



 **inspire.
build.
transform.** 



We did it! Another in-person "six weeks of happiness" for a second year in a row. This summer was all about celebrating sisterhood and being back in community in a number of ways! It's no doubt that our students are leaving our Summer program with stronger friendships, a new sense of exposure, a greater understanding of academic concepts, and more self-confidence in their abilities.

A very big thanks to our staff and volunteers that have worked so hard this summer to provide our students with growth opportunities and support in and out the classroom. Thank you to The Ethel Walker School and staff for being such wonderful partners and helping us with every aspect of our program planning and implementation. Thank you to our supporters that continue to believe in our mission and our vision to serve our girls in a transformational way. And last but not least, to our families who entrust their children to us every year! Together, we are providing positive, life-changing experiences that will have a long-term impact on our students' lives.

This community and vision is what I will miss the most as I venture to my next endeavor at Grace Academy! I will bring this mission and purpose to serve Greater Hartford girls with me. Though it is sad to be parting ways, there is still so much to celebrate! #GOHORIZONS!

IN THIS ISSUE

**Letter from the
Executive Director**

Academics

**Animal Care &
Therapy**

Athletics and Swim

STEAM programming

Extracurriculars

Thank You!



Princess Hyatt,
Executive Director



Academics 2022

We commit ourselves to each scholar's progress and success each year. This summer, students worked with the reading and math specialists to take formal testing to track their progress from the beginning to the end of the Summer. We look forward to seeing all the progress they made this Summer.

Students explored literature that we feel is appropriate for their age but exposes them to the world at large while also being relevant to them.

For example, our 7th graders analyzed anchor text, when they researched through Google search, "Althea Gibson," the first African American to win the All-England Tennis Championships at Wimbledon in 1957. Anchor text is the clickable part of a link that users see. The keywords used in these links are important because they give search engines and users an idea about the content of the linked page. Using this modern approach to digital history, 7th grade is analyzing racism in the history of tennis and the additional efforts that athletes of color have to put in to be recognized for the same accomplishments and skills as their white peers, even in anchor text.



Animal Care & Therapy: Flamig Farm 2022

Jasmine Morris, our long-time Volunteer Manager and UConn student at *The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources*, was awarded funding to coordinate an Animal Care & Therapy program for our students this year..

Ms. Morris' program teaches students about primary animal care and training while fostering conversations about mental health and self-care. To inspire potential career paths, students gained insight into careers that work with animals. The program also incorporates social-emotional learning and animal-assisted therapy practices.

Our girls were visited by The K9's from *The Tails of Hope Foundation*, one of the partners for this program. Students also paid a visit to a llama farm to learn more about llamas, following a Saturday Academy where they read a book about Luna the Love Llama and her adventures around the world. In the photo above, our students visited the local Flamig Farm in Simsbury and had a chance to interact with many different farm animals.



Swim Programming 2022

This Summer our swim director, Emily Ross, designed our program to be more robust and individualized. She incorporated standardized evaluations and interventions to better assist students in developing their swim skills and confidence in the water. Additionally, she has considered how social and emotional learning can be implemented in the pool.



Athletics Programming 2022: Growing the Greatest Game

This Summer we continued our second year of programming with our partners, *Growing the Greatest Game*, an organization focused on revitalizing the sport of field hockey, and supporting/training youth players of color. We also had a basketball workshop with the 2nd ranked WNBA team in the country, The Connecticut Suns. And a student favorite, that may be a new tradition, our first kickball tournament, whose champions were 8th grade!

SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ART. MATH



This Summer, students participated in a plethora of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math programming which was organized by Ms. Bonet, our lead STEAM teacher, who was assisted by outside groups like *The Children's Museum CT*. For our annual STEAM Expo, volunteers from *LEGO Community US Fund* helped facilitate our STEAM stations. In addition to volunteering and providing the funding to make our annual STEAM exhibition possible, *LEGO Community US Fund* is also donating fully supplied book bags for all our students for the upcoming year. We are so thankful for *LEGO Community US Fund*, for supporting our vision to support the next generation of leaders in STEAM and for reminding us of the importance and the value of learning through play. At the annual STEAM expo, students engaged in slime making, lego building, paper airplane folding, robot coding, mini rocket launching, and puzzle solving - embodying the idea of learning through play as they problem solved in a hands on way.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS



The goal of Horizons programming is to increase educational outcomes and at our core we are an academic-focused program infused with various enrichment activities. This summer we had 'fun in the sun' and found so many ways to put the joy in our learning experiences. On those hot days we found ways to cool down with ice cream, sprinklers or some pool time!

We also enjoyed many field trips this Summer, happily making up for lost time and in-person restrictions during the pandemic. This included a trip to *The Connecticut Science Center*, *Bou Nom Bakery* for a French Pastry Experience, a visit to the llama farm, a trip to local *Flamig Farm* to visit with all their animals, a trip to *The University of Connecticut: College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources*, *The Hartford Yard Goats* baseball game with our eighth graders, and on-site visits from *The Children's Museum CT* as well as a basketball clinic held by the second ranked WNBA team in the country, *Hartford's Connecticut Sun*.

We were thrilled this Summer to have local donors, like The Hartford Fund for Public Giving, visit Horizons EWS. This allowed our community to see firsthand the vision and promise of Horizons. At Horizons at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, The First Lady, Ms. Jill Biden, and The U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, made a stop to get a glance of Horizons programming and the impact of funding granted through the American Rescue Plan Act. Their support means so much to all of our Horizons affiliates. When one of us wins, we all win, and we move closer to all that awaits our scholars, on the Horizon.

THANK YOU TO OUR HORIZONS TEAM!

VOLUNTEERS

Alexia Grech, Amanda Wall, Arianna Zirbel, Ava DeSio, Ava Lesehm, Bodhi Dawson, Catherine Chapel, Darby Sheldon, Dejonae Murdock, Ella Sabelawski, Ella Schroeder, Emily Bell, Emma Sheldon, Francis Ntem-Mensah, Hallie Braunstein, Jordan DiMauro, Josiane Kodak, Liesel Thacker, Liyan Du, Lyndsey Goodison, Marlo Meador, Meredith McCormick, Molly Thacker, Nya Hudson, Quinn Auger, Tristan Lunding, Vida Ntem-Mensah

TEACHERS & TA'S

Pre-K: Jodi-ann Fletcher & Patrick Sheridan
Kindergarten: Maddie Ross & Cameron Forslund
First Grade: Radikha Morris & Isabelle Rome
Second Grade: Ximena Franco-Bao & Gwen Myles
Third Grade: Chastity Flores & Emily Steadman
Fourth Grade: ReShantia Mundle & Talia Gallagher
Fifth Grade: Tyrone Murph & Chris Morris
Sixth Grade: Kenisha Huggins & Hailey Singer
Seventh Grade: Sam Stolar, Brandon Scott, & Stacey Jackson
Eighth Grade: Donielle Joslyn & Maria Lapek



STAFF



Executive Director: Princess Hyatt
Program & Development Manager: Mackenzie Hine
Academic Director: Chrissy English
Americorps VISTA: Riley Sheldon
Volunteer Coord. & Animal Care Teacher: Jasmine Morris
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator: Lexi Donshik
Communications & Data Specialist: Shaina Stamp
Graphic Design Specialist: Amelia Hamlin
Nurse: Mary Boisvert
Counselor: Thea Ouellette
Reading Specialists: Carol Ross & Tara Achane
Math Specialist: Sarah Hayes
STEAM Lead & Assistant: Ashley Bonet & Chyler Bastarache
Swim Director: Emily Ross
Swim Instructors: Allison Wall, Megan Koester, Maks Jaremko
Field Hockey Coach: Ian Nicholson
Field Hockey Assistant Coaches: Ava Calma, Grace Majka
Art Specialist: Zoya Clarke
Dance Specialists: Nafarrah Ramsey and Lili St. Amand

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