



From the Desk Of ...



Co-CEO
Doug McCurry

"From the Desk Of ..." provides inside perspectives from some of the most high-performing leaders in ed reform. This month features Doug McCurry, our co-CEO and superintendent. Doug has been

a member of Achievement First from the very beginning as a teacher at Amistad Academy and continues to push our schools to improve every day. When he's not thinking about infusing joy and rigor throughout the school day, he's usually at home dancing (badly) to pop singles with his two sons.

Learn more about Doug's deep love of this work [here](#).

Virtual Professional Development

Maximizing Guided Reading Interventions

Want to help your students become better readers? It is all about planning! Join our virtual professional development session this month to identify criteria for effective scaffolding, practice creating prompts and learn how to plan ahead to respond to potential misunderstandings.



Click [here](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15 to take part in this professional development opportunity.

Watch, download and join the conversation at #guidedreading and #readingintervention.

Use Our Teaching Resources

At Achievement First, we prepare all of our students for a

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Leadership Corner



Our annual [School Leader Immersion Program](#) will be held in our Brooklyn schools on January 16-18, and we'd love to see you there! All current and rising school leaders are welcomed to apply. Email [Taylor Rifkin](#), director of school leader recruitment, for more information.

Parents as Partners

We know parents help make our schools great— and we partner with our families to ensure they frequently visit our schools, participate in the Parent Leadership Council, join us at family-centered school events, and communicate frequently with Achievement First teachers and staff.

This year we're exceptionally proud that two of our students' parents, after getting to know our schools through their children's classroom experiences, have chosen to join the staff at two of our New York schools. Read more about our new parent teammates [here](#).

successful college experience. Check out the high school resources below to push the rigor with your students as they set their sights on college.

Push your A.P. Language students' thinking around gender roles in society using this [unit plan](#).

Backwards plan your unit on functions using this algebra [exam](#).

Challenge your students' thinking as they read the "Odyssey" using this [unit plan](#).

Support your students as they explore geometric relationships and properties using this [unit plan](#).

To download more Achievement First resources in all subjects and grade levels, visit our [resources page](#).



High School Profiles



Achievement First Amistad High

Achievement First Amistad High in New Haven is our flagship high school. One-hundred percent of its four graduating classes have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities. To learn more about Achievement First Amistad High, click [here](#).

Achievement First Brooklyn High

Achievement First Brooklyn High graduated its first ever seniors this past June with 100 percent accepted to four-year colleges and universities. We are excited to see which schools this year's seniors choose to attend. For more information about Achievement First Brooklyn High, click [here](#).

Achievement First Hartford High

Achievement First Hartford High is in its second year, and the student

Featured Opportunity

High School Teachers

Start Date: June 2014

Location: Brooklyn, NY; Hartford, CT; New Haven, CT

College is just around the corner, and our high school teachers work hard to ensure that every student is prepared for a rigorous college experience. Achievement First supports our high school teachers with ongoing professional development, including weekly coaching meetings and data-driven planning sessions.

Learn more about our available teacher and leader roles [here](#).

Network Support Featured Opportunity

Vice President, Finance

Start Date: Immediate

Location: Brooklyn, NY

The vice president of finance leads Achievement First's finance operations for our entire network. The vice president will oversee the network's finance team, plan our long-term financial strategy to inform organizational growth and help Achievement First become one of the first charter management organizations to achieve financial self-sufficiency at scale. Learn more about this opportunity and apply [here](#).

We are always looking for talented individuals to join our Network Support team. View current Achievement First Network Support opportunities [here](#).

Our Mission

The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. We believe that all children, regardless of race or economic status, can succeed if

body includes students from Achievement First Hartford Academy and Jumoke Academy as part of our first partnership with another charter. To learn more about Achievement First Hartford High, click [here](#).

Achievement First University Prep High

Achievement First University Prep High is in its first year. The ninth-grade class is made up of students from several of our Brooklyn elementary schools and shares a building with Achievement First Brooklyn High. To learn more about Achievement First University Prep High, click [here](#).

Meet us on the Road

Throughout the year, our team visits cities across the country in search of teachers and school leaders who are passionate about creating high-quality experiences for urban students. Below are cities we'll be visiting soon; please [email](#) us to learn more.

December 7 - New Orleans, LA

December 7 - Houston, TX

January 11 - Baltimore, MD

Other Ways to Learn More

Check out our calendar of upcoming events [here](#).

Follow us on Facebook [here](#).

Watch Achievement First videos [here](#).

Read the AF Chalkboard Blog [here](#).

To view previous newsletters, click [here](#).

they have access to a great education.

Achievement First schools will provide all of our students with the academic and character skills they need to graduate from top colleges, to succeed in a competitive world and to serve as the next generation of leaders for our communities.

Diversity & Inclusiveness

At Achievement First, we believe that closing the achievement gap is an economic and moral imperative. It is the civil rights issue of our time. In carrying out our mission, Achievement First must ensure that our team is composed of individuals who, through their talent, commitment and understanding of both student needs and effective teaching, can ensure all of our students succeed in accomplishing these big dreams. Diversity and inclusiveness are critical to our mission.

Read why Achievement First has named diversity and inclusiveness one of our top five priorities for the 2013-14 school year [here](#).

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