



# 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 [www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org)

A Public Charter School Serving Grades 8-12

Summer 2011



## The New Common Core State Standards

*City Academy embraces the new educational standards adopted by Utah and 45 other states under the Common Core State Standards Initiative.*

Over the past twelve years since City Academy opened its doors, reform of public education has often been at the center of public conversation. New this year in Utah and across the country will be implementation of curriculum based on the recently developed Common Core State Standards in mathematics and reading/language arts.

At City Academy, we welcome the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) because they validate and support us in furthering the ideas of Big learning in both academics and citizenship that are the hallmark of a City Academy education. The new standards require more substantial understandings and abilities in literacy and numeracy, especially in academic written communication and critical thinking. We are encouraged by the CCSS mission indicating that the new standards are “designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the

knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.” We are hopeful about a civic intent in the CCSS mission as they state, “With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.”

At City Academy we remain committed to the goal of a high school education that genuinely propels each and every student to post-secondary success and prepares each and every young person for participatory citizenship. We look forward to the 2011- 2012 school year and eagerly anticipate the efforts of our Mock Trial, Cross Country, and Basketball teams, the productions of our theatre troupe, and the Big learning of our students demonstrated throughout the year in their classes, exams, and exhibitions.

Sonia Woodbury, PhD  
Executive Director

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# *City Academy is Committed To 21st Century Learning*

City Academy was established at the beginning of the 21st century. As founders we had learned from the successes and failures of the previous 100 years of public education. We knew that the 20th century industrial model of schooling had served its purpose but needed to be transformed. We asked ourselves, “If education were re-imagined, what kind of citizens would it produce?”

City Academy was founded with a specific mission to focus on learning while simultaneously nurturing young citizens. We provide academically rigorous, engaging, authentic, and relevant learning opportunities – what we call Big learning. This is learning that empowers our students with the type of knowledge that bolsters their further learning in college as well as in becoming responsible, proactive citizens.



We know that nurturing 21st Century citizens additionally requires helping them develop skills relevant in our world. These skills include the technology enhanced essential five C's – communication, collaboration, curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. We also know that 21st century skills necessarily include skills of living in a democracy, skills of exercising our First Amendment right to use our unique voices knowledgeably, effectively, and with integrity in co-creating the local and global communities within which we live.

“If education were  
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# The National Mock Trial Competitions



*The 2011 Senior Mock Trial Team*

On March 23rd City Academy Charter School competed against Mountain View High at the Utah Court of Appeals for the 2011 State Mock Trial Championships. Although Mountain View won this year's title they were unable to attend the National Championships held each year over Mother's Day weekend.

As a result, the City Academy mock trial team of 8 students and their teacher Mr. Gareth Orr accepted the honor of representing Utah in their place in Phoenix, Arizona. The City Academy team worked very hard and were pre-

pared and eager to take to the national "mock trial stage".

The national competition was stiff and the City Academy team held their own. In the end, they didn't bring home any awards to hang on their walls or trophies to display. This might be cause for disappointment for some students, but not for the 2011 City Academy High School Mock trial team. They returned from the competition feeling rewarded in ways they never imagined. Here is what they had to say:

*"I have gained a deep understanding of the American justice system, through a most authentic form of learning! Learning to keep my cool under pressure has made me not just a better competitor, but a better person." - Senior Team Student*

*"Each member of the team gained character, courage, confidence. Not only did they gain skill and knowledge, but each student had to make a stand and respond to challenges with grace and poise in the heat of the moment. These are life lessons well learned." - Gareth Orr, Teacher*

*"I have become confident in making arguments, and in verbal sparring, before a large audience. I can now argue with poise, and without panic." - Senior Team Student*

# We Are One Of The 5 Greenest Schools In The Nation !!

What does the combination of an urban beehive, a greenhouse, biodiesel fuel and a worm farm mean to you? Sounds “green” but it’s hard to describe unless you’re an executive from New York City judging a national Green Your School Challenge - then it means creative students, top contenders and big prize winners!

City Academy was one of 2,500 schools, and 200,000 students nationwide, who participated in Dosomething.org and HP’s Green Your School Challenge. For the challenge students were asked to create solutions to recycling, energy, climate change, and food issues in their schools and then turn them into action.

City Academy rose to the top of the national pack as one of the 10 Greenest Schools nationwide and received a very large \$1000 check as one of the top 5 winners of the Green School Challenge. For more information about City Academy’s Green School Challenge project go to visit <http://www.dosomething.org/green-your-school> and click on the City Academy link. Stay tuned and see how City Academy uses their prize money to further green their school initiatives and spread the message.



Assorted vegetables in raised-bed garden.



Strawberry plants begin to flower.

Alex Martinson, Lucas Hayes, and Amanda Cangelos (l to r) hold the giant \$1000 check presented in person by Nancy Lublin, CEO of New York City’s DoSomething.org



# Hey, Save This Date!!

When: Saturday, September 24th

What: Green It! one space at a time \*\*

Time : 9:00 am - noon

Where: City Academy 555 East 200 South

A Jane's Walk and Workshop for local high school students and their families.

Develop a Green It project and compete for a cash prize.

Organized and hosted by The National Green Your School Award Winning Students of City Academy

\*\* For everyone who cares about our urban environment and wants to do something to make a difference!



Watch for more information on our Facebook page.  
go to [www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org)

just click on the  icon

# *We Appreciate Our Generous Donors*

*City Academy is grateful for the support of all its donors. This year we launched The Citadel Society – Giving for the Fortification of City Academy. We would especially like to recognize inaugural members of The Citadel Society for their commitment and support of excellence in education. Their generosity makes it possible to bring our students the best educational experiences. Thank You.*

## **CITADEL SOCIETY**

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### **Up To \$999**

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City Academy is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 charitable organization.  
Donations listed in this newsletter reflect those made July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.  
We apologize for any errors in omission.

# Meet Our Prize Winning Rollercoaster Designers

Traveling to the Lagoon Amusement Park for the 2011 Utah State University Physics Day competitions seemed like a fairly straightforward exercise. However, it was Friday the 13th and the journey was anything but smooth. The day began with the promise of a bus and a driver that failed to show up on time and then a bus that was available that had no driver. Once a bus and driver finally emerged and group took to the road, bus troubles ensued, wrong exits were taken and anxious, noisy students became increasingly restless.

Despite the late arrival at Lagoon the City Academy Physics Team was more than ready to participate and Ride the Wave - and ride they did! City Academy students performed spectacularly in the day's Rollercoaster Design competition taking both first and second places and received an assortment of gizmos and gadgets as prizes for their creativity and ingenuity.

This was City Academy's 4th year participating in this unique competition. Elyse Jones and Sarahi Aguirre from the Integrated Science class won prizes for dropping their egg container from 60 ft. and having it land exactly on target AND keeping their egg safe!

All in all a great end to the exciting day.

## The Design Winners!

**First Place:** Shivonne McMullin and Kindra Stock (upper left)

**Second Place:** Dayan Sauerbronn and Julie Cottam (bottom left in center holding prizes and surrounded by teammates)





**CITY ACADEMY**  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84102  
[www.cityacademyslc.org](http://www.cityacademyslc.org)  
801-596-8489

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# There's Still Time to Register For Fall 2011

visit

[www.cityacademyslc.org/enrollment](http://www.cityacademyslc.org/enrollment)

## ..... Dates To Remember .....

**School Information Tours**  
Mornings and by Appt.

**First Day of School**  
Wednesday, Aug. 24th

**Back to School Night**  
Thursday, Sept. 8th

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