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- **Waiting for “Superman” Documentary on Charter Schools**
- **Back-to-School; Taxes and Illness**
- **Charter School Partners**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **NWEA testing continues**
- **9/29/10
2hr late start**
- **9/30/10
Fish Awards**
- **10/8/10
School Portrait Day & Out of Uniform Day**



Director's Notes

by
Lynn Gluck Peterson

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Waiting For “Superman”

Last week's Time Magazine's cover highlighted public education. Time's cover story was written in conjunction with last Friday's opening of *Waiting for "Superman"* movie premier. The documentary follows five kids and their parents as they try to escape their neighborhood public schools for higher-performing public charter schools. The movie serves up a lot of clarifying statistics about the problems facing education reform, explaining how it could be that the U.S. since 1971 has more than doubled the money it spends per pupil yet still trails most other rich nations in science and math scores. (Read more: http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2019663_2020590,00.html)

While the setting in Cologne doesn't match that of Harlem, the mission is still the same. Cologne Academy's mission and vision is grounded in academic excellence. Academic results do not happen by chance; it takes a quality curriculum coupled with highly qualified and dedicated teachers who are trained and skilled at data-driven instruction to pull academic growth and achievement for all students.

Cologne Academy's authorizer, Friends of Education (FoE), is results driven and looks for innovations in the classrooms and educational methodologies that support the rigor necessary to be a great school. This summer, FoE provided school leaders of their 17 Minnesota charter schools to a
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Our Vision

To create an environment for K-8 children where rich character development and effective learning create self confident students who are able to achieve their personal best academically. Using advanced curriculum that is based on goal oriented results, parents will work with teachers to produce the highest possible level of academic achievement for each individual student.

Waiting For “Superman,” continued

two-day training in data-driven instruction. The trainer was Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, a director at North Star charter school in New Jersey. North Star is one of the highest achieving schools in the

state serving 90% poverty rate and 90% minority and achieving 90% proficiency on their high-stakes tests.

This training was transforming for all those who attended and

implementation of the learned strategies are under way here at Cologne Academy.



Charter School Partners & Cologne Academy

Cologne Academy’s commitment to quality education is also evident in our recent membership to Charter School Partners (CSP). CSP’s *Community of Excellence* is made up of a cadre of Twin Cities schools – urban and suburban – that demonstrate a fierce commitment to the highest principles of quality and excellence in charter schools.

CSP’s *Community of Excellence* is selective: only schools that show loyalty to the facets of excellence CSP has identified for charters are invited to attend. Schools in CSP’s *Community of Excellence* will demonstrate high levels of overall proficiency, growth or growth potential as measured by formal academic assessments.

In addition to performance, CSP Partner Schools must be a strong *contributor* to the larger charter movement and exhibit unrelenting persistence in ensuring quality and achievement in Minnesota’s charter schools.

CSP’s *Community of Excellence* is comprised of inner-city schools who serve predominantly students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, high performing urban and suburban schools, as well as schools that are more of a blend of populations.

At a time of tremendous challenges for the charter community in Minnesota, it is imperative that this diverse community of high-performing charters band together and support each other in order to improve the quality of all charter schools in Minnesota and be an example of what a high quality movement is all about – an essential strategy to protect the future of the charter movement in Minnesota.

Thank you for supporting Cologne Academy

TAXES

BACK TO SCHOOL

ILLNESS

REMINDER

SAVE YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY RECEIPTS AND SAVE MONEY ON YOUR STATE TAX RETURN!

Information Provided by Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance Tax Law Project

MINNESOTA EDUCATION CREDIT AND SUBTRACTION

You may be able to claim a state tax credit or subtraction for costs related to your child's education. This covers children in kindergarten through high school. The maximum credit is \$1,000 per child and eligibility is based on your family's income. Anyone can take the subtraction regardless of income.

To claim the credit or subtraction save receipts for your children's school supplies, including pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, calculators, etc. You can also claim expenses for things like: tutors, academic text books, fees paid to others for transportation, music lessons, after school academic programs and academic summer camps. Additionally you can claim the cost of computer hardware and educational software (up to \$200).

To claim the credit you will need to fill out Schedule MIED with your Minnesota State Tax Form, to take the subtraction use the worksheet on the back of Form M-1. Remember you MUST save the receipts from your purchases to claim the credit or subtraction.

For additional information and a more detailed list of what expenses can be claimed go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue Website www.taxes.state.mn.us and enter the search term "Education Credit and Subtraction."

Our Mission

To provide students in Cologne and surrounding rural areas with a content-rich education based on a strong foundation of knowledge through the use of the Core Knowledge Sequence and classical curriculum. We are committed to providing a community school with small class sizes where students, parents and teachers work together to achieve accelerated academic achievement and strong character development.

As students head back-to-school, there is a rise in student illness as we reintroduce ourselves to each other and spread many germs as we do! We have had many students absent due to colds, fevers, vomiting, etc. Can you help us out by keeping your sick student at home? As a reminder, students may not be in school with: communicable diseases, including head lice, temperatures over 99.6° , inflamed or red eyes, draining skin lesions, vomiting, diarrhea, or severe abdominal pain, persistent cough, swollen glands, ear ache, or an acute cold.