

LIMBAUGH'S REHAB DEAL • HOT SUMMER MOVIES

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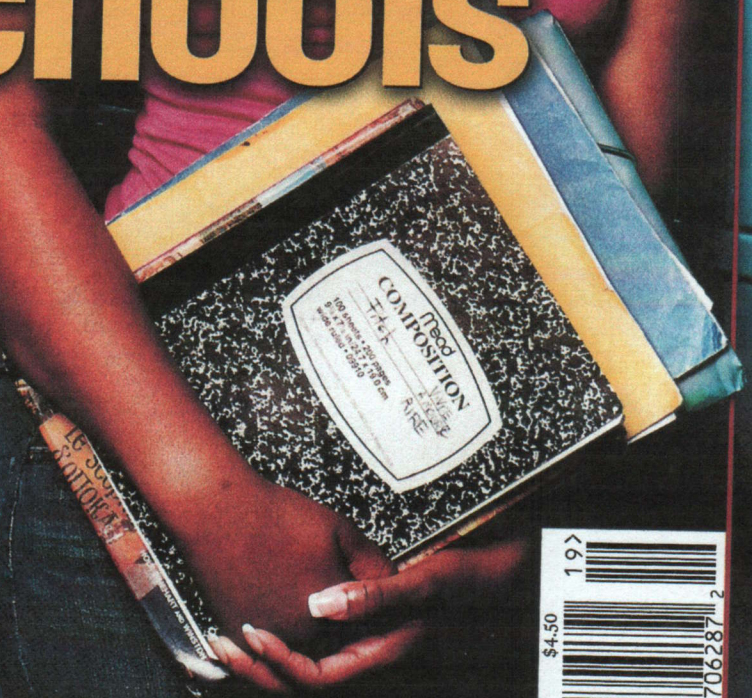
2006

America's Best High Schools

The Top 100

And the 'Public Elites'

Devan Earle and Chelsea Jones, students
at Talented and Gifted Magnet School in Dallas





DRAMATIC ARTS: Lisa Saunders helps daughter Grace, a sophomore at TAG, get ready to perform in a play

terms of poverty, unemployment, crime?"

Chávez now has 500 students, the majority from low-income families. They're budding activists like 17-year-old Eusevia Valdez, who had no idea what public policy was when she enrolled in the fledgling charter school as a freshman. Four years later, she not only understands public policy, she lives it. She wrote her senior thesis on flaws in immigration laws, something she understands from personal experience. Her parents are legal immigrants and she was born here, but the family has struggled to bring her older siblings to the United States from their native El Salvador. Her oldest sister was 21 before the paperwork was approved and, as a result, has been refused permission to immigrate. Her years at Chávez, she says, "taught me to fight for what I believe in."

Celebrate Liberal Arts

PRACTICAL CONCERNS—LIKE HELPING kids figure out a career path—were not on the minds of the founders of Tempe Preparatory Academy in Arizona a decade ago. Instead, they created a charter school whose goal is to turn out students engaged in "the lifelong pursuit of truth, goodness and beauty," according to the school handbook. For 330 students in grades 7 to 12 that means providing a strong foundation in the arts, science and the humanities. The curriculum is based on the Great Books concept—the basis of Western Civilization,

starting with the Greeks. "We don't want kids to specialize," says Daniel Scoggin, CEO of Great Hearts Preparatory Academies, the organization behind Tempe and two other similar schools in the Phoenix area. "We want them to get a broad, well-rounded education." All students take music, art, drama, math and science, languages (including Latin or Greek or a modern language), English and history.

Tempe's rigorous program impresses other educators. "It feels like a private prep school," says Stephanie Saroki, education analyst for the Philanthropy Roundtable, "but it's free and available to kids living in a lower-middle-class area." The school is so popular that there's a lottery for admissions. The education is a hard six years, but worth it, says senior Joseph Irvine, 17. "They don't just feed us information," he says. "They teach us how to learn." Irvine recently put that spirit to good use for the school. There are no computer courses, so he proposed an independent-study project on programming in his sophomore year. He spent that time creating a software program for the admissions lottery. The school used Irvine's program this year to select the incoming class at Tempe Prep and the other Great Hearts schools—a very practical benefit of a lofty goal.

Prepare for Work

MOST HIGH-PAYING JOBS REQUIRE some education beyond a high-school diploma, but kids from many families often struggle to get a college education. Early-college high schools can get them on track. By taking a combination

RANKING		RATIO	% FREE LUNCH†
28	Paxon School for Advanced Studies,** Jacksonville, Fla.	4.442	13.0
29	Coral Reef,** Miami	4.401	31.3
30	Lincoln Park,** Chicago	4.338	50.1
31	Great Neck South, Great Neck, N.Y.	4.321	8.9
32	South Side,** Rockville Centre, N.Y.	4.202	12.0
33	Dreyfoos School of the Arts, West Palm Beach, Fla.	4.186	7.0
34	Bethesda-Chevy Chase,** Bethesda, Md.	4.179	8.0
35	Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.	4.165	<1
36	Southside,** Greenville, S.C.	4.136	53.0
37	Newport, Bellevue, Wash.	4.067	7.3
38	Pensacola,** Fla.	4.053	60.0
39	Martin Luther King, Nashville	4.049	10.6
40	Metro Academic & Classical,** St. Louis	4.048	31.3
41	George Mason,** Falls Church, Va.	4.045	8.0
42	Rye, N.Y.	4.042	2.6
43	Hume-Fogg Academic, Nashville	4.031	9.0
44	Interlake,** Bellevue, Wash.	3.980	30.0
45	Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, Calif.	3.964	34.0
46	Troy,** Fullerton, Calif.	3.956	<1
47	Yorktown, Arlington, Va.	3.926	16.0
48	Cocoa Beach,** Fla.	3.924	10.0
49	Bellevue, Wash.	3.887	10.0
50	Mills University Studies, Little Rock	3.886	44.0
51	Wootton, Rockville, Md.	3.856	4.0
52	Washington-Lee,** Arlington, Va.	3.845	32.0
53	Raleigh Charter, N.C.	3.837	0.0
54	Signature School, Evansville, Ind.	3.833	9.4
55	Black River, Holland, Mich.	3.813	15.1
56	Edgemont, Scarsdale, N.Y.	3.772	0.0
57	International School, Bellevue, Wash.	3.741	4.5
58	Pittsford Mendon, Pittsford, N.Y.	3.736	1.5
59	Enloe,** Raleigh, N.C.	3.732	16.4
60	Design & Arch., Miami	3.728	42.0
61	Pittsford Sutherland, Pittsford, N.Y.	3.718	3.0
62	Greeley, Chappaqua, N.Y.	3.699	1.0
63	St. Petersburg,** Fla.	3.667	23.0

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