



INSPIRE ACADEMY 2016-2017

Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS



03

2016-2017 YEAR SNAPSHOT

An overview of Inspire Academy's fourth year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A glimpse into Inspire's financial story and our thankfulness to our supporters.

04



05

ACADEMIC GROWTH

Data demonstrating our students' academic growth of the last four years.

CHARACTER & ENGAGEMENT

Information on student engagement and our 16-17 Inspiring Scholars.

07





08

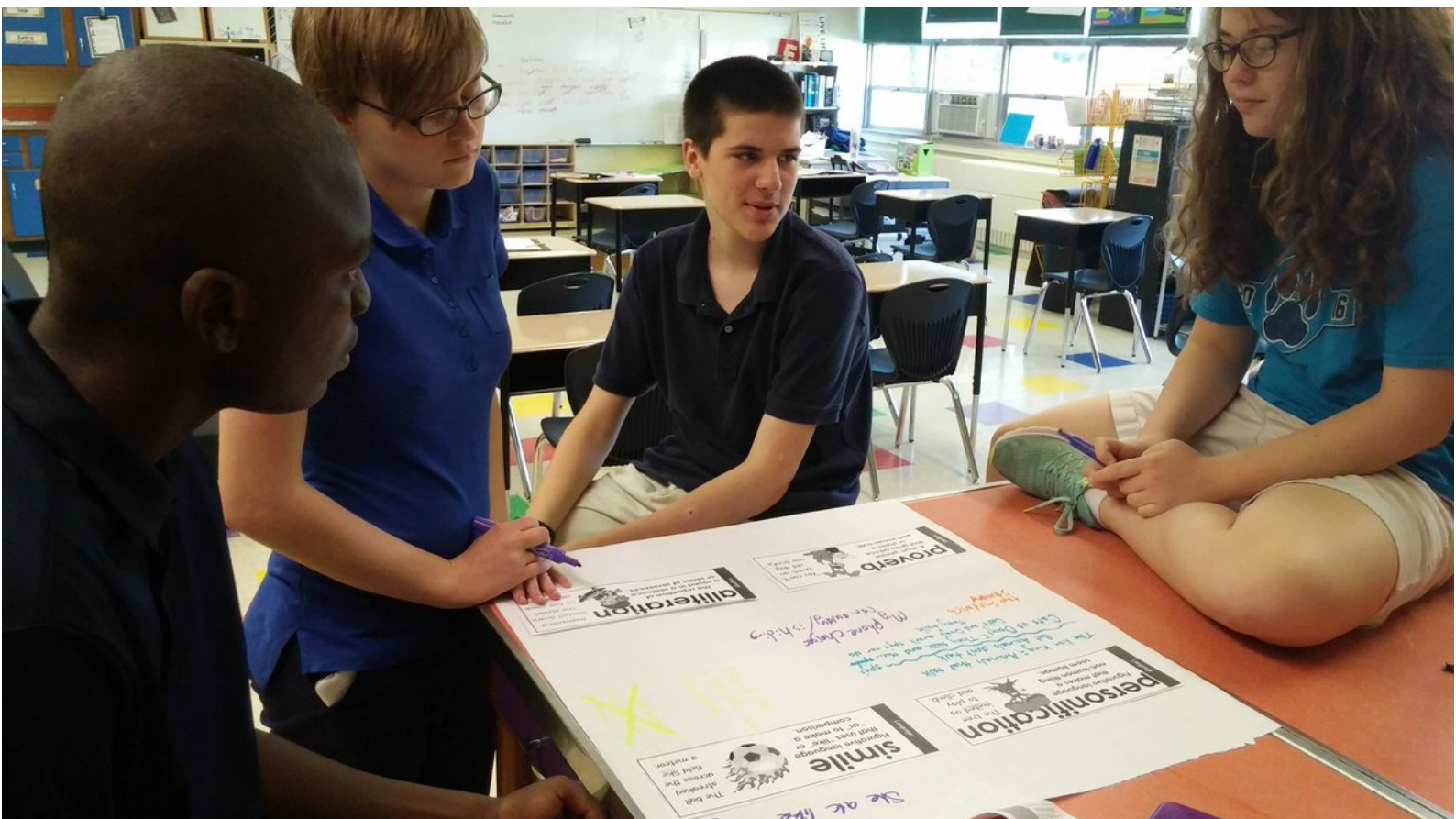
HIGH QUALITY WORK

A summary of the high-quality products created by students during the year.

WISH LIST

Our entire wish list of items and materials to strengthen Inspire Academy and help us achieve our goals.

11



INSPIRE ACADEMY

A SCHOOL OF INQUIRY

Inspire Academy believes that all children *can, will, and want* to learn, and we prepare our students to become knowing inquirers and leaders of their own learning. Inspire is open to all Indiana residents and enthusiastically serves a diverse student body, many of whom are from under-privileged backgrounds. Here is a snapshot of our student body demographics from 2016-2017.

STUDENT-STAFF DYNAMICS

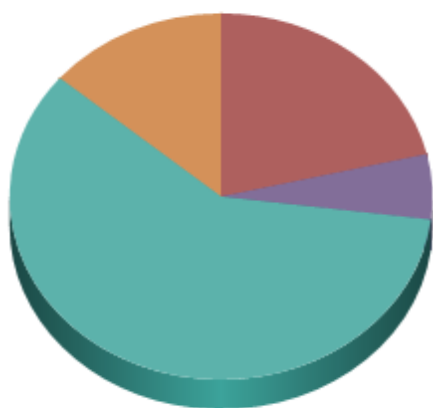
174 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

20 STUDENTS PER CLASS (AVG. CLASS SIZE)

14 STUDENTS TO TEACHER RATIO

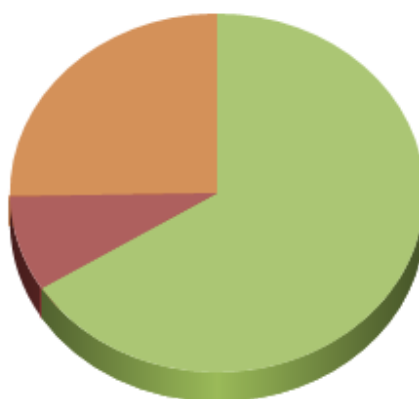
8 STUDENTS TO STAFF RATIO

Enrollment 2016-17 by Ethnicity



Black Hispanic White Multiracial

Enrollment 2016-17 by Free/Reduced Price Meals



Free meals Reduced price meals Paid meals

2016-2017

MILESTONES

ADDED PRE-K AND 8TH GRADE CLASSES

PURCHASED OUR OWN BUILDING

EXPANDED ATHLETICS OPPORTUNITIES

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

24.14% STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MOBILITY & RETENTION

62% STUDENT RETENTION

90% TEACHER RETENTION

OUR FINANCIAL STORY

As a public charter school, Inspire Academy receives per student state funding on a par with traditional public schools. However, charter schools do not receive any funding from county real estate taxes which provide a significant source of funding for traditional public schools.

For example, in 2014-2015 (the most recent year for which financial information is publicly available), the school system in the community where I live (Yorktown) received over 21% of their entire funding from county real estate taxes. This money is provided to traditional public schools for critical expenses such as debt service, capital projects and transportation.

This 21% difference in funding means that Inspire Academy will receive about \$345,000 (\$1,960 per student) less funding this year than a comparably sized traditional public school.

Since charter schools have no ability to raise money from county taxes, they also have no real access to the Indiana Bond Bank for borrowing needs, and must instead obtain any necessary loans from banks at much less favorable terms.

Also, traditional public schools are able to access the Indiana Common School Fund to borrow for such needs as technology and building construction, but charter schools are specifically precluded from accessing this publicly-funded source of very low interest borrowing. As a public charter school, Inspire Academy receives per student state funding on a par with traditional public schools. However, charter schools do not receive any funding from county real estate taxes which provide a significant source of funding for traditional public schools.

For example, in 2015-2016 (the most recent year for which financial information is publicly available), Muncie Community Schools received over 15% of their entire funding from county real estate taxes. This money is provided to traditional public schools for critical expenses such as debt service, capital projects and transportation.

This 15% difference in funding means that Inspire Academy will receive about \$301,700 (\$1,524 per student) less funding this year than a comparably sized traditional public school. Since charter schools have no ability to raise money from county taxes, they also have no real access to the Indiana Bond Bank for borrowing needs, and must instead obtain any necessary loans from banks at much less favorable terms. Also, traditional public schools are able to access the Indiana Common School Fund to borrow for such needs as technology and building construction, but charter schools are specifically precluded from accessing this publicly-funded source of very low interest borrowing.

Paul Runyon,
Director of Finance



EXPENDITURES

\$1,613,729

EXPENDITURES IN
2016-2017

\$9,274

EXPENDITURES PER
STUDENT

\$38,264*

AVERAGE TEACHER
SALARY
*INCLUDES OVERLAP
IN POSITIONS

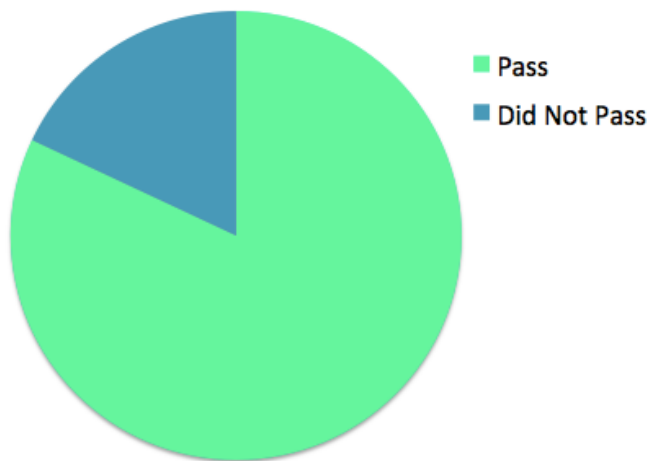
MASTERY OF KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

NWEA MAP GROWTH TRACKER

NWEA Tracker			
Grade	Subject	Fall 2014 - Spring 2015	Fall 2015 - Spring 2016
Grade	Subject	Percent Achieving or Exceeding Growth Target	Percent Achieving or Exceeding Growth Target
Grade	Subject	(blue exceeds standard, green meets standard, yellow needs improvement, red falls far below)	(blue exceeds standard, green meets standard, yellow needs improvement, red falls far below)
First	Reading	43	43
Second	Reading	36	71
Third	Reading	50	63
Fourth	Reading	36	44
Fifth	Reading	40	52
Sixth	Reading	*67	*29
Seventh	Reading		*57
Eighth	Reading		
TOTAL	Reading	44	53
First	Mathematics	35	65
Second	Mathematics	46	62
Third	Mathematics	48	79
Fourth	Mathematics	23	38
Fifth	Mathematics	45	54
Sixth	Mathematics	*67	*43
Seventh	Mathematics		*86
Eighth	Mathematics		
TOTAL	Mathematics	40	61
Second	Language Usage	29	38
Third	Language Usage	43	89
Fourth	Language Usage	38	33
Fifth	Language Usage	20	73
Sixth	Language Usage	*56	*57
Seventh	Language Usage		*71
Eighth	Language Usage		
TOTAL	Language Usage	37	61



IREAD-3 ACHIEVEMENT



By the spring semester of 2017, 82% of 3rd grade students were reading at 3rd grade level.

ISTEP+ GROWTH

% Meeting 66th Growth Percentile or Higher on ISTEP		
	ELA	Math
SY1415	32.2%	16.7%
SY1516	31.8%	30.2%
SY1617	46.9%	23.5%
Variation	↑14.7	↑6.8

Median Growth Percentile on ISTEP+			
	SY1314	SY1415	SY1516
ELA All	26	41	53
Math All	15	27	44
ELA Lowest Quartile	*	28	42
Math Lowest Quartile	*	30	60
ELA top 75%	23	43	54
Math Top 75%	7	26	40

*Too few students for statistical reliability

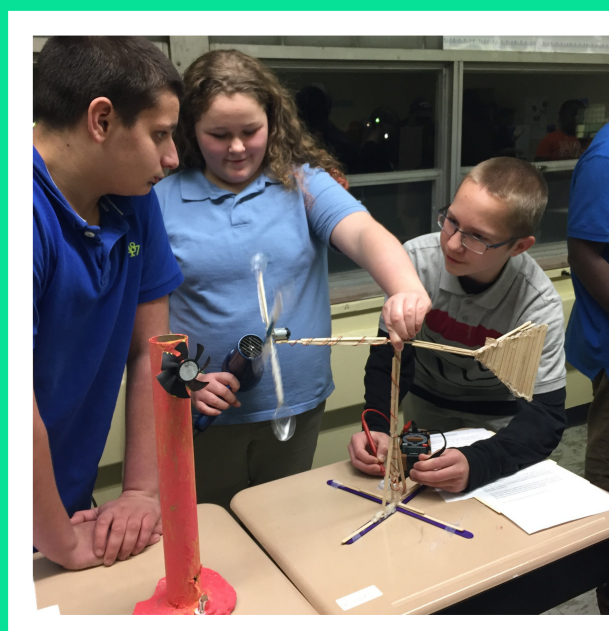
HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

100% of Inspire students complete ELA and Math at their grade level each year. Students also complete courses in science, social studies, Physical Education, and Music. In 2016-2017, Inspire had one student enrolled in Algebra I.

100% of Inspire teachers are certified employees who teach the subject area for which the teacher is certified and holds a license.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Inspire Academy has mobile technology labs including iPad labs and Chromebook labs. These labs are transported to various classrooms throughout the day to allow for one-to-one usage for each crew for portions of each day. All technological devices remain at school and are not sent home. At Inspire, we believe it is important for students to learn media literacy, typing, and master the use of modern technology to enhance learning and productivity. We also believe it is important for students to learn to think and function without technology and intentionally ensure that a portion of every day is technology free.





Attendance Rates Remain Stable in the 94-95% range!

SY1314	95
SY1415	95
SY1516	94
SY1617	94

Chronic absenteeism (students absent for 10% of the year or more): 42

Chronic tardiness (students with more than 10 unexcused absences): 26

Inspire holds students to an exceptionally high standard for attendance. Any student who arrives after 8:30 or leaves before 2:30 is counted as a half a day absent. We're not required to have such a high standard, but we believe this instructional time is essential to creating High Quality Work.

Inspiring Students Ceremony

At Inspire Academy, we hold that success, in both school and life, is contingent on developing the Habits of Scholarship: Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity, Curiosity, and Quality. At the end of the year, we recognize students who have proven themselves to be models of these Habits in a "shirting" ceremony. In SY16-17 we honored 23 students!

School Safety

In the 2016-17 school year Inspire had one incident of a student bring in object that could be used as a weapon; 1 instance of battery; and, 3 instances of bullying as defined under IC 20-34-6. These occurrences resulted in disciplinary action against the students.

The number of expulsions was 1 and the number of suspensions was 22 for the year.



HIGH QUALITY WORK

At Inspire Academy, student work is evaluated according to three important attributes: Complexity, Authenticity, and Craftsmanship. We want to showcase what our students can do by sharing the following High-Quality projects.

This is not an exhaustive list of the High-Quality work created during the 2016-2017 school year, but is a list of the most excellent projects.



KINDERGARTEN CREW

“Counting on Each Other in Community” (book) - students created self-portraits and wrote what role in the community they want to fulfill when they grow up. This work was compiled into a poster and a book.

“Are You Afraid? Don’t Bee, They are Fascinating!” (book) - kindergarten students wrote about bees as part of their science-based “Creepers, Flyers, and Crawlers”

2ND GRADE CREW

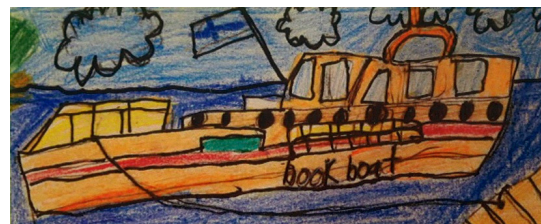
“Muncie Strong” (play, pledge, and Playbill) - students completed work that challenged students to apply their learning and create the contents of the Playbill. Each student wrote his or her own bio and submitted a self-portrait for the Playbill. Students ready for additional challenge wrote a citywide pledge based on the acronym Muncie STRONG.



HIGH QUALITY WORK

3RD GRADE CREW

Little Free Library with bookmarks - students created a Little Free Library for our school and community and created bookmarks for use by visitors of the library. The bookmarks contain evidence-based student art and writing about accessibility to books around the world.



4TH GRADE CREW

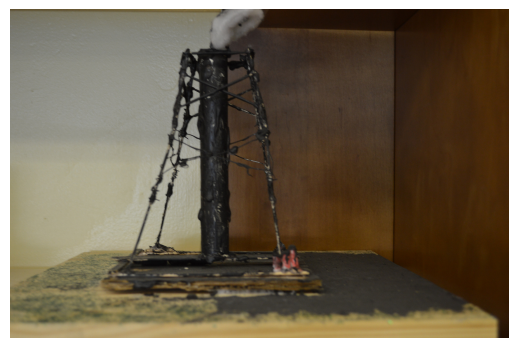
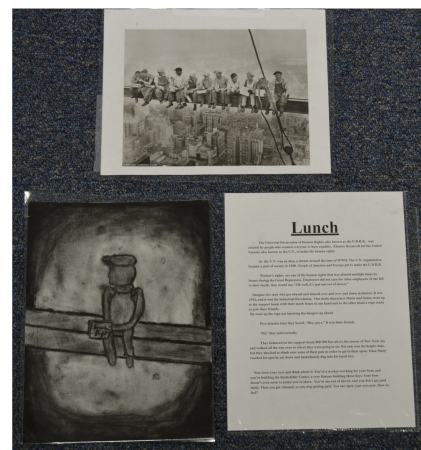
“Our Right to Vote!” (public service announcements) - students created PSAs encouraging people to vote as part of this social studies based expedition. The content of the work demonstrated the original thinking of students and mattered to the larger community as they worked to increase voting rates in the present and are building a foundation to become voters themselves in the future.



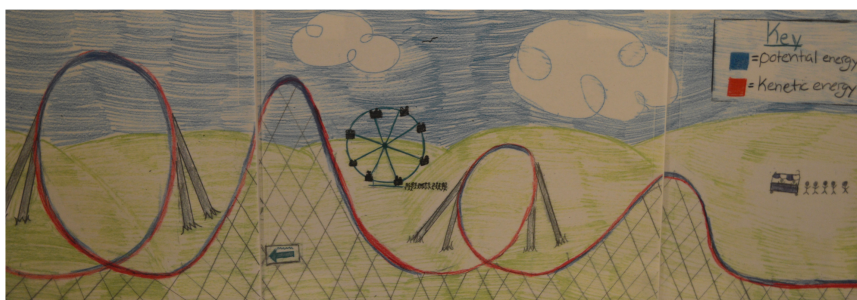
HIGH QUALITY WORK

6TH GRADE CREW

Human Rights: “We have rights, but what are they?” - students analyzed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through several close reads. Students applied knowledge of Human Rights to gain insight to characters within several texts and various time periods throughout history. Students then analyzed iconic historical photos. Students created a list of questions about their photos and looked below the surface to unearth some rights that were violated during certain time periods. Students created charcoal drawings with story-based essays to supplement the drawing.



Nuclear Energy: Safe, Clean, and Abundant? - students created models of how nuclear power plans worked, wrote articles about nuclear energy, and wrote biographies of scientists..



7TH-8TH GRADE CREW

“Seeking Refuge” (G7&8) (poems) - Students wrote poems and created corresponding artwork about the refugee experience.

“Powering the 21st Century” (G7&8) (proposals, essays) - Students wrote proposals about alternative energy sources and wrote essays about reducing their carbon footprint. Their writings about alternative energy sources and reducing their carbon footprint transferred their understanding of content to new contexts, applying higher order literacy skills by citing evidence to use their voice to impact their audience.





WISHLIST

NEW ROOFING (\$25,200)

NEW PAVING FOR PARKING LOT

12 TUBANOS FOR MUSIC CLASSROOM (\$2400)

BOOKS RELATING TO OUR LEARNING EXPEDITIONS TO
ADD TO CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

SCIENCE LAB EQUIPMENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

EBEAM INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD FOR PRE-K
CLASSROOM (\$700)

BAND DRUM RISER (\$1700)

BAND MUSIC MAILBOXES (\$1200)

TEACHER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Want to support Inspire?

Donate through Paypal on our
website: www.inspiremuncie.org

Or, mail donations to
2801 E. 16th Street
Muncie, IN 47302

Let everyone know about what you've done for us with
our special #InspireMuncie hashtag!



**INSPIRE
ACADEMY**

A School of Inquiry