

# VOICES

Annual  
Report

**FALL**  
**2016**





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Dear Friends,

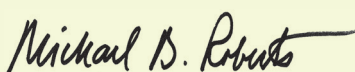
Now in my eleventh year of service to the school, I am witnessing the future of Catherine Cook and the future of education coming together at an exciting intersection. Providing current century tools for learning, having inspired and dedicated teachers, and teaching to individual student strengths is 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, coding, and global citizenship. These commitments are part of a larger conversation about diversity initiatives and program 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, maintain a rich array of employee benefits and professional development opportunities, and adopt 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 2016 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





# 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.



# BOOK BUDDIES: LEARNING TO BE MENTORS EARLY IN LIFE

**“It’s really fun.  
You can teach  
them things  
they haven’t  
learned before  
– not just  
reading, but  
other things,  
too.”**

**- Gustavo Urbina Gonzalez ,  
7th Grader**



All 555 Catherine Cook students participated in the Book Buddies program during the 2015-2016 school year. Twice per month for 30 minutes, a student in Preschool-1st Grade is partnered with a student in 2nd-8th Grade to practice literacy and storytelling, explore technology, and more.





# Academics

Making your way through the halls of Catherine Cook, you may have experienced a young student walking with his class when his eyes suddenly light up, spotting an older student approaching him. He sticks his hand out, the older student gives him a high-five, and he turns to his friend and whispers with admiration, “That’s my *Book Buddy*.”

This is what Catherine Cook’s Book Buddies program is all about. At the start of the year, students in Preschool through 1st Grade are paired with students in 2nd through 8th Grades. Meeting twice per month, they practice reading and building vocabulary, all while forming a strong bond with a student of a different age level.

In addition to building a relationship, the program also provides a source of motivation to young students who are facing the process of learning to read. They see that a child just a little older has conquered this challenge, offering encouragement that they can do the same. They also begin to look ahead to the activities they see their older Book Buddies involved in and make connections with their own aspirations—to be in the school play, a sport, or a club.

Meanwhile, the older student enjoys being the expert and developing a mentor or service mindset. They feel good about their contributions to the school community as they remember their younger selves. 7th Grader Gustavo Urbina Gonzalez says, “It’s really fun. You can teach them things they haven’t learned before – not just reading, but other things, too.”

Beyond reading, Book Buddies work together on skills like writing and storytelling. 7th Grader Evan Sill and Senior Kindergartener Sahana Malkani are Book Buddies who recently wrote a book together about their identities. Sahana says, “I like making books on the iPad in Book Creator,” and Evan replies, “My favorite part is hanging out with Sahana and hearing her ideas.”

In 5th Grade, the Book Buddies’ relationships with Junior Kindergarteners provide some very special opportunities. In the Fall Trimester, 5th Graders expanded their guidance even further when they taught their Book Buddies how to create towers in Blokify, an app similar to Minecraft. In this project, 5th Graders had to also provide constructive feedback to the Junior Kindergarteners along the way so that the tower could actually stand after being 3D-printed. Additionally, in the Spring Trimester, each 5th Grader wrote and published a story about their Book Buddy and presented it as a gift.

Whether reading a story, writing one, or learning new technologies, these students make it clear that the best part of having a Book Buddy is spending time together.





A young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt under a white floral vest, is sitting at a wooden table and rolling out orange clay. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

# ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

Catherine Cook began the 2015-2016 school year with an enrollment of 555 students, the largest enrollment in the school's history.

This was the second year the Early Childhood Division offered Half-Day AM or Full-Day options for Preschool and Junior Kindergarten. Our community embraced this shift with 70% of the families opting for the Full-Day option, a 33% increase since its first year.

Our Lower School and Middle School have seen the largest growth in the last five years, increasing 22% and 32% respectively.

We continue to attract families from across the Chicagoland area, with student representation from 32 different zip codes.

## CATHERINE COOK ENROLLMENT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

### LOWER SCHOOL:

Opening 2011 – 198 students  
Opening 2015 – 241 students  
Growth of 22%

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Opening 2011 – 117 students  
Opening 2015 – 154 students  
Growth of 32%



# Admission and Enrollment



## Enrollment - Five Year History



# GRADUATION 2016

On June 3, 2016, our 8th Grade Class of 2016 proudly assumed the role of Catherine Cook Alumni. Joined by family, friends, faculty, and staff, the students were recognized for their achievements and accepted their diplomas. Following tradition, the day started with class photos and a Pinning Ceremony in which Catherine Cook Alumni welcomed the graduates to the Alumni Association. The Graduation Ceremony included remarks from Linda K. Myers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Head of School Michael B. Roberts, Ed.D. Graduating 8th Grader Evan McMahon recounted his 11 years at the school and how the experience and community shaped him as an individual.

Northwestern University Computer Science Student Safia Abdalla delivered the address. Ms. Abdalla shared the story of discovering her passion – coding – the summer after her 8th grade year and how she has pursued that passion to develop programs that make a difference in the world. She also shared the challenges she has faced being a woman in a male-dominated field and the importance of embracing the uncomfortable situations in life, because those are sometimes the most important learning opportunities. Following the address, Head of Middle School Cory Stutts led the traditional Bridging Ceremony to welcome the 4th Grade class into Middle School. Congratulations to the Class of 2016, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



**LONDON ANDERSON**

Lincoln Park High School International  
Baccalaureate Diploma Program

**HANNAH BENTREM**

Walter Payton College Prep

**BENJAMIN BROWN**

Walter Payton College Prep

**JULIAN CLARKE**

Beacon Academy

**ERIKO DARCY**

Latin School of Chicago

**BRODY DRAKE**

Walter Payton College Prep

**JESSICA FLOHR**

Latin School of Chicago

**JORDAN FRAY**

William H. Jones College Prep

**CATHERINE JACOBS**

William H. Jones College Prep

**FRANCESCA KULWIN**

William H. Jones College Prep

**OLIVIA LAPCHICK**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**HAILEY LAURENSEN**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**KIERAN LAWLESS**

Walter Payton College Prep

**DARIO MANCARI**

Lake Forest Academy

**ANABELLE MANRIQUE**

Walter Payton College Prep

**EVAN MCMAHON**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**SILER MERICLE**

Walter Payton College Prep

**LOGAN PECHT**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**ABIGAIL PRESUTTI**

Loyola Academy

**CHARLES RANQUIST**

William H. Jones College Prep

**CELIA RATTNER**

Francis W. Parker School

**CHRISTOPHER ROGUL**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**DYLAN ROSARIO**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**GRETCHEN ROSE**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**ZACHARY ROSE**

Walter Payton College Prep

**JUAN SANTIAGO**

British School of Chicago  
(South Loop Campus)

**JACOB SCHULGASSER**

William H. Jones College Prep

**COSTANZA SINISCALCHI**

Walter Payton College Prep

**ALEXANDRA SULLIVAN**

British School of Chicago  
(South Loop Campus)

**TRISTAN TENGES**

Albert Lane Technical High School

**GRACE TRUDEAU**

Cranbrook Schools (MI)

**GILBERT VALENTINE**

St. Ignatius College Prep

**OWEN WILKINS**

William H. Jones College Prep

**ANDREW YOON**

St. Ignatius College Prep



# MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS



**Four students from the Class of 2016 were recognized during the Middle School Awards Ceremony as fine examples of the qualities Catherine Cook alumni should possess. These awards showcase what makes Catherine Cook such a vibrant community and highlight each student's areas of strength.**



**JESSICA FLOHR**  
**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.



**LOGAN PECHT**  
**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.



**EVAN MCMAHON**  
**Catherine Cook School 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.



**ABBY PRESUTTI**  
**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.





# BUILDING GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

**One of the most important traits a graduate of Catherine Cook will possess is a service mindset. It is invaluable to understand from an early age that our time, care, and resources can make a difference to the people, animals, and environment around us. This mindset builds character in our students that will last a lifetime.**



Each division – Early Childhood, Lower School, and Middle School – has service learning built into the curriculum to guide students down this path. With a child's age considered in choosing service projects, the intensity of projects increases over time.

With service learning starting as early as age three and continuing into the teenage years, Catherine Cook prepares students for a lifetime of empathy and philanthropy in the community and around the world. Students also witness the actions of our parent volunteers and donors, which reinforce the importance of a service mindset into adulthood.

## Early Childhood

Starting in Junior Kindergarten, students are introduced to the animals cared for at PAWS Chicago. They research the stories of the cats and dogs that are waiting for adoption, write their hopes and dreams for a specific animal they've identified, prepare treats and gifts for them, and finally visit PAWS to meet the animals and learn about shelters.



## Lower School

In Lower School, students are exposed to more and more organizations and types of service work. In 1st Grade, students spend an entire week before the holidays performing acts of service for the community. From preparing care packages for homeless people and animals to creating holiday greeting cards for patients at Lurie Children's Hospital, the students start thinking about the many ways they can bring hope to people with varying needs. At the end of their service week, they also bring math into the mix as they research a wide variety of organizations and determine on an individual level how they would budget their play money to assist the organizations that matter most to them.



## Middle School

By the time students get to Middle School, they are thinking about problems on a local, national, and global level. Regularly scheduled service at Church of Our Saviour's Food for Friends program allows Middle Schoolers to have a long-term relationship with an organization, providing meals and conversation to Chicago's homeless population.

At the same time, students in the Global Issues Network (GIN) think critically about environmental issues like widespread plastic usage and how to reduce waste while We Act aims to combat child labor in the chocolate industry by educating the public and boycotting brands that don't meet ethical standards.





# THE MODERN MATH CLASSROOM

**“There are many ways to be successful and to solve problems... we encourage students to take risks and find the path that works for them.”**

**- Sara Folger,**  
Middle School Math Teacher



**Jeff Edmonds**  
Middle School Math Teacher



**Sara Folger**  
Middle School Math Teacher



# Innovation and Design Thinking

"The desks are grouped together instead of being in rows." That's what first caught the eye of a DePaul University observer while entering the classrooms of Middle School Math teachers Sara Folger and Jeff Edmonds. It may seem like an insignificant adjustment to a typical math classroom, but it creates a huge difference in the way students learn to love math. "We take a collaborative approach," says Edmonds. "In a group, students draw from each other's skills to solve the problem. The brain fires more when it's in a collaborative environment."

To maintain an effective and innovative math classroom at Catherine Cook, Edmonds and Folger are consistently staying up to speed on the latest research for math education and brain development. Among their biggest influences right now is the work of growth mindset researcher Carol Dweck. Growth mindset is the idea that people learn best when they face challenges that require a new strategy or collaborative input to solve a problem. When a student puts forth their best effort and fails, they can then think about why it didn't work and what they can try next.

One strategy Edmonds and Folger use is to assign complex problems that require thoughtfulness over speed. "When you make mistakes, your brain grows. Struggle is good for learning," says Edmonds. Folger adds, "There are many ways to be successful and to solve problems... we encourage students to take risks and find the path that works for them."

The Middle School teachers also aim to make their students life-long lovers of math. "We want more kids loving math," says Folger. "To pursue the growing number of math-centric careers, they need to like math." To achieve this goal, Folger and Edmonds maintain a healthy balance of traditional skill practice with exciting activities that develop an advanced understanding of concepts. For example, last year the students enjoyed the creativity of making quilts. It was fun for

them to learn how to use the sewing machines, and it also required a mastery of geometry and percentages to produce the final product.

By combining the latest research with what has worked best in their own experiences, they reinvent their curriculum each year to ensure students are ready for the next level. The passion this math duo exudes for curriculum planning is abundant. "Sometimes I struggle to keep myself from jumping into next year's curriculum planning, because I have so many new ideas that develop while I'm teaching this year's curriculum," says Folger.

While Edmonds and Folger prefer to measure the growth of their students in ways other than testing, the success of their methods is reflected nonetheless in their students' standardized test scores, which are consistently 40-50 points above the national average. More importantly, recent alumni report that they understand and enjoy high school math and are motivated to pursue higher level math classes.

In November 2016, Edmonds and Folger presented about growth mindset in math education at the 2016 Annual Conference for the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). This allowed their expertise to move beyond the walls of Catherine Cook, and the attendees of the ISACS conference are fortunate to be able to bring that knowledge and innovation to their own classrooms.





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2015-2016



**The Board of Trustees is a self-selecting group of volunteers given the trust to establish the essential nature of Catherine Cook 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

**Penny Fine**, Secretary

**Keith Morgan**, Treasurer

**Ellen Best**, At Large

**Julie Campbell**

**Marta Delgado**

**Tom Fuller**

**John Garvey, Sr.**

**Ashley Joyce**

**David Laurenson**

**Diana Sands**

**Stephanie Tipton**

**Bob Whelan**



# PARENT ASSOCIATION 2015-2016

Catherine Cook thrives in great part due to our fantastic parent volunteers. With their time, talent, and commitment, our school is able to host amazing events and learning experiences that bring our community closer together and bring new families into our school. Thank you for all of your hard work.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Evelyn McCullen

### Secretary

Katie McMillan

### Vice President

Casey Ray

### Treasurer

Allegra Weiner

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Ambassador Program

Emily Bennett

Melissa Filkin

Meg Frey

### Parent Education Program

Suzie Desai

Janeen Hayward

### Back to School Celebration

Kristen Flather

Brandy Kemp

Michelle Kilkenney

### Room Parent Coordinators

Casey Harris

Julie Simon

### Community Cares

Stephanie Free

### Dads' Club

Debrai Haile

Gil Valentine

### School's Out Picnic

Jody Boutell

Mary Kay Mann

Beth Pearlman

### Faculty & Staff

### Appreciation Luncheon

Deanna Beise

Rebecca Gerstung

Tia Hild

### Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Koli Donohue

Claudia Martin

Christine Melendes

### Harvest and Halloween Celebration

Angela Floessel

Kathy Hoff

Rachael Leckow

### Teacher Lunch Room Relief

Lesli Dahlberg

Hampton Horton

Renee Salomon

### Moms' Club

Jenny Kernan

Sarah Pearsall

Julianne Walsh

### Volunteer Coordinator

Elisabeth Beerkens

Katt Hanold



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



# ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2015-2016



# Annual Giving Campaign

**The 2015-2016 Annual Giving Campaign was spearheaded by our eighth Annual Giving Cabinet. These volunteers served as ambassadors of the Campaign, sharing the importance and impact of every family's annual participation in fully funding the operating budget. Contributions to the Campaign have increased steadily in recent years because of the generosity and dedication of Catherine Cook leadership, volunteers, and donors. Many thanks to all who gave!**

## Co-Chairs

Flavio Arana and Josh Lerner

## New Parent and Early Childhood Captains

Marta Delgado, Sam Pollack, Casey Ray, and Matt Ray

## Lower School Captains

Don Mizerk, Mikala Stewart, and Steph Tipton

## Middle School Captains

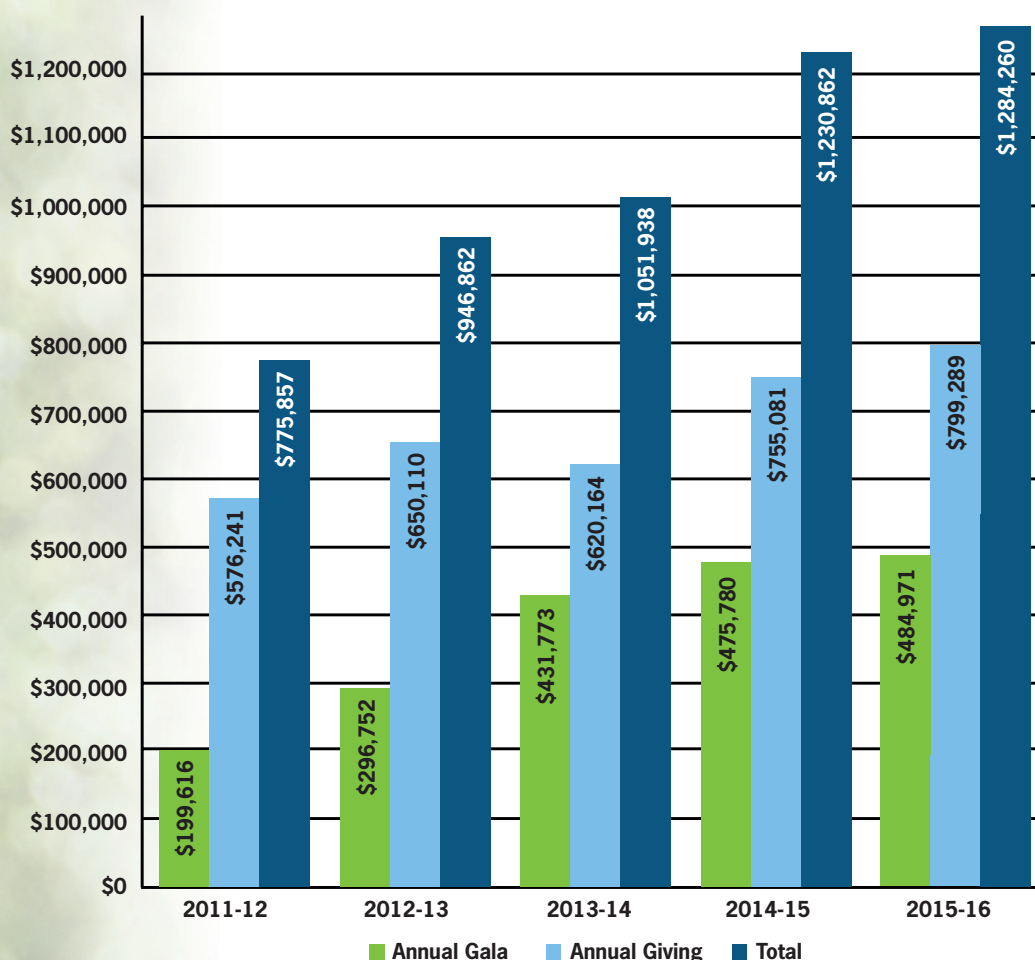
Ryan Harris, Jenni Pencyla, and Rita Powers

## 8th Grade Captain

Harriett Kelley

## Faculty and Staff Captains

Megan Ashley, Amanda Burns, Mike Kruse, and Jessica Majors





# ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

## ANAGNOST SOCIETY

**Gifts of \$20,000 and above**  
Diana and Michael Sands\*

## BENEFACTOR SOCIETY

**Gifts of \$15,000-\$19,999**  
Linda and Dennis Myers\*

## FOUNDER SOCIETY

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

Joe and Rachel Guzowski\*  
Ryan and Casey Harris\*  
Megan and Michael Hodes\*  
Michael and Ashley Joyce\*  
Evelyn and Robert McCullen\*  
Wendy Roseth\*  
Joseph and Natalie Sacchetti\*  
Trevor and Kyle Schauenberg\*  
Don and Sandy Schwarz\*  
Bhavan Suri and  
Bhavana Devulapally\*  
Lisa Snow Turrinelli and  
Franco Turrinelli\*

## TRUSTEE SOCIETY

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

Flavio Arana and  
Matthew Kippenhan\*  
Troy and Liz Barnett  
Emily and Ryan Bennett\*  
Anthony Bigornia and Lisa Young\*  
Jody and Keith Boutell\*  
Philip and Eugenia Brides\*  
Kevin Brown and Harriett Kelley\*  
Eoin and Kate Callery\*  
Paul Collier and  
Kristen Werries Collier\*  
John and Julie Crosson\*  
Kelley and Michelle Drake\*  
Paul and Molly Drinan\*  
Philip and Kimberly Edison\*  
Lisa Weinstein and  
Andy Edwards\*  
Kim and Chad Feingold\*  
Jodi and Richard Flohr\*  
Meg and Karl Frey\*  
Tom and Julie Fuller\*  
John and Sarah Garvey  
Steven and Rebecca Gerstung\*  
Umrai and Meghan Gill\*

Joshua and Irene Goldstein\*  
Pam and Chris Kallos\*  
Jordan Kass and  
Stacia Garriott Kass\*  
Brian Kavanaugh and Julie Koca\*  
Bill and Carol Kelley, Dallas, Texas  
Grandparents of Ben Brown^  
Pat and Jenny Kernan\*  
Sucha Kukatla\*  
Shelly Kulwin and Lisa Coconato  
Kira Elert and Ross Kwasteniet\*  
Melissa and Dave Laurenson\*  
Ashley and Ken Lebovic\*  
Joshua and Kelly Lerner\*  
Suzie Desai and Roger Liew\*  
Katie and Glenn McMillan\*  
Andrew and Antoniette Mechavich\*  
Don Mizerk and Andrew Thorrens\*  
Marta Delgado and Sam Nandi\*  
The Norman Family\*  
Mitch and Neringa Northcutt\*  
Michael J. O'Rourke and  
Susan J. Touhy\*  
Laura and Sam Pollack\*  
Kevin and Rita Powers\*  
Megan Poetzel and Derek Rank\*  
Casey and Matt Ray\*  
Brian Reshefsky and  
Jessica Dunne\*  
Mary Lee Corrigan and  
Joseph Rogul\*  
Dave and Susan Smith\*  
Michal and Mark Solovy\*  
Julie and Anthony Stamato\*  
John and Steph Tipton\*  
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  
Ruth Barber\*  
Paul and Elisabeth Beerkens\*  
Heather Haukness and  
David Bentrem\*  
The Bett Family\*  
Shane and Julie Campbell  
The Clancy Family\*  
David and Karen Dahlquist\*

Alex and Yuko Darcy\*  
Adam and Melissa Filkin\*  
Kristen and Fred Flather  
Ian and Stacy Fleming\*  
Peter Fletcher and Lisa Martin\*  
Melissa Copley and  
Francis Freeman\*  
Alistair Mackworth Gee and  
Kerstin Schaars\*  
Mark Gertzof and Deanna Beise\*  
Matt and Denise Gibson\*  
The Grabinski Family\*  
The Grason Family\*  
Michael Haney\*  
Jason Hjorten and Jessie Williams\*  
Sean and Cher Keck\*  
Ellen and Nat Kellogg\*  
David and Susan Kelly\*  
Tim and Brandy Kemp\*  
Heather and Brian Kenney\*  
Drs. Robert and Yuri Kern\*  
Ryan and Michelle Kilkenney\*  
David Kim and Sandee Lee\*  
Shawn and Anna Kinder\*  
Mark Koenig and  
Janeen Hayward\*  
Joshua and Christine Kommer\*  
Aaron and Rachael Leckow\*  
Christina Kuo and  
Roger Lichtenbaum\*  
Michael and Amy Littleton\*  
Kimberly and Scott Lorimer\*  
Scott and Christe Lyons  
Mary Kay and Roddy Mann\*  
John Marchese and Kim Rubel\*  
Chris McKean and  
Kathy Sandstrom  
The McMahons\*  
Mark and Christine Melendes\*  
Dan and Marty Murphy\*  
Frank and Mandi Nardella\*  
John and Emily Jo Neis  
James Norton and  
Kathleen Sweitzer\*  
Sarah and Alex Pearsall  
Kimberly Keith and JD Pirtle  
Matt and Wendy Phillips\*  
Doug and Kristie Powell\*  
Brad and Kelly Rainko\*  
Dali and Nicole Rajic\*

Jeffrey Ralson and  
Rebecca Rokos\*  
Clisson and Patricia Rexford\*  
Allegra Weiner and Jeff Rheeling\*  
Matthew and Jennifer Rice\*  
Renee and John Salomon\*  
Alex Sasieta and Kristine Suzuki  
Matt and Megan Schrecengost\*  
Stacy Shafer Peterson and  
Kevin Peterson\*  
Cecil Booth and Danny Sharp\*  
Jim Shields and Mia Sossei\*  
Andrea and Paul Sill\*  
Barnali and Paul Silvani  
Matt and Julie Simon\*  
Marciano Siniscalchi and  
Giulia Comar  
Michael and Daisie Siska\*  
The Smiths  
Matthew and Dora Snyder\*  
Suzanne and Scott Strusiner\*  
Christopher Tamney and  
Sabrina Stober\*  
Jill Sheiman and Aaron Tantleff\*  
James and Dina Taylor\*  
Nikhil and Shaila Verma\*  
Andrew and Alison Wallace\*  
Ryan and Kelly Waters\*



\* 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).



# Annual Giving Campaign

Peter and Lisa Wilkins  
The Williams Family  
Dave and Keely Wise  
Lisa An Wong\*  
In Memory of  
Georges A. Cehovic, MD  
The Wood Family\*

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

Anonymous (2)  
Mutaz Abdullah and  
Rayah Abdullah  
Kendell and Greg Anderson  
Zubair Anwar and  
Shannon McNamara\*  
The Austin Family\*  
Bill and Shizuka Baarsma  
Donald Bacigalupi and  
Daniel Feder\*  
Virginia Devlin and  
Kurt Baldassari  
Shelly and Ron Banks\*  
Saurab and Anjani Bhargava\*  
Sarah and Jim Chittaro  
Matthew and Kathryn Colman\*  
Kathy Hoff and  
Andrew Degenholtz  
James and Jill Due  
Scott and Ilana Elsworth  
Angela and Frank Floessel\*  
Cory Stutts and Kim France  
Robby and Denise Hart  
Randi and Mike Holzman  
Kaeding-Valentine Family  
Diana and Chris Kantner  
The Keune Family  
In Memory of Russell Keune  
Ansul and Rizwan Khan  
Michelle Baer and Jeff Klein\*  
Anusha and  
Sriharsha Krishnamurthy  
Anh and Chu-An Lee\*  
Greg and Kristin Leos\*  
In Honor of Alexandra Leos  
Eric and Ilana Levin  
Halley and Drew Lydecker\*  
Claudia and Bryon Martin\*  
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Mark and Hollis Otero  
Scott Peach and  
Samantha Sommers\*  
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Romas and Jenni Pencyla\*  
Jack and Lindsay Philbin  
Hampton Horton and  
Steve Randle\*  
Mollie and David Rattner

Jean Robbins  
Michael B. Roberts  
Arti Raj and Scott Simpson\*  
In Honor of Mehmed Sisirak  
Morgan and Ron Sklar\*  
Kate Glickman and Jason Stell\*  
Adam and Mikala Stewart  
Chris and Sara Talsma  
John and Kimberley Terzis  
Stephen and Amy Waldon\*  
Leonard Wanger  
Susan and Steven Wilde\*  
Alex and Benya Young  
Amy and Craig Ziegler

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

Anonymous (5)  
Josh and Megan Aling  
Catherine and Tod Barber  
Mark Bruker and Alicia Lisowski  
Mr. and Mrs. Mat Cashman  
Robert and Agatha Castanares  
Beverly Gonzalez  
In Honor of Thalia Gordon  
The Goy Family  
Michael and Melissa Graham  
Ssuan and Ken Griffin  
Kim Hagan  
Debrai Haile and Fikirte Wagaw  
Kris Haines  
Leila and Joe Hanson^  
Marc and Leslie Hauser  
Michael and Nancy Herman  
Jennifer and Daniel Herzberg  
Tia and Oliver Hild  
Humberto Iniguez and  
Kathryn Thomas  
Karen Jacobson  
Kimberly Kirincic  
Beth Lambert  
Mike and Wendy Lapchick  
Jonathan and Christy Levy  
MainStreet Advisors -  
John Crosson  
William and Jennifer Mierisch  
Steve Miller and  
Elizabeth Inglehart  
Mind Body Co-Op  
Keith Morgan and  
Maureen Fannon  
Ricarda Osipow  
Sandip and Seema Patel  
Justin Pike and  
Stephanie Fawcett  
Steve and Judy Pomerantz  
Brian Puerling  
Bob and Karen Ranquist





Danl and Erica Rosskamm  
Susan and Gregg Rzepczynski  
E.J. Reedy and Eric Schneider  
Daniel and Charla Simon  
Patricia Tucker-Ladd^  
Gilbert and Jill Valentine  
Eva-Dina Delgado and Erik Varela  
Bob and Annie Whelan  
Bart and Patty Wilson^  
Mack and Gail Wilson  
Art and Jennifer Wolf  
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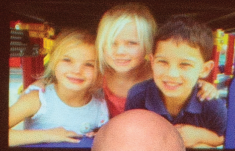
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# ANNUAL GALA 2016



## Catherine Masked Ball Cook

The 18th Annual Gala, the Catherine Cook Masked Ball, was held March 12, 2016, at the Palmer House Hilton. More than 500 members of our community gathered to celebrate Catherine Cook with friends new and old. Guests enjoyed live and silent auctions, an energetic paddle raise, and casino gaming - all to raise money for the annual operating budget.

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# PADDLE RAISE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, the 2016 Gala Paddle Raise has allowed Catherine Cook to transform our Gymnasium into a true multi-purpose Gym and Performing Arts space. With upgrades to the lighting, sound, video, and more, our students, faculty, and staff will be able to create professional-quality productions for years to come.

## Here are some of the highlights from our new, state-of-the-art facility:

- Digitally-controllable professional theater lighting with protective cages and lighting board
- All new energy-efficient, adjustable LED house lights, wirelessly controllable for theater or sports
- Upgraded and redesigned 750-watt, 6-speaker + subwoofer sound system
- New acoustic panels installed around Gym to reduce echo and background noise
- New HD cinematic projector and 24-foot retractable projection screen
- AV equipment enabling the use of a wide variety of video formats and presentation software



## Assemblies



“We look with our eyes, we listen with our ears, and we do not visit with our neighbors.”

As many have heard Dr. Roberts say, these three things make a great Catherine Cook audience for assemblies and other events when someone is presenting. Learning how to be a good audience member is just one reason we have assemblies. Here are a few more ways Catherine Cook students benefit from assemblies:

- Develop public speaking or performance experience in front of the whole school
- Middle School students display leadership and tech skills through assembly production
- The opportunity to proudly share their class work with friends and family
- Experience a variety of entertaining and educational presentations and performances from special guests

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day assembly

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Improv performance

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Storytelling

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

City planning in Minecraft

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Halloween assembly

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE**

“Hopes and Dreams” puzzle

**2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE**

“What makes me happy, and how I make others happy”

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE**

A journey of polar animals

**SENIOR KINDERGARTEN**

Holiday concert

**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN**

African banquet

**PRESCHOOL**

Kindness concert



What kinds of assemblies and performances did our students lead last year?





# REACH: CAMPAIGN FOR THE CATHERINE COOK SCHOOL

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](mailto:sspeterson@ccookschool.org) with any questions.

## GENERAL CHAIRS

Colleen and Ron Bess  
Sarah and John Garvey  
Linda and Dennis Myers

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Lisa Coconato and Shelly Kulwin  
Cecil Booth and Danny Sharp  
Stephanie and Richard Sherman

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Allegra Weiner and Jeffrey Rheeling  
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Ellen Best and Gregory Zrazik

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Kathleen and David Mitchell  
Shawna and Brent Norsman  
Beth and Craig Pearlman  
Sarah and Alex Pearsall  
Mollie and David Rattner  
Joy Schwartz  
Lisa and Peter Wilkins  
Gail and Mack Wilson

## GIFTS AND PLEDGES

### AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Catherine Cook wishes to thank the following families for their generous donations to the REACH Campaign:

### \$250,000 - \$499,999

Anonymous  
Michael C. Goode  
Linda and Dennis Myers  
Diana and Michael Sands  
Cecil Booth and Danny Sharp

### \$150,000 - \$249,999

Michael and  
Ashley Duchossois Joyce  
John and Stephanie Tipton

### \$100,000 - \$149,999

Margie and Chuck Barancik  
Ron Bess and Colleen Gowl Bess  
John and Julie Crosson  
The Fuller Family  
Steve and Rebecca Gerstung  
Pam and Chris Kallos  
Evie and Bob McCullen  
Marta Delgado and Sam Nandi  
Casey and Matt Ray  
Allegra Weiner and Jeffrey Rheeling  
The Sherman Family  
Bhavana Devulapally and Bhavanmit Suri  
Lisa Snow Turrinelli and Franco Turrinelli  
The Zappone Family



# REACH Campaign

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous  
Megan and Josh Aling  
Liz and Troy Barnett  
Emily and Ryan Bennett  
Anthony Bigornia and Lisa Young  
Kristen, Paul, Tate, Holden and Vaughn Collier  
The Donohue Family  
Michelle and Kelley Drake  
John and Sarah Garvey  
Joshua and Irene Goldstein  
Ryan and Casey Harris  
Pat and Jenny Kernan  
Ryan and Michelle Kilkenney  
Sara Kukatla  
Sucha Kukatla  
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Ross Kwasteniet and Kira Elert  
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Brad and Kelly Rainko  
The Sacchetti Family  
Renee and John Salomon  
Matt and Julie Simon  
Scott Simpson and Arti Raj  
Greg Zrazik and Ellen Best

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous (3)  
Kendell and Greg Anderson  
Flavio Arana and Matthew Kippenhan  
Robert and Kimberly Barry  
Paul and Elisabeth Beerken  
Heather Haukness and David Bentrem  
Tom and Judy Comfort  
David and Karen Dahlquist  
Mark Ditsch and Maha Halabi Ditsch  
Theresa Davis and Kelsey Doe  
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  
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Suzanne and Scott Strusiner  
Chris and Sara Talsma  
Nikhil and Shaila Verma  
The Wanger Family  
Benya and Alex Young

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (7)  
Matt and Kathryn A'Hearn  
Sanjeev and Kelley Ahuja  
Virginia Devlin and Kurt Baldassari  
Zoe and David Bonnette  
Yuko and Alex Darcy  
Kathy Hoff and Andrew Degenholtz  
Deanna Beise and Mark Gertzof  
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Caroline and Dan Grossman  
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Dennis and Kelly Howe  
Humberto Iniguez and Kathryn Thomas  
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Sean and Cher Keck  
David and Susan Kelly  
Michelle Baer and Jeff Klein  
Todd and Danett Mazur  
The McMahon Family  
Renee Hardt and Scott Moehrke  
Dan and Marty Murphy  
In Memory of Christine Pratt  
Stephen Randle and Hampton Horton  
Jessica Dunne and Brian Reshefsky  
Dr. Kellie and Mr. Grant Rice  
Jennifer and Rick Salin  
Alex and Kristine Sasieta

Joy Schwartz  
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Daniel and Charla Simon  
Michal and Mark Solovy  
Aaron Tantleff and Jill Sheiman  
James and Dina Taylor  
Aleksandar Videnovic and Nancy Gracin  
Donna, Jules, and Louisa Welch  
The Williams Family  
Mack and Gail Wilson  
Arthur and Jennifer Wolf

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Bill and Shizuka Baarsma  
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Stacy Shafer Peterson and Kevin Peterson  
Kimberly Keith and JD Pirtle  
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Gregg Rzepczynski and Susan L. Meade  
The Schrecengost Family  
B. Silberberg  
Marciano Siniscalchi and Giulia Comar

Adam and Mikala Stewart  
Maureen Sullivan  
The Wojcik Family

## \$4,999 and Below

Anonymous (7)  
Tod and Cathy Barber  
Shane and Julie Campbell  
Donald and Svetlana Chae  
Janet and Fred Davis  
Jonathan and Stacie Dennis  
Megan and Max DeZara  
James and Jill Due  
Michelle and Justin Elliott  
Fred and Kristen Flather  
Jolanta and Paul Hardej  
Michael and Renee Holmes  
Sue and Glen Kitson  
Suzanne and Sean Lavin  
Jonathan and Christine Levy  
The McKee Family  
Michael J. O'Rourke and Susan J. Touhy  
Jack and Lindsay Philbin  
Hallie Eve Pinsof  
Karen and Bob Ranquist  
Bonnie and Jordan Schulgasser  
John Sirek and Colleen Loughlin  
Tyler and Courtney VanLonkhuyzen  
Dora Moore and Jeff Ward  
The Wozniak Family  
Andrew and Shannon Yeager

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.





# IDEA:TE CONFERENCE

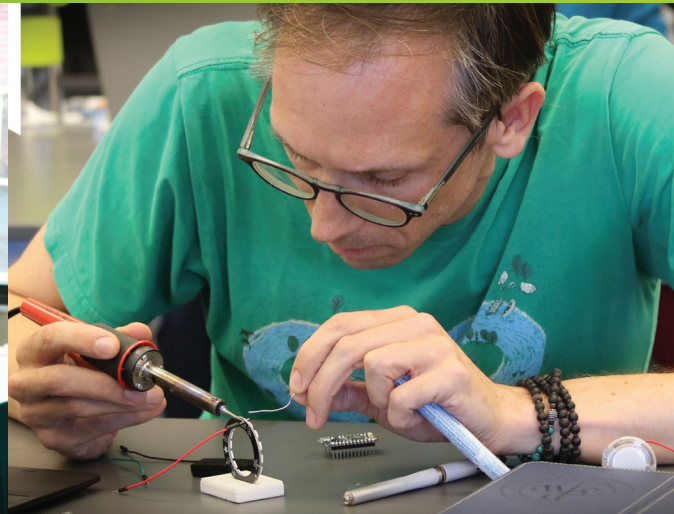
As the hustle and bustle of student activity came to a close and we said goodbye to friends for the summer, a new wave of energy filled the halls of Catherine Cook in June as we prepared to host the 2nd Annual IDEA:TE Conference. IDEA:TE (Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Art: Transforming Education) draws preschool-12th grade educators from around the country for three days of hands-on workshops designed to enhance their knowledge of the emerging technologies and curricula necessary for student success in today's evolving world.

The brainchild of Catherine Cook Director of Innovation JD Pirtle and Director of Advancement Stacy Shafer Peterson, IDEA:TE sessions were led by Catherine Cook's talented faculty, staff, and parent professionals, as well as university-level instructors. Aiming to be a candid experience, IDEA:TE's "teachers teaching teachers" model allows instructors to not only share the latest and greatest in classroom technology, but to also reflect on their own edtech successes and failures with participants.





# IDEA:TE Conference 2016



**Scratch & ScratchJr**  
**Textile Arts**  
**3D Printing**  
**Electronics**  
**AV Production**  
**Virtual Building**  
**Laser Cutting**  
**Coding**

Thank you to the Catherine Cook faculty, staff, and parents who made IDEA:TE 2016 a roaring success:

Amanda Burns  
Nosson Cohen  
Jeff Edmonds  
Daniel Fierro  
Kevin Freed  
Ali Hecimovich  
Margaret Hermanek  
Rachel Hill  
Tony Johnson  
Kristin Kaeding

Andy Lelo  
Miguel Martinez  
JD Pirtle  
Brian Puerling  
Jean Robbins  
Don Schwarz  
Stacy Shafer  
Peterson  
Jamie Stefely  
Dana Stewart



# IDEA:TE 2017

## REGISTER TODAY!

Learn more: [catherinecookscool.org/ideate](http://catherinecookscool.org/ideate)

## JUNE 26-28

For more information:  
[ideate@ccookschool.org](mailto:ideate@ccookschool.org)







# Operating Statement

## OPERATING STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2015-AUGUST 2016

### REVENUES

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Instructional Services.....  | \$12,494,853        |
| Fundraising .....            | \$1,125,947         |
| Co-Curricular Programs ..... | \$148,448           |
| Investments .....            | \$5,590             |
| Miscellaneous .....          | \$5,590             |
| <b>Total Revenues</b> .....  | <b>\$13,782,195</b> |

### EXPENSES

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Instructional Services.....        | \$7,746,856         |
| Administration .....               | \$2,545,121         |
| Building Operations.....           | \$1,043,616         |
| Amortization and Depreciation..... | \$1,035,352         |
| Debt Service.....                  | \$575,356           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> .....        | <b>\$12,946,302</b> |

**NET REVENUE \*** ..... \$835,893

\* Unaudited end-of-year operating statement



|  | CURRENT<br>NAIS | CATHERINE COOK<br>2016 |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| Tuition as a % of total revenue                  | 78              | 90                     |
| Fundraising as a % of total revenue              | 9.9             | 8.2                    |
| Tuition Assistance as a % of total revenue       | 14.5            | 6                      |
| Salaries/benefits as a % of total expense        | 69              | 61                     |
| Technology expenditures as a % of total expense  | 1.4             | 12                     |
| Professional development as a % of total expense | .7              | 1.2                    |



# VOICES: CATHERINE COOK

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM 2015-2016

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

**Nosson Cohen**, Director of Information Technology

**Mark Droegemueller**, Director of Finance and Operations

**Jill Due**, Director of Admission

**Stacy Shafer Peterson**, Director of Advancement

**Justin Pike**, Director of Facilities

**JD Pirtle**, Director of Innovation

**Brian Puerling**, Director of Education Technology

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

**Blaire Strom**, Director of Co-Curricular Programs

**Corrine Stutts**, Head of Middle School

**Max Weinberg**, Head of Lower 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.

## DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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