



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Last updated: 06/23/2016

Basic Contact and Application Information

Page 1

Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the full name for the proposed charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	K-4
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	111

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
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Proposed/Current Board Chair	Dr. C. Nathan Edwers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Dr. C. Nathan Edwers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

List of Key Design Elements

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	Interdisciplinary STEM-Based Curriculum
2	Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and Social Digital Consciousness
3	Blended Rotation Model
4	Differentiated Instruction and Intervention Model
5	TECH: Teaching Each Child Holistically
6	(No response)
7	(No response)
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

Friendshipstem.com

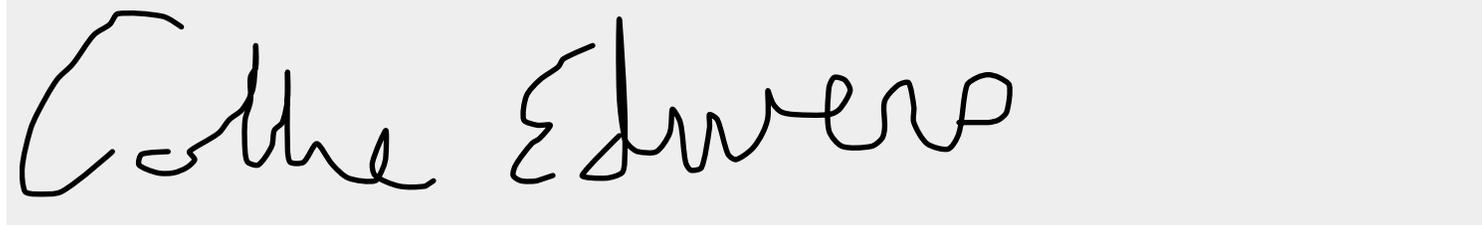
Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	(No response)
Partner Organization 1	(No response)
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

Proposed Board Chair Signature

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Colthe Edwards" in a cursive style. The first name "Colthe" is written with a large, sweeping initial 'C' that loops back. The last name "Edwards" is written in a more compact cursive.

Date

2016/06/23

Thank you for completing this form.

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

- A. **Group leader information:** Dr. C. Nathan Edwers [redacted] information: [redacted]
- B. **Public Contact:** Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, [redacted] friendshipstem.com
- C. **Applicant Group Information – See Table 1**
- D. **Founding Group/Initial Board of Trustee Information:** Same as letter C above.
- E. **Replication or Network Information:** Not Applicable
- F. **Applicant History:** NYSED Authorizer First submission of LOI February 3, 2014; Rejection of LOI February 21, 2014; Second submission of LOI June 25, 2014; Acceptance of LOI July 29, 2014; First Submission of full application August 18, 2014; NYSED Authorizer Capacity interview September 30, 2014; Mount Vernon School District Public Hearing October 15, 2014; Full application withdraw November 6, 2014; Third Submission of LOI February 6, 2015; Rejection of LOI February 25, 2015; Fourth submission of LOI June 23, 2015; Rejection of LOI July 2015; Second Submission of Full Application October 5, 2015; Mount Vernon School District Public Hearing October 29, 2015; Full application withdraw December 10, 2015; February 24, 2016 Fifth submission of LOI; invited to submit Third Full Application March 2016; withdraw Full Application May 2016. Fifth submission of LOI June 28, 2016

II. PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

- A. **Proposed School Name:** Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE)
- B. **Proposed School Location:** 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY. FTCSE does not request a district facility.
- C. **Planned Grades and Enrollment in each of the years of the proposed charter term:** See Table below.
- D. **Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s):** Not Applicable
- E. **Proposed School Mission:** Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will teach each child holistically by empowering all students to become aspiring leaders, life-long learners, critical thinkers, and problem-solvers through a rigorous interdisciplinary STEM academic program to be successful in competitive K-4 academic programs.

Motto: Today’s Learners ... Tomorrow’s Leaders

Projected Enrollment Table Over the Charter Term ¹						
Grades	Age Range*	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
K	5-6	63	63	63	63	63
1 st	6-7	48	63	63	63	63
2 nd	7-8		48	63	63	63
3 rd	8-9			48	63	63
4 th	9-10				48	63
Totals		111	174	237	300	315

*Students’ ages may extend beyond the range specified in cases where they have been advanced or retained a grade prior to entering FTCSE.

- F. **School overview:** Based on NYS ELA and Math assessment results of the Mount Vernon City School District students, the FTCSE founding board believes that the district has failed its students. For example, in 2013 and 2014, 82% of third and fourth graders in the Mount Vernon City School District have consistently scored at Levels I and II on the NYS Math exam. In the past two years, third and fourth grader performance on the ELA has worsened from 81% of students performing at Levels I and II in 2013 to 86% in 2014, and in 2015 the data continue show no significant change. As a result, the founding board has proposed a school framed by five key design elements to address this problem. These elements, modeled after Hofstra University’s research-based teaching and learning lab located in the School of Education, will foster students’ growth as life-long learners and aspiring leaders, making them college and career ready. Our five key design elements are built around six elements of capacity framework: **Rigorous Instruction** where students are actively engaged in ambitious intellectual activity and developing critical thinking skills; **Supportive Environment** where the school culture and classroom are learning friendly and safe and where the students feel supported by their teachers and peers; **Collaborative Teachers** who are student-centered and committed to the success and improvement of their classrooms and school. This collaboration is fostered through professional development that strenghtens the skills of each teacher within a culture of respect and continuous improvement whereby the students

¹N.Y. Education Law § 2851(2)(p).

receive the maximum benefit of learning; **Effective School Leadership** by the Executive Director who leads by example and nurtures the professional growth of teachers and staff, developing and delivering the instructional and social-emotional support that drives student achievement; **Strong Family and Community Ties** through a community-based partnership that encourages and supports student-based learning and provides the practical resources to further the learning experience of each child. We will develop partnerships with families, businesses, and community-based organizations to bridge various components into one learning unit. **Therefore, the five capacity elements frame is the structure that supports the five key design elements. Without the frame the mission of FTCSE can not be achieved.**

The five key design elements are:

1. **Interdisciplinary STEM-Based Curriculum:** FTCSE's interdisciplinary curriculum will infuse STEM content and careers into rigorous Common Core ELA and Math instruction and into student-centered STEM problem-based design challenges. A *MakerSpace/STEM* Lab will be equipped with appropriate science laboratory equipment and building tools for students to practice the skills and content of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). In addition, students will participate in community projects that foster social awareness and real-world learning.
2. **Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and Social and Digital Consciousness:** Daily instruction will integrate reading and writing activities with technology to enhance our students' critical thinking, problem solving, and content mastery across all disciplines. Students' digital and multi-media literacy will be developed through opportunities to create video projects that will develop their written and verbal communication skills. Virtual lab activities will support students' understanding of experimentation along with manipulation and control of variables.
3. **Blended Rotation Model:** Blended learning will allow students to move between computer-based and face-to-face instruction to support learning and retention in math and reading. This blend of activities will concretize and reinforce what students have learned online while providing performance data to drive instruction and provide instructional support services.
4. **Differentiated Instruction and Intervention Model:** Our instructional staff will be comprised of Early Childhood and/or Childhood Education teachers, Special Education teachers, and an ESL/ELL teacher(s). Instructional support staff will be composed of certified Early Childhood and/or Childhood teachers working as teacher aides to assist in meeting individual accommodations and educational abilities. Teaching assignments will be based on two criteria: (1) using data for ability grouping and (2) student-teacher matching based on the teacher's level/area of expertise and students' needs.
5. **TECH: Teaching Each Child Holistically:** The *Resolving Conflicts Creatively Program* (RCCP) and *Lessons in Good Character* are programs that will be used to introduce students to resolving conflicts peacefully and understanding good character. These programs will be used school-wide, including teachers and parents.

G. Target Population/Community Served: FTCSE is committed to improving the academic proficiencies of students living in Mount Vernon, where glaring socio-economic and academic divides exist. As of 2013, 2014, and 2015 Mount Vernon Elementary Schools by and large are not meeting NYS proficiency standards. For example, one of the highest performing schools in Mount Vernon ranked worse than 50.7% of elementary schools in the State.² The low performance levels of students within the Mount Vernon School District caused the founding group to closely examine the test scores of the immediately surrounding communities. The data we collected indicated that the lower-grade students aren't meeting or excelling the Reading, Writing, and Math assessment standards as are the students of surrounding communities of Pelham, Bronxville, and New Rochelle. The FTCSE founding group decided that kindergarten through grade four is where our school would make the greatest impact in creating a foundation for life-long learners and improving student performance outcomes. FTCSE is dedicated to closing the achievement gap for these children, regardless of their poverty level, English language proficiency, disability status, or race.

III. ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM

General Recruitment Strategy:

By word of mouth, on radio, and social media, we will advertise using public bulletins at train stations and bus

²Mount Vernon School District Report Card 2012-13.

stops and network with key players in a community. Our advertising strategy will include visit to Churches, Soup Kitchens, Social Service Agencies that provide services and programs that support students with disabilities, Clinics, Job Services, Public Libraries, Day care sites, Preschools, Community Centers, Apartment Complexes, Supermarkets, Community Outreach, and House Meetings to inform and distribute literature in multiple languages for the potential students who will participate in the school lottery process. We will distribute fliers at Walmart and other discount stores. We will advertise in the primary language of the target community. We will post fliers around town that will describe the programs offered at FTCSE. We will distribute materials to ethnic restaurants (African-American, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese).

Recruitment of Students with Disabilities:

FTCSE will recruit students with disabilities utilizing the outreach, marketing, and advertising efforts cited above. FTCSE will focus its targeted recruitment strategies on learning institutions (New York State Early Intervention programs and the Westchester County Early Childhood Direction Center) that serve students with disabilities. FTCSE will ensure that all outreach includes an explanation of services to support students with disabilities with special mention of our inclusionary model of educating children. We will cater to the needs of these students with appropriate facilities and aids.

Recruitment of English Language Learners:

FTCSE will recruit English Language Learners (ELLs) utilizing recruiting materials in multiple languages, translators at recruiting events, and bilingual staff members. Our recruitment will target the Mount Vernon Spanish and Portuguese communities as well as agencies that focus on families where English has become their second language. We will distribute information to local clergy whose congregations are non-English speakers. We will recruit bilingual teachers who will reflect and promote ethnic diversity. Specifically, we will

- Create school recruitment/lottery materials in English and in the school community's predominant languages.
- Secure resources for translation services to assist parents, students, and teachers in meeting the needs of ELL community.
- Place phone calls to ELL families, utilizing ELL family members who are already in our school community to have them be spokespeople for their school.
- Hire bilingual staff and faculty members and recruit volunteers who can help answer families' questions and fill out paperwork.
- Host open-house meetings in non-English communities and provide translated materials and presenters who can translate for families; provide translation services in multiple languages; find community interpretation services for lower-incident languages and utilize their services.
- Learn the cultures and needs of ELL families, affirming their differences and working with ELL students to bring their English Language skills to appropriate level.

Recruitment of Students Who Are Eligible Applicants for the Free and Reduced Priced Lunch Programs:

FTCSE will recruit students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch programs by advertising to families in high-need poverty areas and areas with the lowest performing schools in Mount Vernon. Poverty areas include but are not limited to Levister Towers, Ebony Gardens, and The Plaza (Lefrak Housing) housing complexes, which are identified by the State of New York as low-income family units. We will post advertisements throughout the school campus encouraging all parents to apply for the meal programs. Retention will occur through our summer academic enrichment program that will provide free or reduced breakfast, lunch, and snacks to all eligible enrollees of the free or reduced meal program.

Retention of Those Identified in the School's Mission:

We will retain students by engaging their families in our general education program during the regular academic year, summer academy, and Saturday clubs. Students and their families will be engaged in conferences, workshops, family nights, and visitations. Collaborating with community and cultural organizations, we will provide students and families wraparound services such as tutoring, before and aftercare services, music and the arts, and mental health services in addition to targeted assistance to at-risk, struggling, and ELL students. FTCSE is committed to establishing and maintaining a trusting and working relationship with families to promote children's learning and development in a positive parents-school-teachers-students partnership.

Retention Strategy:

Our goal is to retain 80% of FTCSE students over the course of our first five years. The Mount Vernon Public School District has a large transient population and we are expecting an unusual large percentage of student turnover

because of the transient culture. However, our retention strategy will provide a formula to retain 80% or more and minimize attrition.

1. FTCSE will update throughout the academic year our database with current and accurate information of all parents or guardians as we build a partnership in the collaboration of the educational services provided to our students
2. FTCSE will use social media outlets (Facebook; constant contact, periscope, and friendshipstem.com website) as a tool that will regularly inform and engage parents into the life of FTCSE.
3. FTCSE will ensure that parents of students who are eligible for free or reduced meals are provided the applications, assistance with filling out the paperwork, and with regular nutrition information.
4. FTCSE will distribute recruitment material in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, the dominant languages and cultures in the Mount Vernon area.
5. FTCSE will advertise in multiple languages the wraparound services—early arrival and late pick-up—offered by FTCSE throughout the recruitment process.
6. FTCSE will promote Saturday students and family oriented academy.
7. We will provide use of the FTCSE STEM computer LAB center to parents to assist them in their technology literacy.
8. FTCSE will provide clear information to incoming parents through multiple orientation sessions and written documentation of our policies and educational approach.
9. We will hire faculty and staff who speak multiple languages to assist parents of ELL students in navigating their children’s educational journey.
10. FTCSE will ensure that special education students are achieving at a level that is significantly higher than special education students within the Mount Vernon Public School District and ensure that in addition to IEP specifications, special education students receive adequate academic support from classroom teachers so that they can succeed in the classroom.
11. FTCSE will ensure that students are learning English fast enough to move out of IEP designation within 2 to 3 years and are subsequently able to succeed academically and ensure that in addition to IEP requirements, students are receiving adequate academic support from classroom teachers so that they can succeed in the classroom
12. FTCSE will increase communication with parents of struggling students so they are receiving at least monthly progress updates in person, or by text, emails, or phone calls.
13. FTCSE will ensure that parents understand iReady and are able to navigate the software to ensure that student homework assignments are completed.

Retention of Students with Disabilities:

FTCSE will retain students with disabilities by providing opportunities to learn in the least restrictive environment. We will provide an integrated co-teaching model with a full-time certified special education teacher. The teacher will apply push-in and pull-out methods of instruction to meet the student’s specific needs. A Special Education Coordinator, along with teachers whose credentials reflect training in special education, will provide additional targeted support and intervention to meet the needs of students with disabilities and oversee the special education program in collaboration with the school’s leadership team. The Special Education Coordinator will work closely with classroom teachers to assess and monitor student growth. The Special Education Coordinator and FTCSE’s leadership team will communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the student’s progress and any IEP modification needed to provide opportunities for students to excel.

Retention of English Language Learners:

FTCSE will retain ELL students by hiring a full time certified English as a Second Language (ESL) bilingual teacher who will deliver push-in and pull-out ESL instruction and work in collaboration with school leadership and teachers to improve students’ language acquisition skills and academic performance. The ESL teacher will use the *Journeys* curriculum to support ELL students with targeted instruction and intervention strategies. FTCSE will provide an ESL resource center for students, their families, and school staff to share literature in diverse languages, strategies for increasing language acquisition at home, and a forum for support. The resource center will be open during after-school hours and in the summer for continuous access to information in diverse languages. FTCSE will partner with ELL programs in community centers to ensure that best practices and pedagogical methods will be used when working with English Language Learners. Ultimately, FTCSE will recruit, retain, and educate students of all abilities. FTCSE will admit students via lottery without regard to race, creed, ethnicity, disability, or socio-economic background. To monitor and track student retention, FTCSE will

respectfully communicate with parents throughout the year about issues that are important to them, and continuously monitor and measure the parents' perceptions of the program and of their children's safety and educational progress.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support (see Table 2)

Initial Assessment of Sufficient Interest and Community Input:

At present the Mount Vernon School District has no early childhood program that offers a holistic integrated interdisciplinary STEM-based curriculum. The parents who participated in our information sessions were excited that FTCSE would offer a creative alternative learning curriculum that will improve student performance. Feedback received from the community outreach led FTCSE's founding group to increase the number of children to be served, to include STEM as an essential approach to learning, and to place greater emphasis on mathematics and English Language Arts proficiency.

In addition, community residents were concerned about the behavioral issues that affect the learning environment of students. Based upon several conversations with residents, the founding group added a fifth key design element entitled TECH (Teaching Each Child Holistically). TECH would provide effective instruction in peer mediation and parent and community involvement in conflict resolution. This program will also prepare the student scholars emotionally, socially, and physically to deal with conflicts and cultural differences.

The comments gathered from the community suggested that they had concerns about how the rigorous STEM program would be implemented in the early grades. This concern caused the founding group to reconsider their proposed curriculum and the integration of the STEM approach for the target group of low-performing children included in FTCSE school outreach. As a result, the group secured a STEM specialist who explained that a strong literacy foundation is interwoven into STEM, allowing learning to become more effective in the core subjects. We rethought the educational technology tools needed to accomplish our mission and Maker Space stations were adopted as the classroom setting, a model based upon the Hofstra STEM Lab's proven innovative method.

Because of the low Mount Vernon test math and reading scores, the stakeholders wanted to know what assessment tools were to be used in grades K, 1, and 2 to track student achievement. The founding group developed an authentic formative assessment program that utilizes one or more of the following methods: grade level benchmark tests, student IEPs, and Pearson i-Ready. The New York State ELA, Math, and Science tests would be analyzed and used to create and deliver individualized and small group instruction based on the learning needs of each student.

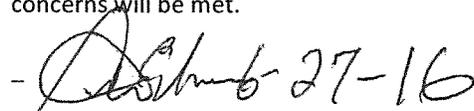
The Danielson rubric assessment tools will be the benchmark for evaluating teacher effectiveness.

FTCSE also formed collaborative partnerships with building and block associations to maintain access and visibility in high needs areas.

A database was established and the board agreed to create a website and to contact interested persons, informing them of updates to our proposed charter school.

Initial Assessment of Parental Interest:

The Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence public outreach committee engaged the community through various media outlets, conversations, and forums to assess parental interest. This formal process of collecting data occurred during the past 3 years. The data was collected from parents who had enrolled their children in local childcare centers, as well as public forums, community surveys, and support letters from parents. Parents were happy to learn of an alternative charter school that would be available improve their children's learning. They were pleased at the prospect of longer schools days, afterschool programs, the wraparound services, and a new parental academy that would offer the parents the skill set to assist in their understanding of STEM. Many of the parents weren't aware of STEM and welcomed this new innovative approach to preparing their children to become college and career ready. Three different surveys were distributed and we gathered over 1200 responses. Several parents provided letters of support and expressed a commitment to enroll their children or to recruit prospective students. Their support could ensure that we reach maximum enrollment potential. Our survey indicated that academics was the strongest concern. Safety and location ranked second. Class size and student-teacher ratio were also major concerns. These parents will consider enrollment of their children in the FTCSE program, knowing that these concerns will be met.

-  27-16

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, Applicant Group Leader

Table 1: Applicant Group Information

Applicant Group Member Name/Email Address	Current employment	Relevant experience/ skills and role on applicant group	Proposed role(s) if any (Trustee, Employee, or None)	Proposed Position on the board (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	Length of initial term	Voting Member Y/N
Dr. C. Nathan [REDACTED]	CEO/Pastor	Leadership and organization	Trustee	Chairperson	3	Y
Paula Scarlett-Brown [REDACTED]	Educational Consultation	Principal Administration supervision Reading	Principal employee			N
Michael A. Campbell [REDACTED]	Engineer	Budgets analysis strategy	Trustee	Member	3	Y
Michael A. Valentine Esq. [REDACTED]	Attorney	Law, litigation Real estate	Trustee	Attorney	2	Y
Samuel N. Wilson Jr. CPA [REDACTED] t	CPA	Accounting Budgeting Cash Flow	Trustee	Treasurer	2	Y
Dorothea Muccigrosso [REDACTED]	Retired NYS Teacher	Curriculum Teaching Research	Trustee	Children Educational Specialist	2	Y
Sherri Edwers [REDACTED]	NYS Teacher	Curriculum Teaching Classroom	Trustee	Assistant Secretary	3	Y
Felicia Leary [REDACTED]	NYS Administrator / Children Services	Children Svcs. Planning Outreach	Trustee	Community outreach Liaison	2	Y
Dr. Julia C. Caliendo [REDACTED]	High School Science Teacher/STEM Specialist	Stem Specialist Science Lab Instruction	Trustee	Vice Chair	3	Y
Charles J Ray [REDACTED]	Charter School Teacher	Charter School experience	Trustee	Curriculum and program implementation	3	Y

Table 2: Public Outreach Information

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
<p>May – June 2016</p> <p>June 25, 2016</p>	<p>Display stand and the distribution of current information regarding the proposed school.</p> <p>Annual Friendship For Tots Annual Carnival. Display table and distribution of material</p>	<p>Churches, community meetings and cottage socials.</p> <p>The ground of FWC 261 E. Lincoln Avenue Mount Vernon, New York</p>	<p>Potential Parents, residents, pastors and community leadership.</p> <p>Potential parents and residents.</p>	<p>They were happy for the possibility of a STEM school in the lower grades. When and how recruitment will take place.</p> <p>The people who take the information were very supportive of our effort and wanted to know when the school will open,</p>	<p>We assure the stakeholders that we will continue to grow our data, informing through direct mailing and social media regarding the enrollment process.</p>	<p>Well attended in the various meeting.</p> <p>Hundreds of people attended and information was distributed.</p>
<p>April 11, 2016</p>	<p>Community forum informing the public of Application process meeting. Posted updates through social media.</p>	<p>Friendship for Tots 261- E. Lincoln Avenue Mount Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Afterschool parents</p>	<p>They wanted to provide assistance in ensuring that the process continues.</p>	<p>FTCSE founding group decided to continue its wait until the facts of finding letter arrives.</p>	<p>10 potential parents</p>
<p>3/26/2016</p>	<p>Community outreach – distribution of FTCSE information brochures and had conversations with the parents during Annual Easter Eggs Hunt</p>	<p>FWC – 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Parents, families and friends of Mount Vernon students</p>	<p>Families/parents, community stakeholders, daycare providers requested more information about the FTCSE application/ registration process</p>	<p>Informed parents, and families to view and register at FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com</p>	<p>30 families attended event</p>

3/1/2016	Mount Vernon Inquirer published article to Mount Vernon community residents an updated article that FTCSE was reapplying during the next charter school application round	Mount Vernon Inquirer Newspaper – PO Box 458 Mount Vernon, NY Email: info@theinquirernews.com Website: www.mvinquirer.com	Parents, community residents and stakeholders	Parents, community residents, stakeholders and parents requested more information on how FTCSE will improve Mount Vernon students' educational outcomes	Continued to work on FTCSE application and registration process	10,000 copies of the article were distributed and viewed on-line
3/7/2016 – 3/11/2016	Met with Community Stakeholders	Stakeholders' Offices; Community Affairs	Met with Stakeholder – Ministers; Business Owners; Elected Officials; MV Superintendent of Schools; & Non-Profit Organizations	Continued support of FTCSE efforts.	Aligned FTCSE curriculum in partnership with Community-based Organizations	10 Stakeholders
2/12/2016	Hosted a public forum – community outreach to inform Mount Vernon community residents	FWC – 261 E. Lincoln Avenue Mount Vernon, NY	parents, families, and community members	Parents, families wanted more information on how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	Provided parents, families, and community members with information about FTCSE proposal process	100 of guest attendees received copies of the FTCSE Information Brochures
2/2/2016	Hosted a Ribbon cutting ceremony for the FFT STEM Computer Lab at Friendship Family Worship center to launch and model use of the new iPad tablets in the Tech Computer Lab for the students and residents of Mount	FFWC\Tech Computer Lab @ 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents of students currently in Preschool & Kindergarten, community members	Parents, community members, and residents asked questions about the Computer Tech Lab and what are the requirements to register for the charter school.	FTCSE Information table was setup to answer questions from parents, community stakeholders, residents, and students about the proposed charter school	Over 100 guests included Dignitaries, Parents, Teachers & students and community residents.

	Vernon. Westchester County Executive Astorino, MV Mayor Thomas, MVBOE Superintendent Dr. Hamilton, Bishop Edwers and others were in attendance.					
1/28/2016	Did community outreach at Graham Elementary School PTA meeting to share purpose of FTCSE for parents of students attending Kindergarten to 4 th grade.	Graham Elementary School 421 E. 5 th Street, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents and families of students in Kindergarten to 4 th Grade	Parents and families of students in Kindergarten to 4 th Grade requested more information about the FTCSE application and registration process	Informed parents, and families to register at FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	15 families with students in kindergarten to 4 th Grade.
10/29/2015	Community outreach - Mount Vernon School District held a Public Hearing on proposed FTCSE full application	Mount Vernon Board of Education – 165 North Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Community members, parents, students and professionals	Community members, parents, students and professionals had opportunity to share their feedback, testimonials, affirmations about the proposed FTCSE efforts	Individuals had opportunity to speak for 3 minutes to inform the MVCSD about their support for the proposed charter school	100 residents attended hearing to support the proposed FTCSE
8/2/2015	Community outreach – Annual Family Bar-B-Que in the Park; Distributed FTCSE information brochures	Tibbett’s Brook Park – Yonkers, NY	Community residents, neighbors, and families	Families, parents, care givers and community residents asked questions about the FTCSE application process	Parents, families signed their names to the contact list to get more information about FTCSE forums and events.	Over 40 families and guests attended, participated in annual event

<p>6/25/2015</p>	<p>FTCSE Community Forum – Community outreach to inform parents and community members about purpose of FTCSE – more than 500 pieces of materials distributed to the community - copies of FTCSE invitation, letters and program brochures.</p>	<p>FWC–261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Families of students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Group meeting of parents, community members</p>	<p>Parents, families wanted more information on how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com</p>	<p>Provided parents, families, and community members with more information about FTCSE proposal</p>	<p>7 Parents attend support group meeting</p>
<p>6/20/2015</p>	<p>Distributed FTCSE information brochures @ Annual FFT Fantastic Carnival - community outreach event –</p>	<p>FWC/ Parking lot - 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Community residents and Families, parents of surrounding neighbors and friends</p>	<p>Parents requested more information about the FTCSE registration process</p>	<p>Parents provided their contact information, signed FTCSE petition / community survey.</p>	<p>Over 200 families, children, guests attended event</p>
<p>4/27/2015</p>	<p>Hosted Community Forum – community outreach to inform parents and community members about purpose of FTCSE. Distributed more than 500 pieces of materials to the community - copies of FTCSE invitation, letters and program</p>	<p>FWC–261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Families of students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Group meeting of parents, community members</p>	<p>Parents requested more information about the FTCSE registration process</p>	<p>Informed parents and community members how to register and communicate on the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com</p>	<p>Over 500 pieces of FTCSE materials were distributed to community & local businesses</p>

	brochures.					
10/2014	Community outreach - Mount Vernon School District held a Public Hearing on proposed FTCSE full application	Mount Vernon Board of Education – 165 North Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	community members, parents, students and professionals	community members, parents, students and professionals had opportunity to share their feedback, testimonials, affirmations about the proposed FTCSE process	Individuals had opportunity to speak for 3 minutes to inform the MVCS D about their support for the proposed	100 residents attended hearing to support the proposed FTCSE
8/2014 to 10/2014	Distributed the Westchester Journal News article to parents and community residents about FTCSE’s submission of formal application to the NYSED Charter School Authorizer	Friendship Family Life Center @ 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents and Families of students in Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten to 4 th Grade	Parents, families wanted more information on how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	Provided parents, families, and community members with more information about FTCSE proposal	100s of guest attendees received copies of the FTCSE Information Brochures
9/27/2014	Hosted parent group meeting to inform parents and community members about purpose of FTCSE and gain feedback from parents. Distributed copies of the FTCSE information brochure.	Friendship Family Life Center @ 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents, Grandparents, and community members	Parents, families, community members wanted more information about the charter school application process. Asked questions about how to register their child.	Provided parents, families, and community members with more information about FTCSE proposal and how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	15 guests registered for the parent group meeting
7/19/2014	Hosted parent group meeting to	MV Public Library South Second	Parents, Grandparents, and	Parents, families wanted more	Provided parents, families, and	5-7 families of students in Pre-K,

	inform community members about purpose of FTCSE and gain feedback from parents. Provided copy of FTCSE information brochure.	Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY	community members	information about the charter school application process. Asked questions about how to register their child.	community members with more information about FTCSE proposal and how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	Kindergarten to 4 th Grade.
6/28/2014	Hosted parent group meeting to inform parents and community members about purpose of FTCSE and gain feedback from parents. Provided copy of FTCSE information brochure	MV Public Library @ 28 South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents, Grandparents, and community members	Parents, families wanted more information on how to register at the FTCSE Website: www.friendshipstem.com	Provided parents, families, and community members with more information about FTCSE proposal	6 families of students in pre-kindergarten to 4 th grade attended
6/21/2014	Hosted FWC's Annual Funtastic Kiddie Carnival & Family Fair, and provided community residents with copies of FTCSE information brochure	FWC @ 261 E. Lincoln Avenue	Community Residents	FTCSE petition names; distributed FTCSE information brochure.	Parents, community residents received information brochure and signed petition forms	Over 100 attendees received FTCSE Information Brochures
6/2/2014	Parent group meeting to inform parents and community members about purpose of FTCSE and gain feedback from parents.	FWC, 261 E. Lincoln Avenue Mount Vernon, NY	Parents of students in K – 4 th Grade, and community Residents	Parents, community residents received information brochure and signed petition forms	FTCSE petition names; distributed FTCSE information brochure.	Registered guests and walk-ins attended event

	Provided copy of FTCSE information brochure					
5/31/2014	Distributed FTCSE flyer throughout community to residents and local business. Hosted community forum to speak with parents and community residents to get feedback on the purpose of FTCSE.	Mount Vernon Public Library – 350 South 6 th Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents, Community residents	Parents shared concerns and asked questions about FTCSE process of when charter school will open.	Petition names, valuable input from parents regarding	5 parents attended forum
4/27/2014	Emailed flyer to community providers of children/families with children in daycare and kindergarten. Hosted community forum to speak with community residents to get feedback on the purpose of FTCSE.	Friendship Family Learning Center – 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Parents, Community residents	Parents shared concerns and asked questions about FTCSE process of when charter school will open.	Petition names, valuable input from parents regarding	Guests registered and walk-ins attended forum
4/15/2014	Community outreach-provided copies of support letter from (then) Mayor of Mount Vernon: Honorable Ernest D. Davis on proposed FTCSE application process.	Office of the Mayor of Mount Vernon Public announcement/ letter	Community Residents	Political support	Valuable input, and political feedback matters – shows a major statement of support	500+ copies of letter distributed

May 2014 to July 2014	Community outreach, going door-to-door, in housing complexes; Acquired petition names and community surveys.	Mount Vernon Housing complexes	Parents, community residents, local businesses, daycare providers, community residents and neighbors Neighborhood housing, Library, community centers, Supermarket bulletin boards, Laundry facilities, sent email blasts	Community residents, Parents, guardians asked for more information about the FTCSE registration process.	Parents and residents provided their contact information to receive updates about FTCSE registration.	1,000 petition names collected over three months time
3/29/2014	Hosted parent group meeting to inform community members about purpose of FTCSE and gain feedback from parents. Provided copy of FTCSE information brochure.	Mount Vernon Public Library 2 South Second Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY	Group meeting of parents, community members	Require involvement from parents, daycare providers, community members	Provided community members and parents with detailed PowerPoint presentation about the proposed FTCSE application and registration process	15 parents registered to attend for parent group meeting
2/25/2014	Mount Vernon Inquirer published article to Mount Vernon community residents an article that informs there is a proposed FTCSE , and there is positive feedback from the community.	Mount Vernon Inquirer Newspaper – PO Box 458 Mount Vernon, NY Email: info@theinquirernews.com Website: www.mvinquirer.com	Parents, community residents and stakeholders	Parents, community residents, stakeholders and parents requested more information on how FTCSE will improve Mount Vernon student’s educational outcomes	Provided community members and parents with detailed PowerPoint presentation about the proposed FTCSE application and registration process	100s of copies of the article were distributed
1/27/2014	Hosted community outreach forum	Friendship Family Life Center @ 261	community members, parents,	Discussion, feedback,	Provided a panel discussion for	Over 30 guests attended

	with parents, residents, daycare providers of children and students in K – 4th grade. Provided FTCSE information brochure	East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	students and professionals	testimonials, affirmations and concerns have been received from community members, parents, students and professionals.	community members, parents, students and professionals to hear more detailed information about proposed FTCSE process. Editor of the Mount Vernon Inquirer interviewed several guest for his newspaper article regarding the proposed charter school.	community forum
1/27/2014	Community Forum - distributed copies of Mount Vernon Inquirer News Article published on proposed FTCSE application process.	Friendship Family Life Center @ 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY	Community residents, parents and stakeholders.	Parents, residents, and community stakeholders requested more information about how the proposed FTCSE process will benefit the community.	Provided a program brochure to share more detailed information about the proposed charter school.	500 – 1000 copies of Article information
1/18/2014	Community forum held for Mount Vernon Faith Based organization. Hosted meeting with clergy persons to gain feedback about proposal for charter school for students K – 4 th grade.	FWC – 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY	Meeting with founding group of clergypersons of United Black Clergy (UBC) of Westchester County.	Clergypersons asked questions about how the proposed FTCSE process will benefit the parents/students and residents of the community	Provided clergypersons with detailed PowerPoint presentation about the proposed FTCSE application process	20 clergypersons attended meeting
12/30/2013	Hosted meet/greet to solicit feedback	FWC – 261 E. Lincoln Avenue,	Community residents, parents,	Parent requested more information:	Created contact list of names of parents,	Over 100 brochures distributed

	from community residents and stakeholders. Showed PowerPoint presentation on FTCSE process. Distributed FTCSE Information Brochure.	Mount Vernon, NY	and stakeholders.	provided a program brochure with details about the proposed FTCSE process. Parents asked how soon charter school would open.	community resident. Will provide ongoing communication about FTCSE process, community forums and events.	
12/2013	Community outreach to parents, residents, daycare providers of children and students in K – 4th grade. Provided FTCSE information brochure	Throughout Mount Vernon neighborhoods.	Parents, community residents of children in Pre-K to 4 th Grade	Parents shared they would love to have a charter school in the community, but also want more information about FTCSE registration process. It would be beneficial for the community.	Provided a program brochure to share more detailed information about the proposed charter school. FTCSE created email address for public to leave comments and feedback.	500+ brochures and community surveys distributed

FTCSE founding group fact of findings and the evolution of the proposed school designed:

Over the course of the past three years FTCSE founding members have conducted extensive community outreach informing the citizens of Mount Vernon regarding the proposed charter school. Within those public and private discussions over the years the conversations demonstrated that there is an interest in the proposed school. The overall concern among many parents was the low performance of student outcome within the Mount Vernon School District. The data was shared implied that the lower grades of students aren't meeting or exceling the assessment standards as like the surrounding communities Pelhem, Bronxville and New Rochelle. Parents who were armed with this information were concerned that their children wouldn't meet or excel the common core achievement standard level. FTCSE shared with parent the proposed five key elements design and the Interdisciplinary STEM-Based Curriculum. The initial impression among parents was that they were uniformed about a STEM-based Curriculum. Parents' questions and comments led the founding members to design their outreach presentation in a matter that would answer their questions. Their questions were; what is STEM? How will STEM be infused into the core discipline subjects, Reading, Writing, Math and English? How was the designed of the program determined? What will be different from the district public grade schools and the proposed

FTCSE? What is the size of the classrooms teachers to students' ratio? How will the use of technology improve student outcomes? The school location and will it serves student citywide? How will the proposed school enforce school discipline? What the plan for safety? How will the school culture and climate be created? The input of parents and community stakeholders improved the development of the proposed charter school designed over the course of 3 years.

In the research conducted FTCSE founding group learned that U.S. students reach fourth grade with few science and technology skills. Our outreach attempted to inform potential student parents that STEM skills built from early learning will help students to develop the knowledge and habits that will engender a lifetime of STEM understanding and proficiency. Our research suggested that STEM supports children's overall academic growth, develops early critical thinking and reasoning skills.

STEM learning early in schooling is the process of inquiry that is integral to STEM is the way young children naturally learn. Young children explore, ask questions, and discuss their findings. In her article on Early STEM Education, Erin MacPherson describes first grade learners gathered around a sand table: "Students become engrossed with the sand, some marbles, and rulers, and soon, with the help of a few guiding questions, they are learning principles of physical science."

Science4Us is one such program. Innovative online activities and hands-on offline activities guide students' exploration to build a solid foundation in STEM skills. Through online games and videos, students learn concepts and vocabulary that will support their learning in higher grades. They participate in both online, virtual investigations and offline, hands-on investigations to slake their thirst for and build skills in scientific inquiry and investigation. Activities are interdisciplinary, too, often including literacy skills, math skills, historical and biographical information, and literature that relates to science.

STEM created a strong focus on early learning and early literacy.

What is STEM?

The term STEM was coined at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a way to encompass a new "meta-discipline" that combined science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subject areas. This new discipline was meant to transform traditional classrooms from teacher-centered instruction into inquiry-based, problem solving, discovery zones where children engage with content to find solutions to problems (Fioriello, 2010). It is a way of looking at and solving a problem in a holistic way, seeing how the components of STEM interact with each other. Put simply, it is the intersection of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It is problem based. It is student-centered. It is the applied convergence of these disciplines used to solve a problem.

At present the Mount Vernon school district have no early childhood program in place that infuse Interdisciplinary STEM-Based Curriculum approach. The parents who participated in our various informational sessions were excited that FTCSE would create as an alternative of learning that will improve student outcomes.

The teacher student ratio is determined based upon the cluster group of each student reading level. Classrooms are built around clusters and levels. Students are integrated into one classroom of no more than 30 physical bodies with a head teacher and assistant teacher both who are certified and are trained to administer the five key design elements that fulfill the mission of FTCSE. The ratio of teacher and student is 1 to 15. The small group clusters will provide the students greater access of one on one direct teacher supervision needed in administrating our STEM program that will ensure greater student outcomes. The integration of technology prevents any student to be single out among their peers. Each student will work at their pace on their level with the ultimate goal of the student meeting or exceeding core discipline standards.

FTCSE founding group approach is to offer our school program to the entire school district and aggressively encourage ELL students to apply. Our research suggested that ELL students are better served through the student center approach offered in our Interdisciplinary STEM-Based Curriculum approach.

FTCSE safety plan provide a secure facility with staff security guards, close circuit cameras throughout the building with faculty and staff safety training courses to prevent any misshapen.

FTCSE founding group have listen to the potential student parents and stakeholder to create a school and climate base upon our six capacity framework; *Supportive Environment* where the school culture and classroom is learning friendly, safe, and where the student feels supported by their teachers and peers; *Collaborative Teachers* who are student centered and committed to the success and improvement of their classroom and school. This collaboration is fostered through professional development, strengthening the skills of each teacher within a culture of respect and continuous improvement whereby the student receive the maxim benefit of learning; *Effective School leadership*, the Executive Director leads by example and nurtures the professional growth of teachers and staff, developing and delivering the instructional and social emotional support that drives student achievement; *Strong Family and Community Ties*; Community-base partnership that encourage and support student-base learning provides the practical resources to further the learning experience of each child. We will develop partnerships with families, businesses, and community-base organizations to bridge various components into one learning unit.

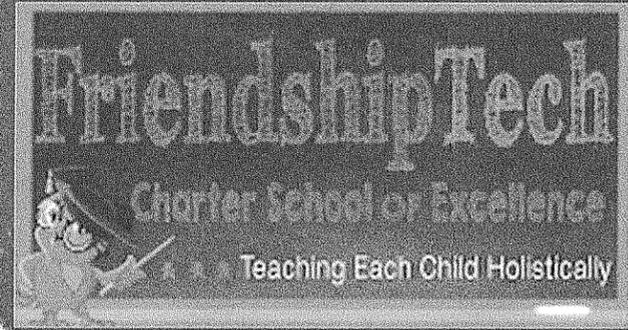
FTCSE founding group is committed to establish a school of excellence that will product life long learning, college and career that will exceed in the higher grades. The success of our approach will be demonstrated through attrition, student proficiency, standardized test results and student overall outcomes.

FTCSE founding group are aware that effective elementary STEM programs share the elements of strong leadership, professional capacity among teachers, strong ties to parents and the community, a student-centered learning climate, and instructional guidance for teachers. Out-of-class activities, a standard-based curriculum, and program sustainability are key characteristics as well. We found that our parent investment in the successful of our school is hinged on mastering those concerns.

FTCSE founding group understand through our outreach research that effective elementary STEM programs share the elements of strong leadership, professional capacity among teachers, strong ties to parents and the community, a student-centered learning climate, and instructional guidance for teachers. Out-of-class activities, a standard-based curriculum, and program sustainability are key characteristics building a success school. We strive to ensure that FTCSE program met those establish expectations.

Through our outreach efforts the founding group have determined that FTCSE have enough inteset among potential student parents to fill our propsed seats. Their input in the designed of the key designed elements has influence the several rewrites of FTCSE application our the course of 3 years.

Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence



Grades Kindergarten Through 4th

An innovative approach to educating the next generation of leaders.
STEM: Science – Technology – Engineering – Mathematics

Our Goal

To reduce the achievement gap of Mount Vernon children during the formative years.



Options

FICSE provides an alternative to public elementary education for residents of Mount Vernon.

Teachers

We aim to hire qualified teachers with a focus on boosting student academic and cultural achievement.



A Head Start

We will provide a strong academic head-start and deeper learning experiences.

Learning

Our interdisciplinary STEM academic program will meet the NYS Common Core standards.



Graduates

Graduates will surpass their counterparts in technology, literacy, and academic achievement.

Have Questions Contact Us At

Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence

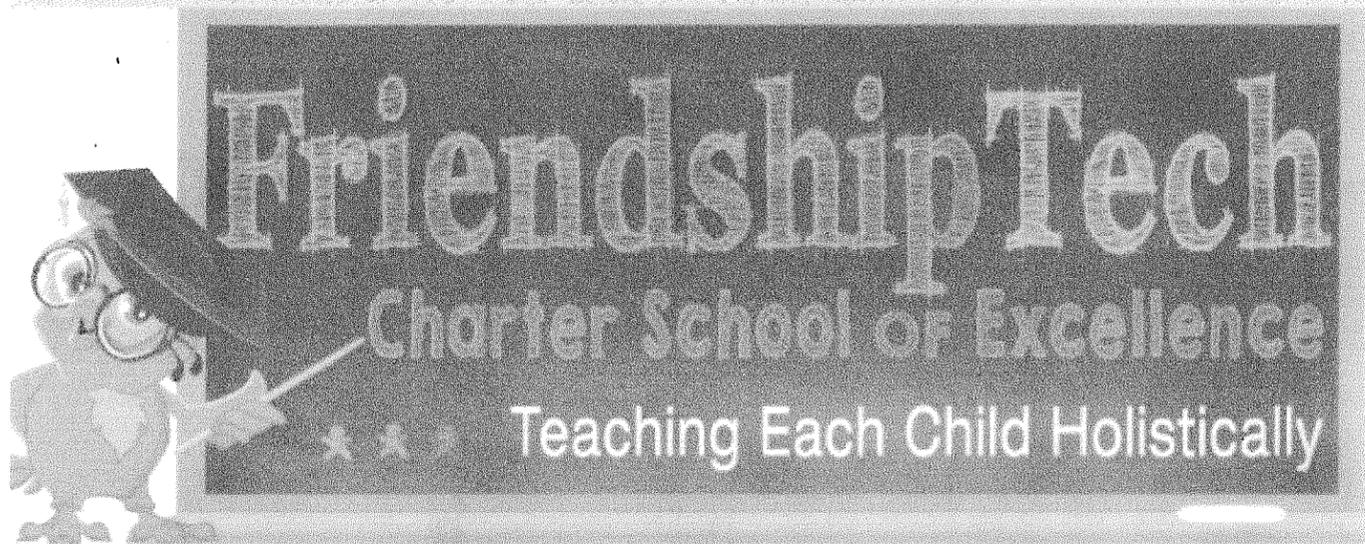
261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10552

Tel. 914-668-1210 Email: admin@friendshipSTEM.com

www.friendshipstem.com

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, Visionary

The Proposed



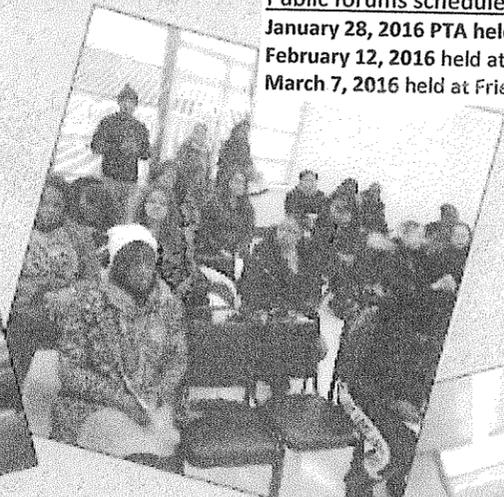
Still Working Towards Our Goal

Public forums schedule

January 28, 2016 PTA held at Graham Elementary School

February 12, 2016 held at Friendship Family Life Center

March 7, 2016 held at Friendship Family Life Center



Projected Opening Fall 2017

Grades K through 4th

Emphasis On STEM Development

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, Proposed Chair

For More Information
Visit us at
www.friendshipstem.com

Minutes of the Public Community Forum for the proposed Friendship Charter School of Excellence
Location of the forum: Friendship Family Life Center
Held at the proposed site location: 261 E. Lincoln Ave Mount Vernon, New York 10552
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016
Time: 8:45 a.m.

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers called the meeting to order, the proposed Chair of Trustee at 8:45 a.m. He offered words of greetings and proceeded to state the purpose of the meeting. Dr. Edwers distributed a brochure among the parents present and highlighted that the brochure was written in three different languages to represent the diversity of our community and the willingness of the foundering board to make English Language Learners a serious priority in our school. The proposed school name and concept was reviewed. He asked that each parent would fill out the attendance sheet. Dr. C. Nathan Edwers gave a power point presentation and asked if pictures could be taken during the meeting showing support. He explained those pictures would be used to strengthen the Letter of Intent, the audience agreed. He then log on to the proposed school website and browsed the site providing explanations of each prompt. He pointed to the pre-enrollment prompt and asked that the parents who were supportive of the new school to log on and fill out the questions online and provide comments or suggests about the proposed school. He said this will ensured the new proposed school will help us meet the target capacity to fill the seats. He also indicated that all comments would help frame the application. He further said, you the potential parents are the stakeholders of our new proposed school and want to establish a working relationship in fulfilling the mission of our school.

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers opened the floor for questions and comments concerning the presentation of new proposed chartered school.

The Parents questions and concerns about the new school were:

Comment: Overall the parents supported the right of choice and the new proposed school. They commented that the website is helpful and provide them the opportunity to revisit and examine thoroughly the school concept, approach and formation.

1. *How does the school relate to the parents whom children live outside Mount Vernon?* Dr. C. Nathan Edwers indicated that all children regardless of their school district who are residents of New York State can apply for enrollment. The school will use a lobby system to fill seats. The charter schools are public schools that are monitored by New York State Education Department Board of Regent that issue charters and they empowers the charter school authorizers to monitor the progress of the school.
2. *The class size.*
Dr. C. Nathan Edwers said the design of a school specialized STEM. The school is student centered learning. Each student will learn on their own pace using iReady program to improve student outcomes. The classes will have clusters representing different level of learning. The classrooms will not exceed 25 students during the course of instruction. A head teacher and teacher assistant will be assigned to each classroom. Both teachers will be certified with specialized skillset to fulfill the school program of STEM Science, Technology, Engineer and Mathematics.
3. *Teachers Qualifications*
Dr. C. Nathan Edwers stated that required New York teacher certification would be adhered to in the proposed school.

4. *Will the school have a social worker and counselor?*

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers indicated to the parents that the school plans to have all the tools needed to close the achievement gaps. The school administration, faculty and staff will hire the best for our children. Social worker and counselor are positions and function that will be combined the first few years because instructional care is our greatest priority. However, these services will be available from school opening.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



FWC to reapply for K through 4th grade charter school

Over the past three years, Bishop C. Nathan Edwers, Pastor of Friendship Worship Center, has led a group of residents, educators and businesspersons in an effort to create a new Mount Vernon charter school known as Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence and will provide educational options for parents and their children. Regrettably, the group has encountered several setbacks involving the New York State Department of Education's denial of their applications.

The group's denials have not dampened their spirits and they are currently updating their application to fully meet the state's strict requirements.

According to Bishop Edwers, the charter they seek to create will specialize in preparing students in the area of Science, Mathematic, Engineer and Technology (STEM). "We plan to build a strong academic program that will focus on an interdisciplinary STEM-based curriculum. This interdisciplinary curriculum will infuse STEM content and careers into rigorous Common Core ELA and math instruction, and into student-centered STEM problem-based design challenges," added Bishop Edwers.

The proposed charter will undoubtedly provide parents with a choice of education philosophy, culture and learning needed among low performing schools within the Mount Vernon district. The charter is committed to improving the academic proficiencies of students living in Mount Vernon, where a glaring socio-economic and academic divide exist.

"Our approach isn't to weaken our public schools, but partner with the school district, residents, non-profits, corporations, stakeholders and parents in improving outcomes," added Bishop Edwers. "This new

school will provide parents the level of accountability that's missing in the regular public school setting.”

“Currently, Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence has been conducting public forums throughout the three-year process of interested parents and stakeholders,” Edwers said.

“Our group has committed to continue with the process until the State Education Department gives a final approval or denial. Our children and parents deserve the best and we have a moral obligation to continue the struggle of education equality in our community.”

For more information about the proposed school log on to www.friendshipstem.com

The next schedule public forum will be held on Monday, March 7, at Friendship Family Life Center, located at 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York.

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publish February 20, 2016

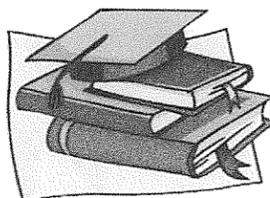


What You Need To Know About Charter Schools

FACTS:

- Public charter schools are generally required to take all students who want to attend.
- As defined in federal and state law, charter schools are public schools.
- Charter schools can be started by a Teacher, Parent, Community Resident, or School Administrator.
- Public school funding is sent to the public school that a student attends.
- Charter leaders aim to hire talented, passionate and qualified teachers who will boost student achievement and contribute to a thriving school culture.

“A mind is a beautiful thing to fill!”



261 East Lincoln Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552



Proposed



Kindergarten
to
4th Grade



Community Information
Brochure

**Friendship Tech Charter School
of Excellence**

261 East Lincoln Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

Phone: (914) 668-1210

Fax: (914) 668-0574

Email: FriendshipTech2015@gmail.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
Apt: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____



*Kindergarten
to 4th Grade*

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*Warm welcome school  
where all students  
will excel*

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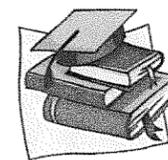
*Challenging hands-on
Curriculum*

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*“Making Change Happen”*



*Mission:*



The Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will empower students to become aspiring leaders by creating life-long learners, critical thinkers, and problem-solvers through a rigorous interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academic program.

*Vision:*

The FTCSE curriculum is designed to provide children in kindergarten through 4th grade, with a holistic education designed to develop fundamental and higher level thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey.

By providing this educational model during the key formative years in a child's development, we will stop the emerging and widening achievement gap of Mount Vernon children and provide a strong academic head-start and deeper learning experiences that will be reflected of the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

Our graduates will be proficient in ELA, mathematics and science, while we work to make Mount Vernon children better and stronger.

*Objectives:*

1. Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will afford the residents of Mount Vernon a choice in their children's educational journey by creating an alternative to the public elementary education options currently in place to meet the needs of its under-educated students by providing a challenging hands-on curriculum.



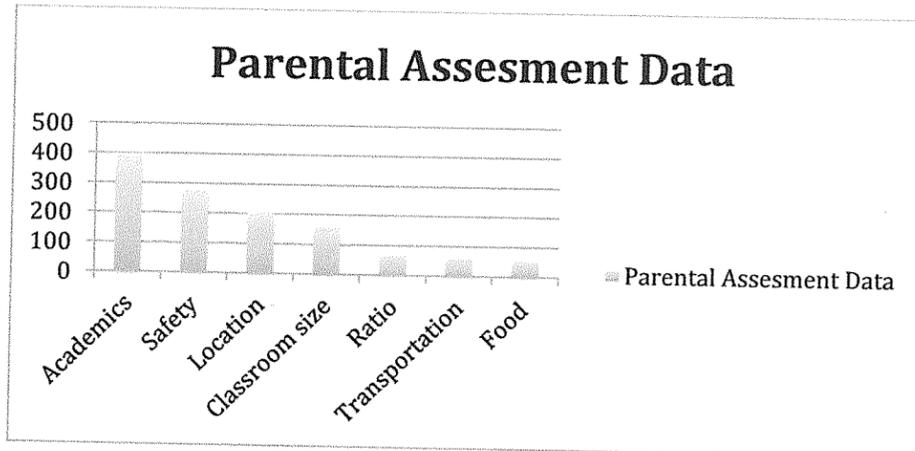
2. Our rigorous interdisciplinary STEM academic program, which will exceed the NYS Common Core learning standards, will create college and career ready students who are critical thinkers and problem-solvers.



3. The curriculum will be supported by high quality individualized instruction and multiple forms of assessment, thereby allowing our students to surpass their Mount Vernon public school counterparts in academic achievement, technology literacy, the Arts, conscious discipline, and community involvement.

*Initial Parental Assessment Survey findings*

Three different surveys were distributed and we gathered over 1200 responses not including the countless number of conversations with parents who were in support of improving and providing a better quality of education for our children in Mount Vernon. Several parents provided letters of support and a commitment to enroll or recruit prospective students to ensure we reach maximum enrollment. FTCSE determined based upon the assessment of parents that there was a high interest in enrolling their child (ren) in the proposed school and the finding suggest that we will met or exceed enrollment prospect. Our analysis is based on surveys, pre-enrollment interest and direct conversations with several parents who wanted educational choice as an option. Below is the breakout of how the survey numbers which mat the categories. Our survey indicated that academics were the strongest concern, safety and location ranked second, classroom size and student teacher ratio were also a major concerns. Their measure of consideration regarding enrollment of the children in FTCSE program is that those concerns were met.





Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence 2015  
Community Outreach Questionnaire

*(Your responses from this questionnaire will be used for data purposes only.)*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- a) Are you a Mount Vernon resident; how long? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) City of residence: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Please check all that apply to you:       Resident     Parent     Educator
- d) Gender:     Male       Female
- e) Age Group:     21-30       31-40       41-50       51-60       60+
- f) Status:     Single       Married     Separated    Divorced    Partners
- g) How did you find out about this Community Forum?
  - Word of mouth
  - Flyer
  - Received flyer in mail
  - Social media (*i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc*)
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION DEMOGRAPHICS INFORMATION:**

- 1. How many school-age children do you have? (K-4)
  - None
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5+

2. How many school-age children do you have between the ages of 2 and to 10 years old? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you presently have a child/ren in the Mount Vernon School District? If so, please list the school(s) and their location(s):

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your relationship to your child?

- Mother
- Father
- Step-mother
- Step-father
- Grandmother
- Grandfather
- Aunt
- Uncle
- Guardian
- Other

5. What is the primary language you speak with your child currently? (Please choose only one.)

- Chinese
- English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Korean
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese
- Other/multiple languages (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you feel the Mount Vernon school district is meeting the needs of its students?

- Yes       No

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What questions or concerns do you have about the proposed Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence? *(Please explain)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What impact do you believe FTCSE would have in the Mount Vernon community? *(Circle one)*  
 No impact       Some impact       A positive impact

Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Would you send your child or grandchild to FTCSE? *(Check one)*  
 Yes    No    Not sure

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What do you know about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)? *(Please explain)*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you believe that Mount Vernon will benefit from a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics early childhood learning program?       Yes       No

Explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What do you know about blended learning? *(Please explain)*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. If you could help develop the charter school curriculum for science and technology what would you include? Please be specific:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What do you think are the major qualities of a successful school?

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15. If you are considering placing your child/children in a charter school, why have you made this choice? (*check all that apply*)

- Develop critical thinking skills
- Improved academic skills (e.g. reading, writing, and/or math)
- Lower teacher to student ratio
- Clean, organized, and attractive classrooms
- More enrichment programs (e.g. art, music, and sports)
- Other (please specify):

---

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16. What is your highest level of education?

- High School
- Some College
- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and feedback!

[Friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:Friendshiptech2015@gmail.com)



**If you would like to be contacted about Friendship TECH Charter School of Excellence updates, please provide your contact information below:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and feedback!

[Friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:Friendshiptech2015@gmail.com)

Appendix VI a: Community Outreach Survey

Community Outreach Survey

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group (please circle) 18yrs - 21yrs 22yrs - 32yrs 33yrs - 44yrs 45yrs - 55yrs 56+yrs

Gender: Male or Female

Marital Status: Single Married Separated Divorced

Parent with Children: Yes or No

No. of Children: One Two Three Four or more

How many children between the ages 2yrs - 10yrs: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please circle all that apply:

Resident Educator Parent

2. How did you find out about this community forum?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your highest level of education? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you know about blended learning?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2  
85

**Appendix VI b: Community Outreach Survey**

5. What are your major questions and concerns about the proposed Friendship Tech Public Charter School?

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6. Do you feel the Mount Vernon school district is meeting the needs of students? Yes or No  
Please explain

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7. How long have you been a resident of Mount Vernon (If Applicable)? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you presently have a child(ren) in the Mount Vernon School District? If so, please list the school(s) and their locations.

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9. What do you think are the major attributes (qualities) of a successful school?

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10. If you could aid in the development of the charter school curriculum for science and technology what would you include? Please be specific.

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30  
91

11. Do you believe that Mount Vernon will benefit from a science, technology, engineering and mathematics early childhood program? Yes or No  
Why? or Why not?

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12. What impact do you believe Friendship Tech would have in the Mount Vernon Community?  
(circle one)

None      Some      A positive impact

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What concerns do you have about the opening of Friendship Tech in Mount Vernon in September 2015?

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14. Would you send your child or grandchild to Friendship Tech PCS? (circle one)

Yes      No      Not Sure

*Thank you for your time and feedback!*

**Appendix III c: Media Coverage**

January 14, 2014 9  
Vieques, PR

**US processed foods may be even worse than those in other countries**



Many of the food additives that are perfectly legal to use in US foods are banned in other countries. [MORE](#)

January 13, 2014  
White Plains, NY

**Volunteers needed for annual tax credit effort; training provided**



Once again, Westchester County will be launching its annual free volunteer income tax preparation program

January 14, 2014 10  
Mt. Vernon, NY

**WCC announces new President/Board of Trustees members**



Westchester Community College has named an interim President, and simultaneously, the terms of some of members of our Board of Trustees have expired, so they also named four new members of the Board of Trustees. [MORE](#)

January 13, 2014  
Mt. Vernon, NY

**A second public hearing on proposed Mt. Vernon Charter School**



Concerned citizens of Mount Vernon will submit an



[CLICK HERE to view the January 2014 issue of the Mt. Vernon Inquirer](#)

**A second hearing on proposed Friendship Tech Public Charter School**

Concerned citizens of Mount Vernon will submit an application to the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees to open a new Kindergarten through 4th Grade Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, New York. The proposed name of the school is Friendship Tech Public Charter School. The intended location for the proposed school is 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. The targeted population is Mount Vernon children between the ages of 5 and 8. The proposed grades are Kindergarten through fourth grade with an estimated enrollment of 300 students. The first class would be enrolled in the fall of academic year 2015-16.

The mission of the Friendship Tech Public Charter School is to provide early awareness and experiential learning in the core academic subjects with a particular emphasis in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education among Mount Vernon children. The school will provide children in Kindergarten through grade 4 with a holistic education designed to develop fundamental and higher level thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey and transformational social and emotional learning. By providing this educational model we will stem the emerging and widening achievement gap between Mount Vernon children and the more affluent social-economic communities during the key formative years in a child's development. With the strong academic head start and deeper learning experiences reflected in the Common Core academic standards our graduates will be prepared for a range of rigorous learning environments.

Public participation and comments are welcome and can be offered at a community forum to be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6:30PM in the Friendship Worship Center, 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552 or by email at [friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:friendshiptech2015@gmail.com). Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914 668-1210 to have an opportunity to comment. All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to comment.

The concerned citizens of Mount Vernon submitting this application comprise community activists, educators, parents, and relevant others. The collective experience of this coalition encompasses more than 70 years of community outreach and program development for the advancement of disenfranchised populations.

For more information, please email [friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:friendshiptech2015@gmail.com) or call 914-668-1210.

**Appendix III: Media Coverage**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rt. Rev. Dr. C. Nathan Edwers

Telephone: 914-668-1210

E-Mail: cnedwers@gmail.com

**A PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE CHARTER SCHOOL  
IN MT. VERNON, NEW YORK**

(Mount Vernon, New York, December 13, 2013) Concerned citizens of Mount Vernon will submit an application to the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees to open a new Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, New York. The proposed name of the school is Friendship Tech Public Charter School. The intended location for the proposed school is 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. The targeted population is Mount Vernon children between the ages of 5 and 8. The proposed grades are Kindergarten through third grade with an estimated enrollment of 240 students. The first class would be enrolled in the fall of academic year 2015-16.

The mission of the Friendship Tech Public Charter School is to decrease educational inequalities in science, technology, English language arts and mathematics education among Mount Vernon children. The school will provide Kindergarten through 3rd grade education designed to develop the fundamental critical thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey. The focus of the program is to increase awareness and provide exposure to science and technology during the developmental years. We seek to fulfill the Common Core State Standards for literacy and college and career readiness in multiple disciplines to ensure our student's academic success and adaptability.

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**(PUBLISHED ON THE MOUNT VERNON INQUIRER WEBSITE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF DECEMBER 2014 WITH A COMMENT COLLECTOR)**

# WHO WE ARE

Opening Fall 2017

The Proposed Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence is a Public Charter School authorized by the New York State Education Department Board of Regents Article 56 of the New York Charter Law Act 1998. The Board of Trustees is responsible for maintaining the laws, rules, policies and guidelines as required by New York State Education of Board of Regents. They ensure that the academic/programmatic plan of FTCSE is fully adhered to.



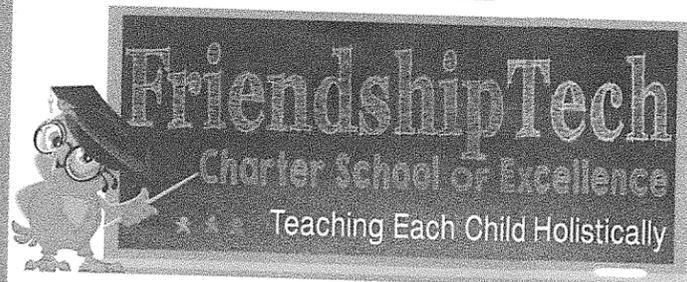
Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Register for  
Pre-enrollment Online  
Now!

# PROPOSED



*Today's Learner's  
Tomorrow's Leaders  
Kindergarten to 4th  
Grade*

*Alunos de hoje -  
os líderes de amanhã  
Jardim de infância  
a 4 º série*

*Estudiantes  
de hoy  
los líderes  
del mañana  
Kinder a 4 grado*

## Information Brochure

Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552  
Phone: (914) 668-1210  
Fax: (914) 0574  
Email: [admin@friendshipSTEM.com](mailto:admin@friendshipSTEM.com)  
Website: [www.friendshipSTEM.com](http://www.friendshipSTEM.com)

Search

(mailto:jo:

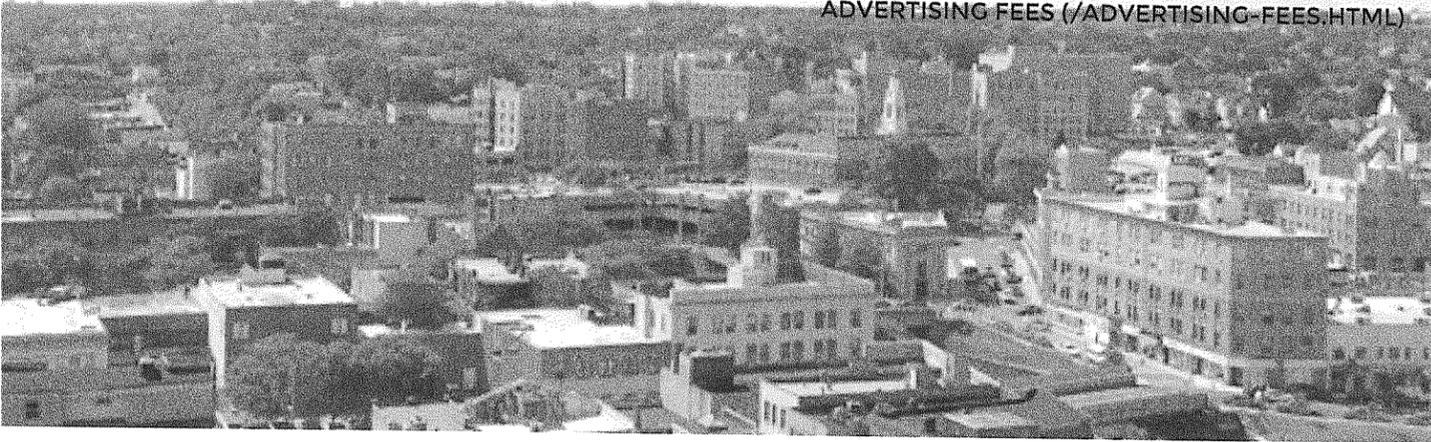
[HOME \(/\)](#)

[PUBLISHER'S BIO \(/PUBLISHERS-BIO.HTML\)](#)

[CONTACT \(/CONTACT.HTML\)](#)

[MV INQUIRER \(/\)](#)

[ADVERTISING FEES \(/ADVERTISING-FEES.HTML\)](#)



## Proposed Friendship Tech Charter School makes website available

The Proposed Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE), a Public Charter School to be located at 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, at the site of Friendship Worship Center, is seeking the approval of the New York State Education Department before they can commence full operation in the fall of 2017.

For some time now, the foundering group of FTCSE has been working diligently to provide educational choices to the residents of Mount Vernon. The application and approval process is very stringent and time consuming, and they hope to get an approval shortly.

"We are striving to create a safe, nurturing and supporting environment that encourages a high rate of attendance and achievement. We are currently seeking to enlist parents and community stakeholders to partner with us in creating a school that will fulfill the school's mission," said Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, Proposed Chair.

A very informative, colorful and state-of-the-art website is currently available for those interested in supporting the ongoing effort to get state approval for FTCSE so the school can open in the fall of 2017.

The website is also an excellent source of information for parents interested in enrolling their children at the school, which will infuse STEM content and rigorous Common Core ELA and math instruction with interdisciplinary inquiry, project, and problem-based scenarios.

The website can be accessed at: [www.friendshipstem.com](http://www.friendshipstem.com) or call 914.668.1210 for additional information.

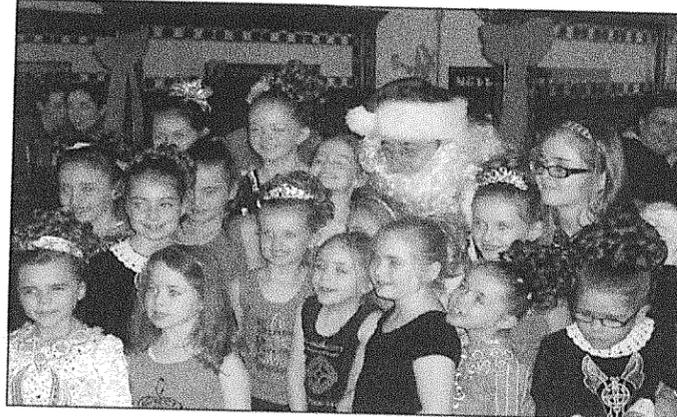
Published JANUARY 12, 2016

Appendix I: Media Coverage

**MV4U and Maggie Spillane's host Toy Drive for community kids**



*Santa greeting children upon his arrival*



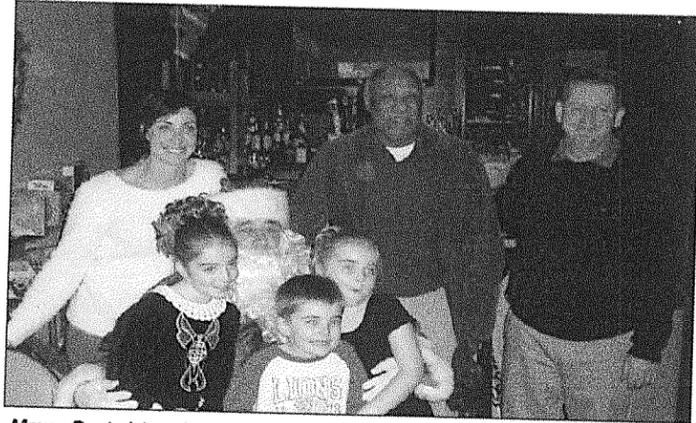
*Santa posing for a picture with some of the children*

**O**n Saturday, December 14th, a highly successful Toy Drive was hosted by MV4U and Maggie Spillane's at the popular restaurant, located on Gramatan Avenue in the Westwood section of Mount Vernon.

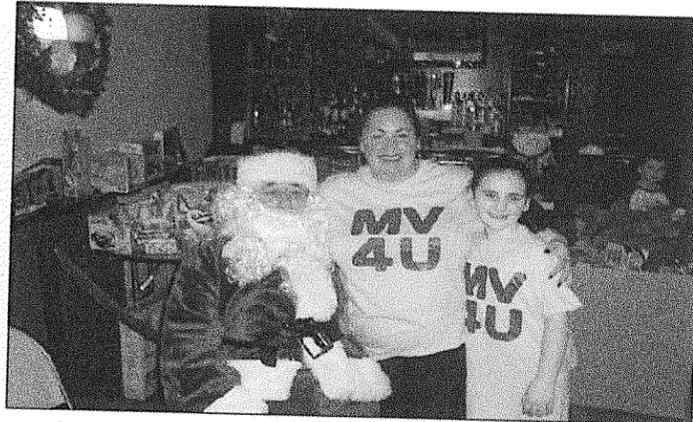
Those in attendance brought gifts and enjoyed plenty of delicious food while waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. They also enjoyed entertainment provided by members of Deirdre O' Mara School of Irish Dance.

The kids that flocked to Maggie Spillane's with their parents anxiously awaited Santa Claus' arrival, and when he arrived in a siren-blaring fire truck, they all started jumping up and down and clapped feverishly. Soon, a long line of kids was formed

and each child was able to speak to Santa Claus prior to receiving a gift. Many of the kids also had the opportunity to say hello to Mayor Ernest D. Davis who attended the spirit-lifting holiday event.



*Mayor Davis (c) and the owner of Maggie Spillane's, Tony Spillane, posed for a picture with Santa and others*



*Cathlin G. Boncardo (c), who helped organized the event, poses for a picture with Santa and her daughter*

**A proposal for a new Mt. Vernon Public Charter School is being submitted to 'SUNY'**

**C**oncerned citizens of Mount Vernon will submit an application to the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees to open a new Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, New York.

The proposed name of the school is Friendship Tech Public Charter School. The intended location for the proposed school is 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. The targeted population is Mount Vernon children between the ages of 5 and 8. The proposed grades are Kindergarten through third

grade with an estimated enrollment of 240 students. The first class would be enrolled in the fall of academic year 2015-16.

The mission of the Friendship Tech Public Charter School is to decrease educational inequalities in science, technology, English language arts and mathematics education among Mount Vernon children. The school will provide Kindergarten through 3rd grade education designed to develop the fundamental critical thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey. The focus of the program is to increase aware-

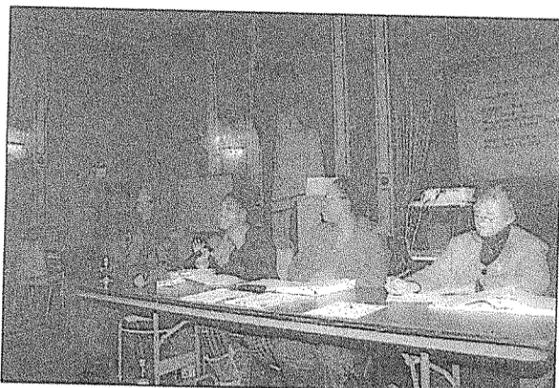
ness and provide exposure to science and technology during the developmental years. They seek to fulfill the Common Core State Standards for literacy and college and career readiness in multiple disciplines to ensure student's academic success and adaptability.

Public participation and comments are welcome and were offered at a community forum held on Monday, December 30, 2013 at the Friendship Worship Center in Mount Vernon. Highlights of the academic program description were presented at the forum.

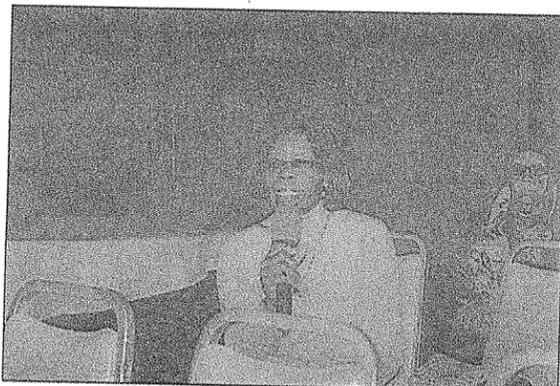
The concerned citizens of Mount Vernon submitting this application comprise community activists, educators, parents, and relevant others. The collective experience of this coalition encompasses more than 70 years of community outreach and program development for the advancement of disenfranchised populations.

For more information, please email [friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:friendshiptech2015@gmail.com) or call 914-668-1210.

## Second Community Forum on proposed Mount Vernon charter school well attended



Sherri Edwers, one of the founders, addressing the many that attended the Community Forum



Community activist, Bert Littlejohn, speaking in favor of the proposed charter school

Another Mount Vernon charter school is being proposed by a group led by Bishop C. Nathan Edwers, pastor of Friendship Worship Center, located on Lincoln Avenue.

On Monday, January 27th, the founding members held a second Community Forum on the proposed charter school, known as Friendship Tech Public Charter School, and many attended.

When a community hears that a charter school has been proposed, it can incite furious opposition or adamant support. Until now, like the Amani Charter School in Mount Vernon once did, Friendship Tech Public Charter School has received positive support from the neighboring community where it will be located – which is on the grounds of Friendship Worship Center.

The proposed charter school is being created by an impressive group of three educators led by a former school principal.

The Friendship Tech Public Charter School is proposing grades kindergarten through fourth grade, with a projected enrollment in the fall of 2015. First year enrollment will accommodate 30 kindergarten students, and 30 first grade students – with a total first year enrollment of 60 students. Fifth year enrollment will be 270 students – kindergarten through fourth grade.

All students will be accepted through a public lottery, similar to what they are doing at the Amani Charter School.

The proposed school's model will include: technology enhanced learning; small group instruction; inquiry based curriculum; and social and digital consciousness.

According to the four founding members, the school will have some ambitious goals. They plan to fulfill the common core standards for college and career

readiness in multiple disciplines which will measure academic success through common core aligned curriculum assessments and New York State assessments. In addition, school staff will serve as partners in the educational character building of the students through the Parents Association, and the development of a school leadership team.

During the Q and A session, numerous parents raised their hands to speak and asked some tough questions.

"It is important to properly prepare our kids while they are still young, and a charter school like the one you are proposing for our community will do just that, I am sure," said one parent.

"I am wholeheartedly supporting your proposed charter school since we can use a second charter school in Mount Vernon," said community activist, Bert Littlejohn.

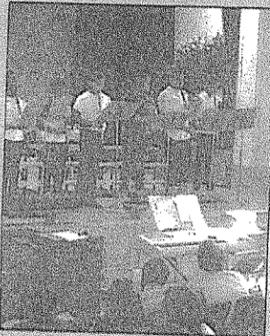
While addressing those in attendance, Bishop Edwers stated, "You can help us

move ahead with our proposed charter school by volunteering and asking others to volunteer. You can also send letters to our elected officials asking that they support our proposed charter school. We are anticipating opposition from the school district and we are prepared to confront the challenge."

Currently, the group is working very hard to prepare a Letter of Intent that must be in the hands of the State Education Department by February 3rd. The actual application must be in their possession by March 14th.

Contact information:  
Friendship Tech Public Charter School  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY  
Dr. C. Nathan Edwers, founding group leader  
Send email to [friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:friendshiptech2015@gmail.com), or call 914-868-1210.

## Edward Williams Elementary School celebrates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Throughout the morning of Thursday, January 23rd, the students of Edward Williams Elementary School hosted formal assemblies to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. These special presentations featured excerpts of Dr. King's immortal speeches and other civil rights literature, as well as original student poetry.

The Edward Williams Chorus (directed by Antonella Dell'Carpin), String Ensemble (directed by Mary Lando), and Clarinet and Flute Choir (directed by Ronnie Lesh) performed songs of peace and

brotherhood.

The staff and students of Edward Williams were especially excited about sixth grader Jordan Thompson's original speech. His oration was in honor of the life of Nelson Mandela and the tremendous impact he has had across the globe.

The students of Edward Williams have conveyed a great deal of enthusiasm while studying the lives of these influential men and have been eager to artistically express their appreciation for how they changed the landscape of equal rights history.



From: bishopcndwewers <bishopcndwewers@aol.com>  
To: Felicia <Felicia.Leary@gmail.com>  
Subject: Re: Radio Show  
Date: Sat, May 10, 2014 4:23 pm

Ok just read that's good

Sent from my iPad

On May 10, 2014, at 9:48 AM, Felicia <felicia.leary@gmail.com> wrote:

Awesome! You've got the air time to talk about the charter school.

Yes, I can be available on May 15 for the radio show.

I will be there about hour before. Thanks.

From my Android phone on T-Mobile. The first nationwide 4G network.

----- Original message -----

From: bishopcndwewers@aol.com  
Date: 05/09/2014 5:15 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: felicia.leary@gmail.com  
Subject: Fwd: Radio Show

Please if possible can you make yourself available fort the show. We will talk about the proposed charter school live on air thanks. let me know thanks

bishopcndwewers@aol.com Let this day or night be the best and Trust God, He can empower you to make it happen.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jermin, Crystal <CJermin@ci.mount-vernon.ny.us>  
To: bishopcndwewers <bishopcndwewers@aol.com>  
Sent: Fri, May 9, 2014 10:04 am  
Subject: Radio Show

Good Morning Bishop Edwers,

Please allow this email to serve as confirmation that this coming Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am you are schedule to appear on Mayor Davis' radio show. The radio station is WVOX located at 1 Broadcast Forum New Rochelle, NY 10801. The number to the station is 914-636-0110. If you have any further questions or concerns, you can contact the office at 914-665-2360.. The show is aired from 9:00am to 10:00am.

From: Dorothea Muccigrosso <aceit4243@gmail.com>

To: Collie Edwers <bishopcnedwers@aol.com>; Cheryl Corn <cherylcorn@gmail.com>; Dorothea Muccigrosso <aceit4243@gmail.com>

Subject: Minutes: Friendship Tech Charter School Information Meeting

Date: Thu, Jan 2, 2014 3:14 pm

Friendship Worship Center, Monday, December 30, 2013, Mount Vernon, NY

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm by Rev. Doctor C. Nathan Edwers

Present: Bishop Edwers, Friendship Tech Charter School Committee, Community Leaders, Parishioners of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Amani Public Charter School Founders and Administrators, Parents and Grandparents of students in the Mount Vernon School District

Introduction of Committee Members, Rev. Doctor C. Collie Edwers, Dorothea Muccigrosso, Cheryl Corn, Sherri Edwers

Opening Remarks: Rev. Edwers acknowledged the presence of Dr. Iris T. Pagan, Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Charles & Debra Stern, Executive Directors of the Amani Public Charter School.

Comments from those in attendance:

Queenie Moore expressed her interest in the children of Mount Vernon. She believes that Mount Vernon needs excellent charter schools.

Nora Tyndall expressed her concerns about things that are happening in the Mount Vernon Schools at present. She was concerned that the children were "disobedient" and that it was necessary to have police in the schools to keep order. She hoped that Friendship Charter School would teach children how to act and give them the ability to compete.

Anne Patterson (grandmother and great grandmother) remarked that she has observed that the Charter School seems to have "no problems."

Charles Stern from Amani Charter School remarked that he came to learn more about Friendship Tech Charter School and to offer support for this endeavor.

Sherri Edwers explained the value of quality early childhood education and the rigorous, developmentally appropriate kindergarten through grade three curriculum that Friendship Tech Charter School would offer.

Cheryl Corn discussed the need for science education for all students and the need to address the "broken home" syndrome through a parent education program at Friendship Tech Charter School.

Closing remarks: Bishop Edwers addressed those present and stated that charter schools give parents a choice. We want to save 300+ children and be sure that they will be productive members of society. We will focus on the "left overs" that come from families unable to give their children the basics for academic and emotional success.

Minutes submitted by Dorothea Muccigrosso, MS, PD, January 2, 2014

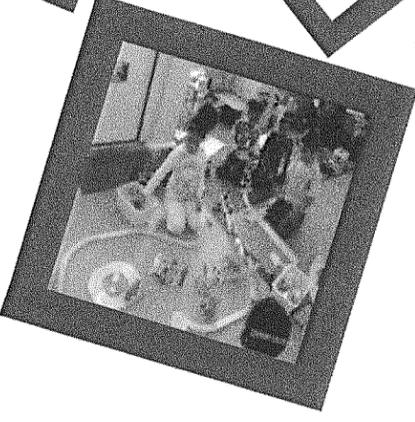
*"A mind is a wonderful thing to fill!"*

**PROPOSED  
FRIENDSHIP TECH  
CHARTER  
SCHOOL  
OF EXCELLENCE**

A Warm  
School where  
all students  
will excel

Grades  
K - 4th

Making  
Change  
Happen



**Friendship Tech CSE  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
Phone: 914.668.1210 Fax: 914.668.0574**

**Appendix III a: Media Coverage**

**A PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 4<sup>th</sup>  
GRADE CHARTER SCHOOL IN  
MT. VERNON, NEW YORK**

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING**

**FRIENDSHIP TECH PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**

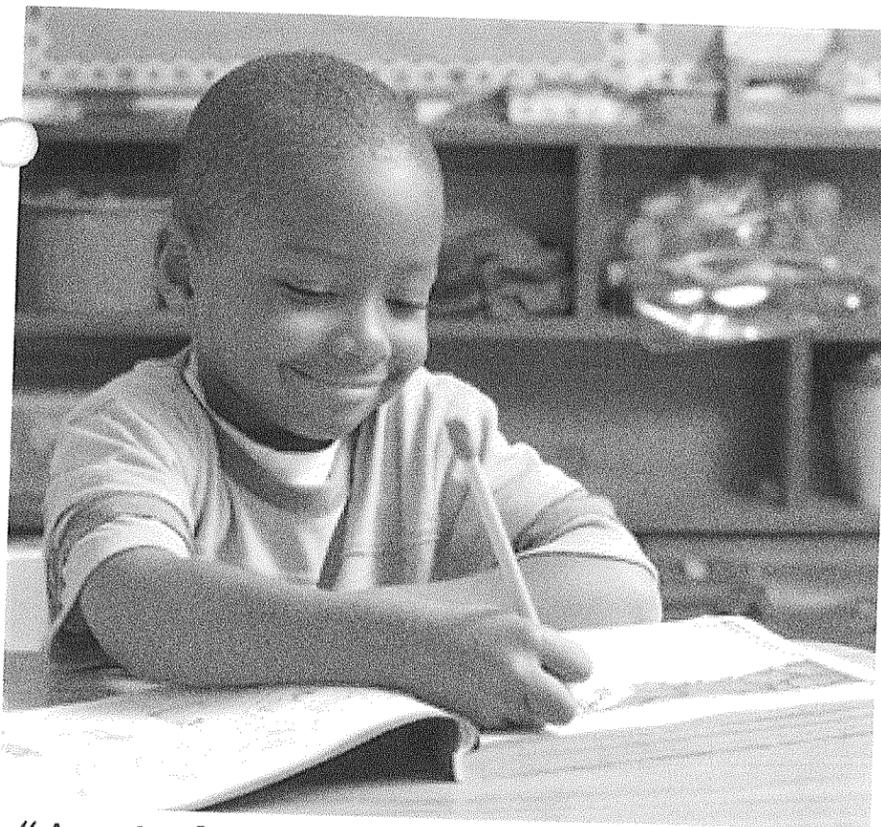
Concerned citizens of Mount Vernon will submit an application to the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees to open a new Kindergarten through 4th Grade Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, New York. The proposed name of the school is Friendship Tech Public Charter School. The intended location for the proposed school is 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. The targeted population is Mount Vernon children between the ages of 5 and 8. The proposed grades are Kindergarten through fourth grade with an estimated enrollment of 300 students. The first class would be enrolled in the fall of academic year 2015-16.

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“A mind is a wonderful thing to fill!”

## 4TH COMMUNITY FORUM

**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014**

**261 E. LINCOLN AVENUE**

**MOUNT VERNON, NY**

**6:30 P.M.**

Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914.668.1210 to have an opportunity to comment.

All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to speak.

*We encourage everyone to attend this important event.*

### COMMUNITY FORUM

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Proposed  
**Friendship Tech  
Public Charter  
School**

---

**Grades K – 4th**

---

- Warm welcoming school where all students will excel
  - Challenging hands-on curriculum
- 

“Making change happen”

---

#### **FRIENDSHIP TECH PCS**

261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552  
Phone: 914.668.1210  
Fax: 914.668.0574

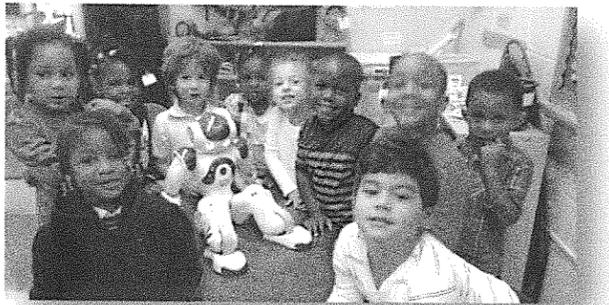
Mission: English

The Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will empower students to become aspiring leaders by creating life-long learners, critical thinkers, and problem-solvers through a rigorous interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academic program.

Objectives:

1. Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will afford the residents of Mount Vernon a choice in their children's educational journey by creating an alternative to the public elementary education options currently in place to meet the needs of its under-educated students by providing a challenging hands-on curriculum.
2. Our rigorous interdisciplinary STEM academic program, which will exceed the NYS Common Core learning standards, will create college and career ready students who are critical thinkers and problem-solvers.
3. The curriculum will be supported by high quality individualized instruction and multiple forms of assessment, thereby allowing our students to surpass their Mount Vernon public school counterparts in academic achievement, technology literacy, the Arts, conscious discipline, and community involvement.

Our graduates will be proficient in ELA, mathematics and science, while we work to make Mount Vernon children better and stronger.



Misión: Espanol

La amistad tecnología carta escuela de excelencia (FTCSE) será capacitar a los estudiantes a convertirse en líderes aspirantes a estudiantes de toda la vida, pensadores críticos y solucionadores de problemas a través de un riguroso programa académico interdisciplinario STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas).

Objetivos:

1. amistad tecnología carta escuela de excelencia (FTCSE) brindará a los residentes de Mount Vernon una opción de viaje educativo de sus hijos mediante la creación de una alternativa a las opciones de educación primaria pública para satisfacer las necesidades de sus estudiantes educación proporcionando un desafiante programa prácticas.
2. nuestra rigurosa madre académica programa interdisciplinario, que superará el núcleo común de NYS, estándares de aprendizaje, creará los estudiantes listos y carrera que son pensadores críticos y solucionadores de problemas.
3. el plan de estudios recibirán instrucción de alta calidad individualizada y múltiples formas de evaluación, lo que permite a nuestros alumnos a superar a sus contrapartes de la escuela pública de Mount Vernon en logros académicos, alfabetización tecnología, arte, disciplina consciente y participación de la comunidad.

Nuestros graduados serán competentes para ELA, matemáticas y Ciencias, mientras trabajamos para hacer que los niños Mount Vernon mejor y más fuerte.

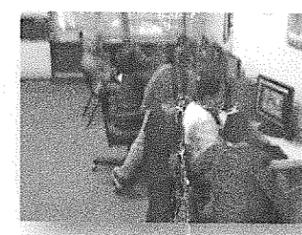


Missão: Portugues

A amizade Tech carta escola de excelência (FTCSE) irá capacitar os alunos a tornarem-se líderes aspirantes ao criar aprendizes ao longo da vida, pensadores críticos e solucionadores através de um rigoroso programa acadêmico interdisciplinar tronco (ciência, tecnologia, engenharia e matemática).

- Objetivos:
1. amizade Tech carta escola de excelência (FTCSE) irá permitir uma escolha na jornada educacional de seus filhos, criando uma alternativa para as opções de ensino elementar público actualmente em vigor para atender às necessidades de seus alunos sob-educado, fornecendo um currículo desafiante hands-on-os moradores de Mount Vernon.
  2. nosso rigoroso programa interdisciplinar de tronco acadêmico, que excederá o núcleo comum de NYS, padrões de aprendizagem, irá criar a faculdade e carreira pronto os alunos que são pensadores críticos e solucionadores.
  3. o currículo será apoiado por instrução de alta qualidade individualizada e múltiplas formas de avaliação, permitindo assim que nossos alunos a superar suas contrapartes de escola pública de Mount Vernon no desempenho acadêmico, alfabetização de tecnologia, as artes, disciplina consciente e envolvimento da Comunidade.

Nossos graduados vão ser proficientes em ELA, matemática e ciência, enquanto trabalhamos para tornar crianças de Mount Vernon, melhor e mais forte.



# Astorino and Thomas attend grand opening of STEM Computer Lab at FWC



*Superintendent Hamilton, Mayor Thomas and County Executive Astorino cutting the ceremonial ribbon*



*(l to r) Mayor Thomas, Astorino and Superintendent Hamilton demonstrating the role the tablets will play*

Nathan Edwers, Bishop Edwers, Pas-  
 ship Worship Center for  
 the Friendship for  
 the Center, recently  
 Vernon pioneer by  
 school STEM Com-  
 Mount Vernon.  
 After there is a cli-  
 certainty, and Amer-  
 ing to innovation as  
 prosperous future. Yet  
 ghtly coupled with  
 Engineering and  
 ects. "Art and des-  
 form our economy  
 st as science and  
 last century," em-  
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 ure that all of our  
 are participating in  
 ucational trend —  
 ence, technology,  
 , and math — a  
 ning that prepares  
 world and the 21st

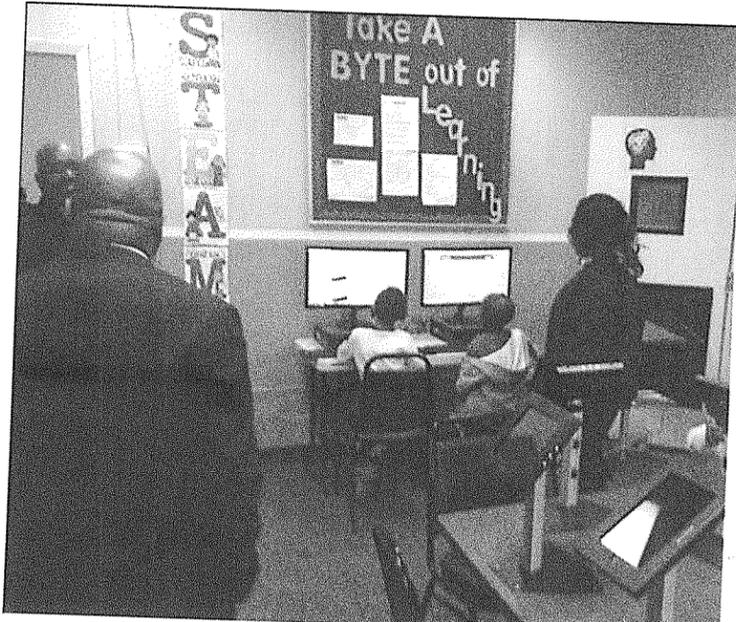
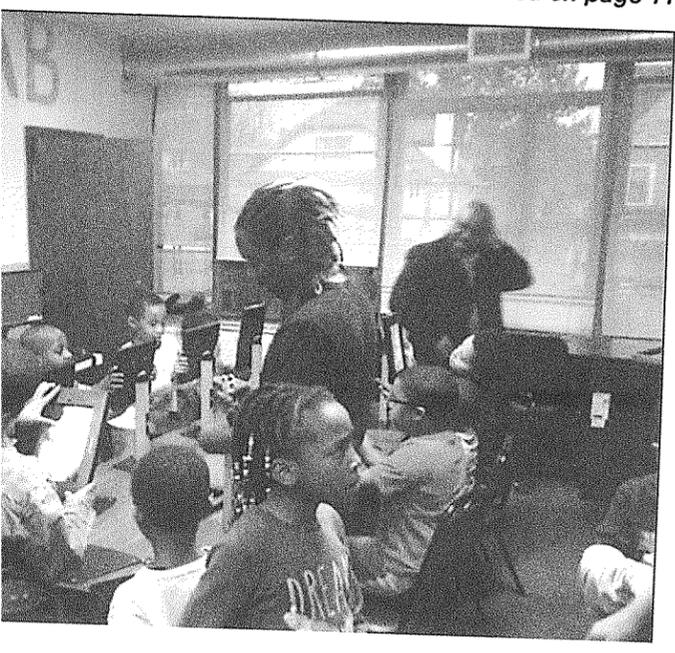
Thanks to a grant provided by the coun-  
 ty and private donations, Bishop Edwers  
 was able to purchase the required equip-  
 ment for the new STEM Computer Lab,  
 which is located within the Friendship  
 Worship Center on Lincoln Avenue. The  
 after school program will function in col-  
 laboration with the Mount Vernon School  
 District. Each student in the program will  
 be assigned his own tablet, enabling him  
 not only to learn, but to relax and have  
 fun in a less demanding and safe environ-  
 ment. In addition, students will be able to  
 access their iReady account.

On Tuesday, February 2, Bishop Ed-  
 wers held a grand opening for the new  
 STEM Computer Lab and the turnout was  
 impressive. One of Edwers' biggest sup-  
 porters, County Executive Robert Astor-  
 rino, was in attendance, along with Mayor  
 Richard Thomas, who has also supported  
 the creation of the STEM Computer Lab.  
 Also in attendance was school Superin-  
 tendent Dr. Kenneth Hamilton.

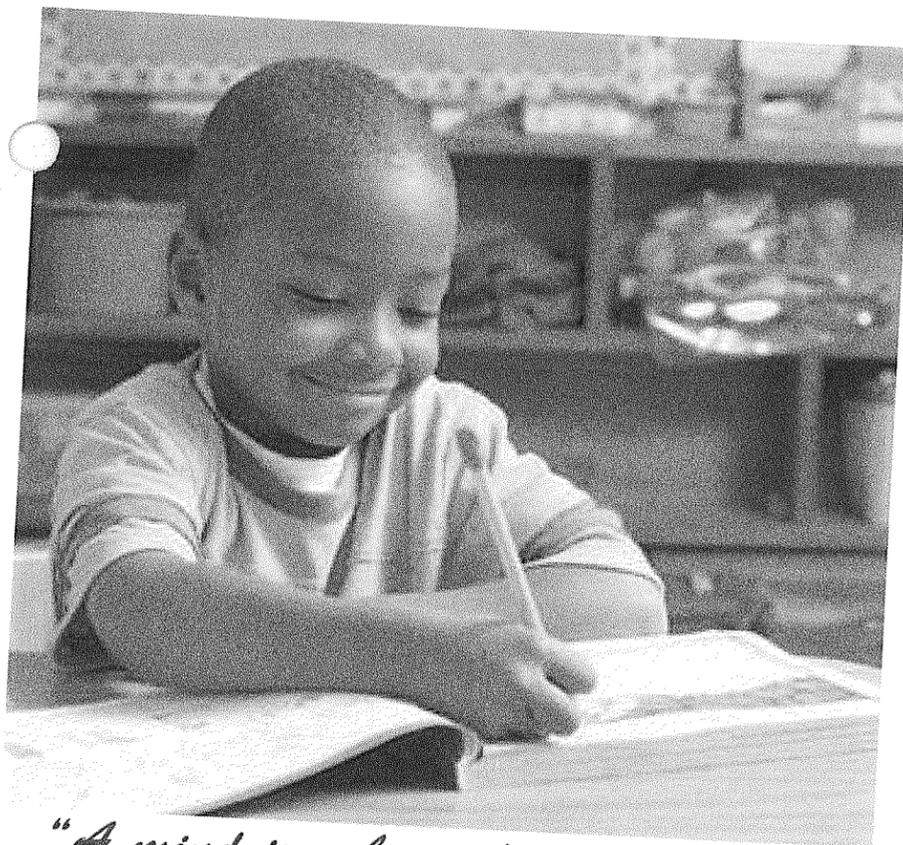
Astorino, like all in attendance was  
 pleased and stated: "I appreciate the in-



*Mayor Thomas waving at the children*



*Continued on page 11*



*"A mind is a beautiful thing to fill!"*

## **2<sup>ND</sup> COMMUNITY FORUM**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014**

**261 E. LINCOLN AVENUE**

**MOUNT VERNON, NY**

**6:30 P.M.**

Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914.668.1210 to have an opportunity to comment.

All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to speak.

*We encourage everyone to attend this important event.*

### **COMMUNITY FORUM**

### **Proposed Friendship Tech Public Charter School**

### **Grades K – 4th**

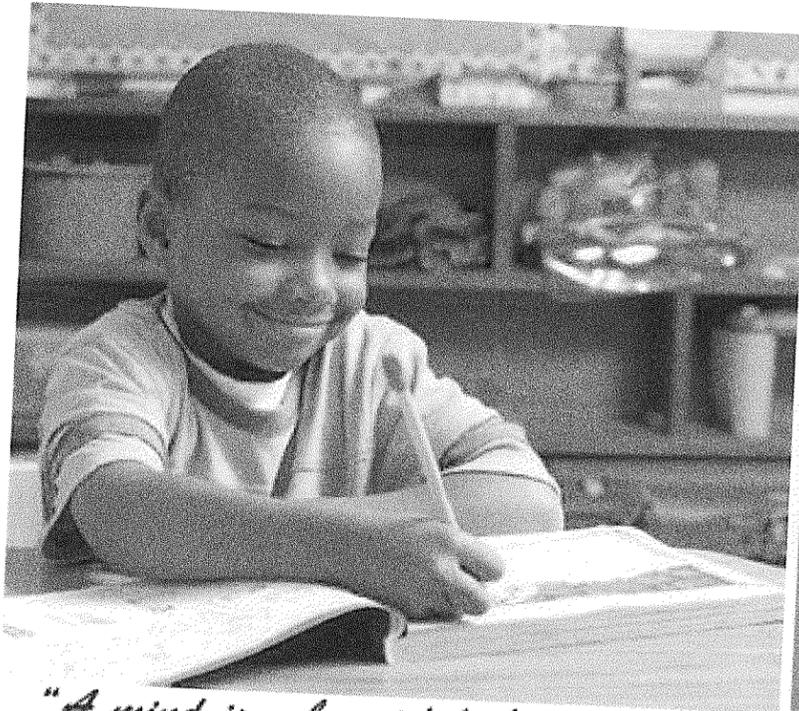
- Warm welcoming school where all students will excel
- Challenging hands-on curriculum

**"Making change happen"**

#### **FRIENDSHIP TECH PCS**

261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552  
Phone: 914.668.1210  
Fax: 914.668.0574

Appendix IV: Flyer Regarding Community Forum



*"A mind is a beautiful thing to fill!"*

**COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2013**  
**261 E. LINCOLN AVENUE**  
**MOUNT VERNON, NY**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914.668.1210 to have an opportunity to comment. All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to speak.

*We encourage everyone to attend this important event.*

**Community  
Forum**

**Proposed  
Friendship Tech  
Public Charter  
School**

**Grades K – 3rd**

- Warm welcoming school where all students will excel
- Challenging hands-on curriculum

**"Making change  
happen"**

**FRIENDSHIP TECH PCS**  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552  
Phone: 914.668.1210  
Fax: 914.668.0574

# Charter schools proposed in East Ramapo, Peekskill, Mount Vernon

 **Swanna Venugopal Ramaswamy**, svenugop@lohud.com 11:12 p.m. EDT August 17, 2014



(Photo: Tania Savayan/The Journal News)

Three groups in the Lower Hudson Valley will be seeking approval for charter schools — beginning in the 2015-16 school year — from the state Education Department this week.

Applicants in East Ramapo, Mount Vernon and Peekskill say their elementary schools will give parents an educational choice geared at improving student performance. All three districts are below the state average on English language arts and math proficiency standards.

There are only two charter schools in the region now: Amani Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, which covers grades five-eight, and the Charter School for Educational Excellence in Yonkers, a kindergarten through eighth-grade program.

Local school districts often oppose charter schools because they view them as a drain on resources. In 2011, when Amani was approved, the Mount Vernon district [sued the state Education Department](http://archive.lohud.com/article/20110929/NEWS02/109290387/Mount-Vernon-lawsuit-against-Amani-charter-school-goes-Albany-Friday) and sought to block the school from moving forward. It also refused to turn over state, federal and local aid money to Amani, and the state had to pay the charter directly. Amani was forced to borrow thousands of dollars to meet its payroll.

The two sides reached a settlement in 2013 after Amani filed its own lawsuit. At the end of July, Amani received its first settlement payment, totaling more than \$650,000, from the Mount Vernon school board.

In its application letter, the group pitching The Legacy Charter School of Innovative Thinkers in East Ramapo describes a need for an alternative in a [district with the lowest graduation rates and lowest scores](http://archive.lohud.com/article/20120909/NEWS03/309090059/District-crisis-East-Ramapo-s-public-private-school-families-fight-resources) on state assessments in Rockland County.

"We felt there is a need for another option for parents," said Sandra Oates, a member of the founding group. "We are going to use the Waldorf method," referring to an art-infused curriculum that fosters critical thinking, strong character, and promotes equity through hands-on learning experiences. There are more than 250 schools that follow the Waldorf curriculum and philosophy in North America, including the Green Meadow Waldorf School in Chestnut Ridge, a private school.

According to the state Education Department, 54 percent of the East Ramapo's public school students during the 2009-10 school years were African-American; about 30 percent were Hispanic.

"The majority of these children continue to live below the poverty line with 56 percent of them receiving free and 11 percent eligible for reduced lunch, a marker for low income families," the application says. "Many of our families are unable to explore costly private schooling options. It is imperative that the students of East Ramapo have access to high quality educational alternatives that will allow them to reach their potential and rise above their life circumstances."

If the state grants a charter, the Guardian Academy Charter School of Peekskill plans to open with two classes each of kindergarten and first grade, adding a grade each year until it reaches eighth grade.

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Audrey Warn, the lead applicant on the project, said a unique co-teaching design with two general education teachers, one special education-certified teacher and one English language learner-certified teacher will make up grade-level teams.

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2014/08/17/charter-schools-proposed-...>

# Charter schools proposed in East Ramapo, Peekskill, Mount Vernon

This is the second year the school has applied. Last year, after the Roman Catholic Church closed the 105-year-old K-8 Assumption school ([/article/20121127/NEWS02/311260086/](#)), which served 200 students, Warn, a parent there, put together the application.

"There is a dearth of choice here," she said.

In Mount Vernon, the proposed Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence would focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, said lead applicant the Rev. Collie Nathan Edwers.

Edwers, pastor of Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church and a community activist, said his goal was for the students to exceed the proficiency standards set by the state.

"Mount Vernon has a lot of challenges, and we are trying to provide an alternative," he said. "We are going to have longer, extended school days and a longer school year. We are proposing 190 days instead of (the state-required) 180 days. There will also be a strong parental coaching component."

The school would serve kindergarten through grade four.

Twitter: [@SwapnaVenugopal](#) (<https://twitter.com/SwapnaVenugopal>)

## Charter schools

A charter school is a tuition-free public school overseen by a state educational agency, and receives public funds on a per-pupil basis. In New York, there are two authorizers: the state Board of Regents and the State University of New York board of trustees. Parents, community leaders, school districts and municipalities can submit a charter school proposal to one of the authorizing entities and accept students by random, public lottery.

There are 255 charter schools in the state, according to Andrea Rogers, policy director at the Northeast Charter Schools Network.

"Charter schools exist to ensure all children have access to a great school, particularly in areas where the traditional system is struggling," she said. "The movement in New York continues to grow because families want better options and because charter schools have proven their quality."

Here's a link to the 17 applicants in the state: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/2014Round2LoI.html> (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/2014Round2LoI.html>)

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# Charter schools halted for Peekskill, Mount Vernon

Garv Stern, [gstern@lohud.com](mailto:gstern@lohud.com) 10:23 p.m. EST November 12, 2014

*Charter school proposals in Peekskill and Mount Vernon were withdrawn after organizers learned they were heading for denial by the state.*



Buy Photo

(Photo: Tania Savayan/The Journal News)

New charter schools proposed for Peekskill and Mount Vernon will not go forward next year.

Organizers have pulled their applications after they were told that state officials were not going to recommend approval of their projects.

State Education Commissioner John King will ask the state Board of Regents on Monday to approve four new charter schools — in Harlem, the Bronx, Staten Island and Rochester. State Education Department officials found shortcomings with 11 other [applications](#) ([/story/news/education/2014/08/17/charter-schools-proposed-east-ramapo-peekskill-mount-vernon/14213987/](#)), including the proposed Guardian Academy Charter School in Peekskill and the proposed Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence in Mount Vernon.

Organizers of the failed applications can resubmit their plans down the line. The next round of applications may be as soon as January, when a group in East Ramapo also plans to submit a proposal to the state.

In Peekskill, organizers wanted to open a charter school at the site of a former Catholic school. The application proposed a K-8 school that would have teams of teachers focus on literacy and character development.

But the proposal was met with strong opposition from the Peekskill school district, local teachers, parents and others who said the charter school promised no original programming and would sap much-needed funding from the school system.

When a student attends a charter school in New York, most of the funding comes from their home school district.

Audrey Warn, the lead applicant for the Peekskill charter, said her board would consider trying again.

A group with many of the same members also failed to get a charter last year.

"I sense that the state wants a charter school in Peekskill, but they want the right charter school and, at this time, it didn't look like we were there yet," she said. "But I sense it will happen. If not my group, then another group. I think it's a good discussion for the community to have."

Several organizers for the proposed Peekskill charter have ties to the Church of the Assumption there. Opponents of the school charged that the proposal aimed to drive tax dollars to the parish, which saw its parochial school closed last year. Warn said this was not the case, as the parish could find other tenants far more easily.

"The proposed charter school would have decimated the local district, resulted in huge property tax hikes, and would have provided no additional service to our students," said opponent Mike Morey, a parent and co-founder of Peekskill Community for Schools. "We urge the organizers to work with parents in this community to support our school district and our children."

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In Mount Vernon, the Rev. Collie Nathan Edwers is leading a group that hoped to open a charter school focused on science and technology for grades K-4.

Edwers was frustrated that state officials did not give him specific reasons for denying the application.

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2014/11/12/peekskill-mount-vernon-charter-schools-withd/>

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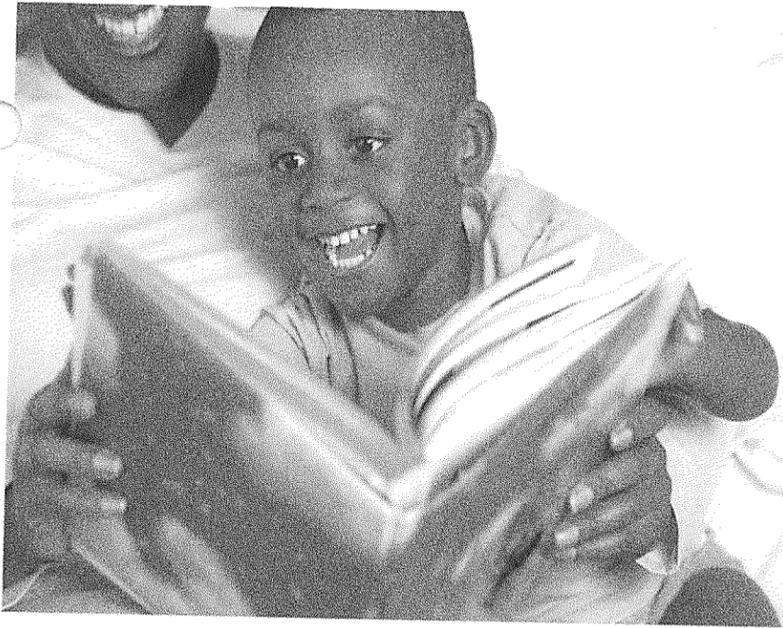
## Public forum held on proposed Friendship Tech Charter School

A proposed new charter school board is at work in resubmitting its application to the NYSED Charter Division in June. Currently, Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence is busy discussing the outcomes of their outreach efforts in the resubmission process. The proposed board met with citizens on Monday, May 11 and early childcare providers about their interest in supporting a k-4 grade STEM charter school.

The proposed Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will empower students to become aspiring leaders by creating life-long learners, critical thinkers, and problem-solvers through a rigorous interdisciplinary STEM academic program.

The FTCSE K-4 charter school in the Mount Vernon community will provide a learning alternative for students currently at risk of academic failure. The success will be measured by the performance of Mount Vernon's low-income and minority student population made up of English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities, whom are currently attending public schools performing well below NYS standards.

A combination of an inquiry-based interdisciplinary STEM curriculum with an emphasis on *developing the whole child* – the physical, emotional, social, and academic child's well being - will provide parents a viable alternative within the public education system.



*"A mind is a beautiful thing to fill!"*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> COMMUNITY FORUM

**MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014**  
**AGAPE CATERING HALL -**  
**FRIENDSHIP WORSHIP CENTER**  
**261 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE**  
**MOUNT VERNON, NY 10552**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914.668.1210 to have an opportunity to comment.

All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to speak.

***We encourage everyone to attend this important event.***

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Proposed  
**Friendship Tech  
Charter School  
of Excellence**

**Grades K – 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Warm welcoming school where all students will excel
- Challenging hands-on curriculum

**"Making change happen"**

**FRIENDSHIP TECH CSE**  
261 East Lincoln Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10552  
Phone: 914.668.1210  
Fax: 914.668.0574

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Charter school comments on Inquirer's website

Date: Mon, Dec 30, 2013 5:21 pm

This is very good for our tax payers who have kids in Mount Vernon school system. AMEN

Mack 2 days ago

This looks interesting.

[REDACTED] days ago

As a parent this is wonderful thing providing Educational Choice for the residence of Mount Vernon, New York. I welcome this opportunity

Myra 2 days ago

  
**Joseph A. Parisi**  
Publisher/Editor  
The Mt. Vernon Inquirer Newspaper  
[www.mvinquirer.com](http://www.mvinquirer.com)

(914)584-6386



## **Our Goals For Friendship Tech CSE**

***Our Mission*** for the Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) will provide early awareness and experiential learning in the core academic subjects building a strong foundation in ELA with a particular emphasis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for Mount Vernon children.

***Our Vision*** for FTCSE is to provide children in kindergarten through grade 4 with a holistic education designed to develop fundamental and higher level thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey. By providing this educational model during the key formative years in a child's development, we will stop the emerging and widening achievement gap between Mount Vernon children and the more affluent socio-economic communities. With a strong academic head start and deeper learning experiences reflected in the Common Core Learning Standards, our graduates will be proficient in ELA, mathematics and science.



261 E. Lincoln Ave Mount Vernon, New York 10552

914 646-3211

Phone

May 2014

Dear Fellow Community Residents and Professional,

The Founding Group of the Friendship Tech Charter School of Excellence (FTCSE) would like to extend an invitation to all the Mount Vernon district pre-school programs and community-wide children education providers and parents to attend a very important Community Forum-Focus Group on **Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30pm** regarding a proposal for a high quality charter school in Mount Vernon, NY. Our work thus far has included conducting community outreach, gaining support from the community, and building a strong founding group of local parents and professionals.

We feel confident in the work that we have completed and would greatly appreciate your attendance to hear highlights and updates of the academic program description that will be presented at this forum. We encourage everyone to attend this important event where you will also have an opportunity to provide feedback as well.

It is our hope that you will join us on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30pm at Agape Catering Hall – located in the Friendship Worship Center 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY. We will provide detailed conversation and light refreshments

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email [bishopcnedwers@aol.com](mailto:bishopcnedwers@aol.com) or call 914-668-1210.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. C. Nathan Edwers  
Friendship Tech Public Charter School of Excellence

Appendix V a: Letters to Community Stakeholders

## Proposal: Friendship Tech Public Charter School

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December 17, 2013

Ms. Judith Johnson  
Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Mount Vernon Education Center  
165 North Columbus Avenue  
Mount Vernon, NY 10553

Dear Ms. Johnson:

You are cordially invited to a community forum, Monday, December 30, 2013 at 6:30PM in the Friendship Worship Center, 261 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. Concerned citizens of Mount Vernon will discuss an application that will be submitted to the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees to open a new Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Public Charter School in Mount Vernon, New York. The proposed name of the school is Friendship Tech Public Charter School. The intended location for the proposed school is 261 East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, 10552. The targeted population is Mount Vernon children between the ages of 5 and 8. The proposed enrollment is 240 students. The first class would be enrolled in the fall of academic year 2015-16.

The mission of the Friendship Tech Public Charter School is to decrease educational inequalities in science, technology, English language arts and mathematics education among Mount Vernon children. The school will provide Kindergarten through 3rd grade education designed to develop the fundamental critical thinking skills necessary to launch a strong and successful academic journey. The focus of the program is to increase awareness and provide exposure to science and technology during the developmental years. We seek to fulfill the Common Core State Standards for literacy and college and career readiness in multiple disciplines to ensure our student's academic success and adaptability.

Highlights of the academic program description will be presented at this forum. Public participation and comments are welcome and can be offered at the forum or by email at [friendshiptech2015@gmail.com](mailto:friendshiptech2015@gmail.com). Speakers are encouraged to call and register at 914 668-1210 to have an opportunity to comment. All persons will be afforded 2 minutes to comment.

The concerned citizens of Mount Vernon submitting this application comprise community activists, educators, parents, and relevant others. The collective experience of this coalition encompasses more than 70 years of community outreach, education and program development for the advancement of disenfranchised populations.

Regards,

Rt. Rev. Dr. C. Nathan Edwers  
Team Leader