



News



The Eastside is alive with the sound of music.

Austin's newest youth orchestra is bringing a unique sound into the heart of east Austin.

About EAPrep

EAPrep is a free public charter school open to students who live in East Austin. 100% of our students will go to college!

Principal's Corner

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Life for East Austin College Prep students and staff has been filled with the sound of music since Austin Soundwaves launched its pilot program at our campus on October 17th. Based on the world-renowned El Sistema, the program is intensively training a cohort of 40 EAPrep students in music theory, violin, viola, cello and percussion.

"This collaboration was an important first step for the Soundwaves program because our organizations share common values and we both strive to provide underserved communities with opportunities they never had before", stated Patrick Slevin, Austin Soundwaves Director. "Hispanic communities have been historically underserved in the fine arts. Through Austin Soundwaves, East Austin College Prep now has an intensive music program taught by world class musicians in the orchestral arts."



Monica & Maria Balleza show their symphony day faces.

Austin Soundwaves hopes to expand the scope of its programming at East Austin College Prep next year, adding more students and different instruments. EAPrep thanks the Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts for bringing this incredible program to our students and community. For more information about the Austin Soundwaves program, visit www.austinsoundwaves.org.



What a year this has been so far! As we say goodbye to 2011 and look ahead to the new year, I can't help but reflect on how much we have already accomplished this year. Since the hot, summer days of early August, our students and staff have been laser focused on ensuring all students achieve academic excellence and receive an education that will allow them success in college and in life. The weather may have cooled, but our campus' passion and desire for learning have not.

Last year was East Austin College Prep's second year. Our test scores showed we were only one student away from being a "recognized" campus under Texas' state academic accountability system (TAKS). For any other school, this would be a tremendous achievement, but we have high expectations for ourselves and for our students. We reviewed our testing and academic achievements from last year, and knew we had to implement new and innovative programming to help get our students where they need to be. One of the many changes we have implemented this year is our prescriptive tutoring system within the classroom. Tutors are in classes on a daily basis to act as assistants to teachers and as added encouragement and guidance to students. This program has allowed for a lower student to teacher ratio

which, in turn, allows for more focused instruction, varied rigor rate, and deeper personal connections. These things combined help create a more confident, academically successful student.



EAPrep Principal, Marisol Rocha

With the new state accountability STAAR test coming this year teachers have been working diligently to develop rigorous, engaging lessons that will adequately prepare our students for the ever increasing standards. Lessons are designed to teach not only the basic concepts, but also to promote the deeper connections between concepts, and to create links with the modern world. Our desire is to teach our students more than test answers. We are creating in our students the ability to analyze and critically think about the subjects they are learning.

As we look forward to the spring semester, we will continue to develop our students through rigorous activities, higher level questioning, and focused tutorials. The number one goal of students and staff alike is to create and be a part of an atmosphere of academic merit, because at EAPrep the STAARs are never out of reach!

Events Calendar

21
Dec 2011

Winter Break Begins
No Classes

04
Jan 2012

Winter Break Ends
Classes Resume

07
Jan 2012

STAAR Spectacular Re-Orientation
10:30a - 12:30p
Sixth Grade Parents, Southwest Key El Centro de Familia Community Room

09
Jan 2012

Benchmark Testing Begins

13
Jan 2012

Benchmark Testing Ends

14
Jan 2012

STAAR Spectacular Re-Orientation
10:30a - 12:30p
Seventh Grade Parents, Southwest Key El Centro de Familia Community Room

16
Jan 2012

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Classes

18
Jan 2012

EAPrep Faculty Meeting
Early Release @ 1:30p

21
Jan 2012

STAAR Spectacular Re-Orientation
10:30a - 12:30p
Eighth Grade Parents, Southwest Key El Centro de Familia Community Room

26
Jan 2012

Progress Reports Sent Home

28
Jan 2012

New Student Open House
6002 Jain Lane, Austin, 78721
English - 10:00a - 12:00p
Espanol - 1:00p - 3:00p

What a fun year we have had so far in 8th grade science!

My teaching style reflects my belief that if students can't touch it, grab it, mold it and get their hands dirty with it they will never form a true understanding of how things work. Science shouldn't be taught through lectures alone, experiments allow barriers between concepts and true comprehension to be broken down for all students, regardless of any educational challenges they may have.



Earlier this year, we made rock candy and ice cream for experiments. These experiments weren't just a tasty treat, they gave hands on lessons for our kids on the differences between chemical and physical change, and how matter can change between solid, liquid and gas. We used our new playground as a physics classroom, learning about

force and motion. I had my students pick a piece of playground equipment and explain how each was affected by Newton's laws of physics. Our class is learning about botany, nutrition and organic compounds through our new winter garden where we are growing romaine lettuce, broccoli, carrots and cabbage. The hardest part of the garden so far has been finding student volunteers to eat the vegetables we have grown!

-Cheri Chambers, 8th Grade Science



StudentProfile

Laura Plascencio
Future University of Miami Alumni and
Cardiovascular Surgeon



Born in Beaumont, Texas, Laura moved with her family to Mexico at the age of three. Moving back to Texas at the beginning of Laura's 5th grade year, Laura was placed in a bilingual class and struggled. "Everyone spoke Spanish in my class, so there was no real pressure to learn or speak in English. That changed when I came to East Austin College Prep," Laura said, "There are high expectations for students here, but they give you the support you need to get to where you need to be".

Now in her 3rd year at East Austin College Prep, Laura has made tremendous strides in her education. She is a straight A student and president of East Austin College Prep's student body government. Laura plans on attending the University of Miami and will work towards her career goal of becoming a cardiologist.

TeacherProfile

Ms. Cheri Chambers
Creating a passion for learning through her
engaging and innovative teaching style



I am originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana. I attended Arizona State University, receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Biology, and a Master's Degree in Education. I moved to Austin 2 years ago to be closer to my family. I have been teaching for the past five years at charter schools located in low income neighborhoods. Every day I strive to make science come to life for my students through innovative and fun experiments, and by creating dialogue in my classroom. Science is fun and a part of everything we touch and see; I try every day to share my passion for it with my students. When I'm not teaching, I can be found in the great outdoors with my two babies (of the canine family), or travelling with friends.

GLOBALORIA

Program Update



Globaloria at East Austin College Prep gives every student the opportunity to learn the skills of the future: designing, building and collaborating with each other and with experts in the technology field. AMD's generosity has allowed EACPA to be the only school in Texas to fully implement this innovative program. Every student takes Globaloria, a class where learners develop educational and social issue webgames focusing on math, science, and civics topics. The students learn programming in Adobe Flash, which is the most commonly used program used to develop animations seen on the Internet. They also learn how to research and document information about their topic. The end result is a playable and educational game. You can visit the students' game gallery to play some of the student created games from last year: <http://bit.ly/eaprepgames>



Students working in cooperation to develop their games



2010-2011 Globey Award Winners

Development Update

East Austin College Prep is growing! This school year 8th grade was added to EAPrep, making us a fully functional middle school serving 315 students. Next year we will continue our growth as we begin serving 9th graders.

We are looking to move our middle and high schools to a new campus to better serve our students. East Austin College Prep will kick off a capital campaign shortly to fund our new endeavor.

Innovative Prescriptive Tutoring Program

To ensure our student's continued academic success, EAPrep provides students with a prescriptive tutoring program. Currently operating with 14 tutors, the vast majority of whom hold a college degree or higher, EAPrep's tutoring program starts by pairing the tutors with classroom teachers. With this model, every classroom has at least two qualified adults and lowers the student to teacher ratio to increase student achievement. We thank the following funders who have made this program possible:

- Cipione Family Foundation**
- Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**
- 7th Annual Southwest Key Programs "Fore the Kids Golf Classic"**

Other EAPrep Program Funders:

- KDK Harman Foundation**
- AMD**
- Theodore P. Davis Charitable Trust**
- Target**
- Southwest Key Employee Giving Campaign**
- Lowes**
- NCLR**

All of us at EAPrep truly appreciate your support!



Dr. Joe E. Gonzales, EAPrep Superintendent receiving a check for the school from Mr. Frank Denius, Chairman of the Theodore P. Davis Trust Board



Southwest Key Employee Giving Campaign raised over \$35,000 for EAPrep this year!



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