



Volume I

1ST QUARTER

Believers Academy Students are Winners

Congratulations!

The students at Believers Academy won the “Spotlight on Success” contest held by Achieve 3000’s Teen Biz. They will be honored by the corporation this month!



Achieve 3000’s Teen Biz is the first web-based, individualized reading and writing instruction that reaches every student at the lexile levels. The program assesses at the beginning to determine current learning levels in order to drive the instruction. It intervenes; each day, students receive non-fiction reading and writing assignments daily via email. The students’ lexiles are continuously reassessed and the software automatically adjusts content to meet students evolving needs (as their levels raise so will the materials that they receive). The program reports and runs diagnostic data on skill and standard achievement by identifying each students needs, into the following categories: intense intervention, remediation or standards mastered.

BELIEVERS ACADEMY STAFF



Mr. Mike Kelley - Math Teacher

Born: I was born on a cold, overcast night at 8:15 pm on October 25, 1981 at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY measuring 19 3/4 inches tall and weighing in at 5 lbs., 3 ounces.

College: After turning down Princeton, Harvard and Yale, I chose to attend Niagara University

Favorite Quote: “I can accept failure, but I can’t accept not trying.” - Michael Jordan

I moved from the mean streets of Syracuse, NY to the glitz and glamour of West Palm Beach, Florida in August of 2004, just in time to be part of the worst hurricane season Florida has ever seen, leaving behind my parents Martin and Karen, my sister Colleen, my dog Cajan, and foot after foot of snow. When I’m not out saving the world I enjoy anything involving playing or watching sports. After receiving my Bachelor’s Degree from Niagara University in 2003, I was a substitute teacher for a year in Camillus, NY. For the past two years I taught at HL Watkins Middle School. I am excited about teaching at Believers Academy because in a world that is so willing to give our professional athletes and movie stars second chance after second chance, it is very comforting to now be a part of a school that will be doing the same thing for children. The students that come to Believers Academy are going to be put into a situation that many of them couldn’t possibly have dreamed of. They will walk in the door with the chance to put their entire past behind them while being given the opportunity to acquire the skills and training needed to become productive and successful member of society. I am excited about the prospect of being influential in the development of the students and young adults that will be a part of Believers Academy.

CORPORATE CORNER

BELIEVERS ACADEMY WOULD LIKE THE THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS SO MANY STUDENTS’ LIVES!

- ◆ Lantz Star Graphics
- ◆ Wachovia Bank
- ◆ Cherry & Edgar P.A.
- ◆ Palm Beach County School District
- ◆ Transcontinental Lending Group

Ms. Allyson Dinin - Reach Teacher

Born: March 9, 1975 **College:** Hofstra University Masters (w/ Honors) in Literacy Studies

Favorite Quote: It is easier to embrace absolutes rather than suffer reality.

I am married with two children Ryan, 3 and Jesse 11/2 . I have been teaching for 10 years from third-twelfth grade. I love traveling the world, listening to my IPOD, and eccentric food.

I am excited about teaching at Believers Academy because I have the same educational philosophy as Ms. Dyer & Mr. Manners. All children can learn, be successful, and become positive contributors to our society.



Ms. Laura Matella Marolla - Reach Teacher

Born: Westchester County, New York

College: Bachelor's Degree in Education- Florida Atlantic University

Currently at Nova Southeastern—Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology/Mental Health Counseling.

Favorite Quotes: "I would rather have 30 seconds of wonderful than a lifetime of mediocrity"

"Life may not be the party that we hoped for ... but while we are here, we might as well dance.

I have been married for four years to a wonderful man named Anthony. We do not have any children; however, we enjoy spending time with our two nieces, Julia, 7 and Alexandra, 3. My husband and I travel extensively, love to go to concerts and are always looking for a new adventure! I taught 8th grade Reading in Pompano Beach for many years before relocating to H.L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens. I am excited about teaching at Believers Academy because I have a definite view that education should be about the kids and I think that Believer's is about making the curriculum pertinent to everyday life and experiences. I consider individual instruction a key to success and positive adult interaction is crucial.



Mr. Chris Romine

Born: April 2, 1967 in West Palm Beach **College:** Graceland University Lamoni, IA

Favorite Quote: God helps those that help themselves.

Husband to Anne, Father to Claire and Tess, my life has been varied and full. Aside from my family, my passion is coaching and teaching. I have been involved in each for over 17 years. Inlet Grove and Seminole Ridge High Schools were the most recent institutions that I was able to help build. Believers Academy gives me an opportunity to assist in building a solution for the youth that have fallen through the cracks in the School District. I look forward to passing the tools of successful business practices to these young men and women as they prepare for productive careers and lives.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



LORI DYER
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



BELIEVERS ACADEMY'S
FOUNDERS
GRAND OPENING



MARK MANNERS
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



JENNIFER JOHNSON
HEAD SECRETARY

THE CREATION OF BELIEVERS ACADEMY

DECEMBER 2004, There was a hope and a dream for ESE students that came to birth. Year after Year, students with learning difficulties were not being successful in school. The individualized education focuses for these kids were superseded by the drive for high FCAT scores. As a result, student were experiencing failure, dropping out of school or advancing within the school system without having adequate skills in reading or math to become productive and independent citizens. It was the mission of two teachers to break the cycle of losing students to the streets and make a difference.

It was apparent that the students needed to master reading and basic math skills. However, those skills alone couldn't prove to provide these young men and women with the chance to for a productive future. It was the at this point that these two teachers decided to couple the basic skills instruction with both vocational training in the classroom and on the job. With the goal insight; which was to have students graduate with solid reading and math skills and full time employment in a career not just a job—BELIEVERS ACADEMY was formed.

The Students' Commitment to Excellence



STEP 1

LETTING GO OF THE PAST

(Balloons are representing their past)

STEP 2

OPENING THE DOORS TO THEIR FUTURE

(The Front Doors of Believers Academy)





THE REACH PROGRAM



Reach is a highly effective, re-search-based, and validated program for accelerating learning. It challenges students in the areas where they needed immediate intervention (decoding, comprehension, reasoning, writing, or spelling). The Reach System is designed to and has been proven to close the gap in reading performance.



2ND CHANCE PROGRAM



SECOND CHANCE - GED program for students who obtain an appropriate reading and math level to attend a community or technical college. This program offers students instruction within a preparatory curriculum for the GED examination.

PROJECT SUCCESS



PROJECT SUCCESS - Begins with the end in mind. This vocational program has many components designed to maximize the opportunities for our students to enter corporate America. Believers Academy will employ a dual component curriculum. Students will receive daily vocational training within the classroom in addition to hands on experiences through internships or employment. Local corporations can become partners in the following ways:

OPTION 1 - Job Shadowing - is typically a three to six hour one-on-one experience following an employee around their job. Students are being mentored, exploring opportunities and gaining work skills needed in the profession. Internship or employment is the ultimate outcome of this experience.

OPTION 2- Internship - are experiences that are a step above job shadowing. Students will actually learn the trade and assist where ever necessary. Student performance criteria will be set and evaluated. Employment with the business after internship is the ultimate outcome for the experience.

OPTION 3 -Employment - Where business employ student(s) to work within their company. Hours and pay are regulated through state and federal law.

REPORT CARDS

- ◆ OCT. 19 - End of 1st 9 weeks. Report cards will be distributed the following week

BOARD MEETINGS

LOCATION: BELIEVERS ACADEMY

TIME: 6:00PM

DATES: OCT 17, NOV 15, JAN 9, FEB 13, MAR 13, APR 10, MAY 8, JUNE 12

NO SCHOOL

OCT. 20

OCT. 27

NOV. 22, 23, 24