



WINTER 2022 | VOL. 1

Fox & Tree

A Newsletter for Friends of Wissahickon Charter School

2021-2022 Annual Report

A Note from Dean Kristi

WCS Chief Executive Officer

This Spring, we ended another school year and wished our graduating eighth graders well as they continue on to exciting new ventures. One of our biggest measures of success here at Wissahickon is our ability to provide students with quality options for high school, allowing them to choose a best-fit school. I am proud to report that 99% of our graduates will be attending a high school of choice this fall! You can see further details on their selections below. We know that these next four years will be just the start of many accomplishments to come.



When I spoke at graduation, I shared some words from my favorite poet, Mary Oliver. She wrote that “to pay attention, this is our endless and proper work.” I believe that. Paying attention—noticing— makes life much much better. When I take time to notice my world, other people, and myself- I find I am more curious, more delighted, and more forgiving. I am also better able to share my gratitude for others.

In this year's Annual Report you will see all that WCS accomplished in this unique school year. You will also see a lengthy list of names: individuals who supported our work, gave us the tools to succeed, and made our community feel noticed and appreciated. We notice and appreciate every one of you, and I hope that this report will allow you to see how much of a difference you made to our community.

Thank you.

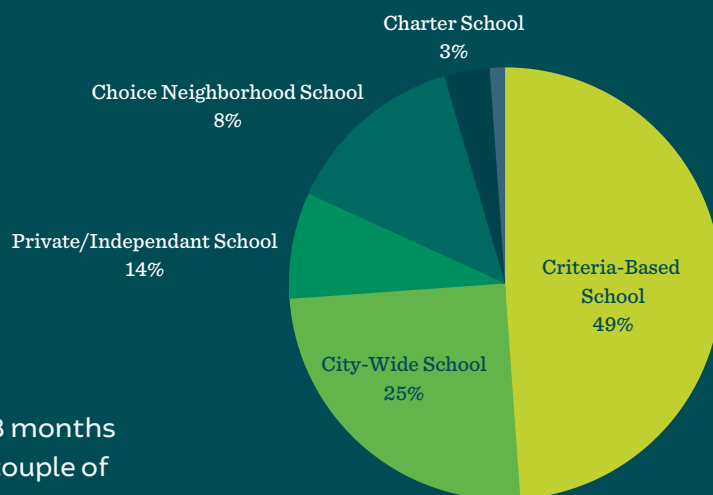
Dean Kristi

Onward and Upward

Congrats to the Class of '22 on their high-school selections! An impressive 99% of 8th graders were accepted to a high-school of choice!

WCS teachers and guidance counselors work with our middle schoolers for several years to prepare them for and guide them through the often arduous high school admissions process seen today (its not like when we were kids!).

During any year, this would be an impressive feat, but after 18 months of remote learning and numerous other challenges the past couple of years, it is truly incredible. Way to go, '22!



*A few graduating students moved out of the city upon graduation and are not included in the totals.



Wissahickon CHARTER SCHOOL

Kristi Littell, CEO

littell@wissahickoncharter.org

21-22 Board of Trustees

Justin DiBerardinis, Chair

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Charles Case, Treasurer

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www.wissahickoncharter.org

Fernhill Campus

4700 G Wissahickon Ave

Philadelphia, PA 19144

Awbury Campus

815 E Washington Lane

Philadelphia, PA 19138

"We Take Care of the
Earth That Takes
Care of Us"



Mission

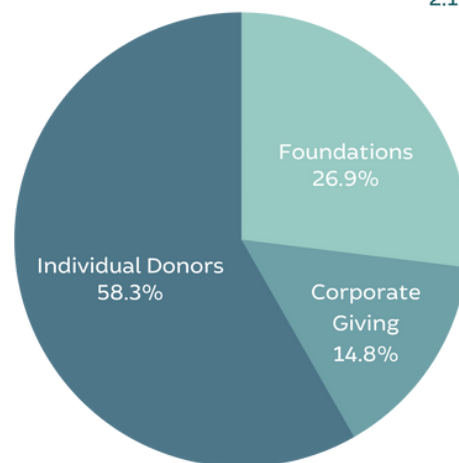
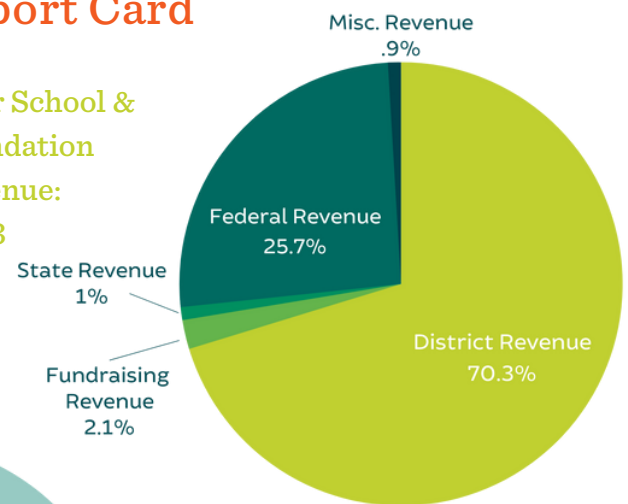
Wissahickon Charter School was planned around three essential elements:

1. An integrated environmental focus, recognizing the importance of service learning
2. Peace, conflict resolution, and community building as part of a prioritized social curriculum
3. An emphasis on family involvement at all levels of the school organization, with special emphasis on parents as partners in the learning experiences of their children

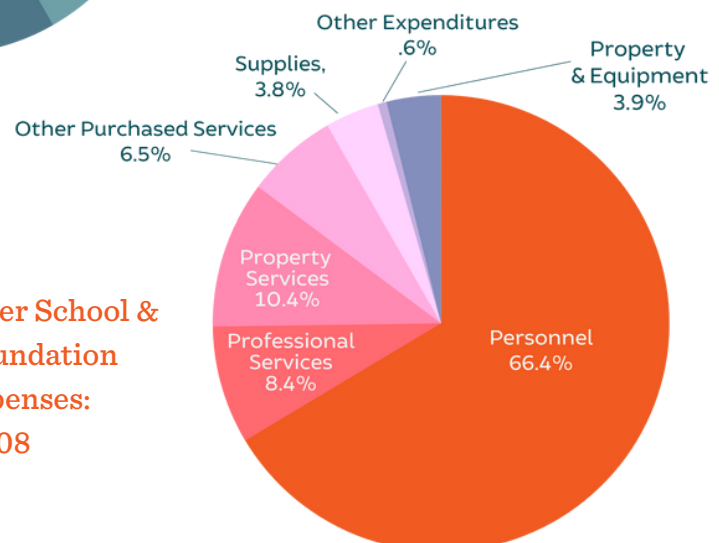
Our founders wrote that Wissahickon will provide a community of learning with an environmental focus that stimulates the child's intellectual, social, and character development.

2021-2022 Report Card

Wissahickon Charter School &
Wissahickon Foundation
Combined Revenue:
\$21,306,583



Wissahickon Charter School &
Wissahickon Foundation
Combined Fundraising Revenue:
\$473,124



Wissahickon Charter School &
Wissahickon Foundation
Combined Expenses:
\$19,490,808

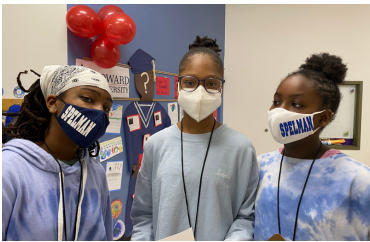
Integrated Environmental Focus

In '21-'22, we saw the return of our Outdoor Program, during which each middle school grade goes on an environmental excursion, an expanded Forest School at the Awbury Campus, and our first ever "Get Outside Week."



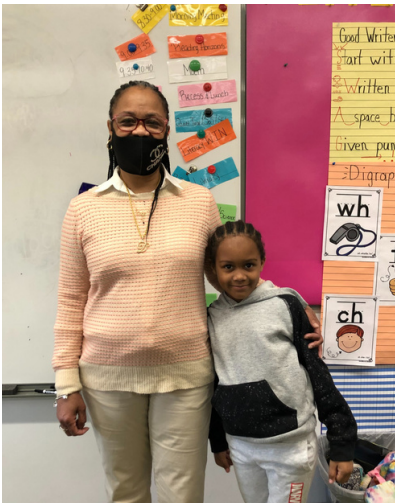
Peace, Conflict Resolution, and Community Building

This year, we celebrated students' identities with monthly "Our Culture is Beautiful" themes and Black History Month celebrations, had active Queer Straight Alliances at each campus, welcomed alumni to mentor our students, and continued to create an environment where kids are heard, valued, and protected.



Families as Partners

We continued to keep families as partners in their children's education this year, even with the obstacles of social distancing. We held Zoom conferences and assemblies, checked-in with families with surveys and updates, and, when Covid guidance allowed it, we welcomed families into our building for our Extraordinary Women Seminar, in which students' mothers and grandmothers spoke to the class.



Development Team **UPDATE**

Exciting transitions are happening in WCS's Development Department! Jane Walsh, former Development Associate, has moved into the Director of Development role! Jane is grateful to continue at WCS and play a larger role in advancing our school's mission and impact.

Joining - or actually RETURNING to - our team is Kristy Hruska! Kristy served as a WCS fourth grade teacher from 2005-2007. Warm memories of Wissahickon never left Kristy, and she is thrilled to be back in a new role.

If you want to become more involved at WCS or just want to say hi, contact Jane at j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org





Annual Contributions

Wissahickon Charter School and Wissahickon Foundation gratefully acknowledge the generous financial contributions made by our community of friends during the 2021-2022 school year. Your support makes our work possible, providing nearly 1000 Philadelphia school students in grades K-8 with a quality holistic education centered in environmental education. Your gift is felt by each and every one of us here at Wissahickon. We thank you!

\$100,000 or above

Hallee and David Adelman ★

\$30,000 - \$99,999

Jim and Mary Brown
Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
van Ameringen Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

Anonymous ∞
Brad and Mia Aronson
Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation
Peggy Chung Thrash Memorial Program
Michele Kreisler Rubenstein and David Rubenstein
United Scrap

\$5,000 - \$9,999

BMC Benefits Service
Jeff and Melissa Benjamin ★
Charter Choices
Clarence A. Rowell Trust through the PNC Charitable
Trust Grant Review Committee
John E.F and Carol Corson ★
Ken and Sharon Kind
Leo Niessen Jr. Charitable Trust
McKenna Snyder LLC
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bob and Peggy Anderson ∞
Jane and Dr. Abass Alavi
Bill Connor ★
Einstein Healthcare Network
Kleinbard LLC
Lintons Managed Services
RSM US LLP
The Schnur Family Philanthropic Fund
Nicole Walters
Jodi Wheeler
WSFS Community Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Fran and Carol Bradley ∞
Lois and Julian Brodsky
Charles and Theresa Case ★
Christina Christou and Richard Creamer 🍌
Dorothy Detwiler
Peter and Mimi Fleming
The Franklin Square Foundation
Gail Sullivan and Darryl J. Ford ★
Judy Giuliano
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Jounce Partners, Inc.
Kalmon Dolgin Affiliates INC
Ellen and Jim Lutz ∞
MACCS Health Services, LLC
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Laura Kind McKenna and Dr. Marc McKenna
Metcalf Architecture & Design
Sylvester Mobley ★
Mt. Airy Pediatrics
The Ounsworth-Fitzgerald Foundation
Philly Office Retail
Lara Price
Liz Serkin
Don Perelman and Elise Singer
Leda Sportolari ❤️
TJ's Cleaning
Lee and Chris Van de Velde
David and Deborah Valentine ∞

Who Gives?

- ★ WCS or Foundation Board Member
- ❤️ WCS Staff Member
- 🍌 WCS Parent or Grandparent
- ∞ Former Staff, Board Member, or Family



\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Kate Altman ♥
Robert and Christine Ayerle
Kirk Smothers and Sarah Clarke
Susan and Alexander David
Tiffany Days-Harris ♥ 🌿
Linda To and Justin DiBerardinis ★ 🌿
Joan Reilly and Michael DiBerardinis 🌿
Angie Ganser
Elizabeth Gemmill
Alan "Sixth Man" Horwitz
Jake Kind
Sharon Kim and Rachel Loeper ★
Samantha Mathews ★
Pay USA, Inc.
Eric Gibson and Jean Pearce
SEI
Steve Schnur
Jennifer Stark, AIA, CSBA & Michael Schnoering, FAIA
Susquehanna International Group, LLP
Kathy Tench ∞
Tipping School Pictures
Wilco Electronic Systems, Inc.
Steven and Theresa Wolfgang
Bruce Woodger
John Wylie ★

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Susan Amsterdam
Greta Anderson
John and Jennifer Anderson
Charla and Nape Baker
Mary Carlton ♥
Lucy Colman
Anika Vaughn-Cooke and Isaac Ewell ∞
Steve and Rose Krasnow
Deborah Levin ★
Greg Giuliano and Kristi Littell ♥ ∞
Heidi Niblack
Dan and Peg O'Shea
Peter Yeomans and Kate O'Shea ♥ ∞
Lucas Hrabovsky and Jess Pastore ♥
Jim Sause
Jonathan Smith
Anne Cook and Russ Troyer
Brad and Sharon Wong
Barbara and Jim Young

\$100 to \$249

Anonymous
Nan Altman
Ruby Benarroch
Rebecca Benarroch ♥
Patrick Cobbs and Jodi Bornstein
Glenda Brakman
Julie Stapleton-Carroll and Keith S. Carroll ∞
Jimmy and Kellie Coleman ♥ ∞
Betsy and Dan Crofts
John Emery and Guissou Dabiri
Ian Everbach ♥
Mari-Carmen Farmer ∞
Peter and Mary Fox 🌿
Michele Ferrante ♥
Timothy and Mary Gavin ♥ ∞
General Chemical and Supply, Inc.
Aura Gersenson ∞
Charlotte Boulay and Brian Girard
Peter Giuliano
Niema Golphin ♥
Adam and Jennifer Goren ♥
Melissa Greenwald ♥
Carl and Signe Hanson
Liza Hawley ∞
Russ and Karen Hengst
Kristy Hruska ∞
Jesse Keenan ∞
Marie and Fred Lachat
Sara Lapham
Cynthia Romain Miller
Sam and Mary Mirabito
Susan Moran
Kathy Murray
Adrienne Oliphant ♥
Sadzi Oliva
Patricia and James Pelkey
Everard K. Pinneo
Carol Pringle ♥ ∞
Lucas and Shay Reitz ♥
Irma Rodriguez and Jose Norat Rodriguez ∞
Sheri Rogers ♥
Sheila Santiago
Jennifer Scramlin ∞
Andrew Sharp
Gregory and Stephanie Sherman
Julie Steiner
Lawrence Stevenson ∞
Suzanne Szekeres ∞



\$100 to \$249 (cont.)

Rainey Tisdale
David V. and Patricia A. Varholý
Jane and John Walsh ♥
Ebony Staton Weidman ★
Ignatius and Julia Weekes ∞
Martha White
Loretta and Tom Witt

Up to \$99

Idris and Rekyiah Abdul-Zahir ★ 🌿
Zach Altman
Salimé Assaf 🌿
Rosemary Barbera ∞
Lauren Bennett ♥
Liz Biagioli ♥
Richard and Cheryl Binswanger ∞
Benjamin and Elizabeth Blei ∞
Ishmell Bradley ♥ 🌿
Carrie Brownell ♥
Beth Burnam
Taylor-Lynn Capaldo ∞
Lovelee Chapman-Polite ♥
Rebecca Clemis ∞
Gwen Connor
Fayette Coppock
Mira David ♥
Rachel Davis ∞
Alex Deffaa
Bethann DiGiovanni ♥
Latoya Edwards ♥
Naomi Elizabeth
Matthew and Hope Feldman ∞
Crystal Francois
Melissa Gartenberg Livney
Crystal Guions 🌿
Aaron Goldblatt
Gregory Hagenbuch ♥
John Haurin ♥
Erica Hauswald ♥
Denise Hayes 🌿
Lauren and Brian Heenan ∞
Ashley Hunter 🌿
Elissa Goldberg and Anndee Hochman ∞
Alex and Jenny Hoedeman-Eiteljorg ∞
Rodney Howard ∞

Up to \$99 (cont.)

Shawana Kirby 🌿
Anthony Lauzon ∞
Justine Linneman ♥
Leslie S. Leff ∞
Gary and Harriet Mace
Jessica Mahoney ♥
Haley McCormack ♥
Peter and Judy McCoubrey ∞
Anne McNichol ♥
Lianna Meskun ♥
Lauren Miller ∞
Sarah Mohtes-Chan ♥
Jerry Murphy
Randy and Juanita Nyce ∞
Laura O'Brien ♥
Susan Ochs
Colin McCaddin and Margaret O'Neill
Kenyetta Overton
Sarika Patel ∞
Michael and Anne Pyzocha
Alyssa Pinder ♥
Elhanna Porter
Lindsay Raden
James and Dorene Reggiani ♥ 🌿
Jason Rhett ♥
Shonda Robinson ♥
Eugene Thomas ∞
Hayley Tucker ∞
Andrea Uniacke
Ashley Via
Anne Pennington Wang and Mike Wang ∞
Nancy Wetzel ∞
Jacob and Aubrey White ∞
Jason Dixon and Jennifer Wong ♥ ∞
Barbara Wybar ∞

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Hallee Adelman
Bill Connor
John E.F. Corson
Darryl Ford



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US THIS YEAR!

To see past editions of Fox & Tree, please visit
www.wissahickoncharter.org/updates



Wissahickon
CHARTER SCHOOL