

# Charter Vision

## MINNESOTA

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### Charter School Student Breaks 47 Year Old Basketball Record

Cash Eggleston smashed a record set 47 years ago for the number of points made during a high school basketball game in Minnesota on Wednesday, February 2nd, 2005. Eggleston, a student at Minnesota Transitions Charter School (MTS), located in Minneapolis, scored 90 points during the game.

The former record was set January 28, 1958 by Norm Grow, a student of Foley, when he scored 70 points. Eggleston had that beat by third quarter. In the first quarter he scored 39 points, and at the end of the third quarter he had scored 82 points. By the end of the game, he had scored 90 of the 153 points scored by MTS against in a game against Community of Peace Academy, a charter school located in St. Paul. The final score was 153-69.

The 153 points scored by MTS was also a new state record. The former record for the most team

points for a game was 146, set in 1958 by Atwater.

Of the 90 points scored by Eggleston, 60 of those points were earned by shooting 20, 3 point shots, another record. The most 3 pointers ever made during one high school game in Minnesota before was eleven. Eggleston beat it by nine.

MTS is part of the Central Lakes Conference and its basketball team is in its third year, with a first year coach, John Sherman. Sherman, a sports writer for the Sun, has never coached high school basketball before. The team is 18-3 this year and has scored over 100 points at nine of those games.

In addition to being a record breaking basketball player, Eggleston is also an honor roll student in his senior year at MTS. He volunteers both at school and in the community.



### ARTech Students Camp at Manito-Wish

by Chelsea, 11th Grade, ARTech

**Editor's note:** ARTech went to a leadership workshop two years in a row. After both trips the students were asked to write essays describing their experience. These two quotes are from last years essays.

"In the whole experience, I learned so many new things. I also re-learned what I already knew but in different views. Leadership is one thing that everyone has. But people use it in so many different ways ... Personalities make each leader different. I never would have thought that... when you really look at it, each person has leadership even if they hate life, do drugs, or love school."  
- Chelsea, Grade 11.

"What I took away with me is a whole new perspective on things. It really opened my eyes and mind, and I'm starting to look at things in a completely different, a more self-satisfying way. The trip was good fun, and good education. The counselors were great, and really knew what they were doing. They were a good source of inspiration and information."  
- Rachel, Grade 11.

What is leadership? What does it mean to lead? What does it mean to follow? In my eyes, not just one thing comes to mind. If I wouldn't have gone to camp Manito-Wish last year, only one thing would have popped into my head; to be better then everyone else. But... that's not even it. To lead is to follow and put ideas together with everyone else. It is to hear what everyone has to say, and

then come up with what everyone feels is right.

Camp Manito-Wish is a leadership camp for people of all ages. This camp runs all year long and teaches groups to develop goals and personal work ethics. Summer programs range from one to three weeks. There are also wilderness trips from overnight stays to fifty-five days. A few of the camps are in Northern Wisconsin, Alaska, and Canada. This YMCA camp has leadership programs for schools and corporate groups. It started in 1919.

Last April fifteen students and I went to Manito-Wish as a retreat to work on group skills. We did many different activities to help with trust, working together, leadership, and listening. These programs included using the indoor and outdoor climbing walls. High challenge courses included the flying squirrel, giant's ladder, and the catwalk. Some of the low courses included Commitment Bridge; duck tape wall, traffic jam and giant Texas lizard egg.

You might be wondering, what is a giant Texas lizard egg, right? Well, all together we had 15 people and split them into two different groups, a group of seven and a group of eight. During the entire 2

½ days we were split up in those groups and we learned how to get along with that particular group. But the last half of the third day we put the two groups together to see how everyone would react together. We got put into the middle of the woods to look for a big bowling ball (lizard egg), and had to carry it from one side of the camp to the other. The tricky part was we couldn't touch the ball. The only way we were allowed to carry it was to use ropes.

The combination of putting the two groups together created difficult problems that were very hard to work with. One half of the group wanted to lead and the other half didn't want to follow. So the ones that led also followed, and let the others realize what they were doing. Once we got the egg from one side to the other everyone that helped was very happy but upset at the others.

We all went back to the cabin and told everyone what we were upset about. Brant and Walter, the two counselors told us that not everyone will lead and follow all of the time and you have to deal with it in everyday life. Everyone there that day learned a valuable lesson: what it means to lead and follow. That is what camp Manito-Wish is. It shows you how to live in real life.

### Liberty High Travels Far and Wide



Director Gary Knox (center) gives out high school diplomas to students (left to right) Liz, Natalie, Ryan, and Jessica.

by Amanda, 11th Grade, Liberty High

This is the second year Liberty High Charter will be participating in taking study tours to parts of the U.S. and Europe. On each trip, students do an extreme amount of walking to experience and see everything they can while they are there. They eat at some of the best restaurants around and go shopping in places like Times Square. I think that this is a really good opportunity for students to see some of the most beautiful places in the world while they are young and while these historical cities still exist. These trips offer something for everyone.

From November 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> students went to Paris, which included a walk along the Champs Elysees, a full tour of the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, Notre Dame, Lachaise Cemetery, Muse d'Orsay, Hard Rock Cafe, and many other sites. They saw other sites such as the Eiffel Tower - some students even received their diploma on top of this amazing landmark.

December 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> was spent in New York City, where students learned about the history of New York, walked around the city seeing sites that we all have heard of, like the Statue of Liberty, and dining in some fine restaurants. "If you like shopping you would like this trip," a student that went on the trip last year told me.

January 4<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> will be spent in Italy. They will take the Italian rail system as they travel to some of Italy's best historical sites. They first arrive in Venice and will experience a gondola ride and see beautiful Venetian glass. From there they take a boat from the airport to the hotel and then explore this unique town. Some students may even decide to feed some pigeons in St. Mark's Square.

Two week-long trips are planned for sometime in the spring; one to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, where students can snowboard and downhill ski, and one to Washington D.C. for a historical tour. These trips are a great chance for students to get to know one another better, and how to get along as a group in an unfamiliar place. Mr. Knox is a great historian; going on one of these trips is sure to put some knowledge in your head.

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# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Achieve Language Academy's New Building

by Mary, Director  
Achieve Language Academy

Achieve Language Academy moved into a new building at the start of the school year. Achieve Language Academy dedicated its building expansion and renovation on Friday, September 24, at the school, 2169 Stillwater Avenue.

Full to the brim with 325 students, this innovative open expansion provides the needed additional space for this multicultural Pre-school through the 8th grade community. ALA provides a multi-lingual and multi-cultural education for students in grades K-8, all of whom learn a second language: Hmong, Spanish or English. The school overlooks Beaver Lake, a hidden jewel on St. Paul's East side.

The existing classroom building was originally the parochial school and had been extensively renovated. The total cost of \$6.65 million includes refinancing the purchase of the building and a smaller expansion built in 2001. The St Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority issued revenue bonds. Doherty & Company served as the underwriters. The project architect is Hokanson/Lunning/Wende Architects of St Paul. Watson-Forsberg Company of Minneapolis was the general



contractor.

Three students share their views of their new school:

"The school this year was built new and better. It has beautiful rooms and a pretty gym. The school last year didn't even look good. I like the school this year because it makes me feel like I'm in high school." Seng, 7-8 grader

"Our new building is the best building. I'm going to talk about how the building looked five years ago. It was very little and was poor. We had to have a gym in the cafeteria. Our recess was in a small park on the side of the school. The students had to collect box tops to earn money for a new playground. I was only in third grade and our classroom was so small it would take you one second to get to the other side of the room." Ryan, 7-8 grader

"My feet carry me to the school as a slight breeze blows. A new school, a new class, a new start. My first thoughts were negative about uniforms. But the longer I stayed at the school, the more positive my attitude became. So much smaller than my other schools. And yet I know its good for me to have help from someone if I should need it. The school is new. When you walk through the glass doors you are always greeted with a sense of security. Walk through the hallways and someone will always say, 'Hi'." Michael, 7-8 grader

## Erica and Mick

by Tim & Codey, Lakes Area Charter School

On Thursday September 30, 2004 a tragedy struck Lakes Area Charter School. Six students were on their way home from school and had a one car roll-over accident. Erica Johns, 13, died at the site. At the time this was rap was written Michael "Micky" Kaplor, 16, was in Hennepin County Medical Center in critical condition. He passed away later, on October 23, 2004. Codey and Tim wrote a rap to help deal with the grief.

Its hard Im still tripping,  
Coulda went so far now u missin  
Soul flyin, wanna hold ur hand,  
Like a sis, im denyin it hap-  
pened  
How could you be took, hard to  
look  
Im shook, I feel misunderstood,  
No one understands, turn back  
time  
Make a plan, see your eyes, try  
to  
Be a man, sit and cry, make  
demands  
Never wanna see your epitaph.  
Wish I could go back and  
change the past, but I know I  
cant, I try to adapt but micks  
Still in a trance, peeps are slip-  
pin  
to the atha side, cause of a crash  
anotha tear I cry in the mist get-  
ting the  
facts, goin crazy startin to snap  
Accidents happen, god why u  
got  
Me snappin, Its evident they'll  
all live on through my rappin, its  
hard to face a  
Day when all u see is graves,  
In the light of the night and deep  
in the day 2 times  
If I could turn back time let it all  
unwind,  
I would never let you go

I held you close like my little sista  
Even though your gone its still  
hard to miss ya  
Holdin your hand walking you  
home  
Ida never let you go  
Now that your gone its time that  
goes so slow.  
If we new you'd be gone we'd a  
never let you go  
You were thirteen leavin us behind.  
We wish you were here so you  
could wipe away  
all our tears.  
You were only thirteen it's hard for  
us to dream  
Why does life have to be so mean.  
Chorus 2times  
Mky's still asleep wishin you were  
here  
But all we can do is sit and wait  
anticipating  
Livin in fear  
Every time I hear name it makes  
me wanna just break down in tears  
Mcky wont wake up he's stuck in  
his sleep  
They don't no whats gonna happen  
so  
All we do is sit and keep on rappin  
All we can do is sit and wait and  
anticipate  
I wish this all would end, wish it  
all away  
Cause we lost to more friends  
Thursday

Man it seems like you wont  
make it  
But im prayin keeping my  
faith hoping you can take it  
Waitin with anticipation minds  
still racin  
Ur status is escalating  
Chorus 2times  
We was all so close like sista  
and bros  
Every body knew everybody  
no clicks that's why it sticks  
When this happened and that's  
we were sittin here rappin  
Its kinda funny how every-  
thing can be fine  
One second and bad the next  
we's all depressed  
Its like a nightmare can't wake  
up  
And I no life aint fair  
But why'd he take that girl she  
had her whole world and life  
in front of her,  
And wonder how he can take  
everything  
Mick's still alive but not really  
with us  
Know that were done we  
hoped youd listen  
In Loving memory of  
Erica Ann Johns  
And  
Michael James Kaplor

## Jennings Experiential High School Goes to South Dakota

by Krystal, Grade 12, Jennings Experiential High School.

September 13th, 2004, twenty-five students and three staff members from Jennings Experiential High School left on their nine-day trip to South Dakota. They camped out everyday on ranches, farms, state parks, and at Pine Ridge Reservation. Students learned a lot about the Lakota culture, pioneer history, and U.S. relations with both groups. Some of the highlights were visits to Crazy Horse Monument, Wounded Knee, Mount Rushmore, Sturgis, and the Badlands. They even got to socialize with a pet buffalo and feed mildly tamed ones. It was a good workout for the new bus, "Slow Jay." Everybody had a great time, it was a great trip, and everyone looks forward to the next one.



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## Charter Vision Wants Your Opinion

Charter Vision is a newspaper for charter school students and we want to know what you think. The next edition of the newspaper will be printed in March. The submission deadline is March 3rd, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. We want stories about your school, your communities, and your lives. We also want your opinions on anything and everything.

The next edition will feature your opinions on the following. Please respond to as many of the questions as you'd like. We'll be updating our online newspaper with your thoughts as you submit them. If you'd like to suggest topics for future editions please email [leisa@mnchartervision.org](mailto:leisa@mnchartervision.org)

★ With the recent Tsunami coverage, many of us have seen the incredible devastation and the need for help. The United States is just one of the countries providing funds and assistance to the survivors. In the past several weeks there have been a variety of opinions expressed about our involvement in the aid efforts. Do you think the U.S is doing enough to help the victims in the devastated areas? Is the U.S. doing too much? If you were the President of the U.S., what would you do differently, if anything?

★ St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner. Does your family or your school do anything special to celebrate this holiday? If so, what? Does St. Patrick's Day have any personal significance to you?

★ Many charter schools have computers in classrooms, computers labs, and in some schools they are even at students' desks. Do you think students spend too much time on computers? Do they spend enough time on computers? If you had access to a computer all day long, would it be helpful to your learning or would it prevent you from learning some things?

We can't wait to hear from you! Email us if you have questions!

## Carleton College Students Help Out at New Spirit School

by Jeenu, 7th Grade, New Spirit

There were 25 students from Carleton College helping out the teachers clean-up for the first day of school. These are volunteer students from Carleton College who took time to help the teachers decorate the school. The volunteers helped out at New Spirit Primary on the 4th and 5th of September. They were at the primary school from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The 25 college students helped by washing all the windows in the school, cleaning the hallway, gym/lunchroom, ELL room, music room, and the library. They helped the teachers set-up their classrooms, put up decorations and set up computers. The college students also helped pick up trash around the school and helped out there, but mostly they were working the primary school.

All of the students from Carleton College worked very hard to make the primary school look as nice as it can be. The 25 students were divided into five different groups. Each group had its own task. When a group was finished with their task they would either find a new task to do or help out another group.

All of the students from Carleton College enjoyed helping out at New Spirit, and we, New Spirit students, really appreciate that they were here to help us. We would like to give them our thanks and appreciation to all 25 students and any of their staff/teachers from Carleton College for coming to help us prepare for our first day of school.

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★Quarter Page Ad: \$1,000

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Contact Jaci at 507-469-0595 or [jaci@mnchartervision.org](mailto:jaci@mnchartervision.org) for more information.

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Ag and Food Science Academy New School



by Norah, Ag and Food Science Academy

Has anyone been wondering about the new school building? If you have been, then we have the article with information you must be dying to know! We will be moving into the new school building in fall of 2005. It will be located in Vadnais Heights on 100 East Vadnais Lake Blvd. To find out more information, we asked Ms. Meyer a few questions about the new building.

We were informed that The Student Change Committee along with people from each advisory will help decide how the advisories will be set up. They will not have the last word on the decision, but their input will be strongly considered. Ms. Meyer also told us that we will no longer be sharing a building with Family Academy, because they moved into a new building this last year. We asked how many students we are expecting to attend AFSA in the year 2005, Ms. Meyer said, "We are expecting 200 for the first year, but our maximum for the school in the future is 300 people, never more than that."

A major piece of information many students have been curious to find out is if we will be having more sports teams, for example hockey and football. She told us that we are looking into more sports teams, but it wouldn't be sports teams just with ourselves. We would be joining with other charter schools. We also asked if there would be more space for each individual person. Ms. Meyer said that part of the upstairs will be for our desks, though we won't be spending as much time working at our desks. She says that there will be more hands-on projects so we will have more space to do those.

We decided to ask one last question. We asked Ms. Meyer what will be available at the new building, that we don't already have at our building now. She said that we won't be sharing the land/building with anyone. There will be more really nice science labs, a gymnasium, and over all there will just be a lot more options for AFSA students.

The new building really sounds like it will be different, but definitely different in a good way. More opportunities, space, people, sports, and believe it or not, even more exciting challenges that we will be facing every single day at AFSA in the year 2005.

## Wild Rice Under the Lens

by David, Voyageurs Expeditionary High School

Gaining insight into the community and utilizing resources has been a consistent theme at Voyageurs Expeditionary High School. Voyageurs, located just outside of Bemidji, MN utilizes the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound educational model as it's curricular framework.

Highlighting creativity and innovation are two concepts evident in a recent artist in residence program held at Voyageurs.

Barry Kleider, a professional photographer from Minneapolis, spent one week with Voyageurs students helping to document the importance of wild rice. It was a fantastic week that culminated in an evening demonstration of student work, entitled Wild Rice Under the Lens. This activity was subsidized with a Minnesota State Arts grant.

A core group of students worked intensely with Barry, learning digital photography intricacies,

along with Adobe software editing. The students now plan to use their skills as the newspaper and yearbook staff. Their work will be displayed throughout the community in the next couple of months.

Voyageurs students will also have the opportunity to take their work to the World Food Prize conference, held in Des Moines, Iowa. This conference is equivalent to the Nobel Prize for agriculture. This year's focus is on rice. Look for Voyageur work to be on display at upcoming Charter School conferences as well.



## Teacher Helper

by Gabriella, 4th Grade, Concordia Creative Learning Academy

Concordia Creative Learning Academy's third and fourth grade has something very unique in their class. It is a job called the Teacher Helper. What the teacher helper does is they help the teacher with jobs such as correcting papers, putting homework in Friday folders and much more. If you are the teacher helper you get to have lunch at a restaurant with the teacher at the end of the week. I would like to be teacher helper because I like doing jobs for the teacher. When you are the teacher helper you learn what a real job feels like. Miss Nichole gives out this job because she wants kids to learn what a real job feels like.

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## Sojourner Truth Class Pet

by Roonaina and Elizabeth, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Sojourner Truth Academy



Many people think that rats are scary because of the movies and books that cast the rat as a villain. People think that rats started the famous Black Plague that wiped out half of Europe. But rats are really not that scary or dirty at all.

Our teacher decided that we should get a class pet. We didn't know what to get so we decided to do some research. Guest speakers from the Humane Society came to our school to talk about how to take care of pets. They taught us that it is important to do research on the animal of your choice. It is also important to "pet-proof" your home, or in this case classroom, so your pet will have a safer and better place to live. It took a lot of money to accommodate the rat. Our teacher, Ms. Anderson, has already bought the cage, the little hiding place, the rolling exercise ball, and the water bottle that the rat can drink from. Everyday our teacher has to call the Humane Society and ask if there are any rats. If you came to our classroom and saw the empty cage, you would know the answer.

might want someone to keep you company. Before you even think of getting supplies it's really important to find what kind of pet is right for you and/or your family. Since rats have teeth that grow their whole life, rats need things to chew on. If you have carpet in your house make sure that the rat does not munch on it because it could become really ill.

Why a rat? Very few people know this but rats can make really great pets and friends. Have you seen Stuart Little? He isn't really a rat but he is slightly smaller. The difference between a rat and a mouse is that a mouse is smaller and a rat is larger. Some people want bunnies, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and all other furry animals. But the problem with those animals is they really don't like to be held a lot. And rats love to be held!

Rats, Rats, Rats!!! The rat is the most beautiful animal that you can hold. Rats may seem scary to some people, but once you get to know them, they could end up your best friend! Our class is getting a rat from the Humane Society or a pet store and we all hope that it is a rat that we all will lov~!!!



Why do you need a pet? Good question. If you are lonely you

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# CREATIVE WRITING

## Disney Rehabilitation Program

by Nell, 12th Grade, ARTech

Each seminar at ARTech this year will be based on a quarterly theme. This quarter's theme is based on the upcoming election. I took a seminar called Political Satire. Satire is a literary manner which blends a critical attitude with humor and wit to the end that human institutions or humanity may be improved. We were asked to read A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, and write an essay in the same style with a solution to a social problem.

This is my satirical essay.

Mayhem and murder have covered earth since before history was recorded. Whether it's over land, power, or just for the sake of fighting, the most powerful leaders in the world exchange blows with each other, setting a bad example for the younger generations. People suffer and die so that the big boys can have their land and eat it too. The First World War started the bloodiest century in our history. It continued with, WWII launching hundreds of smaller, but just as bloody, wars in almost every country for the past 60 years. If the leaders of the world could just get along maybe the common people could as well.

In every major war we can look back in history and see how things escalated; how one little dispute or conflict lead to something greater, and in the end thousands died and hundreds of thousands were injured. Humankind is known for wanting to seek revenge and retaliate. Hook's vengeance sunk so deep on Peter Pan and the crocodile after Hook's hand was eaten that he couldn't stop unless Pan and the crocodile were defeated. Powerful leaders like Hitler could have learned from Hook's madness and let little things like, a poodle being stolen by a French man, go; he didn't need to seek payback on all of France. Our world leaders act just like the grasshoppers in A Bug's Life. They bully the little man. Rich oil or abundant land on someone else's property gives rise to imperialism. This puts other people's children at risk having to fight for their country just like little Flick had to fight for the ants, endangering his own life. Our leaders have not learned to share and don't remember the

good morals most of us acquire from Disney movies.

It is a privilege to have the power to lead a nation that has control, but with every great privilege comes great responsibility. To be able to hold such a position one must remember all of the lessons we were supposed to have learned as children. Saddam Hussein should have learned that even with the Baathist party, Iraq's Prince Charming would come with Operation Iraqi Freedom, just like the son of the king came for Cinderella to stop the Evil Step Mother and Sisters.

It never hurts to review these lessons, and through the Disney Rehabilitation Program the Hussein family can watch Cinderella with the Bush family and share their thoughts and feeling in hopes of getting along. World leaders will be required to attend a one month stay at the DRP, located in Flip-pin, Arkansas, to review good morals like the ones we learn as children. Leaders who are fighting for power could help comfort one another as they watch Mufasa murdered because Scar wanted to rule the jungle. Just maybe, incidents like Ché Guevara's death could be stopped before they begin. Innocent people are dying because of nuclear weapons. Each government tries to have the strongest armies and the biggest guns but if we could all just sit down and watch Hercules we could remember that the measure of a hero is not the size of one's strength but the size of one's heart.

At the DRP all attendants receive tender care from a grandmotherly figure. They are given the attention they need and don't have to kill thousands like Napoleon did. As a short man, he had to scare people into paying attention to him. The respect from the people was not enough; he needed to name himself emperor as a cry for attention. We learn in Monsters Inc., often laughter and happiness complete a job better than fear. If Adolph could have sat with Anne at the DRP to have milk and cookies while watching Pocahontas they could remember what it meant to be happy and loving with people who are different. Fighting is not the best answer, and others do have feelings

too. Pocahontas and John Smith worked out their differences and made peace between two nations, at least for a little while. Disney movies teach morals and show the leaders of our world what it means to be different and how it is important to learn to get along and understand one another's cultures.

With all of the war in this world it couldn't hurt to take a little time out of our busy schedules to sit down with an enemy and enjoy a great Disney flick with some home made cookies and a glass of milk. Even the great President George W. Bush may be willing to cut back on his afternoon nap to spend some time at the DRP. We could all learn from these great classical films that teach us morals about sharing and not hitting your brother. We need to remember how revenge doesn't help and the only way to stop escalating a problem is by never starting one. At the DRP we can all join hands with our old enemies who are now our new friends and sing along to a wonderful tune from The Jungle Book.

We're your friends  
We're your friends  
We're your friends to the bitter end

When you're alone  
Who comes around  
To pluck you up  
When you are down  
And when you're outside, looking in  
Who's there to open the door?  
That's what friends are for!

Who's always eager to extend  
A friendly claw?  
That's what friends are for!

And when you're lost in dire need  
Who's at your side at lightning speed?  
We're friends of every creature  
Comin' down the pike  
In fact we never met an animal  
We didn't like, didn't like

So you can see  
We're friends in need  
And friends in need  
Are friends indeed  
We'll keep you safe  
In the jungle forevermore  
That's what friends are for!

## Untitled Poem

by Francina, 6th grade  
New City School

I Love to run so much that  
when i'm done I collapse  
on the ground,

My friends and I  
Built a  
fort and  
we do a lot  
of sports there,  
time goes  
by so fast  
with all the playing  
I do that makes time pass!  
I'm active

## Untitled Poem

by Elsa, 6th Grade  
New City School

I am  
A girl  
Who is adventurous  
And smart—  
Creative stories  
Is what  
I write—

I read  
Magical fantasy books—  
I study  
Hard and  
I draw  
A lot—  
I listen  
To music and  
I play

Music exceptionally well—  
I think  
About things before  
I say  
Them—  
I am  
Very creative at doing things—  
I am  
Imaginative

## Computers in the Classroom

The International Schools are proud to announce that we now own two mobile computer labs that allow our students' access to the best school technology available. Each school has a mobile computer lab that allows teachers to use a full computer lab in their classroom. In addition, the school has installed a wireless Internet network so that staff and students can connect to the world wide web from anywhere in the building. The picture below shows students working with the computers in the classroom.



## Standing There

by Josie, 9th Grade  
Riverbend Academy

Everybody  
We turn and stare  
At someone  
Who is standing there  
We look at them  
As though they're gone  
But they are there  
About to leave  
Can't stand it here  
Because of us  
Can't stand it here  
Because of us  
And now  
They're gone  
Because I'm here  
So I'm the one  
Who's standing here  
Now it's me  
Who takes the stare  
I am the one  
Standing there.

## Remembering To Forget

by Cali  
TRIO Wolf Creek Distance  
Learning Charter School  
It will be hard to forget me  
And eventually you will  
But you will always know  
I am the sunset on a cool  
summer night  
I am the drawing you once  
started  
And now I'm the painting you  
must finish  
I am the pill that takes  
the edge off  
I am the sweet aroma that  
fills your bedroom  
I am your favorite star on a  
clear night  
I am the soft wind that whispers  
in your ear  
I am the joke that makes you  
laugh  
I am the kiss that makes you  
smile  
I am the love  
you once had.



## Alpha Omega

by Mike, 9th grade  
Riverbend Academy

When omega's finally here  
Nothing else will matter  
Can you hear emotions fighting?  
Sticks and stones, sadness  
gathers

I finally found my place  
I'm hoping it will soothe  
Reminds me of the rain  
Soft pitter-patter on the roof

Rocky roads in the beginning  
Smooth sailing in the end  
New commitments and relations  
Lie just around the bend

No longer will I fight  
To live a life un-lead  
No more scars upon my wrist  
No more puddles ruby red

I no longer wish to die  
I shall put away my knife  
I know your insults hurt  
But they are not worth my life

One way or another...  
Reality will shatter  
When omega's finally here  
Nothing else will matter

## One Hundred Pages

Jahquaa, 3rd Grade, Concordia Creative Learning Academy

I am going to write a one hundred page book for kids. The title of my book is: Many Kinds of Numbers. I am in third grade and that is really interesting. It is super that I am making a book. You are guaranteed it will be perfect. If it is good it should be in the newspaper. It has a lot of numbers because some children do not know very many numbers.

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## My Chunky Cat

by Ariel, 3rd Grade, Concordia Creative Learning Academy

My cat is chunky. My cats name is Willow. I love my cat. She is so cute and pretty. My cat likes to lay in the sun, eat, look out the window and watch birds and squirrels. She also likes to sleep. The reason why I think she doesn't like to run around as much as she used to is because she is chubby and all she does is lay around, eat, and sleep. She isn't an outside cat. We got her when she was 2 years old and now she's 5 years old so we have had her for 3 years. My cat's birthday is in March. Now you know all about my cat.



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# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## What's Up Didaktoras? A 6/7th Learning Expedition

by Jenn, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Schoolcraft Learning Community

It's the beginning of a new school year, which means that Schoolcraft's 6/7th graders participated in a Building Background Knowledge Workshop (put together by the courtesy of Marilyn, Jim, and Sara, the 6/7th grade teachers at Schoolcraft). This is a workshop where students learn about the upcoming expedition, and this fall, the expedition is entitled, "What's Up Didaktoras: Ancient Civilizations".

6/7th Building Background Knowledge, Day 1 & 2  
The day began with students arriving at school and walking to their individual classrooms. After the classes were through with their morning activities, all the 6/7th graders, along with their teachers, went up to Paris (the lunchroom) to begin learning about their expedition. First, everybody was put into groups of five or six, and the groups were assigned their seats. Once seated, the groups each received a picture of all the planets, and pictures of each of the Greek gods of which the planets were named. Each group's task was to match the gods to their planets. The challenge was that the groups received no additional information regarding either the gods or the planets...so there was lots of guessing! After the teachers observed the process for a while, Sara Breeze (the 6/7 Language Arts teacher) helped us out. She told us all of the gods' names and a little information about their personalities. The groups became more confident about their task and were able to match most of the gods to their planets correctly. Jim Conway (the 6/7 Science teacher) then gave us some details about the planets.

The next component in this workshop started with each individual receiving at least one Greek myth to read. Each student also received two question sheets on which they could write any questions that came into their mind about their assigned myth. Once through reading, all students recapped their myths within their group. The group compiled what they learned from the myths on a piece of chart paper. The next step was each group writing down all the questions they wanted answers for in Math, Science and Language Arts. Each group read their questions to the entire audience, and the teachers are going to do their best to make sure that all our questions are answered within our expedition studies.

Our workshop continued with

## The Fo-Sho

by Matt, High School for Recording Arts



The High School for Recording Arts has many interesting music projects and classes, from the students recording their own music and making their own beats, to the business of music. Now HSRA has added a new interesting class for students; a radio program called the Fo-Sho.

The Fo-Sho will air on B96 every Sunday at 8 a.m. starting Sunday

everyone watching a movie titled "Daedalus and Icarus". It was about how Daedalus made wings for himself and his son in order to fly away from an island. Icarus died trying. The movie was followed by time to write questions from the movie, and we then shared our questions with the teachers...to be answered through our expedition.

"I learned that some sun spots are bigger than the earth!" said Grace Lymburner, a 6th grader in Jim's crew. "I learned that there is a god for each planet, and I learned myths about the gods," said Anjali Phukan, a 7th grader in Jim's crew.

The next day we continued discussing the gods and the planets, and we also did some team-building through cooperative games. That was the end of the Building Background Knowledge Workshop, but the next day brought even more fun!

All of the 6/7th graders took a trip to Hibbing, Minnesota, for a final kick-off to the expedition. They traveled to a planetarium to fill their brains with even more knowledge about the planets. The narrator's name was Mark, and since Schoolcraft teaches French to its students, Mark narrated part of his presentation in French!

The first show that we watched was about all of the planets and what was on/not on them. For instance, some planets have air and are very cold, and some don't have air and are very hot. The next presentation was about how NASA sent an exploratory rover up to Saturn 7 years ago, and it's just arrived there. The movie talked about the plans NASA had for the rover's future. The students then had lunch and some free time to look in the gift shop. After lunch we went back into the theater to watch one last movie entitled, "Solar-Max". This movie was about the sun. Before actually watching the movie, everyone had some fun with Mark, or should I say, that Mark had some fun with the audience...He said, "In order to take over the world, you've got to have an evil laugh." So, whoever wanted to laugh evilly in his microphone had the chance to do it. Then we watched the movie. Following the movie, we rode the bus back to Bemidji.

I think that this was a good way to try to get students involved and interested in what they will be studying. (Editors note: this article is a reprint from the Spring 2004 edition of Charter Vision.)

## Nerstrand Elementary and the Community

by Carolyn, Dissemination Grant Coordinator, Nerstrand Charter School



Nerstrand Elementary Peace Garden

Farmlands stretch for miles outside the windows of Nerstrand Elementary School. One gets the feeling that all is right with the world when such a beautiful area of southeast Minnesota unfolds before your eyes. Visitors to the school quickly discover the beauty of an exceptionally respectful school community inside, as well. A pervasive climate of respect permeates the halls and is evident throughout the day. Students and staff work together in mutually respectful relationships.

Nerstrand School encourages academic, social, and personal growth in each of its 154 Kindergarten through Grade 5 students. The school's strong community service program provides opportunities for students to improve in each of these key areas. All of Nerstrand's students participate in school wide service opportunities throughout the year. As a result, students learn civic responsibility and, despite their ages, make significant contributions to the school, the community, and the world.

Ongoing service projects include restoring and reforesting a nearby prairie remnant and deciduous forest, hosting community lunches and elders' coffees, making sandwiches for a homeless shelter and placemats for a children's hospital.

Students have worked with an adult volunteer through the past five years to plan and develop an International Peace Garden. The representations of England, Mexico, Canada, the U.S., Tanzania, Poland, Japan, China, and Australia grace the school's courtyard. Recently, a giraffe sculpture representing Kenya was added. The Peace Garden is a reminder that each of us must make a daily commitment to peace-filled relationships and to making the world a better place. When an area in the garden is planned students do research about the nation. They try to learn what life is like for a child there - the problems they encounter, the foods they eat, the games they play, and so on.

Our students and their parents have also contributed to a variety of world charities. One particularly memorable effort was collecting food and medical supplies, as well as sewing quilts, for the people of Guatemala.

Our students also honor local residents through service opportunities. Every household in our sleepy, little town receives a colorful May basket containing a warm greeting and a small gift on May Day. In addition, our students and staff recognize two community elders each year by interviewing them about the stories of their lives. From that information, songs are created and performed at a Community Celebration. We've learned that even the most "common" among us have dramatic stories to tell - and there's always a life lesson to be learned from these wise, old people!

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October 3 2004. What makes the fo-show so interesting is the fact that the ones on the radio will be the students, and better yet, student artists at HSRA create all the music that is played on the Fo-Sho.

There are six students in the radio show, Tommy, Diablo, Kie-sha, Asia, Lady Red, and Lee Lee. I asked these six students

at HSRA a few questions about the Fo-Sho. The first question I asked was, "What does the fo-show mean?" They said the Fo stands for the four principles at HSRA; Family, Respect, Community, and Education.

Another question I asked was, "What is the purpose of the Fo-Sho?" They responded with, "To Showcase the talent at HSRA,

to tell the community about the school and give students perspective on happenings in the community."

The last question I asked the students in the class was, "How do students get their music played on the Fo-Sho?" They said all you have to do is submit your music to the class and they will vote; in the voting process the

majority rules.

Keep your ears open and your radio tuned to B96 on Sunday October 3rd for the first show and the talent from HSRA. Also, I would like to thank Kathy Harris who is the director of the program for letting me do an interview and for putting this program together. Another thanks goes to Pepsi for sponsoring them.

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## A History Maker Comes to Schoolcraft

by the Schoolcraft Eighth Grade Crew

Schoolcraft Learning Community, a K-8 Charter school near Bemidji, Minnesota was recently visited by Dennis Banks. In 1968, Mr. Banks helped to found the American Indian Movement (AIM) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since that time, AIM and Mr. Banks have been at the forefront of the battle for Native American rights in the United States.

Our crew was incorporating our design principles into our work. We had to research a topic of our choice as long as it had something to do with the Black Hills, and teach about it for a week to our class. Each group had to teach for nine hours throughout the week and give out a certain amount of homework. Mr. Banks came to Schoolcraft at the invitation of Simone and Elaine, Schoolcraft eighth graders. They invited Mr. Banks as part of the unit they were teaching titled: Wounded Knee 1973 and Surrounding Events. As a key figure in the 1973 events Mr. Banks brought firsthand knowledge and the under-reported Native American perspective to our classroom.

"The morning started out like any other day. Kent Nerburn, Elaine Fleming and Scott Gill from E.L.O.B. had come to meet our visitor. We were sitting in circle waiting for Dennis Banks to show up. We were talking with Scott Gill when Dennis Banks came in the room. Every one was silent. Elaine finally broke the silence by saying 'Boozhoo' (Hello in Ojibwe). Elaine and Simone went up to Dennis to say 'Boozhoo'. Dennis gave Elaine wild rice and he gave Simone chokecherry syrup from his house/company in SugarPoint. Elaine and Simone gave him the gift of tobacco in an abalone shell because its their tradition. He thanked them and they thanked him and then sat down." -Jessica, 8th grade student

A student started by asking him about his life. We learned; Dennis Banks was born on the Leech Lake Reservation on April 12, 1937. His mother was full Chippewa. When Dennis was four years old, he was taken from his family to one of the many boarding schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.). In these boarding schools almost everything Native American (including their native languages), was forbidden. Dennis tried to escape from his boarding school six times and was punished for each attempt. He finally succeeded in escaping and returned to his parents eleven years after being taken to the school.

In later years Mr. Banks enlisted in the Air Force. Dennis enjoyed the military and had ambitions of being a five star general. The structure of military reminded him of the boarding school life he grew up in. A demonstration to protest the expansion of his airbase contributed to Dennis's change of heart about the Air Force. His commanding Officer had given them orders to shoot to kill any protesters that got out of control. Doing this was against his morals; he refused to shoot, and resigned from the Air Force the day after he witnessed this protest.

After leaving the military, Dennis got in trouble with the law and was jailed for burglary. Specifically he was charged with stealing groceries from a local store. He told us that, stupidly, he had driven home in the freshly fallen snow and the police only had to follow his tracks to find him.

Among the AIM activities Mr. Banks participated in were the 1968 Alcatraz occupation, the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties caravan to Washington D.C., and the Wounded Knee Occupation of 1973. It was the illegal 71-day occupation at Wounded Knee where the F.B.I. were called in and besieged the town, that caused felony charges to be brought against Mr. Banks and the AIM co-founder Russell Means. These charges were later dropped. In 1975, Banks was convicted on riot charges related to the Custer Courthouse Incident that led to Wounded Knee (1973). In response to these charges, Dennis Banks went underground, but returned in 1984 to serve over a year in jail.

Dennis Banks also had small roles in a few movies, including War Party (1988), The Last of the Mohicans (1992), and Thunderheart (1992).

The students of the Schoolcraft Eighth Grade found Mr. Banks' visit to be a truly moving classroom experience. The impact of a visit from and discussion with such a significant firsthand witness to historical events proved to be a high impact event in the student's lives. Some students felt a daylong tension, hoping that nothing would be said to offend Mr. Banks. The existence of this tension points out the fact that there remains a distance to go, to achieve true reconciliation between Native Americans and the white population. This event was a giant step in that direction for the Schoolcraft Eighth Grade.

## Schools and Community Join Together for First Annual "Arts for Martin" Celebration



Above, Northfield Community Choir, led by Bob Gregory Bjorklund (front center) sing a song written for "Arts for Martin" Celebration. Below, student from Nerstrand Elementary Charter School open the evenings celebration.



On January 14th, schools around Minnesota closed due to cold weather. That same evening, residents and visitors in Northfield, celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the arts. With over 200 people packed into the assembly area at ARTech Charter School, the evening was anything but cold.

Artists sang, danced, recited, and played instruments in celebration of Dr. King's life. Composer's performed original works chosen or written by them specifically for this event.

Organizations that partipated in the celebration included, ARTech Charter School, Nerstrand Elementary Charter School, Northfield Arts Guild, St. Olaf College, and the Northfield Community Choir.

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## Why I Changed Schools

By Chelsea, Village School of Northfield

Before I switched schools, I went to the middle school. Now I go to the Village School. A lot of people might think it's dump even if they haven't tried it before. But they're wrong. I think the Village School is fun. Some of the things I like are not very many rules, and the discipline. One of the rules is to sign out before you leave. Another one is to be respectful to people.

The Village School's discipline is a lot different than regular schools. The Village School works out the problem rather than giving detention or something. If the people can't work it out they go to RJC, which is Restorative Justice Committee.

At first when I went there I thought no one wanted me there. But it just takes time to get used to new people. Some students get mad at teachers and others really easily. But we have many solutions to that problem. Some students are kind and say, "Please stop". Others are swearing at them but always say sorry after.

We don't have many rules. The Village School is about FREEDOM.

## The Best Charter School in Town

by Alexis and Vanessa, 4th Grade, Concordia Creative Learning Academy

Our school is excellent because before we came here we did not know a lot. Thanks to Miss Nichole, our teacher, for being there for us this year and last year. When we came here our minds were dull. We also thank Miss Genny for coming in our classroom and helping us learn to write. When we come here we feel happy and smart. Our school is exciting because in the summer we go to water parks and we go on fun field trips.

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# ODDS AND ENDS

## We're all stars now... in the Drag Show

by Andi, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, ARTech

This past summer I visited Bangkok, the massive and crowded capital of Thailand. The eight days I was there were spent mostly going to Buddhist temples and bustling marketplaces selling dubious looking goods on the side of the road.

The highlight of the trip, however, was going to the Katoy (Thai for gay) show called the Calypso Cabaret. It featured dancers who were either men dressed as women or women who used to be men. Some people even joke "These women are even prettier than regular ones, even though some of them aren't even women!"

The glitzy, extravagant show starts when the announcer jumps on stage and announces "Welcome, Kannichiwa, Bienvedue, Velkommen, to the Calypso Cabaret!" After the introduction, costumed women, or at least what I thought were women, danced complex choreography while lip synching to songs. The numbers varied from dancers dressed in traditional costumes to something as absurd as dancers dressed in ostrich costumes running around the stage. Even Michael Jackson and Marilyn Monroe look-alikes took to the stage. The show was larger than life and the choreography went well with the music and the intricate costumes.

The show had comedy, music, dancing, and a message. When in one of the numbers while the dancer sang "I'm proud of who I am" other dancers shouted out "Gay! Gay! Gay!" - They were gay and proud of it.

I experienced something that day that very few people, especially kids, will ever see in their lives; and I realized that these people, instead of hiding the fact that they were gay, had the courage to admit it and they were proud of it. After the show was over, I left with a life experience and a great story to tell.

## Yellow Ribbon

by Victoria, Riverbend Academy

Author's note: Yellow Ribbon is a group of students from RBA, that try to let other students know about depression, and to let them know that there is hope and help.

I am here to listen  
 To let you know that I care.  
 I am here for you, day and night.  
 Don't bring yourself down, for  
 you are yourself  
 And nothing else should matter.  
 Don't live in the past, don't  
 dwell in the future,  
 Just live in the present.  
 You are loved.  
 I am here to help you cope, I  
 will stand by you.  
 You must stand tall,  
 You are stronger than you know.

## Word Search Puzzle - Minnesota Charter Schools

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 S C I A G A A E E N M S D W S Y N R M Q R M F A X D U C A O C F L X G T B G L O  
 Q N A S T W J V W E O I K C P N N E D A F K A T W V V L R U K S A A F C N D J M  
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 X M Z D N O Y T D P L U E T W R I R L T M E A R Q F E R L H O V M E H X T K H D

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CROSSLAKE	LACRESCENT	NORTH LAKES	UBAH
CYBER VILLAGE	LAFAYETTE	NORTH SHORE	URBAN ACADEMY
DPSA	LAKES AREA	NOVA CLASSICAL	VESSEY
EAGLE RIDGE	LAKES INTL	ODYSSEY	VILLAGE SCHOOL
ECHO	LAKE SUPERIOR	PACT	VOYAGEURS EXPEDITIONARY
ECI NOMPA WOONSPE	LIBERTY HIGH	PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY	WATERSHED
ELCOLEGIO	MAIN STREET	PILLAGER	WISE
EMILY	MAT	PRAIRIE CREEK	WORLD LEARNER
EXCELL	MATH AND SCIENCE	RIDGEWAY	YANKTON

## Attention Charter School Leaders!!

Charter Vision is producing a charter school education magazine insert for the May edition. There will be articles about education philosophy and choices in Minnesota. Every Minnesota charter school will be included. Schools that want to run additional advertisements will be able to do so. It will be a fantastic way to advertise your school. The May edition will be distributed at the Mall of America and the State Fair. You'll also be able to buy extra copies for your marketing purposes.



Harbor City students work on a project.

# CHARTER VISION NEWS



## What Is Charter Vision? How Do I Become Involved?

Charter Vision started last year at ARTech Charter School in Northfield. The school had received a private foundation grant to disseminate information in their community about charter schools. The newspaper grew out of that idea, and an advisory group was formed to discuss how to turn this ARTech project into a statewide initiative. The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) provided funds for printing and distribution to charter schools around the state and other "friends" of the charter school movement.

This past fall (current school year), Charter Vision learned that MACS would not be able to provide the financial support they had provided last year. Strategies were developed and then implemented to raise funds through advertising and to solicit donations from "friends." After a late start to Charter Vision's first edition this school year, the paper is well on its way to becoming a self sufficient statewide charter school newspaper.

The editorial board, comprised of Minnesota's charter school students, needs your help to make this newspaper the best it can be.

Here's how you can help:

### STUDENTS

- 1) Write stories, articles, news briefs, comics, poems, and/or short stories and send them to [submissions@mnchartervision.org](mailto:submissions@mnchartervision.org).
- 2) Encourage your friends and other students to write.
- 3) Bring Charter Vision home and share it with your friends and family.
- 4) Join the editorial board. Send an email to [leisa@mnchartervision.org](mailto:leisa@mnchartervision.org) for more information.
- 5) Check out our website at [www.mnchartervision.org](http://www.mnchartervision.org) for current stories from charter school students.

### TEACHERS

- 1) Encourage your students to write for the paper.
- 2) Incorporate journalism into your language arts program. Email us for curriculum ideas.
- 3) Read the paper with your class.
- 4) Become a teacher leader with Charter Vision.
- 5) Become a "friend" of Charter Vision.

### PARENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- 1) Read the paper with your students.
- 2) Encourage your student to write for the paper.
- 3) Become a parent or community leader with Charter Vision.
- 4) Place your business's advertisement here.
- 5) Become a "friend" of Charter Vision.

Don't let this list limit your possibilities for involvement. Please contact us if there are other ways that you'd like to help.

## \*\*Submission Deadlines\*\*

Next Edition

Articles Due: March 3, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

Advertisements Due: March 10, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

Email: [submissions@mnchartervision.org](mailto:submissions@mnchartervision.org)

## Friends of Charter Vision

This newspaper would not be possible without the support and donations from many people. The Editorial Board would like to thank the following Charter Vision Friends:

**Bronze (\$25 - \$99)**  
Dianne Reibel

**Silver (\$100-\$499)**  
Jon Schroeder  
Jaci Lageson  
Leisa Irwin  
Shel Hiscock

**Gold (\$500+)**

If you are interested in becoming a "Friend of Charter Vision," we'd greatly appreciate it. Your donation would be used to help with the costs of printing, distribution, and editorial board meetings. To become a Friend of Charter Vision, please send a check or money order to Charter Vision Minnesota, 205 North Orchard Street, Northfield, MN 55057, Attn: Jaci Lageson

## What Do Editorial Board Members Do?

The Editorial Board is a group of students that get together every month to run this newspaper. They come from schools around Minnesota, from places like Northfield, Mankato, Bemidji, St. Paul, and Minneapolis, to name a few.

Charter Vision's Editorial Board works hard to organize this paper. In the past year, they have created banners (the very top heading with our title on the front page), determined how to organize the paper (created sections), proofed and corrected every story that has been printed, worked on the layout, provided input and feedback to the webmaster for the online edition of the paper, and most of the editors have written stories.

The board meets on the second Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to talk about upcoming issues. Lunch is ordered in for the meetings. Occasionally they have guests come to talk about how to run a newspaper. And sometimes they go on field trips so that they can learn more about journalism.

Since this paper started in November 2003, students have attended an Editorial Board meeting at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, toured the printing press at Cannon Valley Printing where they watched as the first edition of Charter Vision was run while they watched. One of the board members attended a press conference with Governor Tim Pawlenty, and they also participated in the state's very first Student Summit in December.

Editors make a commitment to learning about journalism and newspapers. They take leadership roles in disseminating information about charter schools in Minnesota.

If you are interested in becoming a Charter Vision editor, please call 507-469-0595 or email Leisa Irwin at [leisa@mnchartervision.org](mailto:leisa@mnchartervision.org).



## How Do I Write an Article for Charter Vision?

Writing for Charter Vision is easier than it might sound. The Editorial Board is always looking for more articles, stories, creative writing, etc. If you want to write an article, here are some simple hints:

- 1) Find something in your school or community that you want to write about.
  - A school play
  - A sporting event
  - A great teacher
  - A class you are taking that is really interesting
  - A book or a movie that you like
  - Or anything else that interests you
- 2) Answer questions about the subject.
  - Who? Who is involved or affected?
  - What? What is the topic, issue, subject?
  - When? When did this happen, or when will it happen?
  - Where? Where did this happen?
  - Why? Why is this important?
  - How? How did it happen?
  - Note: You may not be able to answer all of these questions. That's okay. Just answer the ones that apply to the story.
- 3) Ask for help. Even famous writer's have help with their stories.
- 4) Type your story. Be sure to include your name, grade, the name of the school you attend, and how to reach you.
- 5) Email your story to [submissions@mnchartervision.org](mailto:submissions@mnchartervision.org) or ask your teacher to send it in for you. If there is a picture that goes with your story, please send that too. When sending pictures, please label them so we can match it to the correct story later.

## Charter Vision

205 North Orchard Street  
Northfield, MN 55057

### Coordinators

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