



Summer of 2021 Update

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”*

Dear DAA Friend and Supporter of DAA,

Most if not all of DAA’s supporters recognize the quote by Charles Dickens. The first line of this quote is most recognizable and used throughout history. The entire quote is apropos for 2020 and the first several months of 2021. These sentiments are due mostly in part to the impact that the Pandemic is having on the world and on Denver Achievement Academy’s programming.

First and foremost ongoing efforts are being made to ensure that DAA students are in regular communication with me and general coaching for these students is taking place each week. Our high school and middle school students are challenged with keeping up with their studies as a result of online learning options during the Pandemic. The statistics indicate that students already falling behind for various reasons including being categorized as “underserved” suffered more and lost their learning edge. Online learning failed to address the needs of these students and their families as challenges with Internet access got in the way of learning. It is reported that students are lonely, lack motivation to learn and experienced a strong sense of isolation. These experiences led some of our kids to fall behind in school.

DAA continues to support students by partnering with local nonprofits to support tutoring in reading. In addition, graduating high schoolers and college bound students are being mentored to support their higher education goals. Pursuing a college degree is difficult for many of our students in general. Many of them have taken a year off to help their families bring in much needed income to stay afloat.

DAA is working with a select group of volunteers to continue the mentoring process and to find resources that will help students get back on track. This process will continue throughout the summer and into the fall. It takes a village in the best of times. The goal is to grow the village and support for our students and to keep supporters apprised of efforts to continue the legacy of being there for underserved populations throughout the city. The Simon Peter O’Hanlon Scholarship Fund is needed now more than ever! Stay tuned for updates late summer or early fall of this year.

Expanding the “spring of hope” to encompass the entire year is what we are focused on for our kids. This brief note is intended to express gratitude and to keep you informed of efforts to keep the program going in 2021 and beyond. I hope this message finds you and your family in good health!

With sincere gratitude,

Cindy Van Cise O’Hanlon / Co-Founder of the Denver Achievement Academy