

2021 IMPACT REPORT



Providing Support and Building Community at a Critical Time

Dear Friends of Horizons,

As we launched Horizons Greater Philadelphia (HGP) in January 2020 to serve more students in Philadelphia with quality out-of-school-time learning programs, there was no way of knowing how essential these services would become. During the last year, area Horizons programs were able to offer Horizons students an academic and emotional support community during a difficult time. For Summer 2021, our students and teachers were so happy to be together in person again at four independent schools in the area. As stated by Erin Richards in The New York Times Morning Newsletter, "Many education experts say in-person instruction is the best way to help hasten an academic recovery for those who fell behind and to address emotional and social consequences after two disrupted school years."

Why Summer Learning?

A July 2021 report from McKinsey & Company reported that "The pandemic widened preexisting opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest. In math, students in majority Black schools ended the year with six months of unfinished learning, students in low-income schools with seven. And the crisis had an impact on not just academics but also the broader health and well-being of students, with more than 35 percent of parents very or extremely concerned about their children's mental health." As the pandemic continues to shed light on the existing educational inequities in our city, we were grateful for our ability to serve more students with Horizons programming during 2021.

Serving More Students in Philadelphia

In 2021, two new Horizons programs joined the two existing area sites at The Episcopal Academy and Greene Street Friends School. Horizons at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School launched with two grades of students serving their Nicetown/Tioga neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Horizons at SCH Academy joined our network serving students primarily from the Mount Airy community. Together, these four sites have the capacity to serve over 500 students at full build-out. HGP plans to grow to at least eight programs in the Philadelphia area over the next 5 years allowing us to offer learning opportunities to over 1,000 students.

Back Together in the Classroom

We are proud of our four area programs for pulling together enriching summer academic and social emotional learning opportunities in a very uncertain environment. All four sites were able to offer six weeks of in-person, full-day learning to students, many of whom had not been back to a regular schedule of in-person school when they came to Horizons this past summer. Our families and students believed in Horizons to keep them safe and deliver a summer full of connections. We are grateful for their trust.

Looking Forward

Our impact report is a reflection of Horizons' efforts to offer supports and hope, and build community. I hope you will take a few moments to learn more about us and join us in celebrating our area programs' 2021 accomplishments. As we look ahead to 2022, we know there is much more that needs to be done. Your support keeps Horizons's class-sizes low and individual attention high. It ensures a child experiences the thrill of mastering a new skill, such as swimming. And it helps Horizons make a 9-year commitment from Kindergarten through eighth grade to our students.

With much gratitude,

Kathy

Kathy Jacoby
Executive Director



Our Mission –
Horizons Greater Philadelphia advances educational equity by building long-term partnerships with students, families, communities, and schools to create experiences outside of school that inspire the joy of learning.



Horizons in Philadelphia - Summer 2021 By the Numbers

5:1
Student to
Staff Ratio

14
8th grade
graduates
in 2021

“My favorite part of Horizons is learning new things.”

— Jayla, Horizons at SCH Kindergarten student



“We work hand in hand with families to best support our scholars. We want scholars to know success and accountability is not just at home and not just at school, that there are shared expectations. This reciprocity and balance is key to our scholars’ success.”

— Micah,
Horizons at GSFS Program Director

6 Weeks of
Happiness

118 Helpful
Volunteers

81%
Average summer
attendance rate

76 Teachers,
staff and enrichment
specialists



“We are learning about leadership and how we should present ourselves to the younger students so they can look up to us.”

— Keira,
Horizons at EA graduate
+ volunteer

17 Exciting
Field
Trips

8-12
On average,
weeks of math
and reading growth
after participating
in Horizons
for six weeks

275
Students
Enrolled
Summer
2021

16,500
Free, nutritious
meals provided

“The fun part about project-based learning is the students really drive their instruction, they get to pick and utilize the resources we have on campus.”

— Ryan Learn,
Horizons at EA
Program Director

90
Hours of
academic
instruction/child

“Horizons is like a family where we grow together and succeed together.”

— Mykel,
Horizons at EA
8th grade graduation
speech





“One of things we saw this past summer was the lack of movement opportunities for students during the pandemic. Our students loved moving to their different enrichment classes, moving in physical education, moving in drama, and we saw the benefits of the engagement in the classroom during their academic time because they have the ability to move during their enrichment classes.”

-Courtney Delaney, Horizons at EA Executive Director



Horizons at The Episcopal Academy

Founded 2013

Partner Schools - Frederick Douglass Mastery Elementary, North Philadelphia and Ardmore Avenue Elementary, Lansdowne



“We adapt the GSFS life skills curriculum which helps students to problem solve, build conflict resolution skills, build a positive self-image, and develop a positive racial identity.”

-Malia Gilbert, Horizons at GSFS Executive Director



Horizons at Greene Street Friends School

Founded 2016

Partner School - John Wister Mastery Elementary, Germantown

Horizons at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Founded 2021

Partner Schools - Kenderton Elementary and Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary, North Philadelphia



“We love that the Horizons starts so early on and that we are able to incorporate different elements of our school into our program. For example, for our high school, we are very intentional about the mental health services we offer to students, and for that reason in the inaugural year for our Horizons program we hired a licensed school counselor to be with us.”

-Keshema Davidson, Horizons at CR Executive Director



Horizons at SCH Academy

Founded 2021

Partner School - Henry Houston Elementary, Mount Airy



“The top three goals for our families for Summer 2021 were to build confidence, have social experiences, and be ready for 1st grade learning. I am happy to report we achieved those goals and so much more with our students.”

-Heather Murphy, Horizons at SCH Executive Director



We want to thank our institutional partners and host sites for their support since our 2020 launch:

BLBB Charitable
The Challenger Foundation
Glenmede Trust
Horizons National
The Pew Charitable Trust
Wellington Management Foundation

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
The Episcopal Academy
Greene Street Friends School
SCH Academy

**Thank you for your commitment to the success of our students.
This year would not have been possible without YOU!**



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