of our community as we continue our pursuit to perfection.

The event is open to everyone. All students must bring a parent/caregiver to attend!

Saturday!

Meyzeek

"Pursuit of Perfection"

31 March 2007

3:30—5:30 pm

STUDENT & FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Thank you for the outpouring of generous support for Meyzeek students.

Meyzeek's Youth Services Center is charged with handling students and families in crisis. Crises include all those things that you wish would not creep into your head. Crises are color-blind, zip-code ignorant, and economically neutral. A few make the paper; most do not.

Mr. Stephon Gilkey, the Youth Services Center Coordinator, is charged with handling these matters, and does so brilliantly.

Meyzeek protects the privacy of those involved, but sometimes in protecting that privacy our ability to generate monetary resources for the next crisis is impacted. In cooperation with the Youth Services Center, Meyzeek is establishing a special fund

dedicated solely to students and families in crisis. Your donations will both continue and expand our ability to be of assistance.

Your help is needed, always. Many of you find unique ways to contribute to the betterment of Meyzeek. If this fund appeals to your sense of sharing, please make checks out to "Meyzeek Middle School Crisis

Fund." You may mail them to school (to Dr. Look's attention) or they may be dropped off directly in the main office.

PLANNING CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Meetings are underway to increase the space available to Meyzeek's Youth Services Center (YSC) and Community School.

Conversations about budgetary changes sparked new ideas of how to utilize



Portable unit housing the YSC

rooms, closets, and offices, resulting in great new space options for these flagship programs.

The proposal includes removing the portable unit and giving both programs more usable space inside the school building, complete with street-front ac-



Proposed Jackson Street entrance for the YSC and Community Schools

cess to families and community members. There is no better way to honor the work they do for all students!

Meyzeek, Active Louisville, and Metro Louisville (with help from TARC and HAL) collaborated to submit a Safe Routes to School grant worth \$250,000.

The grant application aims to rebuild and improve curbs, corners, sidewalks,

and crosswalks designed to increase pedestrian access and safety. Hopefully good news will follow!

JCPS school district is working to purchase neighboring property for Meyzeek.

Specifically, JCPS plans to acquire the lot for sale at the corner of Jackson and



Neighboring lot for sale

Lampton Streets. The purchase helps set the stage for Meyzeek campus developments as plans for Smoketown revitalization evolve.

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WORDS OF THANKS

Louisville's system of school choice gives you a number of great public school options. I appreciate everyday that you choose Meyzeek as the best option for your student. The complement never is overlooked.

2006-07 is no exception to the "Meyzeek Mystique." Grand success in academics, athletics, and recrea-

tional programs demonstrates a robust program bolstered by committed teachers willing to give of their time in demanding ways—even beyond the classroom.

Meanwhile, a support staff handles all issues, dispositions, and building needs to keep Meyzeek a welcoming and comfortable learning environment.

All of us — parents, staff, and students — deserve credit for Meyzeek's success and the responsibility for helping it continue. The shared effort will feed an ever-growing reputation of a great public school experience.

We lift as we climb,