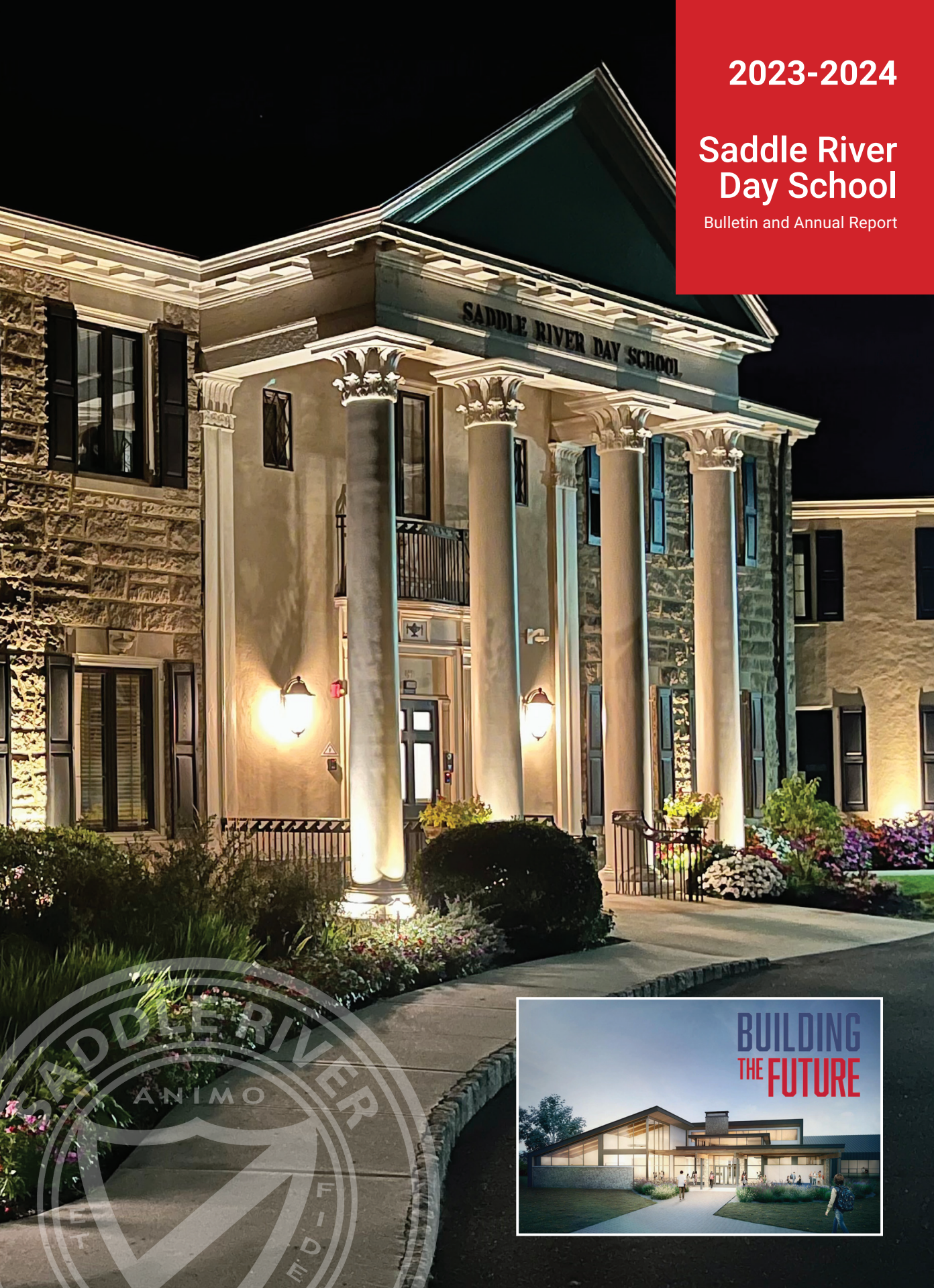


2023-2024

Saddle River Day School

Bulletin and Annual Report



2023-2024 Board of Trustees

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- Mr. Robert Sivori
- Mr. Stuart Steckler
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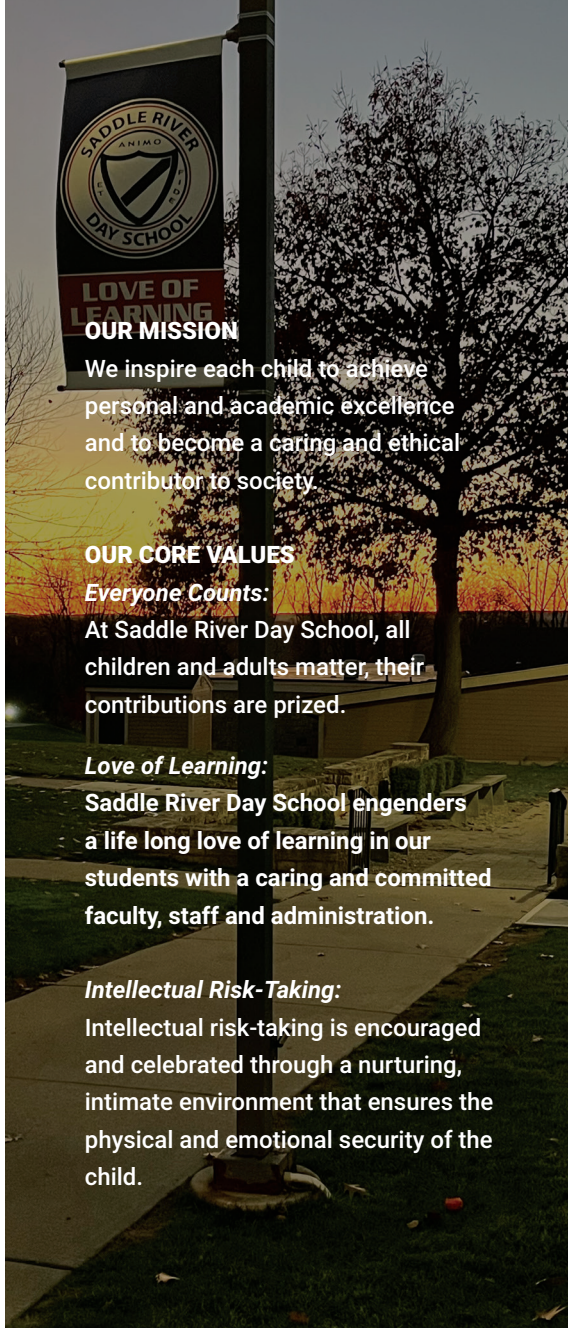
- Mr. John & Mrs. Diane Alford (both deceased)

SRDS Board of Trustees

The Trustees of Saddle River Day School provide commitment and leadership for the advancement of the School's mission, vision, and growth, as well as the preservation of the School's rich legacy.

In partnership with the Head of School, the Board of Trustees oversees and ensures all legal obligations are met and works to build a strong endowment by supporting annual fundraising and capital campaigns. The Board plays a vital role in guiding Saddle River Day School forward and ensuring that the institution is run with the utmost professionalism, while remaining at the forefront of educational and technological development.

The Board is comprised of parents, alumni, and community members with a deep affection, affiliation, and commitment to the school. They are highly skilled in their outside professions and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that allows them to work together toward the best interests of the school.



OUR MISSION

We inspire each child to achieve personal and academic excellence and to become a caring and ethical contributor to society.

OUR CORE VALUES

Everyone Counts:

At Saddle River Day School, all children and adults matter, their contributions are prized.

Love of Learning:

Saddle River Day School engenders a life long love of learning in our students with a caring and committed faculty, staff and administration.

Intellectual Risk-Taking:

Intellectual risk-taking is encouraged and celebrated through a nurturing, intimate environment that ensures the physical and emotional security of the child.

CREDITS

Editor-In-Chief: Gretchen Lee Kuhlman

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Photographers: Richard Formicola, Melissa Griegel, Gretchen Lee Kuhlman, Neal Magnus, Susan Stava, Christy Van Buren

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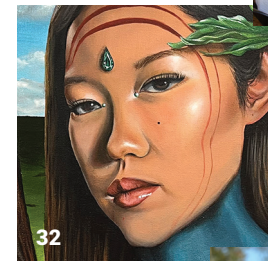
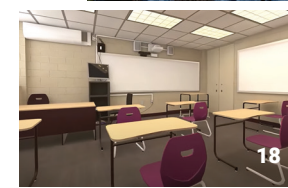
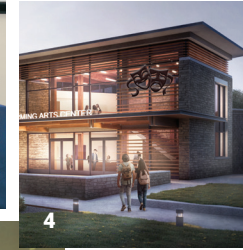


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Building the Future

Jalaj Desai, Head of School

This is an exciting time for Saddle River Day School! We are thriving in academics, resulting in strong enrollment and financial stability. Our ongoing advancements in these areas underscore our dedication to the school's success.

Our commitment to providing an exceptional education is evident through our recent academic improvements. We've expanded our curriculum by offering over 30+ AP and college level courses, including accelerated math and science tracks in the Middle and Upper School. In the Lower School, we have introduced a more robust program called Dimensions Math that will better prepare students for 6th Grade pre-algebra. Additionally, we're excited to provide our students with a wide range of enhanced electives, including computer science, business and entrepreneurship, multivariable calculus and more. These changes support our mission to encourage students to be 'intellectual risk takers' and our dedication to offering a challenging and well-rounded educational experience that will prepare our students for a successful future.

The Gateway Diploma Program is a culmination of months of research, study and collaboration by Upper School students in academic tracks such as STEAM, Entrepreneurship, Arts, Medical and Civic Engagement. The Middle School Capstone Project allows students to explore a topic guided by core values, with 100% of Middle School students conducting original research and presenting their year-long projects at the end of the year. In Lower

School, Project-Based Learning involves cross-curricular projects designed for each grade level that allow the students to design and implement a big idea, such as running a restaurant or designing their own zoo. Students also participate in various math, science, business and arts competitions across all grades. The Coaching Academy and SRDS Music Institute offer after school enrichment classes and one-on-one tutoring opportunities.

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2019), another initiative that enriches our academic environment through meaningful projects and programs, allows students to explore community and global issues as opportunities for innovation, design, and entrepreneurship. This approach fosters project-based, student-centered learning and encourages cross-divisional collaboration.

Last year, we received the prestigious independent school Edward E. Ford Foundation grant to support the expansion of these and other innovative programs.

In a fusion of technological prowess and an entrepreneurial spirit, SRDS will offer initiatives like our new Center for Technology and Computer Science (CTCS) and the integration of Artificial Intelligence as a resource for our students and our faculty. This innovative approach sets a new standard in interactive and experiential learning that will cultivate a diverse and dynamic learning environment and

offer new opportunities to our teachers and students that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of Saddle River Day School. On a global level, it will enable collaboration for international students and teachers. Integrating AI resources and tools will also offer tailored learning experiences, adapting to each student's unique learning style, interests, and pace. As we continue to enhance our educational offerings, we are proactively preparing our students to realize their utmost potential in an increasingly dynamic world.



Now, as we begin to take the next steps to create the campus of tomorrow, I invite you to join us in building an ever-brighter future for our school and our students. We are grateful to those who have given of their time, talent and resources to begin making this project a reality. In particular, my deepest thanks to our Board President, Wes Powell, for his unwavering commitment and

leadership. We also recognize the contributions of those who came before us, including our founders, John and Diane Alford, as well as the teachers, administrators, trustees, and families who helped to shape the vibrant and thriving educational community we have today. We now bear the responsibility to safeguard what they started for future decades.

Together, we will transform the campus of today to build the leaders of tomorrow. 🌐

Building the Future: Today's Campaign for Tomorrow's Campus

Every day at Saddle River Day School, we create an entire experience designed for students to take charge of their future.

Building an excellent education that will propel our students to success in college and beyond requires continual progress and innovation.

Through the *Building the Future* campaign, we will create an all-encompassing, state-of-the-art campus, beginning with a new science and entrepreneurship center that can highlight each and every platform our exceptional school offers. We will also add a new turf field, fitness center and increased parking. These enhancements will separate SRDS from its competitors and allow us to provide the absolute best for our students, our faculty and our community. At the end of the day, it's about our students – those who came before, those here today, and those yet to come; education that teaches our youth how to lead lives of character, purpose and achievement. 🌱

BUILDING THE FUTURE





Hall of Science and Entrepreneurship

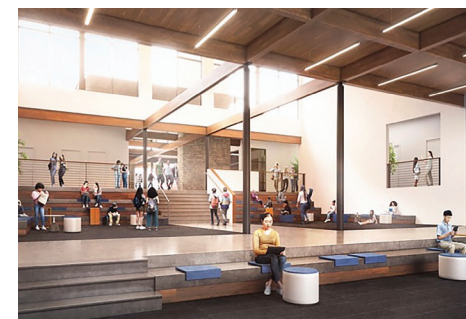
- 33,000 square feet of new instructional space
- Advanced, modern faculty resources to provide outstanding academic experiences
- Exhibition space in the lobby
- Upper School commons
- Open, multiuse spaces to foster collaboration and social connection
- New admissions center
- Support for advanced math and science courses, applied physics and engineering, and AP courses
- A home for AI discovery, robotics, a financial lab, Coaching Academy, Saturday STEAM Bootcamps and more
- 19 additional classrooms
- 4 state-of-the-art science labs
- 3 speciality learning spaces



New Turf Field, Fitness Center and Expanded Parking

- Turf field for lacrosse and soccer competition
- A leading-edge space to inspire SRDS student-athletes, support interscholastic competition and build school spirit

INNOVATORS have an entrepreneurial mindset.
THINKERS learn and grow by doing.
LEADERS excel with confidence.



Class of 2023 College Acceptances



The Class of 2023 was accepted to a list of schools as varied and accomplished as they are. The strength of college guidance at SRDS is in the care and attention given to each student and family. At SRDS, our families receive expert college guidance from seasoned professionals that gives our students an advantage in the college admissions process. Over 100 colleges and universities visit the SRDS campus each fall, and many of the best schools in the country admit our students because they know an SRDS graduate is an inspired learner who is confident, creative and accomplished. 64% of our students enrolled at a first-choice college through Early Decision or Early Action.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Albany State University
 Arizona State University (Main Campus)
 Art Center College of Design
 Auburn University
 Bentley University
 Binghamton University (4)
 Boston University (2)
 Bryant University
 Bucknell University (3)
 California College of the Arts
 Carleton University
 Case Western Reserve University (2)
 Clark Atlanta University
 Clemson University
 Colgate University
 College of Charleston
 Dickinson College
 Dillard University
 Drew University (4)
 Drexel University (5)
 Eckerd College
 Elon University
 Fairfield University (5)
 Fordham University (5)
 George Mason University
 George Washington University (9)
 Gettysburg College
 Hampton University
 Hartwick College
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Hofstra University
 Howard University
 Indiana University (Bloomington) (5)
 Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
 Lafayette College (2)
 Loyola University Maryland (3)
 Manhattan College
 Marist College (2)
 Michigan State University
 Monmouth University
 Montclair State University (2)
 Morgan State University
 Muhlenberg College
 Northeastern University (2)
 Northwestern University (2)
 Pace University (New York City) (4)
 Parsons School of Design at The New School (2)
 Penn State University (Behrend)
 Penn State University (Harrisburg)
 Penn State University (University Park) (8)
 Providence College (2)
 Quinnipiac University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (3)
 Rochester Institute of Technology (6)
 Rollins College (2)
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Rutgers University (New Brunswick) (5)
 Rutgers University (Newark) (2)
 Sacred Heart University (3)
 San Diego State University

Santa Clara University
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 School of Visual Arts (2)
 Seton Hall University
 Siena College
 Skidmore College
 Southern Methodist University
 Spelman College
 Stevens Institute of Technology (7)
 Stony Brook University (3)
 SUNY at Purchase College
 SUNY College at Cortland
 SUNY Oneonta
 SUNY University at Buffalo
 Syracuse University (3)
 Texas Tech University
 The College of New Jersey (2)
 The Ohio State University
 The University of Alabama
 The University of Tampa
 The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
 Union College (2)
 United States Military Academy at West Point
 University of Arizona
 University of California (Davis) (3)
 University of California (Irvine) (4)
 University of California (San Diego) (2)
 University of California (Santa Barbara)
 University of Connecticut (3)
 University of Delaware (7)

University of Denver
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 University of Maryland (3)
 University of Massachusetts (Amherst) (3)
 University of Miami
 University of Mississippi
 University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Ottawa
 University of Pittsburgh (3)
 University of Rhode Island (5)
 University of Rochester
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco
 University of Scranton (2)
 University of South Carolina
 University of Southern California
 University of Toronto (2)
 University of Vermont
 University of Wisconsin (Madison) (2)
 Villanova University (2)
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington College
 Widener University
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute (3)

The following awards were given to members of the senior class during the Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

Head of School Honor Roll
**Conan Chang, Drew Ratsprecher, Andrew Savas,
 Eric Schulze, Mia Walsh, Yaocheng "Saraline" Xia**

English Award of Excellence
Karein Abawi

Mathematics Award of Excellence
Zijie "James" Wang

Science Award of Excellence
Eric Schulze, Yaocheng "Saraline" Xia

World Language Award of Excellence
Charlotte Hibbert

History and Social Sciences Award of Excellence
Andrew Savas

Visual Arts Award of Excellence
Yaocheng "Saraline" Xia

Performing Arts Award of Excellence
Conan Chang

Female Athlete of the Year
Jessica Carter

Male Athlete of the Year
Cole McCrickard

Senior Outstanding Improvement in the
 Upper School Award
Richard Machado

The Jeremy L. Glick Freedom Award
Andrew Savas

The SRDS Humanitarian Award
Toirasia Taylor

The Upper School Citizenship Cup
Andrew Savas

The Head of School Award
Gus Kraft

The SRDS Scholar
Yaocheng "Saraline" Xia

Officers for the Class of 2023
 President – **Aidan Coyne Pia**
 Secretary – **Ilana Schulman**
 Treasurer – **Drew Ratsprecher**

Student Council Executive Officers 2022 – 2023
 President – **Andrew Savas**
 Vice President – **Adam Gaibi**
 Secretary – **Faith Williamson**
 Treasurer – **Anissa Basu**





Tribute to the Class of 2023

The Class of 2023 celebrated together in May as they anticipated their upcoming Graduation on the 18th. The class enjoyed time together at the Blue & White Senior Breakfast, waved their final farewells to the rest of the student body in a campus drive-through, pulled off a few Senior pranks, spent time bonding with their classmates and families at a wonderful dinner at Seasons restaurant, and celebrated after commencement with a trip to Florida. It was a wonderful way to send them off to the next chapter of their journey and we look forward to seeing what these newest alumni of Saddle River Day will accomplish in college and beyond! 🎓



Class of 2023 Lifers
Aidan Coyne Pia
Will Felitti-Powell
Charlotte Hibbert
Gillen Malanga
Cole McCrickard
Edward Satkowski



Distinguished Alumnus

Bryan Hekemian '83: A Tradition of Giving Back

Bryan Hekemian is a proud REBEL from the Class of 1983.

Bryan took full advantage of many opportunities and leadership roles while he was at SRDS. He served as the Class President for three years, worked as the stage crew director in the theater, played in the jazz band, was a member of the wrestling team, the ski club, and was the yearbook editor and photographer.

He has often told the story of one of his favorite memories when he was a student at SRDS. When the janitorial crew went on strike, then Head of School Robert Kuhlman appointed him to round up a student janitorial crew. In return for his efforts, Bryan was promised that he would be awarded time off from his senior project. In the end, Bryan tallied 31 hours off from his project. Even then, he displayed that "entrepreneurial spirit."

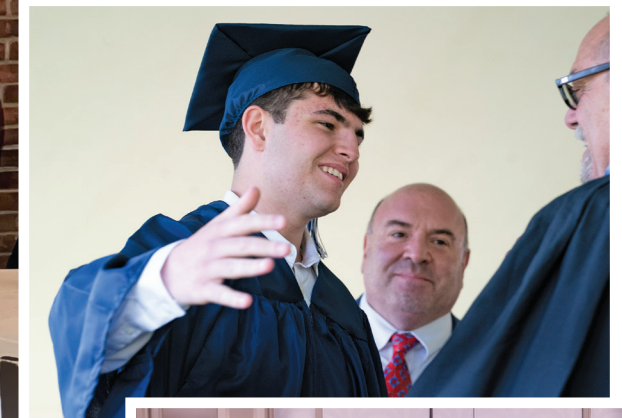


After his graduation from Villanova University he joined his family business where he currently leads the Hekemian and Co. Development Team as the Chief Operating Officer responsible for planning and reviewing all pre-development activities. In addition, Bryan is an active philanthropist who donates his time and talents to many organizations. His professional memberships and affiliations include:

- Founding Member, past chairman of the Board of Directors, Main Street Special Improvement District Business Alliance, Hackensack, NJ
- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers
- Member, National Association of Home Builders
- Member, Advisory Board, Oritani Bank

- Former member of the Fee Arbitration Committee for Attorneys Ethics
- Board member at the Hackensack Performing Arts Center
- Bryan has also served in many capacities for the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus

Following in father's footsteps, Bryan donates countless hours of his time as an executive member of the Saddle River Day Board of Trustees, where he serves as the Chairman of the Long Term Planning Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee.



Bryan and his wife Suzanne are the proud parents of three children; Emma is currently at Villanova and his two sons attended SRDS – Bryan Jr. who graduated with the Class of 2023 and is currently a freshman at Southern Methodist University and Luke who will graduate in 2025.

We are grateful for Bryan's personal and professional commitment to the community and our school. He is a shining example of someone who has fulfilled our mission statement "to achieve personal and academic excellence and to become a caring and ethical contributor to society." 🌟

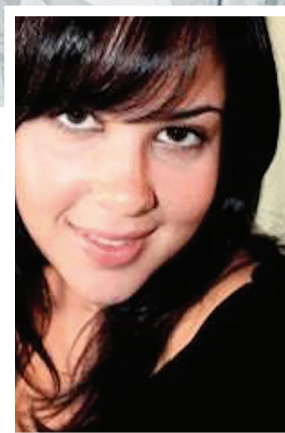


A Celebration of the Arts

These students were all instrumental in continuing the strong performing arts tradition at SRDS. They have since gone on to continue to have an impact in their local communities in the arts.

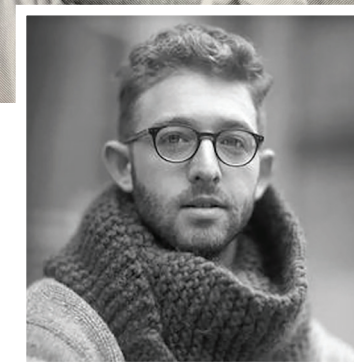
Avery Cardoza '13

Avery began studying the double bass at the age of ten. His father was a major influence having studied double bass at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music. At SRDS Avery was very involved in the instrumental performing arts including the concert orchestra and small strings performance groups. After SRDS Avery attended the Manhattan School of Music, Boston University and the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He has performed with The Indiana Philharmonic and at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, The Boston Philharmonic, the Brevard Music Center and Eastern Music Festivals. Most recently, he was the section Principal for the Boston University Symphony Orchestra.



Mia Estadella '03

Mia was a regular on the SRDS theater stage during her years at SRDS, including roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and the lead role as Maria in *The Sound of Music*. She was an active member of the concert choir and the women's chorus as well. She continued her love of music at Shenandoah University where she earned her BFA in Music Theater. Mia is currently a singer, songwriter, vocal coach, musician, actress and teacher. Facilitating fun learning opportunities for children and youth through music and art is her passion. Through singing and songwriting opportunities she provides inspiring moments that allow EVERYONE – children or adults – to feel seen and heard, no matter their abilities. Mia views her teaching as a life long learning experience and her enthusiasm and positive attitude is contagious.



Alex Kryger '08

During his time at SRDS, Alex was a stellar student and an active participant in student life including his service as the Student Council President, peer leaders and varsity tennis. He was a regular on the stage, participating in concert choir, men's chorus and the Rebel Tones show choir. He performed in shows such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Footloose*, and *Kiss Me Kate*.

Alex attended Brown University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Literatures and Cultures in English and Theater Arts. He continued on to the New York School of Interior Design where he received a Masters of Fine Arts in Interior Design. He has worked his way up the design ladder with such companies as Pembroke & Ives, Wilson Associates and Meyer Davis. He is currently a full time Project Manager and Designer with Madeline Stuart & Associates, Inc. where a collaborative relationship between architecture and furniture, function and form, client and designer exists in every project. 🌟

Lee A. Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame Inducts Five from the Class of 2017:
Cassandra Cruz, Kevin Gibbs, Trevor Hansen, Caitlin House, Maggie Kuntz

Each of these Hall of Fame inductees continued to contribute to the foundational success of the REBEL athletics program. The SRDS athletic programs experienced highlights throughout the years such as the soccer program under the direction of former A.D. Joe Augieniello in the 80's and 90's, the golf team that won the Bergen County and State Championships in 2009 and the girls and boys tennis teams that have always been highly competitive at the league, county and state levels. Now for the first time in the school's history, other teams in the SRDS athletic program became more competitive as well, including volleyball, basketball, lacrosse and soccer made a resurgence. As is common at SRDS, student-athletes compete in multiple sports in addition to their primary athletic focus. Each of these Rebels did just that and in doing so, elevated the program across the board.

The women's soccer program began to build the foundation toward future success under the direction of current SRDS A.D. PJ Petrow, winning their first State Section Title in 2016. Under the leadership of former A.D. and women's basketball coach Danny Brown, the Rebels also won their first Bergen County Basketball Championship and the North Jersey Non-Public B Sectional Basketball Championship in 2016 and have continued as a highly competitive program in New Jersey and in the tri-state area. Since then, they have gone on to win seven consecutive Bergen County titles, breaking the previous Bergen County record held by Paramus Catholic.

In addition, the newly formed girls lacrosse program



experienced a meteoric rise under the coaching leadership of Paul and Karen McMahon. Playing alongside sisters Izzy and All-Americans Dani and Michaela McMahon, the women's lacrosse team defeated lacrosse power house Mountain Lakes to win their first ever Section 1, Group 1 NJSIAA State Championship.

The men's basketball program also began to experience great success. Kevin Gibbs and Trevor Hansen were both key members of the basketball program that saw a bid in the Bergen County Jamboree and an NJIC Patriot League Championship with a perfect 16-0 league record, ending the season with a 20-5 record overall. Trevor was also an outstanding goalie for the men's soccer team.

More importantly, their success didn't stop after high school. Each of them have gone on to establish themselves as confident and accomplished in their own rights.

Cassy Cruz played basketball at the University of



Scranton and then transferred to Kean University where she graduated in 2022 with a B.S. in Public Health. Her long-term goal is to get her masters in nutrition.

Caity House received her undergraduate degree at the University of Delaware's Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics in Marketing and Management. She is currently working with The Bridge Corporation as a Digital Marketing Account Manager and is planning on working toward her Masters degree.

Maggie Kuntz graduated California Polytechnic State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. She is currently pursuing a career as a Fire Protection Engineer employed at Jensen Hughes.

Trevor Hansen graduated from High Point University

with a Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship and a Finance Minor. Trevor is currently a Structured Finance Analyst for Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Banking.

Kevin Gibbs recently graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He felt a strong calling toward civil service and is now serving as a police officer with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office.

The one common thread for all of them is their love and gratitude for Saddle River Day. Their determination, compassion, discipline, and leadership skills were solidified through their experiences as student-athletes at SRDS with the support of coaches and faculty who challenged them to excel. Each of them cherish the friendships, life lessons, and memories that will last forever. 🙌

Beyond Boundaries: New Center for Technology & Computer Science (CTCS) Explores Global Virtual Reality Learning Environments

Typically, when someone references a classroom, we imagine, at the very least, a physical space with walls, windows, a ceiling, desks, and an instructor. But classrooms aren't what they used to be and at Saddle River Day School, the newest classroom can only be found in a virtual reality headset.

The inaugural Virtual Reality Classroom is the first initiative of our new Center for Technology & Computer Science (CTCS), headed by Dr. Kevin Merges, SRDS's Chief Global Impact Officer. Dr. Merges has been at Saddle River Day School since July 2023, and has over 25 years of experience working with and for independent schools. His work over the last decade has focused on revenue generating programs and international projects. At SRDS his responsibilities include identifying and cultivating international partnerships with compatible institutions around the world. Saddle River Day School's first partner school is with American EduGlobal Schools, India. Plans are underway to share

curriculum and educators in a way that is beneficial to current and future students. There will also eventually be reciprocal study opportunities for students from both schools.

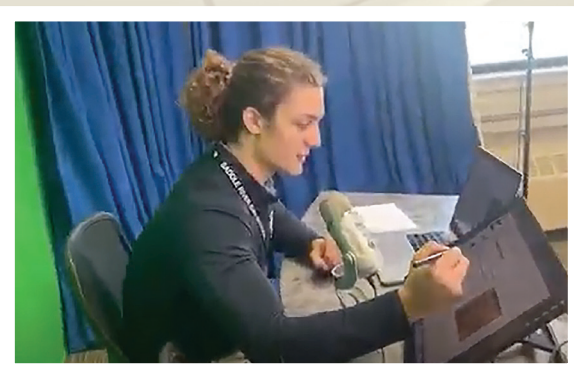
However, for students who don't want to travel back and forth, or students for whom travel isn't possible, the development of virtual reality classrooms will enable students to have access to online courses taught by a wide range of instructors with expertise that is both diverse and comprehensive. The Center for Technology & Computer Science at SRDS, supported by AI teaching assistants, will enable students to have flexibility around when and how they access these courses. So, if students in the U.S. want to attend a class taught by an expert in their chosen area of study who happens to reside across the globe, affording them opportunities to travel to remote locations like UNESCO World Heritage sites or the ancient forums of Rome, they will no longer have to set their alarm clocks or discover a

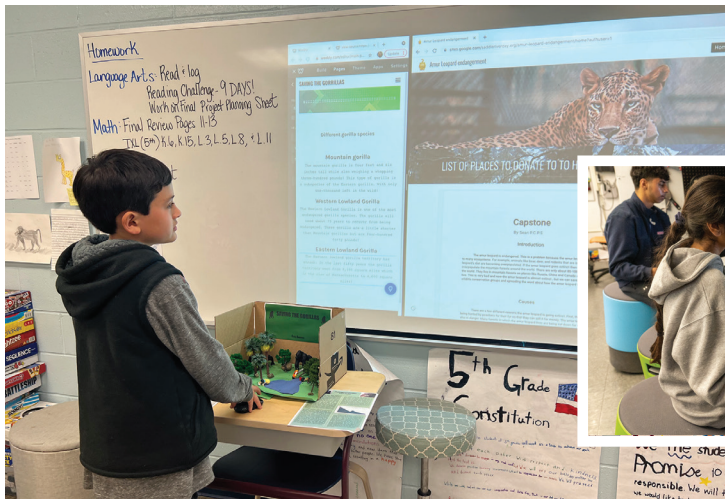


fondness for coffee in order to access that content. Rather, they will find everything they need in their VR headsets. Science labs can also be taken to another level because unlike in an actual lab, in virtual reality, students can be encouraged to experiment with higher risk where clean-up is a breeze with the reset button and no students will be harmed in the implementation of these experiments.

In addition to these VR classrooms and AI opportunities, the development of a robust Center for Technology & Computer Science will also enable instructors to

identify areas for growth, as well as remain at the forefront of emerging technologies and new competencies. Course offerings such as Python, Quantitative Finance, Data Science, Natural Language Processing, Web Application Development, Quantum Computing and Game Development fulfill the SRDS mission to integrate technology in ways that support the highest academic, aesthetic, and behavioral standards, and to develop students into leaders and innovators, guiding them to use AI and other new technologies in ways that are ethical and responsible. 🌐





Building the Foundation of Learning through Design Thinking

Every big idea starts with a question. A “why” or a “how” or an “I wonder...” that leads the questioner through a process of brainstorming, testing, evaluating, and revising that will eventually, with effort and a little luck, lead to an answer that solves a problem, improves a process, or discovers something brand new. This process, called design thinking, is embedded into the pedagogy and curriculum of each subject taught at Saddle River Day School, in ways that are often discernible, and occasionally imperceptible.

Starting with our littlest learners, teachers pose questions from everyday life and guide students through thought exercises that lead them down a path of discovery. Questions as simple as, “Why do you think balls are round?” “How can we figure out how many lunches Chef Mark needs to pack for our field trip?” or, “I wonder how we can find all the words that rhyme with ‘cat?’” become age appropriate lessons in physics, math, and literacy. Students are encouraged to propose creative ideas, experiment courageously, think critically, and evaluate and revise with resilience. All skills that will serve them not only throughout their academic journey but in their careers and lives as well.

Most big ideas aren’t usually the work of just one individual; they’re the product of the best ideas that are posed and tested by a team of individuals, each with their own strengths and abilities. At Saddle River Day School, collaborative projects and project-based, cross-curricular learning lessons (PBLs), are an integral part of each class. From the 1st grade restaurant, where students work as a team to open a cafe, to Middle School Capstone Projects, to the groundbreaking Gateway Diploma track for Upper School students, PBLs in some form are a feature at every grade level at Saddle River Day School. Students learn respect for their team members, practice cooperation, and hone communication skills as they conceive of, plan, and execute their final projects and presentations. Presentations of their findings and conclusions are essential building blocks for students to polish their public speaking skills.

Students also have the opportunity to present their research at the culmination of the Middle School Capstone Project. Beginning in the 5th grade, SRDS students learn the foundation of research. In 6th grade, they build on their knowledge to develop their own questions they would like to research; often,



because of the nature of our student body, these questions are entrepreneurial in nature. In 7th grade, students turn their attention outward, identifying problems or issues in their community and proposing solutions. All of this work leads up to a final research project in 8th grade when students present ideas related to one of the United Nations Sustainability goals.

So, what about when even the best laid plans go awry? At SRDS, in the words of Anastasia Kelly, Head of the Middle School, that dreaded f- word (failure) isn’t applicable here. Rather, “part of the design thinking process is trying things and eliminating possibilities” which is the best way to arrive at a solution that works. “Running through the design process helps students become better thinkers, collaborators, and innovators”.

Scholars who would like more exposure to the elements of design thinking or who would like to practice their skills are able to attend a Saddle River Day School STEAM Bootcamp where real-world problems are posed and students work to propose solutions. Themed STEAM Boot Camps are offered on Saturdays throughout the year; the first one, focusing on “Smart Cities” was held on Saturday, September 30th.

At Saddle River Day School, we realize that education is evolving, and learning is lifelong. We give students the tools they’ll need not only to be successful in the present but to be the leaders and innovators of their rapidly advancing, ever changing future. 🌐



Igniting Curiosity: A Spotlight on the Lower School's Project-Based Learning Program

It has been said that entrepreneurs aren't born, they are made. It might even be more accurate to say that they are self-made. But what is it that entrepreneurs need in order to be successful? They need a big idea that solves a problem, the knowledge and education to develop that idea, the courage to implement it, the financial literacy to be good stewards, and the resilience, creativity and critical thinking to be able to resolve issues, pivot when necessary and adjust their original idea to fit new market challenges... not a skill set one would expect students in grades Pre-K through 4th to have mastered. But at Saddle River Day School, the seeds of the entrepreneurial mindset are being planted in our youngest students through project-based learning designed to start them on the path toward making themselves exactly who they want to be as students and, eventually, as adults.

While traditional coursework in language arts, mathematics, science, Spanish, and social studies comprises the foundation of the Lower School curriculum, class activities, lessons, and assessments emphasize experiential learning in an inquiry-based environment. Every minute of the school day, whether spent inside or outside the classroom, is looked upon as an opportunity for new understanding and growth. Art and music classes provide outlets for student

creativity and self-expression and state-of-the-art technology foundations in research and library skills. In addition, all these subjects enrich classroom areas of study through designed integrated units.

Project Based Learning modules (PBLs) – hallmarks of a Saddle River Day School education – are also introduced in age appropriate ways in the Lower School. Examples of these cross-curricular projects include the PreK-4 Living Museum where students choose a creature that lives under the sea. In art, they create a kelp forest, imagine costumes, and dress up as their chosen creature. In the classroom, they learn the basics of research as they identify facts about their creature, then practice critical presentation and public speaking skills as they present their findings to visitors in an assembly at the culmination of the project. These cross-curricular experiences will involve core subject teachers as well as Special Area teachers. So, for example, when the first grade decides to start a restaurant, their math lessons might involve learning about money and coins, their science teacher might work with them on measurements, they might design logos in art class and work together to develop a



theme and a menu. Third graders might use a 50 States unit as an opportunity to become “travel agents” delving deep into the history and attractions of a state, examining the ratio of time to distance for various modes of travel, and creating a marketing brochure for the state. The program trusts students to work autonomously, but with close teacher supervision, to make connections, question for deeper understanding, explore, explain and learn to solve one problem multiple ways. The end goal is better fluency, accuracy, flexible thinking, and more efficient problem solving. This training will, of course, be applicable to many other aspects of the students’ learning and life. What we know for certain is that every child will have something unique to contribute based on their skills, talents and interests. It’s our job to give them the tools to be able to contribute confidently and effectively; tools that will serve them long after they finish each project.



Last spring, Lower School students had the opportunity to display the culmination of their year-long Project-Based Learning endeavors for the larger community. Students displayed their work in various creative



ways including extensive research papers and written reports, prototypes, detailed dioramas, models, posters, videos, foods, costumes, short plays and Grade 1 hosted their annual breakfast in the SRDS Cafe for their families. Projects included:

- PreK4 – Fantastic Forests
- Kindergarten – A Trip Around the World
- Grade 1 – The Saddle River Breakfast Spot
- Grade 2 – Under the Sea
- Grade 3 – Let's Get Batty!
- Grade 4 – Colonial Times

At SRDS, we recognize that now, more than ever, everything is interconnected. The skills learned in one class can be applied in another. No subject can be taught in a vacuum. Even our youngest learners understand that when we work together, we work better. This appreciation of individual strengths and the commitment to support and develop them is an essential part of the entrepreneurial mindset and is at the heart of our mission to educate each individual child so they can meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world with confidence and compassion. 🌍

Smart Learning: How AI Resources Reshape Student Success

At Saddle River Day School, we know our teachers love their students, and we know they love teaching. We witness their regular, meaningful interactions with each of their students, we see the passion they have for sharing knowledge as they inspire lifelong learners, and we know the difference their personal attention makes in our children's lives. We benefit from a low student-to-faculty ratio and the SRDS culture of differentiating instruction so that Saddle River Day School students receive instruction that is flexible and can be personalized to them. But, according to Sonny Arcot, AI Automation Consultant, SRDS educators have also expressed the wish that they could find the time to make each child's educational experience even more individualized to them.



This is, of course, what Artificial Intelligence has been designed to do; help busy professionals manage their daily tasks in a way that allows for them to prioritize their most meaningful responsibilities. In the case of SRDS teachers, this means using AI to help them generate and present lessons and grade assessments, leaving more time for our dedicated educators to put our children first. SRDS.ai is a learning management platform in response to feedback from Saddle River Day School teachers that will help them optimize their instructional time each day while ensuring each child's educational experience is tailored to their own individual learning style, interests, and the speed with which they take in knowledge.



Basic information about each child will be provided to the AI learning management tool, including the child's interests and/or hobbies. As students proceed through lessons that have been generated by their teachers and then taught to the AI tool, questions, problems, and stories will be presented to the students using examples that are relevant and interesting to them. Imagine solving a word problem about the speed of a soccer ball instead of a train traveling from Chicago to Boise. Or budding marine biologists learning to calculate volume based on the capacity of a fish tank, or literature students learning to analyze poetry by dissecting sonnets about Taylor Swift instead of a summer's day.

An AI Assistant will not only be available to help students complete their assignments but will also track their speed and accuracy, providing a real time assessment of their comprehension and proficiency. This kind of immediate feedback will enable classroom teachers to provide targeted instruction in order to increase their students' fluency. Assignments will be graded based on rubrics that designate their unique characteristics, standards, and specifications. Rubric criteria can be adjusted to accommodate each individual child.

Teachers at SRDS who have been trained in the new learning management tool have immediately seen the value and have begun to ideate additional applications for the technology. To this end, the Center for Technology & Computer Science will be hosting an International Teacher Training on campus this summer. Teachers from all over the world are invited to visit SRDS to experiment with the ways they can integrate Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence into their classrooms and curricula. These teachers will have the benefit of their cohort of teachers so they can share new ideas, applications, and best practices.

It is indisputable that AI and VR technology will change the way our children access and acquire knowledge. In fact, they already are. It's up to us as parents and educators to provide them with guidelines and parameters for using these new tools ethically, responsibly, and efficiently. Sonny Arcot and the administration at SRDS are building this framework to support our children in the present, even as they are propelled into their future. 🌐



Spotlight on Success



Michael Moldavskiy '32 and Wenbo Guang '28 Score High in Math Olympiads

The 2023 Math Olympiad concluded with participation from thousands of students globally. Congratulations to Wenbo Guang who scored in the 97.18%-ile and Michael Moldavskiy who scored in the 97.34%-ile and were both awarded the title of International Maths Olympiad Challenge Champion.



Josie Brooks '26 Earns Honorable Mention at NJ State Science Competition

The Honors Biology class entered a science competition offered by the State of New Jersey. Students were given a unique problem that focused specifically on an environmental issue facing both the state and region to solve. SRDS had eight student groups submit their unique ideas for addressing a mitigation or adaptation strategy for the regional effects of climate change, including a 14-slide presentation and a 2-minute long video. We are proud to congratulate Josie Brooks who earned an Honorable Mention on her project.



Jack Holder '30 Makes His Move toward becoming a Chess Champ!

Congratulations to Jack Holder who competed in the 2023 National Chess Congress Tournament in Philadelphia (November 2023) and tied for Second Place in the Under 1200 Division after winning five of his six games. It was a grueling two day tournament, but Jack prevailed and additionally earned 120 rating points making his current USCF rating increase to 1256. Jack started playing competitive chess in April 2023 after being inspired by his older brother. He dedicated his summer to studying and competing at the International Chess Academy (ICA) in Glen Rock, NJ and quickly gained rating points.



Sophie Ceriejo '31 Qualifies for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program

Congratulations to Sophie Ceriejo on her acceptance to the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Advanced Quantitative program based on her scoring in the 87th percentile on the SCAT exam. Sophie said of her experience: "I enjoyed the Johns Hopkins CTY program because the curriculum made me challenge myself to think in a different way."



Middle School Debate Team Wins FIRST PLACE in NJ State Tournament!

In early December, nearly 200 students from public and independent schools across the State of New Jersey gathered for the Garden State Middle School Parliamentary Debate League Tournament. This tournament consisted of four rounds of debate on controversial topics such as "U.S. Citizens should be required to participate in one year of national service" or "School attendance should be voluntary." Students did not know in advance which side of the debate they would be on for each topic, so preparation required them to argue for or against any of the resolutions. In addition, since students are not allowed to bring any pre-written cases with them, they had to understand the material deeply enough to speak, argue, and persuade based only on their research and some hastily written notes. The team walked away as the 1st Place Overall Winner, with every SRDS debater winning rounds. Most impressively, the team of Ari Onik and Colton Stotesbury ('28) went undefeated through the entire tournament, winning all four rounds in a row and Ari was presented with an individual speaking award. Middle School history teacher Radley Glasser served as the team coach.



Cole Rosenberg '26 Earns Highly Prestigious Excellence in Jazz Percussion Award

Sophomore Cole Rosenberg earned the prestigious Excellence in Jazz Percussion Award from the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts. Cole was selected for his excellence in Jazz performance with percussion (drums) as one of only eight students from some 9,000 applicants to this nationally highly esteemed competition, many of whom are attending programs like Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music.



Hayven Auty '25 Presents at NYU's Construct3D Conference

Hayven Auty presented at the NYU's Construct3D Conference last summer. Hayven, with the support of SRDS Tech Director Laura Hollis, was able to present how to design and then create simple characters, taking them from a 2D sketch to a 3D blender file that could be 3D printed. Hayven was the only student presenter at the conference.



Junior Sahil Polepalle Earns United States Congressional Silver Medal

Congratulations to Sahil Polepalle '25 who was one of 3,797 individuals recently awarded a Silver Medal by the United States' Congressional Award, a nonprofit founded by Congress to recognize youths throughout the country for their achievements in four categories: 1) Voluntary Public Service 2) Personal Development 3) Physical Fitness and 4) Expedition & Exploration. Sahil was recognized for his "exceptional dedication to community service and personal development." Sahil and SRDS classmate Devraj Dhupar visited SAMPARC in Maharashtra, India, a nonprofit that provides ashrams for orphaned and impoverished children. They are also key organizers of the HELP



(Health and Education for Less Privileged) Foundation at SRDS and continue to raise financial support for orphanages and schools throughout India.



TEDxYouth@SRDS Presents Talks on theme "ProtecTED"

Now in its ninth year @ SRDS, the TEDx event was held in April 2023. Technology Director and advisor Laura Hollis mentored and encouraged students as they prepared speeches on topics that were of great importance to them related to identity, the planet and our minds. Keynote speaker Aiden Schwartz '19, a senior at American University studying Audio Production/Technology and Business Entertainment, gave a talk titled "You're Always in Your Major." Aiden is a freelance audio engineer, songwriter, and producer who has worked with many artists and bands based out of Washington D.C. and has a start-up music media company called Traklife. Emcees Ilana Schulman & Cole McCrickard ('23) kept the program moving along as students listened to eleven talks, interspersed with musical excerpts, poetry and dance. Devin Cohen '23 served as a student advisor alongside faculty member Lexie Kelly.



Roey Smigel '26 Designs Logo for "A Night of Too Many Stars" Autism Benefit

Congratulations to Roey Smigel who had his logo design selected for the Night of Too Many Stars/NEXT for AUTISM's comedy night at the Beacon Theater, NYC, in December, 2023. Roey, a talented graphic arts student, worked in conjunction with SRDS Graphic Arts teacher Joanne Ciuccio who helped to guide him through the design process. NEXT for AUTISM's mission is to transform the national landscape of service for people with autism by strategically designing, launching, and supporting innovative programs.





Yvonne McCort: A Legacy Retires after 35 Years of Service

How do you define a legacy? A legacy can be defined as the lasting impact, influence, or contributions that an individual, organization, or idea leaves behind, shaping the present and future. It encompasses the positive and enduring effects on people, culture, or society, reflecting a meaningful and lasting imprint that continues to inspire, guide, or benefit subsequent generations. This truly defines one of SRDS' most beloved teachers, Yvonne McCort.

Yvonne began her teaching career at SRDS 35 years ago when then Head of School, Robert J. Kuhlman hired her. During her tenure, she taught nearly every grade level in Lower School and served as the Head in that division for a few years as well. Yvonne possessed a passion for education that radiated through every lesson, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and curiosity. With boundless energy, she engaged students and fostered a love for learning. In particular, she cultivated a love for reading in her students, encouraging them to explore as many books as possible throughout their time in her class. But her commitment went beyond textbooks by instilling a lifelong curiosity and genuine care for each student she taught, ensuring a nurturing educational journey.

While Yvonne's presence will be greatly missed, we are certain she will not be idle as she actively pursues



her diverse interests during her 'retirement' (we've already seen her on campus a number of times this year as she substitutes when needed). We express our gratitude to Yvonne for her lifelong commitment to Saddle River Day School and wish her great success for her future endeavors.



SRDS Administrators presented at the National Association of Independent Schools conference held in Las Vegas last February.



Saddle River Day Honors Faculty and Staff

Head of School Jalaj Desai took time last spring to recognize a number of faculty and staff members that have served the SRDS community for many years and gone above and beyond the call of duty. Each of these valued members have sacrificed their own time in order to ensure the success of the school, whether in the classroom or behind the scenes. We congratulate each of them and thank them for their contributions.



20 Years of Service

Deirdre Angrick – Math Teacher and Academic Dean
Susan Kim – Chemistry/Science Teacher

Freda-Lee Hubler Award

In honor of long-time highly dedicated SRDS English teacher Fred-Lee Hubler, this award is given annually to a teacher whose love of learning for its own sake is transmitted to students through enthusiastic, creative, intellectually stimulating teaching that acknowledges the uniqueness of each student. The teacher actively encourages and rewards excellence and generates superior scholarly and creative work from students.



Jennifer Maylath, Upper School English Department Chair & Upper School Dean of Students



Shelby McLaughlin, 1st Grade Teacher



Lucille P. Mazarin Award

This award is given annually to a member of the Saddle River Day School Faculty, Staff or Administration in honor of Lucille P. Mazarin, who retired from SRDS after



25 years of devoted service. The recipient embodies the characteristics of Lucille's time at SRDS: honesty, compassion, a commitment to all members of the community and an undying belief in the value of each and every individual.

Laura Hollis, Director of Technology

Robert Finkel Distinguished Service Award

Bob Finkel retired in 2021 after eleven years of dedicated service to the Saddle River Day School. He never said "no" right away, but always tried to find a way to say "yes"... no small feat considering he worked with budgets and human resources. Chances are he shared a story, sang a song or told a joke to anyone who stopped by his office. Most times, colleagues would leave with a smile on their face.



In honor of Bob's contribution to the SRDS community, Head of School Jalaj Desai instituted a new award: the *Robert A. Finkel Distinguished Service Award*. The recipient embodies the characteristics

of Bob's time at SRDS: dependability, integrity, compassion, loyalty, and an undying dedication to ensuring the success of Saddle River Day School. This year's recipient was **Geoff Bowman**, who has served the school as the Director of Admissions for the past five years. We are grateful for Geoff's dedication, recognizing in particular the incredible growth in enrollment thanks in large part to his efforts. We thank Geoff for his dedication and service to the SRDS community. 🙏

Upper School Musical Sells Out for Four Shows of *The Addams Family*

Tyler Capa doesn't get much down time, and he likes it that way. In his sixth year, now as the Performing Arts Department Chair, Theater Coordinator, Upper School Choral Director and Drama teacher, Tyler directed the Upper School full musical production of *The Addams Family*, performed Thursday, March 9th - Saturday, March 11th (with both a matinee and an evening show on the 11th).

With 30 Upper School students in the cast, *The Addams Family*, like *Legally Blonde* (2022), starring Tik Tok star Natalie Jane, draws in actors and crew from across a wide range of disciplines at SRDS. Mr. Capa notes that performers in his shows are often athletes who find, much to their delight, that they can also sing and dance, and, most importantly, that they enjoy being on the stage.

But if there isn't an adage that everyone can find a home in the theater, there should be. Students who aren't interested in being on stage can join the crew,



working and learning alongside theater professionals from New York City to design sets, lighting and costumes. Students help run the sound boards, maintain props, function as wardrobe, hair and makeup artists, and occasionally join the orchestra made up of professional, working musicians, also mostly from New York City.

The stakes for the cast and crew of *The Addams Family* were high as it was an adjudicated show, meaning that judges from two organizations, Rising Star and Metro Awards, were there to review the show and award prizes for acting (leads, supporting, and ensemble) and direction, as well as production value (lighting, set, costumes, sound, etc). And in fact, Nicolette Riera '23 did win a Metro Award for her dance performance!

One of the best things about his work at Saddle River Day School, says Mr. Capa, is the willingness of the administration to invest in the arts. The shows being staged at Saddle River Day School aren't the average high school productions and the creative team strives to raise the bar every year in order to give the students the best experience possible.

With a roster of shows this robust, it's no wonder that prospective students are beginning to pay attention to Saddle River Day School as 'The Place' to hone their acting, singing, and performing skills. And this is just the way Tyler Capa wants it. He's here to develop, encourage and support each performer and crew member who steps on his stage. But he knows that the director just points the cast and crew in the

direction they need to go and then nudges them along the way. It is the students who will create the magic and this, according to Mr. Capa, is the other best part of his job; the moment when he can step back and witness the camaraderie, trust, and faith that each cast builds among themselves. Then, at show time, when he gets to watch these talented students take what they've created and share it, confidently and courageously, with their audience. What better way to embody the part of the SRDS Mission that compels the community to 'achieve personal excellence and to contribute positively to society' than this?



Middle School Production of *Newsies, Jr.* is a Smash Hit!

For the second year in a row at SRDS, the Middle School performed a full musical production, *Newsies, Jr.* The show ran for two performances on May 5th and 6th before a packed house and showcased some of our incredibly talented Middle School rising stars! In the lead roles were Roman Young '27 as Jack



Kelly and Cece Rozzi '28 as Katherine Plumber, alongside 20+ other Middle School students who were part of the cast and crew. The show was produced by Tyler Capa and directed by Justine Verheul. The crew included Upper and Middle School students as



well as faculty/staff members who worked together to ensure this show was a smashing success from beginning to end!

Lower School Musical *Wizard of Oz* also Performs before a Packed House

As in the Middle School, the Lower School also put on a full musical production of *The Wizard of Oz* on June 2nd and 3rd. What a joyful display of sight and sound as these young students – many for the first time – performed for their families and friends! In lead roles were Sophie Ceriejo '31 as Dorothy, Samuel Miller '31 as Scarecrow, Matthew Hollis '31 as Tin Man, Asher Geller '31 as the Cowardly Lion, Mikayla Yerger '32 as the Wicked Witch and Kolson Bloch '32 as the Wizard of Oz. Directed and choreographed by Ms. Danielle Van Kampen, the production showcased many of our incredibly talented Lower School students. The audience was treated to truly delightful performances full of pageantry, beautiful sets and costumes and presented the opportunity for high student engagement to our Lower School students.



Nicolette Riera '23 Wins Metro Award

Congratulations to Nicolette Riera for winning the Metro Award for Best Female Dancer in this SRDS Upper School production of "The Addams Family."

SRDS Annual Art Show

The Annual Art Show was held on campus in the spring of 2023 for the SRDS community to enjoy the culmination of an entire year's work for students in PreK-12. The visual arts at SRDS provide a means to gain personal satisfaction through individual accomplishment in the creation of images and forms. The program is solidly based on a respect and understanding of where students are creatively, what they require from their work, and the means to move them from one developmental stage to another as they become more expressive, inventive, and perceptive. Through creative experiences, students become familiar with facets of artistic thinking such as the ability to formulate problems and create multiple solutions, the ability to pursue a project over time, the willingness to solve problems inventively, the ability to take risks, and finally to reflect critically on one's own work providing valuable skills that function beyond the studio into other areas of the curriculum. The program has gained recognition for its innovation and cutting edge technology as it continues to challenge students to not only develop their abilities, but to learn 'real world' skills as they must navigate in a highly technological and visual world. 🌐





REBEL Athletics Continue to Thrive

At Saddle River Day School, we believe athletics are an integral part of the SRDS experience. We strive to provide an environment that promotes achievement, fair play, integrity, sportsmanship, and overall health and fitness. We believe the values taught through participation in athletics are an extension of those taught in the classroom at SRDS. Developing a strong work ethic, working as a member of a team, respect for leadership and peers, self-discipline, commitment, loyalty, perseverance, communication, accountability, conflict-resolution, and pride in accomplishments are all life skills that a strong athletic program enhances. We couldn't be more proud of our REBEL student-athletes! GO REBELS!

Highlights include...

Girls soccer again had a successful season under the leadership of new Athletic Director PJ Petrow, finishing with a 10-6-1 record overall, advancing to the final of the NJSIAA Non-Public State sectionals. With only one graduating senior, this team will be one to watch over the next few years. Olivia DiDomizio '25 received All-Bergen County Honorable Mention. Girls volleyball also had a winning season, led by the efforts of senior hitter Tori Taylor and Alex Danieli, who both took league honors.



Boys and girls basketball once again produced admirable results for REBEL Athletics. The girls team continued to be ranked as one of the best in the tri-state region. Led by Juniors Julianna Almeida and Cristina Parrella, and Sophomore Faith Williamson, the No. 15 Rebels defeated No. 11 IHA to win their 7th straight Bergen County Tournament CHP with a stellar defensive effort. The girls finished with a solid 20-6 record and only graduated two players in 2023. Julianna Almeida and Cristina Parrella '24 along with Faith Williamson '25 were named to the First Team All-Bergen County.

The boys had one of their most successful seasons yet, posting a 14-9 record in their first year playing an independent schedule. They again advanced to the quarter-finals of the Bergen County Jamboree. Richard Machado '23 was named to the First Team All-Bergen County; Parker Neuenhaus '23 to the Second Team All-Bergen County; David Alexandre '23 to the Third Team All-Bergen County.

Both the boys and girls tennis teams finished successful seasons with winning records. The girls team finished their season, winning the Patriot League with a 13-2 overall record. Isabella Pedone '25 was named to the All-Bergen County First Team for girls lacrosse; Nia Carrera '24 and goalkeeper McAlister Salter '24 also made the Second Team for All-Bergen County.

The Class of 2023 Signs Seven to Continue Athletic Careers at DI and DIII

Congratulations to these seven student-athletes from the Class of 2023 who will continue to play at the DI and DIII collegiate levels:



DI
Jessica Carter -- rowing
 University of San Diego
Calista Collins -- soccer
 University of Delaware



DIII
David Alexandre -- basketball
 The College of New Jersey
Richard Machado -- basketball
 Stevens Institute of Technology
Grace Magna -- tennis
 Hobart and William Smith College
Parker Neuenhaus -- basketball
 Washington and Lee University
Mia Walsh -- basketball
 Gettysburg College
Jessica Carter -- rowing
 University of San Diego



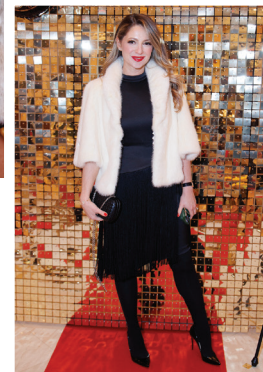
Saddle River Day Welcomes New Athletic Director PJ Petrow

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Athletic Director, Mr. Peter J. Petrow (a.k.a. PJ). PJ comes to us from the Upper Saddle River school district where he has been the Athletic Director and Physical Education/Health teacher at Cavallini Middle School and Bogert Elementary School since 2001. In addition to these responsibilities, PJ has served as a Director for the NJ Crush FC Soccer program since 2012. He also coaches at NJ Crush in addition to his coaching duties to a highly successful women's program at SRDS, where he has served since 2017. PJ is a highly dedicated and experienced Physical Education Teacher, Athletic Director, and Coach with a passion for promoting health, wellness, and athletic achievement. He possesses a strong background in developing comprehensive physical education programs and leading successful sports programs. He is committed to fostering a positive and inclusive environment that encourages student growth, teamwork, and personal development. His main goal is to consistently strive to provide engaging and challenging learning experiences for all students. With exceptional leadership and communication abilities, PJ excels in building strong relationships with students, parents, and colleagues to ensure a collaborative and supportive educational environment. He is also committed to staying up-to-date with the latest research and best practices in physical education and athletics. His goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of student-athletes while driving the success of the athletic department. We look forward to welcoming PJ in his new role as Athletic Director and part of the Saddle River Day family.



**We Couldn't Do It Without Them!
SRDS Parents Guild Offers Key Support**

The SRDS Parents Guild is an integral and energetic part of our community. Their greatest goal is always to focus on our community by engaging families and welcoming new volunteers, so that the Parents Guild can continue to not only support the programs and experiences at SRDS that enrich our children's lives, but also maintain the wonderful tight-knit community that makes the SRDS experience so special. This body of parents organize and support events throughout the year such as a New Parents Reception, Men's Night Out, Ladies' Night Out, Love and Kindness week, and our Annual Gala, just to name a few. We cannot express our gratitude enough for their undying support and commitment to our students and our community!



Ladies' Night Out

What began over 20 years ago as a small social event to enjoy a time of bonding and raise financial support for the school has evolved into one of the highlights of the year for the women of Saddle River Day School. Each year, the Parents Guild hosts our annual Ladies' Night Out event for an evening of fun, friendship, food and fundraising. This year was no exception as 250+ women gathered at The Tides Estate in North Haledon, NJ to enjoy a festive evening of camaraderie with an old school Hollywood theme. A grand time was had by all!



Gala

Each year, the Parents Guild hosts our Annual Gala, a spectacular event for parents, guardians, alumni and friends of SRDS with a focus on significant fundraising. Last year's Gala was held at Alpine Country Club and everyone dusted off their 80's outfits for a "Saturday Night Fever" inspired event. It was a night to remember for all. 🎵

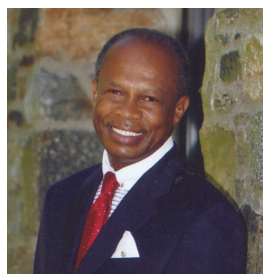
Parents Guild Board Executive Board

- Co-President: Rosanna Young
- Co-President: Nassdja Anthony
- Co-Vice President: Kerry Salter
- Co-Vice President: Jacqueline Vasquez
- Treasurer: Michaela Siegel
- Secretary: Cindy Mueller Giardina
- Lower School Representative: Alyson Sugar
- Middle School Representatives: Sara Aufgang & Dan Rozzi
- Upper School Representative: Shulamit Gershenson
- Past Presidents: Joni Pasenchuk, Amy Sneyers, Sarah Felitti-Powell
- Director of Alumni and Special Events: Chrissie Signore '85

Dear Saddle River Day School Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am thrilled to share with you the extraordinary accomplishments that have made 2023 a record-breaking year for our esteemed institution. Enrollment at Saddle River Day School has reached an unprecedented high, marking a historic milestone in our journey. We have reached near maximum capacity, a testament to the trust and confidence our community places in the exceptional education we provide. The Class of 2023, comprised of 50 graduates, has not only entered their colleges of choice but has also successfully completed their first semester. This cohort faced the challenges of the Covid pandemic throughout their high school years, demonstrating resilience and determination against formidable odds. Their achievements are a source of great pride for all of us.

Our silent phase of the Building the Future campaign to expand the campus has surpassed our wildest expectations and raised \$16,000,000 of the \$20,000,000 goal. This success would not have been possible without the support of several of our most generous philanthropic SRDS families. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to them for helping us realize our ambitious vision for the school.



At the core of our mission is academic rigor, and the successes of our students in both the classroom and competitive arenas reflect our commitment to excellence. We are on a trajectory to become the premier college prep school in northern New Jersey, and this achievement is a result of the collective efforts of our dedicated students, the leadership of Mr. Jalaj Desai, our Head of School, and the outstanding faculty and staff.

Join me and the Board of Trustees in extending heartfelt congratulations to our students, Mr. Desai, the faculty, and staff for an unparalleled year of record-breaking achievements. The future of Saddle River Day School is bright, thanks to the confidence and commitment of our community. Your past and future contributions will continue to be instrumental in building a future that reflects our shared dedication to success.

With profound gratitude,

Wes Powell
President, Board of Trustees
Saddle River Day School

*Education in all forms is the engine, learning is the fuel.
Together they power the movement of humanity.*

BUILDING THE FUTURE

We acknowledge and thank the following families for their leadership gift commitments made during the silent phase of the Building the Future campaign in 2023. We are extremely grateful for their generous support:

The Botta Family	Mr. Charles and Mrs. Susan Snyder
The Coyne Family	Ann Marie Snyder & Gary Schulze
The Han Family	The Solovey Family
The Regular Family	The Sugar Family
The Rosenberg Family	The Walsh Family

SRDS Annual Giving for 2022-2023

It is with gratitude that we share the philanthropic contributions made to SRDS during the 2022-2023 school year, between 7/1/22 and 6/30/23. It includes SRDS Fund gifts, restricted gifts and grants, and gala contributions. The Office of Development has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this report. If there is an error or omission, please notify us at 201.327.4050, x1124 so that we can amend our records.

Legacy Club (\$50K+)

The Botta Family
F & P DeRosa Memorial Fund
The Rosenberg Family
The Copper Beech Foundation, Inc.
The Sugar Family
The Walsh Family

Founders' Club (\$25K+)

The Braen Family
The B. Hekemian Family
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Ms. Sandria Kurtz '95
The Murphy Family
The Reisman Family
Dr. Mary C. Romney '67
The Santagata Family
The Savas Family
The Shnyder & Kotlyar Family
The Young Family



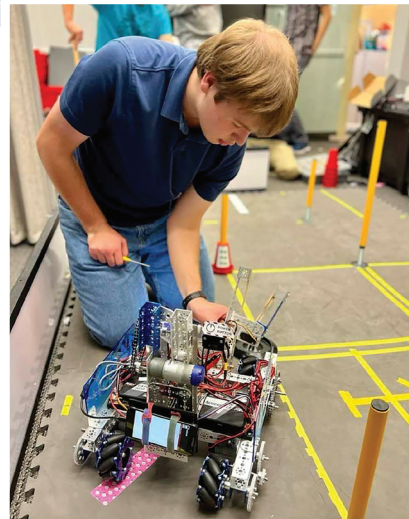
President's Society (\$5K+)

Anonymous
The Aufgang Family
The Berger Family
The Coyne Family
The Desai & Mehta Family
The Dimentman Family
The DuBrul & Foster Family
The Esteban Family
The V. Feldman Family
The Fraler Family
The Landau Family
The Lawrie Family
Mr. Jeff Li
The Ramani Family
The Siegel Family
The Sneyers Family
The Tada & Fujita Family
The Ulrey & Greenbaum Family



Headmaster's Society (\$2,500+)

The Brooks & Graves Family
The Guang & Peng Family
The Hall Family
Dr. Jeffrey R. Kuhlman '81 and
Mrs. Amy F. Kuhlman '81
The Lang & Ying Family
The Rathod Family
The Shapiro Family
The Smigel Family
Mr. and Mrs. Dale T. Smith
The Tyagi Family
The Yang Family



Leader's Society (\$1,000+)

The Abu-Rustum Family
The Auty Family
The Brown Family
Mr. Jason Carini
The Cicero Family
The Dorri & Hazhin Family
The Fischer Family
The R. Gross Family
The Helman & Debowska Family
The Kaner Family
Mrs. Judith Kuhlman
Mr. Jonathan Lee
The Lin & Choe Family
The Malanga Family
The Mande Family
The Mansfield Family
The Oracevski Family
The Pjeternikaj Family
The Samanoglu Family
The Shakiba & Crouzier Family
The Sidler Family
The Tretola Family
The Tucker & Waldman Family
The Vasquez Family
The Wagner Family
The Zhang & Wang Family

Patrons' Club (\$500+)

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The Arora & Gupta Family
Ms. Barbara Abney Bolger
The Chuback Family
The Cohen Family
The Danieli Family
Ms. Erica DeBenedetto
The DiDomezio Family
The Gaber Family
The Geller Family
The Giardina & Mueller Family
The Goldberger Family
The P. Gross Family
The Harrison Family
The Holmes & Goudailler





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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Iommazzo '93
 The Itin Family
 The Khanchandani & Tandon Family
 The Kim Family
 The Kluger Family
 The Martinez & Chou Family
 The Pedone Family
 Mr. Paul Parsekian and Ms. Katherine A. Philipp
 The Polepalle & Kolisetty Family
 The Pope Family
 The Rizvani Family
 The Schmetterer Family
 The Silva Family
 The Slomin Family
 The Starr Family
 Mr. Clive Tharby
 The Tsimpedes Family
 Ms. Zhen Zhu
 Ms. Elizabeth R. Zust '72

Friend (<\$500)

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 Ms. Deirdre Angrick
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 Ms. Alexandra Baro
 The Berkowitz Family
 Mr. Adam Brown and Ms. Amanda Bieglecki
 Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Bowman
 The Boyajian Family
 Ms. Genevieve Brinkman
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 Mr. Tyler Capa
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 The Chang & Cheong Family
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 Mrs. Joanne Ciuccio
 Ms. Stacey Clark
 The Cohen Family
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Ms. Susan Collantes
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 Mr. William D. Craig '64
 The Cristian Family
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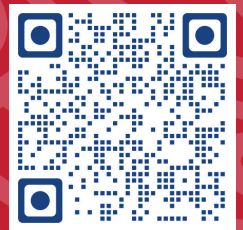


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Campaign Goal: \$20 Million

Funding:

\$4,000,000

Public Phase

\$16,000,000

Silent Phase
 Results
 (as of Dec. '23)

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