

Benchmark

THE MAGAZINE OF BENCHMARK SCHOOL | WINTER 2021



Meet Our New Head of School

2019-2020 Report of Gifts

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Benjamin B. Rogers '95, Chair
Mark J. Thorburn, Vice Chair
Charles J. Bramley, Treasurer
Wendi Chase, Secretary
Michelle Bogosian
W. Gregory Coleman
Betsy Cunicelli, Ph.D.
Nicholas Kemp, Jr.
Leroy Nunery II, Ed.D.
Anne Rice-Burgess
Andrew B. Rogers '93
Charles E. Ryan
James Viner
Sarah Willie-LeBreton

Irene W. Gaskins, Ed.D., Founder & Trustee Emerita
Howard R. Marcus, Ph.D., Trustee Emeritus
Kristin Yerger, BPA Representative
Louisa Hanshew, Ex-Officio
Chris Hancock, Head of School

.....

Editor
Alyce Callison, Director of Marketing
& Communications

Design
Megan Craven

Contributors
Emma Mattesky, Director of Innovation
Kim Graham, Associate Director of Annual Giving
Jennifer Hornickle, Parent

.....

ON THE COVER



As our 50th anniversary year begins and we look ahead to our next chapter, we were thrilled to welcome with great warmth our third Head of School, Mr. Chris Hancock.

BENCHMARK SCHOOL

2107 N. Providence Rd., Media, PA 19063
610-565-3741 • benchmarkschool.org

Benchmark School is accredited by Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools, which is a member in good standing of the National Association of Independent Schools' Commission on Accreditation.

Benchmark School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender and sexuality diversity, age, or against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability, in its admissions and financial program, in the administration of its educational program, or in its employment policies.

Benchmark School is a tax-exempt organization as provided by IRS regulations and is registered as a charitable organization within the State of Pennsylvania. The official registration and financial information for Benchmark School may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

CONTENTS



Welcome Chris & Erica 3



Our Innovation Imperative 7



Why I Teach 9



Benchmark Love Story 15

A Message from the Head of School.....2
Meet Benchmark's New Head of School.....3
Feature: Our Innovation Imperative.....7
Why I Teach: Mary Katherine Ortale.....9
2020 Graduates.....11
Alumni Profile: Michael Grosso '10 & Jessica Katz '08...15
Class Notes.....17
Why We Give: Tom & Cheryl Weir.....20
Report of Gifts.....21

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

TRANSCENDENT TRANSFORMATIONS

Cultivating Ground for Students to Bloom

By Chris Hancock



As I begin my tenure at Benchmark School in a year that can optimistically be described as unusual, I've found myself reflecting on the adage about adversity and its power to reveal true character. When I took on the Head of School role this summer, our staff was already deep into the complex planning processes that allowed us to open as safely as possible this fall. The passion and dedication to excellence I witnessed in the summer was not an anomaly; it was a harbinger of what the fall would reveal.

Since school began this year, I have seen every member of our community go the extra mile to make our school not just adequate for learning, but better than anyone imagined possible. For each apparent obstacle, we developed creative ways to overcome them. We might not always get the first incarnation right, breathing life into Samuel Beckett's tersely oblique imperatives "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better." Albeit a bit hackneyed at this point, his words perfectly encapsulate how we have been able to reimagine classroom arrangements, curriculum

delivery, and teaching styles. It's undoubtedly a messy process, and is one we've embraced while keeping our students at the center of decisions.

Over the course of the fall, as our students and staff adapted and thrived, I found a parallel in our students' successes at Benchmark with the changing colors of the leaves on the trees that blanket our idyllic wooded campus. When green leaves are massed together on branches, it's hard to tell individual leaves apart. But when the conditions are right, the leaves undergo a transformation and colors emerge. Each leaf comes into its own, distinct in its singular way. Unassuming things have become beautiful. It's hard not to see a metaphor here in relation to our own students. Benchmark School is a place where kids are finally in the right environment to reveal transcendent beauty, finding and nurturing their individual strengths.

To wit, I had the honor of attending several eighth grade conferences this fall. For those who are unfamiliar with

this powerful and reflective Benchmark tradition, the eighth grade conferences are student-led during which they present lengthy and deep reflections on their educational journey, personal learning styles, and their educational goals while charting a course for a successful conclusion of their final Benchmark year. It's incredibly moving. More than one parent has teared up, absolutely in awe of their child's transformation into a self-directed and self-aware learner. Rarely can young learners offer such great, articulate insights into themselves. Transformations like these are possible because of our dedication to the student as an individual. Our caring faculty and staff create the optimal conditions for growth, and our students bloom in full color. 🌱



IT'S PERSONAL

Meet Benchmark's New Head of School



Our new Head of School Chris Hancock is many things: a proud parent of his new puppy Winnie, an avid sports fan (for Boston teams, so be forewarned), a keen cribbage player (he keeps a board in his office and welcomes challengers), and most of all, he is a leader with a passionate interest in connecting with our Benchmark community on a personal level.

Since Chris began at Benchmark in July, he has faced the challenge of reopening safely during COVID-19 while getting to know our Benchmark families, teachers, and students. Chris wants to talk with everyone, and he's already well on his way. He says, "I aim to have one-on-one conversations with every member of our community—every parent, faculty and staff member, every student, and every trustee on the Board." But these conversations go beyond friendly chat; Chris is a listener. It's his style to absorb comments thoughtfully, and use the information he gathers to build his decisions. Chris explains, "For a Head of School coming in now, listening is priority number one. This year, more than any other, demands that. I am still listening to so many people who mean so much to this community—from parents, faculty, staff, alums, trustees, and past families—any vision we set forth will emerge from those conversations."



As we all know by now, there is little that can be deemed "normal" about 2020, and the start of Chris's headship is no exception. Despite the challenging circumstances of moving from his former school (Eagle Hill School in Hardwick, Massachusetts) and beginning his tenure during a pandemic, Chris and his fiancé Erica Meissner are settled into the Stone House on campus and are feeling welcomed. Chris says, "Erica and I have been blessed with real outpourings of kindness and warm welcomes from parents, faculty, the Board of Trustees, and neighbors. That kindness and warmth coming from every direction is so affirming. To make a transition to a new state, and a new community...it's a moving experience and we're so grateful."

Chris has messages for parents and students at Benchmark, both of which reveal the deep emphasis on personal connections in his leadership philosophy. To parents, Chris exhorts partnership. "Education is a cooperative enterprise. This year, in particular, we must shine a light on that idea. You are key actors in your children's experience and I invite you to reach out and share your wisdom. Strong parent partnerships are essential to a student's academic and social development. You are indispensable to a healthy school. The more you are involved, the richer your experience is. The richer your experience is, the more a student blossoms. The more a student blossoms, the greater our community thrives."

For our students, Chris's message is simple and profound, which is "You are seen." He explains, "I have a saying I like my students to know and share. That is: 'If you can't see me, you can't teach me.' The beauty about Benchmark is that the care teachers take to co-create with students their experience, to know and make them feel known. Our teachers do not assume any student arrives at a lesson with a particular background. They work to understand each learner as unique. This, in turn, helps kids understand themselves as learners, develop confidence, communication, and self-reflection skills, and I want every student to know that I aim to support that experience however possible."

Chris's future plans for Benchmark School will also no doubt be informed by his graduate studies. Chris is enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania's mid-career doctoral program in Educational Leadership. He's in the second year of the three-year program, and he describes it as "a place where you can explore connecting theory to practice, a lot like Benchmark's

research-based model” and his peers are an “incredible group of thinkers and leaders” who inspire his learning and provide valuable insights. (Get ready to start calling him “Dr. Hancock” soon!)

2020 also marks Benchmark School’s 50th Anniversary, a milestone whose significance informs Chris’s forward-looking plans for the school. Chris notes, “We are at a unique point in Benchmark’s history, at 50 years, and looking forward to possibilities for innovative programs, facilities, and creating greater access to this beautiful education. It is exciting. No doubt, however, it will be a community-wide effort to build upon the research-based foundation Benchmark has established over the decades. I hope we can collectively take strides to remind folks that we have been, and we remain, the preeminent school in the nation for young students who learn differently.” 🌿



Chris Hancock and Erica Meissner are settled into the Stone House with their cat, Bert, and new puppy, Winnie.

REOPENING SAFELY

Finding Our COVID Path



When COVID-19 struck and persisted through the spring into the summer, we knew that we would have to get to work to achieve our paramount goal: bringing our Benchmark community back to campus safely. Our dedicated team of administrators, health experts, faculty, staff, and volunteers spent thousands of hours reviewing policies, protocols, parent feedback, faculty feedback, and best practices to build a reopening plan.

This fall, we were proud to open our campus for in-person learning with rigorous safety protocols, with a virtual option for those who could not join us on campus. Here are a few highlights of our fall reopening plan:

- Five days of instruction
- Support for students who require or choose online instruction
- Full academic program
- Enhanced social and emotional supports
- New technological supports and platforms to enhance learning, access, and communication
- Comprehensive cleaning and hygiene protocols
- Live streamed classroom lessons
- Cohort groupings to promote safety

CONVOCATION 2020

Welcoming Chris Hancock



On September 14, 2020, Benchmark School was proud to kick off our 50th Anniversary celebrations and formally welcome Mr. Chris Hancock as our third Head of School in 50 years.

The Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, Amy Petersen, served as emcee and was joined in the official presentation by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Benjamin B. Rogers '96; Head of Middle School Dr. Eleanor Gensemer; and Head of Lower School and Assistant Head of School Sally Laird. Our virtual celebration featured remarks from Mr.

Hancock, conversation with our Benchmark students, and special guests via video.

In his remarks, Mr. Hancock declared: "We, Benchmark, have not and will not shy away from sustained excellence. We have a long and storied past, and together we will lean into innovative new ways to think, to teach, to actively pursue equity and justice, and to continue to transform the lives of young learners. We will endeavor to sustain the excellence that has permeated everything about this community for the last 50 years." 🌿

STEWARD OF THE FLAG

Mr. Ralph Wales (Interim Head, 2019-2020)

Our Interim Head of School (2019-2020), Mr. Ralph Wales, believed in teaching students how to care for the American flag properly. Under his leadership, he upgraded our flag and taught 5th grade students how to be stewards of the flag, and to pass this caretaker knowledge on to future classes.



In honor of Mr. Wales' year of leadership and friendship, the Benchmark Parents Association had a stone made that was placed at the base of the flag. The inscription on the stone reads: "In honor of Ralph Wales, Interim Head of School, 2019-2020. Your time with us was short but your impact will be felt forever." 🌿

BENCHMARK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A Chat with Amy Petersen



Amy Petersen, Chair

Our Director of Development and Parent Relations, Louisa Hanshew, spoke with the Chair of our 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Amy Petersen. Amy gave us a glimpse of how COVID-19 changed our planned celebrations, and what we'll do next.

Louisa: Why did you get involved with the 50th anniversary celebration? What does it mean to you?

Amy: When I was approached about chairing the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, I didn't have to think for long about saying yes. Benchmark was such an important and transformative part of our family's life, and we can trace our daughter Julie's (class of 2007) successes directly to it. And reconnecting with old friends and making new ones who share in the love for Benchmark and its amazing faculty and staff was icing on the cake!

Louisa: Who else is involved in planning?

Amy: Our committee is composed of a broad swath of the Benchmark community—alumni, current and past parents, current and past faculty, and even fun categories like alums who are current parents! We really want to rekindle connections and memories in all of these groups, so we can uncover the big and little things that have influenced our rich history. We will be reaching out with emails, social media, and even old-fashioned regular mail and phone calls to our community, and hope that people will be inspired to participate.

Louisa: Now that COVID-19 has interrupted in-person events, how are we planning to celebrate?

Amy: We are rethinking our original plans, which were centered around in-person gatherings. We don't want to let this important milestone go by without recognition while we wait for those occasions to become safe, so we are pivoting to virtual events and the production of videos that tell the story of Benchmark's founding and evolution. Those videos, which trace our history from 1970 to the present, will be organized by decade and released over the course of this school year. People will enjoy seeing former teachers, students, and maybe even themselves in this series!

Louisa: How could others (alumni, parents, etc.) get involved and when?

Amy: We welcome everyone to the (virtual) table! Just drop an email to Louisa Hanshew if you are interested in participating, or even if you just have a memory, photo, or object to share. We'll be having a "re"organizational meeting in early 2021 that will be open to everyone. Please watch your emails and social media to learn more.

Louisa: Why is the 50th anniversary significant for Benchmark?

Amy: Fifty years is a milestone in any organization's history, in particular one that has had such an outsized, positive influence in many areas. From individual families to the international literacy arena, Benchmark has enriched and empowered communities. Benchmark is also a testament to what can be created with incredible vision and drive by a dynamic founder. That firm foundation will lead us into the next 50 years—so it is fitting that at this anniversary, the school is transitioning to our first head of school who is not from the Gaskins family. Chris Hancock is forward-thinking, energetic, and committed to the Benchmark mission. We have exciting times ahead! 



OUR INNOVATION IMPERATIVE

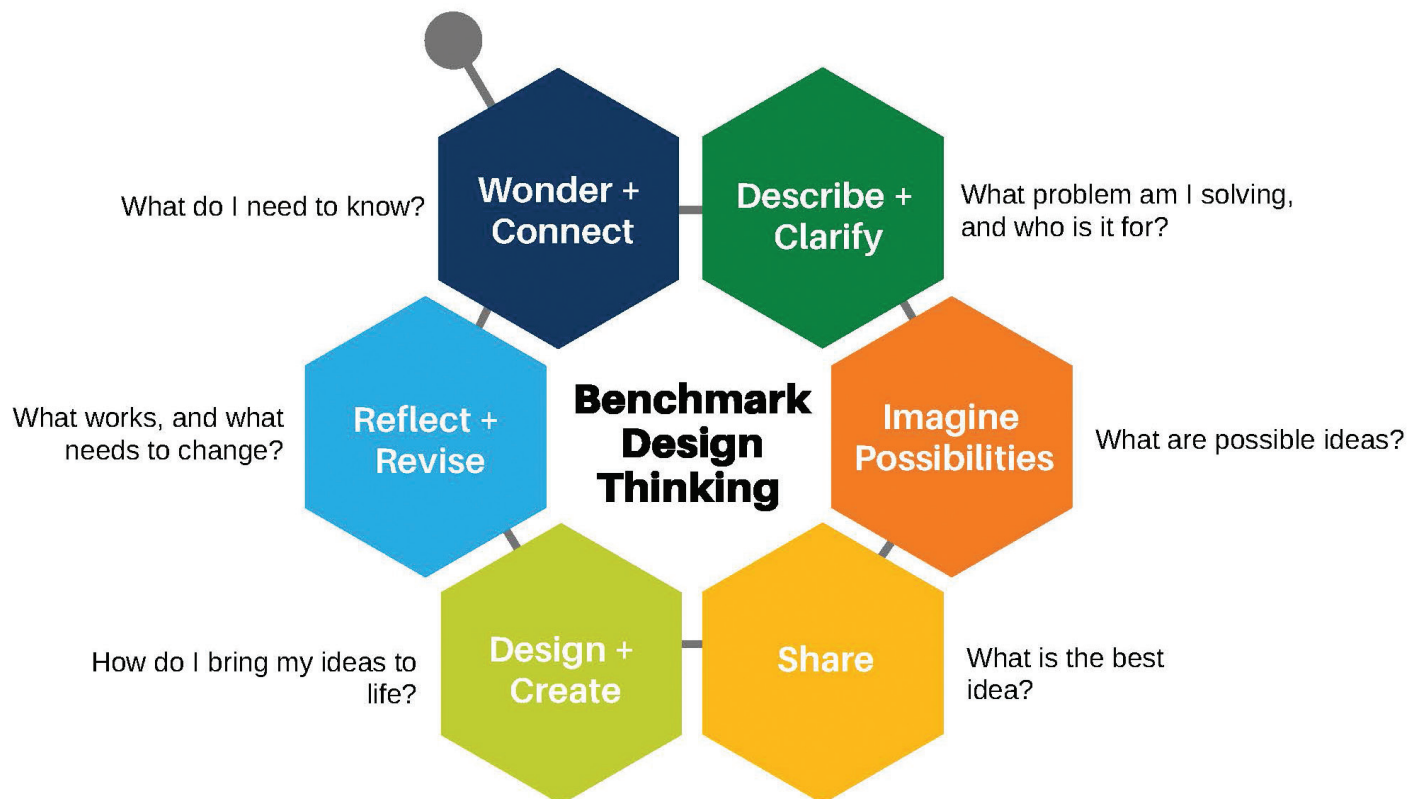
Honoring the Past and Designing for the Future

By Emma Mattesky, Director of Innovation

It is no secret that our systems of formal learning are being confronted by technological advancements and social reinvention in our world. This rapid outer change has forced us to engage in our own change process, where we have begun to ask essential, institutional questions: How might we build capacities for our schools to be more resilient and viable as we move into the future? How might we be more innovative in our pedagogic approach even when the old ways of teaching work? How are we upholding our promise to our students and families to teach our students 21st century skills?

A defining feature of the future of school is that learning experiences will more closely reflect a real-world context. Students will be asked to actively solve complex problems with real-world, human implications. They will not only gain content knowledge but will engage with it in meaningful, collaborative, and globally responsive ways. Design thinking makes complex problem-solving manageable by providing a clear path or system for discovery.

Although design thinking has been employed by architects and designers for many years, as a teaching method in the K-12 classroom, it is radically new. It holds many of the same structural features that work well in a classroom; it is explicit in nature, and it is process-based. At the same time, it provides opportunities for creative and imaginative problem-solving, student agency and voice, active perspective-taking, and building and making. It is naturally interdisciplinary, calling on multiple skills at the same time.



As Benchmark looks to the future, we hold on to our deep conviction that who we are and what we do best must be woven into all that is new. In January 2020, our entire school community began to design around this conviction by identifying commonalities between our historical Benchmark instructional language and the semantics around design thinking. As a language-based and strategy-based school, this was a seamless first step.

After a series of school-wide exercises, design sprints, and brainstorming sessions, we crafted, reflected, and ultimately voted on our very own design language. This milestone solidified our commitment to our historical roots and to 21st century innovative pedagogy—a shared understanding in honoring the past and designing for the future.

Woven into this work is a deep understanding that the institutional change process is ultimately a cultural one. It requires community dialogue, community design in the change itself, and a foundational belief in risk-taking as a learning opportunity. This combination—of our community as designers and as learners—is what will set us apart in a landscape of schools across the country who are trying to answer the same question: How might we build capacities for our schools to be more resilient and viable as we move into the future?

We are honored to be at the forefront of this work. 



Caption Here

Every year, Ruth Kelemen's 6th grade language arts students engage in a unit on human differences. This past year, they read *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper and *The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling. In tandem with our initiative to incorporate design thinking into instruction, Mrs. Kelemen was approached by a Benchmark staff member who needed the students' help. The staff member's nephew Matthew has arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC), which is a condition that means during development before birth, two or more joints permanently contract, leaving them fixed in either a bent or a straightened position. For Matthew, his hips and wrists were bent, while his knees and elbows were straight.

Matthew was starting kindergarten. Mrs. Kelemen's class asked, "How might we support Matthew in this transition and in feeling a part of his new community?" From this initial question, our Benchmark students got to work. They began by doing in-depth class research on AMC. They interviewed Matthew's parents who answered many questions from our students about

his interests and needs. They were able to meet Matthew and his family and observed him in a classroom environment, paying close attention to how he maneuvered around the room.

Once the students completed empathy and observational research, they began brainstorming and imagining possibilities. What about a scooter for Matthew to allow him to move and interact with his new classmates? What about a toy or a stuffed animal or a robot that he could show and share with his new classmates? What about a container with different types of activities he could do with his new friends?

Although COVID-19 caused Mrs. Kelemen's class to put the project on hold, it was an educational experience beyond the immediate moment. For Mrs. Kelemen, this project helped her to see her students and her instruction in a new light. "We saw quieter students engage. We would not have predicted accurately who would connect one-on-one with Matthew, playing with him, encouraging him. We would not have predicted who would be asking about the project, enthusiastically suggesting games and ideas for engaging Matthew as a member of his kindergarten class." Getting to know Matthew and engaging in a project with real-world implications transformed the classroom learning experience. We can't wait to see what Mrs. Kelemen has in store for us next year!

WHY I TEACH

Mary Katherine Ortale: Adding Joy to Math

Confidence and competence are hallmarks of a successful Benchmark student, and it's no surprise that these attributes also describe Mary Katherine Ortale's teaching style. Mary Katherine, a lower school math teacher, has only been a member of Benchmark's faculty for two years, yet she has been a member of the Benchmark School community since her childhood. Mary Katherine has spent her entire life steeped in education and in Benchmark, and it shows.

Mary Katherine, who has dyslexia, explains, "The summer of 2003 changed my life forever. I was attending Benchmark summer camp for the first time with my parents' hope of sending me to Benchmark for the coming school year. When they shared with me the news about Benchmark, I said, 'You mean, I'm not the only one? I'm not the only one who struggles to read and write, who needs extra time and different ways to approach learning?'" Mary Katherine became a Benchmark student in 4th grade, and graduated in 2008.

For Mary Katherine, math was a comfort. When frustration with other subjects would get to be too much, she would use math as a stress reliever, often doodling math problems on her schoolwork. She says, "Math always came easily to me. I liked being able to come up with an answer and check my work. I went so far as having my mom make my 13th birthday cake a factor tree!"

Mary Katherine says, "Education is in my blood. My maternal grandfather was a math teacher, and I carry on his legacy every day in my classroom. I wanted to become a teacher to help students; I had wonderful teachers throughout my years

Mary Katherine with Dr. Robb Gaskins at her 8th Grade graduation from Benchmark.



Ms. Ortale, masked for pandemic teaching.

and want to give back to the next generation." It's possible that the physical surroundings of her upbringing may have also influenced her dedication to teach: she grew up on a college campus! Her mother was the Director of Residence Life for Saint Joseph's University and she lived with college students until she was 14. She laughs, "I wasn't able to play ball in the 'house' because I might hit the sprinkler system!"

Today, Mary Katherine revels in finding innovative ways to help her students find comfort and proficiency with math. She says, "A lot of students come with math anxiety, a lot of 'I can't/I won't.' I try to pull that apart and help them find a love of math. Math isn't going away. I want to figure out how they can become comfortable, and gain number sense. I like to apply so many different approaches and strategies to the same topic—some students respond better to one over the other. We all visualize numbers differently. A quote I share with my students each year is from Dr. William Spady: 'All students can learn and succeed, but not in the same way and not on the same day.'"

Mary Katherine has also converted her experience with dyslexia into a strength. She is a volunteer with the Pennsylvania Branch, International Dyslexia Association (PBIDA) and assists with dyslexia education and outreach. She notes, "Because of my experience with PBIDA in dyslexia simulations, I've learned a lot about how NOT to teach. In the

simulations, I play the “poor” model of a teacher—creating distractions, talking when students are writing, wearing distractingly jangly jewelry, and having unnecessary side conversations with other teachers. So I’m very aware of what practices should be avoided!”

Mary Katherine is looking forward to building her career here at Benchmark, and helping students as she’d been helped. She shares, “What brought me back to Benchmark was my desire to show the students that even if you might have a learning disability, the teachers and staff will carry you forward and help you realize your full potential.” 🌱



Young Mary Katherine with her factor tree birthday cake.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What do you teach here?

Math for second, fourth, and fifth grade.

How long have you been at Benchmark, and where were you before?

This is my second year of teaching at Benchmark full time. Previously, I subbed at Benchmark and parochial schools in the area. Since high school, I have been a dedicated volunteer for the PBIDA to help educate teachers, families, and communities about dyslexia.

Where did you go to college and what did you study?

I went to Chestnut Hill College for both my graduate and undergraduate degrees. I received my Master of Education in Reading Specialty and Bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education with minors in Special Education and Religious Studies.

What would you like to go back to school for?

I would like to go back to school for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

What is your favorite memory from your school years?

One of my favorite memories is being a Junior Counselor for Mr. Reichart at Benchmark Summer Camp. From him, I learned the transformative impact you can have on a young person’s life in just five weeks. I learned how to build self-confidence in a child by believing in them until they learn to believe in themselves.

Tell us about the teacher who most influenced you when you were a student.

I have been very fortunate to have such wonderful educators throughout my life. The “team of teachers” that stands out the most for me are my 5th grade teachers: Mrs. Rahm, Mrs. Madison, and Mrs. Veacock. They opened my eyes to new literature and strategies for writing skills.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *A Bad Case of Stripes!* My mom used to read this to my sister and me growing up, reminding us to be true to ourselves and not to change who we are for someone else.

What is your favorite inspirational quote?

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy going for drives and trying new restaurants.

Tell us about your family.

I got engaged at the beginning of this year and my fiancé, Nick Montgomery, and I are enjoying trying to plan a wedding in a global pandemic. My parents, Lynn and Brian, both work in higher education. My dad is a professor and my mom focuses on administration outside the classroom. I have one sister, Maria, who is also a graduate of Benchmark and recently graduated college having studied Psychology.



Emma Murata Albani

Benchmark taught me...

...how to love reading.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated that there is a community at Benchmark.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

The middle school musical.



Rafael Guillermo Amaral

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

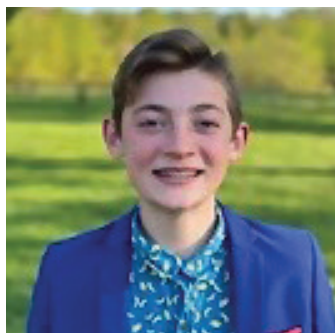
Don't blow off this once-in-a-lifetime learning experience.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

My friends who helped me and supported me.

Benchmark taught me...

...to work hard.



Krew Gustaf Baur

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated all the teachers always trying to help me when I didn't understand and not giving up on me.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Don't let anybody sink your ship even when you feel like giving up.



Mia Pauline Black

Benchmark taught me...

...how important it is to be organized in your learning and I've become a much better advocate for myself and my learning.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Be organized and always on top of your game. Your teachers will push you to always do your best.



Jorge Bonvicini

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

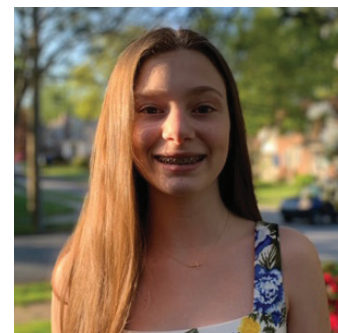
Push yourself to your limits.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated the support.

Benchmark taught me...

...strategies to help me cope with my learning disabilities.



Grace L. Brogan

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated connecting and working with other students and spending time with my friends.

Benchmark taught me...

...to know my struggles and how to get through them.



James A. Bruder, Jr.

Benchmark taught me...

...that when I get stuck, I can use my flexibility and different learning styles to break free.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

The things I appreciated most about my time at Benchmark is that it helped me make new friendships and introduced me to soccer, which is the sport that I really connected to.



Lucy Christina Connolly

Benchmark taught me...

...to be comfortable and confident in myself and the way I learn.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I most appreciated the relationships I have made with teachers and friends.



Abigail Melissa Cuthbertson

Benchmark taught me...

...to never give up on myself and even though I learn differently, I can use that to my advantage.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

At the end of *Oklahoma*, standing on the stage with all of my friends and being thankful for our memories.



Adriana Mercedes Dannaker

Benchmark taught me...

...that I can be who I want to be.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

Getting help when I needed it.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

The dances.



Heidi Helene Davis

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated that they treated us like family and that they took the time to help us.

Benchmark taught me...

...that I matter and that I am more than a kid with dyslexia.



Hillel Erlbaum

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated all the support and help I had at Benchmark because any time I was having trouble with work, I always got help and the teachers really helped me to understand it better.

Benchmark taught me...

...that hard work always pays off.



Grey Wolf Graham

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated how I always felt very welcomed and supported. I felt as if I was really known at a deeper level and that everybody around me wanted to celebrate my successes and challenge me in areas I was weak to help me become stronger.



Otto Heckendorn

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated learning how to be good at reading, writing and how to have resiliency.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

Going to the library.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Work hard and do not give up.



Lillianna Elizabeth Hornickle

Favorite memory from Benchmark

My favorite memory from Benchmark was the curtain call at the end of the play. You can't stop smiling and it feels great that everyone is clapping for you.

Benchmark taught me...

...that all questions are good questions.



Sadye Olivia Levensten

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

No matter how difficult things get, you can overcome it.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated how much the teachers helped me and other students and how much they care about their students.



Angel McNair-Gray

Benchmark taught me...

...to become an independent thinker.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

Formal dances.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

Coming together as one big class of 2020.



Skylar Elizabeth Moore

Benchmark taught me...

...to be more confident in myself.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Don't just give up, get back onto your feet and try again!

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

Getting the help that I need.



Lydia Grace Naso

Benchmark taught me...

...to be patient with myself and be brave.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

My favorite memory was the first time my friends and I participated in the musical.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Forgive yourself, keep going.



Matthew Niznan

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Whenever you get stuck, just ask for help.

Benchmark taught me...

...how to read.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

How Benchmark is a part of nature.



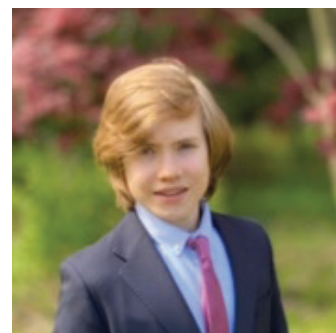
Sadie Violet Parker

Benchmark taught me...

...that I am just as capable as anyone else and I can go above and beyond what I thought was possible.

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

No matter what anyone says/said, you can be anything you want, accomplish whatever you want, and grow farther than anyone believes.



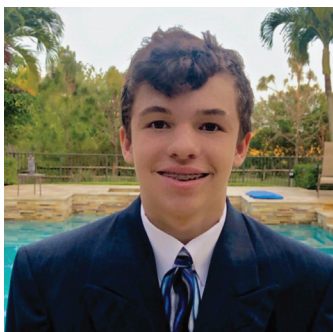
Hamilton (HAP) Pederson

Words of the Wiser for Younger Students

Keep going. You will have hard times but those are what make the good times even better.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

My favorite memory has to be Refreshing Mountain in 6th grade.



Antonio D. Sciole

Benchmark taught me...

...that even though we are different we can still be great.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

Benchmark got me to grow as a learner but more importantly as a person. I also appreciate the time and support the teachers gave me.



Matthew K. Semerjian

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated all the help and guidance I got from the teachers at Benchmark. Benchmark taught me to ask for help when I need it.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

Getting Gatorade dumped on my head at Field Day.



Thomas Joseph Smith

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

What I appreciated most about Benchmark is how great the teachers are and when I was confused or needed help, there was an open door for me to ask for what I needed.



Jackson Towers

Benchmark taught me...

...not to give up and that I can do anything.

What did you appreciate most about your time at Benchmark?

I appreciated all the teachers that helped me when I needed it the most.

Favorite memory from Benchmark

Meeting my friends.

Graduation Parade



MICHAEL GROSSO '10 & JESSICA KATZ '08

A Benchmark Love Story

By Kim Graham, Associate Director of Annual Giving

You've probably heard of a match made in heaven, but a match made at....Benchmark?

That's just what happened for two of our Benchmark alumni, Michael Grosso '10 and Jessica (Katz) Grosso '08. The story begins when they were both roaming the halls of Benchmark's middle school. Jessica remembers that Michael had a crush on one of her classmates and was friends with her sister Carly '09, but that's where their relationship ended as students. However, in the summer of 2012, both Michael and Jessica returned to campus as summer camp counselors. That's where their love of Benchmark continued and the first few sparks between them began.

"I attended camp from the age of 6 through being a head counselor," Michael says. "I loved the atmosphere. Everyone was so friendly."

"I attended camp for one year as a student and went on to be a junior counselor and head counselor," Jessica adds. "I

spent probably ten back-to-back summers at Benchmark. I loved how friendly all the counselors were."

In between summers spent at camp, Jessica went on to graduate from Marple Newtown High School in 2012 and completed an education degree at Cabrini University in 2017. She currently works at Behavior Interventions, Theraplay, and Reaching Milestones Through Therapy as a Behavior Therapist and Special Instructor for early intervention. Michael graduated from Monsignor Bonner in 2014 and from Philadelphia University/Jefferson University in 2018 with an Industrial Design degree. He currently works for Corporate Interiors as an Industrial Designer. (Benchmark has Michael to thank, as a matter of fact, for designing and creating the plexiglass barriers that are currently being used in our classrooms as part of our COVID-19 protection measures.)

All the while their love continued...and then the pandemic hit. Michael had already popped the question on October 5, 2019 and plans were quickly underway for a destination wedding in the fall of 2020.

"We had always dreamt of having a beautiful beach wedding," Jessica says. "We decided on November 21, 2020 in Jamaica with all of our friends and family. Our wedding party even consisted of a few Benchmark alumni: Carly Katz '09, Mary Katherine Ortale '08 and Stephen Pascos '09. Then when COVID happened, we had to cancel those plans. We still really wanted a beach wedding and knew it needed to be something this summer or wait until next. We planned a small wedding with three weeks notice and were married on September 12, 2020. Our parents, siblings and a few friends attended. The rest of our friends, some other Benchmark alumni, and family who could not join us due to restrictions joined us on Zoom. We plan to renew our vows in the islands once it is safe to travel again."

Fortunately for Benchmark, just as the love between Michael and Jessica grew and blossomed, so did their continuing love for their alma mater.

"My favorite memories are from gym class, field days, and golf," says Michael. "I still have a really close relationship with Wayne Reichart. We golf together and talk often."





"I believe Benchmark built the foundation I needed to help other children who are struggling learners," Jessica adds. "Benchmark taught me the strategies I needed to be successful and how to stand up for myself and what I need. I now do that daily for the little kiddos I work with. I tell parents constantly that their child can learn and have shared my own story with many of the families. I would say getting a husband out of it is pretty cool too!"

As many married couples know, there are sure to be disagreements and differences of opinion on numerous topics as the years go by, but one thing that the new Mr. and Mrs. Grosso both agree on is that parents considering Benchmark for their child should absolutely enroll.

"Definitely go. You won't regret it," says Mr. Grosso, and Mrs. Grosso quickly agrees, "It is worth it! It's a penny very well spent!"

The faculty and staff of Benchmark School would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the newly married couple. Best wishes Michael and Jessica! 🌿



"My favorite funny Mr. Reichart story is when I would go to pick up lunch for him during summer camp on my breaks," Michael continues. "He would order in the most ridiculous names so I would be embarrassed picking the food up." Jessica has fond memories of Mr. Reichart as well.

"I never ever wanted to participate in gym class or any sport activities and he would just find a way to make sports tolerable for me," she says. "Always playing music, cracking jokes and just making fun of me...in a good way!" Jessica returned to Benchmark to complete her student teaching with Melinda Rahm and taught in her classroom for two summers as a support teacher.

The newlyweds both agree that Benchmark made a tremendous difference in their lives...and not only for the romantic backdrop the high ropes course provided.

"Benchmark gave me confidence in myself which I needed to be able to learn," Michael says. "I also met some of my best friends and my wife."

CLASS NOTES

'72



Luzette Lehman lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania and works in graphic design and marketing. She attended Philadelphia College of Art

(graduated in 1983) and most recently served as Marketing Manager for Ardian Group, Inc. She also launched her own business, In Lehman's Terms, LLC in 2017. Luzette loves getting together with friends, going to the shore, and watching all sports. She traveled to Italy in 2017, to Ireland in 2018, and had been planning to go to Greece in September, and that trip had to be postponed. Luzette goes to the beach every year with family and friends since her son was 3, and he is now 23. (Luzette is pictured with her son.) As one of Benchmark School's very first students, Luzette has very fond memories of our founder, Irene Gaskins. She says, "I would have to say my favorite memories were seeing Mrs. Gaskins every morning greeting all of the children as we entered the school. Her smile was contagious. I remember thinking 'When I grow up I want to be just like her. Happy and always smiling.' My life would not have been successful without her and of course my parents."

'91

Jarrel Pertschuk is living in Williston, Vermont and working in tech. In the past few years, he's been the Global Director of Cloud Engineering at Mi9, an Executive Consultant at Mamava, and Head of Technology, Software Development and Innovation at A.N. Deringer. Jarrel is the proud parent of two "amazing, happy, bright, and empathetic" daughters. In reflecting on Benchmark, Jarrel recalls a formative experience: "The comments that my teacher's aide, Mrs. Ellison, made in the margins of my journal entries inspired me to write in my spare time, which spawned a lifelong love of writing. Even if it's a simple email at work, the word choice, the notion of audience, the structure, all of it matters. The ability to express myself through writing, even in a high tech career, has made all the difference in my success."

'93

Andrew Repasky McElhinney is a director, writer, and MoMA artist. His cinema work is in the permanent collection of MoMA. Following graduation from Benchmark, Andrew attended Abington Friends School, The New School for Social Research, and The European Graduate School in Switzerland.

'96

Paul Shump published an article titled, "A Day in the Life of an Adult with Dyslexia: How Technology Helps Me Keep Pace with a Fast-Moving World" in the Spring 2020 issue of *Focus*, published by the PBIDA. Paul blogs about making the most of dyslexia and the role of technology for people with dyslexia at www.dyscuss.org.

'00

Sam Rogers lives in Falls Point, Virginia, and is working as a Sr. Technical Instructor at Forcepoint. After leaving Benchmark, Sam attended Episcopal Academy and Dickinson College. He says, "I have been riding out quarantine working from home and slowly organizing my house with my wife and two daughters Ava (7) and Maddie (5)." Sam welcomed the newest member of his family, Asher, in early October!

'04

Laura Carrington got married in South Carolina in October 2020, and is back at school teaching as Mrs. Sahlin.

KEEP YOUR NEWS COMING!

We love to hear about your academic achievements, what school teams or clubs you are involved in, if you are engaged or married, if you've had a baby, changed jobs, or any news you'd like to share!

Submit your news and photos via the "Alumni" section of our website, or send your news to marketing@benchmarkschool.org.

Nicholas Romeo lives in Washington, DC and works as a Senior Director, Enterprise Sales at General Assembly. After leaving Benchmark, Nicholas attended The Haverford School and Gettysburg College, where he majored in Political Science with a minor in African American History.

'08

Luca Dragani attended La Salle College High School after leaving Benchmark, and then went on to obtain an undergraduate degree in Global Studies and History from Loyola University Maryland, and a master's degree in Public and Urban Policy from The New School University.

'10

Aurora Seamon '10 is working as an English as a Second Language Teacher in Asia. She taught in Beijing, China (January 2018-January 2019) and is presently teaching in Suwon, South Korea since September 2019.

'11

John Connolly attended La Salle College High School and The Catholic University of America, where he earned a BA in Political Science. John now works as an Associate at Council for a Strong America. He says, "After several years on Capitol Hill, I began a new role at Council for a Strong America. I work on the Mission: Readiness team with over 700 retired admirals and generals advocating for strong nutrition and education policy to ensure our military has services members ready to protect our national security. Being a Benchmark graduate, I am happy to help advocate for stronger education for all of America's children." When John reflects on what impact Benchmark has had on his life, he cites his teachers. "Each one of them inspired me to aim higher and push boundaries that I thought I couldn't reach."

'12



Trey Milby is back at Benchmark! He's a Co-Teacher working with Nicole Scali, teaching Language Arts and Gym. Trey also spent several summers as a Benchmark

Camp counselor. Trey's transformative experiences at Benchmark as a student and a camp counselor inspired him to pursue a career in education. Trey is a recent graduate from Susquehanna University with a degree in Early Education.

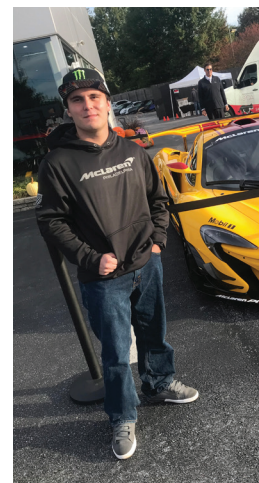
Lily Stein

attended AIM Academy for high school, and then pursued training in education. Lily says, "I have just recently graduated from the College of Charleston in May with a degree in Special Education. I have now just started graduate school at Saint Joe's and am getting my masters in Special Education with a concentration in Wilson Reading. I have been spending most of my time thus far studying and spending time with family and friends, as safely as possible during this time. I am moving out soon and ready to start my post-grad life." Lily cites Benchmark's influence in her decision to seek teaching as a profession. "Benchmark to this day is a major reason as to why I want to be a teacher. This school is filled with amazing and understanding teachers who care about their students. I too want to be like many of my teachers."



'13

Joseph Gallo attended Penncrest High School after leaving Benchmark, and is studying Automotive High Performance at the University of Northwestern Ohio. Joseph says he's "always going to car shows and always trying to learn something new every day in the automotive field or another trade." He's currently working at Turn5 Paint Shop as a Technician and as an RV dry wall construction worker, as well as working with his automotive photography company. Joseph says about Benchmark: "It taught me to always be organized, persistent, wise, and hardworking."



'16

Topher Wendel graduated in June 2020 from Strath Haven High School, and he is now attending Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. His major is Architecture and Sustainable Design.

CLASS NOTES

'72



Luzette Lehman lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania and works in graphic design and marketing. She attended Philadelphia College of Art

(graduated in 1983) and most recently served as Marketing Manager for Ardian Group, Inc. She also launched her own business, In Lehman's Terms, LLC in 2017. Luzette loves getting together with friends, going to the shore, and watching all sports. She traveled to Italy in 2017, to Ireland in 2018, and had been planning to go to Greece in September, and that trip had to be postponed. Luzette goes to the beach every year with family and friends since her son was 3, and he is now 23. (Luzette is pictured with her son.) As one of Benchmark School's very first students, Luzette has very fond memories of our founder, Irene Gaskins. She says, "I would have to say my favorite memories were seeing Mrs. Gaskins every morning greeting all of the children as we entered the school. Her smile was contagious. I remember thinking 'When I grow up I want to be just like her. Happy and always smiling.' My life would not have been successful without her and of course my parents."

'91

Jarrel Pertschuk is living in Williston, Vermont and working in tech. In the past few years, he's been the Global Director of Cloud Engineering at Mi9, an Executive Consultant at Mamava, and Head of Technology, Software Development and Innovation at A.N. Deringer. Jarrel is the proud parent of two "amazing, happy, bright, and empathetic" daughters. In reflecting on Benchmark, Jarrel recalls a formative experience: "The comments that my teacher's aide, Mrs. Ellison, made in the margins of my journal entries inspired me to write in my spare time, which spawned a lifelong love of writing. Even if it's a simple email at work, the word choice, the notion of audience, the structure, all of it matters. The ability to express myself through writing, even in a high tech career, has made all the difference in my success."

'93

Andrew Repasky McElhinney is a director, writer, and MoMA artist. His cinema work is in the permanent collection of MoMA. Following graduation from Benchmark, Andrew attended Abington Friends School, The New School for Social Research, and The European Graduate School in Switzerland.

'96

Paul Shump published an article titled, "A Day in the Life of an Adult with Dyslexia: How Technology Helps Me Keep Pace with a Fast-Moving World" in the Spring 2020 issue of *Focus*, published by the PBIDA. Paul blogs about making the most of dyslexia and the role of technology for people with dyslexia at www.dyscuss.org.

'00

Sam Rogers lives in Falls Point, Virginia, and is working as a Sr. Technical Instructor at Forcepoint. After leaving Benchmark, Sam attended Episcopal Academy and Dickinson College. He says, "I have been riding out quarantine working from home and slowly organizing my house with my wife and two daughters Ava (7) and Maddie (5)." Sam welcomed the newest member of his family, Asher, in early October!

'04

Laura Carrington got married in South Carolina in October 2020, and is back at school teaching as Mrs. Sahlin.

KEEP YOUR NEWS COMING!

We love to hear about your academic achievements, what school teams or clubs you are involved in, if you are engaged or married, if you've had a baby, changed jobs, or any news you'd like to share!

Submit your news and photos via the "Alumni" section of our website, or send your news to marketing@benchmarkschool.org.



Nicholas Romeo lives in Washington, DC and works as a Senior Director, Enterprise Sales at General Assembly. After leaving Benchmark, Nicholas attended The Haverford School and Gettysburg College, where he majored in Political Science with a minor in African American History.

'08

Luca Dragani attended La Salle College High School after leaving Benchmark, and then went on to obtain an undergraduate degree in Global Studies and History from Loyola University Maryland, and a master's degree in Public and Urban Policy from The New School University.

'10

Aurora Seamon '10 is working as an English as a Second Language Teacher in Asia. She taught in Beijing, China (January 2018-January 2019) and is presently teaching in Suwon, South Korea since September 2019.

'11

John Connolly attended La Salle College High School and The Catholic University of America, where he earned a BA in Political Science. John now works as an Associate at Council for a Strong America. He says, "After several years on Capitol Hill, I began a new role at Council for a Strong America.

I work on the Mission: Readiness team with over 700 retired admirals and generals advocating for strong nutrition and education policy to ensure our military has services members ready to protect our national security. Being a Benchmark graduate, I am happy to help advocate for stronger education for all of America's children." When John reflects on what impact Benchmark has had on his life, he cites his teachers. "Each one of them inspired me to aim higher and push boundaries that I thought I couldn't reach."

'12



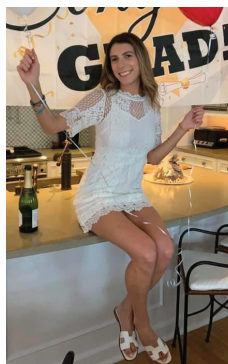
Trey Milby is back at Benchmark! He's a Co-Teacher working with Nicole Scali, teaching Language Arts and Gym. Trey also spent several summers as a Benchmark

Camp counselor. Trey's transformative experiences at Benchmark as a student and a camp counselor inspired him to pursue a career in education. Trey is a recent graduate from Susquehanna University with a degree in Early Education.

Lily Stein

attended AIM Academy for high school, and then pursued training in education.

Lily says, "I have just recently graduated from the College of Charleston in May with a degree in Special Education. I have now just started graduate school at Saint Joe's



and am getting my masters in Special Education with a concentration in Wilson Reading. I have been spending most of my time thus far studying and spending time with family and friends, as safely as possible during this time. I am moving out soon and ready to start my post-grad life." Lily cites Benchmark's influence in her decision to seek teaching as a profession. "Benchmark to this day is a major reason as to why I want to be a teacher. This school is filled with amazing and understanding teachers who care about their students. I too want to be like many of my teachers.

'13

Joseph Gallo attended Penncrest High School after leaving Benchmark, and is studying Automotive High Performance at the University of Northwestern Ohio. Joseph

says he's "always going to car shows and always trying to learn something new every day in the automotive field or another trade." He's currently working at Turn5 Paint Shop as a Technician and as an RV dry wall construction worker, as well as working with his automotive photography company. Joseph says about Benchmark: "It taught me to always be organized, persistent, wise, and hardworking."



'16

Topher Wendel graduated in June 2020 from Strath Haven High School, and he is now attending Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. His major is Architecture and Sustainable Design.

ALEX HORNICKLE '18

Gives Back to Benchmark

Alex Hornickle graduated from Benchmark in 2018. This past summer, he gave Benchmark a great gift: professional-grade picnic tables that he'd built himself. These picnic tables were the culminating project of Alex's Eagle Scout project, and his mother Jennifer Hornickle tells the story.



Picnic tables in progress.

had to plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or his community. (It must benefit an organization other than Scouting). The project proposal had to be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, the Boy Scout unit leader and unit committee, and the council or district.

Alex chose Benchmark to benefit from his Eagle Project because he wanted to give back to a school and community that gave so much to him.

Alex has been a part of the Boy Scouts of America since he was in first grade. The Eagle Scout project is the culmination of everything he has learned and done in Boy Scouts. In order to be eligible to earn his Eagle, he had to fulfill requirements for the six other ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life Scout). The picnic table project was the last requirement Alex needed to complete his Eagle rank. Alex

Picnic tables in progress.



Wayne Reichart, Blaise (friend of Alex's), Alex Hornickle, Tim Hornickle, and Lilly Hornickle.

Alex contacted Benchmark last summer regarding his proposal to make picnic tables for the school. Mr. Reichart responded that he was interested in replacing existing tables. Alex then shared the design of the tables and his proposal. Benchmark and Mr. Reichart approved the final design and proposal details, and Alex began the various approvals he needed from the Boy Scouts of America. Once final approvals were received, COVID happened.

This summer, Mr. Reichart confirmed the continued need, now more than ever, for the new picnic tables. So, Alex began the building process. This became harder due to COVID, since lumber supplies and building supplies in general were in limited quantities and in high demand. However, the supplies were found and the tables were completed this August, just in time for the opening of the school year! 🌿

WHY WE GIVE

Tom & Cheryl Weir

When Tom and Cheryl Weir talk about their son Sawyer, every anecdote reveals a person with great enthusiasm, who pursued his interests with gusto.

When Sawyer was a young elementary school student, however, his parents were beginning to see a different Sawyer. He was struggling, and by the end of first grade, his self-confidence was low. They had tests done, which indicated ADD. Sawyer was very gifted in math, but reading was hard for him. The Weirs had just moved to the Philadelphia area from Florida, and some teachers that Cheryl had befriended said, "Look at Benchmark." So, Sawyer spent a summer at Benchmark Camp, which he loved, and then enrolled in school in the fall. Cheryl says, "His reading skills skyrocketed. Now, he wasn't competing with a kid in the same grade who didn't have any problem and was always at the top of his class. By the end of first grade, Sawyer had no confidence. But by the end of second grade, it was the opposite. Benchmark gave Sawyer the confidence that he could succeed."



Cheryl recalls that Sawyer's path at Benchmark wasn't always easy. She says, "He didn't like to be thought of as different, and he wanted to be at school with his friends in his community. He knew that Benchmark helped him, though. One time we were all watching 'Braveheart' and I said, 'What is going on here? I don't understand this!' and Sawyer said, 'Mom, they're

building the characters and the setting, and then they'll get to the plot.' He was so proud of himself for understanding the structure and being able to explain it. Benchmark did that."

Tom notes, "We were very fortunate when we moved from Florida to Philadelphia. Having Benchmark practically in our backyard gave Sawyer an opportunity. There aren't many schools like Benchmark around the country. We've talked to other parents in Pensacola whose kids need a school like Benchmark, and they all say we're so fortunate to have found it. We give to Benchmark because we want to continue to see Benchmark flourish. We want to give kids who are gifted in different ways a chance to succeed."



The Weir Family

Reading wasn't the only area of exploration and improvement that Sawyer discovered at Benchmark; he developed an interest in the creative arts, particularly ceramics. Sawyer was always the biggest kid in the room, and well known for his interest in athletics, but his foray into art astonished and delighted his family. Tom says, "Benchmark brought this [love of art] out in him; we didn't know it existed. He was given an art award when he graduated from Benchmark, which surprised us all." Sawyer pursued his interest in visual arts as a hobby in high school and college, expanding into sculpture.

Sawyer's life was cut short by a car accident when he was 24, just after he'd married, and in the beginning of a successful professional career. Tom wants current Benchmark students to know that Sawyer was a person who persevered. "That's the biggest part of him. He made the best of it. He became a student that he never thought he was. They taught him to ask for help. All through high school and college, he was never afraid to ask his professors or teachers for help. He'd sit in the front row, and had no problem going up and interacting with the professor after class. I think that's something that a lot of kids going through the educational system avoid. It was surprising, in a good way, that Sawyer took that away from Benchmark."

In Sawyer's honor, Tom and Cheryl Weir have endowed The Sawyer Henry Weir Creative Learning Initiative, which provides professional development for faculty and staff around a learning environment using art as a catalyst. 

THE DR. ROBERT GASKINS FUND

For Mindfulness, Peace and Social Justice

In 2019, Benchmark School's Board of Trustees launched the Dr. Robert W. Gaskins Student Success Initiative. Many generous donors stepped up and pledged gifts, and today, those gifts are endowed in the Dr. Robert Gaskins Fund for Mindfulness, Peace, and Social Justice, established in June 2019.

The Dr. Robert Gaskins Fund for Mindfulness, Peace, and Social Justice honors the exemplary leadership of Dr. Gaskins who served as Head of School from 2007-2019. The Fund's proceeds are used to support the staff and students' knowledge and understanding related to issues of mindfulness, peace, and social justice, areas of educational practice that are centrally important to Dr. Gaskins and to Benchmark School.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank our generous community of donors and volunteers for their enthusiasm, involvement, and commitment to Benchmark School. When I was a Benchmark student, I benefited from the expertise of an exceptional faculty, small class size, and individualized instruction, something essential to those of us who learn differently.

With the challenges students face today, your contributions have enabled Benchmark to provide innovative instruction within the classroom as well as remotely to those who need it. Our large campus and flexible classroom spaces allowed us to have students safely distanced while learning. Even during these unprecedented times, we have been able to offer unparalleled instruction to those students who have yet to fully develop their academic potential and help them grow in an ever-changing world.

To each and every one of you, you have my heartfelt appreciation. To our exceptional faculty and staff, I am humbled by your commitment and dedication to our students. Thank you.

Benjamin B. Rogers '95
Chair of the Board of Trustees

2019-2020 Report of Gifts

The 1970 Society of Leadership Donors

Named for the year Benchmark began, The 1970 Society of Leadership Donors recognizes those donors who have made a gift or are fulfilling a pledge of \$1,000 or more to the school between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. While the members of this group represent various parts of the Benchmark community, their goal is the same: to strengthen, enhance, and continue an unparalleled Benchmark experience for our students today and learners to come.

The Founders **\$25,000+**

Sandy & Scott Adzick
Alumni Parents

John B. Bartlett
Alumni Parent

The Boudinot Foundation
Made possible by Carol Atterbury, Alumni Parent

Wendi* & Charlie Chase
**Trustee & Alumni Parents*

The Coltman Family Foundation
Alumni Family

The Steven C. Graham Family
Current Family

Patti Karolyi & Michael Semerjian
Current Parents

Amy & Michael Kopelman
Current Parents

Caren Lambert
Alumni Parent

Nicholas Romeo '04
Alumnus

Charles Ryan
Alumni Parent

Jeralyn Svanda
Alumni Grandparent

Cheryl and Thomas Sawyer Weir
Alumni Parents

Loralee West & Alfred P. West, Jr.
Alumni Parents

The Scholars

\$15,000+

Geoffrey Armstrong
Friend

Sheri & Ken Resnik
Alumni Parents

Kendra & Jim* Viner
*Current Parents & *Trustee*

Ethel B. Wister* & Alberta M. Wister**
**Alumni Grandparent & **Alumni Parent*

The Visionaries

\$10,000+

Patricia Ralph Fowler & Gordon B. Fowler Jr.
Alumni Parents

Beth* & Pete Goodhart
**Former Trustee & Alumni Parents*

Ellen & Ed Hanway
Alumni Parents, Alumni Grandparents, & Current Grandparents

Mondrian Investment Partners
Matching the gifts of the Semerjian/Karolyi & Richards Families

The Tally Foundation
Made possible by Elizabeth Atterbury (Current Grandparent) & Amanda & Kevin Ryan (Current Parents)

Cindy Haveson Veloric & Michael Veloric
Alumni Parents

The Pioneers

\$7,500+

Jami W. McKeon* & John F. Hollway
**Former Trustee & Alumni Parents*

The Innovators

\$5,000+

Sasha Ballen & Dee Spagnuolo
Current Parents

The Becket Family Foundation
Made possible by Kristin & Bill Becket, Alumni Parents

Benchmark Parents Association

Marcia & Greg* Coleman
**Trustee, Former Staff*

The Curran Foundation
Made possible by Evie & Phillip Dutton, Alumni Parents

Dawn & Nick* Kemp
*Alumni Parents & *Trustee*

Dr.* & Mrs. Howard R. Marcus
**Trustee Emeritus, Former Staff*

Nancy & Bob Mitchell
Alumni Parents

Kimberlee & Robin Orth
Alumni Parents

The Joey Pozzuolo Family Foundation
Made possible by Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo, Alumni Parents

Stephany & John Ziegler
Current & Alumni Parents

The Trailblazers

\$2,500+

Ashly & Dan '93* Berger
*Current Parents & *Alumnus*

Maggie Brodnik
Current Parent

Amanda & Douglas Bruno
Current Parents

Eleanor Davis
Friend

Paula & Bruce Fuhrmann
Current Grandparents

Sandra Nesbitt
Current Grandparent

Joshua Petersohn & Nuriye Uygur
Alumni Parents

Kari & Justin Richards
Current Parents

Margot & Philip Sullivan
Alumni Parents

The Mentors

\$1,000+

Rie & Christopher Albani
Current Parents

Jennifer & Bobby Benedix
Current Parents

Leslie Rogers Blum
Current Grandparent

Liz & Nick Blum
Current Parents

Charles Bramley
Trustee

Anne & Patrick Cahill
Current Parents

Citizens Charitable Foundation
Matching the gift of the Benjamin Rogers Family

Comcast

Mr. & Mrs. John Connolly
Alumni Parents

Susan T. Deakins
Alumni Parent

Angela & Joseph Dunn
Current Parents

Barbara & David Erskine
Alumni Parents

Betty & Vic Esposito
Current Grandparents

Carole Filtz
Alumni Parent

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Fowler
Alumni Grandparents

Irene W. Gaskins
Head of School Emerita & Trustee Emerita

Jennifer* & Robb** Gaskins
**Former Staff & **Former Head of School*

Lynn* & Bill Gonzalez
**Former Staff & Alumni Parents*

Anne & Matt Hamilton
Alumni Parents

*Chris Hancock & Erica Meissner
**Incoming Head of School*

Louisa Hanshew
Staff

Natasha Harnwell-Davis '05
Alumna

The Henry L. Kimelman Family Foundation
Made possible by Gay & Don Kimelman, Alumni Parents

Herman O. West Foundation
Matching the gift of the Bruno Family

Martha Hill
Alumni Parent

Janet S. Holcombe
Alumni Parent

Elana Honig & Baltazar Juarez
Alumni Parents

Lesty & Rick III
Current & Alumni Grandparents

Ann Jones
Alumni Grandparent

Sandra & Robert Lichtenstein
Alumni Parent

REPORT OF GIFTS

Sally* & Rob Laird
**Staff*

The McGowan Family
Current Family

Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation, a fund of the
Chester County Community Foundation
Made possible by Nancy & Michael Pia, Friends

Mark Muehl
Current Parent

Emily Schwarz Newmark & Brian Newmark
Alumni Parents

Cindy (Berger) Nissen '96* & Kevin Nissen
**Alumna & Current Parents*

Michelle & Mark Noble
Current Parents

Daphne Hawkins Parker & Michael Parker
Current & Alumni Parents

Julia & Tom Patterson
Alumni Parents

Suzanne Perot
Former Staff & Alumni Aunt

Kristen & Keith Peter
Current Parents

Amy* & Jim Petersen
**Former Trustee & Alumni Parents*

Mr.* & Mrs. Andrew B. Rogers '93
**Trustee, Alumnus*

Mr.* & Mrs. Benjamin Rogers '95
**Trustee, Alumnus*

Betsy & Barry Rorer
Current Grandparents

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan B. Rorer
Current Parents

Kai & Peter Seelaus
Alumni Parents

Solomon & Sylvia Bronstein Foundation
Made possible by the Broker Family, Alumni Family

The Sunflower Foundation
*Made possible by Christena & Ken Waldman,
Current Parents*

Vanguard Matching Gift Program
*Matching the gifts of the Honig/Juarez (Alumni
Parents) & Shields (Current Parents) Families*

Martha Dineen Wales & Ralph Wales*
**Interim Head of School*

Sharon & Adam* Watson
**Trustee*

Sarah Willie-LeBreton & Jonathan LeBreton
Alumni Parents

Anonymous

DONORS

Gifts to Benchmark come from parents, grandparents, alumni and alumni families, faculty, trustees, and friends who have seen the impact of a Benchmark education and are committed to ensuring it continues.

The 2019-2020 Benchmark Fund (our school's annual fund) had 100% participation from our trustees, 100% participation from our faculty and staff, and one of the highest parent participation rates we have had in a decade – 73%. The Benchmark Fund accounts for 3% of the yearly budget, covering the gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of running the school. Gifts of all sizes are important, and we appreciate the donors listed below for standing with our students.

Benefactors

\$500+

Marilyn & Al Blatter
Lisa & Rick Bonvicini
Amara & Jason Briggs
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Donahue
Lesli Esposito & Peter Verdi
Daniela & Russell Gastner
Eleanor Gensemer
Donna & Lewis Gould
Missy & Ed Hanway
Farah Hassanbhai & Rahul Kapoor
Kate & Vince Horn
Jennifer & Timothy Hornick
Karen & Joseph Iobst
Sallie & Tom Jackal
Megan King
Sarah & Shane Kinsella
Jay Lankford
Sue & Mark Lankford
Alyssa & Kevin Levensten
Carol & Louis Mayer
Nasdaq Employee Giving
Dr. Leroy D. Nunery II
Mary Katherine Ortale '08
Mary Beth & Anthony Pante
Becky & Doug Pyle
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Rogers
Cory & Rick Scheibe
The Schnyder Family
The Semon Family
David P. Sullivan '00
Kate & Mark Thorburn
Kathryn & Frank Zirkilton

Sponsors

\$250+

Mary Lonergan Adams
Susan Arabia
AXA Foundation Inc.

Morris Ballen
Janine Barsoum & Jeff Butcher
Betsy & Charles Bemis
Ilene & Steven Berger
Kathryn & David Black
Dr. & Mrs. B. Gerard Bricks
The Cahill Family
Joseph A. Caruso
Barbara & Isaac Clothier IV
Sara & Ed Connolly
Stephanie & Erick Davis
Cheryl Ann & Anthony DeMichele
Kathy & Dave Dinella
Michael Dubin
Jessica & Jon Erlbaum
Tina Isen Fox & Richard Fox
The Gelinas Family
The Gellert-Jones Family
Scott Goldstein
Sara Hill
Tom Hurster
Jessica Kardish
Virginia & David Laird
Lankford Automotive Inc
Linda Lattif
Adam Lemisch
Joanne Levy
Kitty & Steve Mattesky
Amanda & Ross '91 Mattis
Cynthia & Robert '81 McClung
Jennifer & Matthew McKenzie
Patty & H. Brooke McMullin
Amy & Anthony Orapallo
William Pawlowsky '96
PNC Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Robin Pointer & Rob Whalley
The Ponder/Bisbing Family
The Ramirez/Fogg Family
Rosario & Jim Regan
Kim Riley
Liz & Peter Schofield
Kelly & Anthony Sciole
Kathryn & David Shields
Rachel & Andy Sofish
Joanna & Phil Solomon
Regina & Charles Smith
Irene & James Sylvester
Kim & Mark Sylvester
David J. Thorpe
The Walsh Family
Robin & Andy Watson
Wells Fargo Foundation Educational Matching
Gifts
The Youngblood Family
Anonymous

Patrons

\$100+

Robin Abell & Jonathan Doh
Myra & Larry Allen
Bonnie Barnes
The Barrera-Gutierrez Family
Sara Barton & Hentzi Elek
Janell & Larry '91 Besa
Kathy & Larry Besa
Stacy & Gaeton Biscardi
Mia Black '20

Nicole & Trip Black
 The Braden-Forge Family
 Stephanie & Kirk Brandow
 Josh Bricks '88
 John Brogan
 Jimmy Bruder '20
 Alyce Callison
 Cintya & Mike Carr
 Susan & James Carr
 Elise Carsello
 Edward Chan
 Anthony P. Checchia
 Cyndi & Robert Conway
 Countryside Consulting Inc.
 Megan Craven
 William Dannaker
 Shannon & Ross David
 Astrid Davis
 Heidi Davis
 Sloane & Brian Davis
 Roseanne & Bob Delucca
 Mr. & Mrs. Detwiler
 Wendy & Mark Dooley
 The Doran Family
 J. William Draper
 Grace & Lin Dunning
 Carol G. Dyer
 Lauren & Joe Evans
 Mark Fenstermacher
 The Fitzgerald Family
 Kelly & Kevin Ford
 Jan & Don Frisch
 The Gerrity Agency, Inc.
 Kim Gilchrist
 Google
 Kim Graham
 Terry Grosso
 Kristin Hall
 Lauren & Eli Hastings
 The Heckendorn Family
 Julie & Alan Hochman
 Barbara & Dennis Hoffman
 Karan & Bruce Hoffman
 Karen & Joe Hofmann
 Betty & Charlie Hottenstein
 Louise & Joe Huber
 Robert Jaffe
 Johns Eastern Company, Inc.
 Ellet K. Jones
 Ruth Kelemen
 Mary & Ed Kelly
 Raine Kelsall
 Barbara & Al Kurtz
 Cat Lambert
 Bessie* & Jack Lamperez
 Cathy & Scott Liberman
 Connie Lotz
 Sue & John Louchheim
 Franne & Robert Lytle
 Eric MacDonald
 The Mader Family
 Sandy Madison
 Jennifer Malone
 Lauren & James '04 Maloney
 Patricia & Richard Maloney
 Michel Manzo & Dean Schwartz
 Julie Mattaliano

Emma Mattesky
 Colin McAdoo '98
 Beth & John McCarthy
 Marjorie Mitchell
 Stephanie & Charles Moleski
 The Monahan Family
 Karen & Mike Moore
 Holly & Herman Movsowitz
 Margaret Naugle
 Marcia & Neal Niznan
 Jesse North
 Susan North
 Colleen O'Hara
 Janine & Michael Pawlowsky
 Ruth T. Payne
 Natissa & Scott Pfautz
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
 Pam Phillippe
 Jacques Piquion
 The Polizzi Family
 Evelyn Joy Pott
 Liz Price
 Susan Ravenscroft
 Wayne Reichart
 Jennifer Renz
 Susan M. Riley
 Carolyn Robbins
 Tobey & Sanford Schreiber
 Aliza & Greg Schwartzman
 The Schweickert Family
 Theresa Scott
 Judy Sennett
 Donna Shooster
 Marianne Smith
 Mrs. Zeffie Spirokostas
 Craig W. Stevens, Ph.D.
 Brit & Whitney Suttell
 Megan & Keith Trost
 Laurie & Tim Veacock
 Teri Watkins
 Latoya Watson
 Lisa Welch
 The Whitehouse Family
 Megan Wonderland
 Kristin & Stephen Yerger
 Elizabeth T. Ziegler
 Albert Zug

Friends

Up to \$99

The Ayres Family
 MaryLee and Harris Bass
 Rebecca Ann Bemis
 Karen Berry
 Anne Blackburn
 Michele & Michael Breslin
 Jackie Brodo
 Kevin Canney
 Ashley Caplan
 Alexis Caporizzo
 Laura Carrington
 Sandra Casimir & Alexa Green '13
 Stefanie Causey
 Ridgely Chew '00
 Maggie Churchville
 Coca-Cola Give
 Rebecca Cogswell

Debbi Coren
 Faith Cost
 Rosanne Crowe
 Christopher Crowley '94
 Joan Davidson
 Jane & Ernest Dellheim
 Susan DiDomenico
 Mara Dixon
 Kay Draper
 Merrill & John Dutton
 John Dyitt
 Susan & Michael Effgen
 Joan Fox
 Lauren Frantz
 Stefanie Frayne
 Francesca & Noah Gans-Pfister
 Jenna & Jeff Glahn
 Nettie & Sterling Green
 Daurice & Robert Grubbs
 Judy & Genuan Gunawardhana
 Gray & Phil Handwerk
 Shelley & Ron Hastings
 Mote Howard
 Annemarie Jay
 Scott Jones
 Hedy Karbinder
 Amanda & Doug Kaune
 Leslie Komarnicki
 Dolores Kowalski
 Mary Beth & Rob Kowalski
 Helen Lawrence
 Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.
 Marian & Dirk Lorenz
 Michael Maloney
 Laura & Mark Matika
 Drew McCorkell
 Naketa McCray
 The McKeever Family
 Christina McMahon
 Brysen McMullin '12
 Yvette McNair
 Ryan McNulty
 Beth Melfi
 Maria Michetti
 Ashley V. Fine Nagle
 Dorothy Nichols '87
 Mrs. Susan Null
 Rose G. O'Connor
 Jamellia Colistia O'Neal
 Kennie Opdenaker
 Ann Rita Orapallo
 MaryLew & Bob Orsatti
 Joyce Ostertag
 Nancy Powell
 Cosmo Prinbeck
 Rysheen & Charles Pringle
 Seher & Tarik Quadir
 Susan & Tom Quinn
 Melinda Rahm
 Kristina Reisinger
 Beth & Gregg Rivkind
 Rebecca Rosenstock
 Adair & James Ruff
 Craig Rushmore '06
 Phil Ruth
 Melissa Savage
 Nicole Scali

REPORT OF GIFTS

Lisa & Mike Schreiber
Marie Schueren
Jennifer A. Scirrotto
Virginia Sharpless
Jenn & Loren Shaw
Alyce Sheerer
Jennifer Sherman
Lisa & Jason Silk
Deb & David Snyder
Cheri Sperling
Leslie Stein
Alex Templeton
Jenelle Tomov
Trish Tribit
Heather Warley
The Woodruff Family
Shannon Casey Zimolong '95

^deceased

NAMED FUNDS

Benchmark is the grateful recipient of numerous gifts to our restricted funds, all of which provided valuable, but targeted, resources for the school. The gifts from these individuals not only speak to their passion, but also to their commitment to our school community.

Benchmark School's 50th Anniversary Celebration
The Coltman Family Foundation

The Beth Coltman Scholarship Fund
The Coltman Family Foundation

The Dr. Robert Gaskins Fund for Mindfulness, Peace, and Social Justice

AXA Foundation Inc.
The Ayres Family
Sandra Casimir & Alexa Green '13
Anthony P. Checchia
Susan & Michael Effgen
Irene W. Gaskins
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins
Bessie^ & Jack Lamperez

Innovation Lab Building Fund
Sandy & Scott Adzick
Carol A. Atterbury/The Boudinot Foundation
Cindy Haveson Veloric & Michael Veloric

The Joey Pozzuolo Memorial Scholarship
Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo

The Promising Scholars Fund
Wendi Chase & Jeralyn Svanda
Caren Lambert
Nicholas Romeo '04
Charles Ryan

The Sawyer Henry Weir Creative Learning Initiative
Cheryl & Thomas Sawyer Weir

^deceased

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Benchmark School is deeply appreciative of gifts

given by our donors in memory of friends and loved ones. It is our privilege to remember the individuals listed in bold type.

Marian Lundquist Bartlett
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Jim Bemis '86
Betsy & Charles Bemis

Jay H. Blum
Leslie Rogers Blum

Margaret Brogan
John Brogan

Ellen Chan
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Beth Coltman '91
The Coltman Family Foundation
Annemarie Jay

Donna Davidson
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Richard Gaskins
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Valentine L. Fine
W. William Nagle, Jr.
W. William Nagle, Sr.
Ashley V. Fine Nagle

Tracy Hottenstein
Betty & Charlie Hottenstein

Emily Rose Kowalski
Mary Beth & Rob Kowalski

Bessie Lamperez
Jack Lamperez

John Nesbitt
Sandra Nesbitt

Joey Pozzuolo
Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo

John R. Pfautz
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Yale Schwartz
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

GIFTS IN HONOR

Benchmark joins with the following generous donors who have chosen to celebrate the individuals listed in bold type with gifts to Benchmark School in their honor.

Susan Arabia
Jenna & Jeff Glahn

Benchmark Staff
Mark Fenstermacher
Jessica Kardish

Andrew & Jayson Blum
Leslie Rogers Blum

Stephanie J. Bogutz '08
MaryLew & Bob Orsatti

Liza Kurtz Bragin '93
Barbara & Al Kurtz

Mac Cahill
Anne & Patrick Cahill

Edward Chan
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Child & Family Support Services Department
Adam Lemisch

Rachel Dellheim '93
Jane & Ernest Dellheim

Maren Donahue '16
Jessica Kardish

Scott Draper '04
J. William Draper

Lucas Elek '09
Sara Barton & Hentzi Elek

Rachel Furtaw '18
Rose G. O'Connor

The Gaskins Family
Craig W. Stevens, Ph.D.

Irene Gaskins
Jennifer & Robb Gaskins
Ashley V. Fine Nagle

Irene Gaskins & Robb Gaskins
Edward Chan
Kathryn & Frank Zirkilton

Jennifer Gaskins
Karen Berry

Jennifer & Robb Gaskins
Irene W. Gaskins

Robb Gaskins
Bonnie Barnes
Stephanie & Kirk Brandow
Joshua Petersohn & Nuriye Uygur

Robb Gaskins & Family
Regina & Charles Smith

Eleanor Gensemer
Sara & Ed Connolly
Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo

Carly Hottenstein '16
Betty & Charlie Hottenstein

Chelsea lobst '01 M.Ed.
Karen & Joseph lobst

Henry Jones

Scott Jones

Jeremy I. Lorenz '87

Marian & Dirk Lorenz

Pippa McKenzie

Lesty & Rick III

Andrew Nagle's many teachers in the late 80s and early 90s

Ashley V. Fine Nagle

Micah Nissen

Ilene & Steven Berger

Pam Rappolt

Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Laz Scheibe

Cory & Rick Scheibe

Marianne Smith

Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Sam Sylvester

Irene & James Sylvester

Kim & Mark Sylvester

David Thorpe

Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Trish Tribit

Jennifer & Robb Gaskins

Ralph Wales

Dr. Leroy D. Nunery II

Kari & Justin Richards

Ralph & Martha Wales

Anonymous

Robin Watson

Gray & Phil Handwerk

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDITS (EITC & OSTC)

The Benchmark community greatly appreciates the support of the companies listed below who gave more than \$284,000 to Benchmark's Scholarship Fund through Pennsylvania's EITC & OSTC programs. These programs allow businesses to receive up to a 90% tax credit in exchange for their gifts to Benchmark. Over the past 20 years, almost \$3.5 million in tuition assistance has been awarded to Benchmark families through these programs. For additional information, please contact Director of Development & Parent Engagement Louisa Hanshew at 610-565-3741, ext. 150 or louisahanshew@benchmarkschool.org.

AIM Scholarship 1 LLC

Made possible by Sasha Ballen & Dee Spagunolo

Bryn Mawr Trust Company

Business Leadership for Catholic Schools

Made possible by Amy & Michael Kopelman, Sheri & Ken Resnik, Stephany & John Ziegler, & Pennsylvania EITC/OSTC Scholarship #2 LLC

Demme Learning

The Glenmede Corporation

HSC Builders & Construction Managers

Made possible Kendra & Jim Viner

Huff Paper Company

Made possible by Margot & Phil Sullivan

Jewish Scholarship LLC

PA Partners for Education LLC

Made possible by Geoffrey Armstrong

Ryan Advisory Services

Made possible by Charles Ryan

Silverback Educational Foundation for the Arts, Dance, & Athletics

Made possible by the Steven C. Graham Family

Tax UCTC of Los Angeles County, Inc.

UHS of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Veterans Financial Inc.

Made possible by Emily Schwarz Newmark & Brian Newmark

2019-2020 BENCHMARK PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President

Suzanne Heckendorn

Vice President

Kristin Yerger

Treasurer

Maggie Brodnik

Secretary

Amy Kopelman

Art Goes to School

Jennifer Kerbeck & Robin Watson

Book Fair

Amy Kopelman & Robin Watson

Box Tops

Sara Kinsella

Breakfast Buddies

Janell Besa

Teacher Love Luncheon

Liz Blum & Angela Bradbury

Middle School Dances

Shannon Fitzgerald

Spirit Wear

Jennifer Kerbeck

Sporting Events

Amy Detweiler & Latoya Watson

Spring Social Chairs

Amy Detweiler, Joanna Solomon, Kim Sylvester

Spring Social Volunteers

Larry & Janell Besa, Alex Georgiou, Ed & Missy Hanway, Matt Heckendorn, Marcia & Neal Niznan,

Phil Solomon, Robin & Andy Watson, Stephen Yerger

Year-End Gathering for 8th Graders

Christina Graham

2020 BPA Spring Social Chairs

Amy Detweiler, Joanna Solomon, Kim Sylvester

Event Sponsors

Briggs Family

Brodnik Family

Hanway Family

Horn Family

Heckendorn Family

Karolyi/Semerjian Family

Kopelman Family

Peter Family

Ryan Family

Salerno Family

Schnyder Family

Slye Family

Scheibe Family

Yerger Family

Faculty Sponsors

Allen Family

Bonvicini Family

Bruder Family

Cannon Family

Coleman Family

Connolly Family

DeAngelis/Lampe Family

Esposito/Verdi Family

Jones Family

Karolyi/Semerjian Family

Kinsella Family

Levensten Family

Marino Family

Moskowitz Family

Nissen Family

Parker Family

Ponder/Bisbing Family

Ramirez/Fogg Family

Orapallo Family

Piquion Family

Schreiber Family

Solomon Family

Suttell Family

Tomlinson Family

Watson Family

Benchmark is grateful to the many BPA Spring Social donors and volunteers who made the 2020 Spring Social a success. Thank you!

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If there are additions, corrections, or omissions, please accept our apologies and contact Director of Development & Parent Engagement Louisa Hanshew at 610-565-3741, ext. 150 or louisahanshew@benchmarkschool.org.

Years listed following the names of our Benchmark alumni indicate the last year they attended Benchmark or graduated.

BenchmarkSCHOOL
2107 North Providence Road
Media, PA 19063-1898

610-565-3741
benchmarkschool.org
mainoffice@benchmarkschool.org

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILMINGTON, DE
PERMIT #751

Your gift to the 2020-2021 Benchmark Fund helps us make a critical impact on teaching our students every day in remarkable ways.



This is an unprecedented time of change! Your gift to the 2020-2021 Benchmark Fund allows Benchmark to continue to maintain flexibility and innovation at a standard that we have maintained for over 50 years.

Our instruction is individualized no matter what health restrictions are in place. This year, our school safely welcomed students and faculty back to campus while simultaneously providing online instruction for at-home learners. We were able to do this by investing in facility upgrades, staffing support, safety equipment, and tuition assistance. Consequently, our community's support of this year's Benchmark Fund is critical.

Gifts can be made by using the envelope within this magazine or online at benchmarkshool.org/giving. Thank you!

BenchmarkFUND