

All Media Inquiries

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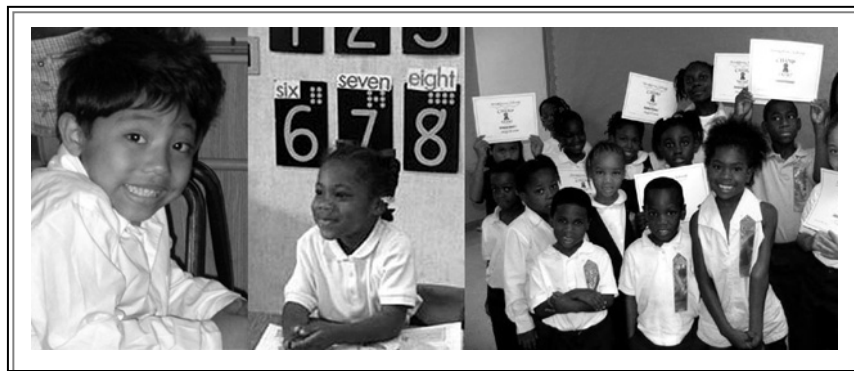
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The History of Brookstone Schools

Brookstone Schools was founded in 2001 under the direction of civic leaders in the community to holistically address the needs of inner city children. The seed idea for Brookstone Schools was sown in the mid-90's by Noah Manyika, a missionary from Zimbabwe who had settled in Charlotte. Manyika saw firsthand the challenges that face children in fragile neighborhoods and believed there was a solution to help these children succeed in school. Moreover, he felt that a strong Christian environment could become an anchor to help stabilize families and give parents hope for a better life for their children. A core group of volunteers and donors caught Manyika's vision and in the summer of 2001 Brookstone opened in two fragile neighborhoods, Jackson Park on the west side and Briarcreek in east central Charlotte. The total enrollment was 18 children in kindergarten and first grade.

Over the past eight years, the school has grown to include K-5 grade levels, with an enrollment for 2009-2010 of approximately 80 students and a comprehensive college-bound program that holds much promise as a model for transforming the lives of inner city children. Achievement scores show that Brookstone students are performing at or above grade level. Brookstone's 4th graders are performing almost three years above their grade level in math and reading on the Stanford 10, a test used nationally to determine academic achievement. Currently, 83% of the Brookstone students in middle school earned A/B Honor Roll or higher during the 2008-2009 academic year. Several earned top honors in their class.

In addition, the school moved this year from its former home at the Urban Restoration Center on Remount Road to Christ Presbyterian Church at 2461 Arty Avenue in Charlotte. The new space provides more classrooms, a lunch room, auditorium, office space and a room for a school library. Future plans include an expansion of its program from prekindergarten through eighth grade.



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