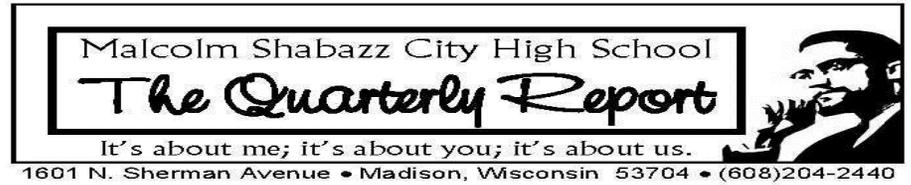


SHABAZZ CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
1601 North Sherman Ave  
Madison, WI - 53704



QUARTER 4, 2014-15

As a school, Shabazz works to answer the essential question all schools must answer: what do we want all of our students to know and be able to do? The answer to this question guides the important work of the school. Shabazz is



constantly wrestling with this question and we often check in with our parents to gauge if we are on the right track. At a recent parent meeting, I asked parents to share their ideas of their vision for a Shabazz graduate. Among some other skills, the parents suggested they wanted their sons and daughters to be able to think critically, communicate clearly, be able to solve problems, to act responsibly (both for themselves and for others), and to know how to collaborate. Fortunately, these skills align well with our mission at Shabazz. The Shabazz mission is to create a safe, engaging, and authentic learning community where students can learn to think creatively and critically, communicate clearly, collaborate effectively, act responsibly, and cope effectively.

These skills, sometimes called 21st Century skills, are referred to as “soft skills”. They are the skills everyone needs in order to adapt in an ever-changing and developing workplace. They are the skills required when the answers are not provided or when a unique problem needs to be solved. Sometimes it is difficult for outsiders to understand how a school can focus on these “soft skills” when

many schools, historically, have focused on the “hard” content or the specific skills of a rigid curriculum. How can a school be rigorous without the “hard” content goals?

Our Service Learning in Action (SLIA) Class this year struggled with this question as they organized and carried out dozens of school visits by local and state officials. This student-led class hosted visitors from across the city and state in order to share who we are as a school and what Shabazz does to provide a safe, engaging, and authentic learning experience. As the students shared their insights and were asked to articulate how Shabazz is different, they began to describe Shabazz as a school that is rigorous in teaching soft skills.

Soft skills are harder to measure and define than hard skills. How do you assess someone’s ability to think critically, to problem solve, or to collaborate? The challenge in measuring soft skills is that they do not lend themselves to easy testing but they are evident in the performance. You know it when you see it.

Our guests this year were treated to such a performance. They were greeted by students who made eye contact, shook their hands, and led them on tours around the school. They witnessed students talking articulately about school challenges and school strengths and asking them questions about education policy. They received emails from students scheduling visits and follow up emails thanking them for their time. For the more astute visitors, they might have been able to imagine the challenges students needed to overcome behind the scenes to solve the problems in managing such an undertaking (late visitors, no shows, rescheduling, disruptions, etc.). Most guests left impressed by this performance.

This type of learning does not happen in a vacuum or out of a textbook. It results from our teachers’ efforts in fulfilling our

mission at Shabazz: to provide classes that are authentic, relevant, and engaging. A class will not be any of these if our students are not actually critically thinking, communicating, and collaborating around real-world problems or challenges, and if our teachers are not focused on coaching students in the skills needed to perform the task. This type of education takes time and resources and a particular approach to learning that is sometimes hard to quantify. Nevertheless, we believe it is the right education for our students.

Please join us in June for our graduation ceremony. Here you can gather more evidence of the impact of a Shabazz education by hearing our graduates reflect on their Shabazz experience. Remember, take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of the community.



Aric Soderbloom,  
Principal

### ***STAFF CONTACT LIST***

Most teachers check their e-mail regularly. If your call is during school hours, you will reach the office and be transferred to voice mail. After hours, it will go directly to voice mail. Please refer to the contact list included in this newsletter for phone numbers and email addresses.



**MAY**

- 5-8 Green Service Learning Field Trip to Avalanche, WI
- 6 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports Mailed Home
- 8-15 PGT Service Learning Field Trip to Avalanche, WI
- 13 6:30 PM – Parent Meeting (Shabazz Library)
- 18 No School for PGT Students
- 22-24 Coming of Age Field Trip
- 25 School Closed – Memorial Day
- 27 2–6 PM – PGT “Open House”

**JUNE**

- 5 End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – LAST DAY OF CLASSES  
Early Release at 2:15 PM after Malcolm Celebration
- 10 6-9 PM – Shabazz Graduation Ceremony (Shabazz Gym)
- 12 Optional Kohl Center Graduation Ceremony (East & LHS)
- 13 Optional Kohl Center Graduation Ceremony (West & MHS)
- 16 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report Cards Mailed Home
- 22 First Day of Summer School

**ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT STAFF**

Soderbloom, <b>Aric</b>	Principal	204-2443	asoderbloom@madison.k12.wi.us
Chance, <b>Donna</b>	Secretary	204-2440	dchance@madison.k12.wi.us
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Sponem, <b>Connie</b>	Nursing Assistant	204-2108	csponem@madison.k12.wi.us
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Simansky, <b>Anita</b>	Guidance	204-2450	asimansky@madison.k12.wi.us

**TEACHERS**

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Evert, <b>Jeff</b>	Resource	204-2454	jevvert@madison.k12.wi.us
Fee, <b>Peter</b>	Math/Science	204-2467	pfee@madison.k12.wi.us
Goettl, <b>Grant</b>	Math	204-2466	ggoettl@madison.k12.wi.us
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Jones, <b>Katie</b>	Social Studies	204-2464	kdjones@madison.k12.wi.us
Kellogg, <b>Colleen</b>	English	204-2458	ckellogg@madison.k12.wi.us
Kim, <b>Kathleen</b>	Spanish	204-2461	kkim@madison.k12.wi.us
Murray, <b>Tina</b>	Computers	204-2468	tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us
Schramm, <b>Rachel</b>	Art	204-2459	rcschramm@madison.k12.wi.us
St. Peter, <b>Bridget</b>	Math	204-2461	bjstpeter@madison.k12.wi.us
Szpak, <b>Joe</b>	Phy Ed/Health	204-2455	jcszpak@madison.k12.wi.us

1601 N. Sherman Avenue · Madison, Wisconsin 53704  
 Phone: (608) 204-2440 · Fax: (608) 204-0503  
 Intake and Attendance: 204-2441 · Health Office: 201-2109

## ***RESERVE YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!***

Students interested in purchasing a yearbook may do so up until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Submit cash or check (made payable to Malcolm Shabazz City High School) in the amount of \$15 to the Shabazz office. Students must submit payment to reserve a yearbook. Yearbooks will be distributed around June 4th.



Please note: Students who started at Shabazz first quarter this school year (2014-15) had an opportunity to purchase a yearbook with other fees. Students who started at Shabazz after first quarter did not have an opportunity to purchase a yearbook with other school fees. However, any student can purchase a yearbook from now until May 15 simply by submitting \$15.00 to the Shabazz office. Shabazz yearbooks are unique, student-generated pieces of history. Buy one now!

## ***SORRY, NO BALLOONS AT SHABAZZ***

Due to a serious latex allergy, we are not able to have helium balloons at Shabazz. Any deliveries sent to Shabazz or accidentally brought in will be stored in the library until the end of the day when the student can retrieve them. Thank you for your help in this!



## ***PLEASE CALL TO EXCUSE ABSENCES***

It's not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Students have difficulty meeting the 90% attendance requirement if they have too many absences and may have trouble earning credit in a class. If you question whether your child is well enough to attend, you may call the **Health Office at 204-2109**. If your teen misses school, please call the **Attendance Line: 204-2441**. The absence will still count toward their attendance percentage, but by excusing it you avoid truancy and help staff know what's up. Please help remind students that their 10% "permissible" absences are to be used for illness and appointments.



## ***PARENT MEETINGS***

All parents, guardians, and significant adults in our students' lives are invited to come to our monthly parent meetings. Parent meetings are a great way to network with other Shabazz families and to get involved with the school.



Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Shabazz LMC. The meetings are informal, but informational. We have one more meeting on May 13.

## ***VISITOR PARKING LOT REMINDER***



There are two visitor parking spots in the Shabazz lot. If both are full, please check in at the office to get a red temporary permit. The other option is to park in the lower “student” lot.

Parking permits are required in the upper staff parking lot.

We are also experiencing some challenges during our pick-up time at the end of the day. To alleviate these issues, please park in our lower parking lot while waiting for your student. This will create a safer flow of traffic in front of the school and allow our students and buses to safely leave the school. Thank you for your consideration.

## ***GRADUATION REMINDER***

Our Graduation Celebration will be held on Wednesday, June 10 from 6-9 pm in the Sherman Gym. Family and friends are welcome and no tickets are needed to attend.



Parents and guardians of graduating seniors will receive a letter with all of the necessary details.

## ***HELP REUNITE DENISE WITH HER BOOKS!***

Denise would like your help in gathering books checked out from her classroom collection by Shabazz students. Please look for and return books labeled with Shabazz, Aulik, or YA on the edges before summer arrives. Thanks!



## ***PGT THANKS LOCAL BUSINESSES***

Project Green Teen would like to thank Alliant Energy for the gracious grant to support our environmental service learning program. We would also like to thank the Madison Fishing Expo, and Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Both programs have supported PGT for many years.

We are proud to share that this is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Project Green Teen and we are profoundly moved and inspired by our community partnerships, donors, and volunteers. Thank you everyone for your continued support of this rich learning experience that connects students to real world opportunities.

## ***LISTENING TO THE LAND: RECLAIMING THE CARE OF OUR DEAD***

This class is a "re-introduction" to the home funeral and green burial practice, a cathartic experience with environmentally friendly emphasis. Students learn how to negotiate the world of forms that are required by the state and county, necessary when a loved one passes. Over the course of the quarter they will also build a metal-free, simple but elegant wooden casket.



This class is intended to empower students to be able to advise family and/or friends on how to bypass the "death industry," that profits (greatly) from our grief at a time when making sound financial decisions can be difficult, at best and impossible at worst. Reclaiming the care of our loved ones when they pass is among to most loving acts we can bestow upon them, and when and if they ever get to have this experience, they will be better people, better family members, and better friends for it.



## ***COMING OF AGE AT SHABAZZ***



Fourth quarter always brings the COA class, designed for graduating seniors. The class seeks to give students some background information on various "Rites of Passage" into adulthood that are practiced around the world, as well as some preparation time for a 4 day weekend retreat (over Memorial Day weekend) where up to 18 adult community members voluntarily give of their time to help create a meaningful experience that allows the students to consciously let go of their childhood status and embrace their adulthood. The retreat culminates in a reincorporation feast with their families and is the last unique experience of their high school careers. (Photos are of past classes.)

