



GREENWICH ACADEMY



Endowed Funds

Report to Donors
Spring 2025



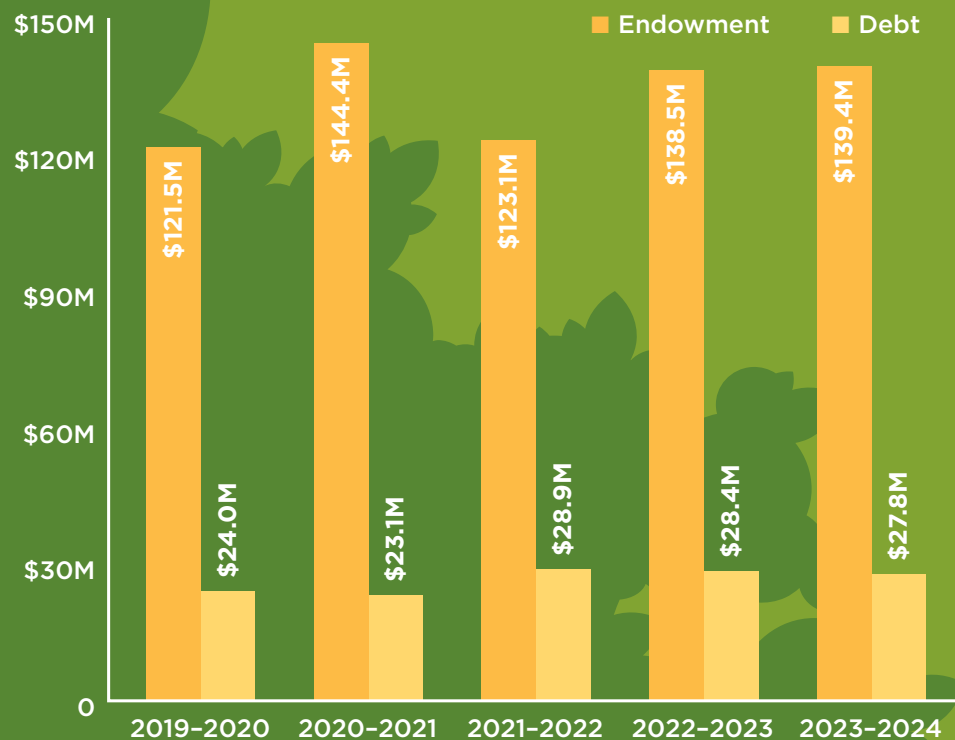
GREENWICH ACADEMY'S Endowment

Greenwich Academy is bolstered by the strength of its endowment, which provides the resources to fuel our outstanding people and program.

Thanks to the longstanding and continuous generosity of our community, GA is able to use the income generated from the endowment to provide student financial aid; signature curricular and extracurricular programs; service and leadership opportunities; faculty fellowship, professional development, and innovation grants; and facilities, technology, infrastructure, and sustainability.

ENDOWMENT AND DEBT

as of June 30, 2024



A healthy endowment is vital for GA's long-term financial stability and short-term flexibility.

As GA heads into its next 200 years, Head of School Margaret Hazlett has identified the following key pillars of focus to guide the school forward and always Toward the Building of Character:

PILLARS

- + Academic Excellence
- + Health and Wellness Initiatives, including Athletics
- + Environmental Sustainability
- + Global Citizenship
- + Leadership through Civic Engagement



Financial Aid Program

Greenwich Academy is committed to fostering a socio-economically diverse and inclusive student body through its financial aid program. The annual Scholarship Breakfast celebrates the generosity of those who provide financial aid funding and features keynote speakers who demonstrate the impact of a GA education.

2024 Scholarship Breakfast

Strength & Kindness— A Winning Combination

▶ Amanda Young Strid '11

This year's distinguished Scholarship Breakfast speaker, Amanda Young Strid '11, is a proud GA lifer. From GA, Amanda put her athletic prowess and leadership skills to work as a DI student-athlete at George Washington University and then obtained her Master's of Sports Business and studied sports law at NYU. Currently the Director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at Warner Bros. Discovery, Amanda supports the media company's live sports and entertainment business, oversees new business partnerships, negotiates contracts, and is a project manager for existing clients. She also pays it forward by serving as a mentor through the Career Resource Center to other GA alumnae looking to break into the field.

Scan the code to watch Amanda's keynote address where she thanks the teachers and everyone at GA who helped her along the way, a video intro, and more info on GA's financial aid program.



Amanda is a standout in terms of GA values—hard work, integrity, and kindness. In her time at GA, she was strong in every category—strong in a crew boat, strong for her wide array of friends, and strong as an exceptional president of the senior class.”

> TOM SULLIVAN

Assistant Head of School, Head of Upper School, Upper School English Teacher



I've spoken with dozens of young women as they navigate finding corporate internships or jobs. No matter their age, I find these women to have so many things in common—discipline, determination, kindness, empathy, courage. I could go on. The community of women this school creates is one of a kind, and I am so proud to be a part of it.”

> AMANDA YOUNG STRID '11

Director of Business Development &
Strategic Partnerships
Warner Bros. Discovery

FINANCIAL AID STATS

- ▶ GA awarded **\$9.6M** in financial aid last year
- ▶ **23%** of GA students receive some amount of financial aid
- ▶ **65%** of students receiving financial aid have support equivalent to **80-99%** of tuition, with these need-based families earning an average household income of \$136,496
- ▶ **\$300,000** each year is spent on “extras” above and beyond tuition, such as laptops, athletic trips, and uniforms that are at the heart of a comprehensive GA educational experience



Faculty Funds

Innovation Grant Recipients

The Glenville Project:

► **Erin Riley**, Jackson Family Director of the Engineering and Design Lab, and **Nathan Kress**, Upper School History Teacher



Innovation Grants enable enterprising faculty to bring original ideas to fruition for the GA community. Erin Riley and Nathan Kress proposed a simple mission: Facilitate access to the Glenville property for teachers and students who had not previously visited. Nathan shared, “Every teacher understands the importance of scouting off-campus locations before visiting with a student group. Our goal was to eliminate the need for pre-visits, allowing teachers and students to step off the bus and immediately engage with the property. Without proper signage or prior knowledge, the large property could be difficult to navigate. By improving accessibility, we aimed to increase educator confidence and encourage more teachers to take advantage of this outdoor space.”

This summer, we focused on marking trails and mapping the woods to create a clear, accessible outdoor experience. Our goal was to develop a safe, educational environment where students could explore nature, study ecosystems, and engage in outdoor activities. Existing trails were cleared, new trails were created, and all were carefully marked. Upper School students assisted in these efforts throughout the fall.

Using GA’s Engineering & Design Lab, we developed and installed durable, weather-resistant signs along the trails. Each trail

varies in difficulty and length, ensuring age-appropriate options for all students. Trail markers were placed at regular intervals to enhance navigation and safety. A kiosk now marks the trailhead, providing maps and shelter from the rain while waiting for buses.

While the Glenville property’s long-term use is still being planned, access and usability have already improved. Student groups from the Cowan Center to the Upper School now regularly explore the property. It has been a rewarding excuse to spend more time in the woods!



Faculty Professional Development

Summer 2024

Professional development at GA is essential for faculty and administration to stay current with innovative teaching strategies, ensuring they provide students with a dynamic and engaging learning experience. By continuously refining their skills and knowledge, educators can better support diverse learning styles, while fostering deeper understanding and critical thinking among students. This commitment to growth ultimately enhances student achievement, preparing them for success in both academic and real-world settings. Over the course of each year, 100% of faculty participate in professional development opportunities. Below is a list of some of those experiences by department:

Administration

- ▶ Career Counseling, CT State University
- ▶ Institute for Teaching Diversity & Social Justice, Summer NY Institute

Athletics/Physical Education

- ▶ Ready2Coach

Cowan Center

- ▶ Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Programs
- ▶ Motor Play to Enhance Growth in the Classroom

English

- ▶ Kenyon Review Writing Workshop
- ▶ The Great Courses: Joyce's *Ulysses*

History

- ▶ AI for Academic Excellence
- ▶ African American Studies, AP Summer Institute
- ▶ History of Childhood in America

Lower School

- ▶ FOLIN 2024: *Who Can I Trust? Navigating Social & Modern Media*

Mathematics

- ▶ BC Calculus, AP Summer Institute
- ▶ Math Discourse

Performing Arts

- ▶ Elementary Music Summit
- ▶ REFLEC Educators/Leaders Coaching Program
- ▶ Teachers Lab, The Uta Hagen Institute

Visual Arts

- ▶ Drawing at the Met & Drawing from Nature with Silverpoint
- ▶ Electronics and Lamp Rewiring Lessons
- ▶ The Graphic Novel Workshop

World Languages

- ▶ Using AI Tools to Enhance World Language Learning and Increase Productivity, BER Seminar
- ▶ Middlebury Language School
- ▶ National Chinese Language Conference 2024



Making GA's Vision A Reality

Glenville Property Planning Process

Moving forward with our long-term plan, GA hired Sasaki Associates to engage in comprehensive site planning work around the Glenville Property development project. From the discovery and analysis phase this fall—where the entire GA community participated in a survey and/or listening and visioning sessions and goals and priorities were clarified, to the development of concept alternatives this winter—where preferred programming options were defined, to the implementation and documentation phase this spring—where refinement of a draft plan with cost estimates and phasing options were outlined, Sasaki has been busy envisioning the boundless possibilities for GA's newest campus. Stay tuned for updates on the next stages of this historic undertaking.



Scan to learn more about the
Glenville Campus



Program Funds

GAINS Conference 2024

Empowering the Next Generation of Women in STEM

The **2024 GAINS (Girls Advancing in STEM) Conference** was a stimulating three-day event held in November at **Carnegie Mellon University**, in collaboration with the **University of Pittsburgh's Department of Sports Medicine and Nutrition**. This event welcomed over 100 high school girls from across the nation, offering them a unique opportunity to engage with accomplished female mentors in STEM, participate in immersive learning experiences, and explore groundbreaking research and technology. Founded by Greenwich Academy, GAINS brings together a network of students interested in STEM with women professionals working in the fields. This highly anticipated annual conference has previously been held at prestigious research institutions like MIT, Stanford, Harvard, and Duke to name a few.

This year's conference at CMU featured an enriching itinerary of **STEM-focused tours and technology talks**, providing attendees with a firsthand look into diverse scientific disciplines. Among the off-campus excursions, students visited the **Rooney Sports Complex** at the University of Pittsburgh, where they delved into the **Neuromuscular Research Laboratory**, gaining valuable insights into athletic training and the cutting-edge field of sports science. Another highlight included an excursion to the **Allegheny Observatory**, where participants explored the frontiers of modern astronomy and observed sunspots through advanced telescopic equipment.

At Carnegie Mellon University, attendees engaged in hands-on exploration of pioneering technologies. The **AI Maker Space** provided an interactive environment where students experimented with **robotics and motion capture systems**, while the **CMU RoboClub** captivated participants with its **RobOrchestra**, an ingenious fusion of robotics and musical performance. Additionally, students toured the **Human-Computer Interaction Institute**, uncovering the transformative applications of technology in everyday life.

The conference also showcased a compelling lineup of **Tech Talks** by women experts in STEM fields, including "Computational

Chemistry: How AI Helps Us Discover New Catalysts" and "Neural Dynamics of Trial-and-Error Learning," offering students a thought-provoking glimpse into the intersection of artificial intelligence and scientific discovery.

Beyond academic enrichment, the **GAINS Conference 2024** cultivated a profound sense of **community, mentorship, and inspiration** among aspiring young women in STEM. By bridging the gap between students and pioneering professionals, the conference continues to serve as a **catalyst for empowerment**, equipping the next generation of female scientists and engineers with the knowledge, confidence, and connections necessary to thrive in their fields.





GA Hosts Middle School Leadership Summit Inspiring Young Leaders

On November 20, thirty-two middle school leaders from several local schools gathered at Greenwich Academy, the host site for the annual Middle School Leadership Summit. The event provided a dynamic space for students to share ideas, discuss challenges, and collaborate on ways to make a meaningful impact within their schools.



The summit began with a warm welcome from GA School President Alice Grace '25, who shared her thoughts on what leadership means and how young leaders can shape their communities. Energized by her message, the students jumped into their first activity—each school shared a favorite aspect of their own community, celebrating the unique qualities that make their schools special.

From there, the participants split into breakout groups to tackle important leadership questions: How can they actively contribute to positive change? What creative initiatives could they organize? What challenges do young leaders face? And what are the most pressing topics among their peers? The discussions were lively and thought-provoking, with students exchanging perspectives and brainstorming solutions.

The summit concluded with each school's leadership group uniting around a goal to implement within their own community. Whether focusing on school spirit, inclusivity, or service projects, these young leaders left the event with a renewed sense of purpose and a plan for action.

Athletic Excellence The Turf Project

GA's remarkable facilities require regular maintenance and occasional upgrades! We are excited that this summer GA's turf fields, which are at the end of their lifespan, will be replaced, enabling GA field sport players to benefit from new innovations in turf materials. The south field will now boast a field hockey-specific short turf with AstroTurf's new state-of-the-art sustainable Poligras Paris GT, which was showcased at the 2024 Paris Olympics and is being installed at top collegiate and professional level fields across the globe. A longer pile, multipurpose surface, AstroTurf RootZone 3D3 will be installed on the Tammaro Field for lacrosse, soccer, and PE classes. Improved spectator seating, scoreboards, and other enhancements will promote spirit and community. Go Gators!



Scan to learn more about the **Turf Project** and make a gift today!

Leadership Through Civic Engagement

“

I am so proud of the engagement of our GA girls in our local community. From sending thank you notes to our first responders (Lower School) to creating care packages for Neighbor to Neighbor (Middle School) to delivering Meals on Wheels (Upper School), our students are learning about the needs of our community and their responsibility as good citizens to help meet those needs. As they engage in these community service actions, they are also learning the why and how of the problems. As future community leaders, it is important for our girls to understand the daily challenges many in our area face and begin to develop the skills necessary to be the future problem solvers who will eradicate those challenges.”

> **MARGARET HAZLETT, Head of School**

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Schoolwide

- ▶ **Cereal Box Drive:** Students brought in over 700 boxes of cereal to donate to Neighbor to Neighbor
- ▶ **Ingathering:** At our annual pre-Thanksgiving Ingathering assembly, girls brought food and supplies that were put into baskets and donated to families through the Greenwich Department of Human Services
- ▶ **LA Wildfire Relief:** Each division raised funds that were donated to the American Red Cross
- ▶ **Midnight Run:** Clothing and supplies were collected in each division, with Upper Schoolers delivering items to those in need



Middle School

- ▶ **Filling in the Blanks:** Groups VII and VIII joint GA/WCK service event to benefit Filling in the Blanks, a local nonprofit that fights childhood hunger by providing children in need with meals on the weekend
- ▶ **Hurricane Relief:** Girls raised funds to donate to Save the Children to support those impacted by the hurricanes this fall
- ▶ **Student Craft Fair:** Entrepreneurial GA students created items that were sold at this annual event, with proceeds donated to nonprofits
- ▶ **Winter Accessory Drive:** Warm clothes were gathered to support Open Door Shelter

Lower School

- ▶ **World Smile Day:** Students performed random acts of kindness for others all around campus
- ▶ **Day of Service:** Girls decorated items for a local animal shelter, made fairy doors for the Glenville Campus, and made pins for seniors
- ▶ **Valentines:** Lower Schoolers made Valentine cards for children with cancer

Upper School

- ▶ **Filling in the Blanks:** Each freshman advisory travels to their location in Norwalk to volunteer
- ▶ **Coffee for Good Club:** Students walk to our well-cafeinated neighbor and help package their coffee. Coffee for Good provides paid job training to adults with developmental disabilities
- ▶ **Meals on Wheels of Greenwich:** Students with a free period help deliver meals to local citizens who cannot shop and prepare meals for themselves
- ▶ **Barbara's House:** For the holiday season, Upper Schoolers held an advisory gift drive to provide local families with gifts for the holidays



This fall Greenwich Academy celebrated the third cohort of Civic Scholars to complete this academic distinction program. A uniquely designed program of the Center for Public Purpose, Civic Scholars is a character- and leadership-based opportunity that is individualized within a specific framework. This year, eleven students completed the program. Of note, the cohort recorded a combined total of over 1,000 impact hours with the New Canaan YMCA, Horizons, the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club, GATE, Stamford Criminal Court, Greenwich Emergency Medical Services, the Carver Center, Filling In The Blanks, Mather Homestead, First Selectman's Youth Council, Coffee for Good, and the New Rochelle Public Library.”

> **CONNIE BLUNDEN, Jane Bagley Lehman Director of the Center for Public Purpose**

Promoting Global Connectivity

Center for Public Purpose

GA's Center for Public Purpose, now in its eighth year, fosters collaboration among faculty and student leaders seeking to effect positive change by focusing on three core priorities: community [civic] engagement, global initiatives, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Global Scholars

The Class of 2025 is the **fifteenth cohort** and includes 19 of the 259 Global Scholars to graduate from Greenwich Academy with this distinction.

Global Exchanges

GA partners with **nine different semester schools** to provide Upper School students the opportunity to study off-campus/abroad, as well as the Upper School International Exchange Program with schools in Argentina and France.

Academic and Co-Curricular Travel

This year students were offered **16 different school-sponsored overnight trips** tied to academic coursework or co-curricular programs.

Global Education Benchmarking Group (GERB)

GA is a member of this association of independent schools that shares support and resources on global education, and the GA Sustainability Committee recently engaged with GERB on topics of sustainability.



Speakers

Dr. Janna Levin, Barnard College's Claire Tow Professor of Physics and Astronomy, presented to Upper and Middle School students in December about her research and knowledge on Black Holes and the Universe.



Maria Scrivan, *New York Times* bestselling author and cartoonist, spoke with Lower and Middle School students about her popular graphic novels that follow a girl named Nat as she navigates life in school, at home, and with friends.



GREENWICH ACADEMY CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

Working with alumnae across all ages and stages—from our most recent GA grads to established professionals, to an increasing number of alumnae looking to re-enter the workforce after time away—the CRC facilitates networking connections and offers support in career research and job/internship searches.

Current GA Juniors and Seniors benefit from the CRC as well. Events such as Senior Career Day, our early summer Finance and Career Exploration Weeks, as well as workshops on resume writing and interview skills all encourage our oldest students to think about how their academic passions may translate to professional pursuits.

Key to the CRC's success are the mentors who provide both career guidance and opportunities to our mentees. Become a mentor today!

Fall Finance Networking Event Brings Together GA Community

In October, Greenwich Academy parents, past parents, and alumnae working in finance gathered for an engaging networking event at Citigroup's stunning offices in New York City.

Hosted by Andy Sieg P'29 and GA Trustee Heliane Steden P'29, the evening fostered connections among finance professionals across various career stages. Attendees enjoyed lively conversations over cocktails, exchanging insights and experiences within the

industry. Events like these, organized by the Career Resource Center, provide valuable opportunities for professional growth. The gathering highlighted the strength of the GA network and its commitment to supporting alumnae beyond graduation.

CRC STATS

2024-2025
(to date)

196
Mentees

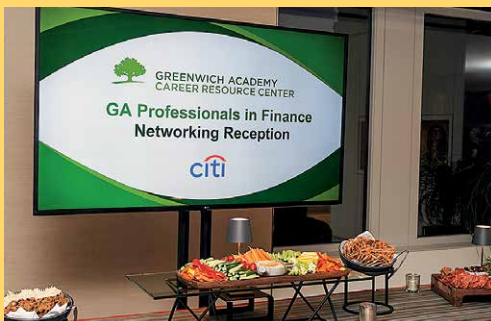
165
Placements

2023-2024

230
Mentees

204
Placements

800+
Mentors



The Power of Mentorship

Greenwich Academy fosters a strong network of mentorship and career development, as evidenced by the dynamic collaboration between acclaimed writer and GA alumna **Courtney Maum '97** and current senior **Alessia Cutaia '25**. Their partnership, facilitated by GA's Career Resource Center (CRC), highlights the power of mentorship in shaping creative aspirations and professional growth.

A Foundation for Creativity

Courtney Maum, a celebrated author and mentor, credits her formative years at Greenwich Academy with nurturing her love for storytelling. "I was a 'lifer' at GA, so from pre-K on, my love of reading (and eventually, writing) was nourished, cheered, and supported at each turn by my teachers," she reflects. With encouragement from educators like Mrs. Vicidomini, Mr. Schwartz, and Mrs. Vasu, Courtney gained confidence in her craft, which ultimately led to her success as a writer. She is the author of several novels, including *Costalegre*, *Touch*, and *The Year of the Horses*. Passionate about mentorship and creative storytelling, she continues to inspire emerging writers through her workshops and industry insights.

Alessia echoes Courtney's sentiment, "Similar to Courtney, the opportunities at GA such as *Daedalus* and Somerville Scholars have opened up numerous doors of mentorship and opportunities I didn't know were available," she shares. Entering GA in Group VIII expanded her passion for writing, offering mentorship and academic enrichment that fueled her aspirations.

Connecting Through the CRC

The GA Career Resource Center has played a pivotal role in bridging past and present students, creating valuable mentorship opportunities. **Courtney**, an advocate for guiding young writers, has been involved in the CRC's internship program for three years. "I run a popular newsletter about the business of publishing, teach online writing classes, and direct an annual writing workshop in New Mexico. So not only do I appreciate (and need!) assistance, but I have a lot to teach emerging writers about the craft of writing," she explains.

For **Alessia**, connecting with the CRC was seamless. "Reaching out to the CRC was much easier than I expected, and the team was incredibly helpful and so kind," she recalls. This connection led her to an invaluable summer internship with Courtney, where she gained hands-on experience in the literary world.

Lessons Learned and Shared

Mentorship is a two-way street, and both Courtney and Alessia found inspiration in each other.

Courtney admired Alessia's enthusiasm, stating, "Even when a task was mundane (like spreadsheet

updating), she always found a way to make it an interesting learning experience." **Alessia**, in turn, gained a new perspective on the literary industry, particularly in crafting effective query letters. "To see how to build a story that people want to read, and how to promote and sell a story was fascinating," she notes.

Beyond technical skills, their collaboration reinforced essential professional values. "Mentoring has instilled a team player mentality into all I do," **Courtney** shares. For **Alessia**, witnessing Courtney's multifaceted career was eye-opening. "I was deeply impressed by how many buckets Courtney was able to place her hands into and with such expertise," she says.

Transformative Connections

Throughout their internship, both Courtney and Alessia experienced moments of growth and inspiration. "Frankly, every moment was memorable for me because Alessia's communication skills were just top-notch," **Courtney** remarks. In an era where delayed responses and disengagement are common, Alessia's reliability was refreshing.

For **Alessia**, the most transformative moment was witnessing Courtney's ability to



PHOTO CREDIT: KENZIE ODEGARD FIELDS



juggle multiple projects with passion and precision. "Not only was she in the process of writing a book this past summer, but she was teaching classes, aiding in query letter edits, and planning the Turning Points Writers' Retreat in New Mexico. I found Courtney's drive particularly eye-opening," she says.

Alessia's experience with the CRC has broadened her career outlook. "As a high school student, I have often felt that the scope of jobs available for a writer is incredibly narrow. I attribute the CRC to widening my vision on what being a writer can look like," she reflects.

The connection between **Courtney** and **Alessia** is a testament to the enduring influence of GA's supportive community. Through the Career Resource Center, students, alumnae, and GA's vast network of professionals in our parent community continue to inspire, guide, and empower one another, proving that mentorship is a lifelong gift.



Scan to learn more about the
Career Resource Center

Career Exploration Grants

Career Exploration Grants allow students to participate in unpaid internships and research opportunities over the summer by providing stipends to offset expenses and to provide compensation. These grants help make valuable career-building experiences accessible to all students, regardless of financial background. Recipients gain hands-on experience in their fields of interest, building skills and connections that support their future career goals.

GA students and alumnae received grants for internships at the following institutions during the summer of 2024:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▶ Bellevue Hospital | ▶ Lifted Brain Wellness Center | ▶ Prep for Prep |
| ▶ Catholic Medical Mission Board | ▶ LTV Broadcasting | ▶ Quantix Commodities |
| ▶ Colton Alexander Finance | ▶ Macrae Skye | ▶ Stamford Criminal Court |
| ▶ Filling in the Blanks | ▶ MediVoice | ▶ Stamford Hospital |
| | ▶ Montefiore Medical Center | ▶ Clinical Research |



Sustainability

Taking Action for Our Environment

Middle School Sustainability Club Inspires All



Under the guidance of World Languages Teacher and Sustainability Club Advisor Lee Bruner, Middle School Sustainability Club members engage in hands-on activities throughout the year that are not only educational, but also help the entire GA community develop eco-friendly habits and become responsible stewards of our environment.

INITIATIVES

Food Waste Challenge: Group V enthusiastically participated in a challenge to minimize food waste during the first week of school that raised awareness to carry them through the whole school year.

Food Rescue Program: Club members learn about GA's partnership with Food Rescue USA. Volunteers deliver excess food from the Dining Commons to Kids in Crisis every Friday.

Compost: The girls identified a need for compost bins during outdoor snack time for Groups V and VI, as there were only garbage bins available. We installed a compost bin near the playground area, making composting a regular part of snack routines. LS students have started using it too.

Sasaki Associates Visit: Club members learned about sustainability practices from a leading architect at Sasaki's firm, as well as a landscape architect/ecologist. They then created mock-up designs for a nature center at Glenville—complete with a treehouse, of course!

Earth Day: The MS Sustainability Club partnered with the Town of Greenwich's Sustainability Committee to host a screening of The Box Truck Film with a Q&A featuring the directors in April. The next day, GA hosted the Box Truck on campus. LS and MS students watched short clips during assemblies with the directors and toured the truck throughout the day. GA also sponsored the Box Truck's appearance at the 4th Annual ReThink Waste Fair (hosted by Waste Free Greenwich) at Christ Church the following day.

FUTURE PROJECT POSSIBILITIES

- ▶ Making recycled paper in the E&D Lab using campus paper scraps, then sharing it with teachers to raise awareness of paper waste. The girls also want to make stationery to sell in the GA store.
- ▶ Working with GAPA to host a book club in April to discuss The Nature Fix (which the GA Sustainability Committee read this fall).
- ▶ MS Sustainability Club visit to the LS to do a read-aloud of a climate-related book.
- ▶ Connecting with the alumnae to find someone working in sustainability who would Zoom with us to discuss careers.
- ▶ DIY Carbon Capture Project at school to help students conceptualize carbon footprints and future carbon capture technologies.



GREENWICH ACADEMY

Toward the Building of Character

For more information about any of these initiatives or to make a gift, contact Director of Advancement Amy O'Reilly Rizzi '92 at arizzi@greenwichacademy.org or 203.625.8972. Thank you for your support of GA.

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