

## WHY I CHOSE MPFS: Our Community Members Answer the Big Question!



### ANDREA & MATT ANGIULO

*Parents of MPFS 5th Grader*

We chose MPFS for our son because it is a supportive and diverse community with a very engaging academic environment. He has grown tremendously, both academically and socially, since being a part of the school. The small class sizes really make a difference for our child. To see his growth over the past three years is amazing.

We spoke to current families, alum, trustees, and faculty about why they chose MPFS in their various roles across constituencies. MPFS is dedicated to creating a community of life-long learners who grow in a nurturing environment filled with both academic vigor and rich opportunities for character development. We embrace diversity, in all its forms, challenging students to develop respect for all communities while cultivating their social, creative, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and physical aspects. The diverse, unique, welcoming community is part of what makes an MPFS education so special. Read on to learn more about how our community members answer the question, why did you choose MPFS?

WHY I CHOSE MPFS... | Continued on page 5



Jon Hall, Head of School

## LETTER FROM The Head of School

**W**hy did I choose MPFS? When you interview for a new position in education, maybe more so than in other fields, one assesses the fit of the institution for them as much as the other way around. First impressions can be very powerful, both for the better and the worse. I had never really spent any time in Media, despite living only eight miles away, and I had never stepped foot on campus. When I applied for the new head of school position, I took a drive to see what the commute would be like and I thought the campus was beautiful.

The second part of the interview process involved spending a few hours on campus on a Saturday. I was then able to see the inside of this beautiful little school and I developed an immediate affinity for it. This same day, as I toured campus, even without children present, it was clear to me as I went from room to room that this is a school that is child-centered and innovative; you see it wherever you look.

The last part of the interview process involved spending a full day on campus while school was in session. It was on that day that it became obvious to me how much the students love this school, feel safe here, and want to learn here.

In the coming months as I met more and more members of the community, it also became clear that this is a place that gives as much to the adults as it does to the students. The faculty and staff care deeply about the students and each other, and it is palpable in everything they do. As for the parents and families, they are supportive and caring partners in their childrens' education.

My decision to come to MPFS is reinforced for me every morning; the joy on the faces of the students as they come in the back gate really says it all: MPFS is the place they want to be. I'm simply following their lead.

**Come explore with us!**



@mediaprovidencefriendsschool



@media.providence.friends



@mpfs



## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: The Friends Collaborative

Media-Providence Friends School is one of the founding members of The Friends Education Equity Collaborative, a Special Purpose Entity LLC formed in 2016 to secure tax credits offered through Pennsylvania's popular EITC and OSTC tax credit programs.

The EITC and OSTC programs were previously only open to corporate donors, but with the formation of organizations like The Collaborative, **both individuals and businesses now have the opportunity to receive tax credits while supporting schools like MPFS.**

Our partner, the Friends Collaborative, has credits available on a revolving schedule throughout the year. For you or your business this means you can help provide more financial aid dollars for MPFS and our 19 partner Friends schools. Individual or business donors who pay \$3,000 or more in state taxes can direct a portion of their tax dollars to financial aid for Friends schools through the Friends Collaborative within the PA EITC program, and receive a tax credit to offset 90% of the donation.



**\$10,000 gift costs the donor less than \$1,000 out-of-pocket.**

**A \$3,000 gift (the minimum required) costs less than \$300 out-of-pocket.**

*What does this look like for my donation?*

**EXAMPLE:**

Donor's PA Tax Liability . . . . . \$9,000

Invested Amount to Friends Collaborative . . . . . \$10,000

PA Tax Credit for that investment. . . . . \$9,000  
(K1 for tax credits sent in March)

New Tax Liability . . . . . \$0

Out of Pocket Cost . . . . . \$1000

Federal Charitable Deduction . . . . . \$1000

If tax rate is 30% +/- net federal benefit is \$300

\$1000 out of pocket - \$300 federal benefit = \$700 net out of pocket cost.

**I am considering it for my business how does that work?** Consider participating through The Collaborative and save applying to the state for credits. We've got that part covered and tax credits available for you to use. Or you can participate with The Collaborative for *additional PA tax liability not covered by your EITC - OSTC application to the state.* More tax credits for your business!

Visit [mpfs.org/friends-collaborative](https://mpfs.org/friends-collaborative) for more information and contact Cynthia McGoff [cmcgoff@mpfs.org](mailto:cmcgoff@mpfs.org) to find out how you or your business can participate in this easy program. Your participation will have a profound impact on our ability to provide and MPFS education to more families within our reach.



A child's first experience with school sets the tone for how they feel about learning for the rest of their lives, as it did with our dear departed Friend Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37.

Nancy was a kind, generous and loyal alum of the school, a 2010 Murry Engle Lauser Cornerstone Award for Outstanding Service recipient, an 1876 Society planned giving member, a former Trustee, a member of Willistown Meeting and a strong advocate for Friends education. Born into a Quaker

supervised and evaluated Swarthmore College student teachers for many years. Nancy is a past committee member of Friends Central School and served for six years on the Board of the Pennsylvania Association of Private Academic Schools (PAPAS - now the Commission for Accreditation under the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools - PAIS). There she sat on six visiting committees in evaluating other schools.

Nancy's relationship with MPFS was a long one, beginning as a student in the 1930's. Her first years at Media Friends School (as the school was known when Nancy attended) were spent at the Gayley Street location with her sister Ellen Fitts Millick. Then she moved to the little schoolhouse at our current location from 3rd through 6th grade. Although the campus and name have changed since her student days, the essential MPFS experience remains the same. In an interview a few years back, Nancy said, "As an alumna of Media Friends School, I want to see MPFS thrive to offer the same wonderful start in life that I received as a child."

As was the case when Nancy attended, children still gather weekly to attend Meeting for Worship. Staff and students adhere to principles of respect, peace, tolerance, and community. Students encounter a vibrantly diverse student body

and caring teachers with whom they connect deeply. They are immersed in a transformative program that fosters curiosity and creativity, hones critical thinking and communication skills, cultivates character and compassion, and nurtures their spiritual aspects. This education is what Nancy held so dear to her heart.

When Nancy was asked what strikes her about MPFS now, she said: "The look of MPFS is what delights me when I walk on the campus. I revel in all the very positive changes such as the 1st and 2nd grade building, the terrace, the refurbished little schoolhouse where I attended... and especially the smiling faces of the children and the warm greeting I always receive from everyone I meet."

Nancy was a tremendous support for the Board of Trustees providing unassuming wisdom and levity during meetings. She assisted Heads of School with her great knowledge of Quaker education, and was a valuable asset to the Administrative Team at MPFS. She understood the significance of a strong, values-infused, educational program and the importance of supporting that program both financially and through volunteerism. Her experience, advice, and humor were spot on. Nancy Fitts Donaldson was someone all of us looked up to and respected for many years and she will be greatly missed by the MPFS community.



Clerk of the Board, Gene Jarrell, and former Head of School, Earl Sissell, present Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37 with the 2010 Cornerstone Award

family and a career educator, Nancy had a particular concern for, and a profound impact upon, primary education in the Delaware Valley throughout her life. She taught at Wilmington Friends School, was Head of Lower School at both Shipley and Abington Friends Schools, and served as Head of Lansdowne Friends School. A graduate of Swarthmore College, she

**NICOLE C. BARKELY**  
*Parent of MPFS 7th Grader*

We chose MPFS because it reflected the values and sense of community that are essential for our family. Of course, providing a sound education was a priority for us and all of the schools we considered provided that educational foundation. What we could not find at those other schools was the MPFS community spirit. We felt it from the moment we stepped on campus and with every interaction we had with MPFS. Honestly, it wasn't a choice; MPFS chose us!



**JOSH OBERFIELD**  
*Alum & Trustee*

I was one of three children who went through the school, and later on, after we matriculated, my mother, Lynn Oberfield, served as both Clerk of the Board and as Head of School. Thus, MPFS has been a large presence in my life. So, coming back as a Trustee a few years ago was a no brainer. It has been a pleasure after all of these years to reconnect with the people, the campus, and the community. I have been proud to work for and help support this amazing and spirited place. The consistency that MPFS has had over the many years since I attended, that of honoring the Light in each student and promoting love and respect throughout the community demonstrates the strength of this institution. Quaker testimonies, as well as a modern, rigorous, progressive academic program, are infused appropriately throughout each grade level. Students are awash with learning opportunities that are not only engaging and fun, but challenging and meaningful.



**CABRINA & NICK STANEK**  
*Parents of an MPFS Kindergarten,  
2nd Grader, & 4th Grader*

We chose MPFS because it is a place that understands the specific needs of our children by uncovering what their interests and talents are and provides opportunities for them to thrive. The teachers really get what makes each of our children "tick". MPFS doesn't just focus on developing the academic part of our children but develops them as a person within their community and the world. I have never witnessed a place that provides children with a more well rounded environment.







**TEACHER EMILY RICHARDSON**  
*Kindergarten & 1st Grade Teacher*

Initially I chose MPFS because it was clearly a creative and supportive environment which puts the child first. As the years went on, I came to realize that everything about MPFS allowed me to grow as a teacher and as a person. I feel lucky and fortunate that my days are spent here, with many challenges and rewards, and among the fine people, young and old.



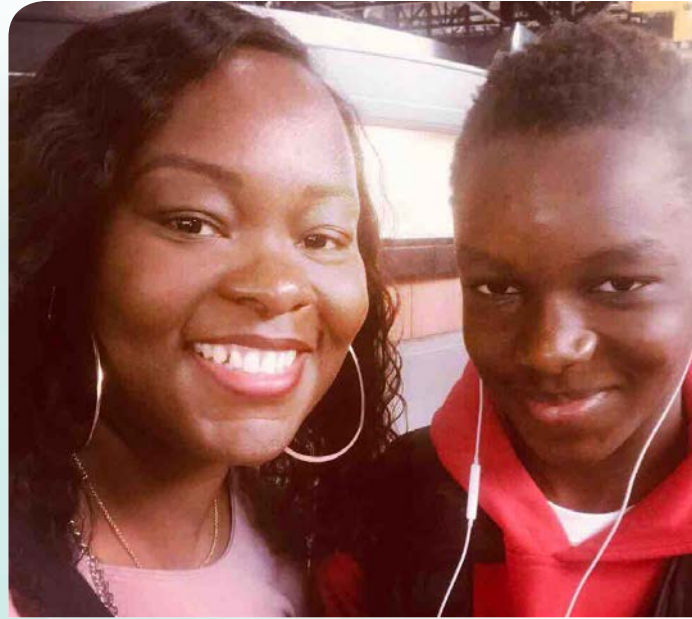
**KATHRYN & CHARLES OMBAM**  
*Parents of MPFS Preschooler and 4th Grader*  
*Charles is also an MPFS Trustee*

When we came to MPFS, we were looking for diversity. We wanted our kids to see folks like them – and NOT like them. At MPFS, we saw a place that mirrored our values- supportive of individuality, but keen on teaching the social concepts that we hold dear. A school that had racial, economic, and cultural diversity on a wider scale than we ever expected in Media. At the first open house, we watched the diverse student body welcome us throughout the tour, perform interesting and intellectual tasks with poise and grace, and it seemed no group was left unrepresented.

### NGOZI ATANMO

*Parent of Alum, Class of 2018 & Trustee*

When I decided to take a risk in my career and move to Philadelphia, I had to ensure my family had a smooth transition and that included my then 6th grader. I chose MPFS because it met all of the requirements we set forth when looking for a great school. We wanted a safe place for him to grow and learn, an excellent educational curriculum, and a school that encourages students on social awareness/social issues and community involvement. MPFS, not just checked the boxes on all of the requirements, it exceeded them. Overall, MPFS has been a blessing to me and my family, inside and outside of the classroom. (It is) one of the best decisions I have ever made.

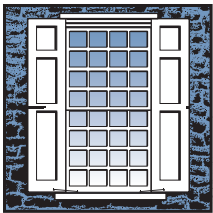


### TEACHER HOLLY HOFFMANN

*4th Grade Teacher*

I love working in an environment where we are free to be wholly creative, and it is our deep care and appreciation for one another that informs our creative design of programs, curriculum, activities, and projects. I am a better person because of the incredible students I teach, the remarkable colleagues here, and the strong bond we share as a community. Truly, every day I am here at MPFS, I learn something, I care more deeply about someone, and I am encouraged to better my practice and my relationships in and out of school.





MEDIA - PROVIDENCE  
**Friends School**

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Media, PA 19063

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US Postage  
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Permit No. 842

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Leap into Action, Live Auction**  
February 29

**Admissions Open House**  
April 3

**Dazzle Dash**  
April 4

**8th Grade Graduation**  
June 5

**610.565.1960**  
**mpfs.org**

