



ACADEMY

IMAGINE. INVESTIGATE. INNOVATE.

i3 Academy Newsletter • September Issue

A message from our Head of School:

i3 Families,



School is in full swing! These past few weeks have been some of our most challenging to date with the spike in Delta cases, but we continue to press forward, facing these challenges with resilience.

Starting September 15th, we will begin celebrating Latin American and Hispanic Heritage Month. During this time, we recognize the many Latin American and Hispanic families and employees who add to the richness of our i3 family. We celebrate the many languages, histories, and cultures that make up the Latin American and Hispanic community at large.

Recently, we announced that third grade teacher Mr. Nathaniel Dunn will represent i3 Academy in the Alabama Charter School Commission's Teacher of the Year Program. Mr. Dunn embodies what it means to be an agent of change as a teacher and a citizen. He continually looks for ways to improve his craft and empowers his students to be the best versions of themselves each day. Way to go, Mr. Dunn!

Our recent COVID survey for families revealed that one third of our i3 families would prefer a remote learning option at this time. We have done our best to respond to this request as well as consider the high rate of community spread. We are offering a temporary remote learning option from September 20-October 7. Students who choose this option will return to school on October 12, 2021. For more information, please see page five of the newsletter. **In order to register for the temporary remote learning option, parents must sign a parent contract. Please read this document carefully as this remote option will be different from the one offered in 2020-2021. Register and sign through [this link](#).**

If you or someone you know is available to substitute, we would greatly appreciate the help. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the elementary school and 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the middle school. The pay is \$125 per day. Once you apply, your name will be added to our substitute pool, and we will contact you if a need arises. At that time, you can accept or decline the job for that day.

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Student recruitment will be here before we know it! Applications for the lottery open on October 1st. We are adding a seventh grade class with twenty-five additional seats. Please spread the word to your friends and family. To apply, starting on October 1st, go to our website i3Academy.org. Current families do not need to reapply, but if your i3 student has a younger sibling that you would like to enroll for next school year, you will need to complete an application before the deadline, January 17, 2022.

Please mark your calendars for parent conferences on Friday, October 29th. This will be a time for you to meet with your child's teacher via Zoom. Students will not have school on this day. Your child's teacher will send additional information as the date approaches.

In closing, we must continue to work through the challenges of COVID-19 as a team. Every decision we make affects the larger group, including wearing masks and getting vaccinated. Please consider getting your COVID-19 vaccine and encourage your child to wear his/her mask properly each day. We have another vaccine clinic in the works--stay tuned!

As always, thank you for your support! Please reach out if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Martin A. Nalls, EdD
Head of School, i3 Academy

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES!



- **Every Thursday at 5 p.m.:** The Live Wire (private Facebook group)
- **Sept. 15th:** Magic City Mural Fest Essay Due (4th-6th girls only)
- **Sept. 20th- Oct. 1st:** SEL Survey Window
- **Oct. 4th:** Scoliosis Screening (both schools)
- **Oct. 8th-11th:** Fall Break (no school)
- **Oct. 29th:** Parent/Teacher Conferences (no students)

Announcements

- Our middle school makerspace is looking for toys or other household items that our students can reverse engineer. We are also accepting donations of both hand tools and power tools. You can reach Mr. Nguyen at tnguyen@i3Academy.org if you have questions about items we can use.
- Our i3 Food Pantry is in need of an industrial freezer and refrigerator. If you can help with this need, please email Coach Mullins at amullins@i3academy.org.
- The i3 Academy Swag Shop is officially open for business. This is a great way to represent our school in the community. Orders can be placed through this [website](#).
- We need parent volunteers for our Scouting program. If you can help after school, please email dspencer@i3academy.org.
- For 4th-6th grade girls, we are now accepting essay submissions for the Magic City Mural Fest. Please email Ms. Williamson for more info at kwilliamson@i3academy.org.

Reminders

- Our elementary makerspace teacher, Ms. Madison Goodwin, is collecting items for projects. These items include but are not limited to cardboard boxes, paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, corks, egg cartons (styrofoam, cardboard and plastic), bottle tops, old electronics, loose pieces (buttons, tacks, screws, etc.), tools (in working condition), scrap wood, fabric/yarn, toys (legos, kinetic sand, Magna-tiles, etc.). Please contact Ms. Goodwin via email to arrange drop off at mgoodwin@i3academy.org.
- Our math lab teachers and media specialist have teamed up to work on counting collections for math lessons. They are collecting items such as googlie eyes, poof balls, tooth picks, beans, bottle caps, cotton balls, beads, paper clips, etc.
- If your family is in need of additional support, join our Family Success Plan via this [form](#).
- Additional uniform items can be ordered from our Lands' End [online store](#).
- You can join our Private Facebook group [here](#).
- Please make sure to label all items you send to school with your child's first and last name, including jackets and masks.
- Throughout the year, we collect uniforms that your child has outgrown. Please bring them to the front office. We will wash them and redistribute them.

Nurses' Notes

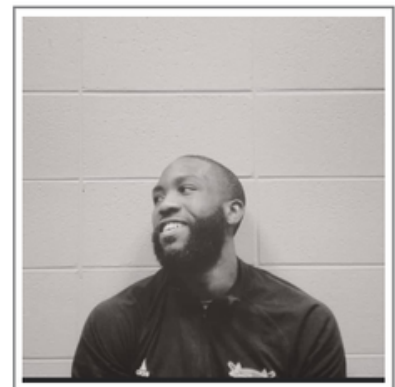
- Please continue to send your child in a clean mask each day. Help protect our i3 family by getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Use this [website](#) by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) to help determine if you should send your child to school if he/she is not feeling well.
- If your child has a dietary restriction, this [form](#) must be completed by a physician.
- If you have any questions for our nurses, please email Tanya Kendrick at tkendrick@i3academy.org or Sara Ebersold at sebersold@i3academy.org.

Counseling Corner with Ms. Crane & Mr. Hodge



Character Word of the Month:

Initiative - Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.



Welcome to i3 Academy!

We are so excited to begin another wonderful year here at i3 Academy! As the School counselors, we are here to advocate for the overall development of the child which includes the academic, social and career aspects of our program to promote a collaborative relationship with parents, students, community and faculty.

Counselor meets with students to:

- Listen
- Problem-solve issues of concern
- Provide support when dealing with personal problems
- Create a plan for academic success
- Explore career awareness



Counselor meets with parents/ guardians to:

- Provide support for parents seeking help
- Provide information regarding available community resources
- Share information about their child within the boundaries of the counselor's professional ethics
- Review student academic performance

Throughout the year we may ask permission for your child to participate in a small group here at school. This is a great opportunity for your child to meet with us and other students in a smaller setting than the general classrooms to discuss topics such as: friendship, grief, anxiety, changing families, anger management, etc. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

With a smile, Keisha Crane & Chase Hodge
kcrane@i3academy.org whodge@i3academy.org

Temporary Remote Learning Option Overview

We are offering a temporary remote learning option from September 20-October 7. Students in this option will return to school on October 12, 2021. Any decision to continue the remote option will be made closer to October 7th and will be based on community COVID-19 numbers at that point in time. We will give families some advance notice if we plan to continue this option.

Registration will be available from September 10th-16th. Any registrations after Thursday, September 16, will not be accepted.

In order to register for the temporary remote learning option, parents sign a parent contract. Please read this document carefully as this remote option will be different from the one offered in 2020-2021. Register and sign through this [link](#).

At this time, remote learning will be 90% asynchronous. In other words, students will be required to complete the majority of the assigned work independently. There will not be live instruction through Zoom for the core academic content. Please consider whether this is a fit for your child academically.

Remote learning will include the following, but it may vary slightly based on your child's individual teacher:

- Assignments and lessons will be asynchronous, meaning live lessons on Zoom will NOT be part of remote learning at this time. It will be mostly computer or paper-based activities and lessons.
- A digital "Week at a Glance" will be given for students to complete throughout the week.
- A short weekly check-in with the child's teacher as a whole group will be offered via Zoom.
- Attendance will be based on assignment completion. After two or more consecutive days or four days total of missing assignments, the student will be asked to return to school on campus.
- An iPad and headphones will be provided for remote learning
- Food service for the week will be provided; meal kits will need to be picked up at the school or a bus hub location (TBD)
- Intervention, special education, or gifted services will be offered as applicable.

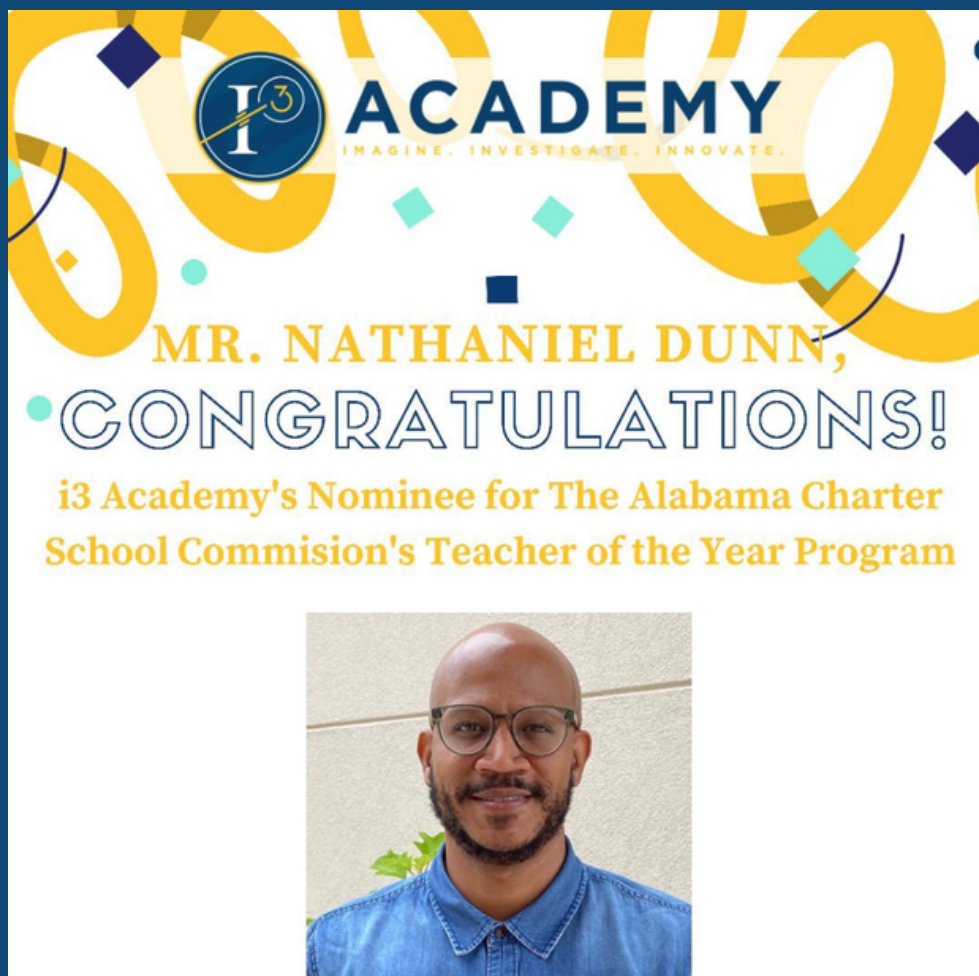
STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Mr. Michael Johnson is the new i3 Academy music teacher. Hailing from Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Johnson is a performer, arranger, educator, and adjudicator. He has performed on trombone and euphonium with members of the Greenville, Memphis, and Alabama symphony orchestras. He has been involved with music education for the past 11 years and is excited to join the team.

We're so glad to have Mr. Johnson on the team, and we can't wait for our students gain a love of music and performing arts.

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON

MUSIC TEACHER



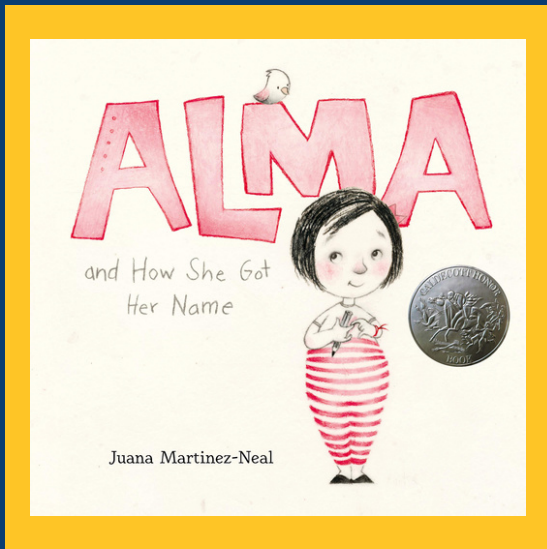


BOOK NOOK



***Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal**

Young Alma is learning to write her name, and what a name it is! Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela - try fitting that on a single line. When Alma asks her father why she has so many names, he responds by bringing to life the stories of Alma's ancestors. Alma learns her cultural roots through her namesakes, and comes to love every part of her name.



***Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina**

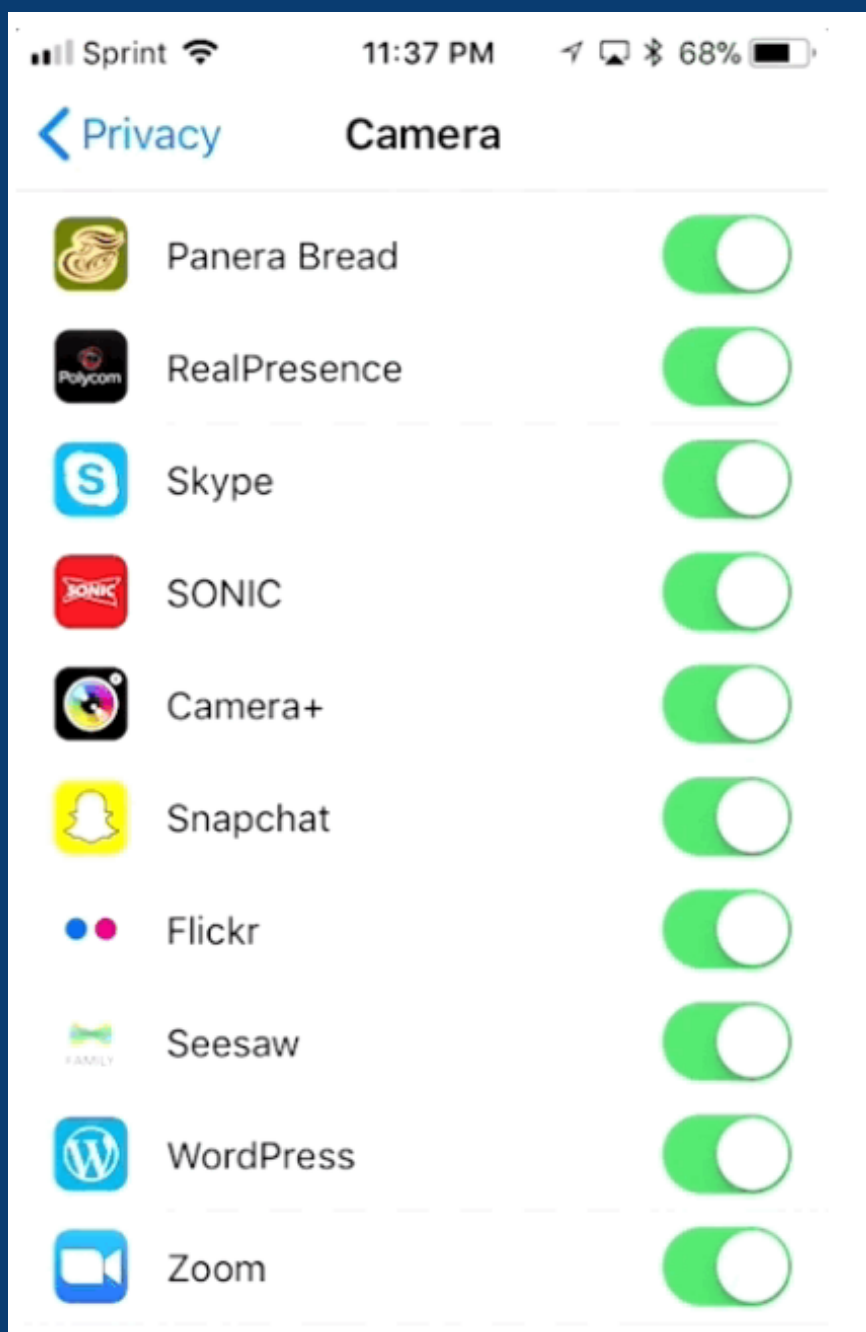
Merci Suárez is a sixth grader at a private school in Florida who feels like she doesn't fit in with the other students.. Merci loves her large family, but she is confused by changes that are happening at home. Merci Suárez Changes Gears is a beautiful story about the love and sacrifice of family and the challenges of growing up.



Tech Tip

If your camera/microphone is not working on Zoom...

1. Open you iOS settings.
2. Tap "Privacy."
3. Tap "Camera"
4. Toggle Zoom access to on (green)



5. Repeat the same steps for microphone.

Our friends at Zero Zero are offering weekend baseball camps!



BASEBALL

Saturday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 23 | 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Cooper Green Park

112 Dorothy Dr SW, B'ham, AL 35211



**Baseball Coordinator: Jamie Harris - Head
Baseball Coach at Vestavia Hills High School**

Jamie Harris is the Head Baseball Coach at Vestavia Hills High School in Birmingham, AL. Harris is going into his 7th year with the Rebel Baseball program. Before coming to Vestavia, Harris was a baseball coach at Spain Park High School in Hoover, AL. Coach Harris attended Samford University where he was a 3 year starter for the Bulldog baseball team. Prior to Samford, Harris played for the legendary Sammy Dunn at Vestavia Hills High School and was a part of two State Championship winning teams. Harris is married to his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth, and they have two sons, Jackson (17) and Jacob (14).



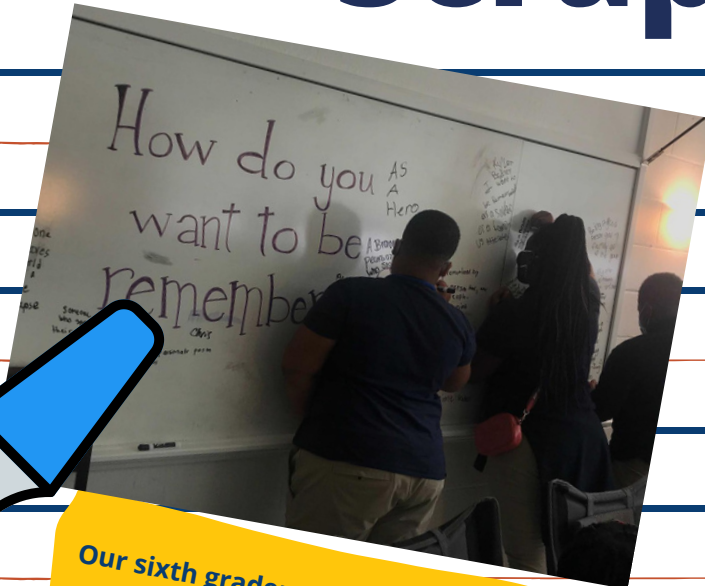
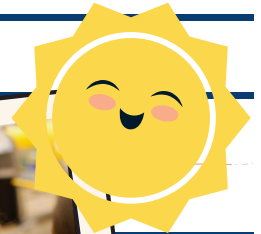
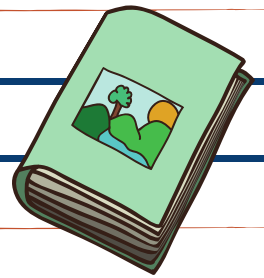
**SCAN HERE
to REGISTER**

All ZeroZero participants can attend free of cost.
zerozerofoundation.org



i3 Academy

Scrapbook



Our sixth graders are imagining their legacy!



Sweet moments in kindergarten!



Ms. Anderson's first graders love numbers.



Mrs. Ivey's second graders read a book with Officer Harper.



Fourth graders love the playground!



Second grade students worked on Spanish/English cognates with Mrs. Salter.

Back to School



On the first day of school, Vulcan and Vesta were on hand to celebrate!