

GRAYSTONE ACADEMY

Committed to educating the mind, body and spirit.

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GRAYSTONE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL LOOKS TO THE FUTURE WITH *SCIENCE: IT'S ELEMENTARY* GRANT

Coatesville, PA – As Graystone Academy Charter School wraps up their first successful year as a *Science: It's Elementary* grant recipient, they look ahead to the next school year. Graystone immediately began implementing the four-year hands-on program at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year to make science both educational and interesting to their students in all grades.

"After only one year of the grant, we are seeing significant results," said Graystone Academy Charter School Operations Manager, Cathy Powell. "By using the materials provided by the state in conjunction with the curriculum our teachers learn at the development training sessions, we are seeing a difference in our students' test scores and their level of excitement as they develop a love for science."

The success of this program is further evident in recent science competition wins by two Graystone students. Fifth-grade student, Kira Laurento, won her second Distinguished Honors at the Chester County Research Competition, Dr. Jonas Salk Fair. Sixth-grade student, Cierra Carr, took Third Place in Botany at the Chester County Research Competition, Lucy Balian Rourke Fair. "We expect these great results to continue and we look forward to showcasing our student's science successes to parents and the community as we build on this program in years two, three and four," adds Powell.

The *Science: It's Elementary (SIE)* grant, launched by Governor Ed Rendell in the 2005-06 school year in partnership with Bayer Foundation-funded ASSET, Inc., seeks to increase science education in elementary schools across the state. Districts are selected to participate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through an e-grant process. *SIE* provides the following services at no cost to the selected schools:

- Teacher professional development from highly-trained and skilled ASSET Resource Teachers
- Delivery of research-based, hands-on instructional materials for students to engage in a nine-week science curriculum unit aligned with state science standards
- The opportunity to develop a four-year strategic plan for implementation of *SIE* in their schools

Graystone Academy Charter School will continue using the grant materials to improve their science program and develop long-term goals for science education. The grant's curriculum directly aligns with Graystone's hands-on approach to education and reinforces the school's dedication to enriching the whole child.

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Opened in 2002 by parents interested in an education alternative, Graystone Academy Charter School is a tuition-free K-8 public school designed to challenge students academically through the use of creative curricula and progressive teaching methods. Graystone Academy emphasizes academic rigor, high achievement and a creative environment to connect students to their community and the world. By focusing on educating the whole child – mind, body and spirit – Graystone Academy offers a well-balanced education to provide the skills and discipline needed to support students' transition to high school, higher education and beyond.



Cierra Carr, 3rd place winner in Botany.
(Hi-res JPG available. Call LyonShare Marketing, 610.273.9158.)



Kira Laurento, distinguished honors winner.
(Hi-res JPG available. Call LyonShare Marketing at 610.273.9158.)