



# THE STORY OF VCS



## 1886

Construction is completed on Public School 7 at 272 West 10th Street. Designed by architect David L. Stagg, the vibrant, eye-catching structure would someday become VCS's first school building.

## 1969

Founding Head Sheila Sadler submits a proposal for a new independent, co-educational school in the West Village. The proposed Village Community School, she wrote, will ensure families in "one of the few truly vital neighborhoods in New York City," continue to have "the opportunity of sending one's children to a good, independent school" after Bank Street School moves uptown.



## 1970

Village Community School opens its doors to 170 students in K-6th Grade.

The first class of 8th Grade graduates receive their diplomas at a ceremony held in what is today the Lunchroom. "It sure felt like we were part of a movement or something, in creating the school," a member of the Class of '73 reflected.

## 1973



## 1980

The school's first collaborative mural, "A Child's-Eye View of Lower Manhattan," is unveiled on the wall of the school's Big Yard.

## 1989

After 20 years leading VCS, Sheila Sadler retires and Jeff Wallis is appointed VCS's second Head of School. Formerly the Head of Middle School at Calhoun, Jeff serves as Head of School at VCS for the next seven years.



Eve K. Kleger joins VCS as the new Head of School, beginning a 20+ year tenure that would reveal her as a compassionate and inspirational leader, respected and beloved by generations of VCS students, families, and staff.

## 1996



## 2003

The first major expansion of VCS's campus is undertaken. Designed by Leo Blackman, this additional five-story building, designed to blend seamlessly with the original 1886 structure, contained additional classrooms and a proper Gym and Auditorium.

## 2014



For the first time, 8th Grade students at VCS are offered the opportunity to travel internationally with the school when Mandarin Teacher Helen Huang and Upper School Director Jessica Romero lead the first *VCS Beyond the Classroom* trip to China!

VCS establishes a partnership with OceansWide Science Camp in Acadia National Park, and the first group of Upper School students travel to Maine for two-weeks of hands-on marine research and exploration over Summer Break.

## 2015

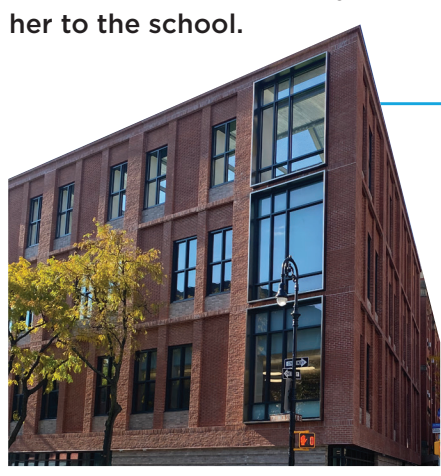


## 2019

Beloved, long-time Head of School Eve K. Kleger passes away. Interim Head of School Denise and other long-standing school leaders are instrumental in ensuring VCS remains a joyful environment despite the community's grief, and the nationwide search for VCS's next Head of School begins.

After a nationwide search that attracted over 200 applicants, Jen Mitchell is unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as VCS's fifth Head of School. In her introductory letter to the community, Jen writes that it was VCS's K-8 model and Mission and Diversity Statements that first drew her to the school.

## 2020



## 2021

Designed by Marvel Architects, VCS's new building officially opens to students, doubling the school's square footage. In honor of the former Head of School, the Eve K. Kleger Wing contains VCS's second Gymnasium, Woodshop, rooftop Sky Yard, and numerous specialized classrooms—and places the sunlit Library at the heart of the school.

## 2023



After a thoughtful process that incorporated ideas and feedback from the full community, VCS names a school mascot: the Blue Jays!