



CITY ACADEMY

Small Classes ★ Great Teachers ★ BIG Learning
Accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools

555 East 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102 801-596-8489

www.cityacademyslc.org

A Public Charter School Serving Grades 8–12

Summer 2009

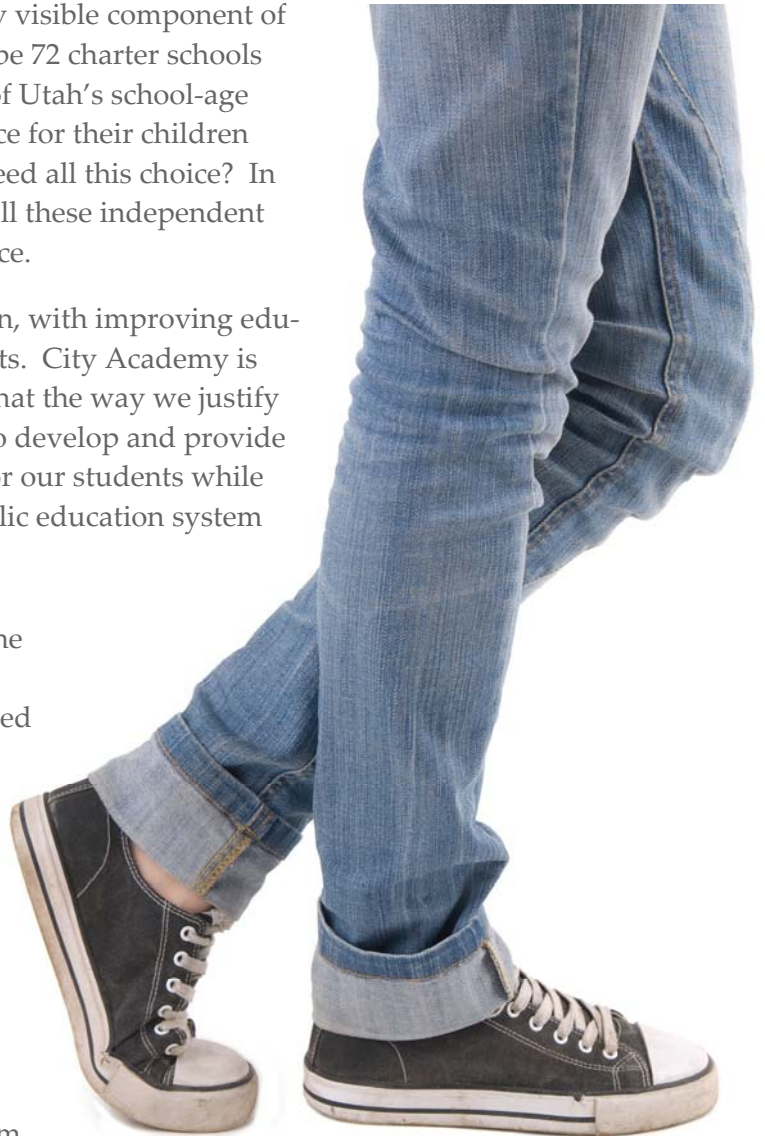
“You Can Bail Out a Bank; You Can’t Bail Out a Generation.”

Public charter schools have become a very visible component of Utah’s public school system. There will be 72 charter schools across the state by fall 2009 serving 5% of Utah’s school-age children and offering parents more choice for their children within public education. Why do parents today need all this choice? In tight economic times, justification for supporting all these independent schools should be about more than providing choice.

Charter schools have been charged with innovation, with improving educational opportunities for a wide variety of students. City Academy is focused on educational improvement. We know that the way we justify our continued existence is inherent in our ability to develop and provide schooling that substantially improves education for our students while simultaneously contributing to improving the public education system for all students.

We continue to respond to principles outlined in the National High School Alliance’s *A Call to Action* (2005). The six core principles, cited as “inter-related and non-negotiable” in order to (a) produce high academic achievement, (b) close the achievement gap, and (c) promote civic and personal growth among all high-school-age youth,” are as follows:

1. Personalized learning environments;
2. Academic engagement of all students;
3. Empowered educators;
4. Accountable leaders;
5. Engaged community & youth;
6. Integrated system of high standards, curriculum, instruction, assessments, and supports.



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Director's Message

We Cancelled Prom This Year...

Yes, the H1N1 contagion hit our school community with a vengeance right at the end of the school year and one of the casualties was Prom. Now that I have had a chance to reflect a bit on this school year, here is what makes canceling Prom such a memorable event for me.

Our office manager, Sara, made the announcement over the intercom Friday morning – “Prom tomorrow has now been cancelled.” The expected response ensued with seniors frustrated about being denied this last event with their peers, and many students who were counting on this memorable party to end their year very sad. Then, almost as quickly as they had come, the complaints subsided. Students immediately knew that the adults making the decision to cancel had made every effort not to have to do this. The students involved in planning prom had been talking with us all along, but most students probably did not know all the options we had pursued in trying to make prom happen. The students had not had a chance to vote on whether or not to cancel. The student complaints dissipated because they trusted us. What is memorable for me is that by Friday at lunch time we were discussing other end of year events with students, again with their trust that we were all going to work together to hold all the activities we could. Student trust of administration, of adults in general, is a wonderful commodity in a school. It is the foundation upon which a true community can be built.

As we discussed end of year activities I felt our student and adult community coming together. Where adults were out sick, student leaders rose to the occasion to prepare themselves for the rigorous Cambridge exams and beautifully carry out Field Day at Liberty Park. Teachers rescheduled our annual hour-long portfolio reviews with students and parents as needed days after school was out just so as not to miss this personal celebration of learning and goal setting opportunity for their advisees.

At our promotion and graduation ceremony this year we heard from one of our exchange students, and from students who had just completed their first year with us as well as those that had just completed their sixth. There was a common message. They all felt the community of our school. They all described a place where they had felt encouraged and supported in personal growth and in accomplishing their goals. They all felt that they were learning in ways they had not before.

I don't think I could be more proud of our students, our faculty and staff, and our school than I am right now. I am very energized for next year. Please watch for information and join us during our upcoming 10th year celebration.

Best!

Sonia



Welcome to Our New Board Member



Chris Mancini

Chris is an attorney with Woodbury Corporation, where he primarily works in the areas of real estate, human resource and employment law. He was previously vice-president and general counsel for Mancini & Groesbeck, Inc., and practiced law with the firms of Winder & Haslam in Salt Lake City, and Johnson & Johnson in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Born in Duluth, Minnesota, Chris grew up in Salt Lake City, and graduated from Judge Memorial High School. He attended the University of Denver, American College in Paris and the University of Utah (B.S.1982), and received his law degree from the University of Utah in 1986. While at the University of Utah College of Law, Chris was Student Bar Association Treasurer and Administrative Editor of the Journal of Contemporary Law. He is a member of the Utah Bar Association, Society for Human Resource Management, and International Council of Shopping Centers.

Chris and wife Sharon have one ten year old son, Joey. In recent years, Chris has helped coach Joey's baseball and basketball teams. He also enjoys music, travel, golf and scuba diving.

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City Academy's challenging inquiry-based learning in every class developed by high quality teachers, our focus on writing across the curriculum, competency-based assessment of student learning, implementation of the Cambridge International Exams program for 9th-12th grades, integration of service learning and community-based field work as a vital part of study, and our personalized advisory program embody the framework for transforming high school education called for by the Alliance.

We have also initiated a specific focus on 8th grade as a key preparatory year for students. We are proud to launch 8th Grade Preparatory Academy at our school this fall. We have established the academically rigorous essential learnings a student is required to master in order to transition well to high school, and we have aligned curriculum and teaching strategies to realize that goal.

"You can bail out a bank; you can't bail out a generation," says the prolific American inventor, Dean Kamen, who has designed many things from the Segway to artificial limbs. "You can print money, but you can't print knowledge. It takes 12 years," he reminds us. Dean Kamen's message is vital, and at City Academy we take it to heart. We will continue to focus on learning during our five years with our students – sound learning progress for each student toward challenging goals each year. ■



Community Theater - Packed House & Rave Reviews

Written and directed by faculty members Bobby and Sheila Cody, "All's Fair..." was born out of students' interest in performing the unconventional with a bit of a twist. This production was inspired by endless creative brainstorming that led to the unusual question, "What if the Greek Gods had to take a day job?" It was in that instant that the concept for "All's Fair ..." emerged, the script began to take form and life at Café Olympus was born.

City Academy Community Theater is an integral part of our extended day programming. The student community theatre company is comprised of City Academy students as well as those from other area schools. The cast, crew and staff of this production put in countless hours building our Black Box Theater, developing characters and rehearsing scripts, instrumentals and vocals. Audiences were captivated as clever vignettes and antics unfolded at Café Olympus throughout the evening. It was a remarkable performance and a nice contrast to last year's production of *Jekyll & Hyde*. You won't want to miss their production next spring!



Clockwise from top Left: Shelia and Bobby Cody, Brianna & Amelia, Aaron, Robinson & Jayden

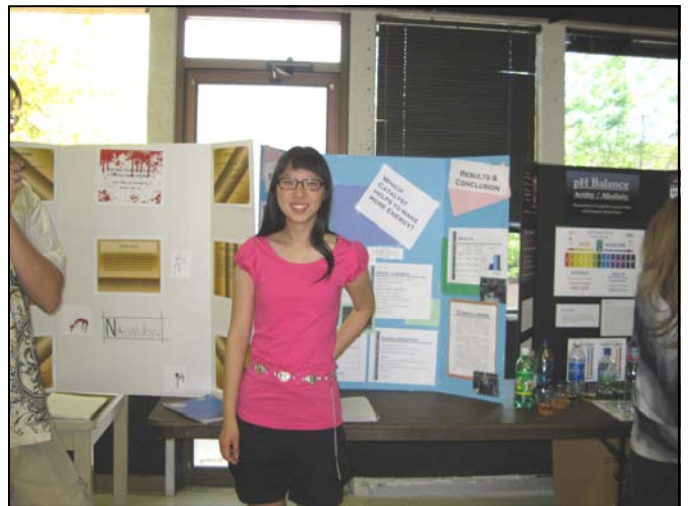
Life On the Fault Line Beneath Our Feet

As part of a unit in February, our 9th grade geography students investigated the impact of a large earthquake on SLC. Students did field work to make observations and studied maps and/or photos to determine the degree to which land use at the sites they visited was earthquake appropriate. They presented some of their findings at Earthquake Night, an informative evening developed and led by these students. Many students analyzed how particular buildings – from the Tabernacle to Rice Eccles Stadium – would potentially weather “The Big One” if it takes place. Others studied the effects of escaping radon gas, and the effects on families of being separated when a cataclysmic event like this occurs during the day while family members are at various places of work and school. Thankfully, they also presented us with good information about how to be prepared.



Annual Science Fair

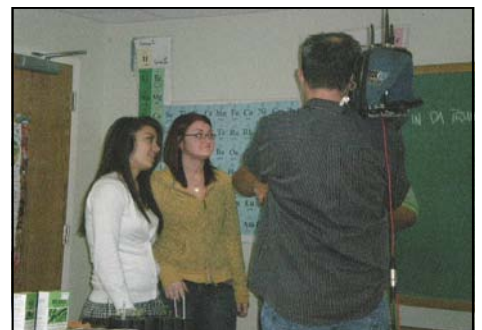
The annual City Academy Science Fair had an impressive array of projects from students of all grades and disciplines this year. We are very thankful to our judges from the outside science community for their time in reviewing student projects. Top prizes (including \$50 for 1st place and \$20 for 2nd in each division) were awarded for scientific investigations that included “Which tinder contains the best burning properties in survival situations?”, “How do different liquids effect decay-ing and discoloration when applied to human teeth?”, “Acid Catalyzed Esterification”, “What plant does cucumber grow healthiest with?”, “Egg Carton Acoustics”, and “Does washed or unwashed biodiesel produce more energy?” The City Academy science curriculum is grounded in investigative coursework that supports these young scientists in developing their own questions and pursuing investigations. We are very proud of all the students who entered their work and filled our multipurpose room with their learning.



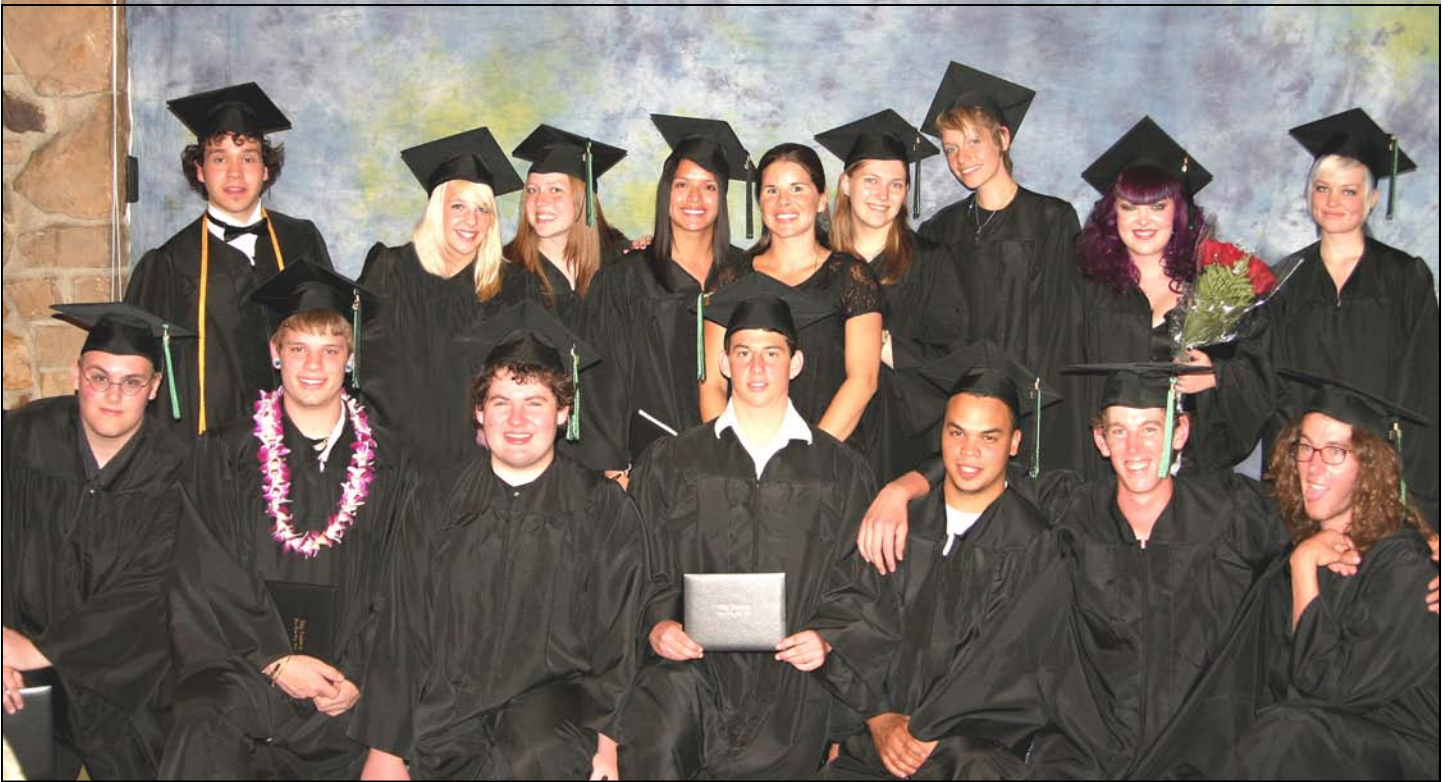
We're A Cool School !

FOX
13
NEWS

City Academy is a Fox 13 Cool School. Big Buddha visited to find out more about our environmental science program.



Congratulations to Our Graduates



*City Academy presents the Class of 2009; our largest graduating class so far!
(back row l to r): Aaron, Jade, Gabriella, Nora, Katie Tyser (senior advisor), Alix, Sunshine, Alix and Morgan.
(front row l to r): Duncan, Tylor, Alex, Rafael, Ariadmy, Alex and Zac.*

New School Flag Unveiled



As a part of his senior project on building a healthy and vibrant school community, Aaron, and his senior advisor, Katie Tyser, present the school with our new school flag.

US History Visited

Our US History students visit the Topaz Japanese Internment Camp site near Delta, Utah as part of their study of WWII and spent an evening with Alice Hirai, from 2-5 years of age was interned at the camp. City Academy students got a rare glimpse into the lives of those who lived there through artifacts they found, the childhood memories of Ms. Hirai and the stories passed down through a generation.

Topaz Japanese Internment Camp



1942-1945



Clockwise from top left: pieces of a broken oriental bowl left behind by camp residents; a weathered brass nameplate from a WWII vintage telephone; brass plate up close showing U.S. Army Signal Corps inscription; tour and reflection on the now desolate Topaz site; view of the site from a distance; Topaz Internment Camp 1942-1945 (courtesy of Topaz museum website at www.topazmuseum.org); Ms. Alice Hirai, survivor of the Topaz Internment Camp.

Thank You For Your Support

City Academy is grateful for the support of its donors and friends. Your generosity makes it possible to bring our students the best educational experience. Thank You.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
The Old Spaghetti Factory
Wal-Mart

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Your donation is Tax Deductable*

Congratulations to Our Business Manager



This has been a hard year to manage finances with all our budgets being cut and stimulus funds coming in small pots of money that must all be tracked separately. We are so fortunate to have excellent oversight for all our finances and all the many reports we must file with the state. Ram Prasad Boppana, our business manager, has been recognized for his excellence annually for many years from the State Office of Education Finance and Statistics department. This year Prasad was also given an award from the State Charter School Association as 2009 Key Staff Person in charter schools across the state. We are proud and so grateful for what Prasad contributes to our school.



Charter School Day 2009

Charter School Day at the Utah Legislature with our students and with student-made hors d'oeuvres for our representatives and senators.

Become a Friend of City Academy

Yes! I (we) would like to become a friend(s) of City Academy.

For your convenience, you may make your contribution on our secure donation page at www.cityacademyslc.org or use this form and mail it in.

- Up to \$99
 \$100 to \$499
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CITY ACADEMY
Small Classes Great Teachers **BIG** Learning

Fall Registration

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 am - 1:00 pm
&

Wednesday, August 12

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendar

August 24th

Family Picnic - Sugarhouse Park - 5:30 PM

August 25th

First Day of School

September 3rd

Back-to-School Night - 7:00 PM