



Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES

Achievements

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www.AchievableDream.org



Class of 2013, *The Layne Family Scholars*

Class Sponsors Peggy Layne, far left, and Aubrey Layne, far right, with members of the Class of 2013.

GENE MYERS

The graduation ceremony for the Achievable Dream Class of 2013 were held on Thursday, June 6, at the Ferguson Center for the Arts on the campus of Christopher Newport University. **Aubrey Layne**, president of An Achievable Dream and, with his wife **Peggy**, sponsors of the Class of 2013, was the keynote speaker during a program that featured several members of the senior class.

In his remarks, Layne reminded the graduates of three life skills that will help them succeed in life: time, persistence and personal responsibility. He encouraged the graduates to learn when to recognize opportunities, to strive to be life-long learners and to save money

each month in order to achieve financial independence. On personal responsibility, Layne said "Don't do anything you would not want to read about in a newspaper or see on social media."

Most of the graduates had attended school together since kindergarten, first at An Achievable Dream Academy and then at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Valedictorian **Tacara Redfearn** reflected on their time together and wished her fellow students the best of luck in their future endeavors. "If we do what we love and what is right," she said, "we will all end up where we're supposed to be." During her remarks, Redfearn asked for a moment of silence to remember two fellow

students who died much too young. The parents of **Michael Jerome Allen Jr.** and **Malik Jarell Peoples** received honorary diplomas in their place.

One hundred percent of the Class of 2013 will attend college or will join the military. In total, the students have been offered more than \$1.2 million in scholarship funds and will be attending the following schools, among others, this fall: Chowan University, Ferrum College, James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Riverside School of Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, Old Dominion University and Virginia Tech. 🎯

Mark Your Calendar! An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball: November 16, 2013
Hampton Roads Convention Center



Digby Solomon (left), publisher of the Daily Press, with Walter Segaloff. Photo: Daily Press

An Achievable Dream Prepares Students to be College Ready

An Achievable Dream (AAD) is committed to providing each student with the education and experiences that will guarantee their success beyond high school. From the earliest grades, AAD students are immersed in the message that college is a desirable and attainable goal. This powerful message must be cultivated and nurtured for the many students who grow up in neighborhoods where few adults have taken this path. In the elementary and middle grades, AAD focuses on providing students with a solid foundation in reading and math and preparing them to succeed in gateway courses. High school students receive one-on-one support to ensure they are taking the necessary steps to achieve

their post-secondary goals.

Grade point averages (GPAs) are incentivized through celebratory events with door prizes, coupons and gift certificates at the end of grading periods. In addition, students who maintain a 3.0 or above GPA may belong to clubs that participate in special activities.



Field trips are planned for educational purposes and are aligned with preparation for the Virginia

SOLs (Standards of Learning exams); however, many include cultural events, restaurants, industry settings and even banks—places that our students do not typically attend or experience. Showing them a different world than what they are used to inspires them to work hard in school and to look ahead to their future with hope and wonder. 🌟

Segaloff is Virginian of the Year

The Virginia Press Association (VPA) honored An Achievable Dream Founder and CEO Walter Segaloff with the Virginian of the Year Award during its annual conference in April. Ginger Stanley, executive director of the VPA, said Segaloff was unanimously selected by the committee because of his vision's lasting impact and the positive influence An Achievable Dream has had on thousands of young lives. 🌟

Enrollment for 2013–2014 School Year

Each spring, An Achievable Dream conducts orientation sessions for parents interested in enrolling their children in the school beginning the following fall. Enrollment for the 2013–2014 school year is at record levels, with a wait-list for both third and sixth grades.



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A parent recently expressed gratitude that her child was accepted into the third grade:

Good morning,

I just want to take the time to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have NO IDEA WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME! This might not be a big deal to anyone else when they receive your acceptance letters, but I felt like I had won the lottery. If ever you need me to do anything at the school for you, and it's in my power to do so, please let me know. This is the least I can do to show you how grateful I am.

Sincerely,
A Grateful Parent!!!!

Establishing a Foundation of Learning



Kindergarten students work at a SMART table.

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Early exposure to information technology is essential as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields continue to rapidly expand. AAD has implemented enhanced curriculum for all grade levels, beginning with SMART tables in grades K–2 and iPads and iPods in grades 3–5. This technology enhances SOL preparation through virtual field trips and hands-on activities. In upper grades, hands-on computer programming and an information technology curriculum are incorporated into content areas.

AAD has established a culture of high expectations for high school students. Additional coursework in mathematics, science, history and world language is strongly encouraged and leads to the Advanced Diploma, which is highly regarded on college applications. Students are strongly encouraged to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes because studies have shown that students who take AP classes in high school are 60% more likely to complete college. Each year,

AAD holds 26 weeks of Saturday School, which is dedicated to remediation for all grade levels. In the last several years, Saturday School has also provided additional learning time for high

school students taking AP classes. Dual enrollment, allowing students to enroll in college-level courses during high school, is also encouraged.

AAD has implemented enhanced curriculum for all grade levels.

Students visit colleges and universities beginning in the tenth grade. SAT prep courses are taught each year, and students are required to take both the SAT and ACT exams. Seniors receive assistance in completing college applications and financial aid forms. AAD has partnered with several colleges—including Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University and Virginia Tech—that have developed special programs including scholarships restricted to AAD graduates. A part-time college counselor communicates with our college students on a regular basis and builds relationships with key offices at the colleges to help provide a safety net to ensure their college success. 🌟

Help make their dreams come true...

Donate to the Achievable Dream Annual Fund

An Achievable Dream is deeply committed to providing a SAME® (Social, Academic and Moral Education) for students who otherwise might not have the tools they need to succeed. Your support makes this possible. Your tax-deductible donation makes it possible for children to break the cycle of poverty, continue to college and become successful members of society. Please help with your contribution or pledge of support. Donate online at www.AchievableDream.org or send a check to An Achievable Dream, 10858 Warwick Boulevard, Suite A, Newport News, VA 23601. 🌟

*An Achievable Dream is changing lives through education.
Your generous support will help keep hope alive for these students.*



JONATHAN GRUENKE DAILY PRESS

Left: Starting line of the Run for the Dream 8K Run/Walk.

Below: An Achievable Dream students presented finisher medals to the runners.



JONATHAN GRUENKE DAILY PRESS

A record number of runners from around the country converged on Williamsburg during the weekend of June 1–2 for the 3rd Annual Run for the Dream 8K Run/Walk and Half Marathon. Spirits were high as participants



For the third year, the Run for the Dream was host to the USA Track and Field-sponsored USA Masters 8 km National Championships, which brought elite and masters level runners to the event. More than 300 children participated in the Kids Fun Run, emceed by NewsChannel 3 Anchor Bianca Martinez.



PHOTOS: JONATHAN GRUENKE DAILY PRESS

Comments from participants in a post-race survey have been overwhelmingly positive:

"This is perhaps the most well-planned/ managed event we have ever been to...and we participate in a lot (15–20 per year!). Very impressive from the moment we signed up until we left to go home. The tickets to Colonial Williamsburg and the shuttle buses made the whole weekend a running vacation. You all deserve a pat on the back...your hard work really shows!"

"Fantastic event—beautifully planned and executed! Wonderful and interesting course, efficient, kind and informed staff and volunteers—excellent overall experience!"

"Well organized, well structured...had the emotional touch to it, and it was challenging. I honestly wanted to do it all over again. It was simply gratifying and the cause...can't be beat. I'm looking forward to next year!"

gathered under beautiful blue skies to hear the National Anthem sung by students from An Achievable Dream and remarks by Walter Segaloff, founder and CEO, and famed Race Director Dave McGillivray before an exciting race start. Students from An Achievable Dream cheered for runners at the Achievement Mile, handed out water and medals to race finishers and participated in the One Mile Fun Run.

The Run for the Dream race course includes historic Duke of Gloucester Street through Colonial Williamsburg and the campus of the College of William & Mary. The half marathon also includes a stretch of the Colonial Parkway from Williamsburg to the James River. The annual race benefits the students of An Achievable Dream and three wounded warrior programs: the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans, Disabled Sports USA and Paralyzed Veterans Racing. Hand cyclists from the three programs joined nearly 5,000 runners in the two races.



"I will never forget how I felt when I rounded the corner and saw these children cheering. They each have a bright future, and I wish them the best as they achieve their dreams."

Above, left: Runners enjoy the beauty and shade of the Colonial Parkway. Above, center: The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums welcome runners at the Start Line. Above, right: Zable Stadium provides a festive Finish Line.

*Thank you to the many Community Partners
and Sponsors of the 3rd Annual Run for the Dream*



**A special thank you is
extended to the following
for their support:**

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- York County

Thank You, Volunteers!



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"The volunteers were fantastic. They were professional, encouraging and knowledgeable during every part of the race experience."

—2013 Run for the Dream Participant

Thank you to the many volunteers who served in various capacities throughout the weekend—always with a smile! Please know that we appreciate all that you did to make the 3rd Annual Run for the Dream a tremendous success. We couldn't have done it without you.



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Mark your calendar for the
4th Annual Run for the Dream
May 31–June 1, 2014.

Registration is open at
www.RunForAchievableDream.com.



Dream Teams

Many thanks to the hundreds of honorary "Dreamers" who participated in the Dream Teams Campaign to raise funds in support of An Achievable Dream students. Your dedication has helped to provide clothing, school supplies and textbooks. Teams that raised \$5,000 or more are supporting Dreamers in college with course supplies including lab expenses, computer repair, printer ink, graphing calculator and textbooks. Thank you! 🏆

Academy Happenings



In March, members of the **3.0 Girls Club** from AAD Middle and High School attended the Colonial Williamsburg production of "Liberty for Lydia," one of the special events associated with their Steadfast Spirits program. The students enjoyed meeting actress **Erica Hubbard**, star of the BET series "Let's Stay Together," who portrayed Lydia in the play at the Kimball Theater. **Thank you to Colonial Williamsburg for your generous support of our students.**



Shukita Massey '01 spoke with students at An Achievable Dream Academy during the Morning Program on March 29. Massey graduated from Mary Baldwin College with a BA in business administration and minors in political science and leadership studies. She received her law degree from the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law and

now serves as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the Commonwealth's Attorney Office in Hampton, Virginia.

AAD alumnae **Kayla Kale '12** and **Sharmane Tonkins '11** visited the Middle and High School in early May to speak during the Morning Program about the importance of taking AP classes and the importance of grades when applying to colleges. They stayed on to speak to the sixth graders about peer pressure, being true to yourself and how AAD has helped them prepare for the future.



At the end of the school year, **AAD Academy students** presented thank you cards and drawings to the **soldiers from Fort Eustis** who had been serving during the school semester.



Students from **AAD Middle & High School** participated in the annual Career Expo sponsored by The Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in March. The students attended informational breakout sessions and participated in interviews with representatives from the Hampton Roads business community.

AAD President **Aubrey Layne** and AAD board members **Jackie Amato**, **Jeff Wassmer** and **Nancy Levin** sponsored the Neptune Festival Tennis Tournament, June 22–23, which provided

opportunities for students and graduates to participate in tennis matches and workshops, as well as build awareness about AAD in the Virginia Beach community.

Pictured left to right are Judi Overbey, AAD Tennis Director; Creighton Jones, AAD graduate; Nancy Levin, AAD, Inc. board member; and KwMane Tonkins, AAD graduate.



The Academy's **En Pointe ballet dancers** competed in the Star Talent Regionals in April, earning first place in its division and an invitation to the Nationals this summer in Myrtle Beach, SC.

OTHER HAPPENINGS...

- During the spring semester, tennis players from An Achievable Dream participated in a mentorship program through Old Dominion University's athletic department. Students traveled to the campus in Norfolk for tennis clinics, free admission to ODU home tennis matches and opportunities to serve as ball kids during matches. Each participant is a member of the Junior Monarchs Tennis Club.
- On April 18, as part of a Going Green Project in honor of Earth Day, the Emerging Young Leaders group joined Lambda Omega Chapter AKA members and school administrators to plant a dogwood tree and two azalea bushes in front of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School.
- One Life Fitness Center in Newport News hosted members of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School physical education classes on May 15. The students put into practice what they've learned about the importance of life-long fitness during the semester by participating in cross-fit training exercises, rock wall climbing and swimming in the saltwater pool. Thank you, One Life Fitness!
- Also in May, two An Achievable Dream middle school students and one high school student earned second place in the high school division of the Can Structure Contest held at Patrick Henry Mall. The students competed against larger teams consisting of juniors and seniors with prior experience by building the "Emerald City" out of cans. Following the competition, An Achievable Dream students and staff donated more than 550 cans of food to the Peninsula Food Bank.
- Rising Senior Taylor Braxton was accepted to the Governor's Japanese Academy held at Randolph-Macon College, June 23-July 14, 2013. Only 45 students from the entire state were accepted. 🌟



Students, teachers and administrators participate in a "mock press conference."

GENE MYERS

Students from An Achievable Dream Academy and An Achievable Dream Middle and High School hosted Board members and AAD sponsors during the annual Sponsors' Day luncheon on April 25. Attendees enjoyed Chick-Fil-A sandwiches and talked with students before a "mock press conference" with questions from guests, featuring a panel of students, teachers and administrators. Panelists were asked to comment on a variety of topics, including technology in the classroom and special teaching techniques. For example, Senior Kendall Crump described how her experience with An Achievable Dream has prepared her for college and her future. 🌟

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Thank you for your time, your support, your commitment and for "sharing the Dream."

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Mark Your Calendar!

**4th Annual Run for the Dream
8K Run/Walk and Half Marathon
May 31–June 1, 2014**
www.RunForAchievableDream.com



Visit us at www.achievabledream.org



SAVE THE DATE! An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 5:30 pm
Hampton Roads Convention Center

Tickets are on sale now! Call 757-599-9472 or visit www.AchievableDream.org.

Support the students of An Achievable Dream and enjoy a night out with family, friends or colleagues. Take a chance to win a 2014 Mini Cooper, bid on unique items during the silent auction, enjoy a delicious gourmet dinner and raise your paddle during the exciting live auction. An Achievable Dream is busy gathering auction items, and there's sure to be something for everyone. Proceeds support the SAME® (Social, Academic and Moral education) curriculum, which provides

an excellent education and engaging enrichment opportunities for the children of An Achievable Dream.

Want to help? In addition to attending the event, please consider donating items for the silent and live auctions. A variety of items are needed, anything from restaurant and golf gift certificates to vacation home rentals or sports memorabilia. What would YOU bid on? Volunteers are also needed to assist with set up and during the event. For information, contact Betsy Edwards at 757-599-9472 or bedwards@achievabledream.org. 🎯



PHOTOS: AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM