

A photo gallery of **Success**



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Harriet Tubman

Our Young, Gifted & Black tribute celebrates outstanding Black students who have inspired us by defying stereotypes through their successes, achievements and leadership. Congratulations to our honorees and to their parents and family members, and to the teachers with whom they built their success.

Carole Smith

Superintendent Portland Public Schools



Shatoya
Allen
Grade 9
Young Women's
Leadership
Academy at
Harriet Tubman

a loyal friend faithful student
Shatoya has discovered
her own super powers
once shy now a recognized leader
once socially challenged
now a favorite at sleepovers

she used to act out to get attention
now she gets attention
by being authentic
witty charming sweet
smart articulate engaged
her enthusiasm is infectious

she sparkles radiance self-assurance revealing the process of possibility as when a caterpillar emerges from a cramped cocoon spreads her wings and flies



an only child, Mekai is singular in his dreams his razor sharp focus cuts away all distractions a mini LeBron James in the making bringing the Heat even when wet dunking on the showerhead I'm told yeah Mekai is dripping with potential a natural leader he follows the rules solving problems in math and life he is kind to classmates. helpful to his teacher loving to parents the best yard worker a grandmother could ever want is there anything Mekai doesn't do well if so, nobody's figured out what that is yet whether behind a desk or behind in points smiling Mekai always plays to win swish - he scores naturally



Mekai
Anderson
Kindergarten
Beach PK-8 School





Nohealani (Lani) Bannister Grade 7 Astor K-8 School Nohealani is quite mature

She really has a big heart

Self-motivation also sets her apart

When it comes to schoolwork

Lani's always on her game

The honor roll is regularly listing her name

In sports, she's a leader
On stage, she's a star
Prompting standing ovations
And mouths left ajar

As a writer, she goes above and beyond This young lady's heart, mind, integrity Are all equally strong



leader

learner

an inquisitive eager mind

curious

confident

excellent communicator

eager artist

sketching promise

she exudes positivity

an aspiring ballerina

she moves gracefully

within between among

a positive role model

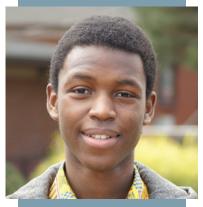
past present future

star



Jada
Commodore
Grade 5
Chief Joseph
PK-5 School





Joseph
Dessou
Grade 11
Franklin High
School

self disciplined he knows when to work when to have fun when to rest whether playing soccer or playstation3 doing homework or doing chores watching movies or laughing out loud Joseph gives his all to the moment his talent has no limit leadership is innate politeness is an art like any engineer he knows how to design success



it is said that kindness is more compelling than knowledge compassion offers more comfort than a word of wisdom

an extended hand at the right time can exude the depth of one's humanity nourish a desperate plea for love with an earnest full-mouthed smile

Hannah has a precious combination equally wise and warmhearted like a muse waiting for invitation a paint stroke that brings completion

peers say she is a champion of peace she spreads kindness on wings that flutter not for the sake of movement but to guide us to places we want to be



Hannah
Dressa
Grade 8
Mt. Tabor Middle
School





Sekai Edwards Grade 8 DaVinci Arts Middle School eloquent and talented compelled and engaging Sekai's divine artistry names and creates

"Change" "Making Change" inspiring change an intense 12 minutes of art an imagined exchange of words weaved with appropriate complexity identifies our inadequacies forces participation in our shared reality gives what is unresolved a necessary context incites a response that can - ultimately change a mind

a life

our silence



if you are wise enough
you don't have to taste defeat
to know what you don't want
so Breah runs from failure
as hard as she sprints toward success

she makes conscious choices
of what not to be
pushes herself to prevail
disperse any clouds of self-doubt

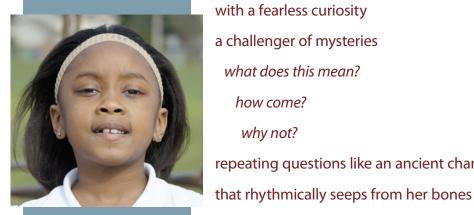
I want to be the best, she says along the way she inspires encourages tutors others to reach past their own limits

I don't want to be one of those people who quits when things are hard press on gentle warrior press on toward peace



Breah
Etherly
Grade 9
Scott K-8 School





Essence **Fleming** Rigler K-8 School she carries the soul of a sage with a fearless curiosity a challenger of mysteries what does this mean? how come? why not? repeating questions like an ancient chant

even mindless play provides lessons on the how comes and what fors a constant gardening of wisdom

even as a first grader she understands the importance of prudence staying on task expanding her own horizons doing her absolute best

on family trips she collects rocks a symbol of security spiritual faith the Essence of strength



A curious voracious learner

Angelisha has argued for justice

Researched diabetes

Walked for those struggling with HIV

Presented at conferences

Interned at a NE free clinic

Learning reading pushing

She treats high school

Like a stop on the success train

Everyone knows she's going places

Respected competitive college bound

She juggles her responsibilities

Like the leader she is

Strong motivated self assured

A picture of success



Angeleesha
Frierson
Grade 11
Jefferson Middle
College





Ben
Jackson
Grade 11
Jefferson Middle
College

his leadership is measured in the quiet accomplishments of making the honor roll taking college courses pursuing biotechnology mentoring middle schoolers he doesn't have to be loud for his life to speak of success vociferously



hope was ever present from
the moment his parents gathered
values in different countries but
discovered they spoke the same language

hope moved like meringue around
his wondering 5-year-old mind
he determined then not even space
was the outer limit of his curiosity

Michael is a natural born scientist
who discovers value in the unknown
delight in the universe's ionic bonding
of problem and possibility

life then becomes a constant experiment

Michael the ever-questioning inquisitor

buoyed by his insistent certainty

that the answers will - one day - be his



Michael
Joseph
Grade 11
Cleveland High
School





Stanley
Mathabane
Grade 12
Lincoln High
School

mouth sealed eyes closed eyebrows furled close enough to play tag nimble fingertips plant firmly on keys harvesting an intense note bending rift jazz sweet jazz played in bands all over the city played in New York in front of jazz legends played on three ambitious tracks of a Grammy Award winner's latest album he doesn't let time interfere with his self-determined destiny taking a full load of college-prep courses creating space for theater theory singing multiplicities of magic that moves him like any jazz artist, a strong foundation is merely a source of inspiration Stanley is the embodiment of an eloquent South African father whose accomplishments instigate inspiration

like father like son



you know how to move us astound us recapture our life's rhythmic subtleties teach us young dancer to flow gracefully over edges of thorns gather our raw emotions with quick limbs lay them bare upon your fingertips fling them back to us - loose and liberated to mingle with the glistening scents of red roses and sandalwood that rest in the hush of the crowd free us from the weightiness of what doesn't really matter anyway all heaviness fades as we witness wide-eyed and breathless the beauty of your nimbleness whirling jumping transforming time air dance for us once more young dancer dance for our tears mirth hopes dreams help us rediscover wonder help us to know beauty again



Abriana
McKinney
Grade 12
Benson High
School





Rayla Moore Grade 8 Marysville K-8 School the sun has to borrow her smile so bright are her daily greetings which sparkle with the thoughtful glow of well-placed compliments

meek modest and quiet she laughs when teachers' jokes aren't funny offers grace to quivering students eagerly carries loads that are not her own makes others feel embraced heard safe

unafraid of taking risks she stands firm resolute as Mt. Hood takes notes wise beyond her years always wanting to do her very best

Rayla embodies success
willing and eager to build community
model inclusivity
seek we



when his school holds up a mirror it finds its community in the reflection of Michael's soul genuinely respected he excels academically volunteers voraciously mentors enthusiastically he never gives up he is like a gardener actively implanting kindness humor integrity beauty

nurturing all

blossoming respect



Michael
Ninen
Grade 8
Sunnyside
Environmental
K-8 School





Elijah Raiford Grade 7 George Middle School

a lover of math
he has it all figured out
resourcefulness multiplies dividends
any questions

near perfect attendance, check football awards, check principal awards, check honor roll awards, check

charismatic and curious he is a natural charmer motivated by challenge meticulously astute

he can even be equation changer it's not often a teacher says "he makes me want to be better" Elijah is just that special



a persistent joy it seems as if he grins on the inside strong in math reading writing he seeks learning with the diligence of a playful kitten grabbing at string a steady temperament he teaches others what it means to be genuinely yourself yet constantly

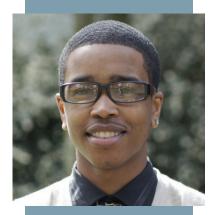
creating

a better you



Solon Sanders Grade 2 Grout K-5 School





Izear
Smith
Grade 12
Madison High
School

his smile radiates
reflecting an inner strength
kind thoughtful unrelentingly positive
lzear chases challenges like the wind
trying to tame an unfurled flag
his ambitions have led him to
tutor younger students
organize a Black Student Union
excel in basketball
be himself

mother teachers mentees
all trusted guides to help channel
his potential tame his grief
smother self-doubt in the
depths of their encouragement
he wants to major in business
start a non-profit help change lives

his dreams have already begun

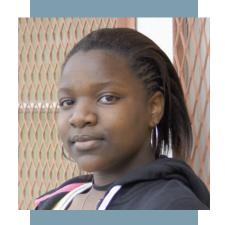


if you want to discover
the core of her determination
the dimensions of its being
you have to look within
seek out the contours of her soul

it was there
from the beginning
that independent radiant fire
intense as a dragon's bellyache

Jenesis has the kind of defiant will power that will work a mother's last nerve at age 2 but inspire pride at age 12 a divine inheritance of success

these days, people don't ask
what talents this willful child can unfurl
they wonder what she can't accomplish
that mystery? still undiscovered



Jenesis
Spires
Grade 7
Peninsula K-8
School





Emanuel
Washington
Grade 4
Buckman K-5
School

if you look at his sleeves too closely you'll find his heart there open beating raw

Emanuel has risen from rocky places whose sharp edges and deep crevices threatened to swallow his progress

but compassionate teachers art
a family's unconditional love
protects his heart from nicks bruises

helps him find balance fine-tune his scientific mind experience the shaping of new possibilities

genuinely faithfully
Emanuel embodies the meaning
of his name "God is with us"



she greets each day
with enthusiasm
happy motivated
curious caring
open-minded
energetic
thirsty for learning
focused hardworking
self-motivated
secure confident
"I know I got this" attitude

winner



Olivia Washington Grade 1 Sabin PK-8 School





Christylle Weeks Grade 8 Jason Lee K-8 School

entangled with unfair challenges she learned to love selflessly; her

quality of character was indestructible persistence was the thing for her; she

held fast to unlimited possibilities transcended the horror of heartbreak

with the guidance of her great aunt her teachers nurturing her sinuous roots

Christylle stands tall with the natural beauty resolve of a redwood tree; her

face turned toward the light; her arms wide with the breadth of her potential

her triumphs are like willful saplings sprouting wisdom resilience hope



Everything was different
Friend's homework gossip
lockers lunch recess games
a middle school jigsaw puzzle

Tyler stayed steady on task helpful loving smart confidently he arranged the pieces of his life

at school at church
at grandma's house
the soccer field basketball practice
everywhere he went

he deposited bits of himself like golden rays of sunlight polishing forgotten smiles brightening the atmosphere



Tyler
White
Grade 6
Beverly Cleary K-8
School





Ajeya Woods Grade 11 Lincoln High School

in some families

people are just born who they are
destiny is infused into their genes
nurture takes a backseat to nature

while mommy daddy procrastinate relax
Ajeya is assiduous focused fearless
an initiator of girls' empowerment projects
a Constitution Team state champion

challenge is regularly calling her name excelling is her claim to fame volleyball is her favorite team game she's impresses us very much, mom says

can't wait to see what she does next somebody pass the popcorn please when Ajeya is in the house you're in store for a show of brilliance



a quiet strength, Hanan
moves with grace and maturity
spritzing cheerfulness with every step
her spirit beckons your smile

a middle schooler, Hanan stays steady during an age of transition self-motivated leading by example focused as a photographer's eye

a friend to many, Hanan
gathers a bountiful harvest of admirers
teachers students family all grateful
for having encountered sincere joy



Hanan Yassin Grade 8 Beaumont Middle School



The Young, Gifted and Black tribute is a collaboration between PPS staff, special contributors and the community including:

Reiko Williams, creator and curator

S. Renee Mitchell, researcher and writer

Marquis Stoudamire, photographer

Francisco Garcia, graphic designer

Melody White, printing support

Support Staff: Andrea Wade, Erin Barnett, Terry Proctor, Elizabeth Hamilton and Robb Cowie

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK 2012 NOMINEES

Lillie Holzworth Arleta K-6	Jett Sheng Cesar Chavez K-8	Jahmian Howard- Carey Franklin High School
D'Angelo Lenford Arleta K-6	Kira Alberti Chief Joseph PK-5	Alivia Kent Franklin High School
Nohealani (Lani) Bannister Astor K-8	Jada Commodore Chief Joseph PK-5	Elijah Raiford George Middle
Jaida Jeter Astor K-8	Michael Joseph Cleveland High School	School Solon Sanders
Mekai Anderson Beach PK - 8	Sekai Edwards DaVinci Arts Middle	Grout K-5
Ay'Mehir Tucker	School	Maryan Yerow Grout K-5
Beach PK - 8 Shiloh Day	Ameer Fofanah DaVinci Arts Middle School	Chiza Baleke Grout K-5
Beach PK - 8 Hanan Yassin	Jehdah Walker DaVinci Arts Middle	Sagal Hadafow Hosford Middle School
Beaumont Middle School	School Isaac Amaral	Samira Hadafow Hosford Middle School
Abriana McKinney Benson High School	East Sylvan Middle School	Nate Williams Hosford Middle School
Precious Andrews Benson High School (Alliance)	Maya Brown Faubion PK-8	Javondre Cole Humboldt PK-8
Tyler White Beverly Cleary K-8	Nakyia Burns Faubion PK-8	LaShaya Corney Humboldt PK-8
Jordan Johnson Beverly Cleary K-8	Chinwendu Ughamba Faubion PK-8	Rebecca Davis Humboldt PK-8
Rebekah Lathan Boise Eliot PK-8	Josie Bairo Franklin High School	Anayla Warren- Premsingh Humboldt PK-8
Emanuel Washington Buckman K-5	Shatanya Banks Franklin High School	Jazmin Shaffer Irvington K-8
Kayden Logan Cesar Chavez K-8	Joseph Dessou Franklin High School	Mathias Thelus Irvington K-8
	Paris Gresham Franklin High School	continued on other side

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK 2012 NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

Christylle Weeks	Shanice Harris	Josiah Greene
Jason Lee K-8	Lincoln High School	Peninsula K-8
Clayborn Collins	Stanley Mathabane	Rize Robinson
Jefferson High School	Lincoln High School	Peninsula K-8
Lauren Steele	Jalen Asana	Jenesis Spires
Jefferson High School	Madison High School	Peninsula K-8
Makayela Johnson	Kassandra Yewchuk	Essence Fleming
Jefferson High School	Madison High School	Rigler K-8
Uriah Boyd	Mical Yohannes	Adam Strasburg
Jefferson High School	Madison High School	Roosevelt High School
Desi DuBoise	Nykell Hunter	Brajaye Williams
Jefferson High School	Madison High School	Roosevelt High School
Angeleesha Frierson	Terrence Keller	Olivia Washington
Jefferson High School	Madison High School	Sabin PK-8
Antonio Greely Jefferson High School	Biruk Molla Madison High School	Giovanni Cunningham Sabin PK-8
Ben Jackson Jefferson High School	Izear Smith Madison High School	(ACCESS Academy)
Jalean Webb Jefferson High School	Bryton Wilson Madison High School	Trevionn Cunningham Sabin PK-8 (ACCESS Academy)
Elisabeth Hairston	Basil Urom	Breah Etherly
Laurelhurst K-8	Madison High School	Scott K-8
Olivia Perry Laurelhurst K-8	Rayla Moore Marysville K-8	Michael Ninen Sunnyside Enviormental K-8
Beau Gaines Lincoln High School	Hannah Dressa Mt. Tabor Middle School	Makiyla Rounds Vestal K-8
Linnea Rohdin-Bibby	Nailah Barrett	Sadella Adams
Lincoln High School	Peninsula K-8	West Sylvan Middle
Haley Dowell Lincoln High School	Justin Dike	School
Ajeya Woods Lincoln High School	Peninsula K-8 Ayre Bradley Peninsula K-8	Shatoya Allen Young Women's Leadership Academy at Harriet Tubman

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK 2012

In its third year, the Young, Gifted and Black 2012 tribute continues to focus on telling a story of persistence, hard work and student success – success that has been highlighted as a model for all students. Since this program began in 2010, several hundred students have been nominated by classroom teachers, counselors, principals and community members. Graduating students have continued their education at colleges and universities throughout the country - Tuskegee, Penn State, Lewis and Clark College, Grinnell College, and Portland State among others. YGB students balance athletics, music, community service and other extracurricular activities demonstrating what is required to be a student scholar.

The board of directors for Portland Public Schools adopted a Racial Educational Equity Policy in June 2011. That policy is intended to acknowledge race and address race-based disparities in student achievement. Young, Gifted and Black is intended to tell a counterstory; namely, the experience of Black students is not mono-lithic, as is often portrayed in mainstream media. Black students come from diverse backgrounds and have myriad experiences, but they have a shared identity – as Black people representing the African diaspora.

We are proud to share with you student success stories. Please join me in acknowledging all of this year's honorees as well as the nominees and wishing them continued success.

Reiko Williams
Program Director, Family Engagement
Portland Public Schools