



IMPORTANT UPDATES ON SCHOOL CHOICE IN FLORIDA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Cidney Woods-White came to Academy Prep as a fifth-grade student who was unaccustomed to reading, studying, or even sitting still in class. She had the potential to be a good student, but had not yet found a way to fulfill that potential in a larger school setting.

During her first years at Academy Prep, she was often in trouble and suffered through suspensions and academic probation. Cidney lives in the neighborhood surrounding the school, which harbors pockets of violence, drugs, and prostitution. These distractions were negatively impacting Cidney's academic life.

Cidney promised to do better and Academy Prep's extended school



Cidney Woods-White
Academy Prep,
8th grade
St. Petersburg

day, rigorous academics, enrichment activities and emotional support provided the ideal environment for Cidney to excel. She gained confidence, both in and out of the classroom, and began performing up to her potential, and even beyond. She made the honor roll last year and joined the cheerleading squad. She has also become a keen journalist and

now plans on going to college.

Thanks to the structure, guidance and love provided at Academy Prep, Cidney now realizes her potential and has the opportunity to make her dreams come true.

Step Up For Students salutes Cidney and her commitment to success!

Want to nominate your student for our Student Spotlight?
Visit www.stepupforstudents.com/parents.htm to send us your story.

HIGH MARKS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



OF STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

REGISTER TO VOTE AND STAY INFORMED

2006 Elections Important for Scholarship Families

The Florida Committee for Educational Freedom (FCEF) launched a website in July that helps scholarship parents and supporters to register to vote and stay informed on where candidates stand on issues affecting your child's scholarship and education. The website is www.floridachoice.org and is a result of numerous requests from parents who want easy access to voter registration and information about candidates' support of the right of parents to find the best educational setting for their child.

Visitors to the FCEF website can fill out an electronic voter registration form and browse listings of candidates, organized by office, and their positions on school choice and educa-

tion. A collection of news articles, links to education web logs and an Action E-mail List helps visitors keep abreast of recent school choice issues in the media.

In order to vote in the general election this year, you must register by October 10, 2006. In addition to the important local races on the ballot this year, voters will elect the next Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. The winners of these important statewide offices will impact all aspects of public policy, including your scholarships and school choice. Step Up For Students encourages you to get informed and then vote on November 7th.



The Florida Committee for Educational Freedom launched www.floridachoice.org in July.

Bishop Harold Ray of West Palm Beach urges over 3,000 parents and educators to be informed voters on school choice issues during the SUFS 2004 Tallahassee Rally.





DONOR CORNER:

TARMAC AMERICA

Tarmac America, a brand of Titan America, first joining Step Up For Students in 2005 with a contribution of \$700,000 corporate tax credit dollars, announced their continued support on July 25 with an additional contribution of \$1.5 million. This outstanding donation will enable 400 disadvantaged children in South Florida to receive Step Up For Students Scholarships this school year.

Titan America's family of businesses is one of the premier cement and building materials producers in the Eastern United States. Operations include cement plants, ready-mix concrete plants, concrete block plants, quarries, cement terminals, as well as fly ash production facilities. One of the core values of Titan America is corporate social responsibility, and the group serves its community as active and concerned corporate citizens and guardians of future generations and the environment.

With grateful parents, students and educators surrounding him, Hardy Johnson, Florida President of Tarmac America, made the exciting announcement of the \$1.5 million

contribution and the company's continued support while visiting New Jerusalem Christian Academy in Miami. "At Tarmac America, we have a long history of contributing to the community, and helping to build good foundations for the future is literally what we do everyday." Mr. Johnson continued to share with the audience, "we're proud of our work with Step Up For Students and excited to be able to turn our success into opportunity for others. That's what Step Up For Students is all about – creating the chance for more and more students to step up and succeed."

Tarmac America helps to build and expand communities, employs more than 700 people throughout Florida at its multiple facilities, and now, through its partnership with Step Up For Students, the company is helping hundreds of Florida's children build their future for success. We applaud them for their dedication to corporate social responsibility and appreciate their continued support of Florida's children.

For more information on Titan America and its brands, visit www.titanamerica.com.



Hardy Johnson, Florida President of Tarmac America, announces a contribution of \$1.5 million.

WELLSTUDENT

As summer draws to a close and the new school year gets under way, it's time to consider the health insurance options available for your child. Your child may qualify for the Florida Healthy Kids program. Healthy Kids provides quality medical benefits to families with uninsured children 5-18 years of age. Children enrolled in the program receive preventative medical care such as regular doctor visits, immunizations and routine vision and hearing screenings.



It's easier than ever to get health care benefits through Healthy Kids. Qualified families can enroll their children in Healthy Kids by completing a one-page application, attaching the income verification documents, and mailing, faxing or e-mailing it back to Healthy Kids anytime during the year.

There's also a re-designed website, www.healthykids.org, where families can apply online. The online application is fast and easy. At the end of the application, a checklist of required documents will be printed for you. These documents can then be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to:

Florida KidCare

Mail:

**Post Office Box 980,
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0980**

Overnight:

**661 East Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor,
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

Fax:

(850) 681-2131

E-mail it to:

apply@healthykids.org

It is important to remember to submit the required documents since an application cannot be processed without them. If you have additional questions or need help completing the application, call the Florida KidCare Hotline at 1-888-540-5437.





IMPORTANT: NEW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 2006

The 2006 legislative session resulted in several new changes to your child's scholarship program that affects parents' roles and responsibilities.

All NEW scholarship parents must inform their child's public school district when the parent withdraws the child to attend an eligible private school. We believe the formal request for transfer of records to the new private school should suffice.

The parent shall ensure that the student participating in the scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment test offered by the private school. The parent may also choose to have the student take

the FCAT and in those circumstances the parent is responsible for transporting the student to the testing site designated by the public school district.

Any student participating in the scholarship program must remain in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

And each parent and each student has an obligation to the private school and Scholarship Funding Organization to comply with their published policies.

Should you have any questions regarding any of these changes please contact your Scholarship Funding Organization.



**Children First of
FLORIDA**
Children First Florida
(407) 629-8787
www.scholarshipfunding.org



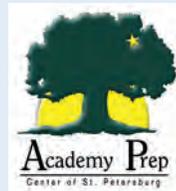
Florida PRIDE
(866) 590-5368
www.floridapride.org

ACADEMY PREP NOW SERVED BY FLORIDA P.R.I.D.E.

Academy Prep, a private middle school for 5th – 8th grade students who qualify for need-based scholarships, has been serving Corporate Tax Credit (CTC) Scholarship recipients at their campuses in St. Petersburg and Tampa. Beginning



this school year, Academy Prep's students will be joining Step Up For Students and applying for their CTC Scholarship through Florida P.R.I.D.E., the scholarship funding organization that process applications and awards scholarships for the West Coast and South Florida regions. Children First Florida will continue to serve Central and North Florida.



Academy Prep has a unique educational philosophy that has resulted in terrific success for its students. Students attend - up to 11 hours a day, 6 days a week, 11 months a year - on a combination of their CTC Scholarships and financial support provided by the local community. Academy Prep offers a rigorous academic curriculum, enrichment activities and

emotional support. Not only do these tenacious children achieve academically, they excel in sports and the arts, too.

Students typically enter the 5th grade at Academy Prep Centers below grade level in reading and math. In less than two years, almost all are meeting Academy Prep's high standards or even jumping three and four grade levels ahead. Although fewer than

half of the public schools students from the inner-city neighborhoods surrounding Academy Prep's campuses graduate from high school, an amazing 95 percent of Academy Prep graduates continue their education or start their careers.

Step Up for Students is proud to welcome Academy Prep students to Florida P.R.I.D.E.!