




HORIZONS
The Ethel Walker School



Inspiring Learning
Building Community
Nurturing Joy



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Horizons Supporters,
It has been an absolutely amazing Horizons Summer! This was my first HEWS experience as the Executive Director of our program and I absolutely loved it.

We had an amazing staff of Lead, Specialized and Assistant Teachers, as well as Enrichment Instructors and numerous volunteers who gave their all, ensuring that our girls had amazing academic and extracurricular experiences and received the individual, wrap-around support they need and deserve. This was all made possible, largely in part, to your generous donations- THANK YOU!

It is because of each and every one of you that we were able to provide our girls with experiences and memories they will never forget.

It is because of each and every one of you that we were able to have not one, but two Academic/Curriculum Directors, ensuring our Teachers receive maximum academic support. This translates to a more cohesive and robust academic environment that sets our girls up for a successful transition to their new grade in the fall.

Your continued support of our girls will ensure that Horizons at the Ethel Walker School can keep providing a safe community space for emotional and academic growth.

Thank you, once again, for showing up for our girls - we promise to continue doing the same.

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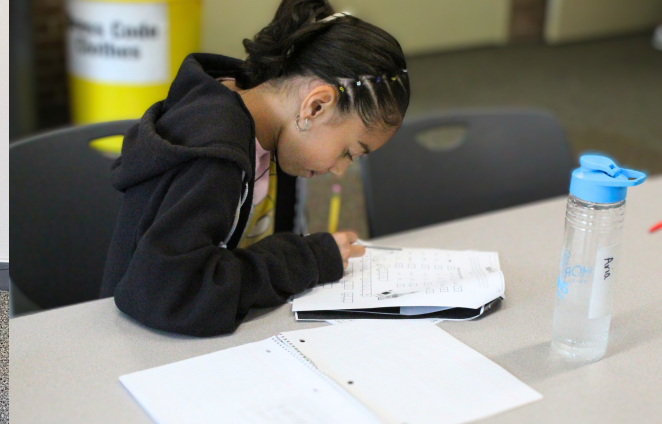
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Amira Williams
Executive Director



ACADEMICS

This was an amazing Summer for academics. This year, we pushed our families to provide us with enrollment information well in advance of the Summer. By getting paperwork to us in a timely way, we were able to create testing accounts for almost all of our students, prior to them returning to campus for Summer 2023. We challenged our students by having them take two different kinds of standardized tests at both the beginning and end of the summer. Students were assessed using STAR math and reading assessments and the DIBELS literacy assessment. This information helps us to understand our student's academic strengths and weaknesses so that we can better support them as they prepare for the upcoming school year. By taking a post-test at the end of the Summer, we are able to see the progress students have made throughout this six weeks. It helps us understand what we did well and what areas we need to improve upon for next Summer. Additionally, we will be sending out surveys to staff and families, which will also give us more qualitative feedback on how we can continue to make Horizons programming a positive experience for our community both academically and beyond.

Teachers quickly recognized that many of our students respond best to learning activities that allow them to be hands-on. Teachers worked hard to create lesson plans and learning opportunities for students that allowed them to learn through play. A sixth grade teacher got super creative and had students create a cumulative dance, showing how dance has evolved starting from the 1950s. While it initially started as a social studies project, staff quickly saw that students who were struggling academically were shining in this project. These students acted as leaders, helping to create and lead the choreography - building their confidence in the classroom. Students created dances to go along with a variety of music, with some music from their own cultures. This is just one great example of how staff encourages learning for *all* our students and tailor their lessons to student's interest areas.



SWIM

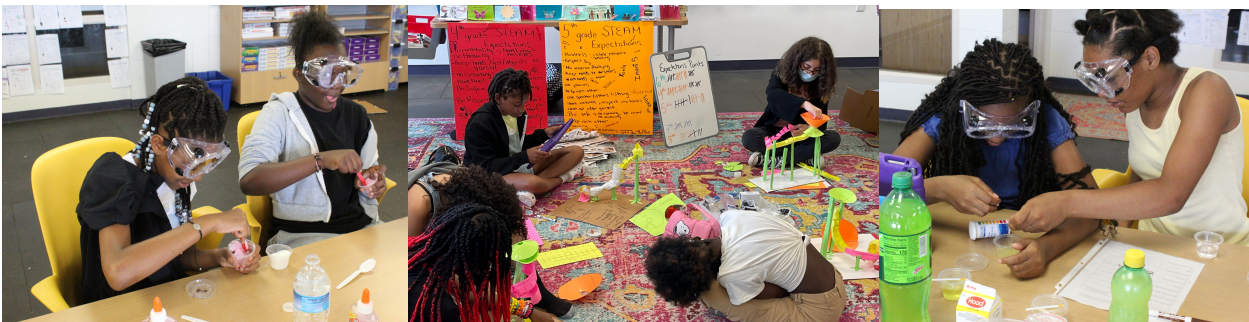
Our swim director worked with students to evaluate their individual progress in the water and communicate this progress to families. This Summer, Horizons National provided us with swim standards that we used to evaluate our graduating cohort's swim proficiency.

Our long term goal for each student is that after graduating Horizons programming, our students will have mastered the skills necessary to be confident and safe in the water.



FIELD HOCKEY

This Summer we continued our third 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. This summer 5th through 8th grade did drills, worked on skill building, and scrimmaged with one another. Sports are a powerful way to learn teamwork, problem solving skills and build confidence. Athletes are often higher performers academically as well. We are grateful for this partnership.



SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ART. MATH

We had another amazing summer full of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math programming. Organized by Ms. Bonet and Ms. Macdonald, our two lead STEAM teachers and their STEAM specialist, Ms. Chyler. They were also assisted by outside groups like *The Children's Museum CT*. We stay thankful to *LEGO Community Fund U.S.* who have provided us funding for the past three years, supporting our vision of empowering the next generation of leaders in STEAM. We thank them for reminding us of the importance and value of learning through play and creative problem solving.

This Summer, at the annual STEAM expo, students engaged in constructing lego castles, chemistry and baking, boat building, experimenting with circuits, and playing robot mini golf. Last Summer this event was coined "the best day of my life" by a Horizons student. Through regular STEAM programming and through magical events like the STEAM Expo, we aim to expose our students to the world and joys of STEAM; making them conscious of how Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math all play an integral part of our everyday lives.



ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING: HANDWORKS, ART, MUSIC, DANCE, AND OUTDOORS

The goal of Horizons programming is to increase educational outcomes. At our core we are an academic-focused program infused with various enrichment activities. This year, we inquired with our older students about their preferred enrichment programming, valuing their autonomy and interest areas. The older students chose Art as their enrichment activity, utilizing The Ethel Walker School's beautiful studio art space. Ms. Martinez, their Art teacher, led them in exploring the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Together they created beautiful artwork including impressive cardboard self portraits by our eighth graders.

Our younger grades, pre-k through fourth, participated in shorter, more frequent specials. In handworks they created beautiful handmade bracelets and weavings. In music and rhythm they explored different genres of music and learned how to use their bodies and their drums to follow the beat of a song. In dance, Ms. Lili taught choreographed dance routines and taught students about the art of dance. And in outdoors, our students got a chance to explore the beautiful campus by hiking and foraging - developing a positive relationship with the outdoors.



FIELD TRIPS

In tandem with our enrichment activities, we also participate in enrichment off campus. By exploring the world around them, we encourage our student's curiosity and provide them with engaging learning activities outside of the classroom. This summer our students took seven different field trips off campus! They started off the summer strong with mini-golfing. This trip was taken to inspire our students in their project of engineering their very own mini golf course in STEAM programming. Students loved the project so much that they used their free time to engineer. We also took our students to People's State Park and the Beardsley Zoo, giving students a chance to explore mother nature. Students explored history, arts, culture, science, and literature on their trips to the Hill-Stead Museum, The Mark Twain House, The CT Science Center, and The Doctor Seuss Museum. Additionally, The Children's Museum CT worked with us again this Summer to provide enriching programming for students. They bring elements of the museum and programming to campus, giving our students an opportunity to explore the realms of science. This summer The Children's Museum CT brought a portable planetarium to our gymnasium and lead our students through an exploration of the stars and the night sky.

THANK YOU TO OUR HORIZONS TEAM!

VOLUNTEERS



Amanda Wall, Arlianis Lopez, Audi Thomas-Anderson, Ava Leshem, Caroline Toto, Catherine Chapel, Elizabeth Cadoff, Ella Schroeder, Emily Bell, Gianna Martinez, Isabella Losza Marin, Josiane Kodak, Lexi Donshik, Luciana Gonzales, Maggie Bell, Marlo Meador, McKenna Baldwin, Natalia Jackson, Natlee Jackson, Nya Hudson, Olivia Keise, Reeve Lawless, Sadie Tranter, Samantha O'Neal, Spencer Rice, Tia Angelis, Tristan Lunding, William Chapel, Zoe O'Neal

TEACHERS & TA'S

Pre-K: Jodi-ann Fletcher & Talia Gallagher

Kindergarten: Maddie Ross & Shaniece Nugent

First Grade: Radikha Morris & Gwen Myles

Second Grade: Nabila Rahman & Alana King

Third Grade: Radames Vega & Jessica Krupnikoff

Fourth Grade: Katherine Eckerson & Chris Morris

Fifth & Sixth Grade English & Language Arts: Kent Besocke & Margaret Frawley

Fifth & Sixth Grade Math: Kenisha Huggins & Emily Steadman

Seventh & Eighth Grade English & Language Arts: Patricia Krupnikoff & Maria Lepak

Seventh & Eighth Grade Math: Krista Eliot & Laura Calandro



STAFF



Executive Director: Amira Williams

Program & Development Manager: Mackenzie Hine

Academic Director: Chrissy English & Sarah Hayes

Volunteer Coordinator: Suzanne O'Conner

Communications & Data Specialist: Shaina Stamp

Nurse: Michelle Smith

Reading Specialists: Carol Ross & Staci Murphy

Upper Level STEAM Specialist: Ashley Bonet

Lower Level STEAM Specialist: Jenni Macdonald

STEAM Assistant STEAM Specialist: Chyler Bastarache

Swim Director: Karim Mabrouk

Swim Instructors: Allison Wall, Emily Ross, Katherine Manaresi

Field Hockey Coach: Keeley Duran

Field Hockey Assistant Coaches: Ava Calma, Grace Majka

Middle School Art Specialist: Katelyn Rodriguez

Dance Specialists: Lili St. Amand

Handworks Specialist: Darby Sheldon

Music & Rhythm Specialist: Shaina Stamp

Outdoors Specialist: Carol Ross

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