

Vincent Gray Academy June 2014



Excerpts from address to Graduates by **Mrs. Lillian Grinston, Executive Director**

”There are going to be some that say you can’t make it, but hold on and rely on God; He is your strength. Now you can overcome your delusions, you have the ability to work through any problem; if you have the will power, then you can change anything, so **DON’T GIVE UP.**”

“Graduates don’t seek love and attention in the wrong place. We are all loved by someone. We have strength deep within us. We are braver than we all realize.”

”Ladies and gentlemen, I need you to do me a favor as you go on the road in life. I need you to break the bad habits; get over the depression, mood swings, and bad moods. You need to be real with yourself; life is not just about you; this is the real world. You need to get a healthy heart and be in healthy relationships. Learn how to communicate to others and get along with your family, friends, and other people in your community. It will open up doors of opportunity.”

2014 Graduates' plans:

Tomondre Bean- music production at Nelly's Ex'Treme Institute, Vatterott College

Tiyonna Gibbs—study criminal justice

Parry Gully --studying to be a counselor at Flo Valley; working at Walmart

Gernisha Howliet- working at Hershey Factory in Pontoon Beach, IL

Dontez Montgomery—study business

Keyosha Rogers neo-natal nursing

Iesha Taylor- nursing SWIC

Takesha Day—study for LPN at SWIC

Jataime Glover—Vee's School of Cosmetology

Gerald Howliet—study business

LaAmber'shae Jones—studying technology information online at Colorado Tech

Destiny Radcliff—neo-natal nursing

Jolisa Swims- college

Asia Wright—studying film production at Meramac CC

New board member Lakiea Sidney

Lakiea Sidney has earned her Bachelor's in Business and two Master degrees, one in Healthcare Management and the other in

Nonprofit Administration. She has a background in medical management, criminal justice, financial fraud, and health and human services advocacy. Through working in the healthcare industry for over 20 years, Lakiea has received several awards for her efforts in advocacy and community outreach. In her current position at SSM St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis, MO, Lakiea works with the residency program that helps train and educate physicians from various culturally diverse backgrounds. She is an active community service volunteer for various organizations, while she remains a strong advocate for people with disadvantages and underserved communities. She considers it an honor to work on the Vincent Gray Academy Board so she can continue to give back to the community.

STUDENT REMEMBRANCES OF WILLIE:

Willie Jackson

On May 21 we buried Willie Jackson, one of our school family. Willie was the victim of a shooting in his neighborhood. Only Willie was not the intended target. He was just there at an unfortunate time.

Willie used to stop and ask me questions about the bible and salvation. Only after his death did I learn that he had been talking to a minister about his own salvation. Six days before he died on Mother's Day he talked to a minister, Rev. Michael Owens, and committed to conversion and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

For the most part we are ordinary humans living an ordinary life and doing everyday things. We meet Jesus in the ordinary encounters with those whom He loves (that is, everyone). After all, it is said that God's way with man has been to take man's way. But ever so often it hits us as clear as a bell that God is active and involved with us, the creatures he most loves. For me this was one of those times.

Our sympathy goes out to his mother, father, sisters, brother, family and friends who miss his dearly.

Fr. Dan Kearns

*Prayers go to heaven when they close their eyes.
Close your eyes and I vision the good memories we had.
All I can think about, players go to heaven when they closed their eyes.
Going through this Nite N Day, there's no sunshine.
Skies are grey
But I smile, laugh, and get mad when I remember your face.*

*Man I can't believe this
Life is crazy
And I never thought it would happen to you.
You were cool
And kept a smile on all our faces.
Willie, you will always be remembered and loved by us.
It hurts that you're gone
But I know you're in a better place
Looking down on VG and your family and friends.*

Gone But Not Forgotten

*Here one day, gone the next
You made us laugh
You called us to think deeper,
Things like being saved.
For you we carry on.*

Vincent Gray Academy
Class of 2014



VINCENT GRAY ACADEMY

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