

Achieve Newsletter September 2023

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## A Message from the Director



The theme for Summer 2023 was "Celebrate," as we marked the 15th Summer of Achieve. I feel like I say this every year, but it might have been our most joyful summer yet. Our students showed up every day, no matter how hot (or rainy) the weather, and truly gave their best both inside and outside of the classroom.

This summer was particularly special to me as we celebrated the graduation of Pride 13. When I came on as Director of Achieve in 2021, these students and I were new together as we all navigated a return to in-person Achieve despite the uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic. As I said in my graduation remarks, this cohort "truly epitomizes the spirit of Achieve." We are so glad they won't be going far, as they have all made the commitment to join our second cohort of the Achieve Graduate Fellowship.

In this newsletter, you will find information and photos highlighting learning and fun from the summer, a snapshot of The Summer Showcase, and information about our partnership with Harvard's Crimson Summer Academy.

Sincerely,  
Reginald Toussaint  
Executive Director

### **\*ACHIEVE DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT!\***

Achieve depends on the generosity of its supporters. Contributions will be put to use immediately and will help cover the costs of the upcoming summer session.

**Thank you for your consideration!**

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## Achieve Graduate Spotlight: Meggan Jeannot



*Meggan Jeannot is a rising sophomore at Boston Latin School. She is a member of Achieve Pride 12. This summer she participated in Harvard's Crimson Summer Academy (CSA).*

### **How did Achieve help you make a plan for your summer after ninth grade?**

Achieve was the program that originally introduced me to

## Partnership with Nobles Day Camp



This summer we were excited to launch a new partnership with Nobles Day Camp. The camp leadership and staff generously provided our students the opportunity to experience camp life throughout the summer by hosting workshops in archery, boating, beading, s'mores and tie-dye. Each week our students were eager to sign up for these enrichment activities and really enjoyed learning new skills!

We are so grateful to the Nobles Day Camp staff for their generosity and look forward to continuing to strengthen the partnership in the years to come!

## Achieve Summer Showcase 2023



We concluded our summer session with the second annual Achieve Summer Showcase. The Showcase is an opportunity for Achieve students to reflect on what they learned over this summer and present a short overview to their classmates, families, and

could be nominated. I also got help with the application process through the Achieve Graduate Fellowship.

### How would you explain CSA to someone who didn't know about it?

It is a branch of Harvard Summer School. We take classes in the morning and then in the afternoon there are a range of activities from paint night to a guest speaker. We also took a college and career prep course. And just like Achieve, it will be for three summers until we graduate from high school!

### How would you describe your experience at CSA?

I can't even put it into words. I had a great time, I feel like I learned a lot beyond the classroom like values and principles. I was really stressed about college my freshman year because it seemed like my classmates all knew what they wanted to do and I didn't. But we took a college and career prep course and that made me realize that it is okay not to know everything yet.

I also learned to be really grateful. The opportunities I have had from Achieve to CSA have been truly phenomenal and I shouldn't take them for granted.

### How did your time at Achieve help you feel prepared for your summer at CSA?

I am used to doing homework in the summer, so that was not a huge shift for me and I didn't procrastinate as much as my peers. We had book club, which I was used to from Achieve. I was used to having scheduled time for classes and enrichment time after class. It was kind of the same schedule as Achieve but longer because we spent the night on campus. Like a week of Achieve fit into one day at CSA!

*Are you interested in hosting an Achieve graduate for a summer or school-year*

During Achieve summers our teachers focus on previewing key learning standards to our students for the upcoming school year. Students are challenged by material that is new to them throughout the summer. This exposure to new concepts also makes them better prepared when they encounter those topics at their school during the academic year. The Showcase gives them an opportunity to synthesize the new material in front of a supportive audience.

From presenting their original short plays, to describing how neurons function in the brain, to presenting an original piece of artwork, it was clear our students learned a lot this summer! We wish them all the best as they head into this new school year and we know they are well prepared to tackle any challenges thrown their way!



We are so grateful to have received a generous five-year grant from the Trefler Foundation to support and expand our work in Graduate Services.

As part of this grant we are committed to raising \$1.2 million to support the Achieve endowment over the next several years. If you are able, please consider donating to Achieve today!

**Click here to support the Achieve endowment**



**ACHIEVE'S MISSION**

Achieve partners with families from Boston to empower motivated students to challenge the opportunity gap. By providing transformative academic programming and enriching experiences from middle school through the first year of college, we foster enduring confidence and agency in our scholars through a supportive and joyful community.



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