



**Monarch Academy**



# MONARCH ACADEMY

2211 Rayford Road Suite 111-407

Spring, Texas 77386

2024 Annual Report

# THE MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CEO

## The Importance of Creating Equity Within STEAM Education



In recent years, the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) have become increasingly vital to societal progress and economic growth. However, achieving equity in STEAM education remains a pressing challenge. Ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background, race, gender, or geographic location, have equal access to quality STEAM education is crucial for fostering innovation and addressing the diverse needs of our society.

Equity in STEAM education is not merely about providing equal resources; it is about creating an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives and experiences are valued. Diverse teams are proven to be more innovative, as they bring a variety of ideas and solutions to the table. By encouraging participation from underrepresented groups, we can cultivate a richer educational experience that inspires creativity and critical thinking. This inclusivity can also help break down stereotypes and biases that have historically marginalized certain populations in these fields.

Furthermore, equitable access to STEAM education has long-term implications for economic and social mobility. Many high-demand jobs in the modern economy require skills developed through STEAM education. By ensuring that all students have the opportunity to engage in these areas, we can help bridge the opportunity gap and empower individuals to pursue careers that offer financial stability and personal fulfillment.

However, recent political shifts have raised concerns about the future of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives within educational frameworks. The current White House administration has signaled a move towards rolling back certain DEI initiatives, arguing that they may promote division rather than unity. Critics of this approach warn that dismantling DEI programs could further entrench existing inequities in education and workforce participation, particularly in STEAM fields.

While the intention behind such policy changes may stem from a desire for a color-blind approach, it is crucial to recognize that systemic inequalities persist and require targeted interventions. Removing DEI initiatives could limit efforts to recruit and support historically underrepresented students in STEAM disciplines, ultimately stifling innovation and economic growth.

In conclusion, creating equity in STEAM education is essential not only for the advancement of individuals but also for the collective progress of society. As we navigate the complexities of educational policies and societal needs, it is imperative to advocate for inclusive practices that foster diversity in STEAM. Upholding DEI initiatives will not only enrich the educational landscape but also ensure a more equitable and prosperous future for all. The commitment to equitable STEAM education must remain steadfast, even in the face of political challenges, to secure the diverse talent needed to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

# A WORD FROM OUR CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education, it becomes increasingly clear that literacy serves as the cornerstone of student success. In our commitment to providing a comprehensive and forward-thinking education, we recognize the vital importance of literacy within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) disciplines.

Literacy in STEAM is not merely about reading and writing; it encompasses a deep understanding of technical language, the ability to interpret complex data, and the skill to communicate innovative ideas effectively. By integrating literacy into STEAM education, we empower our students to become proficient in these essential skills, equipping them to tackle real-world challenges with confidence and creativity.

Our goal is to nurture critical thinkers and innovators who are not only adept at applying knowledge but also capable of envisioning and creating solutions that will drive progress and transformation on a global scale. By fostering an environment where literacy and STEAM education intersect, we cultivate a generation of learners who are prepared to make significant contributions to society, advance technological frontiers, and address pressing global issues.

As we move forward, let us remain steadfast in our dedication to enhancing literacy within STEAM education. Together, we can inspire our students to reach their fullest potential, ensuring they emerge as leaders and innovators in an interconnected world.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision.

Yours in Literacy,

Kanika Simmons, Chief Academic Officer

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **ELIZABETH SIMS, MA, LPC**

Elizabeth Sims, our Board President, is a Licensed Professional Counselor, with degrees in Computer Science from Texas Southern University and Counseling from Prairie View A&M University. For 17 years, she has blended education and mental health expertise to bridge the gap between STEM education, counseling, and humanity, shaping a more inclusive future.



## **LAQUETTA KENNEDY, M.Ed.**

Laquetta Kennedy, a Prairie View A&M graduate in Elementary Education, minoring in Music & Art, holds a Master's in Educational Administration from Texas Southern University. With over 25 years as a principal, she remains a committed community leader supporting educational excellence, even after her rewarding retirement from public education.



## **DR. JOYNELL BEAN, RPH**

Dr. Joynell Bean is a registered pharmacist with a Doctorate in Pharmacy. She has dedicated over 20 years to the field of pharmaceuticals, ensuring the highest standards of pharmaceutical care. Her extensive experience and commitment to excellence have made her a trusted professional in the industry.



## **JASON WYATT, MA**

Jason Wyatt has dedicated his career to education since 2003. He earned his Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University in 2022 and currently serves as an assistant principal at Avondale House. With nearly two decades of experience, Jason continues to shape the educational landscape, demonstrating unwavering commitment to student success and academic excellence.

# STEM Webinar Series: Science & Engineering



**YOU'RE INVITED !**  
**STUDENTS 6TH -12TH GRADE**  
**2. 22.2024 @ 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**Monarch Academy**

**DISCUSS  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
WITH A  
CAREER PROFESSIONAL**

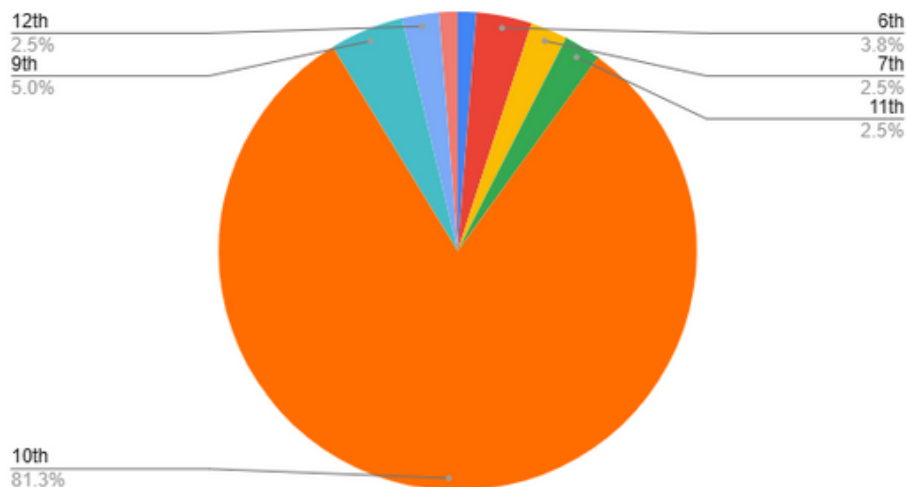
**LET'S TALK  
ABOUT IT**

**Dr. Seqwana T. Pryor**  
Global Manufacturing Process  
Technology Leader  
[www.monarchk12.org](http://www.monarchk12.org)

**Ivy Curtis**  
CEO- Monnarch Academy  
STEAM Educator

Seqwana T. Pryor is a leader at DuPont Company, managing a global team of over 200 engineers to improve productivity, execute capital projects, and standardize processes across 15 sites. She previously held leadership roles at DuPont, Honeywell, and Sensient Technologies, focusing on manufacturing technology and operational excellence. She co-founded PryCor Technologies, LLC, working with bioscience startups on Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma. Seqwana is also dedicated to STEM outreach and mentoring underrepresented youth. She holds degrees in Chemistry/Mathematics and Chemical Engineering, and an Executive Business Certificate. She lives in Virginia with her family.

Registered Participants



# HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

We are delighted to report on SY24 contract and 2024 grants awarded with the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) to provide enrichment and academic support services. This partnership is a significant milestone for our organization, and we are thrilled about the opportunity to make a positive impact on the community.

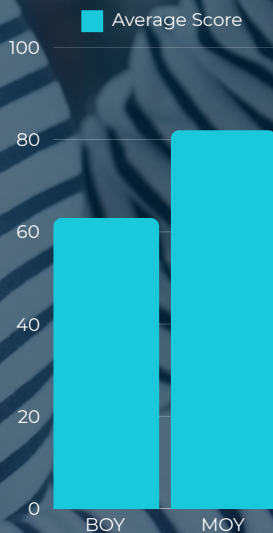
Our tailored programs will foster personal development while enhancing academic performance for students beyond the traditional curriculum. Our highly experienced instructors provide academic support services such as tutoring, homework assistance, and exam preparation, with personalized strategies to help students overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.

## KELSO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

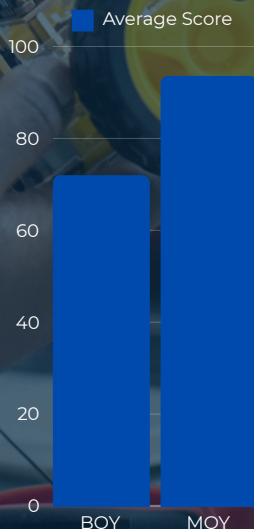
Kelso Elementary, one of the schools benefiting from the Harris County contract has demonstrated the positive impact of our services on students' math and science scores. At the start of the school year, the 3rd grade math average was 63%, which has now risen to 82%, marking a 20% increase. Similarly, science scores improved from 74% to an impressive 94%, also reflecting a 20% jump. Additionally, the afterschool program at Kelso has experienced a notable 33% growth since the school year began. The student population at Kelso is predominantly Hispanic and Black

This remarkable progress highlights the effectiveness of our customized educational programs and resources. Teachers have reported increased student engagement and enthusiasm for learning, thanks to our interactive and hands-on methodologies. Parents have observed a positive shift in their children's attitudes toward these subjects, nurturing a passion for learning that extends beyond the classroom. As we continue our partnership with Kelso Elementary, we eagerly anticipate further growth and success in their academic endeavors.

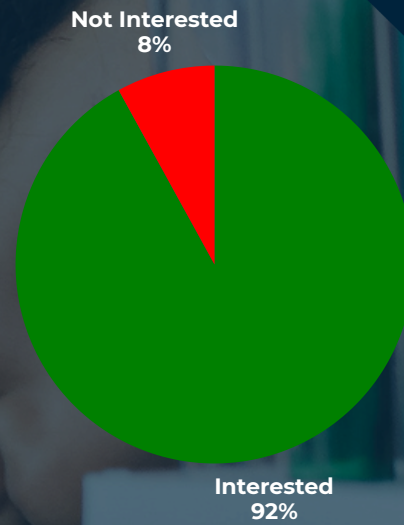
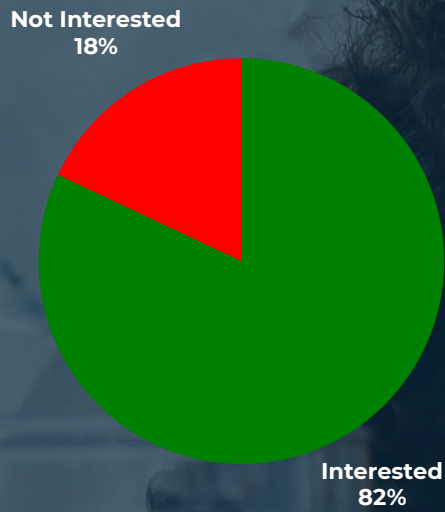
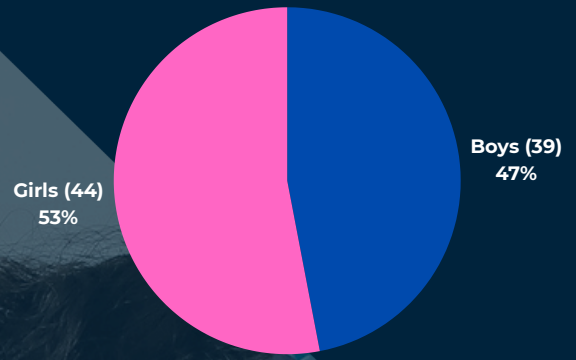
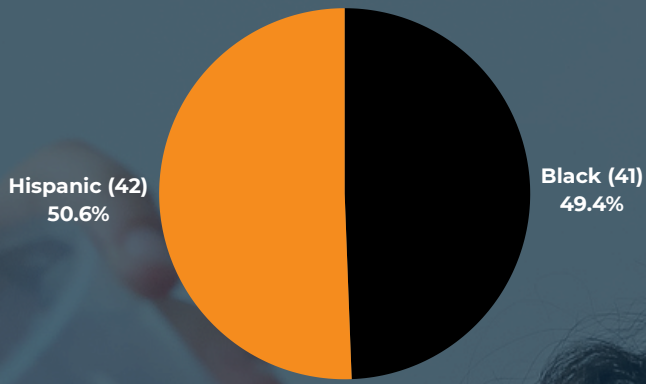
### MATH GRADES



### SCIENCE GRADES



# KELSO ELEMENTARY STUDENT POPULATION AND INTEREST IN STEM



# Monarch Academy

## SPRING CAMP

Last spring break, our STEM camp provided a transformative and enriching experience for all the young explorers who participated. The camp was packed with STEM enrichment, academic acceleration, community engagement, career mentorship, leadership development, and a thrilling field trip to the NASA Space Center. STEM enrichment was at the heart of our camp activities. Campers engaged in interactive workshops that spanned a wide range of STEM disciplines. From building circuits and programming robots to conducting chemistry experiments and engineering projects, the hands-on approach encouraged critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.

**SPRING BREAK YOUTH CAMP AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR MONARCH ACADEMY**

**No Cost!**  
Online Registration Required

**MARCH 11-15**  
9am-3pm

**STUDIO 15**  
15403 Vantage Pkwy E Ste 300,  
Houston, TX 77032

**CONTACT US**  
[www.monarchk12.org](http://www.monarchk12.org)

- STEAM ENRICHMENT
- CAREER MENTORSHIP
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- INTERACTIVE FIELD LESSONS

**SPRING BREAK YOUTH SPACE CAMP AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR MONARCH ACADEMY**

**No Cost!**  
Online Registration Required

**MARCH 11-15**  
8am-2pm

**TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
6801 WESTOVER ST.  
HOUSTON, TX 77067

**CONTACT US!**  
832-786-1241

- STEAM ENRICHMENT
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CAREER MENTORSHIP
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- FIELD TRIP TO NASA SPACE CENTER

The field trip to the NASA Space Center was the pinnacle of the camp. Campers were awe-inspired as they toured the facility, saw real spacecraft, and learned about the history and future of space exploration. The highlight of the trip was a live Q&A session with a NASA engineer, where campers asked questions and gained firsthand insights into the world of aerospace engineering. Reflecting on our STEM Spring Break Camp, it was an incredible success. The combination of STEM enrichment, academic acceleration, community engagement, career mentorship, leadership development, and the unforgettable NASA trip created a dynamic and inspiring environment. Campers left with newfound knowledge, skills, and memories that will last a lifetime.

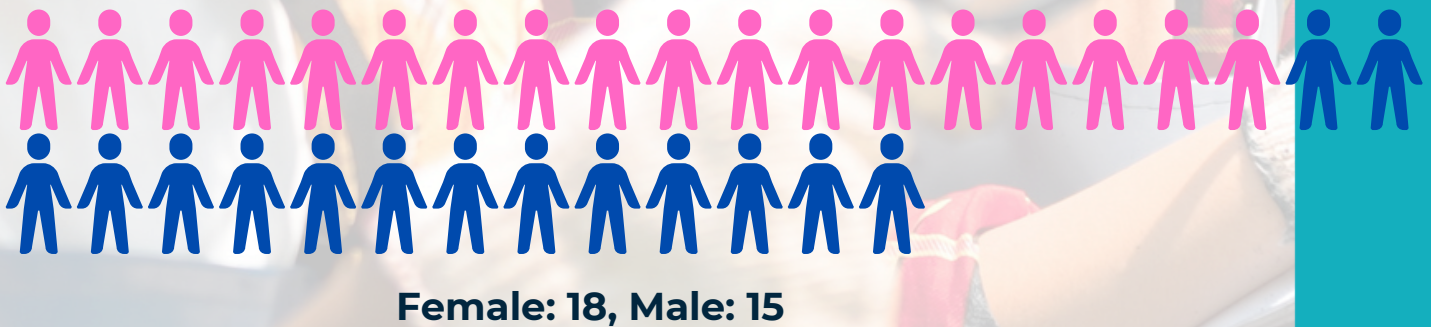


# Monarch Academy Spring Camp

## District B: North Side (Studio 15)



## District I: South Side (Tabernacle Church)



# Monarch Academy Spring Camp



# Monarch Academy Spring Camp



# Monarch Academy SUMMER CAMP

The previous summer at our STEM camp was a memorable and transformative experience for all involved. One of the highlights of the camp was the wide array of STEM enrichment activities. Campers engaged in hands-on workshops that challenged their minds and ignited their curiosity.

From coding and robotics to chemistry experiments and engineering challenges, each activity was designed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. For example, in one workshop, campers built and programmed their own robots, which they later tested in a thrilling obstacle course competition. These activities not only made STEM subjects accessible and fun but also helped campers discover their individual passions and strengths.



**STEM  
SUMMER  
CAMP**

**\$ NO COST**

- Grades 2nd -5th
- JUNE 17TH -28TH (M-F)
- 9 am - 1pm

**Activities Include:**

- STEM ENRICHMENT
- TEAM BUILDING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- FIELD TRIPS

**SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. MATHEMATICS**

**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER BY 6 /7**

ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
1554 GEARS ROAD  
HOUSTON, TX 77067  
RODERICK DAWSON, PASTOR

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
IVY CURTIS 832-893-0253

[www.monarchh12.org](http://www.monarchh12.org)

Looking back, our STEM summer camp was a resounding success. The combination of STEM enrichment, academic acceleration, and interactive field trips created a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Campers left with a renewed passion for STEM, new skills, and memories that will last a lifetime.



# DUEITT MIDDLE SCHOOL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Monarch Academy has partnered with Dueitt Middle School and USDA in the school's 21st Century Program. Monarch provides a fun afterschool cooking class for students that simultaneously teaches them about agriculture. Students work with one another, following plant-based recipes. The program was designed to educate students about agriculture, encouraging them to understand and appreciate the origins of their food. This hands-on approach not only makes learning about nutrition and healthy eating enjoyable but also fosters teamwork and cooperation among participants.



The integration of agricultural education into cooking lessons ensures that students gain a holistic understanding of food systems, from farm to table. The program successfully combines practical skills with valuable knowledge, making it a standout educational experience for students. As they explore the fascinating world of plant-based cooking, they are also developing a lasting appreciation for sustainable practices and healthy living. The program serves as an example of how creative educational approaches can enrich students' lives and prepare them for a healthier, more informed future.

# Monarch Academy

## AG-FEST

Ag-Fest, the vibrant agricultural festival was a spectacular blend of rural charm and family fun. The petting zoo was a crowd favorite, where children and adults alike delighted in meeting a variety of friendly farm animals. From sheep to goats to pigs, the petting zoo was a heartwarming experience for all. In the cooking class, participants learned the art of farm-to-table cuisine. Local chefs demonstrated how to transform fresh, seasonal produce into delicious, wholesome dishes, encouraging participants to try new, healthy recipes.

Face painting artists added a splash of color to the festivities, turning young faces into masterpieces of butterflies, superheroes, and mythical creatures. The bounce house was also a big crowd pleaser, with children laughing and jumping in sheer joy. Ag-Fest was a celebration of community and agriculture, leaving attendees with cherished memories and a deeper appreciation for rural life.



**Ag-FEST**  
COMMUNITY WIDE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
Join us for an exciting event dedicated to empowering our community through urban and small scale agriculture!

**Featured Workshop: Beginner Farmers**  
• Introduction to Urban Gardening

**Activities for All Ages**

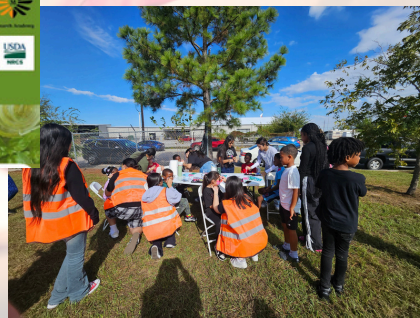
- Farmer's Market
- Culinary Master Class
- Jr. Chefs - Cooking Demos
- Crafts - Harvest Wreaths
- Petting Zoo
- Kids Zone: Bounce House

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

**Palace Event Center**  
121 Lou Ln, Spring, TX 77388

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

info@monarch12.org   www.monarch12.org   832-893-0253

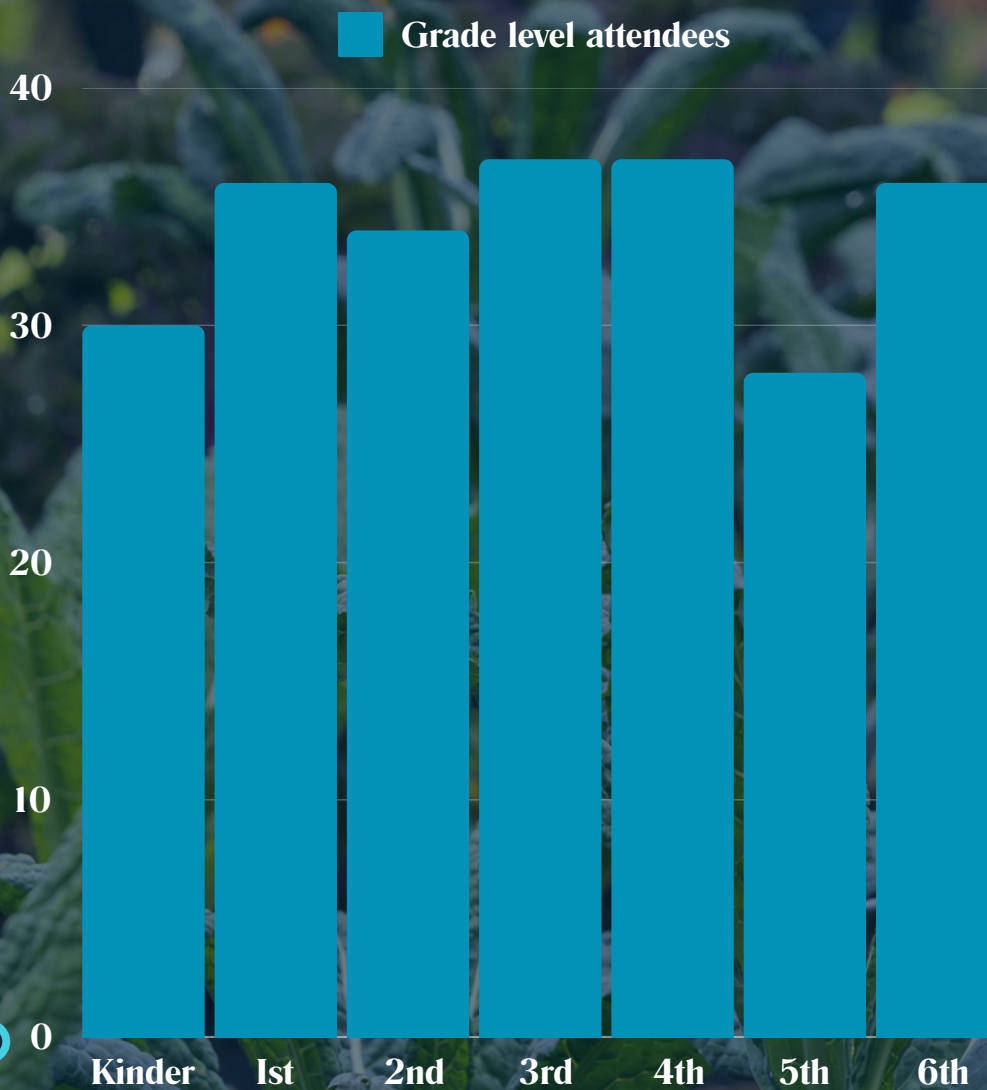


The memories of Ag-Fest lingered long after the festivities concluded, leaving behind a sense of warmth and community spirit. Ag-Fest was more than just an event; it was a celebration of rural life and the deep connections that bind the community. The festival succeeded in bringing people closer to the heart of agriculture, fostering a greater appreciation for the hard work and dedication of local farmers.

# Of the 238 AG-FEST participants...



**Hispanic: 174 (73%) and Black: 64 (27%)**





# Of the 20 AG-FEST volunteers...



**Male: 8 (40%) and Female: 12 (60%)**

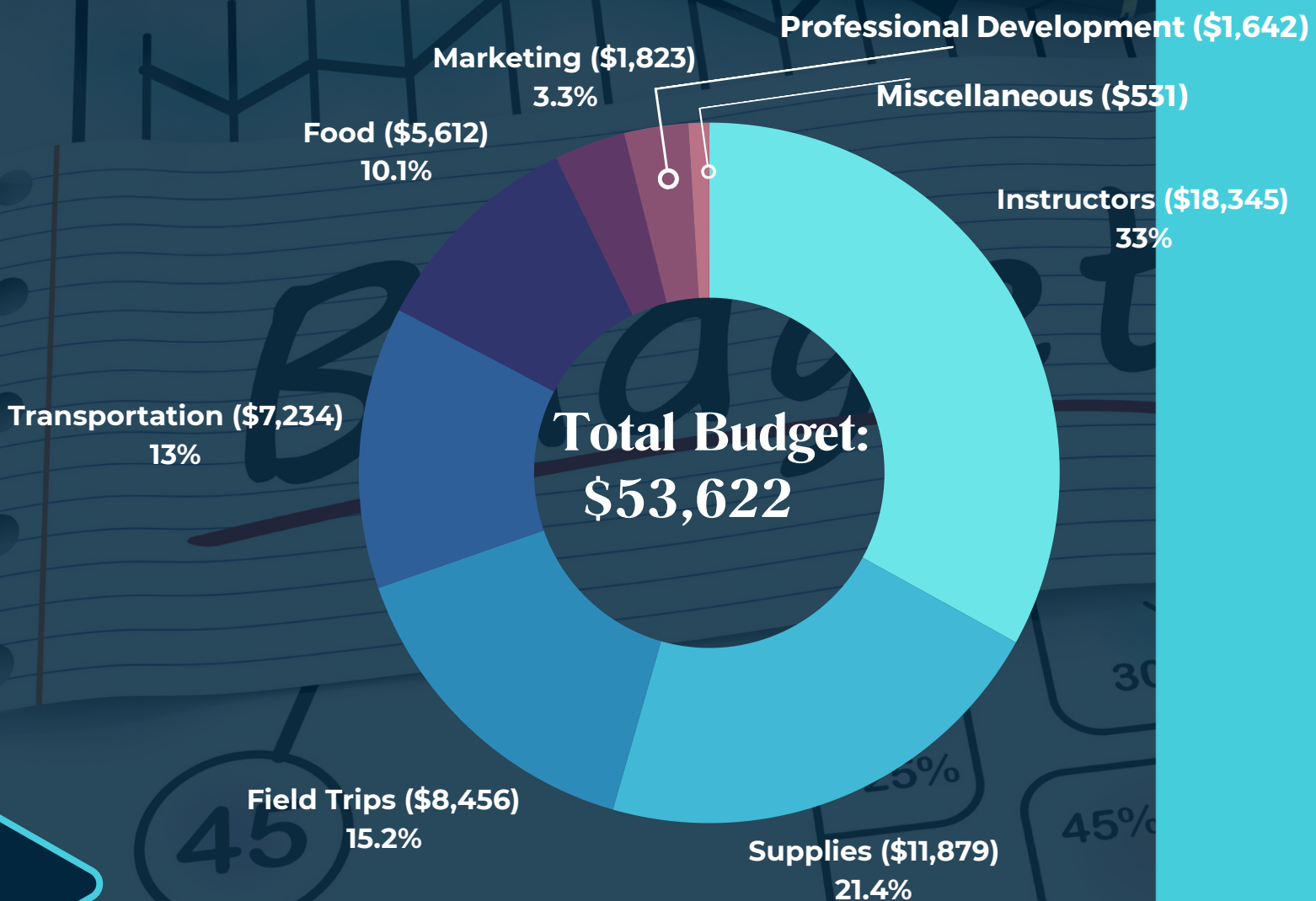


**Hispanic: 11 (45%) and Black: 9 (55%)**

# Budget Breakdown

The following summary outlines the expenses for 2024. A significant portion of the budget was dedicated to operating our Spring and Summer STEM camps. These funds went towards instructor salaries, supplies, food, transportation, field trips, and marketing efforts for the camps. Furthermore, we allocated resources to host the Agriculture Fest and our inaugural SPARK Gala. To ensure these events were successful, we focused on providing high-quality resources and experiences for our participants. The STEM camps, in particular, played a crucial role in offering hands-on learning experiences that aligned with our educational objectives. The Agriculture Fest highlighted local farming traditions and sustainability practices, garnering considerable community interest and engagement.

The SPARK Gala, our new fundraising venture, not only raised awareness and additional funds for our programs but also strengthened connections with supporters and stakeholders who share our commitment to educational excellence. In addition to event funding, we invested in vital infrastructure upgrades and technology improvements to enhance learning environments and ensure accessibility for all students. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to strategic financial planning that supports our mission and maximizes the impact of every dollar spent.



# REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL SPARK GALA

The event brought together an incredible community of supporters, parents, staff, and students who all share a commitment to enhancing educational opportunities at Monarch Academy.

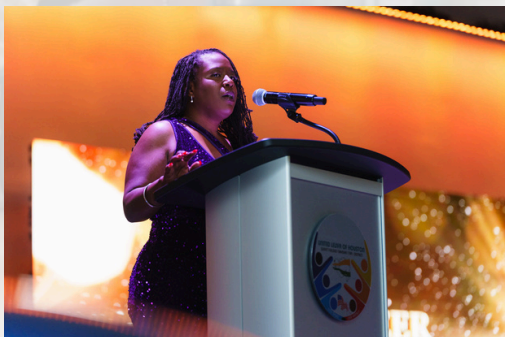
The evening was filled with inspiring speeches, captivating performances, and a lively auction that contributed significantly to our fundraising efforts. Attendees were treated to a gourmet dinner and had the chance to participate in various interactive activities that highlighted the innovative programs at Monarch.



Thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to raise funds that will directly benefit our students by providing resources for new technology, and extracurricular programs. The success of the SPARK Gala is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved in making Monarch Academy a beacon of excellence in education.

We are already looking forward to next year's gala, where we hope to build on this momentum and continue fostering an environment where students can thrive and achieve their dreams. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a memorable one!





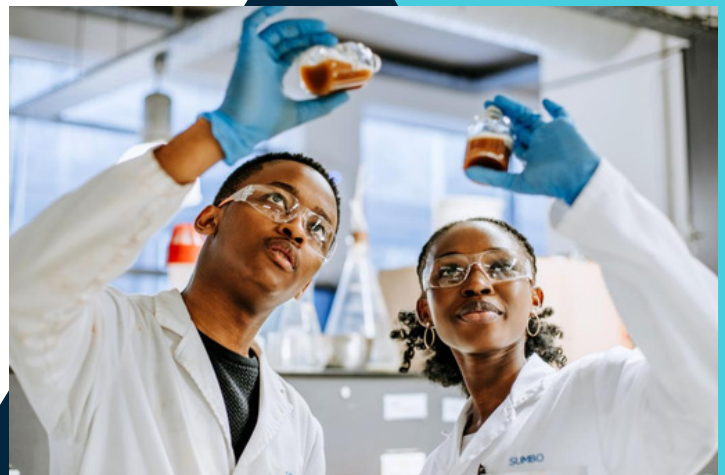
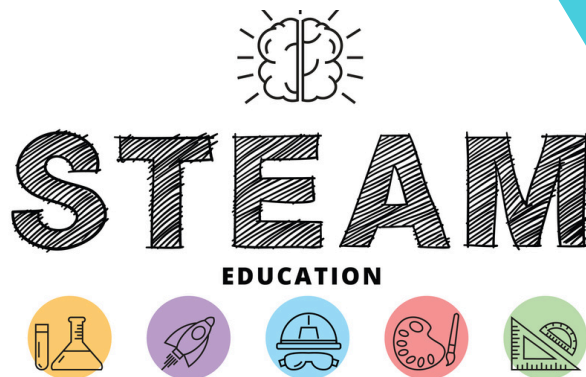


# FINAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR CEO

Representation matters for minority communities for a multitude of compelling reasons. When individuals from minority backgrounds see people who look like them in positions of influence, success, and leadership, it has a profound impact on their sense of belonging, self-worth, and aspirations. This visibility validates their experiences, cultural identities, and potential, serving as a powerful source of inspiration and empowerment.

First and foremost, representation in various fields and sectors provides minority individuals with relatable role models and mentors. Seeing individuals from similar backgrounds achieve success sends a powerful message that their goals are attainable, and that they too can aspire to similar heights. This visibility helps to dispel stereotypes and barriers, instilling a sense of possibility and ambition within minority communities.

Moreover, representation fosters a greater sense of inclusivity and belonging within society. When people from minority backgrounds see themselves reflected in diverse roles and positions, it sends a message that their voices are valued and their contributions are integral to the fabric of society. This inclusivity is vital for building cohesive and equitable communities, as it acknowledges the richness and diversity of the STEAM workforce landscape.





**Monarch Academy**