



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Something Special
is Happening at
The Episcopal Academy

A Message from the Executive Director

Our fifth summer of Horizons was our best summer yet! The program continues to grow, and students from Ardmore Avenue Elementary School and Frederick Douglass Mastery Charter School look forward to their summers at Horizons. Each summer our students demonstrate, on average, a 2–3 month improvement in reading and math, reversing the typical “summer slide” and sending students back to school in September several months ahead of where they were in June. We are proud to be part of the Horizons National network of more than 50 transformational, community-centered education programs that put children on the path to success in school and in life.

PROGRAM SUCCESSES – ACADEMIC FOCUS

We increased our focus on project-based learning in all classrooms and found that student engagement with the curriculum grew by leaps and bounds. Classroom teaching teams selected their overall guiding question for the summer curriculum and planned learning activities around this question. For example, first graders examined “What is the Life Cycle of a Butterfly?” and studied this topic through reading, writing, art, science and math activities. Working across the curriculum on an engaging project allowed the students to experience the fun of learning and offered a different approach than their school year instruction.

PROGRAM SUCCESSES – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Episcopal community has rallied behind Horizons. During the summer of 2017, we worked with 45 Episcopal Upper School volunteers, representing more than 3,000 volunteer hours. We had 40 Episcopal Middle School students volunteer at our Service Learning Saturday program during the 2016–2017 school year. There are 11 Episcopal employees who work for Horizons as teachers, administrators or enrichment providers and countless other employees volunteer to support the program. The support for Horizons is yet another way our generous Episcopal Academy community “lives the stripes.”

ENRICHMENT AND SWIMMING – BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LIFE

For the summer of 2017, we offered a variety of enrichment to our students including art and music for grades K-2 and Building the Leaders of Tomorrow (our social and emotional learning program) for grades 3-5. Horizons students also had 4 weeks of technology instruction in the Lower School IDEA studio. ESF Camps generously donated our daily swim instruction, and all of our students improved their swim skills. Mastering skills in the pool translates to more confidence in the classroom, and swimming is one of the favorite parts of the day!

SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMMING

We will continue to connect with our Horizons students and families during the school year with our Service Learning Saturday program. The four-hour day provides literacy-based instruction and enrichment. This year, Horizons at EA will celebrate the seasons and provide school year programming on October 21, December 9, February 10 and April 28. Episcopal Middle School students and returning Upper School volunteers are able to participate in this program.

(continued)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

As we begin planning for 2018, our top priority is to develop an engaging, project-based middle school curriculum for our oldest students. We hope to expand our enrichment and field trip offerings to support curriculum and offer additional college and career exposure. Social and emotional learning (SEL) support is key for our students to succeed. We expanded our SEL program to 3rd grade in 2017 and would like to provide specific social and emotional learning support to all of our students going forward.

Making a difference in the lives of our students and lowering the achievement gap takes time. Our Horizons program makes a nine-year promise to our students and their families to inspire their minds, build community and ultimately transform lives. After five years at Episcopal Academy, the program is well on its way to achieving these promises. I am grateful for the commitment of our generous and dedicated Board and supporters like you. Your belief in Horizons and how it is helping to close the opportunity gap is the reason we are here. I am excited to see our program grow and continue to thrive, and I look forward to your continued involvement.

With tremendous gratitude,

Kathy Jacoby
Executive Director

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THANK YOU

We would like to thank Pia RoyChowdhury, Rich Williamson, Jody Kuntz, Donna Maple, Valerie Croney and Dr. Catherine Hall for their years of dedicated board service to Horizons at EA.

PROGRAM STAFF

Kathy Jacoby, Executive Director
Rowena Leshner, Program Director

OUR STUDENTS

90

Students, K-5

94%

Attendance rate

OUR CLASSROOMS

15

Horizons Students

}

1

Lead Teacher

1

Assistant Teacher

1

Reading Specialist

2-3

Episcopal Upper School Volunteers

100%

qualify as low income under the National School Lunch Program

85%

Retention rate for summer 2017

OUR RESULTS

Overall Growth | Below Grade Level Growth during the six-week summer program

Horizons students are tested using the STAR assessment at the beginning and end of our six-week program.

Grades K & 1 Reading Growth



Grades 2-5 Reading Growth



Grades 2-5 Math Growth



Nationally

97% of Horizons students graduate high school

91% of Horizons graduates attend college or other post-secondary training



HORIZONS Creates Opportunity

"Although I hoped that my journey with Horizons would help the kids grow as students and as people, in the end, it was them who made me grow."

BRYCE NABULSI, EA CLASS OF 2019

"I tell my friends that I love Horizons."

MARKEISHA, 6TH GRADE

"Participating in Horizons will help him do more with his life."

HORIZONS 2017 PARENT

"My favorite thing about Horizons is I get smarter."

NAMIYA, 4TH GRADE

"I love how passionate everyone is about the learning experience and working together to help the students grow. The students demonstrate their love for the program in many ways and constantly show that they appreciate the opportunity given to them."

**HORIZONS TEACHER,
SUMMER 2017**

"She looks forward to coming every summer and Horizons has helped with her reading and math."

HORIZONS 2017 PARENT

"I learned to encourage people, have kindness and make new friends."

KWAME, 4TH GRADE

"I feel as though these two weeks I've spent with the Horizons kids has given me important insight into the daily struggles and guiding values of those from many different backgrounds. Ever since I've started working with Horizons, it's given me an amazing opportunity to build relationships with people that I never would have encountered in any other setting. It's given me a new perspective on my life..."

JACK FRANKLIN, EA CLASS OF 2019

"[Horizons] provides students with social skills and academic skills and builds a positive community for both students and teachers."

HORIZONS TEACHER, SUMMER 2017



TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF HORIZONS and summer learning, meet the Davenport brothers, James and Xavier, who attend Frederick Douglass Mastery in North Philadelphia. Xavier, who is currently in 5th grade, has been with Horizons at EA since inception in 2013, in our first Kindergarten class. His younger brother, James, entered our Kindergarten class in 2015 and is currently in third grade. Mom, Stephanie, recognizes the importance of the summer learning that happens at Horizons.

"Both of the boys have made so much progress since coming to Horizons...they are more confident and do better in school. James has been working hard at improving his reading skills, and Xavier has grown to love the pool."

Xavier's teacher, Danielle Yeager, tells the following story, "Watching Xavier overcome his fear of the pool after not allowing the water to go above his belly button was very exciting. He slowly showed more and more excitement to swim each day. After building a great relationship with one of the lifeguards, he eventually dunked his head under water and began swimming across the deep end!" Xavier says, "Horizons is AMAZING!"



Summer 2017, Grades K-5



HORIZONS DONORS

The yearly cost to attend Horizons at EA of \$2,300 per student is covered by the generosity of our donors and in-kind donations of space, expertise and administrative services from Episcopal Academy. The following individuals and organizations generously supported Horizons at EA between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

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