

When Octavia came to Citizens' Academy in 2007, she was a quiet girl who was well below grade level in reading and math. As with all of our students, Citizen's Academy teachers carefully assessed Octavia's needs, developed an individualized academic plan to meet those needs, and made sure that she received plenty of extra help. Over the next year, Octavia blossomed into a sincere and dedicated student. She made remarkable academic progress, as well. "Before I came to Citizens' Academy, I didn't understand math," said Octavia. "Now it's my favorite subject." In April, Octavia passed all three 4th grade Ohio Achievement Tests. Her classmates earned the highest 4th grade state test scores in Cleveland (out of 105 schools). They not only outperformed the state average on every test, they also overcame Ohio's 30 percentage point achievement gap between minority and non-minority students.



Octavia says that the biggest change from her old school is the personal attention she receives at Citizens' Academy. "The teachers care about us," said Octavia. "They take the time to listen and understand what we need, and reward us for making good choices."

Octavia plans to attend Horizon Science Academy, another high quality Cleveland charter school, next year for middle school and high school. Her goal is to attend the University of Akron and eventually become a surgeon.

Citizens' Academy

The mission of Citizens' Academy is to produce learners who exemplify academic excellence and responsible citizenship. We founded the school under a simple premise: urban students can excel. Over the past ten years, Citizens' Academy has grown into a nonprofit, K-5 charter school serving 400 Cleveland children - 99% of whom are African-American and 82% of whom are low income. A majority of our students live in some of the poorest, most segregated neighborhoods in the United States.

Citizens' Academy has built a national reputation as one of the best urban schools in Ohio. In 2008, Citizens' Academy students outperformed that statewide average on 5 tests by an average of 10 percentage points and earned a rating of "Effective." Citizens' Academy ranked 13th nationally for charter school academic growth by New Leaders for New Schools and was highlighted as one of the 13 best schools in the city by the Cleveland and Gund Foundations.