



The RCMA Wimauma Academy is housed in 11 portable classrooms serving 188 children from kindergarten to sixth grade. It has 15 teachers and a total staff of 35. We serve academically and socially at-risk children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Family income is below the poverty level, and the average parent education level is third grade. RCMA wishes to extend its positive impact on students at the Wimauma Academy by adding RCMA Leadership Academy, serving 132 students in grades six through eight. Located on leased property owned by neighboring Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry, RCMA proposes a 12,790-square-foot capital expansion to include the following new construction:

- 8 classrooms of 720 square feet (sf) each, for 5,760 sf total
- Resource/technology/clinic/teacher workroom 1,684 sf
- Multipurpose/cafeteria 3,020 sf
- Kitchen 1,377 sf
- Administrative area 949 sf

RCMA has retained Holmes Hepner and Associates Architects of Tampa to design an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly learning space featuring "green architecture." The firm is certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Rating System and has designed several schools in Pasco County that are registered for LEED certification.

RCMA launched the "silent phase" of the capital campaign and announced the project at a press conference in April 2008.

Our estimated cost, including site work and renovation of existing portable classrooms, is \$3.3 million. RCMA has raised nearly \$1.3 million, and is working to raise \$2 million more.



Wimauma Academy

PreK-6th grade school serving 200 students of whom:

99% qualify for free/reduced lunch prices

Over 40% migrate with their families

89% are English language learners

99% are Hispanic

Successes

*School has been **A** rated for six of eight years.*

Met 100% of the Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

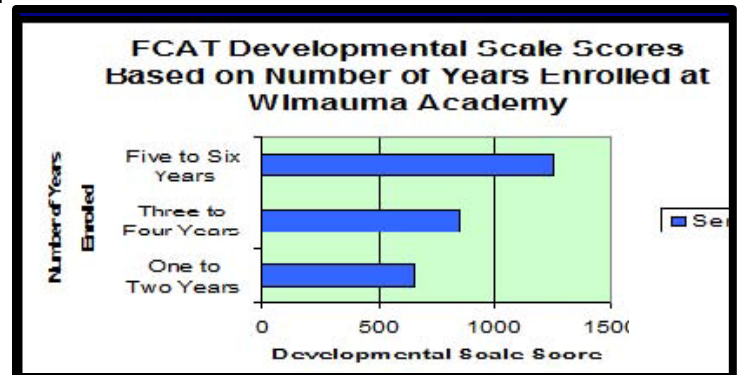
School attendance is 96%. Parent participation is 89%.



Parents of current students, staff of the Hillsborough County School District, and staff, management and Board of RCMA recognize the need for expansion. All students, regardless of their background, must be proficient in reading, writing and math by age 8. Wimauma Academy's record indicates a high level of success. The adjacent chart confirms that students' improvement on the developmental scale score on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

This clearly demonstrates that the longer students are under our roof, the better they perform. Six times, the Wimauma Academy has been rated an "A" school based on the students' performance on the FCAT. In May 2007, the *Orlando Sentinel* ranked Wimauma Academy as one of the top five charter schools in Florida.

Wimauma Academy students come from homes where resources, literacy and even living spaces are very limited. Nearly all the students speak English as a second or sometimes third language; 99% qualify for free/reduced lunch prices; and more than 40% migrate with their farmworker parents. Despite the challenges of migration and poverty, the students have responded phenomenally to the unique approach of the Academy's teachers and staff.



Among immediate improvements are school attendance and completion of homework. Wimauma Academy attendance is 96%, compared to approximately 82% at nearby public elementary schools.

Along with class sizes, one of the goals has been to overcome language barriers that can lead to students dropping out of school and repeating the cycle of poverty. Our strategic system to develop literacy and on-grade-level reading abilities has proven successful. For example, on the most recent FCAT assessment the learning gains were at 73% in Mathematics and 76% of students proficient in Writing. Additionally, the school has met 100% Adequate Yearly Progress based on the Federal No Child Left Behind standards in the past. Only 20% of all Florida public schools can share this distinction.

The school has become a source of pride for the community and a refuge of learning for children.



Outright gifts: The campaign seeks outright gifts of cash or appreciated stock for construction and related costs to build the RCMA Leadership Academy middle school. Gifts of stock may be made by contacting RCMA Director of Charter Schools Maria Jimenez or mariaj@rcma.org or RCMA Executive Director, Barbara Mainster, or barbara@rcma.org; both can be reached by phone at (800) 282-6540.

Giving from IRAs: The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows taxpayers and donors to direct charitable transfers from their Individual Retirement Accounts. If a donor/couple is 70.5 years old, he/she may be eligible to transfer up to \$100,000 each or \$200,000 per couple to charity from their IRA per year. To find out how to direct your funds to the RCMA Leadership Academy Capital Campaign, RCMA Director of Charter Schools Maria Jimenez or [@rcma.org](http://rcma.org) or RCMA Executive Director, Barbara Mainster at [@rcma.org](http://rcma.org) ; both can be reached by phone at (800) 282-6540.

In-Kind gifts: Certain in-kind gifts, such as equipment, building materials, engineering services or other items to support construction and offset related costs, are accepted at the discretion of the RCMA Leadership Academy Capital Campaign Committee.

Gifts of real estate: We may accept gifts of real estate, including houses, condominiums, commercial property and undeveloped land. Such gifts are accepted at the discretion of the Wimauma Academy Capital Campaign Committee.

Deferred gifts: These types of gifts involve the transfer of substantial assets that affect the distribution of the donor's estate. They may be executed through a will, trust, life insurance or retirement plan. Methods of such gifts are: bequest through one's will, trusts in a will, charitable remainder trust, annuity trust, unitrust or lead trust. Each instrument has tax consequences for the donor and benefits for the students of the RCMA Leadership Academy and should be drawn up by the donor's financial adviser, tax adviser or estate planning attorney.

Gifts of life insurance: Naming the RCMA Leadership Academy Capital Campaign as a beneficiary in a donor's life insurance policy has numerous benefits, including no interruption of cash-flow or assets during the donor's lifetime plus the comfort of leaving a legacy to migrant children.



Barbara Mainster, Executive Director of RCMA since 1988, is one of Florida's most-respected advocates for children of farm workers and rural, low-income families. Under Ms. Mainster's leadership, RCMA has expanded from three original centers in southern Miami-Dade County to 80 centers/programs and two charter schools, which in 2010-2011 served more than 8,000 children throughout Florida. Ms. Mainster received a Bachelor of Science degree in social sciences from Michigan State University in 1962 and studied anthropology in graduate school at Cornell University. A Peace Corps volunteer in Peru from 1964-66, Ms. Mainster joined RCMA in 1972. Ms. Mainster has served as vice chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Farmworker Affairs (1996-98); is a past president of the Florida Children's Forum; serves on Florida's Reading and Literacy Partnership Committee and is the founding president of Socially Accountable Farm Employers.

Maria Jimenez has been RCMA's Director of Charter Schools since 1999 and oversaw the opening of both of the organization's charter schools. Overseeing more than 410 students and 70 teachers and support staff, Ms. Jimenez has 16 years experience in education focusing on at-risk populations. Prior to joining RCMA, Ms. Jimenez worked in Miami for ASPIRA of Florida, which targets at-risk Latino youth. She has helped children and families living in poverty find their way through mentoring and education. Ms. Jimenez has been instrumental in developing many services for those who are in need. Among her accomplishments are, four public charter schools, two public housing communities, and founder of an organization that helps immigrant women become empowered. Ms. Jimenez has a B.A. in psychology from the University of the Americas in Mexico City; a B.S. in therapeutic recreation/management from Florida International University in Miami; and a master's in public administration from Hodges University.

Mark Haggett, Director of Wimauma Academy, has a degree in mathematics from the State University of New York at Potsdam. After approximately 10 years of success but little fulfillment in the telecommunications industry, Mr. Haggett decided to explore a career in education and was hired as a math teacher. Within the first year, the school's math scores improved from 37% to 62%, compared to district improvement from 42% to 46%. Under his leadership, Wimauma Academy has outscored the local school district, despite fewer resources. His commitment to quality and education is evident through his daily work with students and teachers.

Marcela Estevez, Wimauma Academy Counselor and Parent Liaison, devotes 100% of her time and effort working directly with students and their parents. She holds a degree in Education from La Normal University in Mexico and is a certified bilingual translator. Ms. Estevez spent 20 years serving the Mexican community through Mexican consulates in Atlanta, New York, Orlando and Tucson. Her experience as a teacher for several years in Mexico helps provide support for teachers and parents who are navigating two languages and two cultures.

Architect **Mike Facundo** is responsible for construction and maintenance of all 90 of RCMA's facilities throughout Florida. Mr. Facundo, who joined RCMA in 1993, has a degree in architecture from Florida Atlantic University and will be the main liaison with the construction company and engineers. A former farmworker, Mr. Facundo will ensure that future students have a high-quality learning center, which is conducive to their intellectual development, and spaces where children will be happy and eager to learn.



In 2002-2003, the Wimauma Academy's first eighth grade class graduated. In 2009, these first alumni reached more milestones.

Maria Hinojosa

Maria, who started with RCMA as a preschooler, passed eight college courses while a student at Tampa Bay Technical High School. Among 236 graduates, Maria was seventh in her class with a GPA of 4.88. She is a junior at the University of South Florida, working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Her goal is to become an ESE (Exceptional Student Education) Teacher.

Vanessa Flores

The first in her family to attend college, Vanessa came to RCMA as a 5 year old. A graduate of East Bay High, Vanessa attended Hillsborough Community College and currently works at Wimauma Elementary School as a teacher aide.

Osmara Rodriguez

A graduate of Tampa Bay Technical High School and is currently serving in the United States Navy.

Juan Valdez

Juan graduated from Tampa Bay Technical High School and received a diploma and certificate in auto body repair. With an Associate's degree in Auto Body from Hillsborough Community College, he hopes to own a body shop some day.

Ramiro Juarez

A graduate of East Bay High, Ramiro will earn an Associate's Degree in Engineering from Hillsborough Community College in the spring of 2010, and then plans to transfer to USF to continue his studies. He works for an RCMA Day Care in Wimauma, and has worked in the past at RCMA Wimauma Academy.

Jose Lerma

Jose is a certified audio installer who has converted his audio systems hobby into a profitable career with his studies at the Installer Institute in Daytona Beach. He is currently employed at RCMA Wimauma Academy as a paraprofessional, and will soon enroll at Hillsborough Community College with plans to major in Education.

Walter Pimentel

Walter graduated from East Bay High and received a full athletic soccer scholarship to attend Warner University in Lake Wales, Florida