

# SOARING EAGLE GAZETTE

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**The Soaring Eagle Gazette strives to give the students of Excel Academy a voice. We at Excel Academy believe in the importance of allowing our students to express their ideas and feelings through artistic mediums such as writing and drawing.**

**Enjoy The Soaring Eagle Gazette!**

**Contributors:**

- Mrs. Cook**
- Tiffany Young**
- Iyona Johnigan**
- Denzel Williams**
- Kevin Ledlow**
- Akilah Magee**
- Lakendra Luque**
- Elrione Noel**
- Deshawn Robinson**
- Traelle Noble**
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## PRINCIPAL'S PEN

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our school. Excel Academy is aiming towards a long standing tradition of excellence, pride, and student achievement.

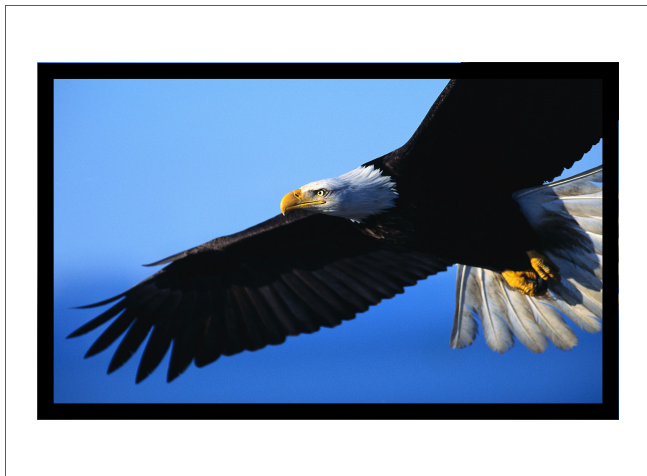
Excel Academy is much more than a building; it is a home. Excel Academy is comprised of a family of educators and community members who care for, nurture, and encourage our students to bring forth their very best.

It is our mission to provide every student with the tools and the skills essential to construct the necessary means to reach their goals and dreams, without regard to their starting point.

Through our academic courses of study, our student clubs, as well as our fine arts and mentor-

Let's take a closer look at the principal of Excel Academy, Mrs. Monique Hicks-Cook. Mrs. Cook graduated from J.F Kennedy High School when she was only 16 years old. After graduating from high school, Mrs. Cook received an undergraduate degree, as well as two master's degrees.

Growing up, Mrs. Cook did not have a complicated life. She



ing programs, we teach our student Eagles how to fly. Excel Academy will be a place with a history of providing top-notch "flight training" for its students.

Please continue to support our efforts to teach our Eagles

not only to fly, but to soar. Excellence is never found near the ground.

Educationally yours,

– Monique Hicks-Cook,  
Principal

## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR LEAD EAGLE

was blessed to grow up with both of her parents around, cheering her all along the way. She is married and has two children. During her free time, Mrs. Cook enjoys to shop. This helps her to relax from a hard week of work.

I think that Mrs. Cook is a wonderful woman and an amazing principal. I truly believe that she cares whole-

heartedly about each and every student here at Excel Academy. I know that the Eagles of Excel Academy will continue to soar as long as we are under the wings of our esteemed principal, Mrs. Monique Hicks-Cook.

– Tiffany Young

## THE GREAT DEBATE: CELL PHONES SHOULD BE BANNED

"Cell phones are disruptive to my class. My students should be focused on what I am teaching," said a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English teacher at Excel Academy. I think that cell phones should be banned at school for the following reasons: it can be a huge disturbance, it can be a safety risk, and also cell phones are unfair to the teachers who are trying to teach their lesson. For the reasons that I have mentioned, I think cell phones should not be allowed at school.

First off, I think cell phones should be banned because cell phones are a huge disturbance to the students' learning environment. If one student sees another student using their cell phone in class, it can turn into a whole class of students using cell phones and not learning; turning the classroom into a non-learning zone.



My second reason that I think cell phones should be banned from schools is for safety reasons. If a student has an altercation in school and can contact the outside world, it could create a dangerous situation. Students would be able to call outside people, asking them to bring guns into the school, thus causing something horrible to happen. So, an environment that is supposed to be safe and secure wouldn't be if cell phones were

allowed in school.

Finally, I think cell phones should be banned from schools for the sake of the teachers. What if you were a teacher and had been working hard to plan an effective lesson? One student can come in and be on his or her cell phone and disrupt the entire lesson.

In New Orleans, parents are always saying that teachers don't care about their children's education. However, if your child comes to school with a cell phone they obviously don't care about their education either. So by all means necessary I think cell phones should be banned from all schools.

— Tiffany Young

## THE GREAT DEBATE: CELL PHONES SHOULD BE ALLOWED



"Having a cell phone makes it easier for me to call my friends and keep in touch". I think cell phones should be allowed in school for the following reasons: in case of an emergency at a student's home, in case the student misses the bus, or in case a student is sick and just needs to call home. For the reasons I just stated, I think cell phones should not be banned at school.

First, I think cell phones should not be banned in case of an emergency at a student's home. What if someone in my family is sick and has to go to the hospital? Then, they would need to be able to call me to tell me that I have to go to someone else's house until they get home. What if you were sick, would you want your daughter sitting outside by herself just waiting for you to get home? This entire situation could effectively be avoided if children were allowed to bring cell phones to school.

Secondly, students should be allowed to have a cell phone at school in case they are sick and need to call home. Oftentimes, when students are at school and they are not feeling well, school officials don't let

them call home right away. If students were able to have cell phones it wouldn't be a problem. That way, we could reduce the spread of virus and epidemics like the sine flu.

Finally, cell phones should be allowed in school in case students have missed the bus. Quite frequently, students find that they have missed the bus because they were inside talking to a teacher or an administrator. So now that child is left on a dangerous street without a cell phone to call for a ride. I know that if I were a parent of a student that got left by the bus, I would be angry that my child was stranded without a way to call and let me know.

In conclusion, students should be able to have cell phones at school in case of an emergency at a student's home, in case the student misses the bus, or in case a student is sick and needs to call home. I think you should look into allowing cell phones in school, so that we can avoid all of the problems that I have mentioned.

— lyona Johnigan

## FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

I find that people are always talking about all of the bad things that are happening in the “hood.” But if you really take a good look around, there are a lot of positive things that are happening there too.

For example, there are a few church organizations that take the time out to help the people in my neighborhood. These organizations try to get the children off of the streets by planning activities for them and taking them on field trips. Organizations such as these are brightening up our streets by bringing positive things into the lives of the community.

I think that if the community would get together and try to bring more of these positive outlets into the neighborhoods, we would be able to get a lot of the robbing and killing to stop. I feel as though the younger kids are learning the negative behavior that they are exhibiting from the older people in the community that they look up to. So once the older people shape up, there will then be a hope for our future.

We can make a change—we just have to stand up and starting doing something about it. It doesn’t have to be like this forever. So let’s get



together and make life better for ourselves!

— Elrione Noel

*Why all the killing?  
It doesn't make sense,  
Everyday people get killed,  
It's all a sad story  
At the end.*

*Why all the killing?  
People 's lives are being  
Taken away through the  
season.  
Why are people hating for  
no reason?*

*Why all the killing?  
People today in New  
Orleans  
Live by the gun  
Die by the gun.  
They shoot the people,  
Then the killers run.*

*Why all the killing?  
People are hating for no  
reason,  
It's not killing season.  
Why won't it stop?  
Cause a dude  
Is not worrying about  
What the next dude  
Says, because they are  
trying  
To reach the top,  
Not worried about why  
they're getting popped.*

*Why all the killing?  
Not living to see eight-teen  
This is not a dream  
We are going to too many  
murder scenes*

*Wake up guys,  
This is real life.*

— Akilah Magee

## THE BIG EASY NEEDS A BIG CHANGE

We need a big change so that our city can be better. I don't want the generation after us to go through the things that we are experiencing daily in this city. I want them to have a better life, a life that is not full of crime and hate.

As a community, we need to learn to get along. Far too many young people are involved in black on black crime in this city. The tragic deaths of many of our loved ones can and should be avoided. Enough with all of the killing—

wake up, this is real life! We need to come together and stick together, making this city into a positive place to live and raise a family.

— Lakendra Luque

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT—MS. SPORER

Ms. Sporer is from Lafayette LA. She attended Lafayette High School, graduating at the age of eighteen. Right after high school, she went to college at Loyola University New Orleans. While at Loyola, she majored in Journalism and English Literature.

She is now a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher at Excel Academy. She said she loves to be a teacher because she likes to give students the tools they need to be successful in life. She is 23 years of

age and has never been married. She currently resides in the Garden District of New Orleans. She says that she hopes to get her master's degree so that she can become a principal of her own school one day.

I think she is a warm and loving teacher.

— Kevin Ledlow



Excel Academy is "Giving Back to Those Who Gave Up So Much on 9/11"

Donations of clothes (all sizes), shoes, household goods, toys, etc

When: 9/11/09

Where: 2239 Poydras Street

Time: 9:00 am-2:00 pm

\*Please start bringing any and all donations today\*

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## THE EAGLE REVIEW

From a gamer's point of view, Madden 2010 is the game of the year. Along with having both the best features and game controls, Madden 2010 is also extremely challenging and fun. It is the latest edition of the Madden football gaming series.

The new features on Madden 2010 are cool because it comes equipped with new graphics and playing options. The graphics make the players look more life-like than ever. Other features that make Madden 2010 stand out is the family mode and the o-line control. Family mode allows the player to adjust the difficulty of the game so that people of all ages can enjoy playing the game. O-line control, on the other hand, provides the

player with the option to switch from playing as the quarterback to playing as one of the offensive lineman. This allows players the ability to protect the run more effectively. Along with improved gaming features, Madden also has a control system that



allows the player to catch and tackle better than ever before.

The improvements made to Madden in its 2010 edition makes the game more challenging, especially when playing in two player mode. Players now have to use the analogue to break tackles, get the touchdown, and score. The increased level of difficulty is what makes this game so much fun to play. So go out and buy Madden 2010 today!

— Traelle, Denzel, and De-shawn