

# Roland Park Country School

## Gore Leadership Institute Showcase

FEATURING

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Social justice installation art,  
Improv performance,  
Cooking demonstrations,  
Creative activism demonstrations,  
Keynote presentations from  
independent study students

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**  
**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

The Gore Leadership Institute



**LEAD INVEST GIVE SERVE**



**Dear Parents, Students, Alumnae and Friends of Roland Park Country School,**

Thank you for joining us tonight! This is a special occasion to celebrate our ninth and tenth grade students and their work in Roland Park Country School's Gore Leadership Institute seminars, as well as our eleventh grade Gore Leadership Institute Independent Study students.

At Roland Park Country School, we believe that we are stronger when we work together. Our school is defined by a collaborative spirit. In fact, the first of our five core values is: Build Each Other Up. The Gore Leadership Institute seminars and independent study offerings are two initiatives that are part of our Gore Leadership Institute and encompass this core value. Each seminar and independent study is an opportunity to empower a student, who will one day, empower another.

We also want our students to understand that the world is their classroom, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past two years, we have reimaged what these programs could look like and explored new possibilities for connecting what they've learned in school and their individual passions with real world understanding, including online and in-person field trips and guest speakers, independent research, and creative presentations.

Leadership seminars and independent study opportunities allow our students to reflect on their leadership styles and start thinking about their own professional journeys. These experiences open up pathways for future-directed skills and set our students up for success at the collegiate level and beyond. None of this would be possible without the generosity of the Gore Family, who endowed the Gore Leadership Institute, the faculty at RPCS and the independent study mentors who stepped up to offer their time, talents, resources and leadership.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you so much for helping us make these seminars and independent study experiences successful, especially this year. I hope that through the student presentations here tonight, you see the joy, learning and curiosity that makes these programs so transformative for our students.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Blatti". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Caroline" and last name "Blatti" clearly distinguishable.

Caroline Blatti  
Head of School

# Program

## **Reception**

*Knott Lobby*

## **Welcome Remarks**

*Caroline Blatti, Head of School*

*Sinex Theater*

## **Introduction of Student Speakers**

*Sarah Morehead Pope, 2006, Gore Leadership Institute Program Coordinator*

## **Independent Study Student Presentations**

*Ryan Greenlee, Teaching Chinese Language*

*Katherine Guerrerio, CS Applications in Coding*

*Maggie Waldron, RPCS Communications Office Apprenticeship*

## **Improv Performance**

Ava Burman, Laila Carroll, Hannah Cerny, Rachel Cohen,

Alli Craig, Oye Fadiora, Audrey Hanna, Kallie Lorber,

Kalli Marinopoulos, Lucy Richardson, AJ Smith,

Violet Smith, Phoebe Taylor

## **Food Systems Cooking Demo**

*The Harris Center*

Eliza Barczak, Sofia Bozzuto, Erin Collins, Savannah Curry, Mikelle Evans,

Sasha Godin, Zoe Hiller, Jenny Jin, Ella Kowitz, Ava Lamont, Olivia Lopez,

Lilly Moreau, Jasper Perez, Daniela Roberts, Kaitlyn Rochlin, Rebecca

Showalter, Maya Vitberg, Maria Zaporozhski

### **Power Systems: Running for Office**

*Apgar Lecture Room (7:00 p.m.)*

Emme Arbaugh, Sam Arthur-Merow, Claire Bachman, Katie Barnhill, Anya Beal, Riley Belcher-Pasztor, Maisie Chaite, Lizzie Cottle, Lily High, Acey Hubbard, Sashi Kandadi, Erin Anne Mather, Ava Mazziott, Sasha Susel, Caroline Szeliga

### **Power Systems: Voting Rights**

*Apgar Lecture Room (7:30 p.m.)*

Trinity Bristol, Aine Fitzgibbon, Krisha Gandhi, Emma Goldman, Caroline Grimm, Teagan Hanley, Geri Kayingo, Eva Killingstad, Talya Kohan-Gaffar, KaeCee McLaughlin, Lucia Milano, Erin Miller, Maegan Pridgen, Lilly Ragontse, Niara Soudan

### ***Changemakers: Creative Activism + International Women's Health***

*Faissler Library*

RPCS Class of 2025

### **Social Justice Installation Art**

*100 level landing on staircase by Knott Lobby, 200 Level art hallway, & 200 level science hallway*

Clara Adams, Lily Athanas, Riley Bittinger, Piper Block, Lindy Briggs, Skylar Carr, Jane Fox, Effie Hossfeld, Margaux Kim, Violet Lewin, Sammy McPherson, Skylar Nixon, Anna Petrella, Jessica Tannebaum, Chloe Tobin, Tyler Williams

## **The Gore Leadership Institute**

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Roland Park Country School believes that leadership is a process of engagement which moves people toward awareness, compassion, and action to ultimately impact the world for the better. By helping each student to be their best self and positively influence others, the Gore Leadership Institute (GLI) equips our students with the tools to innovate and create positive change in the world of today—and tomorrow.

Through academic engagement, community outreach, and personal reflection, the Gore Leadership Institute emphasizes experiences that foster creative problem solving, ethical leadership, wellness, diversity, equity, and inclusion—all of which are integrated into our Upper School leadership curriculum.



## **Leadership Seminars: Ethics, Power Systems, & Making Change**

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In the ninth grade, all students take three required seminars to build foundational understandings in key areas: Power Systems, Ethics, and Making Change. These seminars, helmed by master teachers, are designed around deep-thinking, exploration, and creative problem solving. The ninth grade leadership seminars are connected to each other by the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the ways each of us can “think globally and act locally” as engaged citizens driven by a common purpose.

## **Advanced Topics in Leadership: Finance, Food Systems, Improv, & Installation Art**

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In the tenth grade, all students work with the principles of leadership through multi-faceted seminars they choose to take. Students work in small groups to research and refine solutions that respond to a specific need they have identified in the world. Our aim is that every student will be involved in activities that foster resilience, promote healthy risk-taking, nourish passions, nurture curiosity, and promote a sense of purpose.

## **Gore Leadership Institute Independent Study**

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In the eleventh grade, students have the option to pursue a leadership initiative that builds on a topic or goal that captivates them. Working independently and coached by a teacher and mentors, students investigate opportunities to invent, innovate, or campaign for a community initiative. This semester-long experience can prepare students for a capstone fellowship or internship opportunity in their chosen area for the following summer. The elective is meant to be a space that is structured around a student’s idea, or a topic or goal that the student wants to pursue. The learning journey is customized for each student, who will then work toward their goal. Along the way, students discover what they need to learn, rethink some of their assumptions, and challenge themselves. By structuring our independent study elective this way, students can pursue their passions that lend themselves to changing the community for the better. Those may be things students do outside school, they may be things students thought about or started in leadership seminars they have taken, or they may be new inspirations.

# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## Independent Study (Grade 11)



### **Ryan Greenlee**

**Teaching Chinese Language**

**Mentors: Chin-Yi Lee, Grace Chang, Rachel Oberlin, and Meg Bottiglieri**

This school year, Ryan worked with the RPCS first and second grades alongside Lower School Chinese teacher Chin-Yi Lee. Ryan helped the first grade students with their Chinese language skills and planned class activities under Ms. Lee's supervision. During the final trimester of the year, Ryan worked with RPCS Middle School students alongside Middle School Chinese Teacher Grace Chang. Ryan assisted Ms. Chang by preparing lessons for the Middle Schoolers.



### **Katherine Guerrerio**

**Python Code Applications for zyBooks**

**Mentors: Nkenge Wheatland, 2004, Rachel Orlinsky, 2015**

Katherine sought an independent study that would allow her to explore the use of the Python Coding language to analyze data and find patterns. Through a virtual mentorship from Dr. Nkenge Wheatland, 2004 at zyBooks, a leading textbook company, with on-campus supervision from Lexi Orlinsky, 2015, Katherine reached her goals with Python and moved to Javascript. Katherine has spent the year working through problems, seeking solutions, and enhancing her coding skills. She quickly surpassed the goals she initially set for herself and continued to push the limits of her knowledge enthusiastically as she worked to accomplish increasingly complex tasks from Dr. Wheatland at zyBooks.





# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming



## **Maggie Waldron**

**Apprenticeship in the RPCS Communications Office**

**Mentors: Abbey Pulcinella & Melissa Tully, P'34**

Maggie sought an independent study in graphic design and subsequently spent the year serving as an apprentice in the RPCS Communications Office. Maggie learned how to use Adobe InDesign as a prerequisite for this apprenticeship. Mentored by Associate Director of Communications Abigail Pulcinella and Senior Communications Associate Melissa Tully, Maggie handled projects big and small, taking complete creative license and honing her design skills. Maggie's design tasks involved choosing software, selecting graphics and color schemes, and ensuring that the projects were aligned with the RPCS brand. Although the emphasis of her independent study is graphic design, Maggie also took on additional tasks to gain insight into other communications initiatives, including shadowing photography shoots and updating content on the RPCS website.

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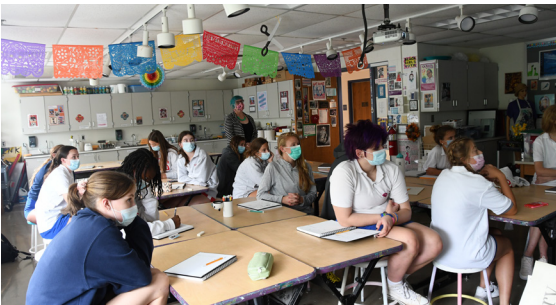


## **Erin Hoskins**

**Learning Spanish**

**Mentor: Christine Polillo**

Erin set the ambitious and commendable goal for herself to become fluent in conversational Spanish during the fall semester of her eleventh grade year. She is a talented linguist who studies French and Arabic at RPCS. To help guide Erin towards her learning goals with Spanish, RPCS Lower School World Languages teacher Christine Polillo tutored Erin for three months. This arrangement allowed for super personalized instruction and was specifically tailored to fit into Erin's schedule. Erin is currently wrapping up a semester abroad in France, and we look forward to welcoming her back to RPCS in time for her senior year.



# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## Advanced Topics in Leadership (Grade 10)

### Improv for Listening & Empathy



How might learning the skill of improv theater make us better listeners who are more empathetic and open to the ideas of others? Participants in this seminar work towards the live performance of a longform improv set consisting of several completely improvised scenes based on a true monologue. Although audiences often reduce improv to a bunch of individuals being witty, this seminar teaches students to tap into their social, community-based instincts to listen, empathize, and cooperate with scene partners. We learn to see improv as a collective work. Participants play games and exercises to fine-tune their collaborative skills and enhance their self-confidence, as well as watch sets by experienced improvisers. As a culmination of the seminar, the students perform two short improvised sets, each inspired by an audience suggestion. This seminar was developed and is taught by Upper School teacher Ethan Cooper.

### Social Justice Installation Art



How might we, as artists, create a piece of installation art that changes people's minds and hearts about a specific social justice topic? Students explore how art works to illuminate injustice and suggest a way forward; they then investigate materials and ideas about the social justice issues that mean the most to them before forming groups.

This year each group designed and installed a piece of art somewhere on campus that clearly and powerfully communicates a specific message about a social justice theme. A final reception allows student-artists to welcome an audience to see and respond to their work. Whether you identify as an artist or not, you are welcome. This seminar was developed by Upper and Middle School Art teacher Megary Sigler. Ms.

Sigler first taught this seminar in 2019 and students have requested that she bring back this seminar each year as a part of the Gore Leadership Institute.

# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## Food Systems: What We Eat and Why it Matters



How might we produce a sustainable version of your favorite meal? This seminar culminates with a project in which students study a single meal and learn about the impacts on people, the environment and/or climate from the farm to consumer. Students then have two options for what to create: either a photography or marketing project creating information artwork to share their research on this topic or an entrepreneurship project in which they develop a business plan to sell their idea. In the course of creating those projects, we explore sustain-

ability in our food system including the impact of food on our environment and climate by investigating the journey our food takes from the farm to our plate. We learn about the people who are behind our food system by visiting a local farm and restaurant to learn first-hand from entrepreneurs in Baltimore who work within our food system. And, perhaps most importantly, we explore how these foods meet our own needs for nourishment and satisfaction. This seminar was developed by RPCS Garden Educator Cheryl Carmona. Ms. Carmona first taught this seminar in 2019 to two sections of Upper School students, and has brought back the seminar each year due to popular demand.

## Financial Investing Challenge



Is it possible to be a socially responsible investor AND beat the market? This seminar provides our students with some financial tools, tips, and tricks to help them to become both financially savvy as well as empowered. Utilizing *the Wall Street Journal's* five part investing challenge framework, students learn about markets and about risk and perseverance. Through scenarios and role play, students develop an understanding of how to invest in the stock market, focusing on topics such as how to pick a stock and why diversification matters. The course includes investing basics and guest speakers from the financial industry, so it is

exciting and engaging for students no matter where they are on their financial decision-making ability journey. This seminar was developed by RPCS Leadership Institute Coordinator Sarah Pope. Mrs. Pope offered this seminar for the first time this year after her interest in the stock market was re-ignited by her participation in the Power Lunch series in the spring of 2021.

# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## Leadership Seminars (Grade 9)

### Power Systems

Building off of our 8th grade history course, Human Rights, Social Justice, and You, but still accessible to incoming students, the Power Systems Leadership Seminar is a semester-long course influenced by Learning for Justice standards and curricula. Students learn about existing systems of power and their role in shaping and disrupting them with a focus on voting and activism. This interdisciplinary seminar is led by Upper School English Teacher Jackie Regales and Upper School History Teacher Akua Agei-Boateng.

### Jhpiego's Changemakers



In 2020 Roland Park Country school piloted the Changemakers: Creative Activism and International Women's Health seminar in partnership with Jhpiego, an international health organization affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. This year, all ninth graders immersed themselves in learning about issues pertaining to the health of women and girls in the low- and middle-income regions of the world where Jhpiego has a presence. Over the course of the year, students learn to identify the root causes of gender inequality in healthcare and apply that understanding to interventions created to

sustainably strengthen health systems and address those root causes of poor health outcomes for women. They learn about and collaborate with non-governmental organizations directly involved in the work of international women's health and confronting the challenges for gender equality around the world. Ultimately, students create projects responding to the course's central inquiry; How might we design a creative campaign advocating for meaningful change in issues pertaining to health systems and women? The 2021-2022 Changemakers teachers are Akua Agei-Boateng, Cheryl Carmona, Scott Jackson, and Jackie Regales

### Ethics

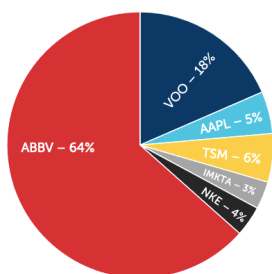
The goal of this ninth grade seminar is to promote the process and practice of ethical-decision making within the RPCS community and the larger world. We explore key ethical issues facing high schoolers, providing tools to articulate values and act ethically even in the face of conflicting messages. Introducing ethical dilemmas in the classroom can open up opportunities not only for debate and critical thinking, but also for personal growth, empathy for other viewpoints, and self-reflection. Students are challenged to search for and evaluate their assumptions, to excavate the reasons behind those assumptions, to examine without prejudice another's opinion and to make a thoughtful decision with confidence. This ethical training fosters academic skills like analysis, communication, and critical thinking, while also developing important "soft skills" like respect, empathy and compassion. Developed and taught by Upper School Dean of Students Melissa Carter-Bey and Upper School History teacher Scott Jackson, this class pushes the RPCS Honor Code to the forefront of students' minds while drawing connections to universal issues.

# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## GLI Programming by Application

Open to 11th & 12th grade

### Davidov Family Power Lunch



Piloted in spring 2021, the Davidov Family Power Lunch Series engaged 23 students in a series of 16 meetings with seven guest speakers. At the end of the semester, five expert panelists heard investment pitches from five student teams, resulting in \$5,000 of the School's endowment to be managed by the winning student team. During the 2021-2022 school year, Power Lunch members met weekly to review their investment portfolio, hear from guest speakers, and discuss investment strategies. These conversations led to some strategic rebalancing at the end of the first semester. During the second semester, students focused on creating investment pitches for an additional \$5,000, this

year with a focus on impact investing, and with the goal of establishing long term investments to maximize their portfolio's profitability. Students presented their investment pitches to Ms. Blatti, Mr. Warfield, Ms. Collins, members of the Davidov family, and members of the RPCS Board of Trustees Finance Committee, on May 13, 2022.

### Smith Philanthropic Literacy Board

The Smith Philanthropic Literacy Board (PLB) unites students' growing understanding of the critical issues facing the Baltimore community with the opportunity to effect positive change. Each year, student board members define their mission statement, research local organizations, and develop a request for proposals. In the spring, the students evaluate the incoming applications and choose which organization should be awarded the grant. Organizations that have been awarded funds in previous years are invited back to help the PLB members understand the impact of the grant money on the organization's work.

### 2022 Smith Philanthropic Literacy Board Announcement

Roland Park Country School's 2022 Smith Philanthropic Literacy Board strives to empower LGBTQIA+ youth in Baltimore by funding education, healthcare, and legal resources. The student-run board is pleased to announce that Baltimore Safe Haven is the recipient of this year's grant. Board member Isabel McFarland, 2022, wrote: "We chose this organization because of their impact on the LGBTQIA+ community and their commitment to creating safe spaces. Baltimore Safe Haven provides programs for education, healthcare, legal assistance, and more. This organization is dedicated to fostering... future LGBTQIA+ leaders...We are hopeful that the expansion of Baltimore Safe Haven will be a great success."

# 2022 Gore Leadership Institute Programming

## This Summer

### Summer Internships

The RPCS Summer Internship Program empowers our students to pose questions about the world, embrace new challenges and search for their purpose as they step into real-world professions. The program connects rising seniors with professional internship experiences in a wide range of career fields to build upon previous and future classroom learning. This program speaks to our vision for an RPCS education that connects classrooms to communities and equips our students with the future directed skills that enable their success here at RPCS and beyond into their professional journeys. Over the past five summers, this program has placed a total of 154 student interns in fields including medicine, law, computer science, social work, finance—and many more interesting and enlightening areas for real world learning.

### Capstone Fellowships

The Capstone Fellowship Program at Roland Park Country School launched in the summer of 2019. Like the Summer Internship Program, the Capstone Fellowship empowers our students to pose questions about the world, embrace new challenges and search for their purpose as they step into real-world professions. This program is application-based and allows students to dive deeper into their career interests by identifying driving questions and creating individualized research and experiential learning paths. Each fellowship program is personalized, dynamic and innovative and results in an original student project and presentation.



# Get involved!



**For more information, please contact:**

Sarah Morehead Pope, 2006  
Gore Leadership Institute Program Coordinator  
[PopeS@rpcs.org](mailto:PopeS@rpcs.org)

**RPCS Gore Leadership Institute  
2021-2022 Steering Committee**

Caroline Blatti  
Melissa Bristow Carter-Bey, 1992  
Patti Collins  
Elisha James

Colleen Kyle  
Sarah Morehead Pope, 2006  
Nadine Richards  
Sara Rollifinke



**Roland Park**  
Country School



We would like to acknowledge the RPCS Upper School Administration Team: Melissa Bristow Carter-Bey, 1992, Kate Feiring, Emily Hewlings, and Colleen Kyle, for their support of the GLI initiatives.

Thanks to Akua Agyei-Boateng, Cheryl Carmona, Melissa Bristow Carter-Bey, 1992, Ethan Cooper, Scott Jackson, Jackie Regales, and Megary Sigler for teaching the GLI seminars this school year.

Special thanks Tori Murrill, Abbey Pulcinella, Melissa Tully, and Maggie Waldron, 2023, for all of their hard work to ensure the success of the first ever GLI Showcase.

Tonight's showcase is catered by:



*Caviar and Cupcakes* LLC