



NEW SCHOOLS
FOR NEW ORLEANS

NSNO Community Newsletter

Welcome To The First-Ever NSNO Community Newsletter

Welcome to New Schools for New Orleans' first-ever Community Newsletter!

Each month we will share information with you about what is happening at New Schools for New Orleans, in public education in New Orleans, and in national public education reform. We are delighted to serve you in this way and look forward to getting your feedback on the content of these e-mails. Please feel free to respond to me directly with your thoughts and questions at Renita@nsno.org. If you received this newsletter as a forward and would like to be added to the mailing list please click [here](#).

Newly Chartered Public Schools Gear Up Student/Teacher/Staff Recruiting

In December 2007, the Louisiana State Board of Education approved eight new charter schools for New Orleans. Of these eight, seven will be opening in August 2008, and, of these seven, five have incubated with New Schools for New Orleans since July 2007.

All of the NSNO-supported charter schools have launched their student recruitment initiatives, and each recently participated in The Urban League of Greater New Orleans's Annual All-Schools Fair on February 23rd.

In addition, the school leaders will be hosting booths at the upcoming **Festival of Neighborhoods**, presented by the Neighborhood Partnership Network on March 8th at Gentilly Terrace School (at 4720 Painters Street) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **All community members are invited to join us for free food and entertainment!**

The following schools are currently enrolling students and recruiting teachers and staff members:

- Akili Academy, enrolling Kindergarten & 1st Grade
• Sean Gallagher—(504)-274-3642
- Langston Hughes Academy, enrolling Kindergarten through 6th Grade
• Mark Martin—(504)-352-2635
- Miller-McCoy Academy, enrolling 6th Grade and 9th Grade
• Tiffany Hardrick—(504)-303-2084
- Science and Math Academy, enrolling 9th Grade
• Benjamin Marcovitz—(504)-287-5400
- Sojourner Truth Academy, enrolling 9th Grade
• Channa Cook—(504)-274-3622

Newsletter Spotlight

- **New Charter Recruitment**
- **Festival of Neighborhoods**
- **New Resource for Parents**
- **Common Application and Enrollment Deadlines**
- **Get involved—If you would like to receive this e-mail directly click [here](#)**

RELATED LINKS

- [New Schools for New Orleans](#)
- [Neighborhood Partnership Network](#)
- [New Orleans Parents' Guide to Public Schools](#)
- [Sojourner Truth Academy](#)
- [Langston Hughes Academy](#)
- [Akili Academy](#)
- [Recovery School District](#)
- [New Orleans Public Schools](#)
- [State Board of Education](#)

The Newest Edition Of The New Orleans Parents' Guide To Public Schools Has Just Been RELEASED!



Cover for the new edition of the New Orleans Parents' Guide to Public Schools

New Schools for New Orleans, in partnership with The Parent Organizing Network, is excited to announce the publication of a bigger and better **New Orleans Parents' Guide to Public Schools**. The latest edition of this book provides detailed information about all public schools in New Orleans, including: test scores, student demographics, and special programs.

The guide is available at public libraries, community groups, school district central offices, and online at: www.nolaparentsguide.org.

NEW Deadlines Just Announced For The Common Application Form

For the first time in our city's history, a common application process is being instituted to streamline school registration for parents and guardians, allowing them to use the same form and to follow the same deadlines to apply to as many different schools as the parent/guardian chooses for his/her child/ren.

As this process is new to both parents and schools, the State Board of Education (BESE), the Recovery School District, and the New Orleans Public Schools have decided jointly to allow parents **more time** to apply to public schools. The **new dates** for the extended timeline are to the right.

Common Applications are available at the Recovery School District's Welcome School (2239 Poydras), the New Orleans Public Schools Central Office (3520 General DeGaulle Drive), and any public school to which a parent is applying.

To learn more go to www.nolaparentsguide.org or call 504.827.4728.

Extended Timeline NEW DEADLINES

- **March 19**—Applications due at *all* schools selected by parents/guardians
- **March 31**—Schools conduct lotteries for student placement
- **April 1-4**—Schools notify parents of acceptance or place on the waitlist
- **April 4**—Deadline by which parents/guardians officially must enroll students in one, and only one, school.

RECENT PRESS

A National Education Magazine's Latest Edition Spotlights School Choice In New Orleans

Education Week, a national publication, recently released an article describing the merits and difficulties of a city-wide school choice model.

- **Education Week**, Eric Robelen, *No Easy Road to Choice*: "Ensuring that families have their pick of an array of attractive public schools has been tricky in post-Katrina New Orleans."

Click here for the full article
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/02/27/26nolacomcommunity_ep.h27.html

Recent Budget Data Reveals That RSD Per Pupil Investment Almost Doubles Pre-Katrina Spending

The Times-Picayune, a local newspaper, published an article yesterday announcing per pupil spending has increased two-fold since the 2004-2005 school year.

- **Times Picayune**, Sarah Carr, *Recovery School District Increases Per Pupil Spending*: "We are spending more money," Vallias said. "I'm not carrying big reserves or balances, because I've got a patient that's ill, and I need to purchase the medicine needed to cure that patient."

Click here for the full article
http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/03/recovery_school_district_incre.html

Again, thank you for your continued interest in transforming public education in New Orleans. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Renita Thukral
Advocacy and Policy Director
(504) 274-3644
renita@nsno.org