

Spring 2014

## Robinson Burrell III “Trey”, Freshman at Boys’ Latin School of MD and ABAE Tutor

Robinson Burrell III “Trey” started in 6<sup>th</sup> grade on the Middle School Robotics Team at the Boys’ Latin School of MD. He began working with Lego, Mindstorms, and NXT Robotics Programs. His school started being competitive in middle school robotics when he entered 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The

LEGO Mindstorms NXT 2.0 (8547)

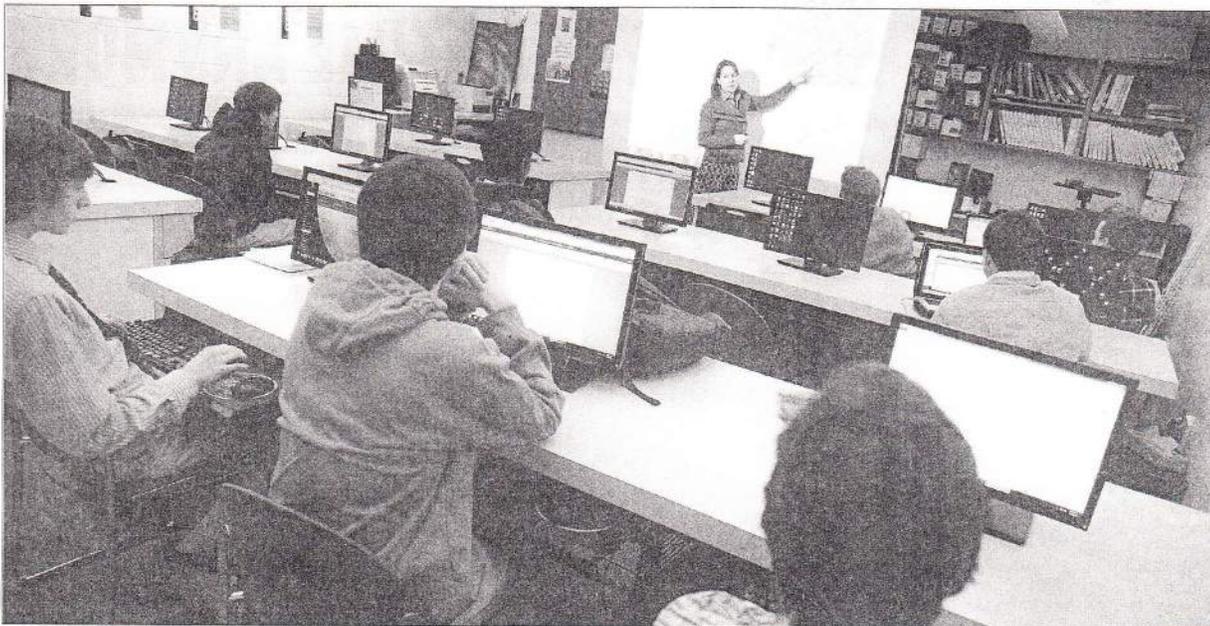


Upper School already had a competitive robotics team, which was established in 2007. His robotics team attended The First Lego League or FLL. Trey’s team made the state championship that year, which was their rookie year. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they were #10 of 25 teams, so did not place but won awards for Innovative Solutions and Research. This past summer (2013) when Trey was entering high school, he was accepted in the Maryland Summer Science Center’s Gifted and Talented Robotics Program at Frostburg State University.

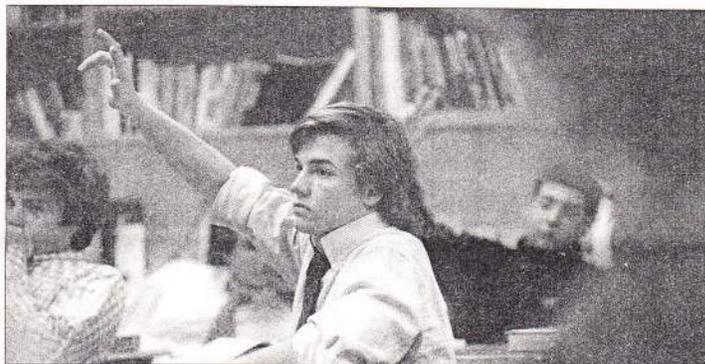
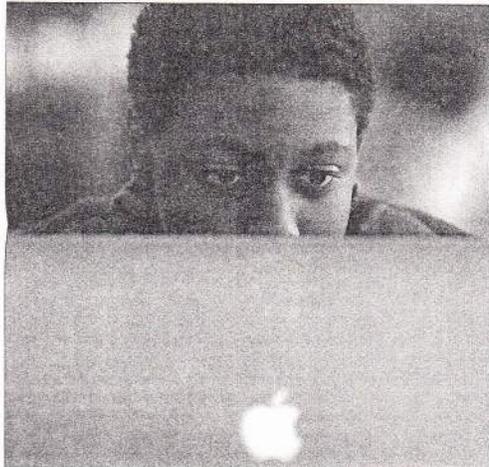
Trey is currently a freshman on the Upper School Robotics’ team. Spring of 2014 the team will be traveling to University of Maryland College Park and the Pittsburgh Regional at California University of Pennsylvania for competitions. To prepare for competition, his team spends evenings and weekends (7 days a week) researching, programming and building the robots.

Trey is also an Algebra tutor for ABAE.

Read more about Trey in AP classes in *The Daily Record* (January 2014 Issue) article below.



(Above) Anne Kellerman, a teacher and director of technology at Boys' Latin School in Baltimore, teaches Advanced Placement computer science — one of 14 AP classes offered at the private school.



PHOTOS BY MAXIMILIAN FRANZ

(Above) Patrick McManus, a senior at Boys' Latin School, holds his hand up to answer a question during an Advanced Placement course. The school added an AP computer science course this academic year after noticing how engaged students were during a recent robotics competition.

(Left) Trey Burrell, a ninth-grade student at Boys' Latin School, works on his Apple laptop computer.

## STUDENTS GET A HEAD START ON COLLEGE CREDITS

By GINA GALLUCCI-WHITE  
Special to The Daily Record

At Boys' Latin School of Maryland, most students take at least one Advanced Placement course before graduation.

And the enthusiasm for AP is shared at independent schools statewide, where many students are earning college credits while still in high school.

For four straight years, Maryland has earned the top spot from the College Board in its annual "AP Report to the Nation," which ranks how well each state's students perform on the exams. With 27.9 percent of seniors receiving a score of 3 or higher — the score for which many colleges will award course credit — Maryland earned the top spot for the fourth year in a row in the 2012 review. The national average was 18 percent.

Area private school administrators believe their programs can offer students an advantage when it comes to exams, including smaller class sizes and the opportunity for more one-on-one sessions with a teacher.

When it comes to test time, teachers will meet with students after school or during a free period to make sure students are ready. Some offer study groups or review sessions.

Most area schools offer a variety of different choices for students when it comes to AP courses.

"We want to offer a range of educational options for the boys at our school," said Charles Franklin, upper school director of academics at Boys' Latin. "We want every boy to be challenged and engrossed every day. ... Most of our boys take at least one [AP] class while they are here."

The school offers 14 AP classes, including standards like English, biology, U.S. history and physics. With curriculum needs and interest evaluated often, the school added an AP computer science course this academic year after seeing high student interest in an annual robotics competition.

"It made a lot of sense," Franklin said of adding the course. "They had a passion for it."

There are 16 AP courses at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, including art

history, psychology, economics and U.S. government.

"We are constantly evaluating students' level of interest" in courses, said Randy Tajan, the school's director of college counseling. "AP courses are helpful in that they give students the opportunity to tackle" more difficult course work and challenge themselves to work harder to obtain their goals.

Franklin said there are a lot of factors that are considered when evaluating what students should enroll in AP classes.

Students' test scores, previous class performance and motivation are evaluated, and teachers also make recommendations, educators said.

Since AP classes feature a more complex workload from regular and honors courses, many students find they are better prepared for college-level work, such as labs and term papers.

"It's a nice developmental bridge between high school and college," Franklin said.

Many schools have heard back from alumni saying they were ready

for the course work while their peers who did not have the classes were not.

### Tutoring an option for some

The AP tests are "a nice way to sum up the culmination of knowledge," said Joseph Cutrone, president of Charm City Tutors Inc. in Baltimore.

His tutoring company, which opened five years ago, prepares students by having them take old exams under the same time constraints as the real test.

A tutor can help students learn certain tricks and avoid pitfalls of tests. On the SAT, if a multiple-choice answer has the word "being," it is almost always the wrong answer. Knowing this can narrow a choice for the student.

"We teach the tricks that come up year after year," he said. "The tutor will work with you one-on-one."

Cutrone advises parents and students to get a tutor early — even at the start of school. Some will wait until after failing a test to do so, but many courses build on top of lessons learned, which makes catching up more difficult.