

CATHERINE
COOK
SCHOOL

VOICES

Annual
Report

**FALL
2015**



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Dear Friends,

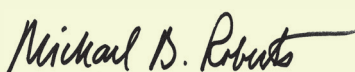
Now in my eleventh year of service to the school, I am witnessing the future of Catherine Cook and the future of education coming together at an exciting intersection. Providing current century tools for learning, having inspired and dedicated teachers, and teaching to individual student strengths is producing confident and successful future leaders.

Looking ahead, we are proud to begin another year with record enrollment. As we continue to grow, one of our primary institutional commitments is to ensure that the academic program we offer our students is of the highest quality. Both in and out of the classroom, we strive to be intentional about discussions concerning other literacies such as Cultural Competence and Global Citizenship. These commitments are part of a larger conversation about diversity initiatives and goals we've set for ourselves through the Strategic Planning process.

As a path to achieve these commitments, we go to great lengths to hire the best qualified faculty and staff; maintaining a rich array of employee benefits, professional development opportunities, and adopting best learning practices. We are quickly becoming a school in our region that other schools recognize as setting new standards of teaching and learning. We have hosted many visits from schools around the country, and our annual IDEA:TE conference in June 2015 was met with enthusiastic support from participants representing five states.

Armed with talented teachers and administrators, supportive parents, and a hardworking Board of Trustees, I am eager to embrace the future, appreciate the successes, and work diligently on any challenges that lie ahead. What more important work is there than building a firm foundation for the future of our children? I sincerely hope this Annual Report will showcase a vibrant learning community, willing to do the important work to give our students the tools and skills they need to graduate as compassionate and forward-looking young adults.

Warmly,



Dr. Michael B. Roberts

Head of School



A photograph of a young boy with short brown hair, smiling and pointing his right index finger towards the right. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a white graphic design featuring stars and stripes.

CATHERINE COOK SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Catherine Cook empowers students from preschool through eighth grade to be adaptive, confident and productive stewards of an evolving world.

Our community engages with ideals of cultural competence, progressive academics, ethical literacy, and innovation designed to inspire personal excellence and compassionate leadership.

Mission and Diversity Statements



DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Catherine Cook School is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and compassionate community grounded in a culture of integrity.



HISTORY FAIR

“It is a testament to our Middle School teachers that 8th Graders go to these lengths to find accurate and meaningful sources for a project.”

- Dr. Jean Robbins,
Head of Early Childhood Education



Each year, students in 6th-8th Grades participate in the National History Day program. Working with our Librarians and their Humanities teachers, students select topics of historical interest, conduct extensive thesis-driven research, and formally present their findings at the Catherine Cook History Fair. National History Day is a non-profit educational organization that engages over half a million Middle and High School students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the national contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. Students may choose to write a well-developed research paper, develop a museum-quality exhibit board, create a documentary, or design a website.

National History Day frames students' research within a historical theme. Last year's theme was *Leadership and Legacy*. At the 2015 Catherine Cook History Fair, students showcased their projects and were evaluated by volunteer

faculty and parent/guardian judges. The judges' thoughtful feedback about student work helped to determine which projects were sent on to the Chicago Metro History Fair in April.

According to Ms. Jessica Majors, a 2014-2015 7th Grade Humanities teacher, in the past several years there have been:

- more websites than ever before;
- an increased production value in documentary quality; and
- more professionally-presented exhibit boards.

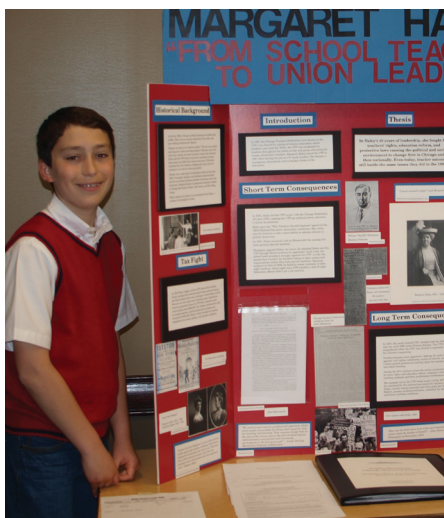
Other important achievements last year included our third-ever student to go on to Nationals: Charlie Leversha with *The Black Panther Party; Leaders of Freedom*. Our previous national-level competitors were Reem Khondakar, Class of 2008, and Eric Steiner, Class of 2012. All three projects were documentaries.

Several other projects went on to the state level competition, including 7th Grader Eriko Darcy's website *The Railroad to*

Academics

Success, 7th Grader Ben Brown's exhibit board *The Clock Is Ticking: The Influence and Legacy of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and 8th Grader Colin O'Rourke's research paper *Daniel Hale Williams: Medical Trailblazer*. Colin first learned about Dr. Williams from Head of Early Childhood Education, Dr. Jean Robbins, who is a relative of the late physician. "It is a testament to our Middle School teachers that 8th Graders go to these lengths to find accurate and meaningful sources for a project," said Dr. Robbins. "I shared Colin's beautifully written and thoughtful paper with family members across the country."

Catherine Cook has been participating in the National History Day program for 10 years. Each year has seen marked improvement and higher standards of assessment from our community and from judges on the state and national levels. We have seen a higher percentage of students who go on to the Chicago Metro Fair compete in the state level, and in recent years documentaries and websites have been made available on our school's Vimeo site as learning resources for all faculty members. See the chart below for a visual representation of how the projects have evolved over the past five years. The theme for 2016 will be *Exploration, Encounter & Exchange in History*. We are eagerly anticipating this year's projects as students build on the tradition of excellence and innovation.



History Fair projects over the past 5 years

Year/Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Documentaries	15	13	10	10	15
Exhibit Boards	39	52	45	46	44
Websites	1	1	8	20	18
Papers	2	1	2	1	2
Performances	5	1	0	0	2



ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

Catherine Cook began the 2014-2015 school year with an enrollment of 540 students, the largest enrollment in the school's history. We have also seen the highest retention in re-enrollment since the school's inception. We are proud to share that we are above the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) average for student retention, as we retained 93% of our students from the previous year.

Recognizing the changing needs of our families, the Early Childhood Division made a program shift beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Historically, the school had offered only half-day classes for the Preschool and Junior Kindergarten classes. This was the first year to offer half-day AM or full-day Preschool and Junior Kindergarten options. This shift was well received by our community: 60% of the families in these grades opted for the full-day option in the first year of this offering.

Our Lower and Middle School grades have seen the largest growth in the last five years, increasing 27% and 25% respectively.

We continue to attract families from many areas of Chicagoland, with a student body representing 35 different zip codes.

CATHERINE COOK ENROLLMENT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

LOWER SCHOOL:

Opening 2010 – 193 students
Opening 2014 – 245 students
Growth of 27%

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Opening 2010 – 111 students
Opening 2014 – 139 students
Growth of 25%

Admission and Enrollment



Enrollment - Five Year History

GRADUATION 2015

On June 5, 2015, Catherine Cook proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2015. Faculty, staff, families, and friends gathered to recognize the academic achievements of our 8th Grade class. The day began with a Pinning Ceremony in the Middle School Commons, where Alumni welcomed the graduates to the Catherine Cook Alumni Association. The Graduation Ceremony included remarks from Linda K. Myers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Michael B. Roberts, Ed.D., Head of School. Charlie Leversha was the class speaker and John J. Chandler, Vice President for Development at St. Ignatius College Prep delivered the address. Mr. Chandler reminded our graduates that the next step in their education is to open their hearts and minds to new experiences. He encouraged them to remain lifelong learners, creative risk takers, and take with them the community of support and sharing they grew up with at Catherine Cook. In addition to honoring the graduates, Cory Stutts, Head of Middle School, conducted the Bridging Ceremony, an annual tradition welcoming the 4th Grade students to Middle School. We congratulate members of the Class of 2015 for all they have accomplished during their years at Catherine Cook and wish them the best as they matriculate to the following outstanding high schools.



ARNAV BHATTACHARJEE

DePaul College Prep

ALEXANDER CATO

Albert Lane Technical High School
Alpha STEM Program

LAYLAH DINKINS

George Westinghouse College
Prep High School

ISABELLA HARDEJ

West Lake High School (Austin, TX)

MATTHEW LEMAICH

St. Ignatius College Prep

CHARLES LEVERSHA

St. Ignatius College Prep

HANNAH LEVIN

William H. Jones College Prep

NATHAN LEVIN

Walter Payton College Prep

LILY MCCLOSKEY

Albert Lane Technical
High School Honors Program

LOGAN MCCOLLUM

Nicholas Senn High School Fine and
Performing Arts Program

ADELINE MCKENNA

St. Ignatius College Prep

JULIA MILLER

Lincoln Park High School International
Baccalaureate Diploma Program

EMILY NEIS

Lincoln Park High School International
Baccalaureate Diploma Program

MAXIMUS NELSON

Albert Lane Technical High School
Alpha STEM Program

COLIN O'ROURKE

Walter Payton College Prep

PUMA PALACIOS

New Trier High School

ISABEL PENCYLA

William H. Jones College Prep

LOGAN PRICE

Albert Lane Technical High School
Alpha STEM Program

ALESSANDRO SACCHETTI

Latin School of Chicago

LAUREN SANDS

Walter Payton College Prep

TARA SHINDE

Walter Payton College Prep

OLIVIJA STEPHENS

William H. Jones College Prep

GABRIELLA TURRINELLI

Walter Payton College Prep

SAMANTHA WOJCIK

William H. Jones College Prep

GENESIS YAMAT

William H. Jones College Prep

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS



SAMANTHA WOJCIK

Annemarie Beall Award

Presented to an 8th Grade student who demonstrates intellectual curiosity and a respect for excellence; respect, caring, fairness; trustworthiness, responsibility, citizenship; gentle humor and wit; and a desire to make the world a better place.



LAUREN SANDS

Catherine Cook Award

Presented to a graduating student who has epitomized the determination, ambition, and personal success of Catherine Cook Anagnost for whom the school was named.



CHARLIE LEVERSHA

Head of School Award

Presented to a Middle School student in each class who has made significant gains in both academic and personal success and has made a positive contribution to the school.



OLIVIJA STEPHENS

Spirit Award

Presented to a Middle School student who has contributed to the overall spirit of the school and has displayed enthusiasm for turning his or her potential into reality.

At the 2015 Middle School Awards Ceremony, we recognized those students who performed exceptionally well in school, as well as those who showed an appreciation for the differences, strengths, viewpoints, and interests that make up our Catherine Cook community. We are incredibly proud of our 2015 Middle School students; they have once again proven that Catherine Cook is what school should be.

SENIOR KINDERGARTEN COUNTRY STUDY

Every spring, the Senior Kindergarten classes explore an international country in an interdisciplinary unit which combines reading, writing, mathematics, social sciences, music, art, and technology. Last year, classes chose Argentina, Ireland, and India for the Country Study Unit. During this learning unit, students investigated topics related to their chosen country including landscape, wildlife, and its people.

Students were introduced to the concept of culture and how people express it in different ways, such as clothing, cuisine, and celebrations. By investigating how people express culture in a country different from their own, students became capable of considering the sometimes invisible concepts of their own culture. They were then able to understand that some of their own cultural backgrounds are similar to people in other areas of the world, while some are different, resulting in a greater appreciation of culture in general.

Resources for this unit included fiction and non-fiction children's literature in print and online, guest speakers, use of the Smartboard, iPads and iPad apps (such as Bookcreator and Doodlecast), the IDEA Lab (Ms. Ripley's class changed their play loft into an Irish castle using the laser cutter), AV Studio (students created a mock weather studio to report the weather) and Skype. In Ms. Ripley's class last year, students video conferenced via Skype with Ciaraanne Brody in Ireland, a former After School Adventure staff member. She showed the class her home, tools and appliances, and what the landscape in Ireland looks like. She also

"The Country Study cultivates an awareness of other cultures and helps children begin to ask questions and notice that other people can live similar lives, just in different ways."

- Senior Kindergarten Teacher Rachel Hill

explained differences in the vocabulary, the foods, and major resources in Ireland. The class asked questions about school, the weather, and landmarks like the Blarney Stone. The discussion provided students with a more tangible view of the concepts being studied.

Students investigated and studied the symbols of their country. In Ms. Burns' class, one of the lessons focused on the value of symbols when students were given a Brazilian Flag, Brazilian coins, pottery made in Brazil, and a video of Capoeira. Students explored these objects on their own and in free choice time, constructing an understanding of the value of symbols by themselves and in small groups. Ms. Burns' class also had a visit from Argentinian dancers, who taught them to tango!



The Country Study Unit culminates in an Open House, in which students invite their families to experience what they've learned. In last year's India Country Study, Ms. Hill's class created a giant map, taught guests about the Taj Mahal, performed a simple Indian dance, and used iPads to display henna art.

This unit serves as a bridge between the Junior Kindergarten African Unit and the Australia Unit students will complete in 1st Grade. As one of the final units of the year and in preparation for their transition to the Lower School, the Country Study cultivates an awareness of other cultures and helps children notice that other people can live similar lives, just in different ways. Some of the many academic skills Senior Kindergarten gain that will be helpful in 1st Grade

include independence, time management, organization, self-confidence, research and writing, vocabulary, cooperative learning, public speaking, fine motor skills, as well as technology use with iPads, the AV Studio, and the IDEA Lab. Each year our students impress their teachers, classmates, and families with their capacity for adaptability, inquiry, and compassion.

At the conclusion of this unit, students are able to successfully answer the question "Why we should we value our own culture and the culture of others?" Learning the complex concept of culture, how it is expressed, the impact of the physical environment (oftentimes much different from our own), and why artifacts and traditions are important to a country's people imparts a profound effect on some of our youngest students. As a school that values diversity and its importance in child development, this unit contributes to our mission of creating and sustaining a diverse and compassionate community grounded in a culture of integrity.

Each year our students impress their teachers, classmates, and families with their capacity for adaptability, inquiry, and compassion.



INNOVATION AND DESIGN THINKING IN LOWER SCHOOL

Students in 1st-4th Grades are proficient in and responsible for a wide array of increasingly more sophisticated projects. The technology resources available at Catherine Cook, thoughtfully integrated into the academic program, provide ample opportunity for their success.

Resources include:

- Equipment available for use in the IDEA Lab and AV Studio
- iPad applications in the classroom
- Age-appropriate software programs

During the 2014-2015 school year, there were projects in each grade of Lower School that were particularly adept in fortifying lesson plans with emerging technologies.

1st

1st Grade classes participate each spring in the Arctic Animal Unit, an inquiry-based science unit that is designed to teach students about the habitat and needs of Arctic and Antarctic animals. Resources for this unit included guided online research on websites such as National Geographic Kids and the World Wildlife Fund, and interactive websites such as Arctic Survival Webquest. The students used this information to complete a comparison diagram using the iPad app Kidspiration, and illustrated their collected facts using pictures they created on Kid Pix, a bitmap drawing program. Students also designed cut-outs of the narwhals, polar bears, arctic hares, and many more arctic animals to be later constructed on the IDEA Lab's laser cutter.

Finding appropriate lessons and projects in which to incorporate technology is an important part of the curriculum.

Innovation and Design Thinking

2nd

2nd Grade students complete classroom studies of American Indian cultures each winter. In addition to field trips, dioramas, and written reports, students used the app Morphi to create 3D printed Aztec pendants, which were featured in the spring Art Fair. They also recorded scripts they wrote about American Indian tribes in the AV Studio. They were able to point out different clothing, landscapes and home life scenes on the green screen! Students also complete a unit about the countries of Africa. In the 2014-2015 school year they designed versions of the continent on the laser cutter, which were then cut into the various countries and decorated by the students for a stunning visual addition to the project.



3rd

Every year the 3rd Grade classes complete a U.S. Geography unit, splitting all classes into three segments of the U.S. (East, Central and West). With teacher support, students access web resources, book indexing and research, and collect information from maps. Each group creates one third of a physical map, and last year for the first time they were able to make a 3D puzzle version by using Adobe Illustrator software and the laser cutter. "Having a map/puzzle they made themselves increased their investment in the project and connection to the information they collected," according to 3rd Grade teacher Mr. Mike Kruse.



4th

In 4th Grade, the Ancient Egypt Unit has become a hallmark technology-integrated experience. Last year students added laser-cut cartouches to accompany their 3D visual as part of their presentation. The Ancient Egypt Unit has always required a recreated object of antiquity; creating a cartouche on the laser cutter was a natural extension of this mandatory piece. In Egyptian hieroglyphs, a cartouche is an oval with a horizontal line at one end, indicating that the text enclosed is a royal name.



Finding appropriate lessons and projects in which to incorporate technology is an important part of the Catherine Cook approach. Integrating technology use into established lessons is determined by asking the question, "Does technology truly enhance the learning experience?" Use of new equipment and tools must help develop the learning unit, and our faculty and staff collaborate to determine if technology can be seamlessly infused into the curriculum to improve the learning experience. Our teachers work with each other across departments and divisions to teach students how to leverage these plentiful and pervasive resources to enrich their learning throughout the school year.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-2015

The Board of Trustees is a self-selecting group of volunteers given the trust to establish the essential nature of the school and fiduciary responsibilities to ensure that the school has the necessary resources to fulfill its mission.

Linda K. Myers, Chair of Board

Lisa Snow, Vice Chair

Keith Morgan, Treasurer

Penny Fine, Secretary

Ellen Best, At Large

Julie Campbell

Marta Delgado

Tom Fuller

John Garvey, Sr.

Ashley Joyce

David Laurenson

Maryann Price

Diana Sands

Stephanie Tipton

Bob Whelan

PARENT ASSOCIATION 2014-2015

Catherine Cook is truly fortunate to retain a committed, enthusiastic, and creative community. Our parents and guardians play a vital role in generating a vibrant school community, offering their time and talents as committee volunteers throughout the year. Many thanks to the countless volunteers that have made this year truly spectacular.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Shawna Norsman

Secretary

Sarah Simone

Vice President

Evelyn McCullen

Treasurer

Allegra Weiner

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ambassador Program

Emily Bennett
Melissa Filkin
Renee Salomon

Parent Education Coordinators

Amparo Guerrero
Judith Scholes

Back to School Celebration

Kristin Flather
Meg Frey
Daisie Siska

Room Parent Coordinators

Cathy Barber
Casey Harris

Community Cares

Katie Brouman

School's Out Picnic

Jean Longo
Mary Kay Mann
Sandy Schwarz

Dads' Club

Debrai Haile
Gil Valentine

Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Jessica Dunne
Lisa Hillstrom
Casey Ray
Fikirte Wagaw

Faculty & Staff

Appreciation Luncheon

Rebecca Gerstung
Tia Hild
Julianne Walsh

Teacher Lunch Room Relief

Jody Contreras
Hampton Horton
Christe Lyons

Harvest and Halloween Celebration

Shima Ghanemi
Kathy Hoff
Rachael Leckow

Moms' Club

Stephanie Free
Jenny Kernan
Sarah Pearsall

Volunteer Coordinator

Michelle Drake
Harriett Kelley
Sandee Lee



Our parents play a vital role in creating a vibrant Catherine Cook Community.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The 2014-2015 Annual Giving Campaign was led by our seventh Annual Giving Cabinet. Its members served as ambassadors of the Campaign for their constituencies, sharing the importance of every family's yearly participation to support the annual operating budget. Contributions to the Campaign have increased steadily over the last five years because of the generosity and hard work of Catherine Cook leadership, volunteers, and donors. Many thanks to all who gave a gift of any size.

CABINET

Co-Chairs

Josh Lerner and Steph Tipton

New Parent Captains

Don Mizerk, Casey Ray, and Matt Ray

Early Childhood Captains

Daisie Siska and Suzanne Strusiner

Lower School Captains

Flavio Arana, Marta Delgado,
Ryan Harris, and Rita Powers

Middle School Captains

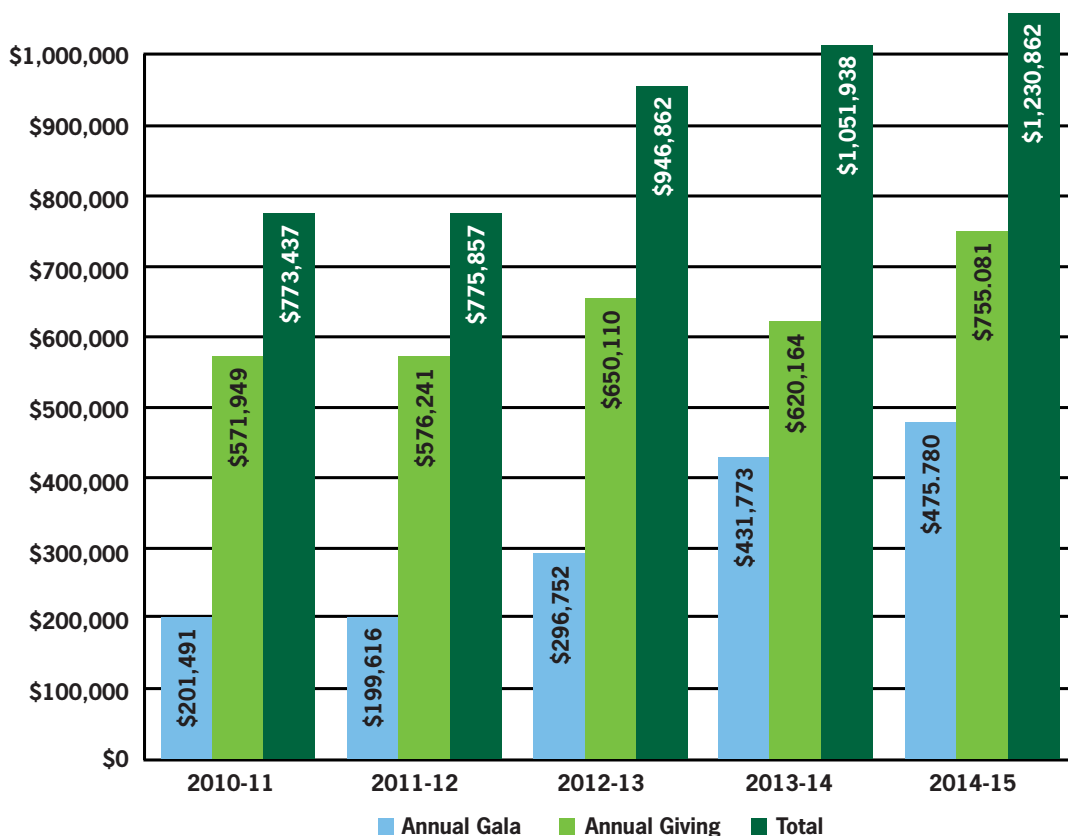
Harriett Kelley, Jenni Pencyla,
Mikala Stewart and Lisa Wilkins

8th Grade Captain

Maryann Price

Faculty and Staff Captains

Jeff Edmonds, Kate Herron,
Al Neve, and Rachel Weber



Annual Giving Campaign

ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

ANAGNOST SOCIETY

Gifts of \$20,000 and above

Linda and Dennis Myers*
Diana and Michael Sands*

BENEFACITOR SOCIETY

Gifts of \$15,000-\$19,999

Linda and Dennis Myers*
(In Honor of Pam Pifer)

FOUNDER SOCIETY

Gifts of \$10,000-\$14,999

Mark Ditsch and
Maha Halabi Ditsch*
Ryan and Casey Harris*
Megan and Michael Hodes*
Wendy and David Roseth*
Joseph and Natalie Sacchetti*
Lisa Snow Turrinelli and
Franco Turrinelli*

TRUSTEE SOCIETY

Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Paul and Elisabeth Beerkens*
Emily and Ryan Bennett*
Anthony Bigornia and Lisa Young*
Jody and Keith Boutell*
Kevin Brown and Harriett Kelley*
Eoin and Kate Callery*
Paul Collier and
Kristen Werries Collier*
Michelle and Kelley Drake
Carrie and Chip Dunn*
Jodi and Richard Flohr*
Karl and Meg Frey*
Tom and Julie Fuller*
John and Sarah Garvey
Steve and Rebecca Gerstung*
Joshua and Irene Goldstein*
Michael and Ashley Joyce*
Pam and Chris Kallos
Jordan Kass and
Stacia Garriott Kass*
Brian Kavanaugh and Julie Koca*
Heather and Brian Kenney*
Pat and Jenny Kernan*
Sara and Sucha Kukatla*
Shelly Kulwin and Lisa Coconato
Ross Kwasteniet and Kira Elert*
Melissa and Dave Laurenson*

Suzie Desai and Roger Liew*
Ben and Ravi Lumpkin*
Evelyn and Bob McCullen*
Katie and Glenn McMillan*
Andrew and
Antionette Mechavich*
Linda and Dennis Myers*
(In Memory of Annemarie Beall)
Marta Delgado and Sam Nandi*
The Norman Family*
Mike O'Rourke and Susan Touhy*
Kevin and Rita Powers*
Patrick and Maryann Price*
Megan Poetzel and Derek Rank*
Mollie and David Rattner*
Matt and Casey Ray*
Brian Reshefsky and
Jessica Dunne*
Mary Lee Corrigan and
Joseph Rogul*

Nydia Muniz and Juan Santiago*
Sandy and Don Schwarz*
Cecil Booth and Danny Sharp*
Susan and David Smith*
John and Steph Tipton*
Leonard Wanger*
Ryan and Kelly Waters*
Donna, Jules and Louisa Welch*
Jeffrey and Carie Zappone*
Ellen Best and Gregory Zrazik*

HEAD OF SCHOOL SOCIETY

Gifts of \$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous (3)
Matt and Kathryn A'Hearn*
Flavio Arana and
Matthew Kippenhan*
The Austin Family*
Troy and Liz Barnett

Heather Haukness and
David Bentrem
Arpita Ray and
Saikat Bhattacharjee*
Nevin Boparai and Anita Pancholi
Shane and Julie Campbell
Steven and Abby Clancy*
David and Karen Dahlquist*
Alex and Yuko Darcy
Kathy Hoff and
Andrew Degenholtz*
Philip and Kimberly Edison*
Adam and Melissa Filkin*
Kristen and Fred Flather
Ian and Stacy Fleming*
Melissa Copley and
Francis Freeman*
Mark Gertzof and Deanna Beise*
Matt and Denise Gibson*
Umrai and Meghan Gill*



* indicates families that have given at or above the "Gap" level for their child(ren).

^ indicates a Catherine Cook VIP (grandparent, relative or special friend).

The Hilton Family*
Bill and Carol Kelley^
(Dallas, Texas; Grandparents
of Ben Brown)
David and Susan Kelly*
Tim and Brandy Kemp*
Ryan and Michelle Kilkenney*
David Kim and Sandra Lee*
Shawn and Anna Kinder*
Michelle Baer and Jeff Klein*
Mark Koenig and
Janeen Hayward*
Joshua and Christine Kommer*
Aaron and Rachael Leckow

Sarah and Paul McHugh*
Chris McKean and
Kathy Sandstrom
Kimberly and Michael McMahon*
Mark and Christine Melendes*
Don Mizerk and Andrew Thorrens
John and Colleen Mueller*
Dan and Marty Murphy*
Frank and Mandi Nardella*
John and Emily Jo Neis
Shawna and Brent Norsman
Mitch and Neringa Northcutt*
(In Honor of Pam Pifer)
Sarah and Alex Pearsall

Hampton Horton and
Steve Randle*
Clisson and Patricia Rexford
Allegra Weiner and Jeff Rheeling*
Kellie and Grant Rice*
Matthew and Jennifer Rice*
Renee and John Salomon*
Alex Sasieta and Kristine Suzuki
Barnali and Paul Silvani
Matt and Julie Simon*
Marciano Siniscalchi and
Giulia Comar
John Sirek and Colleen Loughlin*
Michael and Daisie Siska*

Dave and Keely Wise

PACESETTER CLUB
Gifts of \$1,250-\$2,499

Anonymous (4)
Greg and Kendell Anderson
Bill and Shizuka Baarsma
Virginia Devlin and Kurt Baldassari
The Bett Family
Robert and Agatha Castanares
Tom and Judy Comfort*
The Crosson Family*
James and Jill Due
Andy Edwards and Lisa Weinstein*
Rachel and Bill Fiely
Steven and Lisa Forbes*
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Randi and Mike Holzman
Charlie and Margo James
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Arti Raj and Scott Simpson*
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John and Kimberley Terzis
Kristin Kaeding and Tom Valentine
Dora Moore and Jeff Ward*
The Williams Family
The Wood Family*
Jee and TJ Yoon
Alex and Benya Young
The Yu Family



Joshua and Kelly Lerner*
Christina Kuo and
Roger Lichtenbaum
Michael and Amy Littleton*
Bridget and Josh Lohrius*
Scott and Christe Lyons
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Jake and Esther Massick*
Todd and Danett Mazur*

Romas and Jenni Pencyla*
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Kevin Peterson*
Matt and Wendy Phillips*
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Doug and Kristie Powell*
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Dali and Nicole Rajic*
Jeffrey Ralson and
Rebecca Rokos*

Michal and Mark Solovy
Cory and Chrissy Stephens*
Suzanne and Scott Strusiner*
Christopher Tamney and
Sabrina Stober*
James and Dina Taylor*
Nikhil and Shaila Verma
James and Julianne Walsh
Dr. Deborah Hall and
Kraig Washburn*

COUGARS CLUB
Gifts of \$500-\$1,249

Anonymous (7)
Precious Allen
Ruth Barber

Annual Giving Campaign

Cathy and Tod Barber
David E. Gilbreth and
Carol L. Balluff
Marina and Kent Cato
Sarah and Jim Chittaro
Kelly Keenan and
Denton Darnutzer
Scott and Ilana Elsworth
(In Honor of Lila Elsworth)
Beverly Gonzalez
Tara and Graham Goy
Michael and Melissa Graham
Kris Haines
Leila and Joe Hanson^
Robby and Denise Hart
Michael and Nancy Herman^
Tia and Oliver Hild
Lisa Hillstrom
Robert and Renee Hingsbergen
Humberto Iniguez and
Kathryn Thomas
(In Honor of Isabella Iniguez)
Ali and Josh Jubelirer
The Junkins Family
Ansul and Rizwan Khan
Jonathan and Christy Levy
Althea Lodge
Mark and Jean Longo
Jason and Maria Maras
Claudia and Bryon Martin
William and Jennifer Mierisch
Steve Miller and
Elizabeth Inglehart
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Catherine Cook is incredibly grateful for the generous contributions our community has made to the REACH Campaign to build and outfit the New Wing, a 25,000 square foot structure joined to the existing school. One year after the official ribbon cutting and opening of the New Wing, the spaces and resources made available by the Campaign are being fully utilized by our students and faculty every day. From the Discovery Science classroom to the new, expanded Library to the additional breakout spaces and work rooms, the New Wing has already proven to be a valuable and integral structure that contributes to the education and advancement of our student body.

Naming opportunities in the New Wing remain available, and we are looking forward to the installation of the Donor Wall this spring. Please contact Director of Advancement Stacy Shafer Peterson at sspeterson@ccookschool.org with any questions.



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John Sirek and Colleen Loughlin
Tyler and Courtney VanLonkhuysen
Dora Moore and Jeff Ward
The Wozniak Family
Andrew and Shannon Yeager

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Bill and Shizuka Baarsma
Ira Barry and Deb Keegan
Harriett Kelley and Kevin L. Brown
Donald and Svetlana Chae
Michelle and Justin Elliott
Melissa Copley and Francis Freeman
Matthew and Denise Gibson
Margo and Charlie James
Kathy and Michael Leech
Josh and Kelly Lerner

We have made every effort to include all donors who have made pledges. If we have omitted your name in error, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us so that we can include you in the next posting.

Carrie and Chip Dunn
The Edison Family
Shari and Jim Erwin
Ian and Stacy Fleming
Jodi and Richard Flohr
Meg and Karl Frey
The Michael and Pamela Gordon
Family Foundation
Marc D. Hauser and
Leslie Scolnick Hauser

Frank and Mandi Nardella
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Seema and Sandip Patel
Craig and Beth Pearlman
Sarah and Alex Pearsall
Jeff Ralson and Rebecca Rokos
Mollie and David Rattner
Mary Lee Corrigan and Joseph Rogul
Ilana and David Rosenzweig
Don and Sandy Schwarz





The Catherine Cook Urban Roof was funded through generous donations to the 17th Annual Gala Paddle Raise. The Urban Roof brings environmental concepts into a physical workspace, with a rooftop greenhouse, gathering space, and urban gardening program. Ultimately, this initiative allows all students to learn the importance of sustainability through hands-on learning opportunities in applied science, environmental responsibility, and social-emotional development. The Office of Advancement will oversee the development and construction, as well as daily operations of the Urban Roof, with community leaders and volunteers as an integral part of its growth and success.

The initial steps of this project are underway with an extensive design and permitting process, thanks to architect and parent, Brent Norsman, who donated his time and services. The newly-formed Urban Roof Committee is made up of enthusiastic parent, faculty, and staff volunteers and led by co-chairs Steph Tipton, a parent and Trustee, and Stacy Shafer Peterson, Director of Advancement. Together, the committee will work on aspects such as sustainability, curriculum planning, supplies, and community outreach. We are excited to watch this newest Catherine Cook project grow!

norsman architects, ltd.
architecture/planning/design

studio **na**

INNOVATION | DESIGN

Catherine Cook hosted the first annual IDEA:TE (Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Art: Transforming Education) Conference in June 2015. Director of Innovation JD Pirtle and Director of Advancement Stacy Shafer Peterson co-founded and led this groundbreaking conference for Preschool through 12th Grade educators. Participants from 15 schools across five states gathered for hands-on workshops, engaging presentations, and the chance to develop curriculum that integrates emerging technologies.

As part of an ongoing effort to foster a community of “teachers teaching teachers,” many members of the Catherine Cook faculty, staff, and administration joined IDEA:TE as workshop presenters, assistants, panelists, and collaborators. Leading experts in areas such as robotics, laser cutting, coding, and wearable technology came from the Illinois Institute of Technology, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Illinois Chicago, and University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to lead workshops and presentations. The following members of Catherine Cook’s faculty and staff also served as presenters, assistants, and panelists: Jeff Edmonds, Kevin Freed, Kate Herron, Rachel Hill, Jessica Majors, Miguel Martinez, Brian Puerling, Michael Roberts, Dana Stewart, and Cory Stutts. Several Catherine Cook faculty members also attended the conference as participants, enjoying a front row seat to workshops and presentations that included creating laptop cases in “Textile Arts,” jewelry in “3D Printing” and interactive, Arduino-powered tea lights in “Digital Fabrication and Embedded Computing.” All participants took advantage of Catherine Cook’s innovative IDEA Lab and AV Studio spaces to learn new skills, explore emerging technologies, and develop interactive experiences to recreate in their own classrooms and curriculum.



IDEA:TE CONFERENCE

IDEA:TE Conference 2015

SIGN | ENGINEERING | ART: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

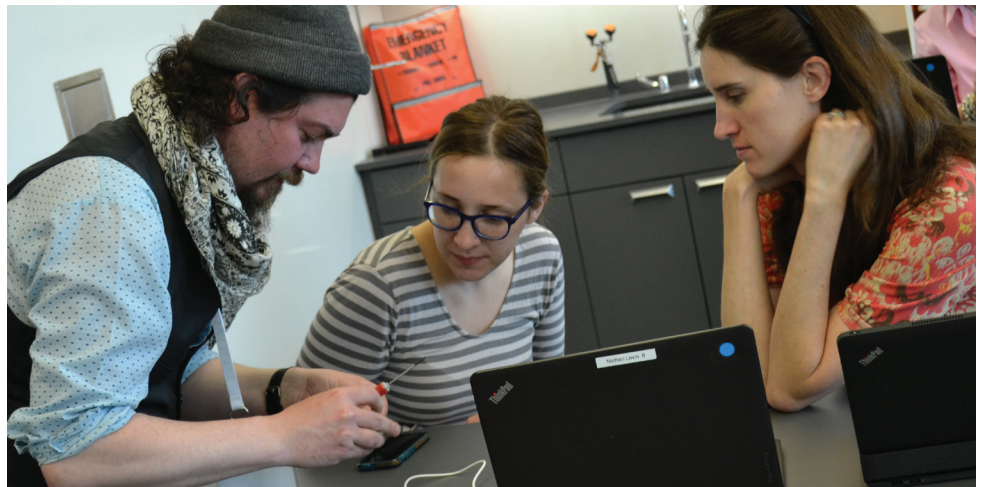


IDEA:TE will continue with free Community Workshops in early 2016. "Digital Builders" in February and "Programming" in April will be opportunities for Preschool through 12th Grade public school and community organization educators to learn design, building, and integrated coding techniques in our IDEA Lab. In "Digital Builders," participants will explore age-appropriate tools for students as young as three years old and build origami versions of 3D models. The "Programming" workshop will cover the basics of integrating coding into Preschool through 12 Grade curriculum, introducing many open-source programming languages to IDEA:TE participants.

IDEA:TE 2016 |

Learn more:
catherinecookschoolorg/ideate

Registration is now open for IDEA:TE 2016, scheduled for June 20-22. Participants and presenters can look forward to a new exciting collection of workshops, presentations, and networking opportunities, all centered on providing educators with the tools and technologies to mold innovative learners and creative problem-solvers.





Operating Statement

OPERATING STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2014 - AUGUST 2015

REVENUES

Instructional Services	\$11,341,460
Fundraising	\$1,191,265
Co-Curricular Programs	\$92,820
Investments	\$7,092
Total Revenues	\$12,632,097

EXPENSES

Instructional Services	\$6,735,660
Administration	\$2,280,878
Building Operations	\$1,277,555
Amortization and Depreciation	\$1,138,430
Debt Service	\$709,930
Total Expenses	\$12,142,453
NET REVENUE *	\$489,644

* Unaudited end-of-year operating statement



	CURRENT NAIS	CATHERINE COOK 2015
Tuition as a % of total revenue	79	86
Fundraising as a % of total revenue	9.4	7
Tuition Assistance as a % of total revenue	13.1	7
Salaries/benefits as a % of total expense	68.8	65
Technology expenditures as a % of total expense	1.4	7
Professional development as a % of total expense	.7	1

VOICES: CATHERINE COOK

Administrative Team 2014-2015

Michael B. Roberts, Ed.D., Head of School

Mark Droegemueller, Director of Finance and Operations

Jill Due, Director of Admission

William Mierisch, Director of Information Technology

Pamela Pifer, Ed. D., Head of Lower School

Brian Puerling, Director of Education Technology

Justin Pike, Director of Facilities

JD Pirtle, Director of Innovation

Jean Robbins, Ph.D., Head of Early Childhood Education

Stacy Shafer Peterson, Director of Advancement

Blaire Strom, Director of Co-Curricular Programs

Corrine Stutts, Head of Middle School