



THE
**CHARLES
HAMILTON
HOUSTON**
INSTITUTE™

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Please refer to our contact information or
fill out and mail in the card below

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please check all that apply.

_____ Yes, I would like to become involved with STARS.

_____ Yes, I want to support STARS. You may contact me.

_____ Yes, I am interested in learning more about the
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute™
Please contact me.



HISTORY OF STARS

In 1989, Annie Odom was a third grade teacher at Leopold Elementary School in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) of Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Odom became concerned by comments from fellow teachers that increasing numbers of Black students were entering kindergarten and first grade without mastery of basic skills like knowledge of alphabets, numbers, colors and shapes.

Ms. Odom and her colleague, Ms. Ellen Van De Walle started a new summer program called “Summer Teaching for At-Risk Students.” By 1989, President Reagan had launched his “A Nation At-Risk” educational initiative. Ms. Van De Walle was a member of Altrusa International of Madison – a women’s professional group. She sought support from Altrusa. Altrusa agreed by providing funds, volunteers, books and supplies. Altrusa has supported STARS every year since 1989 and serves as STARS’ most important supporter.

Over time, the parents of Latino students in the Leopold com-

munity heard of the STARS program and requested inclusion in the program with Spanish-speaking educators. STARS welcomed the addition.

The name of the program was changed to “Summer Teaching to Advance Reading Success” to reflect the change in time and to avoid labeling students as being “at risk.”

In 2004, MMSD significantly increased its support for STARS under the leadership of then MMSD Superintendent Art Rainwater. MMSD has maintained its support levels under subsequent superintendents.

STARS has helped more than 1,000 students over more than 25 years. In the fall, teachers can identify students who were enrolled in STARS from their peers who were not enrolled. Our pre/post data also validate our success. STARS is fortunate to have teachers, Bilingual Resource Specialists and Special Educational Assistance who have remained with us over the years.

SUMMER TEACHING TO ADVANCE READING SUCCESS

S . T . A . R . S

Preparing pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-ready students for success in school since 1989



Supported by

- *Madison Metropolitan School District*
- *Altrusa International of Madison*

*A project of the
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute™*

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Small class sizes
- Teachers, teacher aides and assistants
- Individual and group instruction
- Breakfast, a snack and lunch daily
- Field trips to
Madison Children's Museum
Downtown Central Library
- Library cards
- Weekly yoga lessons
- Pre-assessments and post-assessments
- Book loans and free books
- Enrichment activities
- Art
- Music
- Required parenting participation

OVERVIEW

STARS (Summer Teaching to Advance Reading Success) is designed to provide our community's youngest scholars with the head start needed to succeed. STARS addresses the learning needs of regular students who are most in need of attention. Typically, these are students of color, although all eligible students are welcomed. STARS is a part of the regular Summer School program of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD).

So, STARS runs each morning for six weeks of Summer School, working on improving reading, math and social skills. The goal is to improve student performance by raising confidence and encouraging excellence.

Our teachers and support educators are certified, experienced and caring. And because parents are students' first and most important teachers, STARS requires parental participation in Parenting Sessions.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parent participation is essential to the education of children. Parental participation is even more important for under-performing students. Since STARS classes equal only three full weeks of teaching (that is, six weeks of half days), teachers must team with parents to make the best use of this time.



Parents are involved in STARS in the following ways:

- provide permission to enroll students in STARS
- are invited to attend an evening STARS orientation meeting
- sign an agreement to participate in STARS
- must attend 4 Parenting Sessions (released time from work is requested by STARS staff)
- visit and try out teaching techniques with their children in class
- provide support at home

Our parents are provided with books and workbooks to empower them to continue to work with their child after STARS ends.