



Father Ryan Arts Center

of Focus On Renewal

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Press Release

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Propel MONTOUR Establishes Scholarship Program with the Father Ryan Arts Center *Charter School Uses Charles Gray Award to Fund Scholarships*

McKees Rocks, PA, July 7, 2009 — Propel MONTOUR, a charter school located in Kennedy Township, is committed to the arts and supporting local youth who are inspired by them. To provide expanded opportunity for arts education, Propel MONTOUR will begin offering its students arts scholarships for classes at the Father Ryan Arts Center of Focus On Renewal, a community-based facility dedicated to creative arts in McKees Rocks. .

A recipient of the Charles Gray Award for Special Achievement in Arts Education, Propel MONTOUR decided to use the \$3,000 award to establish this scholarship program with the Father Ryan Arts Center. The Charles Gray Award is made annually by the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera to an elementary, middle or secondary school in Allegheny County that has demonstrated a commitment to quality arts education for all students as a required part of the curriculum. The scholarship intends to connect students with community arts organizations and expand arts curriculum beyond the classroom. Propel Montour's high academic standards coupled with its unique artists in residence program, made it the first charter school in Western Pennsylvania history to be recognized with this award.

“The CreativeArts program is one of the defining features of our school and we are very proud of it,” said Justin Aglio, Co-Principal of Propel MONTOUR. “The Father Ryan Arts Center will become the new ‘home stage’ for Propel Montour students, providing additional opportunities for our children to grow and discover their artistic talents.”

A limited amount of scholarship assistance is available beginning fall 2009 to fund partial tuition for students, who are required to complete an application and submit a letter of recommendation. All Propel MONTOUR students are welcome to apply. However, students from lower-income families with limited resources for arts-related activities will be given priority. Propel MONTOUR is entering its third year and serves 400 students in grades K-8 with a waiting list of over 400 students. 56% of students qualify for the federal free/reduced lunch program and 40% of students are a minority.

“We are excited about this opportunity to partner with the Propel MONTOUR,” said Pat Moran, Director of the Father Ryan Arts Center. “Our goal is to be an arts education provider to schools that may be limited by space or resources to provide their students a versatile arts experience as part of their daily curriculum.”

For more information, to apply for a scholarship or to make a financial contribution to help support the scholarship program, please call 412.539.0100 or e-mail jaglio@propelschools.org.

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Propel MONTOUR students pose in front of mural created as part of schools award-winning Creative Arts program.