



Greatest Graduating Class Ever*



**2014-15
Financial Report**



**"Ever" is indeed a strong word, so we'll let the Class of 6255 (2015) make their case. Read inside, and see if they do.*

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ILE OMODE SCHOOL

8924 Holly Street, Oakland, CA 94621

(510) 632-8230, <http://www.ileomode.org>

MEMBERSHIP

The school is a member of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI).

COVER PHOTO: Abubakar Omari

From the Director



We need you. As our school continues to experience unprecedented growth we need our donor base to match this growth.

The love for Ile Omode is infectious, but the people who value and see the importance of an African-centered education have not necessarily developed a habit of large scale giving. Some of this reluctance is cultural - when you're raised by a mother who can stretch a bag of beans and rice for a week of meals, \$100 can seem like a month's worth of food, and a \$1000 is a nearly reliable used car.

But we are in an area and an era of surprisingly consistent prosperity; from the rise of online funding drives to overnight celebrities we have wealth, but are often unfamiliar with how to use it to benefit our communities.

But more importantly it is about reexamining how we view money and how our spending, or more importantly investing, matches our values and our expectations for a collective future.

Don't give politely - give aggressively. Don't give \$50 if you can do \$500; and if not all at once then consider making an annual commitment with monthly contributions. We might hand a homeless person a dollar or two in change, because the money is incidental, but how much would you give if the goal was to move the person off the street; to make a real difference?

In the same vein I'm asking for you to make a sizable donation, one which moves the meter at Ile Omode, and makes a difference in our capacity to serve our children. I don't want your loose change, I'm asking for your investment. I want you to view Ile Omode as an extension of your own personal legacy.

The prognosis for Africans in this country has rarely been good, and our challenges in education are no different. The population of African-Americans enrolled in the UC system is barely 3%, and significantly lower if the pool of athletes is discounted; and even less amongst African-American males at both predominantly white universities as well as HBCUs.

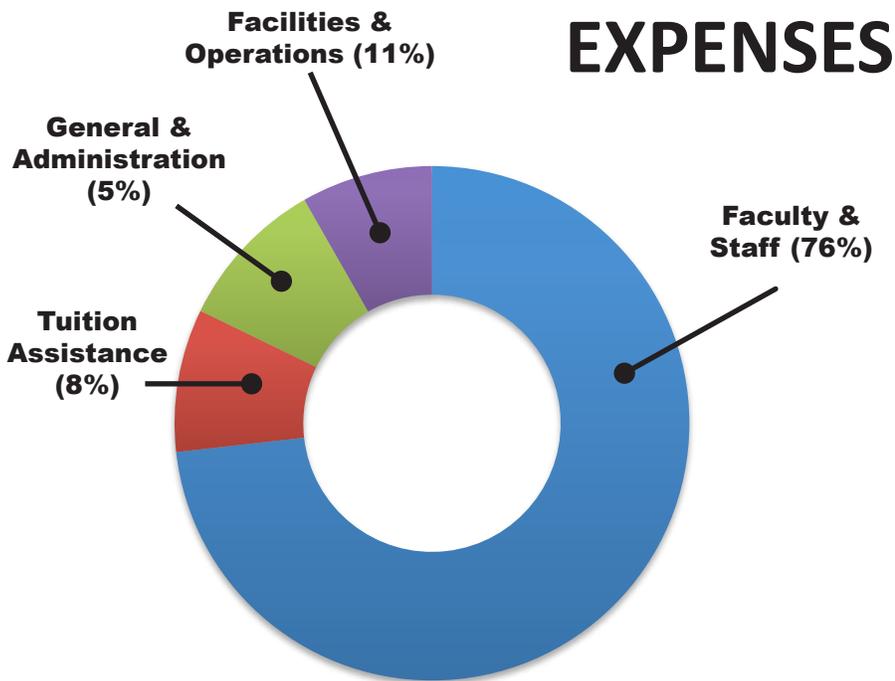
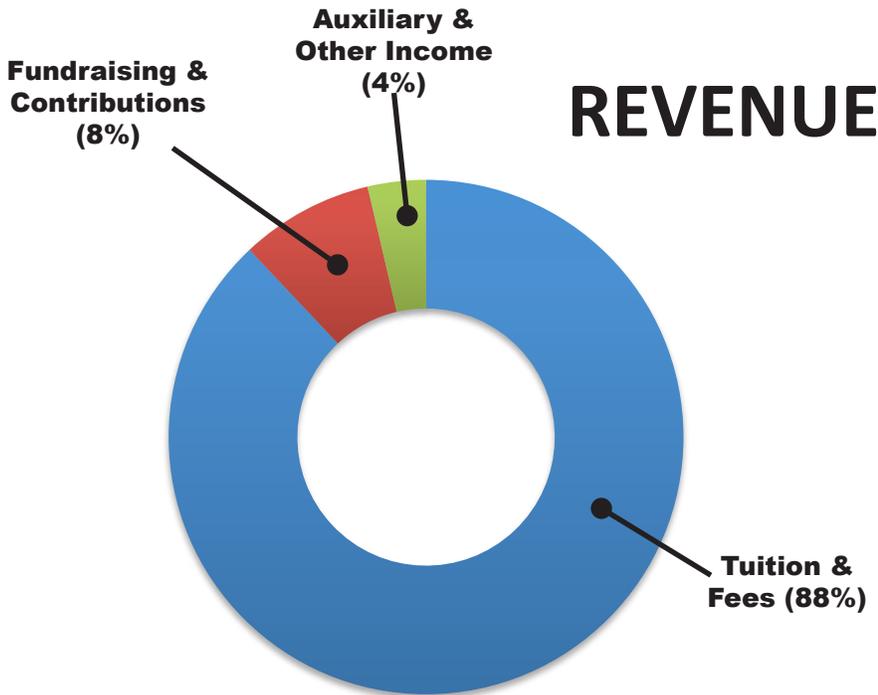
Ile Omode provides you with one of the most direct means of effecting a difference, and seeding our next generations with scholars who are prepared to carry and continue a cultural legacy grounded in outstanding academic preparation.

Jahi Awakoaiye, Director

2014-2015

Operating Income and Expenses

Fiscal year runs from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015



About Ile Omode

Educating Our Children Since 1986

Ile Omode has served students from Oakland and surrounding cities for nearly 30 years. Initially begun as a home-based day care serving preschool children, the independent private school continues to grow.

From its 3-story building in East Oakland, the school serves students from preschool to 8th grade; providing a preschool, elementary, and middle school.

Ile Omode students meet a rigorous African-centered curriculum lauded for its strength across an array of disciplines, including language, science, technology, and mathematics. Students have:

- Engaged in extensive community-driven research projects
- Developed science projects
- Coded computer applications
- Enrolled concurrently in an advanced Algebra course at a local college.

Our tuition remains one of the lowest in the areas, while our services, including providing laptops/tablets, musical instruments, daily breakfast and lunch, included after-school services, is untouchable. We strive to remain affordable for families and support parents' effort to provide the best for their children.

2014-15 Revenue		2014-15 Expenses	
Tuition & Fees	\$625,691	Faculty & Staff	\$545,004
Fundraising & Contributions	\$59,531	Tuition Assistance	\$60,086
Auxiliary & Other Income	\$26,000	General & Admin	\$33,577
		Facilities & Operations	\$81,390

2014-2015 Donors*

Asante ("thank you") for every contribution

**From September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014; does not include cash contributions or local fundraisers when no donor information was provided.*

Commuity Builder

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Up to \$24**

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Peterson, Cherice
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Madison Robinson

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Almusawwir, Fayola
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Mildred Rose
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Jones, Franklin and Karla
Levine, Jamila
Madiou Diouf
Whaley, Cahlea
Ajanaku, Devina and Mensah
Devasta De'Toles-Dugan
Al-Musawwir, Labeeba
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Whitley, Devina
Alicia K Dixon
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Ile Omode Parents

**Black Star Line
\$5,000 & up**

Anonymous Foundation
Anonymous Scholarship Donor



Friends of Ile Omode

Become a Friend of Ile Omode, and help contribute to our mission to empower our youth, so that they may answer the call of their birth, and lift up an entire nation.

With your support we'll continue to:

- Provide **scholarships** to deserving students
- Send students on **college tours**
- Provide **technology** to every student from 2nd through 8th
- Fund a **performance arts** program to ensure every student participates
- Begin every child's day with a healthy **breakfast**, and refuel them with a nutritious **lunch**
- Develop **enriching afterschool programs**
- Purchase **science equipment and materials** to offer hands-on science
- Offer current textbooks, and continue providing a deeply intrinsic **African-inspired curriculum**

To inquire about donations contact the school, visit our website (www.ileomode.org), or complete the included donation envelope and become an annual supporter of this mission.

Merritt College's African-American Studies Partners with Ile Omode

Several years ago Dr. Siri Brown, department chair at Merritt College in Oakland, had the grand idea to create a much deeper community outreach.

Community service is an integral component of the African American Studies mission, and Merritt students are encouraged to volunteer with their BSU or Ile Omode.

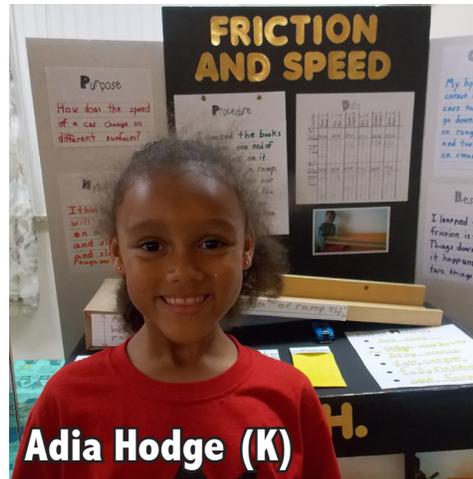
Ile Omode is an especially dynamic partnership with African American Studies since the department is the oldest Black studies department in the country, and Ile Omode is the oldest independent private Afri-centered school in the Bay Area.

Each semester upwards of 50 Merritt students volunteer at Ile Omode. Most students serve as afterschool volunteers, but volunteers also work in the kitchen, perform building maintenance, and assist with fundraising efforts.

Sango Akinsoga, a Wo'se member and Merritt student, volunteered for a semester and found he "simply enjoyed working with the students", and now he plans to stay with his 3rd grade class until they graduate from Ile Omode.

Along with providing an absolutely invaluable service, volunteers also have an opportunity to gain experience, particularly those with desire to study teaching.

Fair Showcases Young Scientists



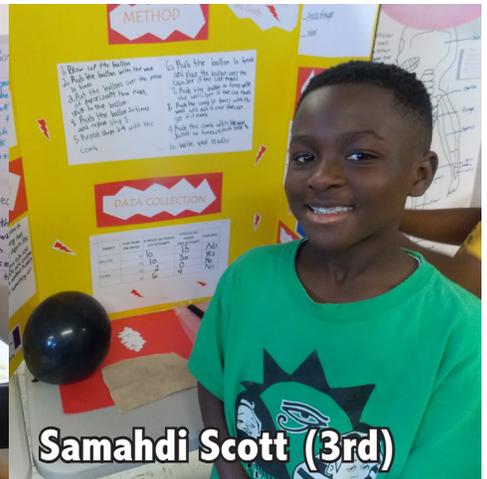
Adia Hodge (K)

Friction, electricity, solar cars, rockets, and a fair share of volcanic eruptions highlighted Ile Omode's spring science fair.

Baba Ajamu Stewart (officially, Dr. Stewart) in his first year instructing the 4th and 5th grade class, brought his immense love for science, and galvanized the entire elementary behind a science fair.

Students from kindergarten to 5th grade, spent weeks developing their projects, and the resulting fair was colorful, active, fun and very loud.

Third graders, Cameron Jones and Kamani Cotton connected lemons serially to power a small light bulb. Declaring triumphantly that, "citric



Samahdi Scott (3rd)

acid equals energy".

Adia Hodge, while only a kindergarten student, assembled a detailed experiment on friction with different materials, and her accompanying results board was exceptionally detailed.

Students were required to provide a detailed analysis of their projects, including their hypothesis, data table, experimental method, results, and a conclusion. Older elementary students provided an abstract.

The projects were evaluated and awards were given to the best projects in several categories, but all of the students were honored for their projects, and fantastic success.

Life Outside the Classroom



Wilderness hikes in the city? Students conquering the great outdoors...or just having fun getting dirty.

Kitchen Renovation's 2nd Phase is Complete

Individual contributions and a sizable grant transform the kitchen

Seven years ago, Mama Mildred Rose walked into a typical church kitchen prepared to feed a school full of students, but in a kitchen that was barely serviceable for the occasional Sunday after service meal.

Over the years, more students came with more palettes to entice, more meals to prepare, but the kitchen literally sagged under the weight of this fairly enormous task.

In the summer of 2014, we sought to redesign the kitchen, and make badly needed enhancements to meet safety and health standards, while improving the workflow and operations. We had great vision, but unfortunately less know-how, and the 60 day project, became a 12 month project.

And while many deadlines were missed and readjusted, not a single child ever went without a meal. There were times when Mama Rose lacked a stove and running water in the kitchen, but she proceeded undiminished by the obstacles.

Today, sparkling stainless steel appliances and equipment, a new window, pantry and ceramic tile or just the most visible additions, but they belie the work underneath, and the many people who rolled up their sleeves and offered their services, and the dozens of people and groups that opened their pockbooks.

Mr. James Haskins, an Ile Omode



grandparent, provided material, labor and counsel. He was also instrumental in inviting Lagoon Turner of Turner Construction, and several other dedicated contractors, including Lance Harrison-Brown, an Ile Omode parent. Turner Construction is one of Oakland's most successful firms, and Mr. Turner chuckled when presented with our meager budget, but he offered to assist the school regardless.

The school contracted with an architectural firm specializing in kitchens, but the design was really led by Mama Rose, whose 30 years in the food service industry and deep Louisiana roots provides her an expertise that is immeasurable.

During the summer of 2014 the renovation was funded by individual contributors and the California Endowment which provided \$5K. Significantly more money was needed to complete the second phase which totaled more than \$30K. In the spring of 2015, the school wrote a proposal for funding to a Bay Area foundation (choosing to remain anonymous). The school only sought \$15K, but after visiting the school the donor provided \$25K, which allowed for the completion of the 2nd phase; ensuring the cafeteria was fully operational.

In the final phase, we hope to raise \$30K to add a commercial class hood and stove, and in the meantime, we'll continue feeding our students.

Generous Donors (2013-15)

Anonymous Foundation, \$25K
California Endowment, \$5K
Mxolisi Ozo-Sowande, \$5K
Choquette Family, \$1K

Contributions (\$200-\$500)

Jan and Jerald Hunter, Ethel and James Haskins, Roland Wilson, Devina Whitley, Windross Family

Contributions (\$100-\$199)

Jeffrey Burke, Gay and Paul Cobb, Siri Briggsbrown, George & Patsy Pressley, Akanke Peyton, Jeff Huang, Lyneice Mackey, Ya Wen & Jeff C Chuang, Carl L. Dudley, Jr, Mehib and Okanona Holmes, Pamela & Johnie Williams, Bisola Marignay

And many others. Every dollar helped.

MAKING THE CASE FOR THE CLASS OF 6255 (2015) AS THE GREATEST EVER



Ile Omode graduated the largest 8th grade class in the school's history, with 9 students preparing themselves to move on to high school. However, the graduating class of 6255 (2015) wasn't simply the largest, but looms as one of the most accomplished.

The class continued the school's record of 100% high school acceptance, and every single graduate was admitted to at least one private high school. Just last year, every graduate except one was admitted to Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, and of the 8, only one student applied to a private school other than O'Dowd (and that student enrolled at O'Dowd). Last year's class was quite singular in their ambition, and the shouts of, "we're all going to O'Dowd" was heard more than once in the spring after acceptance letters were received.

This group, while equally close, abandoned the "one size fits all" approach. They gathered up their academic accomplishments, and went knocking at the doorsteps of admissions officers throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The group applied to 16 different high schools, including several parochial schools, including O'Dowd, but also Saint Elizabeth and Riordian. They also applied and were admitted to a number of independent schools, and quite a few in San Francisco and Marin, including International High School, the Jewish Community High School, Bay School, and Waldorf, as well as Athena in Danville.

One young lady, Nandi Maunder, bucked the conventional wisdom and did not create a list of multiple schools with an equally long list of back up schools. In fact her family didn't consider any public

schools. She instead applied to only one school and her confidence was unshaken by the Marin school's lower than average acceptance rate, replying simply, "I'll get in". Her confidence was rewarded when her family received the acceptance letter in the mail, and her mother cried for quite a while, and even longer after realizing her daughter had received a scholarship award of close to \$50K per year.

Although Nandi's financial award was the largest any student had ever received, it was a defining moment that captured the graduating classes' overall success. In total the graduates received almost \$140K (annually) of scholarship award. Malik Bossett, a lifetime student at Ile Omode, having only attended school at Ile Omode since preschool, received almost \$40K from a San Francisco private school. San Francisco private high schools

awarded Barry Esteen \$32K and Akili Moore \$16K.

While four students were admitted to Bishop O'Dowd, only one enrolled, and he continued the success Ile Omode students had experienced in their application. Kelinde Secrease received the school's Presidential Scholarship, a merit based scholarship which provides an annual scholarship for four years. The school recognizes approximately 5% of its entering class of 300 freshmen with its highest distinction, and Kelinde is the latest in a line of recipients, which includes last year's graduates, Adeya Wyatt and Khukheper Awakoaiye (both students received the highest academic honors in their freshman year).

One student Mya Cross elected to not apply to a private school, and instead chose a public charter school, Envision Academy. She was soon joined by two other students, who decided to forgo their private school acceptance. The trio will comprise our first students at the 5 year old charter program. And finally, Kari Mays, was accepted to St.

Joseph's in Alameda, our first graduate to attend the school.

Beyond their high school acceptances, the graduates met a challenge that no other 8th grade class had met. High academic standards are expected, but there are always some students who struggle to rise to the school's expectations for any number of reasons. This class was challenged to hold each other accountable and ensure that every student reached their fullest potential. They held each other responsible for completing daily homework, and expanded their studying efforts to include everyone. No 8th grader was allowed to forgo their studies, and they achieved the distinction of producing the most 8th graders to receive honor roll distinction (a GPA equal to or exceeding 3.5), and more importantly, they are the first group to ensure that every student's GPA was at least 3.0.

As they move on and continue to grow into young adults, the class of 6255 leaves a tremendous legacy for future students to endeavor to match. A high standard indeed.

Most Honor Roll Students

Awarded \$140K of H.S. scholarship annually

Accepted to 10 Different private H.S.



An Amazing Year of Performances

Ile Omode students were invited to perform at a number of venues this year including:

- **BART/Oakland Airport Grand Opening**
- **Malcolm X Jazz and Arts Festival**
- **Diamano Coura's Annual Collage des Culture Africaines (schools presentation)**
- **Umoja Kwanzaa Celebration**
- **Berkeley City College Black History Month program**
- **Movement Generation's "Heal the Earth" event**

And for the first year, the school was featured in a live musical, "Sundiata", that was breathtaking in its scope.



Zenzile Riddick



Zenzile Riddick (c'11) graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, California, and she will enroll at the University of California in Santa Barbara to study political science and Black Studies. The double major matches her desire to move African-Americans from, "remaining victims to systems of power. I want to use Poli Sci as an outlet to understand corrupt policy so that I can be involved in changing it".

She was the first Ile Omode student to receive O'Dowd's presidential scholarship, and after beginning at Ile Omode she immediately became active on campus. Zenzile joined the school's debate team in her freshman year, and was an active member of the Black Student Union, serving on the

Executive Council for several years.

She was the lead singer in the school's gospel choir and coordinated the Black History program this year, and delivered the opening address at the school's baccalaureate.

The Oakland native was admitted to Howard University and USC, but chose UC Santa Barbara after visiting the school and following in love with the campus.

AEG Oakland Community Foundation awarded Zenzile its inaugural scholarship of \$10K, and she was one of only two recipients. The scholarship also provides a paid summer internship at Oracle Arena and O.co Coliseum.



Jazz Tradition Continues

Although Bishop O'Dowd High School has a number of ensembles, their Jazz Band would not have been the same without the benefit of Ile Omode's students. The small East Oakland school provided over a quarter of the school's Jazz Band members.

Jazz Band members were led by the seasoned veteran of two years, sophomore Nkosi Moore ('13) along with 2014 graduates, Galanafai Windross, Adeya Wyatt, and Khukheper Awakoaiye (pictured in this order).

They performed throughout the year including a closing concert at Askenaz in Berkeley.

Nkosi and Galanafai are trumpet players, and Adeya and Khukheper are honing their skills on the saxophone, after several years of instruction at Ile Omode.



2015 High School Alums

Sennua Hunter (far right) plans to study veterinarian science at Prairie View A&M University. As a student she found that Ile Omode was, "very strict academically and it taught me how to study". She also credits the school's college tours for her decision to attend a HBCU.

Senay Alkebulan (2nd from the right) will pursue his study in the arts at School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He believes the computer technology course was invaluable and led to an internship at Youth Radio where he collaborated with engineers from Google and MIT to build mobile apps.

Aminah Muhammad (far left) will attend Las Posita before transferring to a 4-year college to study computer science. The Dublin High School honor student believes the, "teachers at Ile Omode made sure we were academically prepared to compete at the highest level".

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMS

Several students were accepted and completed the Hidden Genius' summer program, including **Nkosi Moore** (c'13), **Barry Brand** (c'14) and **Galanafai Windross** (c'14), **Kelinde Secrease** (c'15) and **Barry Esteen** (c'15)...**Barry Brand** (c'14) continues to remain on the honor roll at Oakland Technical High School and is a member of the debate team...**Tierra Robinson-Jones** (c'14), **Maya Jenkins** (c'14), and **Khukheper Awakoaiye** (c'14) ran for Bishop O'Dowd's track team,

and her parliamentary debate team was undefeated at the 2014 Jon Chamber Invitational hosted by the University of the Pacific taking the top prize...During his gap year, **Senay Alkebulan** (c'11) has accepted a fulltime position with Byrens Kim Design Works, an architectural firm...Just in time for the summer Olympics, **Halim Muhammad** (c'12) swims for Dublin High School

COLLEGIATE ALUMS

Bakare Awakoaiye (c'10) completed UC Davis' Pre-Surgical Intern-

Alumni Updates



Track: Maya, Khukheper, & Tierra



Debate Champ: Adeua (right)

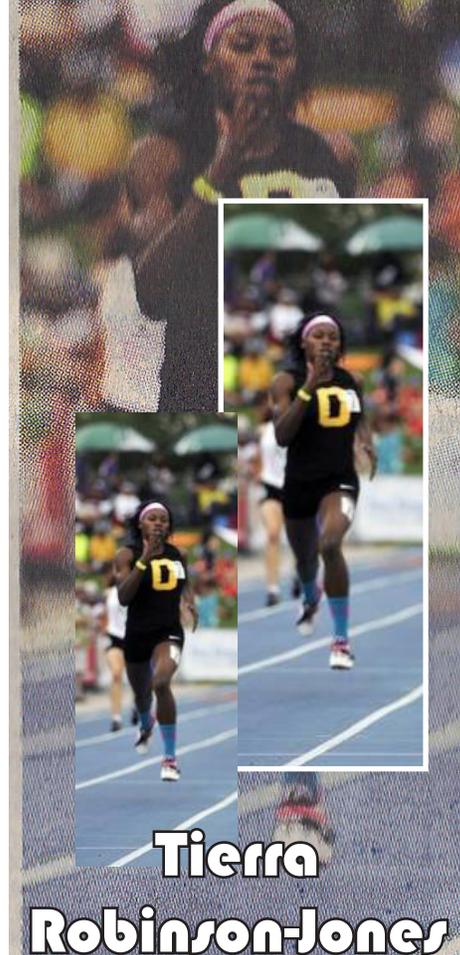
and each freshman received a varsity letter in their first year ... **Zenzile Riddick** (c'11) interned at the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco, and she was inducted into the National Honor Society along with **KaRa Awakoaiye** (c'12) who also received StarPlayerz' Athlete of the Month after winning the league title in the 100m hurdles...through San Leandro High School's Business and Finance Academy, **Kardiere Johnson** (c'13) developed the idea for a personal protection app called "My Look Out" app; Microsoft liked the idea so much that she received the national Adjudicator's Choice award... **Adeya Wyatt** (c'14), **Maya** and **Khukheper** received Bishop O'Dowd first honors, and **Adeya** was recognized for excellence in Biology

ship, as was one of the youngest students in the program, he was also on Howard University's dean's honor roll with a 3.9 GPA...**Reetah Boyce** completed a web design program with Hack the Hood, and is studying information systems at Howard University...**Bayli Jones** achieved Dean's List honors at Savannah College of Art and Design in her freshman year...**Marcus Herron** (c'10) joined the track club at Sonoma State

OTHERS

Chinaka Hodge was the recipient of Glide Memorial's Community Hero Awards Ceremony at their 6th Annual GLIDE Legacy Gala honors for individuals who have made an impact on communities

California State 400m Finalist



Tierra
Robinson-Jones

As a standout youth track athlete, Tierra Robinson-Jones' ('14) success in her first year at Bishop O'Dowd High School can't be considered a surprise.

Tierra earned a bronze in her signature event, the 400 meters, at the AAU Junior Olympics in 8th grade, and continued to show her strength and development by earning a place in the finals in the 400m at the California state track and field championship. She was one of the first O'Dowd athletes to do so in several years.

She placed 9th at the championship, and finished the year with the 3rd fastest time among all freshmen in the nation.

8924 Holly Street
Oakland, CA 94621



“Education is the medium by which a people are prepared for the creation of their own particular civilization, and their advancement and glory..”

-Marcus Garvey

ILE OMODE IS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF WO'SE COMMUNITY



To donate, contact **Pamela Young-Williams, Business Manager,**
at **510.632.8230** or **pamela.williams@ileomode.org**

Pre-8th
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