CAPITOL HILL DAY SCHOOL



The Windowpane® & Annual Report

Fall 2025

The Windowpane®
Fall 2025

Mission

Capitol Hill Day School deeply engages a diverse community of students in connecting the classroom to the larger world, supporting each child in developing the confidence, compassion, and intellectual capacity to live a life of purpose and value.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025

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CONTRIBUTORS

The Class of 2025
Liza Esser
Jason Gray
Danielle Liquori
Christian Miskell
Emily Prigg
Shannon Ryan
Leslie Sinsay

PHOTOGRAPHY

Anthony Bolognese // Capitol Hill Photo
Capitol Hill Day School Community
Emily Prigg

DESIGN

Hunt Smith Design

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Gray Matters
A Letter from the Head of School



Hope is the thing with feathers

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm
I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

– *Emily Dickinson*

In 1968, a group of families came together with a hopeful idea. Around a kitchen table, over a series of meetings, Capitol Hill Day School was born. Their vision was clear: to create a school committed to "a quality education, a racially and economically diverse student body, a parent-governed school, and a relationship with the surrounding community and the city of Washington."

While our School today looks quite different from the Capitol Hill Day School of 1968, we remain steadfastly rooted in this original vision. In fact, the strength of our School lies in the continuity of our core commitments over the past 57 years. As was the hope of our founders, Capitol Hill Day School is a school that is child-centered, grounded in progressive education, and deeply committed to being a community of belonging. We honor the voices of children, providing space for them to explore their identities and nurture their curiosity. We foster a joyful learning environment where critical thinking and rigorous problem-solving are cultivated daily. We prioritize connection, relationships, and a strong sense of place tied to our immediate neighborhood and the broader geographic region.

As we continue this journey, I am grateful for the broad shoulders on which we stand. Like our founders, I continue to have tremendous hope in Capitol Hill Day School, and I sincerely believe our progressive philosophy is as relevant today as it has ever been. As you turn the pages of this edition of *The Windowpane®*, I hope you see our philosophy in action—reflected in the voices of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the vibrant spirit of our community.



Jason Gray
Head of School





Field Notes:
Progressive Education in Action

By Liza Esser, Field Education Coordinator

Since our founding in 1968, Capitol Hill Day School has emphasized a progressive and learner-centered philosophy. One of the hallmark principles of progressive pedagogy is the importance of democratic participation in education. John Dewey, one of progressive education's most influential proponents, viewed the classroom as a democracy in microcosm. In his book *Democracy and Education,* he states,

> "A democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience."

As part of our progressive practice, this "associated living" is a key focus, as it helps to prepare students to be engaged participants in a democratic society. Utilizing our experiential, field-based approach, teachers create units that explore ideas in depth, taking into account students' developmental stages and needs.

Early Childhood: EC South learned to work together during a unit on games. They pondered questions such as, "What makes a game fair?" and "Why do games have rules?" Part of playing games means learning how to be a gracious winner, as well as dealing with disappointment—important social-emotional skills needed to work together in a community. Field education experiences included a visit to Labyrinth Games & Puzzles, the Dupont Circle chess boards, and lunch and games at Boardwalk Bar and Arcade.







Elementary: 2nd Graders looked to the larger community by exploring the question, "How does the Capitol Hill neighborhood meet the needs and wants of its community?" By examining local infrastructure, talking to business owners, and meeting with neighborhood helpers, students learned how people in a neighborhood work together to help residents thrive.

Upper Grades: 7th Grade Humanities students engaged in a year-long study of early American history. Through local trips to the National Museum of the American Indian, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Mount Vernon, as well as visits to Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, students gained a multifaceted perspective of the events surrounding the founding of the United States and the creation of our democratic government.

Stay engaged with our Field Education experiences by following our Field Education Instagram: @explorewithCHDS.





Affinity Groups: **Building Identity, Belonging,** and **Academic Growth**

By Leslie Sinsay, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

A common misconception is that affinity groups create separatism in a school environment, when in reality, they have the opposite effect.

These groups help students gain a deeper understanding of their own identities, insight that they can then use to connect meaningfully with others. This self-knowledge nurtures inclusivity, curiosity, kindness, and the confidence to stand up for others.

Research from respected universities and organizations such as the National Association of Independent Schools confirms what schools have seen firsthand: affinity group membership supports identity development, strengthens relationships, and enhances classroom learning. Today, affinity spaces are a common and valued part of school life at Capitol Hill Day School and across the country.

Affinity groups offer students with shared life experiences a safe and brave space to connect. At Capitol Hill Day School, each group is facilitated by an educator who shares that identity, giving students not only community but also another trusted adult at school. When children feel connected in this way, they are more willing to take risks in their learning—a key driver of academic growth.

Our journey into affinity spaces began in 2019, when Upper Grade students asked for the creation of the Black Student Union (BSU). Since then, our affinity groups have grown with intention and purpose into a full program, shaped by both student and educator input. We now have ten additional groups, some based on race, others on gender or neurodiversity. For the first time last year, affinity group facilitators introduced their groups to Upper Grade students at an Affinity Group Fair. With this information, students could choose to participate in groups that resonated most with their developing identities.

BENEFITS OF AFFINITY GROUPS FOR A CHILD'S DEVELOPING IDENTITY INCLUDE:

A safe space to share and explore developing identity awareness.

Opportunities to build camaraderie with peers and educators who share an aspect of their identity.

Confidence and empowerment that carries into all aspects of school life.

Appreciation for the complexities of their own culture, and the understanding that such complexities exist in all cultures.

A strong sense of belonging within the school community.

AFFINITY GROUPS SUPPORT ACADEMIC GROWTH BY:

Building perspective-taking skills by listening to others' stories, a key part of critical thinking.

Developing leadership skills through generating ideas, problem-solving, and planning.

Encouraging advocacy and self-starting behavior in academic settings.

Fostering a sense of belonging that supports risk-taking in learning.

When students have the opportunity to explore who they are and connect that understanding to how they engage with others, they grow into confident, compassionate, and collaborative learners and humans with a strong sense of self. These are the skills they carry forward, not only into the classroom, but into the world beyond.

Congratulations
Class of 2025

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2025 ARE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOLS:

Benjamin Banneker High School
DeMatha Catholic High School
Edmund Burke School
Garrison Forest School
Georgetown Day School
Maret School
National Cathedral School
Northern High School
School Without Walls
Sidwell Friends School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School
The Field School
Washington-Liberty High School
Westover School

"Graduations are bittersweet occasions. They signify a beginning and an ending. We will miss the daily presence of this collection of young people on our campus. Nevertheless, I am confident that this group of children is moving on to a next phase in their lives with a voice very much worth listening to. In their time at Capitol Hill Day School, they have learned the value of compassion, perseverance, and critical thinking.

I have tremendous belief in and hope for the humanity sitting on this stage. Congratulations Class of 2025. Go forward and make us proud. Use your voice. We are listening."

From Head of School Jason Gray's graduation address to the Class of 2025

Graduation Photos by Anthony Bolognese // Capitol Hill Photo









WE WERE GIVEN

A poem written and performed by the Class of 2025 during their graduation ceremony.

WE WERE GIVEN
A place where we can be ourselves

A community built on creativity and empathy

A school where trust and respect are valued

And a building filled with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime

WE WERE GIVEN
Snack time, Brown Bear Barney, and Roosevelt Island trips

The class cookbook, sharks n' minnows, and poetry night

The side yard, morning meetings, and Halloween parades

WE WERE GIVEN
Pet frogs, the ABC wall, and Kinetic sand

Birdies vs. Ninjas, nap time, and the bathroom ghost

Mr. MacLeod, Professor Luis, and Madame Roddy

WE WERE GIVEN
GoNoodle, going to SOME, and penpals!

Gymnastics field trips, LEGO Beyblades, and the food truck festival

The classroom butterflies, cops and robbers, and mini pencils

WE WERE GIVEN
Phonics, symmetry drawings, and watching a bison be born

Poems, puppet shows, and learning about Capitol Hill

Just Dance, reflections, and Gaga Ball

Virus Tag, reading groups, and learning about the Three Sisters

WE WERE GIVEN
James and the Giant Peach, star dancing, and the Seneca Schoolhouse

Cursive, Jamestown, and playing the recorder

The start of online school, Colonial Day, and the Roald Dahl festival

WE WERE GIVEN
Covid, online PE, and Among Us

Zoom calls, *Seesaw,* cooking African cuisine

And Ms. Adia's megaphone!

WE WERE GIVEN
Flying cheese sticks, Advisory, and the cold cup challenge

Calleva, ASP life, and Jungle Tag

Book award project, Red Light Green Light, and typing Tuesdays

Cicadas, the UG4 ghost, and Advisory ice cream

WE WERE GIVEN
Model UN, creating monuments, and game night

The start of spirit week, iCivics, and the *Newsies* crew

Buff cows, Game of Myths, and Students Engage

WE WERE GIVEN
YEPs, Future Cities, and pizza day movies

Chesapeake Bay trip; *Fiddler on the Roof,* and the dance

Mitzvahs, Arts Choice, and ice skating

Philadelphia trip, ultimate frisbee, and the gingerbread competition

Oration projects, hiding moths, and watching the eclipse

WE WERE GIVEN
Phone case project, buddy karaoke, and the lock-in

Folger Park renovation, fire in the microwave, and *Into the Woods*

8th Grade trip, Secret Santa, and handball

Winning Battle of the Books twice, curling, and saving Skelly the gummy worm

Gatsby, volleyball, and the Dot Assembly!

WE WERE GIVEN
Wynn's competitive mindset, charisma, and water bottles

Violet's leadership, authenticity, and determination

Jay's artistry, baked goods, and love for reading

Zoë's optimism, high energy, and love for animals

Ben's phone in "amazing" condition, benevolence, and strong moral compass

Aydenne's music taste, jokes, and passion

Makena's maturity, support, and "Makena vibe"

Asher's being good at everything, majestic hair, and notes

Sam's generosity, singing skills, and individuality

Blessing's fashion sense, athleticism, and warm presence

Emilio's impressions, artistic ability, and nonconformity

Ellie's positivity, consideration, and loyalty

Joey's love for baseball, ingenuity, and BIG personality

Penny's various talents, encouragement, and empathy

Hank's camaraderie, love of basketball, and serenity

Sophie's synchro skills, great laugh, and missing water bottles

Elliott's helpfulness, intellect, and love for cars

Miles's hard work, chillness, and intelligence

Grady's ginger hair, tennis skills, and grit

Raia's kindness, basketball skills, and muffins

Nolan's leadership, athleticism, and volleyball skills

Eliza's initiative, wit, and drive

Maggie's dependability, aptitude, and compassion

Grant's dark humor, dungeon master skills, and humility

Chris's humor, drawing skills, and can-do attitude

Eli's piano playing, curiosity, and confidence

Buck's love for football, his hope to be an advisory leader, and love for Arkansas

WE WERE GIVEN
A school that lets us be kids

A community that cares

A space where we can follow our dreams

Teachers who supported us throughout the years...

And a class that YOU will never forget!







In May, the Class of 2021 gathered to celebrate their high school graduation together.

Alumni News

CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE PLANS

Sabine Ballou-Aares • *Cornell University*

Chase Brown • *Brown University*

Sam Catlin • *University of Colorado*

Evalyn Corr • *The College of William & Mary*

Charlie Davenport • *Vanderbilt University*

Eleanor Davenport • *Trinity College, Dublin*

Kai Henrikson-Brandt • *Johns Hopkins University*

Chase Hinton • *Davidson College*

Ella Kaufman • *University of Vermont*

Thomas Keefe • *Louisiana State University*

Ené Klimo • *University of Pittsburgh*

Ellie Kluger • *Cornell University*

Edward Malley • *Colby College*

Claire Norris • *University of Maine*

Vi Prosky • *Minneapolis College of Art and Design*

Gregory Schafer • *Northeastern University*

Grace Schuham-Anders • *Let us know!*

Catherine Shin • *Northwestern University*

Jadyn Washington • *Georgia Institute of Technology*

Nadia Wheelock • *Let us know!*

Brady Woodhouse • *University of Pennsylvania*

Alexander Yeh • *Virginia Tech*

CLASS NOTES

1993

Reyna (Pijanowski) Taylor lives in Capitol Hill with her husband, two children, and their dog Yoda. She works as the Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, where she supports programs and services for individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges across the nation.

1994



After over 17 years of owning and operating Hill's Kitchen, a gourmet kitchenware retail store in Capitol Hill, **Leah Daniels** sold the business in June 2025. Leah says, "It was amazing to have the store, but now I am open and ready for a new adventure!"

2002



Anne Angarola welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte, in January 2025.

2003



Joelle (Milton) Fenton graduated from Cornell University in 2011, where she met her husband, Emani. They live in New York City with their two children. Joelle has worked as an elementary school teacher and principal in NYC, and enjoys running marathons in her free time.

2008



Sarah (Phippen) Mohan got married last fall and continues to live in the Washington, DC area.

2009

Anna Merod moved to Baltimore in December 2023 from Chicago, IL, and married Dakota Hiles in May 2024, in Winchester, VA. Anna has been an education reporter for Industry Dive since October 2021.



Celia O'Brien-Riegelmann earned her Master's in Musical Theatre Performance from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2021 and has since been active in community theatre in Colorado Springs, CO, including playing Cinderella in 2023. She got married in 2024, and she and her husband recently welcomed their baby, Eddie. Celia shares, "It's been an exciting whirlwind couple of years!"

2011

Kenan Grier is a technical media producer for the NBC affiliate television station WVIR-TV, Channel 29, in Charlottesville, VA.

2014



Congratulations to **Skye Grim,** who recently got engaged to Thea Hurwitz.



Kelly MacGarrigle and her mother had an incredible adventure climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

2015

After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a chemistry minor, **Megan Powell** worked for two years as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Pitt's School of Medicine in the Department of Neurology. She managed a cohort of undergraduate and medical student researchers in a long-term multiple sclerosis study involving in-clinic patient interaction, data extraction, and statistical analysis. In June 2025, Megan moved to Baltimore and began her Master's in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. About her interest in public health, Megan's parents shared, "Of course, it all started in CHDS middle school science class!"

2016



McKinley Conru-Knudson graduated from New York University in 2024 and currently works for Columbia Records in their New York City office. McKinley supports the sales team in collaborating with streaming partners such as Spotify and Apple Music to ensure that artists achieve maximum impact. Recent highlights include the team's work on Miley Cyrus' newest album, *Something Beautiful,* and Addison Rae's debut album, *Addison.*



Ely Sterling Lettow graduated from Skidmore College—in the rain and with honors—in May. As a senior at Skidmore he won the Hartnett Prize for Undergraduate Research in Neuroscience, and will be applying to graduate schools this fall. He hopes to study neuropharmacology in Europe in the fall of 2026, but until then, you may see him around Capitol Hill.

2019

Kara Powell is a junior at Emerson College in Boston, studying media arts production. In addition to her coursework, she has taken on a variety of roles in several independent video productions. Last year, she was part of a three-person team whose proposal was selected by Emerson Independent Video for funding to produce a film. The same team was chosen again to produce a second film in fall 2025. This summer, Kara completed a month-long study abroad program in Prague and also interned with Pendragwn Productions on Capitol Hill. Her family credits Capitol Hill Day School's progressive philosophy and emphasis on collaborative, experiential learning with providing a strong foundation for her ongoing studies at Emerson.

2021

Sabine Ballou-Aares is attending Cornell University, where she's pursuing a pre-med track as a biology and society major.



Kai Henrikson-Brandt visited Capitol Hill Day School last spring to present the results of his Senior Capstone Project to 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders. His project focused on identifying ways to encourage physical fitness in youth and to cultivate lifelong habits that promote physical wellness.

Thomas Keefe is attending Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge as a business major.

Ené Klimo is majoring in history at the University of Pittsburgh, with a certificate in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies, and is continuing her studies of German and Hungarian languages.

Ellie Kluger is studying at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She plans to specialize in sports management, particularly in outdoor and extreme sports. This fall, Ellie is excited to serve as a research assistant for one of her professors. In her free time, Ellie enjoys hiking and exploring the great outdoors.

continued on on page 16





Ella starring in her high school's production of Mean Girls.

RETURNING TO CAPITOL HILL DAY SCHOOL

On occasion, an alum returns to our community for a senior project, a requirement at many area high schools. This spring, **Ella Kaufman '21** worked alongside Emily Prigg, our Communications Manager. Ella provided the following thoughts on her experience and what it meant to her to be back at Capitol Hill Day School.

I was grateful for the opportunity to come back to a place that helped shape who I am today. During my time interning, I observed a 4th Grade performing arts class, something I'm very passionate about. The Performing Arts program at CHDS helped me step out of my comfort zone and showcase my talents on a large stage. The artistic freedom provided by Performing Arts Teachers Jill Brandenburg and Shelly Work gave me the confidence to take on starring roles in high school and taught me how to take risks and be ready for anything that comes my way.

The skills I built at CHDS also helped me step into leadership roles throughout high school, including sophomore and junior year Boarding Class President, senior year all-school Vice President, Head Admissions Tour Guide, Orientation Leader, and starring in three high school theatre productions.

Throughout my time as a Capitol Hill Day School student, I explored unique locations across the city, worked through tough problems in the classroom, and researched the world around me. Capitol Hill Day School helped me find my voice and fostered a sense of self-confidence that benefited me throughout my high school years and will continue to help me in all my future endeavors. The lessons that students at Capitol Hill Day School learn will stay with them forever and will help them be better community members wherever they go. I'm ready to head off to the University of Vermont in the fall, but can't wait to come back and visit soon!









BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

KICKING OFF THE YEAR WITH FAMILIAR FACES

Alumni from the **Classes of 2023** and **2024** dropped by to catch up and enjoy last year's Back to School Picnic.







ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

CHEERS TO COMMUNITY

Last December, alumni and staff gathered at Barrel on Capitol Hill for an evening of connection, conversation, and good cheer. We're already looking ahead to our next alumni get-together this winter—stay tuned for details!

CLASS NOTES *continued*



Claire Norris graduated from Templeton Academy and is attending the University of Maine this fall with a major in theatre.

Catherine Shin is a student at Northwestern University, where she is pursuing majors in both music cognition and mathematics.

2023



Tara Opkins worked as a teaching assistant at a Smithsonian Camp this summer with 4th Grade teachers Adia Coleman and Nicole Siegel.



Zsuzsa Teleki is a member of the Madeira School Film Club, where she serves as the head writer. She also trains fellow students in scriptwriting and edits their work. This fall, the club will finish their feature film, "Dear Future Me," which Zsuzsa wrote. Currently, she is working on a short film to be cast and filmed in the winter. She holds a leadership role in the Flash Fiction Interest Group, where she helps compile and edit student stories. She has published pieces in her school's literary magazine and attended a writing residency in Brooklyn, NY this summer. Alongside her film and writing projects, Zsuzsa co-captained the varsity tennis team and played #1 singles.

2024



Jack Laws was named The Field School's May Athlete of the Month and placed third in the Indoor Track Roadrunner Invitational at George Mason University. During the 2024 Cross Country season, Jack earned recognition as part of the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference. Outside of athletics, Jack tackled the longest zipline in the world at Toro Verde in Puerto Rico!

To make sure you're on our alumni mailing list and hear about upcoming events, email us at **alumni@chds.org**.

Staff **Stories**



Last October, 2nd Grade Teacher **Anne-Claire Kasten** attended the Progressive Education Network (PEN) Conference in Columbus, OH, where she engaged in meaningful dialogue and discourse presented through the workshop offerings and speakers. Among them was Dr. Liza Talusan, author of The *Identity-Conscious Educator,* whose keynote left a lasting impression. Inspired, the Capital Area Progressive Schools (CAPS) steering committee (of which Anne-Claire co-chaired) invited Dr. Talusan to deliver the keynote address for this year's locally organized Conference on Progressive Education. Read more about the conference on page 20.



Several Capitol Hill Day School educators attended the 2024 People of Color Conference (PoCC) in Denver, Colorado, last December. The conference's mission is to create an empowering space for leadership, professional growth, and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools.



Communications Manager **Emily Prigg** married James Angarola '06 in October 2024.



2nd Grade Teacher **Conner Allen** and her husband Brennan tied the knot in September 2024.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

5 years

Serena Berkowitz
Spanish Teacher

Lauren Lewis
5th and 6th Grade Humanities Teacher

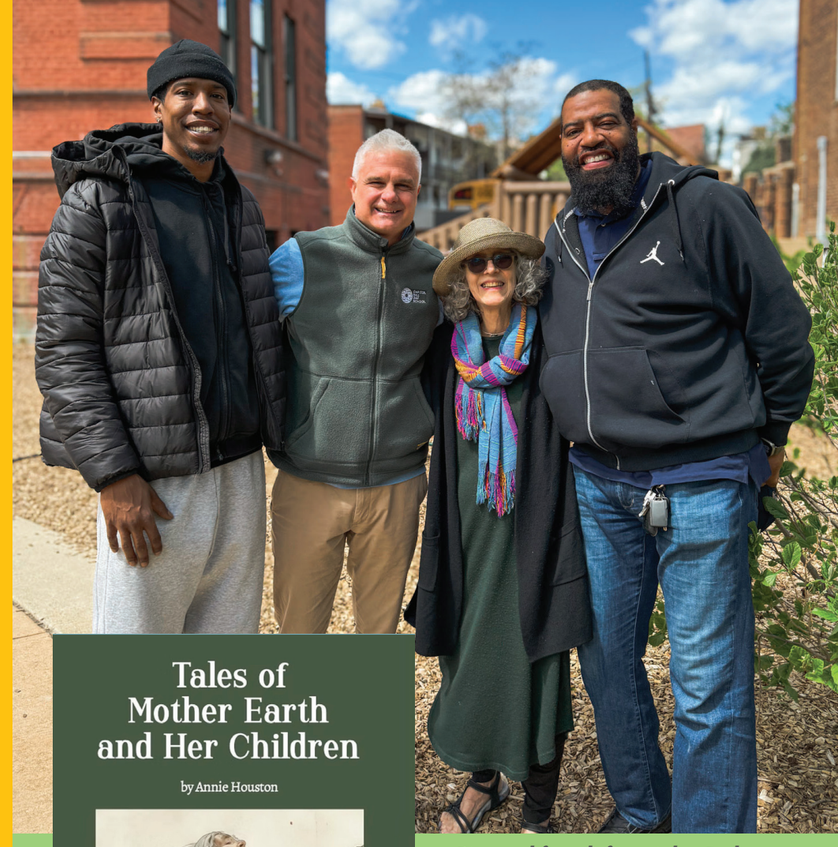
Christian Miskell
7th and 8th Grade Humanities Teacher

10 years

Shelly Work
Performing Arts Teacher

15 years

Anne-Claire Kasten
2nd Grade Teacher



Pictured from left to right: Andrew Ingram '08, Jason Gray, Annie Houston, and Nathaniel Ingram

FORMER FACULTY ON CAMPUS!

This past spring, we were thrilled to get a visit from former prekindergarten teacher, middle school drama teacher, and alum parent **Annie Houston,** who taught at Capitol Hill Day School for 20 years before retiring in 2010. Now living in Brooklyn, NY, Annie enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and recently added "author" to her list of roles with the release of her new children's book, *Tales of Mother Earth and Her Children.* Her book encourages children to understand and care about environmental issues, showing that with hope and effort, we can work together to restore balance to the Earth.



Above top: 2nd Grade Teacher Anne-Claire Kasten kicking off the conference; lower left: The CAPS Conference Steering Committee Co-Chairs with Dr. Liza Talusan; lower right: Steering Committee member and Early Childhood Teacher Tiffany Mata presenting during her session on social stories.

2025 CAPS Conference: **Progressive Educators** Come Together to **Learn, Share,** and **Inspire**

This past April, more than 300 educators from eight progressive schools across the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area came together for the annual **Capital Area Progressive Schools (CAPS)** Conference—a gathering dedicated to creating connections, cultivating collaboration, and sharing practice.

Capitol Hill Day School is a proud founding member of the CAPS network, which connects independent schools committed to advancing the tenets of progressive education: valuing children as whole people, nurturing curiosity and relationships, and fostering authentic learning experiences. This year's conference was particularly special for our community, as it was co-chaired by 2nd Grade Teacher, **Anne-Claire Kasten.** Early Childhood Teacher **Tiffany Mata** served on the steering committee, helping to create a meaningful day of learning.

The conference offered a robust schedule of educator-led workshops, interactive table displays, and time for conversation and connection. The range of topics reflected the breadth and depth of progressive education in practice. Session examples from the day included:

Street Art, Pop Culture & Cardboard

Inclusivity in Middle School Athletics

Imaginative Inquiry: Guiding Students to Imagine a Better World

Documenting Biodiversity on Your Campus

The Role of Reflective Practice in Teaching Mathematics

Capitol Hill Day School educators contributed notably to the day's offerings:

Tom Sellevaag (Upper Grades Head & Outplacement Coordinator) and **Zoë Tron** (Upper Grades Counselor) presented on building an Upper Grades Advisory program that is flexible, responsive, and substantive.

Adia Coleman and **Nicole Siegel** (4th Grade Teachers) shared strategies for guiding students through research writing, culminating in a five-paragraph, research-based essay.

Colleen Hendricks and **Tiffany Mata** (Early Childhood Teachers) led *Empowering Young Learners with Social Stories*, a hands-on session equipping educators with tools to foster social-emotional growth.

Christian Miskell (7th and 8th Grade Humanities Teacher) showcased his work teaching *The Great Gatsby* in Upper Grades English through an engaging table display.

The conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Liza Talusan, brought both wisdom and humor to the day. A nationally recognized educator, leadership coach, and facilitator, Dr. Talusan guided attendees through conversations about diversity, anti-racism, bias, privilege, and power. Her message underscored the importance of fostering truly inclusive school communities.

The CAPS Conference reflects the very best of progressive education, and in gathering this way, we are doing exactly what we ask our students to do every day: engaging fully, thinking critically, and learning from one another. Moments like these are reminders that when educators come together, our schools—and our students—thrive.

Annual Report

Annual Report 2024-2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ANNUAL GIVING

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you—the Capitol Hill Day School community—for your incredible generosity during the 2024-2025 school year. Your contributions to Annual Giving made a real difference, providing financial assistance to more than 25% of our families. Simply put, we would not be the robust school community we are without your support. Thank you!

As you read through this Annual Report, you will see the profound impact of our collective efforts. Together, we achieved the most successful Annual Giving campaign in Capitol Hill Day School's history, a milestone that reflects the strength of our community. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission.

We're excited for another successful year ahead and hope you'll join us for our annual Giving Day on October 21. More information will be coming soon!

With appreciation,

Shannon Ryan
Director of Development

SAVE THE DATE
Giving Day
October 21, 2025

CAPITOL HILL DAY SCHOOL 2025 giving day



BIKE BUS

All aboard the Bike Bus! Our Families in Partnership Association (FiPA) leads a Bike Bus from Lincoln Park to Capitol Hill Day School nearly every Friday morning throughout the school year. If you see us riding by, join in!

Annual Report 2024-2025

1968 Circle
$25,000+

Jeffrey and Elizabeth Chenard

Founders' Circle
$15,000-$24,999

Stephen and Maygene Daniels
Martha and David Dantzic
Kathleen O'Leary
Amit and Veronique Singh

Head of School Circle
$10,000-$14,999

Anonymous
The Reinker Family
Allison, Dean, Abigail and William Rosen
Melissa and Jordan Zappala

Rose Window Circle
$5,000-$9,999

Will and Tina Ashworth
Berger Damle Family
Noah and Sydney Bopp
Dana Carstarphen and Bill Malley
David Hollander and Maya Ajmera
Brent and Andrea Jackson
Thomas Jenkins and Alyce Katayama
Douglas and Jessie Macdonald
Isabel Roman-Cogswell
Adam and Stephanie Sarvana
Wade and Rashmi Sutton
Weston and Daniel Townsend-Hill

The Dent Circle
$2,500-$4,999

Jane L. Angarola
Rob and April Boyd
Susan and Gregory Couper
Crane/Anderson Family
Antara Dutta and Jeff Wilder
Jason Gray and Krista Moody
Hill's Kitchen and Leah Daniels '94
Adam Jones '87 and Lauren Arias-Jones
Jonathan Lavy and Marie Scott
Steven Lickteig and Barrie Hardymon
Samuel Maruca and Linda McKoy
James and Donna Moody
Bruce G. Nickerson, MD and Beverly B. Nickerson FNP
Benjamin Schafer and Julie Somers

Leadership Circle
$1,968-$2,499

Burgess-Baker Family
John and Maria Cox
Jay and Meredith Crane
Douglass Delano and Elizabeth Hannold
Kevin Eide and Jennifer Mannelli
Joby and Kyle Fortson
Kathryn and Matthew Gallery
Stacy Hope and Jonathan Cerrito
Hallie Jackson and Frank Thorp
Kevin and Laura Kosar
Helena and Douglas Mah
Liz Martin and Chris Coakley
Arelis Perez and Kalim Pearson
Andrew and Sarah Prins
Peter and Kate Psillos
Robert and Donna Sokol
David and Lilia Stamm
Andrew Wirth and Tanya Walker

Green and White Circle
$500-$1,967

Julie Abbate and Lisa Schule
David Abernethy and Elizabeth Lewis
Adam Abrams and Sarah Pavlus
John Angarola '06
Anonymous
Bernard Asare and Kathleen Vokes
The Augustine Family
David and Beth Barrett
Kathryn Bauman-Hill and John Hill
Michael Beach and Elinor Todd
Jared and Lorilee Binstock
Kyle and Marissa Boynton
Carter and Lillian Brown
Claudia Burke and Tom West
Constance Burr
Richard Chazen
Alicia Cohen
Comcast
John Crain and Shannon Ryan
Ann and Nick Cusick
Charles and Meaghan Davant
Abigail Drake
James Earl and Helena Zyblikewycz
Danielle Ewen and Bob Scher
Lynne Fagnani
Matthew and Sarah Fusina
Ginsburg Family
Jake Gross and Rebecca Goldberg
Michael Gross and Nancy Deck
Jungah and Seungshin Hahn
Kimberly Hamm and Alexander Rendon
Sarah Harrington and David McFarland
Allison Harvey and Mike Goodman
Aaron and Elinor Hiller
Thelma Johnson
Holly Smith Jones
Herb Kaufman and Laurie Palmer
Puja Kumar and Rajesh Paul
Eugene and Martha Larkin
Richard and Kathryn Lenter
Morgan and Courtney Macdonald
Dick and Ginny Martin
Jill Martin and Paul Hongbarco
Andi Mathis



UPPER GRADES MUSICAL

Last spring, 7th and 8th Graders took center stage performing *Into the Woods Jr.* 6th Graders supported the production as crew members, gaining hands-on experience and mentorship from the professional tech team at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.



GRANDPARENTS AND GRAND FRIENDS DAY

We loved welcoming grandparents and grand friends to campus last fall. Students shared their classwork, introduced their special guests to friends and educators, and enjoyed spending the morning together. Save the date for this year's event—**Friday, October 10!**

Annual Report 2024-2025

Krista and Michael McGee
Ted and Ann McKenzie
Marilyn Meek
Hayden and Rachel Milberg
Sam and Alissa Moghtaderi
Lawrence and Grace Monaco
Tiffany Muller and Marie Frederickson
Jennifer Newton
George and Deborah Nichols
Helen Norwood
John and Elizabeth O'Connor
Dave and Nichole Opkins
Parker and Todd Poling
Lee and Gina Reno
Saltchuk Resources
Tom and Melissa Sellevaag
Bob and Nancy Silverberg
Slabach Family
Melanie Sloan
Duane and Felice Smith
Spotify
Philip Tahtakran and Ryan McGinness
Joseph Tarantolo MD and Elissa Feldman
Michael Timmeny and Catherine Connor
Trister Family
Anna Wallin
Ben Whitcomb and Laura Thoms
Kristin White and David Heaton
Woolston Family
Walter and Gail Woolwine

Community Circle
Up to $499

Linda Abrams
Judy Adams
Abbey Agresta ’01 and Eric Holzhauer
Robert Alter and Alfreda Antonucci
Robert and Alison Ament
Patrick and Twanda Amos
Emily and James Angarola ’06
Anonymous
Cynthia Barmore and Scott Himmelberger
Eve Barnett ’08
Philip and Iris Barnett
Robert Barnett ‘01
Serena Berkowitz and San-Eou Lan
Lynn and Alex Binstock
Peter Bleakley and Mary DeRosa
Boeing
Major and Danielle Bowen
BP Corporation of North America
The Brennan Family
Alex and Paige Brown
Gabriel Brown ’08
Suzanne and Geofrey Brown
Kelly Calixto and Leigh Ross
Lillian Cammack
Manu Chander and Patricia Akhimie
Colin Chazen and Jillian Nickerson
Piper Cherry ’19
Lynn and Robert Coffman
Erin Coppola-Klein and Henry Coppola
Sarah Burr Crockett ’84
Stanley and Brenda Daniels
Sydney Daniels and Craig Schlozman
Elizabeth D'Aunno and Benjamin Janczyk
Todd and Abigail Davenport
Wendell Domon
Samuel and Barbara Dyer
Julie Edelstein and Brian Eyink
William and Leah Edelstein
Liza Esser and Gary Fitzgerald
Jay Feldman and Josie Etheart
Marsha Fishkin
Tim and Patricia Fitzgerald
Joshua Fitzhugh ’84
Gregory Foote and Leslie Allen
The Garikes Family
Laurie and Mark Gillman
W. Brendan Harrington
Eliot Harrison and Wendy Blake Coleman
Maris and Zachary Hawkins
Al and April Hiller
Annie Houston
Peter and Patricia Howard
Nancy Iyer
Jeannine Jacokes and Dave Powell
Geoffrey Gardner Jones ’84
Nedra H. Joyner, MD, MBA, FACS
Barbara Keeling
Scott and Ann Keep
Douglas Kliever
Bernhard Kluger and Laurel Blatchford
Neil Kornze and Mara Gassmann
Michael and Leah Latimer
Judd Legum and Roshini Thayaparan
Steve Leinwand and Ann Lawrence
Lauren and Adam Lewis
Terri Ann Lowenthal
Emily and John Lucio
Ken and Ellen MacGarrigle
Patrick Marquardt and Jill Davis
Drs. Eva and Richard McCarrick
David and Katherine Meeks
Ruth Miller
Theresa Moller
Peter ’88 and Jennifer Monaco
E. James Morton and Matthild Schneider
NetApp, Inc.
Jane Nuland
Cielo and Martin Ondrejcak
Pratik Patel and Liza Khan
George Peterson ’91



BUDDY TIME

Our Buddy Program is a beloved and longstanding tradition. Buddies reconnect each September during our Common Threads Assembly at the start of the school year.

Annual Report 2024-2025

George and Catherine Peterson
Pew Charitable Trusts
Wesley and Carol Poling
Mark Powden and Wendy Lawrence
Kara Powell ’19
Megan Powell ’15
Joseph Rees and Sherry Saunders
Sasha ’00 and Max Rollinger
Joanna Sacks ’75
Joan and Adrian Saenz
Debra and Andrew Siegel
Howard Siegel and Meredith Ludwig
Nicole Siegel
Cal Silcox ’04
Clark and Marcia Silcox
William Singer
Christopher and Lisa Smith
Gregory and Melissa Smith
Terry Snyder and Jennifer Pharaoh
Eugene Sofer and Judith Bartnoff
Barbara Starchia
Barbara Sutton

Phyllis and William Taylor
Jeffrey Telgarsky
Thomas Tillotson ’89
Emily Toll and Stephen Pershing
Barrie Tron and Alexandra Thomson
Henry and Katherine Van Dyck
Burden Walker and Leslie Pope
John and Becky Warren
The Weaver Family
Dana Weiss ’94
Thomas and Kay Wells
Genie West
Nicole Wharton
Anthony and Diane Williams
The Wolff Family
Kate and Brad Wolters
Shelly Work
Elizabeth Yen and Bill Gaughan
Abby Yochelson and Wally Mlyniec

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Anonymous-in memory of Mary Beth Moore

Anonymous-in memory of Elaine Sherman

Constance Burr-in memory of Timothy Burr and our daughter Priscilla

Marsha Fishkin-in honor of my granddaughter, Nicole Siegel

Al and April Hiller-in honor of our grandsons, Joey and Alex Hiller

Bruce G. Nickerson, MD and Beverly B. Nickerson FNP-in honor of Saul Chazen

Wesley and Carol Poling-in honor of Eliza Poling

Please note that this list includes gifts made to Capitol Hill Day School between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in the Annual Report is accurate and complete. Please contact the Development Office at development@chds.org with any questions or corrections.



PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

One of the many events that filled our calendar during the month of December was the Performing Arts Festival, a celebration of creativity and talent. Students in Early Childhood through Grade 6 performed for our school community.



FIELD DAY

As is tradition, 8th Graders led the entire school in a lively day of games and laughter, topping it off with a win against the staff in the annual 8th Grade vs. staff volleyball match.

Annual Report 2024-2025



SPRING FUNDRAISER

Mission accomplished! Thank you to everyone who supported our Spring Fundraiser, *Operation Capitol Hill Day School!* Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make the event a tremendous success. Whether you donated, volunteered, sponsored, raised your paddle, or cheered us on, your support helped us raise important funds for Financial Assistance and Professional Development. Thank you!

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor
Flipside Innovation

Gold Sponsors
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CER Consulting, LLC

Photo Station Sponsor
Shefferman Orthodontics

Silver Sponsors
A.G. Prada Company, Inc.
Burr Law Firm
Cornerstone Government Affairs
Moody Graham
Perkins Eastman DC
Tech Painting Co.
Yarmouth Management

Business Sponsor
EJF Real Estate Services

FAMILY SPONSORS

007 Agent Sponsor
The Dantzic Family

Operation Capitol Hill Day School Sponsors
The Ashworth Family
The Berger Damle Family
The Burke West Family
The Chenard Family
The Jenkins Katayama Family

For Your Eyes Only Sponsors
The Burgess Baker Family
The Reinker Kane Family
The Singh Family
The Sutton Family

License to Support Sponsors
The Eide Mannelli Family
The Gray Moody Family
The Malley Carstarphen Family
The Sarvana Family

Spectre Sponsors
The Coakley Martin Family
The Iyer Family
The McGee Family
The Nichols Family
The Pearson Perez Family
The Saenz Family
The Stamm Family
The Swan Rust Family
The Tahtakran McGinness Family
The Van Dyck Family
The Walker Wirth Family

Spring Fundraiser Donors and Supporters
Adam Abrams and Sarah Pavlus
Abbey Agresta ’01 and Eric Holzhauer
Patricia Akhimie and Manu Chander
Councilmember Charles Allen
Ambar
Emily and James Angarola ’06
Anonymous
Will and Cristina Ashworth
Balance Gym
Giselle Barcia and Daniel Schuker
Cynthia Barmore and Scott Himmelberger
Kathryn Bauman-Hill and John Hill
Berger Damle Family
Jared and Lorilee Binstock
Danae and Eric Black
Black Family Affinity Group
Jennifer Bledsoe and Odis Bledsoe, III
Major and Danielle Bowen
Marissa and Kyle Boynton
Burgess-Baker Family
Claudia Burke and Tom West
Barbara Burr and Wayne Warren
Kelly Calixto and Leigh Ross
Dominic Campbell and Merici Vinton
Jeffrey Capizzano and Arrow Augerot
Dana Carstarphen and Bill Malley
Colin Chazen and Jillian Nickerson
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Chenard
Evan and Luda Clark
Catherine and John Collins
Steven Cooper and Rachel Novak
Jay Cox and Melissa Patterson
John Crain and Shannon Ryan
Crane/Anderson Family
Claire and Tucker Croft
Sydney Daniels and Craig Schlozman
David and Martha Dantzic
DC Mahj Collective
Del Mar
Neema Desai and Shomari Jennings
Abigail Drake
James Earl and Helena Zyblikewycz
Julie Edelstein and Brian Eyink
Kevin Eide and Jennifer Mannelli
Empire Racquet
Liza Esser and Gary Fitzgerald
Julia Ewart
Danielle Ewen and Bob Scher
Families of EC North
Families of EC South
Families of EC West
Families of First Grade
Families of Second Grade
Families of Third Grade
Families of Fourth Grade
Families of Fifth Grade
Families of Sixth Grade
Families of Seventh Grade
Families of Eighth Grade
Stacey and Tim Farnsworth
Aisling Feaser
FiPA Class Representatives
Neil Fried and Nydia Bonnin
Matthew and Sarah Fusina
Kate and Matt Gallery
Ginkgo Gardens
Good Stuff Eatery
Jason Gray and Krista Moody
Sarah Harrington and David McFarland
Allison Harvey and Michael Goodman
Maris and Zachary Hawkins
Aaron and Elinor Hiller
Hill’s Kitchen and Leah Daniels ’94
David Hollander and Maya Ajmera
Zoe and Eric Hollister Williams
Carole Holmberg
Stacy Hope and Jonathan Cerrito
Kevin Huyler and Anne Gotwals
International Spy Museum
Anne and Siddharth Iyer
Brent and Andrea Jackson
Hallie Jackson and Frank Thorp
Chaz Jenkins and Rahmney Flowers
Tom Jenkins and Alyce Katayama
Imari John
Adam Jones ’87 and Lauren Arias-Jones
Anne-Claire and Scott Kasten
Neil Kornze and Mara Gassmann
Helena and Douglas Mah
Jonathan Lavy and Marie Scott
Chris and Julie Linton
Long Shot Hospitality
Clifford Luhn and Micheline Mendelsohn
Courtney and Morgan Macdonald
Patrick Marquardt and Jill Davis
Liz Martin and Chris Coakley
Tiffany and Edwin Mata
Karlyn McAllister
Kordaye McAllister
Michael and Krista McGee
Katrell Mendenhall
Mia Miltier
Ryan Moody and Katherine Johnson
Kirill Morozov
Justin and Tanya Myers
Sharon Negri
Erica and Brian Nichols
Helen Norwood
Cielo and Martin Ondrejcak
Margarita Orozco and Michael Hoenig
Pratik Patel and Liza Khan
Arelis Perez and Kalim Pearson
Kathryn and Peter Psillos
The Reinker Family
Hilton and Olga Robinson
Adrienne and Jason Rosenbaum
Joan and Adrian Saenz
Stephanie and Adam Sarvana
Matt and Jeni Schoemaker
Scott and Christine Seibert
Amy Sellers and Regina Hund
Tom and Melissa Sellevaag
Nicole Siegel
Beth Silverberg and Eli Rosenfeld
Amit and Veronique Singh
Tom and Rachel Slabach
Anne Smith and Young Hahn
Duane and Felice Smith
Rich Sobiecki and Lisa Hix
David and Lilia Stamm
Barbara Starchia
Wade and Rashmi Sutton
Collin Swan and Jayna Rust
Philip Tahtakran and Ryan McGinness
Leonard Tate and Maria Staunton
Weston and Daniel Townsend-Hill
Trister Family
Katherine and Henry Van Dyck
Vita Surgical Group
Burden Walker and Leslie Pope
Ivey and Justin Warren
Washington Nationals
Susannah and Kenyon Weaver
Brandon West and Shana Chandler
Ben Whitcomb and Laura Thoms

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RAISE THE PADDLE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Each year at the Spring Fundraiser, the Capitol Hill Day School community comes together to support a special initiative that directly benefits our students. This year, we invited guests to raise their paddles in support of something that impacts every classroom, every grade, and every student: professional development. Thank you to the donors who raised their paddles in support of our educators who inspire curiosity, creativity, and confidence in our children every single day.

Kristin White and David Heaton
Megan White Schneider and Jeffrey Schneider
Jamayca Williams
Layton Wilson and Donald James
Andrew Wirth and Tanya Walker
Daniel and Karen Wolff
Kate and Brad Wolters
Elizabeth Yen
Kelly Young
Jordan and Melissa Zappala

Raise the Paddle for Professional Development

Adam Abrams and Sarah Pavlus
Abbey Agresta '01 and Eric Holzhauer
Anonymous
Giselle Barcia and Daniel Schuker
Jared and Lorilee Binstock
Danae and Eric Black
Major and Danielle Bowen
Burgess-Baker Family
Claudia Burke and Tom West
Jeffrey Capizzano and Arrow Augerot
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Chenard
Steven Cooper and Rachel Novak
John Crain and Shannon Ryan
Crane/Anderson Family
Claire and Tucker Croft
Berger Damle Family
Leah Daniels '94
Neema Desai and Shomari Jennings
Abigail Drake
James Earl and Helena Zyblikewycz
Julie Edelstein and Brian Eyink
Kevin Eide and Jennifer Mannelli
Matthew and Sarah Fusina
Jason Gray and Krista Moody
Allison Harvey and Mike Goodman
Aaron and Elinor Hiller
David Hollander and Maya Ajmera
Carole Holmberg
Stacy Hope and Jonathan Cerrito
Kevin Huyler and Anne Gotwals
Siddharth and Anne Iyer
Hallie Jackson and Frank Thorp
Jonathan Lavy and Marie Scott
Patrick Marquardt and Jill Davis
Liz Martin and Chris Coakley
Krista and Michael McGee
Ryan Moody and Katherine Johnson
Tanya and Justin Myers
Erica and Brian Nichols
Maria Orozco and Michael Hoenig
Arelis Perez and Kalim Pearson
The Reinker Family
Beth Silverberg and Eli Rosenfeld
Joan and Adrian Saenz
Tom and Melissa Sellevaag
Amit and Veronique Singh
Richard Sobiecki and Lisa Hix
David and Lilia Stamm
Wade and Rashmi Sutton
Collin Swan and Jayna Rust
Weston and Daniel Townsend-Hill
Henry and Katherine Van Dyck
Burden Walker and Leslie Pope
Kristin White and David Heaton
Megan White Schneider and Jeffrey Schneider
Layton Wilson and Donald James
Andrew Wirth and Tanya Walker



HERITAGE ROOTS FESTIVAL

In February, FiPA hosted the inaugural Heritage Roots Festival, created to share pieces of our cultures, deepen connections, and strengthen the threads that weave our community together. The festival celebrated the many ways our community honors heritage—through dress, stories, food, artifacts, and memories. Pictured here are some of the families and staff who helped make this first annual celebration a wonderful success.



FOUNDERS' DAY

Each January, Capitol Hill Day School honors our School's founding with a day of service to celebrate our community. This year, families, students, and staff partnered with Guerilla Gardeners to paint rocks to brighten the gardens at Sasha Bruce House. Our community also prepared and delivered 500 bags of trail mix to Martha's Table for McKenna's Wagon, which serves warm meals, sandwiches, and healthy snacks across DC every evening.



In **Memoriam**

ELAINE SHERMAN

Spring 2024
Capitol Hill Day School Librarian from 1989-2004

During her tenure as Librarian at Capitol Hill Day School, Elaine shared her passion for books and learning, and inspired countless young readers. For the School's 50th anniversary celebration, Elaine reflected on her time at Capitol Hill Day School, sharing that she found "a second home in a new city, a place to teach, to learn, to grow, and to make unforgettable lasting friendships."

THERESA MAXIE

Winter 2024
Capitol Hill Day School 1st and 2nd Grade Teacher from 2017-2022

Theresa was a beloved educator for over 40 years and a vital part of the Capitol Hill Day School community where she taught 1st and 2nd Grade. She left a lasting impression on students, families, and colleagues alike. Among many other things, she will be remembered for her love of gardening, warm spirit, bright smile, and her gift for telling wonderful stories.

Ways You Can **Explore, Engage,** and **Connect** with Capitol Hill Day School

Explore

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: **@capitolhilldayschool**

Facebook: **Capitol Hill Day School**

Engage

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL

Chat with friends and family, share our social media posts, and more.

Contact Director of Admissions Elizabeth Yen at **admissions@chds.org** for other ways you can engage with our community.

SUPPORT FIELD EDUCATION

Do you know someone who would be an asset to our Field Education Program? Contact Field Education Coordinator Liza Esser at **field_education@chds.org**.

Stay engaged with our Field Education experiences by following our Field Education Instagram: **@explorewithCHDS**.

Connect

JOIN US FOR EVENTS

Want to make sure you're receiving news and invitations? Update your contact information with Shannon Ryan by emailing **development@chds.org**.

ALUMNI: COME BACK AND VISIT US!

Haven't been on campus in a while? We'd love to show you around our new spaces.

Interested in exploring Capitol Hill Day School for your family? Reach out to schedule a tour.

Email **alumni@chds.org** for more information!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ADMISSIONS VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

Schedule a time to tour our campus, register for an Open House, pencil in a parent meeting, or simply drop Director of Admissions Elizabeth Yen a line at **admissions@chds.org**. We'd love to hear from you!

UPCOMING ADMISSIONS EVENTS

Register for the following events at **www.chds.org/visit**.

[Webinar] Admissions 101: Navigating the Application & Financial Assistance Process
Wednesday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Early Childhood & Elementary Programs Open House (PreK4 – Grade 4)
Thursday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Middle School Program Open House (Grades 5 – 8)
Wednesday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Building Community at CHDS: Coffee and Conversation about Equity and Belonging
Wednesday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m.

SHOP OUR ONLINE BOUTIQUE

Our online school store is stocked with Capitol Hill Day School gear for everyone—including students, parents, alumni, grandparents, and more! Scan the QR code to explore our swag.



CAPITOL HILL DAY SCHOOL

210 SOUTH CAROLINA AVE SE · WDC · 20003
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