



K-6

Skyline

ISSUE #2, October 2021

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Transforming the approach of technical subjects could lead to more students deciding that STEM careers connect with their future ambitions. Current approaches are not creating the diverse workforce that is required to create a competitive, flourishing STEM workforce.

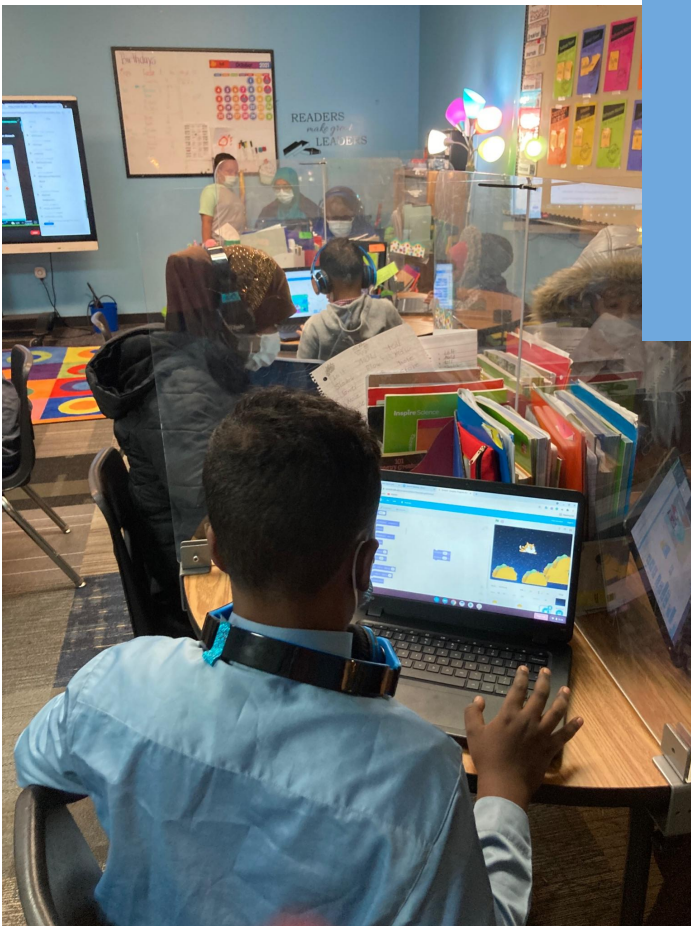
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STEM careers are vast, secure, and well-paying. Besides these sought-after pros to STEM work, it has been shown that pathways to employment in STEM fields are limited depending on the status of a child in school. Socioeconomics, mathematics and science scores, and standardized testing pose significant barriers to students as they pursue their educational goals.

3

STEM should not be available for only a select few within our school systems, but the opportunity to benefit from an integrative experience must be accessible for all students to improve academic and employment success in the current job market. Even if students require language intervention, academic support, or behavioral assistance, there is room to invite every student within the I-STEM arena.

Equity + Access



Students in Ms. Degha's 4th grade class are participating in a live online coding class. Create & Learn, through partnership with Skyline, is teaching students various technology skills that are necessary for their future careers. The classes, taught by Silicon Valley experts, are open to all Skyline students 3rd-6th grade. The idea is that all students should have access to progressive Computer Science curriculum.



Leadership Message

Abdirahman Abdulle
Executive Director of Skyline Math & Science Academy

Dear Teachers and Staff Members,

I hope this email finds you well.

I sincerely thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students and their families. Your contribution to Skyline Math and Science Academy is genuinely appreciated and commendable.

The first quarter of the school year has officially ended now. It has been a tough start for everyone, but I am proud of the work that we have done so far together as a school. This achievement has been a collective teamwork effort.

Having said that, we want quarter 2 to be a huge success for our students. We should consolidate all of our efforts and actions to align and focus on improving the academics. Hence, that is why we are here.

We all need to become reflective practitioners. Reflective practitioners means we should examine our actions and reflect on what worked and didn't work for us in the last eight weeks. We need to be thinking outside of the box and seeking innovative means of teaching our students. We should never settle with comfort. Comfort is the enemy of growth. Change is inevitable in growth. Change requires whole-hearted acceptance. It involves planning, goal setting, and strategizing. More importantly, change requires implementation and coordinated execution from all members and departments.

We should always have our students in mind when we want to make decisions. It is not about the adults in the school. It is about students, their families, and their best interests. Sometimes, you will get uncomfortable making those decisions, but the outcomes for you and your students will be enormous. If we blame our students, we can't move forward. If we blame our families, we can't make any strides.

Finally, as educators, we have to realize that we have responsibility on our shoulders. The families have trusted their children to come to our school. This is a trust we can't breach. This is a trust that we must keep protected. We are here to produce the next generation of professionals. Our students need guidance, positive relationships, encouragement, and mentoring opportunities throughout the school year. We are preparing our students for the future, but we should keep in mind that the future starts now. Education, learning, and pedagogy should all be relevant to the world our students will live in tomorrow. We shouldn't teach our students yesterday's education and hope that they will become successful citizens tomorrow. Let us personalize and customize our students' learning. If you have time, please watch the attached video below, entitled, *The Future of Learning*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGF3kjgCaMQ>

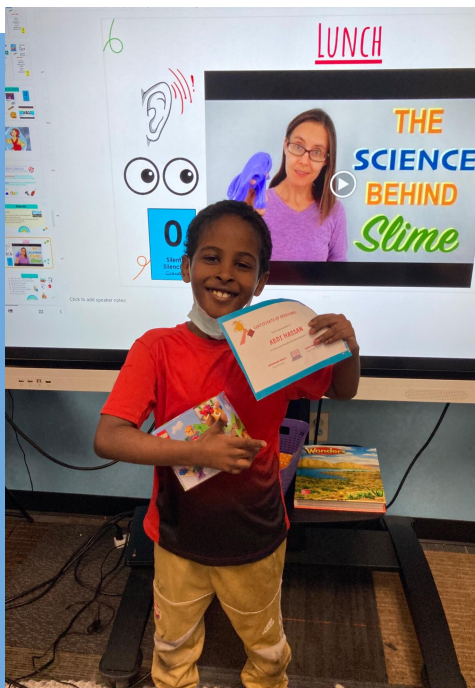
Cheers,

Abdirahman Abdulle



Writing Workshop Collaboration

Mentor students work with younger K-2 students to complete their writing. Students are challenged to design their own sentences using prompts and sentence frames. Throughout this process, mentor students are given leadership opportunities to guide younger students in the writing process. Young students are given the opportunity for one-to-one attention and support as they learn to write. We are so grateful for this collaborative effort!



Create & Learn

Abdi Hassan programmed an amazing Create & Learn animation in Ms. Maryam's 3rd grade classroom. We are so proud of the innovation and hard work!



The YUP app, endorsed by Stanford University, accelerates students' math learning through 24/7 support. All students of Skyline, grades 3-6, have a YUP account to utilize. Students can live chat with math professionals to work on math skills and homework. We have seen a lot of buy-in from students in terms of utilizing the platform. We hope to see students continue to grow in their math skills through utilizing this app!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Rahima, from Ms. Victoria's 4th grade class, was the YUP superuser of the entire school! Rahima logged the most YUP usage out of any student at Skyline to kick off the YUP program. We are so happy with her efforts and leadership skills! Great job Rahima.

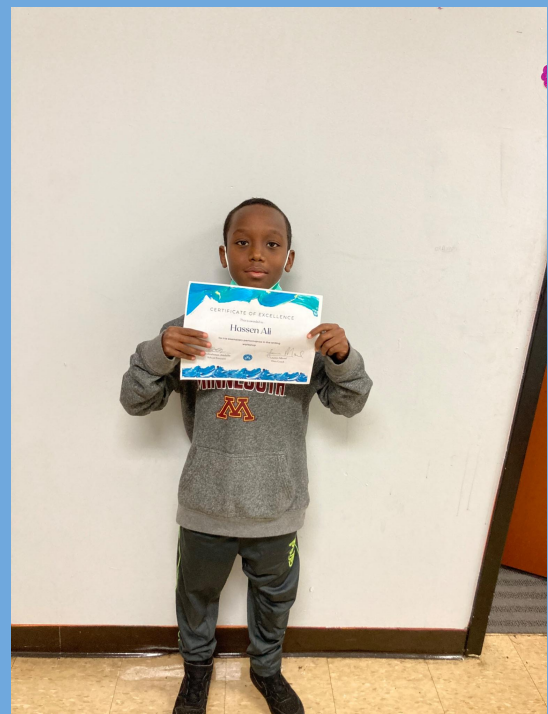


ACADEMICS

Ms. Hayat's fifth grade has shown immense academic potential through their writing and other special projects. The high achieving group of students enjoys learning new things and pushing themselves! In their writing, students are utilizing semicolons, colons, and other advanced writing tactics. Great work!

Writing

Hassen Ali demonstrated great writing potential in many of his writing prompts. Hassen, through creative language and strong sentence structure, wrote professionally and eloquently. Wonderful job!



Parent Night Recap

We held the first **Parent Night** meeting yesterday, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. About 30 parents attended.



- Welcome & appreciation
- Program highlights (Special Education, ELL, After-School, STEM)
- Establishing communication with teachers
- Future events

Special thanks to Ms. Degha for taking care of the kids who came with their parents! Thank you to Mr. Abukar for bringing the refreshments. We wouldn't have had such a wonderful meeting without your help!

Upcoming events:

- St. Thomas visits
- Tutoring (during school)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

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