

SUMMER 2021



Dear Horizons Community,

Has it really been six weeks already?! Only a month and a half ago, we were getting ready for our in-person summer, something that may have seemed so foreign considering our very challenging year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Today we celebrate six weeks of happiness - in community, in sisterhood, and amongst each other again. Our students are leaving our summer program with stronger friendships, a greater understanding of academic concepts, and more self-confidence in their abilities. Horizons is a community that truly cares about each and every one of our families, students, volunteers and staff members.

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.

Looking forward to a busy school year!

More to come,

Princess Hyatt

Executive Director



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SOCIAL MEDIA!**




HOW TO SCAN QR CODES:

- 1) open cell phone camera
- 2) focus the photo on the QR code
by
- 3) click the link that pops up

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FAMILY SURVEY**

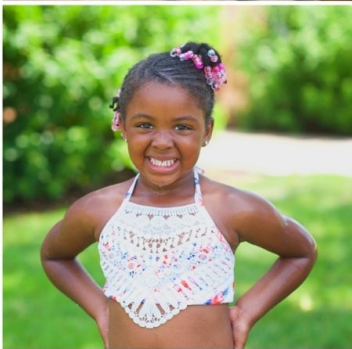


SUMMER 2021



HORIZONS[®]

The Ethel Walker School



inspire.
build.
transform.

OUR MISSION

This year Horizons expanded its mission, to continue to serve Greater Hartford girls by providing tools in a nurturing community that enables them to improve their educational outcomes. HorizonsEWS staff and teachers continued to work on culturally responsive teaching practices and strategies as we as implement, social and emotional learning and culturally responsive teaching. The training, provided by Harvard Graduate School of Education, equips staff with the social and emotional tools they need to nurture empowered students and their potential. Embodying a safe and supportive community, Horizons offers year-round academic, artistic, and athletic opportunities for its students.

This Summer, students with a variety of academic abilities participated in a six-week, full-day educational enrichment program, outlined in the following newsletter. Horizons at The Ethel Walker School is the first Horizons program in greater Hartford, and the nation's first Horizons experience exclusively for girls. We are proud to host this program for such wonderful young scholars.

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Thank You!

ACADEMICS



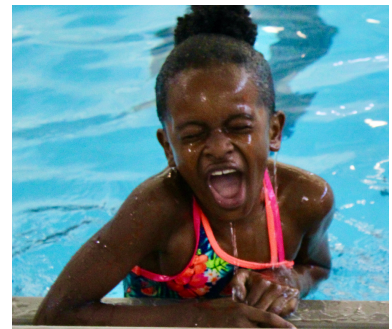
We were eager to get students back into in-person programming this Summer. This programming was crucially important in combating the notable impact of remote learning on learning outcomes. The support of the families during this difficult transition was critical to student success during the past two summers.

This Summer, students spent lots of time building their literacy and math skills. Each student is evaluated at the level they enter the program and exit the program. With this type of individualized attention, students are able to build their confidence in literacy and math, regardless of the level that they enter the program.

Socially and emotionally, our students blossomed, finally able to reconnect with their Horizons community. Horizon's prioritized lessons on accepting ourselves and others, coping skills, and mental health. Students were also able to express themselves through athletics like dance, swimming, field hockey, and basketball, and the arts, including drawing, writing, sculpting, and theatre, as well as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programming, with activities like coding, tie-dyeing, and visits from **The Children's Museum**. This diverse programming allows students to explore their unique strengths and passions.

SWIMMING

During the summer, the students particularly enjoyed swim time. Through all the fun that was being had, students built their swimming skills. Instructed by the YMCA, students worked to improve their treading, breathing underwater, breaststroke, diving and other lifesaving skills. Swimming instruction and programming was **made possible by the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation.**



GROWING THE GREATEST GAME: FIELD HOCKEY

In addition to swimming, basketball, dance, and yoga students began learning field hockey with Growing the Greatest Game, a national initiative to advance field hockey through diversity and inclusion. By week six, students were confident enough in their skills and the rules that they were able to play full games!



STEAM PROGRAMMING

SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ART. MATH

This Summer students participated in a plethora of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math programming. Ranging from visits from The Children's Museum, where students participated in engineering design challenges to learn about limitations and constraints and coding their own instructions for a TikTok dance. STEAM programming like the STEAM Olympics challenged students ingenuity and problem solving skills, embodying the notion of learning through play.

Students each represented individual countries and competed in challenges such as the "Tour de Marbles", the robot triathlon and other technical challenges. STEAM programming was made possible by **LEGO Community Funds U.S.** In addition, students attended Tech Talks hosted by our partners **Cigna/BDPA**, which exposed students to women in the STEAM field, an often underrepresented group.

“ The STEAM Expo was the best day of my life!
- Horizon's Student



THANK YOU TO OUR HORIZONS TEAM!

VOLUNTEERS



Allison Wall, Ally Dowd, Arianna Zirbel, Ashley Allen, Christian Davis, Chyler Bastarache, Dejonae Murdock, Emily Steadman, Eno-Yaa Kassi, Francis Ntem-Mensa, Gweneth Myles, Hallie Braunstein, Isabelle Rome, Jordan DiMauro, Juda Kissi, Julian Surdyka, Lexi Donshik, Lyndsey Goodison, Maggie Berling, Malaika Wotorson Maya Dolphin, Norina Gakpey-Graham, Quinn Auger, Shaniece Nugent, Tristan Lunding, Vida Ntem-Mensah

TEACHERS & TA'S

Pre-K: Carol Ross and Patrick Sheridan

Kindergarten: Maddie Ross and Jodi-ann Fletcher

First Grade: Radikha Morris and Kim Edwards

Second Grade: Taylor Billington and Emily Ross

Third Grade: Sarah Hayes and Camille Renaud

Fourth Grade: Anne Denerville and Talia Gallagher

Fifth Grade: Allison Cooke and Laura Calandro

Sixth Grade: Kenisha Huggin and Chris Morris

Seventh Grade: Donielle Joslyn and Hailey Singer

STEAM Specialist: Ashley Bonet and Riley Peterson



STAFF



Executive Director: Princess Hyatt

Volunteer Coordinator: Jasmine Morris

Development Manager: Grace Kraus

Admin Assistant: Mackenzie Hine

Nurse: Mary Boisvert

On Site Summer Camp Director: Todd D'Alessandro

Reading Specialists: Tara Achane and Olethea Oullette

Art Teacher: Katelynn Martinez

Dance Specialists: Ms. Lilia and Ms. Abigail

Library Specialist: Nishette Isaac

Yoga Specialist: Beth Agdish

Theatre Specialists: Shannen Hofheimer & Emma Paterson

Field Hockey: Amanda Naimie and Mimi Duran

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