



2014 SUMMER REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The summer of 2014 was an exciting period of activity and growth for Horizons at The Episcopal Academy! We completed our second summer and provided an enriching experience to 45 students from the Frederick Douglass Elementary School in North Philadelphia. We welcomed a new cohort of 15 kindergarten students and one new first grade student. In addition, we were thrilled to welcome back 29 returning students to first and second grade.

Our teaching staff has grown to accommodate the addition of the new kindergarten class. This summer, the program was led by six degreed and certified teachers and one reading specialist. A host of volunteers from The Episcopal Academy community offered their services – teaching art, computers, library and more. In addition, 18 Episcopal Academy Upper School students joined us this summer and played an important role in our program.

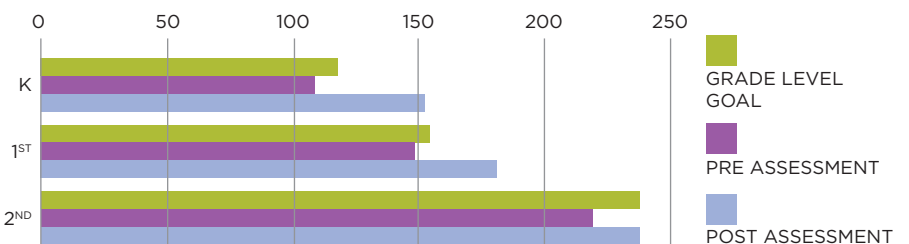
Growing Beyond Our Horizons was the theme of this year’s program. We were able to incorporate this theme in all aspects of the program – literacy, math, and science. Growing Beyond Our Horizons inspired us to reach beyond all of our comfort zones and excel in learning throughout the summer.

GAINS IN LITERACY

Our days were structured and revolved around literacy. Every morning was dedicated to academic time when teachers focused on improving reading skills for specific grade levels and building confidence and endurance when reading. In addition to the classroom work, every student worked daily with our Reading Specialist, Jen Lutz.

I am excited to report our students showed gains in their post-assessment scoring in almost every category. Low-income students who do not participate in summer enrichment programs typically lose 2-3 months of reading skills over the summer. This is in sharp contrast to the impressive gains that the Horizons at Episcopal Academy students showed during our six-week program. I am pleased to share the chart below which summarizes our reading results. The red bar represents our students before the summer started. The green bar shows where our students stood at the conclusion of the program. The blue bar represents the goal for that grade level. As is evidenced in the chart, our students reached or exceeded the reading goal for their grade level. We are very proud of their hard work and achievement.

OVERALL LITERACY COMPOSITE SCORE





EXPLORING SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

This summer we introduced the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program to students. Our schedule included a defined science and math time for students to explore and question the scientific and mathematical information presented to them. We were fortunate to have increased technology access with 15 laptops and 15 iPads available for use throughout the summer. Many special activities such as a Lego club were built into the curriculum to strengthen our students' engineering and building skills. We will continue to grow the STEM portion of our program in future years.

ENJOYING WHAT SUMMER HAS TO OFFER

Horizons students spent many hours in the Episcopal Academy garden this summer. The students grew fruits, vegetables, and herbs, which were then used to make homemade snacks, salads, and treats. We continued our discussion about the importance of sustainability and furthered our learning by visiting two farms: Greener Partners in Collegeville and Cherry Crest Farm.

Swimming is a cornerstone of the Horizons program and is one of the highlights of the students' day. Learning to swim is a life skill that builds confidence and a desire to achieve. All of our students worked on their swimming skills. I am proud to report that by the end of the program, eight students earned the privilege of swimming in the deep end and jumping off the diving board. It was magical to see the confident smiles on the faces of these students after they made their first jump from the diving board - they were so proud to achieve something they never thought they could.

Students, teachers, and volunteers all worked hard this summer. Our students improved their academic skills, learned to swim, and built strong positive relationships with their teachers, student volunteers, and peers. I am proud of the accomplishments of our students and am excited for what 2015 brings for Horizons at The Episcopal Academy.

[signature]

KAREN LENTZ, M.ED.

Executive Director, Horizons at The Episcopal Academy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANN SEMMER
CHAIR

PERI HIGGINS
VICE CHAIR

DONNA ARCHAMBAULT
TREASURER

ELIZABETH CORRIGAN
SECRETARY

SUSAN COOTE

DONNA CORRATO

VALERIE CRONEY

CATHERINE HALL

KIM HARRAR

BETH HANSENS

MARGARET HONDROS

PIA ROYCHOWDHURY

THERESA CLARK RIHN

RICHARD WILLIAMSON

KEEP UPDATED

 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/EAHorizons

 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
[@eahorizons](https://twitter.com/eahorizons)

 READ OUR BLOG
horizonsea.edublogs.org