



KIPP: NORTHSTAR ACADEMY

SPOTLIGHT

September, 2015

Greetings!

Welcome back to a new year at KIPP Minnesota. We are already off to a great start. Our most recent alumni are starting their high school careers at a variety of excellent schools and we'll keep in touch with them throughout the year.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new staff and board members. We're so happy you're a part of our Team & Family.

Kindergarteners Coming in 2016!

We are thrilled to announce that KIPP Minnesota will open a kindergarten in fall, 2016! This is a full year earlier than planned but thanks to you, our supporters, we're able to proceed sooner! The kindergarten will be part of a school to be named KIPP North Star Primary, located on the same campus as the existing KIPP North Star Academy in North Minneapolis.

KIPP North Star Primary will add a grade each year until 2020, when KIPP North Star Primary will serve grades K-4 and KIPP North Star Academy will serve grades 5-8.

As excited as we are to have little KIPPsters in our hallways, we're even more pleased that the

**Work hard.
Be nice.**

[Support KIPP MN](#)

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  **twitter**

Coffee @ KIPP

Please join us for coffee, conversation, and a tour of our school. Bring a friend or co-worker and come see what makes KIPP truly unique.

Upcoming tours

All tours are from 9-10am at 5034 N. Oliver Avenue, Mpls

Thursday, October 1
Thursday, November 12
Thursday, January 28
Thursday, May 12

Please RSVP to [Caroline](#).

principal of this new school will be our extraordinary [Amanda Markowitz](#). Amanda was selected to be a Fisher Fellow and is currently completing her training to found and lead KIPP North Star Primary.



KIPP Co-Founder Returns to Minneapolis

On a beautiful July evening, 50 KIPP staff and supporters met at [Indeed Brewing Company](#) to welcome KIPP co-founder Mike Feinberg back to Minneapolis. Guests had a chance to network and mingle before Executive Director Alvin Abraham announced the opening of KIPP North Star Primary in 2016 and then introduced Mike. Mike reflected on growing KIPP from one classroom of 5th graders to a national network of 183 schools whose alumni complete college at a rate higher than the national average.

Mike framed the organization's progress in terms of national data on the college graduation gap related to family income level. While students from the lowest economic quartile currently have a 9% college completion rate, 77% of students from the highest quartile currently earn a college degree. Mike is proud that 45% of KIPP alumni have graduated from college, but his focus isn't on outperforming the low-income demographic. Instead, it's on eventually helping KIPP students match their more affluent peers.

Mike mentioned a few challenges to consider including questions about if college is right for *every student* and the work on changing perceptions around the success of students from

KIPP: Wishlist

Check this spot in every newsletter to see what items are needed for our KIPPsters. We'll make it easy for you to know exactly what's needed.

- * **Navy or khaki pants in middle school sizes**
- * **Gently used or new copies of middle school books**
- * **Sharpies**
- * **Pencils**
- * **Winter gear**
- * **3M Sticky Tack**
- * **Spiral notebooks**
- * **Composition notebooks**
- * **Belts**
- * **Underwear for boys & girls**
- * **Party decorations for school celebrations**

If you're an on-line shopper, you can aim your mouse at [DollarDays](#) or [Amazon.com](#), and fill your cart with all kinds of goodies from our wish lists. The sites will mail your gifts directly to KIPP North Star Academy.

Here's a chance to show your zest for KIPP. Join our email list of In-kind Friends. Your only commitment is to not be crabby when you get an email once a month detailing some of the needs at KIPP. You can ignore the email or (this one's our favorite) purchase one of the items for KIPP. You can order on-line or we can arrange for a handy drop off site near your home. Best of all? You can opt out at any time - no hard feelings. Sound low-key enough? [Email us](#) and we'll sign you right up.

KIPP: Briefs

low income communities. Mike's charisma, data, and positive outlook on how far we've come to "prove the possible" in education made for a very uplifting night at Indeed, indeed!



Mike Feinberg surrounded by, from left, former board members Wade Jones, Beth Finch, Bonnie McGrath, and current teacher representative, Brian Shephard.

Photo credit: [Sydnee Bickett Photography](#)

Our First Library Opens Its Doors

Thanks to donors like you, we now have a library for our KIPPsters to enjoy! We're so grateful to our supporters for filling the shelves with books and to KIPP alumni and volunteers from [Riley Hayes](#) for coming to school to level, inventory, and shelve books to get the library ready.

Every KIPPster will visit the library once a week and they will have the opportunity to check out books using our online library inventory system.

Tim, an 8th grader, observed, "It's so big. And there are so many books. I just don't know which one I want to check out first." A great problem to have!

We love our volunteers! During our Summer Volunteer Day we had friends come in to get the school ready for our KIPPsters' 1st day. Groups from [Riley Hayes](#), [Timberwolves](#) and [Lynx](#) and [PwC](#) made our building sparkle. A small group of high schoolers from Edina volunteered with their moms to assemble teacher supply kits, organize and stock our teacher workroom, load a reading app on 150 iPads and decorate bulletin boards - lots of bulletin boards.

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Do you know a wonderful school nurse who would be perfect to take care of our KIPPsters and support our wellness programs? If so, please send them to [kippmnnesota.org/careers](http://kippmnnesota.org/careers).

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KIPP MN alumna, Johannah Easley, was recently featured on the front page of the [Minneapolis Star Tribune Variety section](#)

She is currently starring in the [Children's Theatre Company](#) production of *Akeelah and the Bee*! Way to go, Johannah!



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Many thanks to the wonderful



8th grader, Tray, enjoys his library selection.

## KIPPsters Exploring Minnesota

Thanks to our donors and to our partnership with [Wilderness Inquiry](#) for amazing end-of-year trips for our KIPPsters. From day paddles on the Mississippi River and Lake Calhoun, to a rainy overnight at Fort Snelling State Park, to a three-day adventure in the Apostle Islands, we got to put our science knowledge and character skills to good use. For many of our students, these trips are their first experiences outside of an urban environment. In a state as wondrous as Minnesota, being able to work with partners and donors to ensure these trips for our KIPPsters is priceless. More photos are on our [Facebook page](#).



## KIPP Career Day ~ October 28, 2015

Career Day helps KIPPsters learn about career options available to college graduates. We invite you to share your knowledge and expertise in your field with our students. You will have a chance to meet with several small groups of KIPPsters and

team of volunteers who arrived from Accenture who helped us build three raised garden beds [last June](#). Accenture also generously paid for the installation of these new gardens, letting us vastly expand our gardening (and healthy eating) efforts through a partnership with our friends at [A Backyard Farm](#).



Fast forward three months to our Back to School Night and our KIPPsters and their families sampled pesto pasta and gazpacho made with produce grown from our garden!

talk about your career and the path you took to get where you are today. If you are interested please contact [Renee Carrel](#).

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**KIPP North Star Academy is an open enrollment charter school serving 5th-8th grade students with a rigorous college prep education. We are a part of the highly successful national network of 183 KIPP Schools serving 70,000 students in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, more than 93% of KIPP middle school students have graduated high school and more than 82% of KIPP alumni have gone on to college. KIPP is constantly improving its programs and tracking its alumni to support them to and through college at rates that are currently five times better than the national average for the low-income, high-minority populations it serves.**

**Locally, 97% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch, 17% receive special education services, and 98% are students of color.**

**Demography does not define destiny.**