

can.
do.

The Post Oak School / 2018 Annual Report



Two words. One common bond. ●

Hurricane Harvey certainly set the tone for the 2017–18 school year in the city of Houston. Like many in our city, Post Oak families and staff lost homes, were displaced, and expended immense amounts of energy on recovery—physical, financial, and emotional.

The Bissonnet Campus suffered widespread damage as every inch of the 55,000-square-foot building took in water. The first moments inside the building were so unnerving as we knew it could possibly take months to remediate and repair the damage. Facing the future was a daunting task those first few days.

“How are we going to get through this?” From my perspective now, with this many months behind us, the answer was clearly a simple one. Together.

Harvey brought with its challenges an exceptional opportunity for us to come together as a community and take care of each other. This began first with a phone call to Ned Smith, Head of School at Episcopal High School, who simply asked, “What do you need?” When I answered, “Five classrooms” he quickly said, “We can do that.” We found that to be the response everywhere we turned.

● “*We can do that.*”

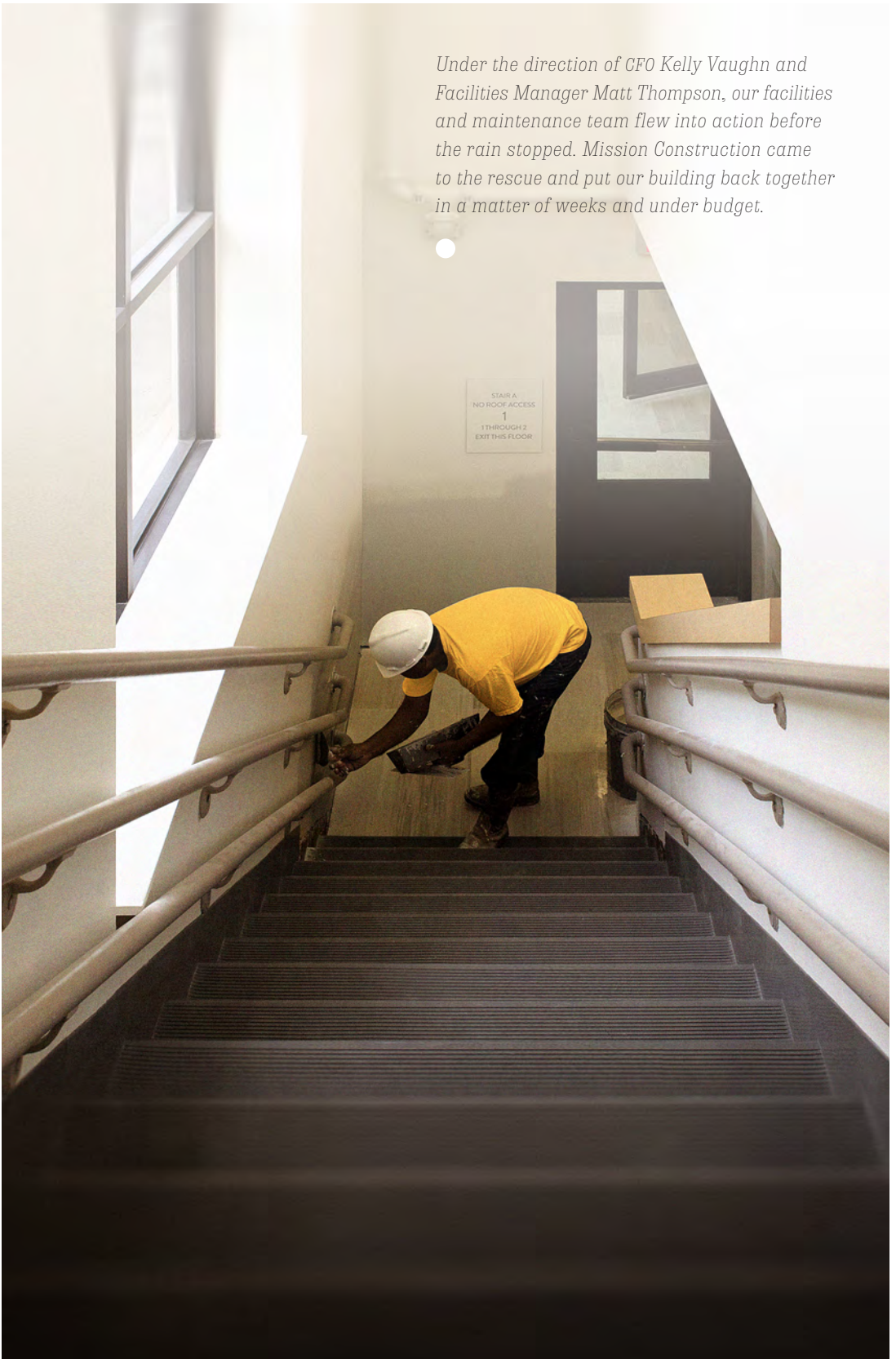


The Post Oak Parent Association (POPA) quickly organized a way to identify families in need and match them up with families poised to help. Food trains, clothing and supply donations, house clean-up, and quick car donations helped our families get back on their feet.

Generous Post Oak parents simply handed me checks to make sure that finances were covered as we engaged in the tedious process of working with the insurance adjustor. A staff emergency fund was set up and 14 staff members received immediate cash for individual support.



Under the direction of CFO Kelly Vaughn and Facilities Manager Matt Thompson, our facilities and maintenance team flew into action before the rain stopped. Mission Construction came to the rescue and put our building back together in a matter of weeks and under budget.





Dedicated parent volunteers spent many hours helping set up a giant makeshift Primary classroom for 155 children in the gym and move furniture and materials to interim Elementary classrooms at Episcopal. Weeks later they did it all over again when we moved back.



Houston Area Independent Schools (HAIS) immediately responded to member schools with a donation. Montessori schools across the country provided donations, student activities, and hands-on support. Austin Montessori School volunteered a crew on our big moving day.

Just as we turned the corner, we unexpectedly lost Charles Ziegler, a beloved high school teacher and friend. Post Oak Board member and Superintendent of KIPP Houston, Sehba Ali, promptly mobilized a team of crisis counselors to support our students and staff.



This sudden faculty loss left a hole in our hearts. Again, we got through it together: Parents helped in the reception area, drove students to their internships, brought coffee and provided lunch to help ease the work of teachers and staff who were busy supporting students.





The harder the challenge we faced, the tighter we held onto each other. We know what we are doing when these things happen because it is the Post Oak mission: to nurture the individual, and to create an environment that fosters cooperation, collaboration, and peace.

This was a year of community. ●

The year of Harvey, relocation and reconstruction, ice storms, the passing of friends, and what felt like a long stretch of fractured weeks. But we were also all part of *that* year—the year the Astros won the World Series, a year when the high school flag football team won the state championship, the Post Oak Montessori Model United Nations team was followed by a documentary film crew, and Post Oak graduated its first “lifer”—Lauren Dunaway who began her Montessori steps at 14 months and completed her walk during commencement at 12th grade.

The story of this year, and every year at The Post Oak School, is the story of its students. They continue to be the testament to the incredible work that goes on in our classroom environments, no matter how many twists and turns in our path. The greater the challenge faced, the more they relied upon each other. Post Oak students have been the light, the energy, and the inspiration that moved us forward each day. We are grateful for the parents who entrust us to their care and share these beautiful people with us.

● **Maura Joyce** / Head of School



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THE POST OAK





Letter from Post Oak Parents Association



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parent body for their commitment and support in the 2017–2018 school year. It is because of you that our community persevered in what was a challenging school year for all of us. Our community continued to thrive in a moment where many in our city and own community were faced with adversity. Whether you provided assistance in the recovery process after Hurricane Harvey, served as a room parent, assisted with chaperoning for field trips or worked in the library, art room or school office, your help was appreciated.

Hurricane Harvey created a need for service, and our community met the challenge with enthusiasm. While we cleaned our Bissonnet Campus, and under Maura Joyce’s adept leadership created the largest Montessori classroom in the country to house our displaced students, our families provided bus-loads of supplies three days in a row to those in need and then mucked out flooded houses around the community. We did not stop after the hurricane but instead continued to meet once a month for more service activities. Our Upper Elementary families took our service commitment a step further and read weekly with first and second graders at a Title I school on the northeast side of downtown. Then, when our high school tragically lost one of its teachers, the parent body provided tireless support so the high school faculty could address the emotional and academic needs of the kids. These events brought us together and supported our school culture of generosity and greater responsibility. We are pleased that the service initiative continues in 2018–2019 under the leadership of Community Service Chair John Duboise.

This year we also created a new online database of the colleges attended by our parent community. This has become a resource for our high school seniors who want to speak with an alum of a college to which they are applying. A second database was created to offer possible internship opportunities for our high school students.

Post Oak’s volunteer support makes a difference and our children and community reap the benefits of our efforts. We celebrate all of you who stepped into the community service role with such strong energy and grace.

Through challenges, we face who we are and learn how much we can do. It turns out that the Post Oak community is truly heroic and can accomplish great things. We thank all the volunteers and donors who stepped up in countless ways by chairing an event, assisting in a classroom, giving a gift, lending a hand, and helping the community. Our gratitude is deep for all those who showed up ready to pitch in when needed. Together we helped the students of Post Oak through another year of learning and a few life lessons.

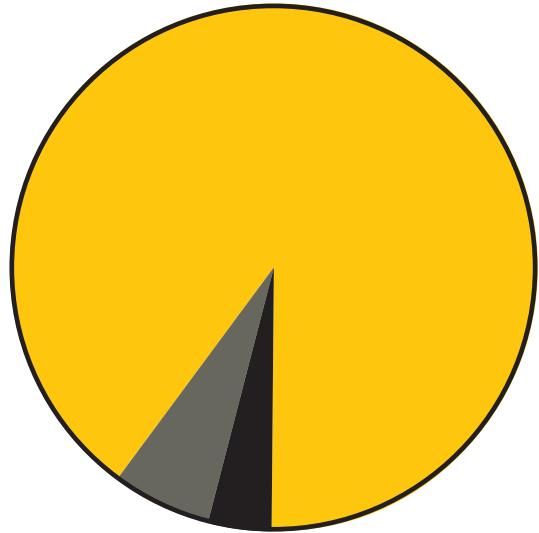
Christina Kopanidis-Cantu/Development Director



2017–18 Financial Report

Income

- *Tuition and Fees* 90%
- *All Other Operating* 6%
- *Fundraising, Net* 4%



Expenses

- *Salaries and Benefits* 58%
- *Financial Aid* 10%
- *Other Program Expenses* 9%
- *Plant Expenses* 14%
- *General Administration* 8%



The financial stability of the Post Oak School continued to grow during the 2017–18 school year. The School's Bissonnet campus flooded and suffered significant damage during Hurricane Harvey, but was able to repair all damages with insurance funds and donor gifts. The School experienced an overall increase in enrollment from 504 to 524 students in 2017–18 from the previous year. The overall financial success for the 2017–18 School year was driven by positive budget variances in the operating budget and a successful annual fund. The School maintains a strong working capital position throughout the year due to the prompt collection of tuition and fees in advance of the need for funds to operate the School. The School continued to build cash reserves during 2017–18 and kept with its commitment to the Post Oak School Endowment by transferring \$30,178 into the fund at the end of the school year. The market value of the endowment was \$2,402,480 at June 30, 2018.

Operating Income Statement

Income

Tuition and Fees	_____
Fundraising, Net	_____
All Other Operating	_____
Net Assets Released from Restriction	_____
TOTAL REVENUE	_____

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	_____
Financial Aid	_____
Other Program Expenses	_____
Plant Expenses	_____
General Administration	_____
Transfer to Endowment	_____
TOTAL EXPENSE	_____

2017-2018 Total

\$	11,719,567
	519,022
	761,809
	30,750
\$	13,031,148
\$	7,223,193
	1,261,825
	1,178,243
	1,715,581
	1,013,723
	30,178
\$	12,422,743

Operating Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash and Investments	_____
Receivables	_____
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	_____
Fixed Assets	_____
TOTAL ASSETS	_____

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	_____
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	_____
Deferred Income	_____
Other Accrued Expenses	_____
Notes Payable	_____
Due to Temporary Restricted Funds	_____
Fair Value of Derivative Agreement	_____
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_____

Fund Balance

Net Assets	_____
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	_____

2017-2018 Total

\$	5,300,846
	81,195
	593,218
	17,021,983
\$	22,997,242
\$	182,313
	31,770
	1,030,296
	59,918
	7,100,396
	—
	(16,234)
\$	8,388,459
\$	14,608,783
\$	22,997,242



Graduate Briefs



Our alumni remain part of the Post Oak community.

These are Post Oak grads, which is just another way of saying they are fiercely independent, outside-the-box thinkers who learn by doing.

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Students who attended Post Oak through Middle School

'80s

Alison Wong

Alison Wong, who was a Lower and Upper Elementary student at Post Oak in the '80s, works as a litigation consultant; running mock trials, preparing witnesses, selecting juries, and helping trial teams shape their stories.

She is very active in the Post Oak community. Her children, Gray (8) and Julia (6), both attend Lower Elementary, her husband Blaine coached the 2018 Middle and High School soccer teams to winning seasons, and she joined Post Oak's Board of Trustees in the fall of 2016.

'90s

Carlin Putman '91

Carlin, splits time between her company, Page-One Meetings and Events, and her two children, Brady (7) and Taylor (6), both of whom are very proud Post Oak students.

After passing the gym and seeing Brady attending a fencing course or watching Taylor in a new transition lesson, it's easy to become nostalgic with her experience as both Post Oak student and parent, she says. "As a professional planner, I create experiences for attendees and guests. Almost 30 years later, Post Oak continues a similar tradition of creating lasting experiences for our children."

Brooke Guerrero '95

Three months ago, Brooke moved to Auckland, to begin a new job with The Warehouse Group, New Zealand's largest retail group. She is the senior product manager for the Warehouse native mobile application.

'00s

Abbie Kamin '01

Abbie currently serves as the associate regional director for the Anti-Defamation League Southwest Region in Houston. She married Matthew Hansel in March 2018. They met during their

first year of law school at American University in Washington D.C. Abbie was also recently appointed to Mayor Turner's Commission Against Gun Violence.

Jennie Kamin '04

After Post Oak, Jennie went on to attend Emery High School and then Tulane University. She also went to grad school at the Columbia School of Journalism and is now an associate producer with CBS News, where she is working on a documentary series covering religion and politics. Though she resides in NYC, she often reports on what's happening in Texas, from Hurricane Harvey to the Texas midterms.

'10s

Sarah Al-Shaikh '10

Sarah recently graduated from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, with a major in global studies with a regional focus on the Middle East and concentrating on international conflict, cooperation, and security.

Karis Barker '10

Karis recently graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a major in psychology and a minor in biological sciences. At school, she was the secretary for the club lacrosse team, which competes in Division II. Karis is now working as an ABA therapist, which involves working with children with autism or children who are on or suspected to be on the spectrum.

Emma Cornwell '10

Emma is currently a senior at Scripps College in Claremont, California, where she double majors in English and philosophy. Last semester, Emma studied abroad at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, and spent her summer as a fellow for the Hearst Foundation doing pre-thesis research as well as working as an alumni relations intern at Post Oak. This fall, Emma is a staff writer at the Claremont Journal of Law and Public Policy.

Amelia Eskridge '10

Amelia recently graduated from Southern Methodist University with a degree in management science and Spanish. At school, she was a member of an a capella group and worked as a tour guide and resident assistant. She is now working for Bain & Company as an associate consultant.

Allison Wawro '10

Allison recently graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a biopsychology major, combining her interests in hard and social sciences. She also completed an internship at the Baylor College of Medicine Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy.

Jack Arnett '13

Jack is in his second year at University of Southern California and is studying economics.

Lydia Cornwell '13

After Post Oak, Lydia went on to attend St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas, where she graduated in 2017. She just completed her first year in Lehigh University's computer science and business program. At Lehigh, Lydia serves as the vice president of the Lehigh Robotics Club and as a mentor for the CSB program.

Calvin Henry '13

Calvin is currently studying business at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lauren Apollo '14

Lauren is attending Tulane University. In high school, she was active in the National Honor Society and cross country.

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Students who attended Post Oak through 12th grade



Grace Armstrong '16

Grace attends Barnard College in New York City, and is a psychology major with a history minor. At Barnard, she is the activities chair for her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and treasurer for Barnard Voice, the campus newspaper. This past summer, she was a programming intern at the Children's Inn at National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Riane Belgau '16

Riane is pursuing her passion for art in New York City, where she lives. She is planning to work with the Art Student League in Manhattan. In addition, she is working in screen printing.

Kirby Birk '16

Kirby is a business and communication studies double major at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. On campus, she is the president of the Student Philanthropy Council, a student organization that promotes the importance of lifelong giving to the university. She is fundraising director for Southwestern's Miracle Network Dance Marathon, which raises money for Dell Children's Medical Center. She also holds leadership positions in her sorority chapter of Alpha Xi Delta.

This past summer, she was a marketing intern for Second Servings, a Houston nonprofit that repurposes foods destined for landfills and delivers it to charitable organizations around the city. This fall, Kirby is continuing her studies and interning with the vice president of university relations at Southwestern.

Rains Browning '16

Rains is a junior at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. He is a political science and history double major who made the Dean's List last year. He is active in intramural teams and a member of College Democrats. This past summer, he worked as a law clerk at Hartline Dacus Barger Dryer to learn more about the career path that he wants to pursue.

Alex Donnenberg '16

Alex Donnenberg is a junior at the University of Southern California, where he is studying political economics.

Ari Fletcher-Bai '16

Ari is studying human communications with a creative writing minor at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She teaches fitness classes through TU Fit, a health club on campus, and is a member of Alpha Chi Lambda.

Shiraz Ghauri '16

Shiraz is a junior finance major at Babson College in Boston, Massachusetts. During his freshman year, he was part of the student government as a class of 2020 senator. He shared that part of the Babson experience is creating a company with fellow peers during their freshman year. He created a company called Blistfy, which is an online platform to facilitate safe transactions between Babson students. He is currently a member of the investment club on campus.

"Post Oak High School helped me with thinking outside the box, problem solving, and handling my workload through the International Baccalaureate program." This past summer, he was a summer associate at Elevation Gained Partners, which is a private equity firm that invests in technology businesses.

John Mellinger '16

John is in his third year as a mechanical engineering major with a business minor at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of the engineering chapter of Net Impact at UT, a social and environmental service organization. He participated in Longhorn Racing Electric, UT's Formula SAE team that designs and races a single seat electric race car.

This past summer, he studied abroad in Valparaiso, Chile, taking an engineering communications class and interning at Yoy, a virtual and augmented reality company in Valparaiso.

Megan Rahlfs '16

Megan is currently a junior civil engineering major at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She has continued her passion for horsemanship by joining the SMU club polo team. Currently, she is the president of the SMU Polo Organization and captain of the Women's Polo Team. She is a member of Best Buddies, a student organization that pairs students with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Emily Randall '16

Emily is busy at College of Wooster in Ohio as a geology major and environmental studies minor. On campus, she is a member of the College of Wooster Equestrian Team, Geology Club, and Greenhouse, the campus sustainability club.

Over the summer, Emily worked at the Whiteside Museum of Natural Science in Seymour, Texas. "I had done two previous A-Term's at this museum during my time at Post Oak High School. I enjoyed working there for an extended period of time and was fortunate enough to do this through the funding of the APEX Fellowship by College of Wooster."

This fall, Emily is studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, and taking courses on sustainability to support her environmental studies minor. "I am also doing a week-long trip to Iceland as part of my geology major. I am excited to continue my studies abroad and start this new adventure. During the spring, I will be living in the Greenhouse housing, which was newly established at Wooster and organizes green initiatives."

Iris Stringer-Graeve '16

Iris is a political science major at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. On campus, she is copresident of Habitat for Humanity, a member of the Pre Law Society, and a member of the Philosophy Club. Over the summer, she was a political affairs intern for the Borgen Project, which is a national campaign that lobbies to fight global poverty. "I sought this opportunity to gain experience in my career goal of working at a human rights nonprofit."

Brayden Chavis '17

Brayden is in his sophomore year of Rice University and double majoring in cognitive science and philosophy.

Jodi McNamara-Alexander '17

Jodi is at Texas Tech University, majoring in apparel design with a minor in Spanish and interior design. "This past summer, I ran my own landscaping business and shadowed for a potential internship at Gensler to learn more about interior design."

Amber Meghani '17

After graduating from Post Oak High School in 2017, Amber took a gap year and spent time travelling. When in Houston, she was a teaching assistant for Dr. Lee's Integrated History and Social Science class at the High School. Currently she is working in an office learning about restaurant franchising. She began classes this fall at the University of Texas at Austin

Isabella Neblett '17

Isabella is currently an undergraduate at Emory University. An avid scholar, Isabella made the Dean's List every semester and sat on the First Year Advisory Board where she worked with Emory's dean and community leaders to improve programming for incoming students. Isabella sits on the executive board of

Free Thought, an art collective that encourages discourse. She has performed spoken word poetry to raise funds for nonprofits that tackle social justice issues such as the treatment of undocumented immigrants in detention centers and raise awareness about LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Over the summer, Isabella interned for MoreArt, a nonprofit in New York City that commissions artists to create public art installations that inspire social justice.

James Perkins '17

James studied at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. On campus, he was part of the Jewish Students Union. James took courses in history, politics, and law during his freshman year. This year he is taking his studies abroad.

Max Tribble '17

Max is studying computer science at Trinity University in San Antonio. He is a member of Young Conservatives of Texas and attended the Conservatives Political Action Conference in February with the organization.

Matthew Watowich '17

Matthew is a sophomore at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He is an undeclared major but says he will likely double major in biology and studio art. He is currently involved in the drawing club, CANOE Carleton (a club about nature and outdoor education), and CarlsTalkBack, an activist group on campus that works to increase accessibility at Carleton.

This past summer, Matthew worked as a head counselor and waterfront director at Camp Lincoln in Minnesota. This winter, he will participate in a study abroad program called Studio Art in the South Pacific, which goes to the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Australia, and works with aboriginal people to study contemporary and traditional art.

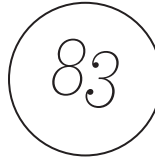
Ian Williams '17

Ian attends the Rhode Island School of Design where he is an illustration major. "At the beginning of my freshman year, I was in the POSE, Pre Orientation Student Engagement Program, which is dedicated to meeting peers prior to the beginning of classes and also engaging in service projects around the Providence community."

"This past summer, I worked at Glassell School of Art as a teaching assistant and was really happy to be working again in a familiar place at home."

By the Numbers

● Total HS enrollment Number of seniors Early admit awards



Post Oak High School FAQs

After Post Oak, our alumni are accepted to a premier array of colleges and universities nationwide, pursuing a variety of majors and interests. Class of 2018 acceptances include:

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- | | |
|---|---|
| American University | Texas A&M University* |
| Bard College | Texas A&M University–Kingsville* |
| Baylor University | Texas State University* |
| Bennington College | Texas Tech University |
| Boston University | Trinity University |
| Brandeis University* | Tulane University |
| Champlain College | Tulane University–Honors Program* |
| Chapman University | Tyler Junior College |
| Clark University | University of Alabama |
| Colorado College* | University of California–Davis |
| Colorado State University–Honors Program | University of California–Los Angeles* |
| Colorado School of Mines | University of California–San Diego |
| George Washington University* | University of California–Santa Cruz |
| Goucher College* | University of Colorado–Boulder |
| High Point University* | University of Denver |
| Kilgore College* | University of Hartford |
| Louisiana State University | University of Houston–Honors College |
| Loyola Marymount University | University of North Texas |
| Mary Baldwin University | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities–Honors College |
| Mississippi State University | University of the Pacific |
| Missouri University of Science & Technology | University of San Francisco* |
| Montserrat College of Art | University of Texas at Austin* |
| Our Lady of the Lake University | University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Pace University | Xavier University |
| Purdue University | |
| Rice University* | |
| Sam Houston State University | |
| Santa Clara University | |
| Simmons College | |
| Southern Methodist University | |
| Southwestern University* | |
| St. Edward’s University | |
| St. Edward’s University–Honors College | |
| St. Louis University | |
| St. John’s College | |
| Stephen F. Austin State University | |

● Total college acceptances

Total scholarship awards



● Total scholarship amount awarded



● First choice school acceptances

National Honor Society members



*one or more students attending

The mission of The Post Oak School is to prepare an outstanding Montessori environment that fosters collaboration, cooperation and peace, and to provide experiences that promote curiosity, inquiry and engagement. Designed according to the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual characteristics and needs of the learner, our methods guide and nurture each individual from infancy to adulthood. The school's approach is grounded in the principles of AMI Montessori education.



The
POST OAK
SCHOOL



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