

The LEGACY CONNECTION

LEGACY
SPRING 2026

EMPOWERING SCHOLARS TODAY FOR LEADERSHIP TOMORROW



HANDS



HEART



MIND



WORDS





CELEBRATING THE LEGACY WE'RE BUILDING

Dear Legacy Family,

At a time when our world can feel complex and divided, Legacy remains a bright spot. For over 20 years, our school has been a place where scholars are known deeply, challenged intentionally, and expected to lead boldly. Because of your partnership, 95% of Legacy scholars are graduating from high school, a number much higher than CPS's average. More than half of those scholars immediately enroll in college, most of them as first-generation college students. These outcomes reflect the expanding pathways we create for our scholars.

What gives me even greater hope is what happens long before a high school or college graduation. Every day inside our classrooms, scholars are building the skills, confidence, and vision that shape who they are becoming. Through leadership opportunities, STEAM learning, mental health supports, enrichment programs, and rigorous instruction, they are discovering new passions and strengthening the academic foundation that will carry them into high school, college, and careers. They are beginning to see themselves as engineers, health professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, and community leaders. In this issue, you will read inspiring examples of scholars advocating for their futures and stepping fully into their leadership. This transformation does not happen by accident. It happens because of our incredible Legacy community.

Enjoy this addition of the Legacy connection, and join us on Friday, May 1, at the Bridgeport Art Center for our annual Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball. The Sneaker Ball is more than a fundraiser; it is a joyful celebration of what we have built together and a powerful investment in what is still to come. Your attendance, sponsorship, or gift directly funds our after-school programs, mentoring initiatives, and leadership development experiences that expand opportunity for every scholar.

Together, we are doing more than supporting a school. We are shaping futures.
We are building Legacy.

In Community,

Liz Goss

Executive Director



WITNESSING THE POWER OF SCHOLAR POTENTIAL

As Principal of Legacy Charter School, I have the privilege of witnessing transformation up close, in classrooms, in hallways, and in the everyday moments that shape our scholars' futures. Legacy scholars are thriving because they are surrounded by high expectations, meaningful opportunities, and a community that stands firmly behind them.

I see it when a scholar who once doubted their abilities raises their hand with confidence; I see it when scholars collaborate to solve complex problems in STEAM abs. I see it when our young leaders speak boldly about their goals for high school, college, and beyond.

In this issue of the Legacy Connection, we are proud to share highlights from our recent Honors Assemblies, Career Exploration Day, and Legacy Night of the Arts, where we showcased scholar performances in music, drama, and artwork, including two pieces selected for exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago! You will also read about our annual Mock Trial civics lesson and celebrate early 8th-grade high school acceptances, each a powerful milestone reflecting both academic preparation and growing scholar confidence. These moments are not accidental. They are the result of a community that believes deeply in our children!

Because of your support, Legacy scholars experience rigorous instruction, meaningful enrichment, mentoring relationships, and leadership opportunities that help them grow academically and personally. They are learning to think critically, communicate clearly, and lead with integrity, which are skills that will carry them far beyond our walls.

The Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball on May 1st is a celebration of this growth and a powerful reminder that none of it happens alone. The programs supported through this event, after-school enrichment, mentoring, and leadership development, directly fuel the excellence you see reflected throughout these pages.

When you attend, sponsor, or give, you are investing in the daily experiences that shape our scholars into tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your partnership makes our work possible, and our scholars' futures brighter.

Please join us on May 1st at the Bridgeport Art Center, and help us celebrate, invest in, and champion the extraordinary future of our Legacy!

With appreciation,

Sheila Foster

Principal



Celebrating Scholar Excellence

Legacy scholars are in their B.A.G.
(behavior, grades, and attendance)

We proudly celebrated our K–8 scholars who achieved Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, and High Honor Roll this term! It was inspiring to witness their pride and confidence as they were recognized for striving to do their very best, both academically and behaviorally. Their commitment to excellence reflects the heart of our school community, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication!



LEGACY SCHOLARS LED THE CONVERSATIONS AND EXPLORED UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES



In preparation for Career Day, our middle school scholars researched careers and developed thoughtful questions designed to spark meaningful dialogue with our guest professionals. They then trained to serve as panel moderators, confidently guiding the conversations and ensuring each panelist had the opportunity to share insights about their career journeys.

By leading these conversations, our scholars gain valuable real-world perspectives while strengthening leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills, building the confidence and perspective that shape future leaders.

We are grateful for the many members of the Legacy community, including parents, partners, alumni, and friends, who generously shared their time, expertise, and experiences to inspire and invest in our scholars' futures. Their participation not only enriched the experience for our scholars but also strengthened the connections that make the Legacy community so powerful.

At Legacy, we believe scholar voice matters. By positioning scholars to lead conversations like these, we continue to build confidence, curiosity, and leadership that will serve them well in the years ahead.

LEGACY SCHOLARS TOOK CENTER STAGE DURING THIS YEAR'S NIGHT OF THE ARTS



Legacy scholars took center stage during this year's Night of the Arts, an evening dedicated to celebrating the creativity, talent, and hard work of our scholars across multiple artistic disciplines.

Night of the Arts highlighted the many ways scholars explore and develop their artistic voices at Legacy. Whether through music, visual arts, or performance, scholars demonstrated the power of creativity as a tool for storytelling, expression, and connection.

Events like this not only celebrate the arts but also bring the Legacy community together to support and encourage our scholars. We are proud of the creativity and commitment our scholars displayed and grateful to the educators, families, and supporters who helped make the evening such a memorable success.



ART INVITES SCHOLARS TO DREAM, EXPERIMENT, AND TURN THEIR IDEAS INTO SOMETHING THE WORLD CAN SEE.



Cocktail Dress with Green Paper Belt by **5th-grade scholar Shamar L.** received an Honorable Mention and is featured in the Extra/Ordinary virtual exhibition.



The Big Bouquet by **4th-grade scholar Sophia M.** was selected for the 2026 Extra/Ordinary physical exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago's Ryan Learning Center.

This recognition was shared with art teacher Mrs. Anguiano through CPS' All-City Visual Arts Department in partnership with the Department of Arts Education, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Design Museum of Chicago. Their achievements reflect both the creativity of our scholars and Mrs. Anguiano's dedication to expanding artistic opportunities for Legacy scholars.

Guests at this year's Sneaker Ball will also experience more scholar creativity, with scholar-designed sneakers on display as part of the evening's celebration of art, innovation, and expression.

Congratulations to our talented scholars on this remarkable achievement!

Visit the Extra/Ordinary Exhibition

📍 Art Institute of Chicago
Ryan Learning Center

Enter through the Modern Wing
159 E. Monroe

📅 March 5 – June 5, 2026

🕒 Wednesday–Monday,
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

SCHOLARS IN THE COURTROOM

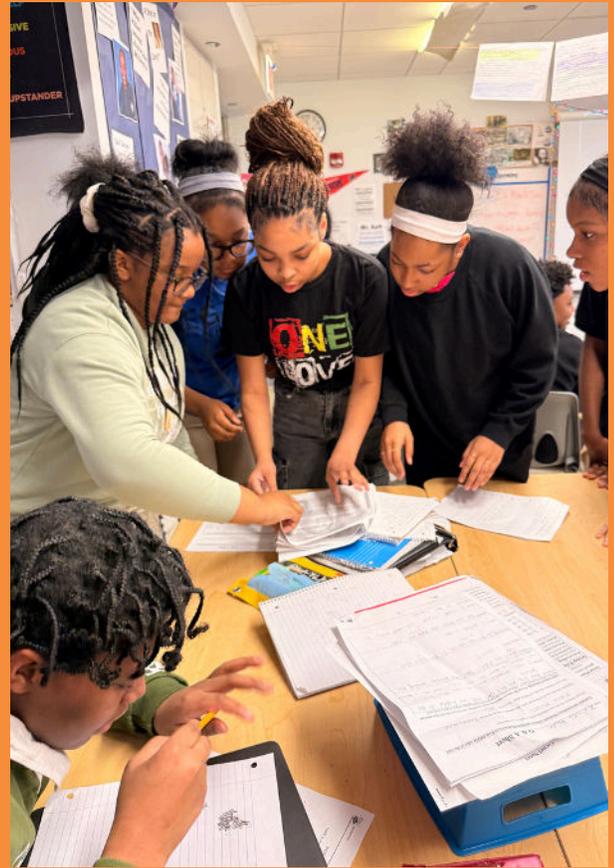
Court is in session!

Each year in Mr. Ault's Social Studies class, our 7th and 8th-grade scholars bring the justice system to life through their annual Mock Trial. Scholars spend weeks studying a fictional case and preparing to take on roles in a real courtroom, from attorneys and witnesses to jurors.

With guidance and feedback from Dentons attorneys, who serve as judges and jurors during the trials, Legacy scholars present their arguments and demonstrate their understanding of the case.

The experience strengthens scholars' critical thinking, public speaking, and analytical skills while giving them a hands-on look at the legal process.

We are deeply grateful to our partners at Dentons for their investment in Legacy scholars. Through experiences like these mock trials, Dentons professionals help scholars see the law in action while strengthening the confidence, critical thinking, and leadership skills that will serve them for years to come.



ANNOUNCING THE 2026 LEGACY BUILDER HONOREES

LEGACY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR 2026 LEGACY BUILDERS, RECOGNIZING TWO HONOREES WHOSE VISION, LEADERSHIP, AND ENDURING PARTNERSHIP HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE LEGACY COMMUNITY AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR SCHOLARS.



2026 INDIVIDUAL IMPACT LEGACY BUILDER

AVRAM (AVI) LOTHAN

lothan van hook destefano
ARCHITECTURE

FOUNDING PRINCIPAL AND DESIGN DIRECTOR

As the architect behind Legacy's Platinum LEED-certified school building, Avi helped design a learning environment that reflects innovation, sustainability, and a deep investment in our scholars' future.

His vision created more than a building; it established a space intentionally designed to inspire learning, creativity, and community for generations of Legacy scholars.



DENTONS

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT LEGACY BUILDER

LEGACY IS ALSO PROUD TO RECOGNIZE DENTONS AS THE 2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT HONOREE. SINCE THE INCEPTION OF OUR SCHOOL, DENTONS HAS BEEN INTEGRAL TO THE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF LEGACY'S MISSION. THE FIRM PLAYED A VISIONARY ROLE IN THE FOUNDING OF LEGACY AND HAS REMAINED A STEADFAST PARTNER EVER SINCE.

NOW LOADING: THE LEGACY CLASS OF 2026!



High school acceptances are rolling in, and the Legacy Class of 2026 is on the move! Our 8th-grade scholars are earning spots at some of Chicago's most rigorous and respected high schools, a testament to their hard work, determination, and the strong foundation they built at Legacy.

Scholars from the Class of 2026 have already been accepted to outstanding schools, including North Lawndale College Prep, Provident St. Mel, Jones College Prep, Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep, Lane Tech, Westinghouse College Prep, Lincoln Park High School, Morgan Park High School, Curie High School, Dyett High School, and the Noble Network of Charter Schools.

We are incredibly proud of our scholars and can't wait to see all they accomplish as they begin their high school journeys in Fall 2026. The future is bright for the Legacy Class of 2026!

ALUMNI HONOR THE VISIONARIES WHO STARTED IT ALL



More than 40 alumni representing over two decades of Legacy returned for the reunion, reconnecting with classmates, teachers, and mentors while reflecting on the shared experiences that continue to unite the Legacy community. The evening also featured a thoughtful panel discussion that brought together alumni in their twenties and recent graduates, creating meaningful dialogue about life after Legacy, personal growth, and the paths ahead.

The **Legacy Alumni Awards** were presented by Alumni Board Members Markayle Tolliver and Jarius Brookins, symbolizing the powerful connection between Legacy's founding vision and the alumni who now carry that legacy forward.

The evening served as a powerful reminder that once a Legacy scholar, always a part of the Legacy family. We are proud to honor these trailblazers and celebrate the alumni who continue to carry Legacy forward.



Alumni Spotlight: Najee Scott Class of 2015

LEGACY CHARTER SCHOOL PROUDLY CELEBRATES NAJEE SCOTT, CLASS OF 2015, A LICENSED BARBER AT CREATIVE SALON, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED TO LEGACY AS A PANELIST FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER DAY, SHARING HIS JOURNEY WITH CURRENT SCHOLARS.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM LEGACY, NAJEE ATTENDED NORTHSIDE COLLEGE PREP AND LATER STUDIED AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY. INSPIRED BY HIS FATHER, ALSO A BARBER, HE BUILT A CAREER THAT COMBINES CREATIVITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.

NAJEE CREDITS LEGACY WITH HELPING HIM DEVELOP THE DISCIPLINE AND COLLABORATION SKILLS THAT CONTINUE TO GUIDE HIM TODAY. ONE OF HIS FAVORITE MEMORIES IS LEGACY CIRCLE, WHEN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION AND UNITY.

HIS ADVICE TO TODAY'S SCHOLARS:
"MOVE, BREATHE, AND ACT LIKE THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BECOME, BECAUSE YOU ARE ALREADY THE YOUNGER VERSION OF THAT PERSON."

NAJEE BELIEVES INVESTING IN SCHOOLS LIKE LEGACY STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES AND SECURES A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.



BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Your Support Makes an Impact

Proceeds from the Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball empower scholars with educational programming that inspires excellence and positions them to lead.

BECAUSE OF THE SNEAKER BALL:



Academic Excellence

Scholars receive extra tutoring and tools to elevate their academic confidence.



Cultural Enrichment

Scholars explore STEAM and cultural programs that equip them with skills to lead, innovate, and succeed.

LEGACY BUILDER SNEAKER BALL

BRIDGEPORT ART CENTER

MAY 1, 2026

SECURE YOUR TICKETS:

Scan the QR code to invest in brighter futures and secure your ticket to the Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball.



STEP INTO IMPACT. BUILD THE LEGACY.



MISSION:
POSSIBLE

An Investment in Legacy scholars is transformative

One Mission.

1

One Legacy.



Become a monthly donor to provide the steady support that helps Legacy scholars feel seen, valued, and uplifted year-round.

[Give Now](#)



Your generosity fuels the success of today's scholars and the promise of tomorrow's leaders.



Legacy Charter School is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.
Our federal tax identification number is 20-1946624.