

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SHULE MANDELA ACADEMY

The Shule Mandela Academy (SMA), located in East Palo Alto, is a non-profit 501 (c) (3), multicultural K-8, independent school. It was founded in 1981 by the parents of its original class of approximately 10 students as a response to the perceived low quality of education provided by the school district in the area. Space limitations have kept enrollment low. Forty students are currently enrolled and more than 60 are on a growing waiting list.

The SMA curriculum is African Centric in philosophy. It stresses academic excellence, emphasizes appreciation and respect for cultural diversity and teaches cross-cultural understanding. According to an article in the September 23, 1992 issue of Newsweek, the SMA is one of the most successful schools, public or private, currently using an African Centric Curriculum.

SMA students typically come from poor families in East Palo Alto and throughout the Bay Area. Despite the belief that such children, with their limited resources and access to educationally broadening experiences, will perform poorly academically, SMA students consistently test two or more years above grade level on standardized tests in all subjects.. When they move on to the local high school, SMA graduates generally are the only African American students in the school's advance placement classes. All of SMA's graduates to date have gone to college. One student, graduating Magna Cum Laude, won scholarships to four major universities across the nation.

One does not have to be a mathematician to recognize the good statistics that have resulted from SMA's educational efforts. We are certainly all aware of the daily negative statistics on American children and teenagers: dropoutism, illiteracy, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual promiscuity and teen parents, and AIDS.

Though SMA is not a panacea for all the ills that effect our children today, it certainly can help eradicate a few of these problems by providing some of the more vulnerable children with educational tools they can use to help and protect themselves. Students with such preparation will become strong viable assets to us instead of the drain on our society they might otherwise be.

We at Shule Mandela Academy are dedicated to making these tools available to as many students as possible and without compromising on the quality of the education we offer.

SHULE MANDELA ACADEMY



May 15, 1993

11 AM - 7 PM

French Quarters

Old Mill Shopping Center

2540 California, Mt. View

(415) 327-5848

\$5.00 Entrance Fee (\$2.50 for children 12 & under)

Proceeds to: Shule Mandela Academy

321 Bell Street, EPA

(415) 327-5848

Booth Info: Laverne Bryant (415) 329-8467

Advanced Ticket Sales: Saba Hailu (415) 322-1784

SHULE MANDELA ACADEMY
SCHOOL OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE
321 BELL STREET
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
(415) 327-5848

The Shule Mandela Academy is currently planning its Third Annual Family Cultural Arts Festival to celebrate 12 years of educating young minds.

I am writing on behalf of the executive director, Nobantu Ankoanda, to invite you to attend this festive event. The Cultural Festival will be held at the French Quarters, (Old Mill Shopping Mall), Mt. View, California on May 15, 1993, from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by mail for \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child. Please make out your check or money order to *Shule Mandela Academy* and mail by *May 10th*.

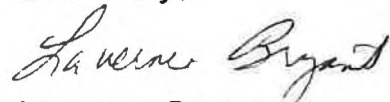
Number of tickets needed:

_____ adult _____ child _____ total amount
enclosed

I can't attend but here is my tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Funds raised by the Shule at this event will be used in support of the school and its education program.

Sincerely,



Laverne Bryant

Chairperson, Public Affairs

Day Phone (415) 329-8467

Pager # (415) 599-4211