

2015 SUMMER REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Horizons at The Episcopal Academy had a productive and fun summer on campus, and the momentum continued to build for our education program. We offered a high quality learning experience outside of the traditional school year to students from Frederick Douglass Elementary School in North Philadelphia. As we posted all summer on social media, our program was #6WeeksofHappiness for everyone who participated. Many members of our Episcopal community came together to help make our third summer a rousing success.

THREE YEARS AND GROWING

For the summer of 2015, Horizons at Episcopal employed eight certified teachers and one reading specialist for our students in grades K-3. Our faculty was a mix of Episcopal, Frederick Douglass and area public school teachers. It was wonderful to see the daily collaborations taking place in our classrooms with teachers from different educational institutions. Most importantly, our Horizons students benefited from the diverse backgrounds and skill sets that our teachers brought to the program.

To reinforce our emphasis on literacy, this summer's theme was "Hooked on a Book". Each week highlighted a different literary genre to guide our faculty in formulating their curriculum. Our students explored fairy tales, graphic novels and biographies, among other categories throughout the summer. Students grew as readers, learning to self-select books for their reading levels, and looked forward to one on one reading with our volunteers.

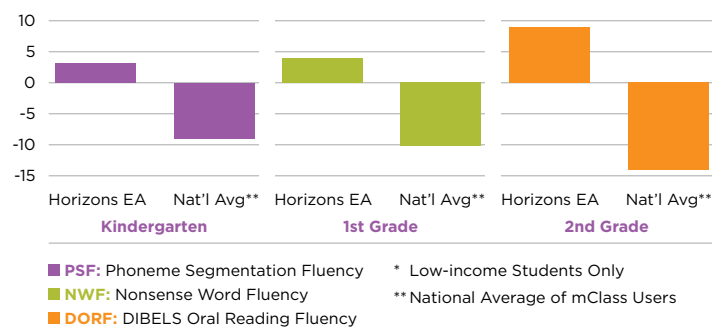
In addition to our faculty, we had 36 Episcopal high school students volunteer to work with our program this summer. As one of our high school volunteers wrote in a reflection, "It warms my heart to know that a program like this does so much good for kids that need it most." Our volunteers signed up for a minimum commitment of two weeks and worked with Horizons students in the classroom, pool and around campus. Volunteers also shared their talents, providing tennis, dance, basketball, science and French enrichment programs during the summer. We also had a dedicated group of parent volunteers who provided valuable one on one attention.

SUMMER LEARNING RESULTS

Our overall goal is to stop "Summer Slide" and to provide an engaging learning environment for our students. Our Horizons students demonstrated substantial learning growth in important reading benchmarks during the summer of 2015, as measured by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) testing program. The chart below shows reading results for our K-2 students compared to the National mClass Average of low income students who do not participate in summer learning programs.

COMPARISON OF DIBELS GROWTH OVER THE SUMMER

EA Horizons to the National mClass Average* 2015



Our third grade students were evaluated using STAR testing for both reading and math for the first time this summer. By participating in Horizons, our third graders were able to avoid summer learning loss and maintain their reading and math skills.

ENRICHMENT OPENING DOORS

We continued our emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programming this summer. Each grade had a defined time for science and math built into their class schedules. Maggie Powers, one of the Lower School technology specialists, provided defined technology time for each class, working in particular on coding. Our students had access to iPads for learning and exploring.

Enrichment programming is an important part of our summer. Many Episcopal faculty members volunteered to share their time and talents with our Horizons students. 14 faculty members offered courses including: Cooking, Leadership Training, Health, Cooperative Games, Coding, Running, Soccer, Art, Music, and Science. For additional enrichment, our students took two field trips to Smith Memorial Playground and Cherry Crest Farm.

Swimming was one of the highlights of the summer program for our Horizons students. This year, ESF Summer Camps provided swim instruction free of charge to our program. Learning to swim is an important life skill for our students. Many students come to the program not knowing how to swim and are fearful of the water. Overcoming this fear and learning to trust their instructors builds self-esteem that spills over into the classroom. Our students were in the pool every day during the program practicing and improving their skills. We saw major improvements in both confidence and ability, and their excitement about learning to swim was contagious. Thank you to ESF for providing this important skill to our students.

YEAR ROUND CONNECTION

We look forward to keeping in touch with our Horizons students during the school year with our Service Learning Saturday program which takes place at Frederick Douglass one Saturday a month. Episcopal middle school students will join our Horizons students on **October 17, November 21, December 12, January 23, February 20, March 19, and April 23** of the 2015-2016 school year.

Our time together this summer was truly Six Weeks of Happiness for all involved with Horizons. We want to thank our generous donors, Episcopal Academy, ESF Summer Camps and everyone who worked hard this summer to make Horizons a success. We look forward to the continued growth of Horizons!



KATHY JACOBY
Executive Director

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

KATHY JACOBY
Executive Director

ROWENA LESHER
Director of Horizons School
Year Programs

KAREN LENTZ
Academic Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANN SEMMER
CHAIR

THERESA CLARK RIHN
VICE CHAIR

BETH HANSSENS
TREASURER

BETH CORRIGAN
SECRETARY

Donna Archambault
Susan Coote
Donna Corrato
Valerie Croney
Dr. Catherine Hall
Kim Harrar
Peri Higgins
Margaret Hondros
Jody Guokos Kuntz
Pam Levinson
Donna Maple
Pia RoyChowdhury
Kori Snyder
Richard Williamson

Horizons National Network serves **3,980** students in **45** programs in **15** states

2015 volunteer opportunities for **36** Episcopal High School students and **50+** Middle School students

3,600 hours of swim lessons provided by ESF in Episcopal's pool

20+ enrichment courses offered to Horizon students

1 HAPPY SUMMER

"Horizons is a wonderful program. (It) helps my son overcome many of his fears, he loves to learn and the people who work with him at the camp encourage him to strive for more and for better. This was the best decision I have ever made for my son, allowing him to attend this camp. You rock."

– **HORIZONS PARENT**



KEEP UPDATED



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



SEE ALL THE FUN ON INSTAGRAM
[@EAHorizons](https://www.instagram.com/EAHorizons)



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/EAHorizons



READ OUR BLOG
horizonsea.edublogs.org