



Change is... *Good?*

Spoiler alert:
It all depends.

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THE GLADIATOR RECAP

Step inside our classrooms to see what our Gladiators have been learning this fall.

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CHANGE IS...GOOD?

by Ms. Stacey Johnson Harden

Spoiler alert: It all depends.

There's nothing like the changing seasons to remind us that nothing ever stays the same. Seasons come and go, familiar landscapes take on new appearances, and what once felt permanent gives way to something new. Schools are no different.

This year marks Gateway Charter School's 15th anniversary, and what a journey it has been! Fifteen years of learning, growing, adapting, celebrating victories, and navigating more than a few unexpected twists and turns.

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Our new art teacher continues Gateway's tradition of helping students discover their strengths, find their voices, and express themselves through the arts.

KINDERGARTEN-THIRD GRADE

by Elementary Team



On the first floor, our students are enjoying learning through arts-integrated projects—sculpting numbers in kindergarten, creating model magic land structures in first grade, and creating animals using papier mâché in second grade.



FOURTH GRADE-FIFTH GRADE

by Upper Elementary Team



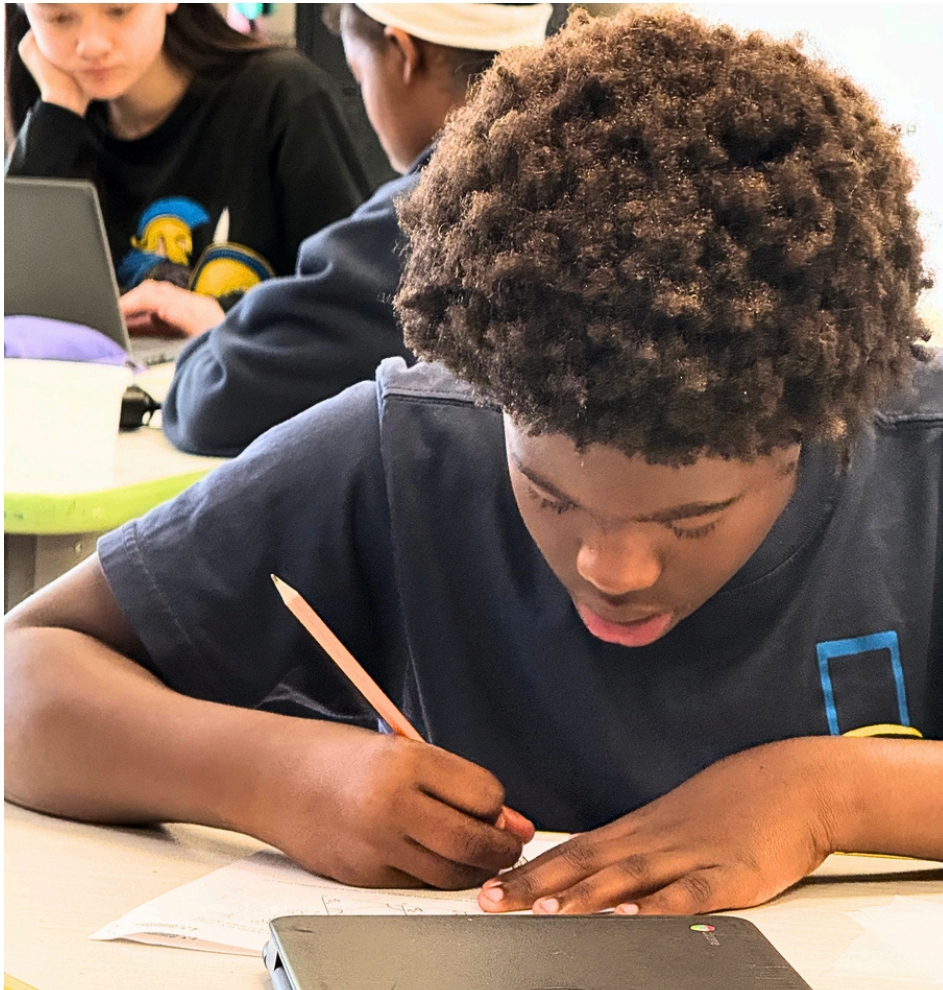
Upstairs while our fourth-grade students are beautifying their mandalas and learning about themselves in relationship to community with Ms. Thomas, our fifth-graders are learning about the water cycle with Ms. Curry and interesting facts about the fifty states, one-by-one with Ms. P.



Learn about [Coco Brown's World](#), a book series that follows a young Black girl as she travels across America and discovers the 50 states, written by Gateway's very own Business Manager and newly published author, Ms. Tia Hargrove, [here](#).

SIXTH GRADE- EIGHTH GRADE

By Middle School Team

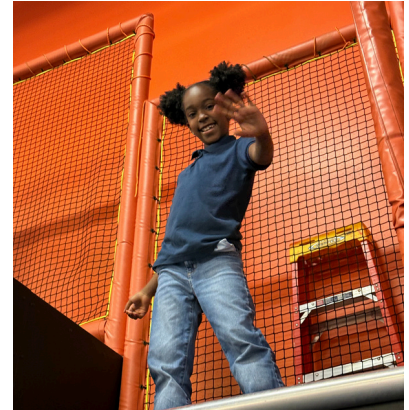


Even further down the hall, our sixth-graders are learning about surface area and reading The Scholarship Jacket with Ms. Staab while older students are learning geometric angles in Mr. Allred's class and what happens when things bump into each other at the molecular level in Ms. Lee's class. In between time, they make time for friendship and making uniforms fun with 'fit checks.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

See what the specialists in our building have been up to.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Sky Zone Trampoline Park is hardly a traditional classroom. But between the bouncing, jumping, diving, laughter and moments shared with friends, there were plenty of opportunities to build confidence, strengthen friendships, try something new and make memories along the way!

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

See what the specialists in our building have been up to.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (CONT'D)

Another of our most anticipated field trips of the year is to the Kalmar Nyckel. Students from fourth to sixth grade enjoyed the hands-on experience where they learned about the historic replica of the ship that brought European settlers to the region in 1638.

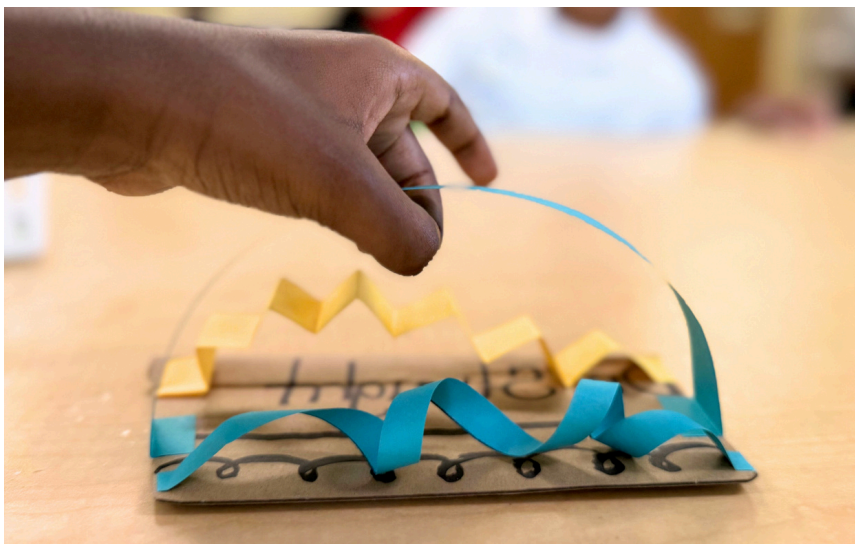


SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

by Gateway Community Members

VISUAL ART

Our new art teacher has hit the ground running, teaching our students about the building blocks of art. Using color, line, pattern and shape, our students are creating sculptures by turning two-dimensional forms into three-dimensional forms as well as octagonal creations that express who they are as individuals. It's a classroom where it is readily seen that arts is truly the gateway to learning.



SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

by Gateway Community Members



GYM

Middle school students shine in gym where they can put all their energy to good use playing football, basketball, dodge and other games.



SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

by Gateway Community Members



MUSIC

At a time where schools often have to cut their arts programs, Mr. Harcum's class is one of the treasures of our school where students learn from a musician who has played professionally since the age of nine, proving that the sky is the limit for their budding gifts and interests. Here, our students are working together on learning notes using drums and ukeles led by Mr. Harcum.

THANK YOU

Gateway Charter School would like to thank The Law Firm of Buchanan for donating more than 50 pieces of new uniform items for our students. Here, Lynn Denitz and Sherry Fornwalt deliver the pieces to our Principal, Mr. Everett and Head of School, Nate Durant. The donation was spearheaded by former GCS board member, Attorney Geoffrey Grivner.



MR. MENNA'S MATH MOMENT

by Mr. Joseph Menna



The Math Program at Gateway

Illustrative Math is a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning and achievement for all. It is rated as High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) and approved by Delaware's DDOE. Students learn by doing math through solving problems, developing conceptual understanding, and discussing and defending their reasoning. Teachers build confidence with lessons and curriculum guides that help them facilitate learning and help students make connections between concepts and procedures. Every activity and lesson in IM K-5 Math tells a coherent mathematical story across units and grade levels based on both the standards and research-based learning trajectories. This allows students the opportunity to view mathematics as a connected set of ideas and offers them access to mathematics when developed into the overarching design structure of the curriculum. The program has an at-home family component for each grade so that parents, guardians, tutors, etc. Will know what students are studying and offer some additional practice. Please check out the links below for your students' needed grade level.

1. Kindergarten

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/kindergarten/units.html>

2. Grade 1

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/grade-1/units.html>

3. Grade 2

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/grade-2/units.html>

4. Grade 3

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/grade-3/units.html>

5. Grade 4

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/grade-4/units.html>

6. Grade 5

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/k5/families/grade-5/units.html>

7. Grade 6

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/students/1/index.html>

8. Grade 7

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/students/2/index.html>

9. Grade 8

<https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/students/3/index.html>

El programa cuenta con un componente familiar para realizar en casa, en español, para cada grado.

1. Kindergarten

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/kindergarten/units.html

2. Grade 1

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/grade-1/units.html

3. Grade 2

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/grade-2/units.html

4. Grade 3

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/grade-3/units.html

5. Grade 4

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/grade-4/units.html

6. Grade 5

https://im.kendallhunt.com/K5_ES/families/grade-5/units.html

7. Grade 6

https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS_ES/students/1/index.html

8. Grade 7

https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS_ES/students/2/index.html

9. Grade 8

https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS_ES/students/3/index.html

BADGES OF HONOR

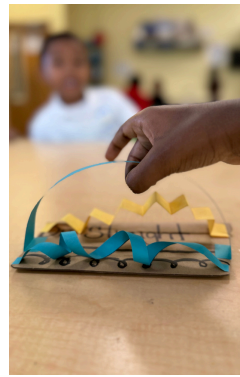
by Mr. Nate Durant

Gateway Charter School's Head of School recognizes Gateway Charter students who exhibit the qualities of being a true Gladiator while at school. The students who are acknowledged are true HERO's who Help others, Exhibit exceptional effort, Respect self and others and Own their actions. Any student may earn a Badge of Honor from the Head of School for meeting these expectations in an exceptional way. Please, help us applaud our students who have earned a Badge of Honor for Fall 2026 listed below.



Saa'Mere W., Grade 1
Dominick D., Grade 1
Riley H., Grade 1
Haleigh W., Grade 1
Deron B., Grade 1
Darien W., Grade 2
Dallas H., Grade 2
Khaza H., Grade 2
Ian R., Grade 3
Marley P.M., Grade 3
Phoenix S., Grade 3
Payton P., Grade 3
Gavin T., Grade 3
Major W., Grade 3
Saaliha U., Grade 3
La'Maya C., Grade 3
Da'Mhany L., Grade 4
Sa'Nyah B., Grade 4
Terrance F., Grade 4
Lloyd F., Grade 4
Colin M., Grade 5
Markal CW., Grade 5
Nassir B., Grade 5
Ariana W., Grade 6
Hunter H., Grade 6
Josephine K., Grade 6
Kamden R., Grade 6
Amai H., Grade 6
Ayden M., Grade 7
Ayden M., Grade 7
Jaylah M.M., Grade 8
Kenturi C., Grade 8
Amelia C., Grade 8
Joshua R., Grade 8
Amelia C., Grade 8
TJ M., Grade 8
Izayah R., Grade 8
Kylo CB., Kindergarten
Nathan W., Kindergarten

CHANGE IS...GOOD? (CONT'D)



And if the past two years have taught us anything, it's that change doesn't always wait for an invitation.

Last year, we welcomed new faculty members while bidding farewell to our beloved principal and welcoming Mr. Everett into the role.

This year brought another season of transitions as we said goodbye to familiar faces and welcomed both new and returning members of our Gateway family.

Among them is Ms. Castro, our new art teacher. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, professional management experience, and plenty of enthusiasm, she brings fresh perspectives and creative energy to Gateway's arts-integrated approach to learning.

Our Special Education Department has also welcomed new team members following the departure of Ms. Kahn, who led the department for several years.

Meanwhile, Ms. Stacey, our former art teacher, has transitioned into a new role on Gateway's marketing team, where she continues to share our school's stories through social media, the newsletter, and the yearbook.

Perhaps one of our most significant transitions came with the retirement of our longtime Head of School, Catherine Dolan, whose final day with us was the first day of the new school year. We now welcome Nate Durant, formerly Co-Head of School at Freire Charter School, as he takes on this important leadership role.

That's quite a bit of change for one school community!

And naturally, when people change, some traditions, routines, and ways of doing things may change along with them. New leadership brings new perspectives. New teachers bring new ideas. New experiences create opportunities to learn, grow, and sometimes rethink how we've always done things.

CHANGE IS...GOOD? (CONT'D)

But with so much change, it's fair to wonder: What happens to the Gateway we've come to know and love?

The answer is simple.

Our foundation remains secure.

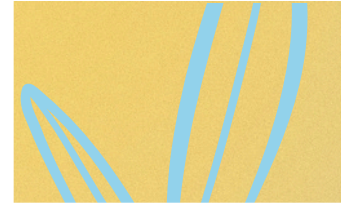
Fifteen years ago, Gateway was built on the belief that all children can learn, that every child has unique strengths worth discovering, and that students who struggle in traditional learning environments deserve an opportunity to flourish. Those beliefs are not tied to any one classroom, teacher, administrator, or tradition.

They are the very foundation of who we are.

They live in the teacher who tries a different approach when a student doesn't understand. In the staff member who recognizes a child's small victory as something worth celebrating. In the creative lessons that turn difficult concepts into meaningful experiences. And in the relationships that remind our students they are seen, valued, and capable.

Of course, maintaining that foundation takes more than good intentions. It takes commitment, collaboration, compassion, and a willingness to keep learning ourselves.

As we celebrate 15 years of Gateway, we are reminded that honoring our past doesn't mean standing still. Sometimes, the best way to preserve what makes a school special is to continue growing into what it has always aspired to become.



Right: Read about the new Gladiators on this page on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

CONT'D

by Ms. Stacey Johnson Harden



So, is change good?

It all depends.

Change for the sake of change isn't necessarily progress. But change that creates new opportunities, strengthens our community, and helps us better serve our students? That's something worth embracing.

As Gateway celebrates 15 years, we recognize that the people, roles, and traditions may evolve. But our belief in the potential of every child, our commitment to individualized learning, and our responsibility to create a nurturing environment must remain constant.

Because while change is inevitable, staying true to who we are is a choice. And that's a choice worth making, year after year.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 11 Veteran's Day – School Closed
- Nov 16-20 Spirit Week
- Nov 20 End of First Trimester
- Nov 23-24 Parent Conferences – No School for Students
- Nov 25 - 27 Thanksgiving Break – School Closed
- Dec 21-Jan 1 Winter Break – School Closed
- Jan 4 Students Return from Winter Break
- Jan 18 MLK Day – School Closed
- Jan 22 Winter Concert
- Jan 25 Teacher Professional Development – No School for Students

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS

Please be certain that your contact information is updated in Infinite Campus so that you can receive up-to-date info on late buses, school closings, etc. You can contact us for registration info for this service at the link [here](https://www.gatewaycharterschoolde.org/apps/contact/) or by going to the following website: <https://www.gatewaycharterschoolde.org/apps/contact/>

A LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

by Head of School, Mr. Nate Durant

Small Steps. Big Strides. Grow Every Day.

My mother used to always tell me, "The only thing constant in life is change." The older I get, the more I realize just how right she was.

As a parent, I see it all the time. One minute you're watching your child take their first steps, then you're dropping them off for their first day of school, and before you know it, they're asking for the keys to the car. Somewhere along the way, you go from helping them with homework to apparently not knowing anything about anything! (Middle school parents, if you haven't experienced this yet, just wait!) It's funny how quickly things seem to change. But most of those changes didn't happen overnight. They happened a little at a time, right in front of us. And sometimes, we're so busy with life that we don't notice until we stop and look back. I think the same is true for growth and success. Most meaningful progress isn't the result of one big moment, but small, intentional actions repeated over time. That's why, this year at Gateway, we're embracing a simple but powerful idea: Small Steps. Big Strides. Grow Each Day.

It's more than a motto. It's a mindset I hope we embrace as individuals, families, and as a school community.

And the beautiful thing is that growth doesn't require drastic changes. Think about it. A 10-minute walk each day can add up to hundreds of miles over time. Reading one story to your child each night means 365 stories a year. Replacing just 20 minutes of screen time with reading adds up to more than 120 hours of reading annually.

None of these actions seems extraordinary on its own. But that's the point. Small actions, repeated consistently, lead to extraordinary results.

Every day, we have an opportunity to shape our world, to make our own weather, and to influence the future of our children. I believe deeply that our kids have unlimited potential, and it's our responsibility to create the conditions for that potential to flourish.

That means celebrating small victories, learning from mistakes, and recognizing that growth doesn't always happen in a straight line. There will be challenges and setbacks, but each day brings another opportunity to take a step forward.

As we move through this school year, I encourage all of us to embrace change, pay attention to the little things, and be intentional about how we grow. One day, we'll look back and realize just how far we've come.

When we grow as individuals, we grow as a community. And when we grow as a community, we build the future our children deserve.

Let's keep growing, one day at a time.

Small Steps. Big Strides. Grow Each Day!

Gratefully,
Mr. Nate Durant
Head of School

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL:

by Principal Aubrey Everett

Dear Gateway Families and Community,

As the leaves change and the crisp fall season settles in, it brings a natural reminder of progress, change, and renewal. Just as nature transitions, this season offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what makes our school community thrive: our shared commitment to growth, leadership, and togetherness.

Growth is at the heart of everything we do. It is not just about academic progress, but about cultivating curiosity, resilience, and a mindset that embraces challenges as opportunities to learn. Every small step forward, whether mastering a new concept, trying a new instrument, or working through a tough problem builds the foundation for lifelong success.

Leadership begins right here in our hallways. We encourage every student to see themselves as a leader, guided by our HERO expectations. Leadership isn't just about holding a title; it is about taking responsibility, demonstrating kindness, standing up for others, and leading by example every single day.

None of this is possible without Community. A strong school thrives on the partnership between dedicated educators, engaged families, and supportive community partners. When we collaborate, communicate, and lift one another up, we create a safe, nurturing environment where every child feels seen, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Thank you for your continued partnership, dedication, and support. Together, we are building a strong foundation for our current Gladiators and future leaders!