



**INSPIRE
ACADEMY**

A School of Inquiry

2021-2022

Annual Report

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INSPIRE ACADEMY

A SCHOOL OF INQUIRY

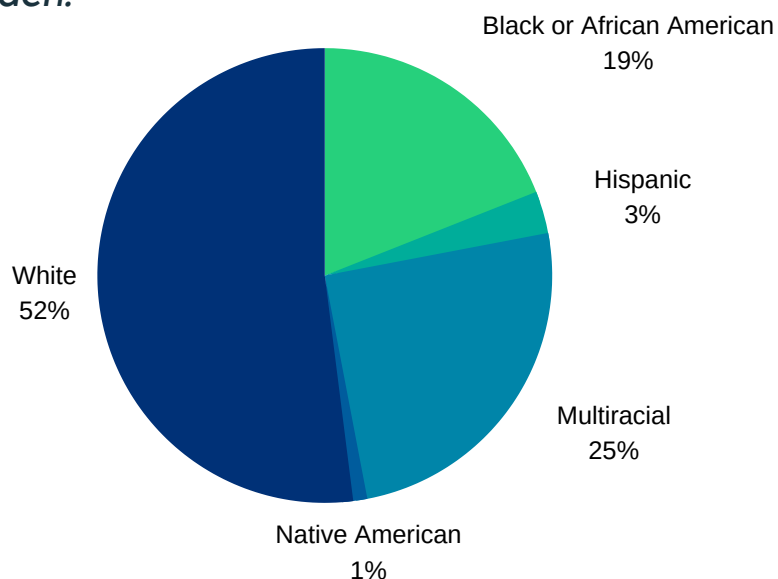
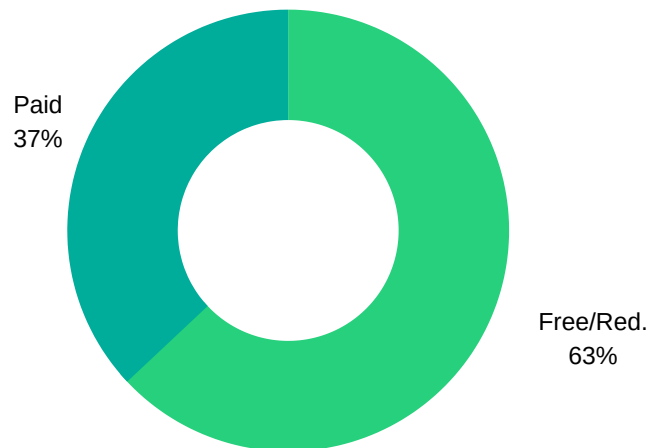
Inspire Academy believes that education is a right. We believe *all* students should have access to quality education and opportunities. We are proud to be a diverse school, and we do our best to celebrate our differences. Here is a snapshot of our student body demographics from 2022-2023. **Please note: the number of students living in poverty is under-represented on paper since **Inspire Academy** switched to CEP - a program that provides free breakfast and lunch to **all** students, reducing the paperwork burden.*

STUDENT-STAFF NUMBERS

169 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

19 STUDENTS PER CLASS (AVG. CLASS SIZE)

14:1 STUDENTS TO TEACHER RATIO (INCLUD. SPECIALS AND SPED)



MILESTONES:

Re-acclimated 1/3 of the student body back to full-time, onsite learning, all of whom had opted for eLearning in 2020-2021.

Connected Outdoor Learning Lab to Cardinal Greenways

Installed two new boilers and finished Phase 2 (most expensive phase) of new roof.

Increased average teacher pay 21.6%.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

26% STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MOBILITY

41% STUDENT MOBILITY

27% TEACHER MOBILITY FROM 2020-2021 TO 2021-2022

2021-2022

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2021-2022 school year was a year of projects for Inspire Academy- A School of Inquiry. Inspire Academy completed the second of four phases to update the roof, the main elementary wings of the school. Inspire Academy also bolstered the security of the building with the help of grant funding to continue to provide a safe space for students and staff as they returned to the building to resume in-person learning. New doors and locks provided visible changes to the school building.

With the support of additional grants funds, Inspire Academy has been able to focus on the outdoor learning spaces while maintaining current staffing levels throughout the building. Additionally, grant funds allowed for the replacement of the outdated boilers that provide heating to the entire building. Finally, this was the first year that Inspire academy was able to offer bussing for students to help increase attendance rates and overall enrollment!

While we have been provided opportunities for growth in regards to our students and facility, there is still so much to do for our students. We will need your help with two projects on the horizon - the remainder of the roof and updates to the parking lots to continue to beautify our space and make it more functional. Being able to pour back into the facility shows commitment to the students, staff, families, and community. Inspire Academy desires to continue to improve and be examples to the students of how to embody Joy, Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity, Curiosity, and Quality!



EXPENDITURES

\$2,383,820.67

TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN
2021-2022

\$14,105.45

EXPENDITURES PER
STUDENT

\$43,747.20

AVERAGE TEACHER
SALARY

MASTERY OF KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

STATE ASSESSMENTS - ILEARN 2022

ELA Proficiency %

14.4%

Mathematics Proficiency %

12.2%

These test scores reflect learning gaps widened by the challenging circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Until late February of 2022, schools in Indiana were required to contact trace and students were required to quarantine when exposed to the COVID-19 virus, which significantly impacted attendance and continuity of learning. As a result, Indiana waived accountability for schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

Inspire Academy continues to outperform other schools serving a high percentage of students in poverty compared to other schools in Muncie, Indiana. Inspire Academy has put initiatives in place to work to rebuild high attendance rates, accelerate learning, and recover academic success rates for our students over the next few years. Nonetheless, these scores are low, and the situation requires urgency in our response.

ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY

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 fine arts.

100% of Inspire teachers are certified employees who teach the subject area for which the teacher is certified and holds a license. For one semester, one classroom was led by a long-term substitute.



TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

At Inspire Academy, we believe it is important for students to learn media literacy, typing, and master the use of modern technology to enhance learning and productivity. Students are provided with a device that is used only by them for the school year. Each quarter, students create authentic products, often using technological skills, that demonstrate their learning. We utilize standards-based, adaptive learning programs such as Achieve3000 and SmartyAnts for practice, assessment, and integration of content about current societal issues.

During the 2021-2022 school year we maintained 1:1 technology for students, transitioned student portfolios of work to fully digital, and worked with students to incorporate technology into real-world products that model professional standards in various fields.



CHARACTER & ENGAGEMENT



Habits of Inspiring Scholars

At Inspire Academy, we hold that success, in both school and life, is contingent on developing the Habits of Scholarship. After much thought and discussion, we added joy as a key habit for our students and staff to pursue and practice. We established that building a habit of joy is necessary for long-term student success and is established through the following learning targets:

- I can express appreciation for the contributions of those around us.
- I can spend more time building on what is going right than focusing on what is going wrong.
- I can create projects and/or experiences in pursuit of happiness for ourselves and those around us.

In May 2022, we honored 36 students and staff as Inspiring Scholars who model for us what these Habits of Scholarship look like in daily life. Below is a break down of numbers honored for consistent mastery of each habit:

Joy - 6 students, 3 staff

Empathy - 3 students, 1 staff

Perseverance - 5 students, 1 staff

Integrity - 1 student, 2 staff

Curiosity - 7 students, 1 staff

Quality - 2 students, 2 staff

Attendance Data

Attendance Rate

87%

Inspire Academy holds students to a high standard for attendance. As students continued to quarantine, absenteeism remained higher than typical, but we did see a 5% increase from the prior year.

Chronic absenteeism (students absent for 10% of the year or more):7

Chronic truancy (students with more than 10 unexcused absences):82

School Safety

In the 2021-2022 school year Inspire Academy had 0 instances of students arrested on school property, 2 incidents in which a student brought in an object that could be used as a weapon; 0 instances of battery; and 1 instance of bullying as defined under IC 20-34-6. The number of expulsions was 2 and the number of suspensions was 29 for the year.



HIGH QUALITY WORK

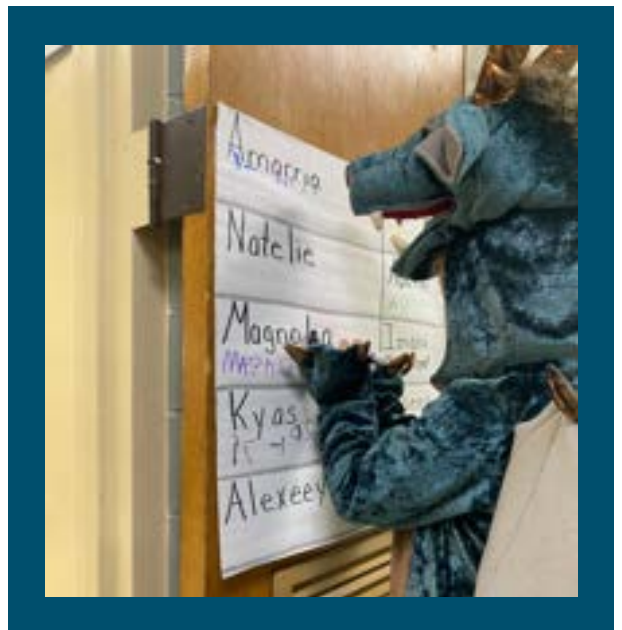
At Inspire Academy, student work is evaluated according to three important attributes: Complexity, Authenticity, and Craftsmanship. We want to showcase student achievement through high quality student work that exhibits skills and knowledge required for college and career success.

**This is not an exhaustive list of the High-Quality Work created during the 2021-2022 school year, but is intended to highlight student achievement at various stages of student development.*

PURPLE DEN: PK - 1 FOCUS: EARLY LITERACY

In our early childhood classrooms, literacy development is top priority! Through engaging, hands-on activities, we ensure that students are provided with the practice needed to learn to recognize letter sounds and how they work together to form words, sentences, and meaning. This is what coding means in young brains!

While expeditions and authentic products are part of what we do in all classrooms, in the early years, our focus is less on authentic audience and more on the skills needed for academic-based civic engagement in the future.

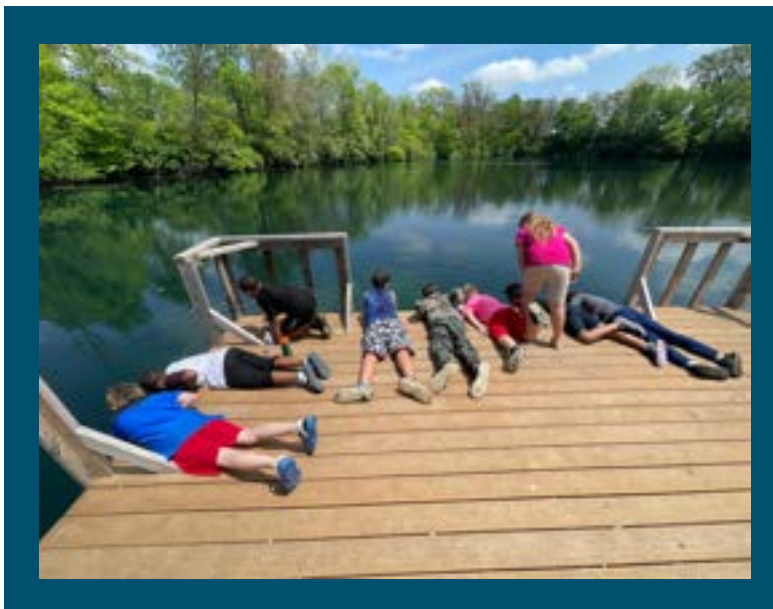


HIGH QUALITY WORK

GOLD DEN: GRADES 2-4 **FOCUS: DEVELOPING RESEARCHERS, WRITERS, AND MATHEMATICIANS**



Expedition Highlight: Water Around the World



Bottom Left: Students begin by building background knowledge through reading and researching the topic. This often includes fieldwork!

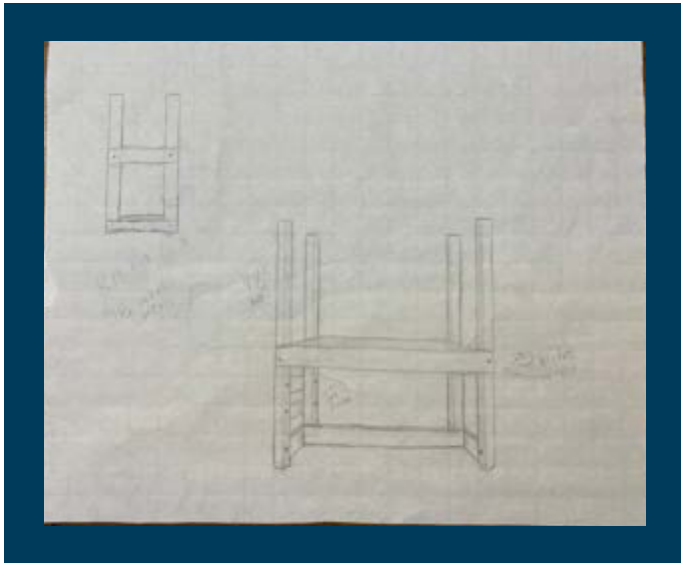
Top Right: Signs for our Outdoor Learning Lab! Students identify a contribution they can make through an authentic product that requires them to meet writing standards.

Top Left: Habits themed trash bins for our playground! Students add key projects to enhance STEM skills and service learning.

HIGH QUALITY WORK

ORANGE DEN: 5-8

FOCUS: APPLYING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD



Expedition Highlight: Biodiversity

Top Left: Students create scale drawings of a plant loft they designed and built.

Top Right: Students build the structure they designed and measured.

Bottom Right: Students write short essays that connect their reading and research to a problem and solution.

The problem took place in a school in a community in Ms. Kara's classroom. This problem is plants dying. These plants need a better environment. We are doing this final project because of the boy that harnessed the wind by William Kibwama. The book is about William building a windmill.

The solution to this problem is building a loft. My first thought was to make a pulley system so all of the plants get enough energy. But we went to a room with a loft in it. Ms. Kara said to us that we should do a loft and everyone agreed to go with it.

The steps to this solution are: Number one massive room. Number two discusses the rain barrel. Number three supplies. Number four get the supplies inside. Number five build. Number six more building's. Number seven problem solving.

Plants help us and feed us. Plants grow watermelon and cocoa for chocolate. They also help bees and the bees can pollinate the plants. Some you can even eat. Some are beautiful and some hurt you but we need plants to survive. The problem was plants dying and this was the solution to save plants.

Want to support Inspire?

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

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



THANK YOU!

We appreciate all the support we received from our dedicated community members and our generous donors.

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The work of education reform and empowering students is lifelong work. As we enter our 10th year serving students, we want to take this moment to highlight committed financial partners over the years.

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