

# Jazz Is Spoken Here



solos, the musicians use their knowledge and skills, their background and interests, to share their individuality. This process promotes awareness of one another and

appropriate behavior.

The program encourages the recognition of behavioral assets which was listed on a poster and left in each classroom. In the following days, the teachers reference their learning environment as a "jazz" style of creativity, collaboration, and personal growth. Recognizing these are "big words" for young people, the students at A+ Children's Academy came up with their own words in their classrooms after the event. When asked what they got out of the program, Miss Nunnery's first grade class came up words such as "being respectful, being a team, listening, be yourself, being awesome!" Mrs. Phillips 4th and 5th graders used the words "respect, confidence, individuality, unity, integrity" just to name a few.

The Jazz Is Spoken Here program is a community outreach program of the Jazz Arts Group, a community partner of A+ Children's Academy, and was made possible by a grant from the Big Joe Duskin Foundation in Cincinnati. The band's

leader for this show is drummer Reggie Jackson and includes pianist Chris Brown, Trumpet player Wes Orr, Kris Keith on saxophone and Derek DiCenzo on upright bass. The players all enjoy interacting with the children as much as the children enjoyed listening and dancing.

The school administration was greatly encouraged by the outcome of the program for many reasons. The school's Artistic Director, Skip Sams said "The children were all very attentive during the program. Even when they were moving around, you can see it was movement inspired by the music." Principal Mrs. Hardgrow said it makes her smile to hear the students still using the key words in the program in the hallways and classrooms.

A+ Children's Academy Community School is proud to have enlisted the Jazz Arts Group (JAG) as a community partner to develop unique programs to enhance the education of all core subjects. Judy Shafer, Education Director at JAG, meets regularly with teachers to discuss what the students greatest academic needs are and to brainstorm on how to engage the students so that they can grasp the lesson better. Ms. Shafer not only has years of public school teaching experience, but she works closely with performing arts organizations throughout the Central Ohio area. By tapping into the child's critical thinking using the performing arts, the lessons are often understood and retained when the child is given the opportunity to work through his or her own creative process.

Other upcoming programs for the year include a field trip to see the Columbus Ballet Met's performance of the Nutcracker, and a special performance of Billy Goat's Gruff by Opera Columbus.

**For more information about A+ Children's Academy, visit [www.apluschildrensacademy.org](http://www.apluschildrensacademy.org) or call (614) 491-8502. The school is located at 100 Obetz Road.**

**Serving  
Grades K thru 5  
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A+ Children's Academy Community School

*Helping Children Reach The Stars*

A+ Children's Academy Community School is the most innovative public elementary school program in Central Ohio for children in grades K thru 5.

Small class sizes with a low teacher/ child ratio, beautiful facilities on a 5 acre campus and dedicated staff, are just a few reasons that you will be amazed by this community school!

**All of this tuition free!**

**A+ Children's Academy Community School**

100 Obetz Road • Columbus, Ohio 43207

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We are Honored  
to Work with the  
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