

SCHOOLS THAT INSPIRE IMPACT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



WHAT WE LOVE

Impact Leadership Academy balances social-emotional learning (SEL) with traditional academics to educate the whole child. Its student achievement data show that it works. As Principal Kegler says, “We are here to do school with you, not to you.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Impact Leadership Academy, a 1st through 8th grade campus, currently serves over **200** students and is experiencing annual growth. End-of-year Renaissance assessments for the current school year indicate that **755** third graders are meeting or surpassing their projected growth goals. Additionally, end-of-year mClass assessments demonstrate a **22%** increase in the number of students reading on grade level since the beginning of the school year. Furthermore, **17** students have qualified for and will compete in the Chess Nationals in Atlanta, GA, from May 9-13th.

INSIGHTS INTO INSPIRATION

If The Adults Are Well, The Children Will Be Well

Impact Leadership Academy’s staff book studies, art nights, and whole-team “Solution Session Wednesdays” ensure that **structures are in place to grow adult capacity and camaraderie**. Throughout the campus, adults encourage their students to “think about what you’re going to do,” whether in chess club, during enrichment hours, or by discussing motivational speeches from community leaders like Eric Thomas and more.



We All Have A Place, And A Voice, Here

Impact Leadership Academy is unapologetically for young men of color. The school **focuses on identity and purpose** from the outset, creating a place where young boys can thrive, be seen, and be heard. For example:

1. Murals on the wall depict actual students in the school
2. Students lead the morning reading of the school creed (which they created),
3. Students lead strategy lessons for the chess team,
4. and students create and choose their mascot.

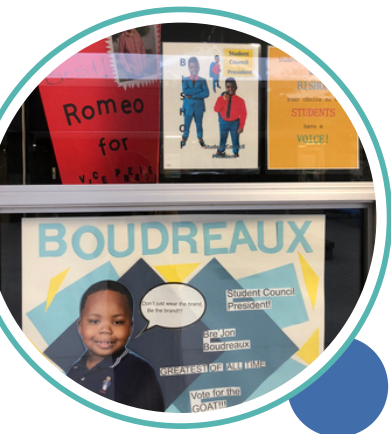
As Principal Kegler likes to say, “We don’t do school TO the boys; we do it WITH them.

From collaborative murals and gathering spaces built for the community to restorative practices to student-led lessons, Impact Leadership Academy strives to develop student voice and autonomy in service of the school's community spirit. In the art room, for example, students can select vinyl recordings of Miles Davis and others to set the mood for their visual expressions, and in math classrooms, students can jot thoughts and self-affirmations directly on their desks with special whiteboard markers.



Skill Building: Tools And Resources

The “Impact Way” and “Fired Up Fridays” are school-wide structures that build students’ social and emotional knowledge. The “Impact Way” is a weekly skill-building message that includes curated selections from a beloved motivational speaker, Eric Thomas, who regularly exclaims, “Thank God it’s Monday!” and includes lessons from Thomas such as, “See Your Grind as a Blessing,” “Give the Best of You,” and “Be the Best You Can Be.” “Fired Up Fridays” are small-group lessons on social-emotional learning that help practice and reinforce ideas from the Impact Way, such as “How do you show your confidence?” Impact Leadership Academy understands that social-emotional learning does not happen by osmosis, that students must be given intentional and deliberate lessons to build their skills in this area.



I Got My Person

Survey responses from students consistently emphasize a strong connection to campus adults as a standout positive. Across the campus, these connections are clearly visible: the art teacher actively engages students about material choices, while the dean approaches a child needing support with proactive questions like, “How might we fix this situation?” **Adults make it a point to acknowledge students warmly as they pass by, and teachers frequently interact in a jovial manner, setting a tone of cheerfulness and collegiality that permeates the school.**



LEARN MORE AT ILA.ALDINEISD.ORG AND SCHOOLSTHATINSPIRE.ORG

Our mission is to instill young Black and Latino students with self-awareness, a sense of purpose, and an expanded view of the world.

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