



2021-22 DONOR REPORT



The Mission of CCSA Foundation is to support Chester Charter Scholars Academy, an arts-integrated, K-12, public charter school serving children from the Chester Upland School District.



DEAR FRIENDS OF CCSA,

With your generous support, CCSA is thriving and making a positive impact on the Chester community. By the time you read this, a number of our students from the Class of 2019 will have graduated from college, including our first college graduate who earned her bachelor's degree from Widener University in just three years!

In addition to our arts integrated curriculum, we have placed a strong emphasis on math instruction the last couple of years and the results are very encouraging. To build on this success, we are investing over three million dollars to add nine classrooms for smaller groups and tutoring. Continuing to increase our students' proficiency in math is crucial in order to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue higher education, vocational training, military service, and successful careers after graduation.

The recent focus on enhanced math instruction is evidence that our program is constantly evolving to better serve our students. As proud as we are of the gains we have achieved in math, arts and literacy remain at the core of our program. Our students have the opportunity to explore a variety of artistic disciplines, including dance, music, theater and visual arts as part of their academic journey. The arts not only enhance their understanding of core subjects, but also promote greater engagement in their studies.

Thank you for all you have done for CCSA. We would not be able to provide such a robust curriculum without the support of our donors. We look forward to continuing our work with you as we pave the way for many generations of Chester students to benefit from the wonderful program you have helped build.

With sincere gratitude,

Reb Speare
Chair, CCSA Foundation

Arts Programming CCSA students benefit from a curriculum-wide arts-integration. Our K–12 classroom teachers work together with our arts teachers to develop units that creatively engage the points of intersection between a subject area and elements of artistic disciplines.



Desire Grove
Digital Arts Teacher

"I always want to empower young people when teaching. I believe students need to be kept aware of how digital content is currently impacting their lives because social software is a big part of their future. Teaching Digital Arts provides the students with the tools needed to broaden their imagination when exploring digital content and creative software and gives them agency to not only be a consumer, but also a creator."



MUSIC

CCSA's music program, led by founding-teacher, Frank Hosking, provides our students with a chance to explore all aspects of the world of music. Middle and high school students use their musical skills, in conjunction with SoundTrap, an online-music studio, to create, mix and produce their own tunes. Our kindergartners are singing along to songs about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., while the elementary students try their hand at the recorder and violin.

STUDIO ART

"I chose studio art as my focus because I like the challenge and creativity. My favorite project we have done this year is building ceramic crowns. Ms. Yurkevich taught us about how crowns represent power and strength, and the importance of having a sturdy structure when working with ceramics. I definitely want to continue doing art after I graduate next year."

— Daymahnea McCommons, 11th grade

DANCE

Our arts programs are successful, in part, because of people like CCSA dance teacher, Christina Brown. Ms. Brown got her start at CCSA as a kindergarten teacher, but quickly transitioned to teaching her first love: dance. Her hope is that every student that steps into her studio learns the value of hard work, becomes more confident, and most of all, is less afraid to try new things.

THEATRE

This spring, CCSA is excited to be debuting Shrek the Musical, our first theatre performance since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The middle and high school students who have chosen theatre as their cultural arts elective, along with select 5th graders, have been working all school year to master the skills required to be stage-ready. This year's performance will also be the first production put on by our new theater teacher, Jasmine Seapoe.



Donor Spotlight / The McLean Contributionship

The McLean Contributionship has played a pivotal role in supporting CCSA: past, present and future. The Contributionship originally became involved with CCSA in 2013, and has continued to be a champion of the school and its programs ever since. In 2017, with a grant made in honor of Carolyn M. Raymond, a long-time member of the McLean Board of Trustees, the Contributionship funded the installation of the ever-popular playground. **This past year, CCSA Foundation was fortunate to receive \$100,000 from The McLean Contributionship** to be directed towards the K Through Life Endowment Campaign. This gift, along with their previous generosity, demonstrates their commitment to our mission and the long-term success of our students.



Endowment Update / \$5.75 Million Raised

Thanks to private donations, 100% board support and a lead \$1 million gift to the endow the Joan K. Richards Head of School/CEO position, we are already over halfway to meeting our goal of \$10 million. The endowment will be the bedrock of CCSA's financial sustainability and will ensure that Chester's children will always have the strong support needed to succeed. Together, we will guarantee the school's future.

CCSA: FROM K THROUGH LIFE THE \$10 MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our donors to CCSA's From K Through Life Endowment Campaign below:

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To learn how you can direct a gift to CCSA's Endowment campaign, please contact Chris Hanlon at chanlon@ccsafoundation.org or 610.859.2988.



Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our school and the students we serve together. Your generosity is changing the lives of the next generation.

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• • •

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