



HORIZONS[®]
Greens Farms Academy



2018
ANNUAL
REPORT

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*GFA Trustee Liaison

We would like to thank former board members Joan Doré Panariello and Jumi Saingbe for their dedicated board service. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to former GFA Head of School Janet Hartwell for her 15 years of leadership to Horizons GFA.

HORIZONS AT GFA STAFF

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& College Programs*

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& Family Engagement*

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Luz Sanchez
Program Assistant





OUR HISTORY

Opening its doors to 26 kindergarten and 1st grade students in the summer of 2000, Horizons GFA is now a year-round, comprehensive academic and enrichment program serving over 250 Bridgeport students from PreK through College.

OUR MISSION

Horizons GFA helps students attending under-resourced Bridgeport schools develop strong academic, social and emotional skills, habits of mind, and the resilience to succeed in school and pursue a meaningful, choice-filled life.

OUR VISION

Horizons GFA offers students a positive, motivating and enriching community in which they learn as they grow and grow as they learn. Their predicted path based on community and district profiles is successfully diverted into a journey of success, engagement and achievement throughout their elementary, high school and college years.



HORIZONS[®]
Greens Farms Academy

INSPIRING MINDS | BUILDING COMMUNITY | TRANSFORMING LIVES

PreK-8 PROGRAM

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

The goal of the PreK-8 Program is to prepare our students for academic success by stopping summer learning loss and filling knowledge gaps in a rigorous environment of high expectations. In partnership with GFA, PreK-8 students attend a six-week, full-day summer program led by experienced, dedicated educators. Students engage in an individualized curriculum designed to build reading, math and social-emotional skills.

This year, our programming again resulted in a positive academic gain for our PreK-8 students. 2015-2018 assessment averages are shown below.

Three Year STAR Assessment Results, Horizons GFA

STAR Reading Results	3-Year Average Growth
Program-wide Average Growth	+ 3.1 months
Below Grade Level Student Growth	+ 3.7 months

STAR Math Results	3-Year Average Growth
Program-wide Average Growth	+ 4.5 months
Below Grade Level Student Growth	+ 5.7 months

Summer Enrichment activities, including science, STEM, art, music, swimming, sports, and educational field trips expose students to new experiences and opportunities.

Saturday Academy maintains our community connection during the school year, with five sessions in the fall and six in the spring.

95% Retention Rate in 2018 Student retention is a crucial factor in the success of summer programs. Research has shown that the impact of enrichment programs like Horizons is directly related to the length of student enrollment.

\$29,508.00 Average Family Income of 2018 Admitted Students

We are committed to serving students and families with the greatest need combined with greatest motivation. We interview all applicant families to assure that our program is a fit with their values.





SPOTLIGHT ON ***SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING***

Our SEL Backbone is a grade-by-grade succession of developmentally relevant core SEL skills designed in collaboration with the Harvard Graduate School of Education. This curriculum develops social-emotional skills that build character and give students tools to overcome challenges and persevere in the face of setbacks.

===== **BUILDING BLOCKS OF SEL BY GRADE** =====





OUTCOMES

98%

2015 - 2018 High School Graduation Rate

98%

2015 - 2018 College Acceptance Rate



2

students were selected to receive Odyssey Scholarships in 2018, a prestigious program that provides enhanced academic, social and career support to students who are the first in their lower-income families to attend college.



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM TARGETED SUPPORT

After completing the PreK-8 Program, Horizons students move into our High School Program, an environment focused on academic achievement and personal growth with the goal of high school graduation and college matriculation. These are critical years for our students; in particular, it is imperative to build upon the gains they made in their PreK-8 years. The program operates during the school year out of our Bridgeport office, where students meet weekly one-on-one with their academic coach. Additionally, they receive support in academic subject areas, study skills, time management, and course planning. Juniors and seniors receive additional resources for college admission, including test prep, college counseling, college visits, and financial aid planning. The close relationship that develops between coach and student helps students build self-confidence, self-esteem and self-advocacy skills as they prepare for their next step.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Research shows that children of parents who are engaged in their education achieve at significantly higher levels. Horizons GFA is a PreK through college program with the underlying goal that all our students complete their post-secondary education. We understand the need to engage families in a meaningful way over the long term to maximize our program's impact and to help parents support their children.

A series of focus groups was held to identify the wants and needs of our parents and to

determine how to best collaborate and build a strong partnership between our program and our families

Six key research-based strategies have been identified and are being implemented to enhance family engagement:

1. Strengthen the sense of community among HGFA students and families
2. Enhance families' ability to foster their children's education, social and emotional development

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS



COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM **STANDING BY OUR STUDENTS**

With 97% of our graduating high school seniors over the last three years enrolling in college, our College Success Program continues to work with them to ensure that they have what they need to stay on track and complete their degree. Resources include monthly check-ins, transition workshops, book scholarships, and access to emergency fund assistance. Beginning junior year, programming focuses on career selection, employment search, resume building, interviewing skills, and networking.

3. Keep families informed about children's academic and social progress, as well as program activities and events
4. Create more dynamic channels for communication
5. Welcome students and families to new sessions
6. Make family engagement a priority



COLLEGE



97%

2015 - 2018 College
Matriculation Rate

93%

2015 - 2018 College
Persistence Rate

94%

of all Horizons college
students participate in the
College Success Program

GRAD UPDATE:

JAZMIN REYES in her own words

Horizons first made its way into my life in 2001. Now, 17 years later, Horizons isn't just the program that helped increase my reading level, coach me through algebra, or help me see the world beyond Bridgeport... Horizons is family. My memories of summers with Horizons are some of my fondest, but what I hold closest to my heart is how Horizons has stood by my side all these years. They were by my side when I was a bright eyed 5-year-old, a shy, self-conscious 11-year-old and now a confident, ambitious 23-year-old. Horizons guided me through all of my academic transitions, and even some personal ones too.

Without Horizons, I can truthfully say I would be just another point on a graph illustrating the negative effects of struggling school systems on students. Horizons helped me see the inequalities I faced as a low-income student in an inner-city school and lit the fire that has carried me all the way through high school, my college years at Emory, to Teach For America as an elementary school teacher in rural Louisiana. Horizons GFA molds children into better learners, teaches them how to be leaders, and offers the opportunity for life-long relationships. That is why I am proud to have had Horizons by my side growing up, now, and always.



OPERATIONAL REVENUE & EXPENSES

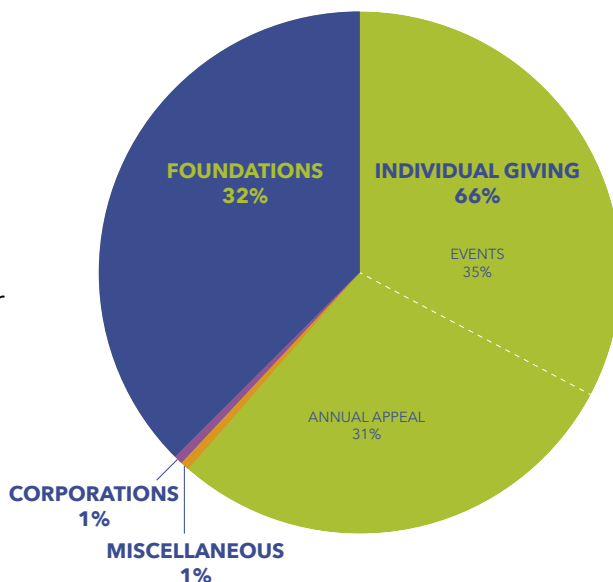
The operations of Horizons GFA is entirely self-funded, with 100% of revenue coming from charitable giving by individuals, foundations, family trusts, community organizations and corporations. In addition, we receive and benefit from the invaluable expertise and in-kind administrative services provided by GFA.

Horizons GFA neither receives nor solicits public funding. Horizons GFA is tuition free, with the yearly per student cost met by the generosity of our donors.

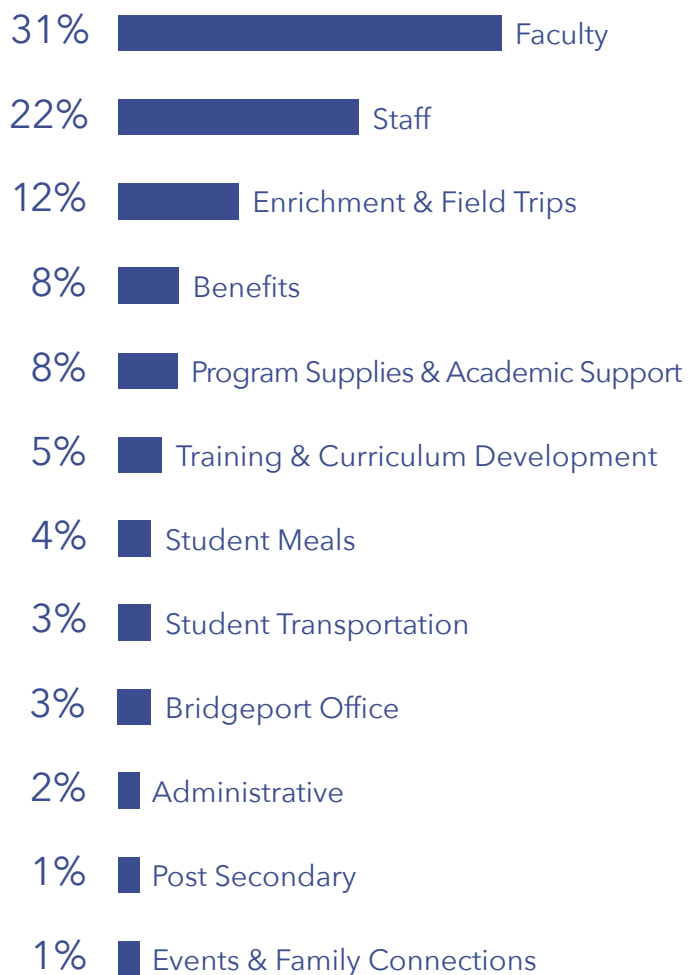
Horizons GFA conducts an annual appeal and holds two community fundraising events each year. In addition, we solicit funding from foundations and corporations.



REVENUE



EXPENSES



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The following individuals and organizations generously

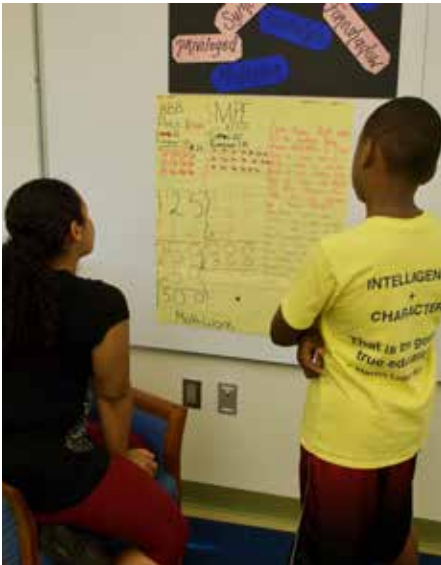
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