



Impact 20 Report 23



We advance 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.

The Horizons Model

Horizons Greater Philadelphia (HGP) supports four sites to host a six-week, tuition-free summer program for students facing educational inequities. Horizons fosters innate curiosity and love of learning. Each site provides a nurturing environment full of academic, artistic, and STEM activities that inspire young minds, encourage confidence, and support students’ growth in the foundational years of their academic journeys.

Students are also invited to participate in school-year programming that range from weekly after school programming to quarterly family engagement days, allowing students to deepen their relationship with their Horizons teachers who they will partner with from their kindergarten through 8th grade.

Core Program Components

- Strong academic content in literacy, math, project-based learning, and social emotional learning
- At least 90 minutes of swim instruction per week
- Enrichment activities in subjects like art, music, STEM, karate, and yoga
- Free breakfast, lunch, and snack
- Field trips, guest speakers and special events
- Long-term commitment to students

Our Host Site and Partner Schools

Each Horizons host site has 2-3 partner schools, public or charter schools in the area that refer students to the program in kindergarten. This allows the site and school leadership to form close relationships to support their students and their families year-round. On the list, host sites are listed in blue and their partner schools are listed in green.

The Episcopal Academy (1)

- Ardmore Avenue Elementary (2)
- Frederick Douglass Mastery Charter School (3)
- Overbrook Educational Center (4)

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School (5)

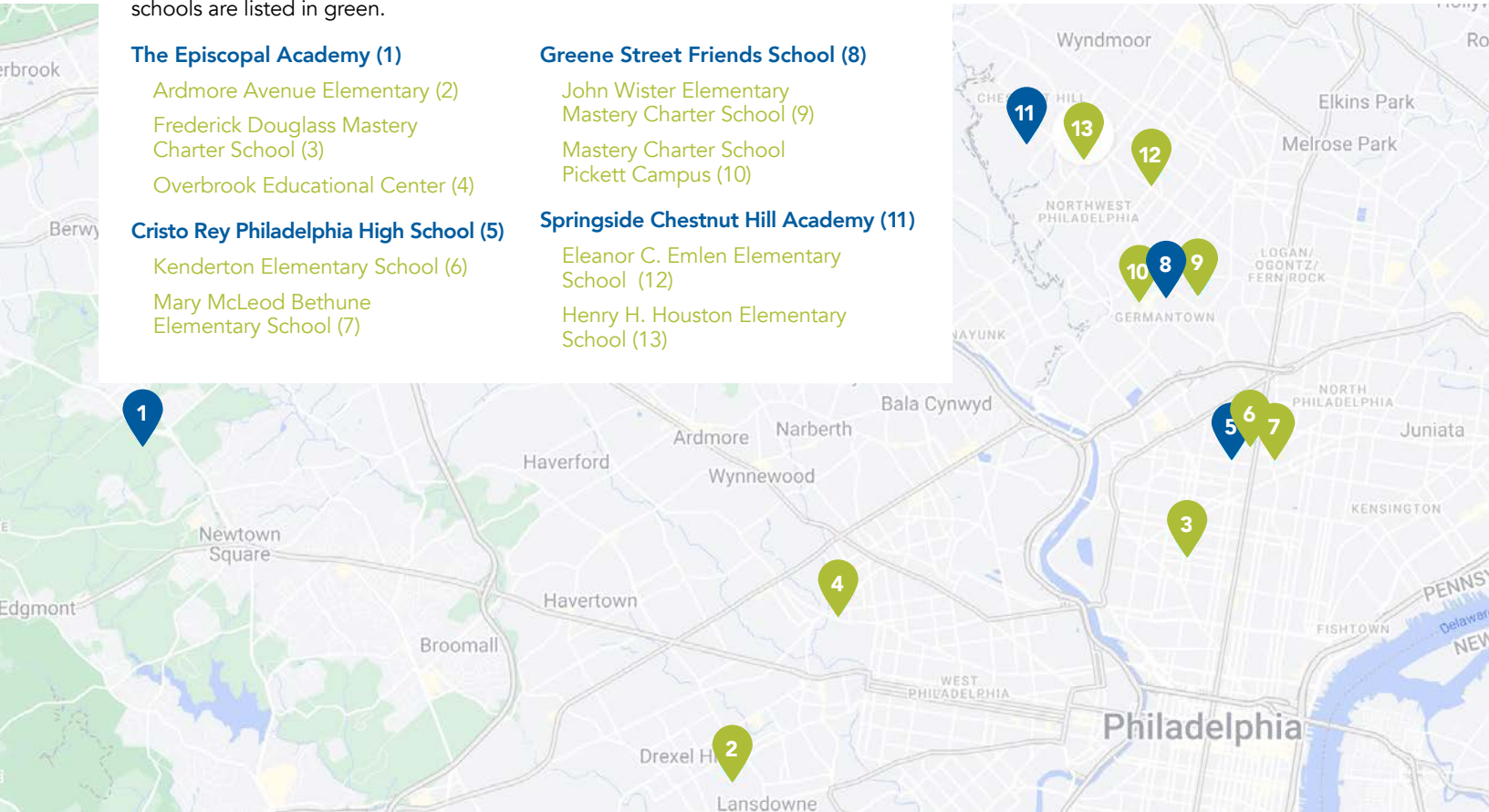
- Kenderton Elementary School (6)
- Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School (7)

Greene Street Friends School (8)

- John Wister Elementary Mastery Charter School (9)
- Mastery Charter School Pickett Campus (10)

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (11)

- Eleanor C. Emlen Elementary School (12)
- Henry H. Houston Elementary School (13)



Letter from our Board Chair and Executive Director

To Our Generous Community,

Horizons’ success continued this summer with yet another year of robust academic and enrichment programming. Across our four sites, 372 students had a summer of magic, discovery, and growth. They were explorers - of new books, new math concepts, new relationships, new topics in project-based learning, and new cultural institutions - led by their fearless and committed Horizons teachers, staff, and volunteers.

We are proud of all that our students and sites have achieved across the region, which we celebrate with you throughout this report. As you turn the pages, you will see the joy that is encapsulated in every student’s experience. We were fortunate to spend a lot of time with our sites this summer. We heard the shrieks of excitement as students jumped in the pool, witnessed their focus to master reading a new word, and the pride in that a-ha moment when they got their STEM or art project just right.

We are grateful to our four host schools and their communities’ unwavering commitments to their Horizons scholars. We are grateful to partner with families to position their students for a successful academic year. We are grateful to our hardworking Horizons staff, teachers, and volunteers for devoting their summers to Horizons to help our students realize their full potential. And, we are grateful for your support, which makes every facet of our programs and our growth possible.

As we look to the year ahead, we recommit ourselves to Horizons’ mission. We are confident that youth in our city need more joy and partners like Horizons to push them academically. Together, as a community, we can expand offerings for our current students and add new sites to broaden our footprint and support 1,000 Philadelphia-area students.

Thank you again for your shared commitment to Horizons. Whether you are a first-time partner or you have been with us since 2020, your generosity has brought us to where we are today and provided more opportunities for students to learn, grow, and achieve their goals. And, we are only just getting started.

With gratitude,

Lauren Maloney

Lauren B. Maloney
Executive Director

Beth C. Hanssens

Beth C. Hanssens
Founding Board Chair

Horizons at Cristo Rey’s neighborhood impact

“We view Horizons at Cristo Rey as an extension of our mission, which includes fostering holistic well-being of students and improving life outcomes by increasing access to high quality academic and enrichment opportunities - enough of which do not exist for children from our Nicetown-Tioga neighborhood today. The CRPHS community benefits deeply from the inclusion of Horizons students as our own, soaking in the joy and enthusiasm that they bring to the process of realizing their greatest potential.” - Tom Shoemaker, Cristo Rey

Voices from the Horizons community



Sobeida
Kindergarten Teacher

"There's a big difference between Horizons and the school year, there's not as much stress and flexibility to teach kids what you know they need. Since I teach first grade during the school year, I know what the kindergarteners need during the summer and have the autonomy to do that. Kids need this. It's not only the academics, it's all the extra stuff that during the year they don't see such as karate, yoga, swimming."

Sobeida has been with Horizons at Greene Street Friends School for five summers, teaching kindergarten. During the school year Sobeida is a first grade teacher in the School District of Philadelphia where she has been teaching for the past 20 years.



James
Student, HEA Graduation speaker

"Horizons has been a blessing to me and my family. I have met so many great people during my time here. Horizons has helped me become a better student in and out of the classroom."

James has been with Horizons at EA since Kindergarten. Described as "the mayor of Horizons," it was only fitting for James to be one of the 8th grade graduation speakers this summer.



Jarrett
Volunteer

"The kids are awesome. I like the kids a lot. When you start to make relationships and you find that you mean something to them, you can't leave them."

Jarrett is a junior at SCH Academy. He has volunteered with the program for the past two summers.



Hear more from James and Autumn, this year's HEA 8th grade graduation speakers



Each Horizons program location hosts an end-of-summer celebration. Use the QR code on the left to watch the HEA 8th grade graduation ceremony for students and families.

In 2024, the HGSFS program will reach a new milestone, hosting a graduation for its first 8th grade class!

Right: Mykel with a younger Horizons student at the HEA 8th grade graduation in July. You can learn more about Mykel and how Horizons has impacted him on pages 12 and 13.





Our Impact

372

Total students

65

Pre-K and Kindergarten students

97

Staff members

113

Volunteers

86%

Student attendance

27

Field trips

102

SEL lessons

6,099

Swimming lessons

22.6k

Meals provided

81%

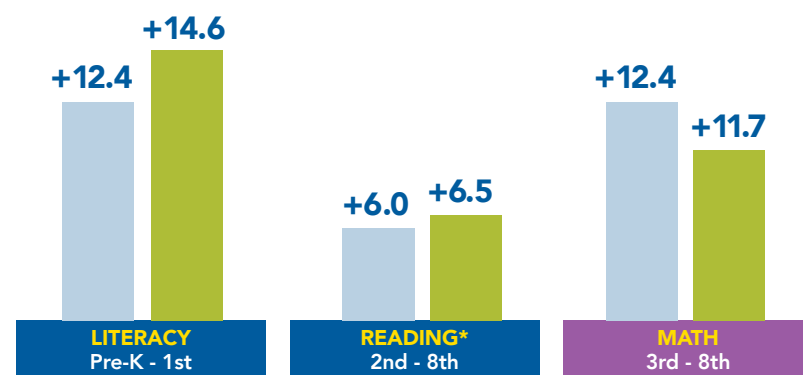
Student retention

Our Success

Horizons students are tested using the STAR assessment at the beginning and end of our six week program. Across the Horizons Network, we strive for students to grow 6-10 weeks each summer.

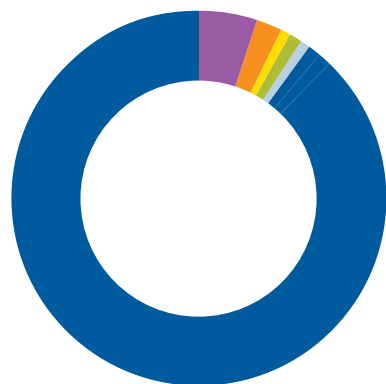
All students growth in weeks

Below-grade level students growth in weeks



Average growth from 2022-2023*

Our Demographics



Student Demographics:

90.4%	Black or African American
4.2%	Two or more races
2.5%	Other
1.4%	White
0.6%	American Indian or Alaska Native
0.6%	Asian

66%

Students start below grade level

100%

Horizons students eligible for free and reduced lunch

Right: 1st grade students at HSCH engaging in a morning writing activity.



* Horizons typically reports students' average weeks of growth over a three-year period. Due to the impact of COVID on programming in 2021, HGP is reporting a two year average from 2022-2023.





Right: HGSFS Math Specialist Mike Dinan works with a small group in a hands-on math learning game.



Foundational Learning: The Importance of Math Instruction

In 2022, *The Nation's Report Card* showed the largest decline in math scores for 4th and 8th graders since the initial test was given in 1990. In Philadelphia, just 13% of 4th grade students scored at or above proficient in the same year.

In response to this decline—which is largely due to interrupted learning during the pandemic—HGP's programs have redesigned their math curricula and increased intervention efforts. **Horizons at Greene Street Friends School** (HGSFS) and **Horizon at Episcopal Academy** (HEA) have both made investments in their programs by hiring Math Specialists.

Mike Dinan, HGSFS's Math Specialist, feels that many students are lacking foundational math skills, which was born out in the STAR

assessment data that students complete at the start of each summer. To help students develop a strong foundational understanding of core math concepts, Mike pulls small groups and works one on one with students to cement understanding of core concepts.

These foundational skills are the key to students' progression towards more advanced skills such as algebra. Mike meets with students multiple times each week, which is important because he is able to review what he taught earlier in the week to ensure students have mastered their understanding of the concept he taught.

HGSFS 7th grader, Malachi, shared that he grew more confident in his ability to complete math problems with decimals, making him more

"Math is a foundation, like building a house. I think [Horizons] is an awesome program. There are so many opportunities."

Mike Dinan
Math Specialist, HGSFS

prepared to tackle this in the school year, all thanks to Mr. Mike.

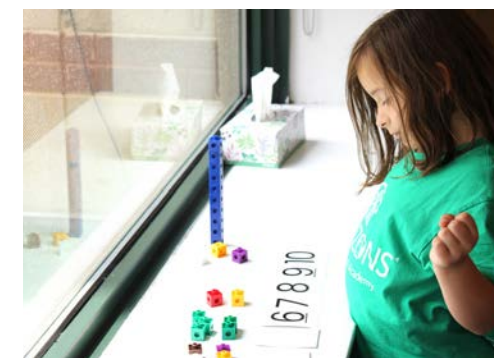
HEA revamped their Math program this summer with a new curriculum called **Math for Love**. Summer 2023 Program Director and newly-appointed HEA Executive Director, Ryan Learn, shared what stood out to him when they selected the program: "[Math for Love] includes learning through mini-lessons; hands-on games; student choice; and an overall structure that leads to familiarity and differentiation for both teachers and students."

A 1st grade student explained, "Math is fun because of the games. At school we do plain math."

The play-based curriculum made an impact on students' attitudes towards math as well as their test scores. Mr. Learn stated, "overall we showed a lot more growth than in years prior. We have students recording months growth over the course of a few weeks in most of our younger grades."

On average, Horizons students grew at least

12.4 weeks
in math skills during the summer program





Right: HGSFS students celebrate after a visit from local partner, Treehouse Books



Emphasizing Reading, Maximizing Outcomes

Reading is the basis upon which all other subjects are built, and yet two thirds of 4th graders across the country score below proficient in reading. The pandemic set students back, with reading scores falling about three points lower than pre-pandemic averages according to *The Nation's Report Card*.

In Philadelphia, just 28.1% of 3rd graders scored proficient in reading in 2022, about 4 percentage points below pre-pandemic reading scores.

Horizons students are immersed in explicit, systematic, and differentiated literacy instruction over the course of the six week program, leading to significant growth in reading skills. Each Horizons site prioritizes literacy instruction through daily English Language Arts (ELA) instruction as well

as Guided Reading groups, and by incorporating literacy skills into project based learning.

Research shows that younger students (grades K-2nd) are able to make larger gains in reading compared to older students. Literacy aptitude is determined by students' exposure to language at a young age, while older students who lack this foundational language have to spend time trying to build it up, falling further behind.

In response, Horizons structures K-4th grade literacy instruction around foundational skills such as phonemic awareness, phonological awareness, and phonics—while instruction for 5th through 8th grade focuses on reading comprehension.

Horizons at Cristo Rey Philadelphia (HCRP) Reading Specialist Dillan Leonard explains the process, “We used the STAR assessment primarily to determine who to work with. I chose up to 10 students in each grade level that were at the lowest level and most in need of individualized attention.” Reading Specialists utilize this information to form Guided Reading groups of three to five students that are based on students’ specific needs.

HCRP School Year Reading Specialist, Keriann DeLine, shared the importance of assessments in her work: “Small group instruction is vital for building confidence by having students work with other students with similar abilities. This creates an inviting and collaborative setting and helps build strong relationships between

me and the students. It also gives students the opportunity to speak up, ask questions, read at their level and not get lost in a large group.”

This individualized approach to reading allows students to feel more confident in their abilities and return to school more prepared and with a renewed love for reading.

Horizons Students Literacy and Reading Growth

Pre-K - 1st Grade

Below grade level

+14.6 weeks

All students

+12.4 weeks

2nd - 8th Grade

Below grade level

+6.5 weeks

All students

+6.0 weeks

What is a Reading Specialist?

Every Horizons site has at least one Reading Specialist, who oversees all benchmark assessments, reading instruction, remediation, and advancement aspects of the Horizons program. They develop a site-wide summer reading plan and implement its goals and objectives in partnership with classroom teachers. In addition, they work with students one on one and in small groups, focusing on students who are in most need of intervention services.

This summer, we had 8 reading specialists across the region.





Jumping Into Learning: Swimming Lessons at Horizons

When you ask a Horizons scholar what their favorite part of their experience is, without hesitation, many will say swimming. Every Horizons site across the nation has at least 90 minutes of swimming a week with the ultimate goal of students becoming proficient swimmers by their 8th grade year. Across Philadelphia, Horizons host sites are fortunate to have pools onsite or to partner with local organizations like the **Columbia North YMCA** and **La Salle University** to implement this core feature of their programs.

Access to pools and swimming is not a reality for many students and families nationwide, especially in Philadelphia. A recent article from the *New York Times* cited that

drowning is the number one cause of death for youth, with Black children between ages 5 and 9 being 2.6 times more likely to drown in swimming pools than white children. These disparities are rooted in historical segregation including lack of access to pools and swimming lessons in communities of color following a disinvestment in public pools following WWII. Today, these disparities are exacerbated by the lifeguard shortage that limited the number of pools that were able to open and the hours of operation over the past few years.

Philadelphia leaders are making investments to increase access to pools and swimming lessons. For the first time in a number of years all 61 Philadelphia public pools

opened, welcoming over 500,000 patrons. In addition, growing the number of students who can swim is a part of the School District of Philadelphia's five-year strategic plan.

Beyond swimming lessons and learning key water safety skills, swimming at Horizons can open doors to employment. This year, **Horizons at Episcopal Academy** (HEA) student and current Central High School junior, Mykel, was the first Horizons alum in the region to be employed by a site. Mykel was

Above: Students at HEA preparing to make a splash



hired as a swim instructor, providing lessons to younger students throughout the day, and worked with the site's Aquatic Director to train for his lifeguard certification. At the end of his six weeks, Mykel earned his lifeguard certification, and he was hired as a Philadelphia lifeguard for the month of August.

Through the 6,099 swim lessons offered across HGP's four sites this summer, Horizons students worked towards becoming stronger swimmers and developed a confidence they carry

with them into the school year. The ability to swim is key to staying safe, opens doors to new activities, and offers future employment opportunities along with the ability to mentor the next generation of swimmers.

"My favorite part [of my time with Horizons] is participating in swimming lessons and sports." Autumn 8th grader, HEA





Supporting Horizons

Corporate and Foundation Partners 2020-2023

AmeriHealth Caritas

Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Challenger Foundation

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

The City of Philadelphia Targeted Community Investment Grant

Friends of Education

Glenmede Trust

Helen's Hope Foundation

Horizons National

Patricia Kind Family Foundation

Pennsylvania Community Violence Prevention Grant Program

PepsiCo. Bottling Group

The Pew Charitable Trusts

TD Charitable Foundation

Wellington Management Foundation

WSFS CARES Foundation

Why I Give

Featuring, **Angela Val**, CEO
of Visit Philly and HGP Board Member



"I got involved with Horizons of Greater Philadelphia to help give the kids in our community that have the least, the same opportunities as the kids who have the most."

"I give monthly because Horizons understands the challenges students facing inequities experience—their commitment to high quality educational programs and their belief that having fun is just as important as academics."

Right: HGP Executive Director Lauren Maloney with Steve Bohner, President of the AmeriHealth Caritas Foundation, receiving the joint honor of one of the Philadelphia Business Journal's 2023 Faces of Philanthropy.



Above: The Cousins Mike team went above and beyond to support HCRP students this summer bringing a backpack with school supplies for every student.

Partner Spotlights

In addition to the commitment of our host schools, our sites have deep relationships with community partners that contribute to core components of our programs. Our students benefit from the consistency of these relationships, as well as the services and experiences their partnership offers. This year we are highlighting partners that have helped sites focus on nutrition, movement, and the arts.

Cousins Mike

Cousins Mike was started by two lifelong chefs to create custom culinary experiences for schools, private clients, and corporate teams. Currently, Cousins Mike runs the lunch program at three Philadelphia schools and works with St. Monica's Eldercare program to provide free weekly meal deliveries to seniors.

This summer was their first summer providing breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the students at Horizons at Cristo Rey Philadelphia and it was a hit! Students enjoyed homemade meals each day including favorites like french toast, scrambled eggs, dumplings, popcorn chicken, and BBQ chicken.

"This was one of the best experiences that we have had in our culinary career," Mike Cousins shares. "Beyond being able to create fun, delicious and nutritious meals all summer long, we were able to get to know a group of really amazing kids and outstanding staff members. Horizons is a program that is so impactful to the community, and it was such a positive experience being able to see and be a part of their work firsthand." We are so grateful for Cousins Mike's partnership and look forward to more amazing meals this school year and next summer!

John Graves Productions

John Graves Productions began teaching classes at Horizons at Greene Street Friends School in 2019, and is an acclaimed performing arts company that delivers a diverse array of theatrical and concert productions in the Philadelphia area. In addition to thought-provoking plays and concert events, John Graves Productions also owns a studio in Philadelphia that fosters artistic development through rehearsals, performances, and community engagement.

Founder, John Graves III, has received local and national accolades including government recognition for his contributions to the performing arts and community empowerment. Last summer was Graves' first as a full time drama teacher with Horizons, and over the course of six weeks all students, grades pre-K to 7th, had the chance to participate in theater classes that culminated with a showcase in the final week. John returns to Horizons each year because he "enjoys the atmosphere, mission, students, staff, and how it all comes together for the betterment of the students and community."



Support our work to bring Horizons to more students in Philadelphia by making a gift today!



Board Members*

Beth Hanssens, *Board Chair, Former CFO, Sprout Network*
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Kristine Dankenbrink, *Executive Vice President - Tax, Comcast Corporation*
Delvin Dinkins, *Head of School, Springside Chestnut Hill Academy*
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Monica Quarrie, *Executive Director, Horizons at Greene Street Friends School*
Kenyatta Patterson, *Site Director, Horizons at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy*

**List as of August 31, 2023*