

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

Robert Russa Moton Charter School has received many awards and recognitions over the past ten years including being designated a high performing, high poverty school. In addition, the Orleans Parents Educational Network (OPEN) recognized Moton Charter School for their outstanding achievement. Moton has received other recognitions, Top Gains School and Top Ten Schools in Louisiana.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The “School Designed” instructional program implemented at Moton School focuses on providing its students with a comprehensive background in basic skills with an emphasis on the teaching of higher order thinking skills and concepts which lead to on-grade level placement. A “Grade Level Scope and Sequence” for each grade level grades Pre-Kindergarten through Seventh, that allow for sequential learning of standards and benchmarks, has been developed. With the use of specific grouping techniques, students receive more individualized instruction. In addition to the regular program, specialty teachers work as a major component with the classroom teachers and students to provide instructional enrichment and enhanced learning experiences.

Music classes are provided throughout the day in the Music Room as well as in individual classrooms in conjunction with our school’s focus on “performing arts.” These classes are also included in our after-school program. An instrumental music program is offered for those students who are desirous of learning to play an instrument and participate in the school band. After-school instruction is provided that focuses on activities in the areas of reading, mathematics, computer, dance, and arts and crafts.

## SUMMARY

Robert Russa Moton Charter School continues to provide an excellent, quality public education for our students to ensure a responsible and productive citizenry by providing an opportunity for longer time on task. Students are presented with new and challenging curricula to enrich their academic performance. A school-designed curriculum includes individualized and group instruction in the following academic subjects: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Our program offers services to students in pre-kindergarten through seventh grade, including special education students. The Moton Charter School’s goal is to improve our students’ overall performance.

We feel that we can better serve all children in Orleans Parish with our innovative programs if we get them in the early stages of their formal education. Early detection will allow us to identify problems and focus on deficiencies. Selected strategies are utilized inclusive of team teaching, paired grouping, action-lab multi-age grouping, specialty teachers and developmentally appropriate practices to alleviate weaknesses. Our success has been with elementary grades and we feel that the tools, instruments, and strategies that we have implemented will ensure success for our students.



### **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. Board**

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## **Robert Russa Moton Charter School: A Struggle to Success**



Robert Russa Moton Charter School is a “45-15” Year Round School for Performing Arts and Technology, that provides high-quality data-driven instruction that is held accountable to rigorous performance standards and led by innovative results driven educators. Students attend classes for 45 days (a regular nine-week quarter) followed by 15 days of intersession/vacation. During the intersession students have the opportunity to extend learning beyond that of traditional schools. The Intersession Program increases the amount of learning time, provides enrichment, as well as remediation. Moton Charter School is an open-enrollment charter with no academic entrance requirements. Students are selected in order of application. Students are placed on a waiting list if no slots are available at time of application. The chartering organization is Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. Robert Russa Moton Charter School opened as a charter school in August, 2006.

## A Struggle to Success

The Robert Russa Moton Charter School's charter was approved in April 2006. The first year of operation was the 2006-2007 school year.

Robert Russa Moton Charter School was the only school under the auspices of the Orleans Parish School Board that remained in leased property 10 years after Hurricane Katrina. Every other school had at least one functional campus.

Moton School was listed in the original School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish as a Phase I project in 2008. The Revised Amendments in 2011 did not list the Moton School but the OPSB Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Budget did include a Moton School reference. It did not list a school named North Kenilworth Elementary School. A formal request for the North Kenilworth building was made by the operators of Moton Charter School. The Moton School community had never been informed of any long term plans for their school's future.

Moton has moved to leased property four times since Hurricane Katrina devastated their state of the art building and once to an OPSB property (the old Bethune School site). The students have not had a library, internet capabilities in classrooms or a computer lab available to them for the past ten (10) years. The facility deficits have taken a toll on the school's academic performance and ability to expand enrollment.

The following chronology lists the locations of Moton School through the years:

2006 – 2007	St. Leo the Great ( One year lease) St. Leo had planned and did re-open in 2007)
2007 – 2008	St. James Major ( Shared building with Hynes Charter School but there was not enough space designated to Moton and as a result its Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students were in the St. James Major School's old convent across the street; Hynes was the primary tenant)
2008 – 2011	St. Paul the Apostle
2011 – 2012	St. Paul/St. James Major (Hynes' new facility opened) The re-location was January 30, 2012.
2012 – 2015	St. James Major Catholic School

2015 – 2016

Bethune Elementary School (old site)

These locations had their own pre-existing problems.

Our charter was approved in April 2006 but in July of 2006 the Orleans Parish School Board had failed to secure a building for the children of RRMCS. Finally, after many conversations, we were able to locate a building and our school opened on August 29, 2006. Unfortunately we were unable to implement our Year Round Program the first year because of the late start date.

Another difficulty encountered was the sharing of a building in 2007. This situation caused our Pre-K and K children to be housed across the street from the main building. As a result these children had to cross the street daily for breakfast, lunch, and other school activities. Through all of this, we never lost our focus.

Another location caused us to be downsized from fifteen physical classrooms to eight classrooms with the promise of three additional modular buildings. We were forced to double up our classrooms and the last of the modular buildings was not available until after the first quarter. At this location, we had only classrooms, no library, no computer lab, no resource rooms, etc.

In 2012, Moton Charter School returned to the St. James Major Catholic School site and the official start up date was January 30, 2012. During the 2015-2016 school year RRMCS was temporarily housed in the old Bethune Elementary School building. We were there until April 4, 2016. We moved to our permanent location and started striving towards success at our new building on April 4, 2016.

In summary by the year 2012 RRMCS had been in existence six years and had four different locations. Numerous requests had been made to secure a permanent home where over 98% of our student population qualified for free and reduced lunch. We wanted our students to have access to all the components of a quality education inclusive of a library, a computer lab, science labs, mathematics labs, resource rooms, internet capabilities, etc. As evidenced by the above, it is accurate that our children have truthfully had a ***Struggle to Success***.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### *Moton's 45-15 Plan*

Robert Russa Moton Elementary School is a 45-15 Year Round School. Students enrolled attend classes for forty-five days (a regular nine-week quarter) followed by fifteen days of vacation/intersession. This plan was implemented as a means of ensuring maximum learning for our children. The intersession is designed to reinforce instruction to alleviate deficiencies and provide enrichment activities.

Our primary goal is to provide a quality education for at-risk students. Our children are presented a new and challenging curriculum to enrich their academic performance. We believe that we can make a difference at Robert Russa Moton Elementary School and we are *"Teaching for Learning."*

### *Intersession*

Robert Russa Moton Elementary School is a 45-15 year round school. Students enrolled attend classes for forty-five days (a regular nine-week quarter) followed by fifteen days of vacation/intersession.

The Intersession Program, an add-on project during the regular school year, is funded by the Title I school site allocation for Moton School. Three weeks of instructional activities and instructional field trips follow the first, third, and fourth quarters. This program is designed to reduce the number of failures by reinforcing skills to alleviate deficiencies. Accelerated activities are provided in reading and mathematics. Instructional continuity is provided during the intersessions.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The student population comprises Pre-Kindergarten thru Seventh Grade and Special Education. Our population has remained stable with the exception of the 2015-2016 school were we experienced a loss of over fifty students. We attribute this lost in population due to a move to a location more than ten miles from our former year's sight. The children of Robert Russa Moton Charter School have had to re-locate six times over a ten year period. The number of at-risk of students is over ninety-five percent (95%) and four percent (4%) are special needs students.

Moton students receive free "after school" and intersession services throughout the year for remediation and enrichment. In addition, transportation is provided for all students.