

NEWS²⁰²³ LETTER

July



*Get Acquainted with
the GAPS STEM
Academy Interns...*

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Get ready to be enlightened! Our incredible GAPS STEM Academy brightened up the summer for **3rd-5th grade students from McCullough, Banneker, Beveridge, Williams and GPS elementary schools throughout the month of June.** Serving as an academic life-raft, our program was absolutely free for our students who were eager to dive into learning even during their summer break.

Our budding learners indulged in a multidisciplinary interactive experience that kindled their curiosity and hands-on lessons that not only sparked their creativity but also guided them on an exciting adventure through real-world problem-solving scenarios. It wasn't just about learning, it was about experiencing education in a fun, immersive way!



Now, let's give a big shout-out to our inspiring interns: ***DeMarion Newell, Brennan Syas, Nalaya Young, Caiya Wright, and RaShaun Donald, Jr.*** In addition to facilitating each lesson, the interns also provided bridges of knowledge of the college experience for our elementary students. ***MORE ABOUT THEM LATER.***

Their role highlighted the beautiful benefits of intergenerational learning; their fresh ideas and unique perspectives blended with unbridled enthusiasm. This union of diverse minds created a learning environment where wisdom was exchanged freely, mutual respect was cultivated, and an enriching dialogue was established that fostered the growth of everyone involved.



B.O.S.S.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

REFLECTIONS

SY22-23



Erik Fourte Roberts, Coldwell Banker Realty, <https://myhomeisready.com/>: I really enjoyed my time interacting with your students. I believe programs like yours offer them essential skills and information they would not otherwise be exposed to as well as a safe space to be after school. My goal was to create interest in financial literacy, and talk about nontraditional career paths as an entrepreneur such as becoming a Realtor, or a recording artist such as myself and discovering paths to revenue even without a college degree. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Joe Guthrie: I thoroughly enjoyed working with the students. They were smart, attentive, respectful and asked great questions. I would love to work with them again. Thank you for all you do to support the young people. It is greatly appreciated by more than you could know!



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Student Spotlight

GAPS STEM Academy Students



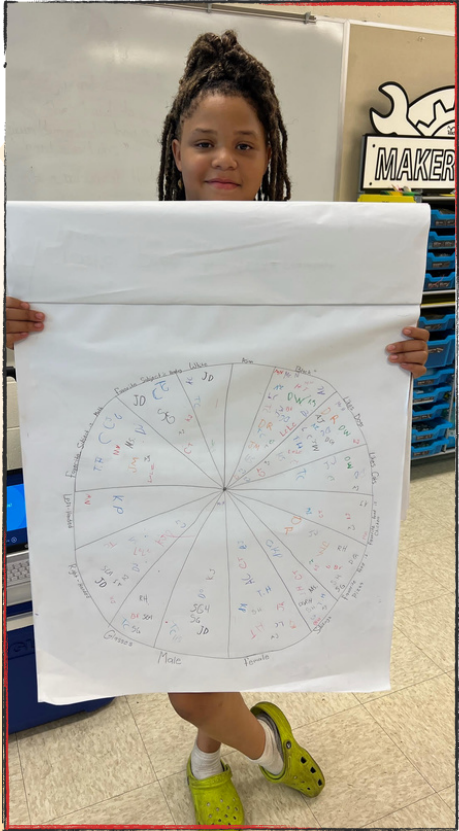
Job incredibly well done! In the GAPS STEM Academy, it's not just about fostering academic growth, but also about sowing the seeds for a lifelong love of learning and mutual understanding across generations.





Student Spotlight

GAPS STEM Academy Students



Find us on  Facebook

 Instagram



MEET THE STAFF

Who?

GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE GAPS STEM ACADEMY INTERNS

Pictured from left to right: **DeMarion Newell**,
Brennan Syas, **Nalaya Young**, **Caiya Wright**, and
RaShaun Donald, Jr.



Introducing **DeMarion Newell**, a Multimedia Journalism Junior at Franklin College, minoring in Visual Communications. Though unsure about his career path, he's eager to earn his Bachelor's and considering graduate school. Joining GAPS to develop leadership and communication skills, he found joy in helping kids and giving back to his community. The program taught him the importance of patience and adaptability in teaching, ensuring every lesson benefits the learners.

Meet **Brennan Syas**, a Junior at Indiana Institute of Technology, mastering Information Systems and tech certifications. Aspiring to be a blockchain developer post-graduation in 2025, he joined GAPS STEM Academy to inspire the next STEM generation, just as his teachers had done for him. The experience revealed the resilience needed for impactful teaching, a lesson he'll carry forward as he sparks curiosity in future tech innovators.

Nalaya Young, a Rutgers University student, is earning her stripes in Accounting & Supply-Chain Management. She has her sights set on the RSM accounting firm to bolster her business acumen post-graduation. Her ultimate goal? Leveraging her experience and savings to helm her own business, Genuinely Us, focused on aiding those less fortunate. Participating in the GAPS STEM Academy, Nalaya embraced the chance to inspire younger minds. From this journey, she gleaned the essence of effective teaching: the art of capturing and maintaining attention.

Caiya Wright, a spirited senior at Indiana Institute of Technology, is pursuing a double major in Business Management and Psychology. She aspires to meld leadership and holistic health practice, guiding others in harmonizing their mind, body, and soul. Joining GAPS STEM Academy, Caiya relished the chance to broaden students' horizons about potential fields and their life aspirations. Reflecting on her experience, she said, "This was a fantastic growth opportunity. I gained patience and learned to function efficiently in a high-energy setting. Grateful for this opportunity!"

Here's **RaShaun Donald Jr**, a Business Marketing major at Grambling State University, aspires to become a Product Marketing Director. He joined the GAPS STEM Academy to boost his leadership and communication skills. The most valuable lesson he learned? Patience. Engaging with younger students, he realized their natural curiosity could be a test of patience but also a key to growth. Reflecting on his experience, he exclaimed, "This was an unmatched experience. I'm grateful for the opportunity!"



SY23-24



GAPS creates effective and enduring partnerships and relationships based on common goals with school administrators, teachers, alumni, students, parents, businesses, and community resources with GCSC and city, state, and national agencies.

We maintain our operations by integrating into the Gary Community School Corporation and the Gary community while developing sustainable funding mechanisms. We appreciate your service and support in advance!

In order to meet the GAPS mission, we need your support in order to expand our programming, partnerships, and permanence outreach. We develop programming and promote programs that deliver multiple structured pathways to success for students that connect alumni collectively and individually with students and administration to prepare them for academic, career, and personal success.

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of young people in your community? Join our GAPS program and share your skills, knowledge, and abilities with high school students. As a volunteer, you'll inspire and guide the next generation, helping them develop the skills and confidence to succeed.





HELP GAPS SUCCEED: BE A VOLUNTEER

We are seeking volunteers for our 2023-2024 Fall Career Fair at West Side Leadership Academy. We are extremely excited to partner with you in providing Gary students with skills, resources, and opportunities! Please complete the [SY 23-24 WSLA Career Fair Volunteer Interest Form](#) to help us prepare for an amazing event this upcoming November.

We are also seeking volunteers for our 2023-2024 school year workshops. Interested in facilitating a workshop for our students in the upcoming school year? If so, please complete our [GAPS Student Workshop Facilitator Request](#) form. Additional details will be shared upon your completion of the form.

News Bytes



[INDIANA SCHOOLS REEVALUATE 'HARMFUL READING MATERIALS' POLICIES BEFORE BILL BECOMES LAW](#)

[A 'CRISIS' OF THEIR OWN: INDIANA SCHOOL COUNSELORS DETAIL OVERWHELMING DUTIES, PUSHING SOME OUT](#)

[AFTER A SLOW START, SOME INDIANA SCHOOLS BEGIN TO HIRE ADJUNCT TEACHERS](#)

[INDIANA EDUCATION OFFICIALS ROLL OUT SCHOOL GUIDANCE ON NEWLY PASSED LAWS](#)

[READING SCIENCE NOT TAUGHT IN INDIANA'S LARGEST TEACHER COLLEGES, STUDY SAYS](#)

HELP GAPS SUCCEED: MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION

GAPS is a non-profit organization that requires financial contributions in order to sustain its operations. Please consider making a donation of any amount to our organization in order to ensure we can continue to fulfill the vision of GAPS of assisting students with success in a rapidly changing world by discovering and pursuing their educational and career aspirations. We appreciate your willingness to contribute to the GAPS organization. Please click on our [GAPS Donation](#) link to support!

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