

VOICES

Annual
Report

**FALL
2017**



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Head of School

Dear Friends,

Now in my thirteenth year of service to our school, I'm excited about our future as the quality of our programs and high school placement for our 8th Grade graduates continues to be among the best in the region. In alignment with our progressive and innovative educational philosophy, students have found great success with a "learn by doing" approach. These factors, among others, have once again led us to record enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. In close partnership with our parents and friends, we have accomplished much.

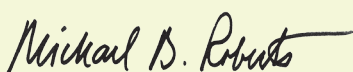
One of our mission-driven commitments is to ensure that we are intentional in the way we practice our Diversity Statement, especially as it relates to social justice, equity, and access. This work gives us clear and positive directions that guide our program and students. It is a testament to the importance of this work for everyone in our learning community.

As a pathway to making our strategic initiatives a reality, it is imperative that we hire the best and most-qualified faculty and staff. It is through competitive salaries and employee benefits, a rich array of professional development opportunities, and the adoption of best learning practices that we are able to draw these individuals to our institution. We could not achieve this without your philosophical and financial support, for which we are very grateful.

In addition to our talented faculty, staff, and administration, we have amazing and supportive parents and a hard-working Board of Trustees that is focused on our strategic initiatives and long-term sustainability. Thank you for all you do.

I am eager to embrace the future, acknowledge our successes, and work diligently on any challenges that might lie ahead. There is nothing more important than joining together to build a strong foundation for the success and happiness of our children. I sincerely hope, as you read this Annual Report, that you, too, will see evidence of a vibrant learning community working to develop compassionate leaders.

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.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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

Mission and Diversity Statements





EXPLORING SCIENCE FROM A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Academics

A science textbook is full of fascinating information about the world around us. It is a source of knowledge providing the basic concepts of life, geology, physics, and just about any other physical aspect of the universe. It can be daunting to try to create something meaningful out of such a vast amount of information, but thinking about how those ideas can be applied locally or on an individual level can make all the difference.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Middle School Science Teachers Lara Kossiakoff and Emily Malette aimed to make the connection between textbook concepts and the real world we live in. By taking this local approach, students started to understand why they should care about the ideas presented to them. Through many different units and projects, students have dived into their science curriculum with enthusiasm and a desire to better know the science around them.

Citizen Science

While studying wildlife in the Chicago region, 5th and 6th Grade students took a “citizen science” approach. In this scenario, students monitored live cameras set up around the city by Chicago Wildlife Watch (a collaboration between the Lincoln Park Zoo and Adler Planetarium) to help the organization count different species of wildlife that populate our area. By contributing, students assisted professional scientists who then analyzed the data for potential influence of urban wildlife policy.

Communicable Diseases

A measles outbreak in the Chicago suburbs in 2016 sparked a classroom discussion about how the disease spreads and why it happened in our area. Students discussed the perceived pros and cons of vaccinations, which led to research about local government requirements regarding vaccinations for schools and daycares. In studying the local aspect of this outbreak, students felt a deeper connection to the topic.

Pollution

During their unit on pollution, 7th and 8th Graders looked at the Chicago landscape and how the geography and industries in our area contribute to point source (direct source, such as a factory) and non-point source (indirect source, such as water runoff) pollution. Students identified where they see pollution around them and how they could modify their individual lifestyles to cut down their own pollution.

Invasive Species

While learning about invasive species, it can be difficult to conceptualize the destruction of an ecosystem that one has never experienced. Therefore, Middle School students have studied various invasive species that plague Midwestern waterways, prairies, forests, and more. From the effects of zebra mussels on Lake Michigan to the aggressive reed canarygrass that stifles surrounding plant growth, students are able to see the impact of these species in places that are familiar – and often very special – to them. With this personal connection, students are more likely to care about the future of these environments and work toward a solution to the problems at hand, such as helping to remove invasive species that have been introduced to local forests and parks.



ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT BY THE NUMBERS



573

students enrolled
at Catherine Cook for
2016-2017 school year



34

Chicagoland zip
codes in which our
families live

3

sections of 5th
Grade, approaching
our goal of a
three-section school
through 8th Grade

21%

of independent schools,
including Catherine Cook,
labeled as a “high-growth” school
by the National Association of
Independent Schools



92%

student retention
rate — higher than
the NAIS average



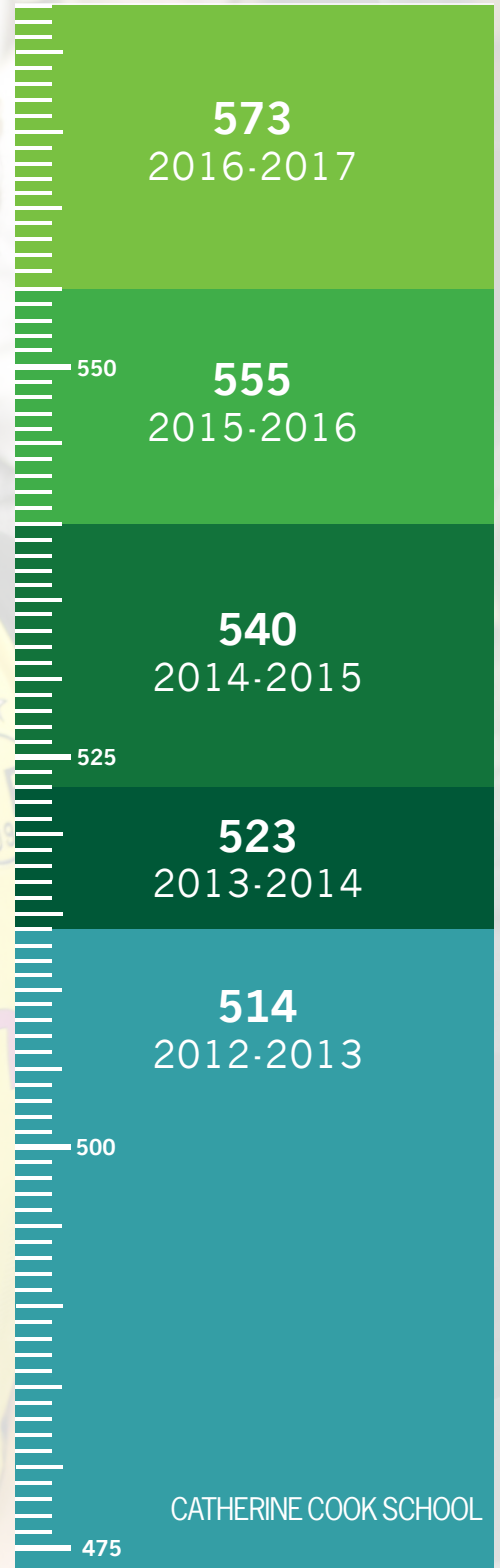
increase in
enrollment over
the past eight years



Admission and Enrollment



Enrollment Five Year History



GRADUATION 2017

The 8th Grade Class of 2017 transitioned into the role of Catherine Cook Alumni on Friday, June 9, 2017. To start the day, former Catherine Cook graduates welcomed them into the Alumni Association during our traditional Pinning Ceremony. The Graduation Ceremony began with introductory thoughts from Chair of the Board of Trustees Linda K. Myers and Head of School Michael B. Roberts. Class Speaker Christopher Zrazik then took the podium to recount his memories of Catherine Cook and how much he and



his classmates have learned over the years. The address was delivered by Dr. Daniel D. Frank, Head of School of Francis W. Parker School, who shared his thoughts on the power of “yet,” meaning everything that is still yet to come. Following the 4th Grade bridging ceremony, Class Captains Ethan Christo and Griffin Kass extended gratitude to faculty and staff for helping them reach this milestone. Congratulations to the Class of 2017, and best wishes for a bright future!

HENRY BARBER

Lane Tech (Alpha STEM Program)

ALEXANDER CHITTARO

Lincoln Park (Performing Arts and Double Honors Program)

ETHAN CHRISTO

Jones College Prep

TATE COLLIER

Northside College Prep

GRIFFIN DARNUTZER

New Trier

JESSICA DICKINSON

Senn (Fine and Performing Arts Program)

ETHAN DOE

Walter Payton College Prep

SARAH DOUGLAS

Walter Payton College Prep

BENNETT DRAKE

Walter Payton College Prep

EMMA FLANNERY

St. Ignatius College Prep

COLE FULLER

Latin School of Chicago

AARAV GOEL

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

BRADEN HART

Beacon Academy

MOUHAMAD JALLOH

Senn (International Baccalaureate Program)

ISABEL KAPUSTKA

Walter Payton College Prep

GRIFFIN KASS

Francis W. Parker School

YELYZAVETA KHOLODNA

Jones College Prep

MAXWEL LIND

Jones College Prep

WILLIAM MCCULLEN

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

BRENDAN MYERS

Latin School of Chicago

JOHN NEIS, JR.

Whitney Young Magnet

KATHRYN NORMAN

Loyola Academy

WILLIAM O'KEEFE

Latin School of Chicago

IAN O'ROURKE

Jones College Prep

JOHN OSIPOW

Beacon Academy

VANCE ROSE

St. Ignatius College Prep

ISABEL ROSETH

Jones College Prep

COLE RUBINOWICZ

Northside College Prep

EMILY SANDS

Walter Payton College Prep

MARGARET SCHMIDT

Cranbrook Schools (MI)

ANTONIA SCHWARTZ

Chicago High School for the Arts

JACK SHARP

Latin School of Chicago

YANNI SIMMONS

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

ELLESON SONG

Jones College Prep (CTE Engineering Program)

VICTORIA STAMATO

St. Ignatius College Prep

FRANCESCA TURRINELLI

Walter Payton College Prep

KEILA VILLATORO

DePaul College Prep

REESE WILSON

Culver Academies (IN)

NED WOJCIK

Jones College Prep

HENRY WOLF

St. Ignatius College Prep

CHRISTOPHER ZRAZIK

Walter Payton College Prep

Graduation 2017



MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS

During the Middle School Awards Ceremony, four graduating 8th Graders were recognized for exemplifying the qualities of Catherine Cook Alumni. The following awards are considered our top honors:



YANNI SIMMONS

Annemarie Beall Award

Presented to an 8th Grade student who demonstrates intellectual curiosity and a drive for excellence. This person is respectful, caring, fair, trustworthy, responsible, and a model citizen while displaying gentle humor and wit and a desire to make the world a better place.



JESSICA DICKINSON

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.



EMILY SANDS

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.



CHRISTOPHER ZRAZIK

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.



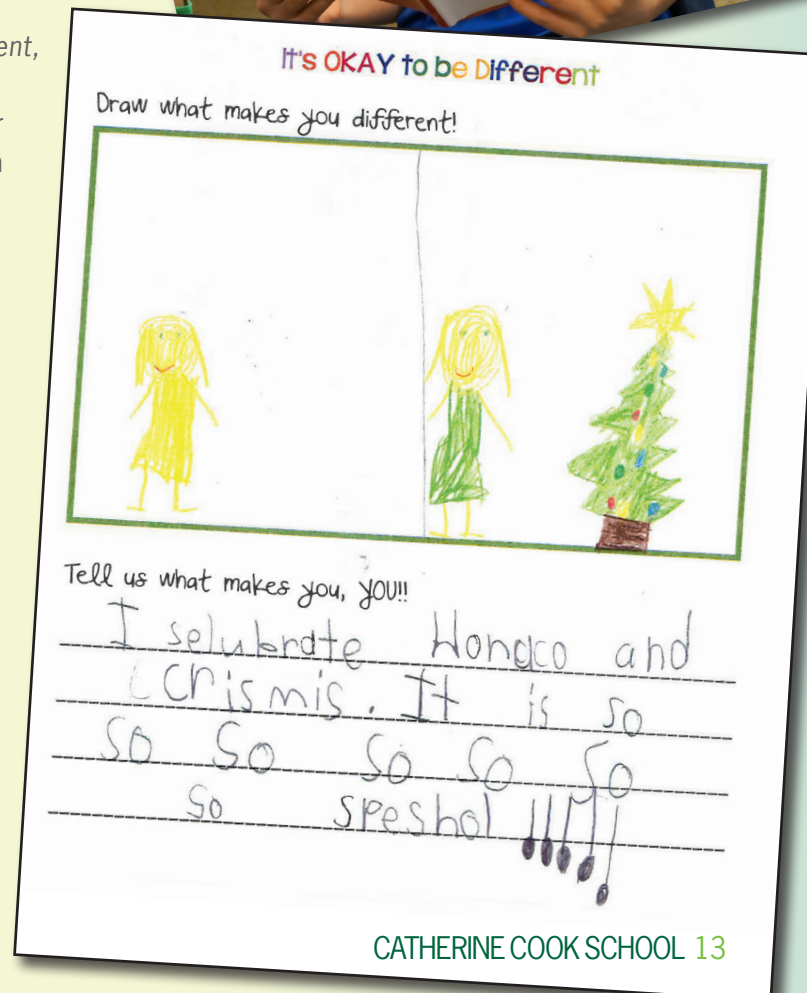
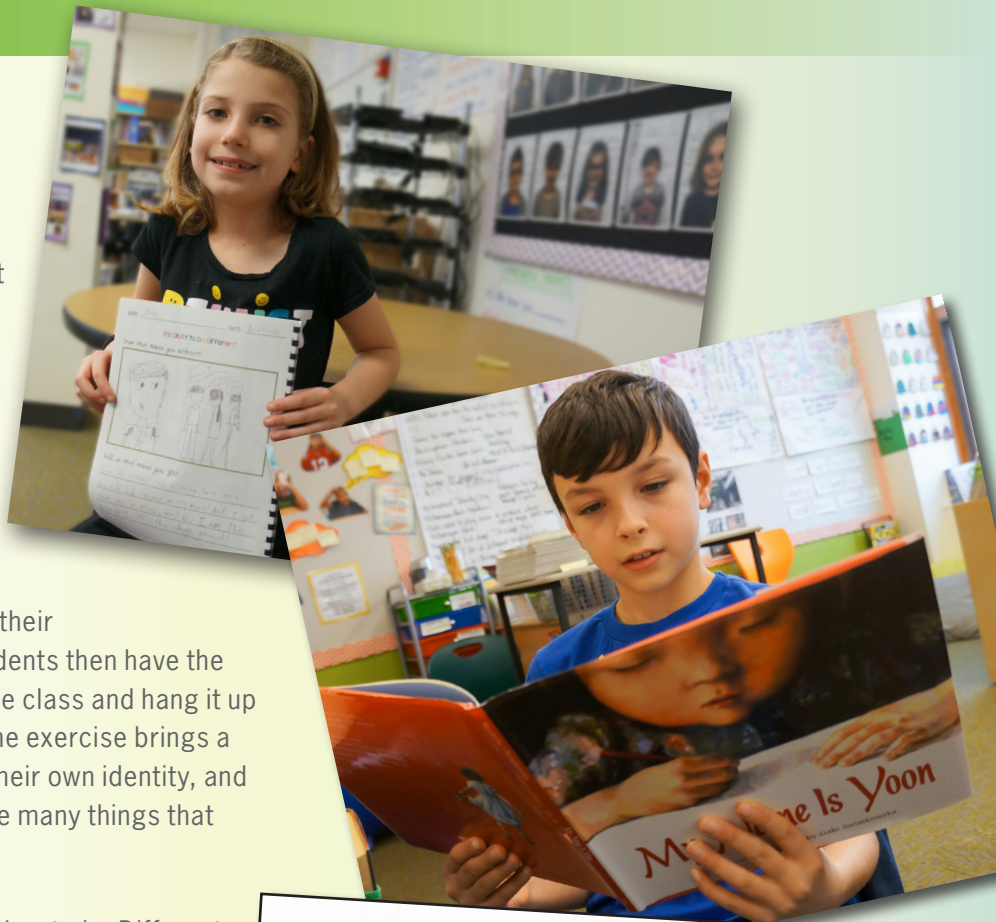
**GLOBAL
CITIZENSHIP
BEGINS WITHIN**

The making of a global citizen starts within. To understand and embrace the differences in other people, we have to first appreciate what makes us unique ourselves. This is an important objective in the 2nd Grade curriculum at Catherine Cook.

Early in the year, students explore their own identities through a family flag project. They interview their family members to learn all about their individual backgrounds – ethnicity, culture, traditions, and more. From there, students create a flag to represent their family's identity and what it means to them. Students then have the opportunity to share their flag's meaning with the class and hang it up to be displayed for the remainder of the year. The exercise brings a sense of pride to 2nd Graders as they present their own identity, and it also provides an opportunity to learn about the many things that make other families and individuals unique.

Inspired by author Todd Parr and his book, *It's Okay to be Different*, students also explore their identities by examining which of their own interests, abilities, physical characteristics, and other attributes others may see as "different." Each created their own page of a book to acknowledge what makes them different, such as being the youngest in the class, having eyeglasses, or celebrating both Christmas and Hanukkah.

Through other literature, students learn about characters who cope with their feelings of being different. For instance, in Helen Recorvits' *My Name is Yoon*, a young Korean girl feels all alone after moving to the United States. After many attempts to rename herself – Cat, Bird, Cupcake – she realizes that she can still be Yoon and be accepted by her new classmates. Another book, Michael Hall's *Red: A Crayon's Story*, tells the tale of a blue crayon stuck in a red wrapper and the identity crisis that ensues. After other crayons and art supplies try – unsuccessfully – to help him be red, a new friend sees him for the blue crayon he is and he thrives in his true identity. By examining characters like Yoon and Red, students learn to embrace the qualities that make them unique.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016-2017

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
Lisa Snow, Vice Chair
Keith Morgan, Treasurer
Penny Fine, Secretary
Ellen Best, At Large

Julie Campbell
Marta Delgado
Tom Fuller
Ashley Joyce
David Laurenson

Roger Liew
Diana Sands
Bob Whelan
Jeffrey Zappone



PARENT ASSOCIATION 2016-2017

One of the best assets of Catherine Cook is our fabulous community of parent volunteers. From the year-round commitments of the Parent Association Executive Committee to the one-time helpers during a classroom party, each volunteer is vital to the success of our school. We couldn't function without your support, and we appreciate all that you do.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Secretary

Katie McMillan

Vice President

Stephanie Free

Treasurer

Janeen Hayward

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Leslie Hauser

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Brandy Kemp
Michelle Kilkenney

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Kristen Flather
Julie Simon

Community Cares

Tia Hild

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Deanna Beise
Rachael Leckow
Kyle Schauenberg

School's Out Celebration

Jody Boutell
Julie Levenstein
Beth Pearlman

Harvest and Halloween Celebration

Kira Elert
Angela Floessel
Beverly Gonzalez

Service Committee

Jessica Dunne
Allegra Weiner

Social Committee

Emily Bennett
Mia Sossei



Spirit Committee

Megan Aling
Sarah Pearsall
Julianne Walsh

Staff Appreciation Breakfasts

Koli Donohue
Kimberly Kirincic
Claudia Martin
Christine Melendes

Teacher Lunchroom Relief

Meghan Gill
Ashley Manzella
Renee Salomon





Expanding Junior Kindergarten Learning with Technology

Innovation and Design Thinking

In many ways, the things students learn in early childhood have remained pretty consistent over the years – the alphabet, numbers, social skills, barnyard animals. It's a time for acquiring the fundamental knowledge that will inspire a culture of learning throughout their lives. What *has* changed over the years is the way students learn these basic concepts.

The advent of recent technology like the iPad and its many educational applications has substantially

altered the early childhood landscape (and education as a whole). In conjunction with traditional approaches, students are now able to learn the same core skills that they always have with the help of innovative, engaging technologies, while simultaneously learning additional skills that prepare them for success in the current century. Here are a few examples of how Catherine Cook Junior Kindergarteners utilize age-appropriate technology to expand their classroom learning:



Social-Emotional

Throughout the year, students draw self-portraits to document their identity and how they evolve over time. At the end of the year, students take a photo of their final self-portrait using an iPad, import it into ChatterPix (an app that adds a moveable mouth to a static photo), and record the story of who they are and how they have grown that year.

Science

During their Ocean Unit, students learn about the many different animals and plants that live in our oceans, analyze the vast differences in sizes of those animals, and begin to understand the relationships between all the living things in that ecosystem. To help with these concepts, students create a story about the ocean and use their iPads to record a stop-motion animation. In doing this project, students not only learn about marine life, but also dip their toes into the world of video editing.



Motor Skills

Many people assume that the integration of technology correlates with a decrease in physical activity and motor skills. On the contrary, applications like Toca Dance allow students to teach a character their own choreographed dance moves, which the program then loops to create a dance routine for students to learn and share with friends.

Math

Technology goes beyond the iPad with devices like the Parrot Jumping Sumo drone. Unlike other drones you may be familiar with, the Sumo hops rather than flies. During their Building Unit, students work to construct a tower that is just tall enough for the drone to hop over without touching. Calculations must be completed to establish the tower height and how far the drone should be placed from the base of the tower.

The 2016-2017 Annual Giving Campaign was spearheaded by our ninth 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 Marta Delgado

Lower School Captains

Don Mizerk and Steph Tipton

7th and 8th Grade Captains

Jenni Pencyla and Mikala Stewart

**New Parent and
Early Childhood Captains**

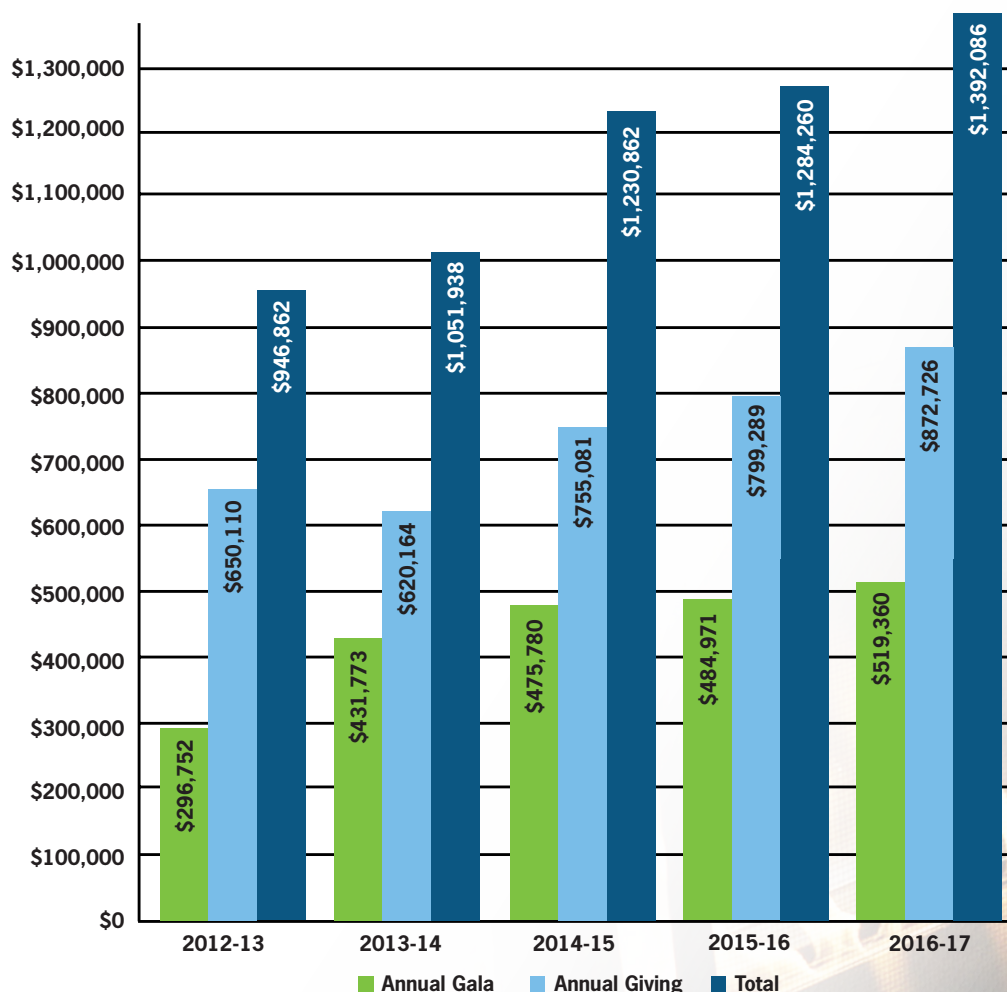
Josh Lerner and Sam Pollack

Middle School Captains

Ryan Harris and Rita Powers

Faculty and Staff Captains

Beth Herdering, Ashley Marentette,
Ashley Nolan, and Dana Stewart



Annual Giving Campaign

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2016-2017



ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

Gifts of \$30,000 and above

Linda and Dennis Myers*

ANAGNOST SOCIETY

Gifts of \$20,000-\$29,999

Michael and Ashley Joyce*

Diana and Michael Sands*

FOUNDER SOCIETY

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

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Mark and Michal Solovy

John and Steph Tipton*

Ryan and Kelly Waters*

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Jeffrey and Carie Zappone*

Ellen Best and Gregory Zrazik*

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

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in Honor of Lowe Abloh

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Ruth Barber*

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Lisa An Wong*

In Memory of Georges A.

Cehovic, MD

Cameron and Erika Wood*

Spencer and Lauren Worley*



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Brandon and Stacy Ackley
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Mr. Daniel Feder
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Bridget Byron and
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In Honor of Gustavo A.
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Art and Jennifer Wolf
Alex and Benya Young

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Gifts of \$500-\$1,249

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Alejandro Asali Michelsen and
Martha Solares Moya
Tod and Cathy Barber
Paul and Elisabeth Beerkens
Sergio and Jane Bertolini
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Benjamin K. Brown^^
Alicia Lisowski and Mark Bruker
Tristan Dolik and Anjali Bidani
Beverly Gonzalez
In Honor of Thalia Gordon
The Goy Family
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Karolynn Earl and
Gregory Hanrahan
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Kathryn Thomas
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Julie O'Malley
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Louis and Ali Paster
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In Honor of Rohan Reddy
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Max Weinberg
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In Honor of Henry, Charlie, and
Elie Wolf
Wolters Family Limited Partnership^
In Honor of Maximilian
James Kort



Amy and Craig Ziegler
Carrie Beyer and Adam Zysk

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Gifts of \$1-\$499

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Jeni Berg-Wallish
Kirk and Joan Beyers^
Subhayu Bose and
Aaditi Chakavorty
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Crystal Bell

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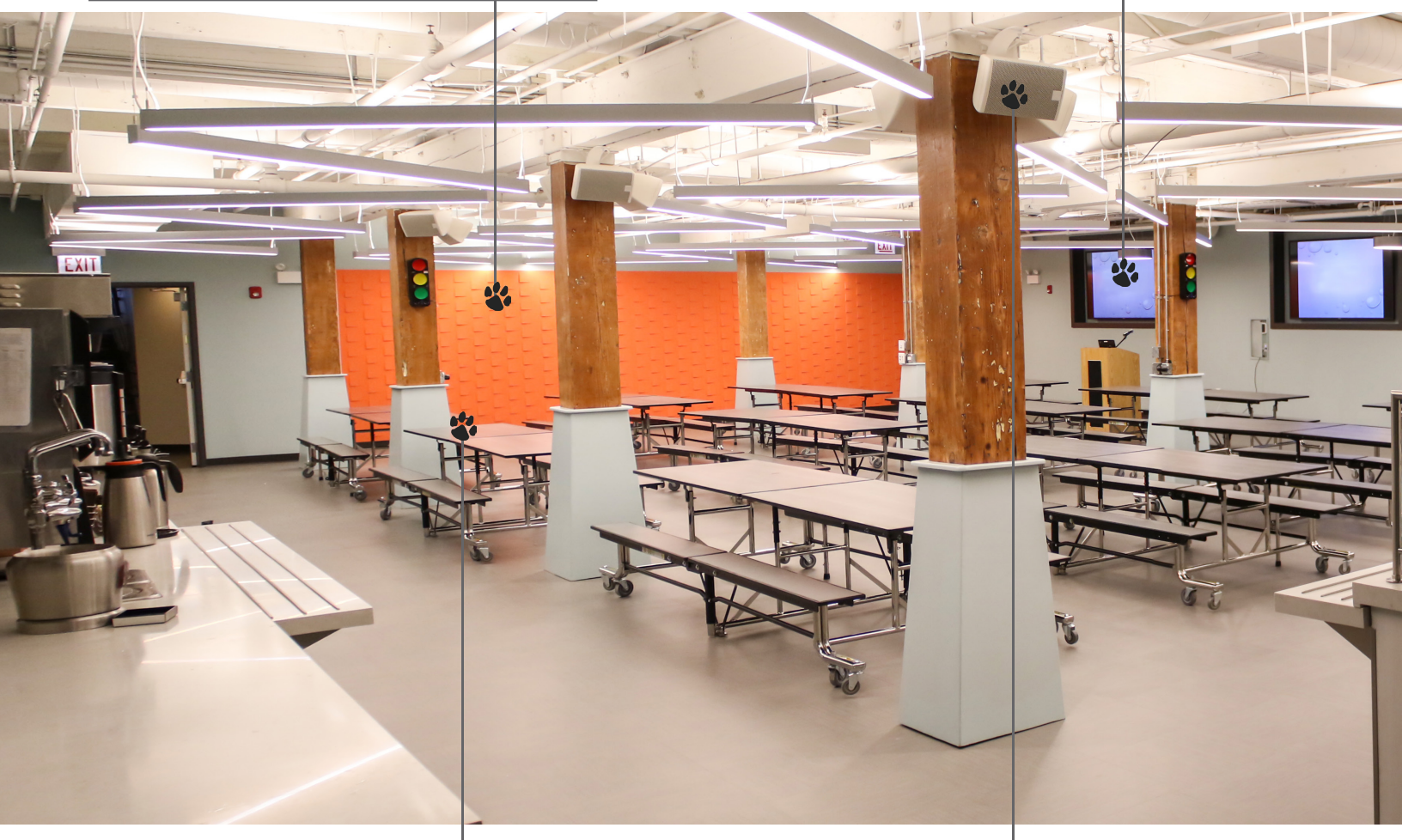
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Orange Wall | fabric construction helps dampen noise and provides a pop of color

Three 85-Inch Displays | better viewing during meetings and presentations



Seating | new tables provide additional seating and arrangement options

Audio/Visual System | state-of-the-art sound and video equipment



Paddle Raise

Thanks in part to the incredibly generous support of our 2017 Annual Gala Paddle Raise donors, our community has a brand new, gorgeous Cafeteria. Our students, faculty, and staff are now able to enjoy fresher meals cooked right on site with more options to choose from. Additionally, the space is now officially a multipurpose facility to accommodate parent events, division meetings, and more. To top it all off, a brand new HVAC system brings healthier air quality. Take a tour of our new Cafeteria:

HVAC System | zoned climate control and fresh air intake



Commercial Kitchen | top-of-the-line, stainless steel appliances with viewing window



Serving Line | more meal options available

Dish Room | increased storage and efficient cleaning



IDEA:TE CONFERENCE

Catherine Cook continued in its role as a leader in the education technology and design thinking arenas this summer as we hosted the third annual IDEA:TE (Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Art: Transforming Education) Conference from June 26-28. Drawing educators from across the country, this event provided intensive workshops and training to help attendees integrate traditional and emerging technology into their curricula.

Co-founded by Catherine Cook Director of Innovation JD Pirtle and Director of Advancement Stacy Shafer Peterson, IDEA:TE workshops and presentations were led by Catherine Cook faculty and staff, as well as leading educators and professionals in the field. The “teachers

teaching teachers” approach allowed for hands-on experiences and an open dialog around what really works in the classroom, what doesn’t, and how to implement these ideas in their own schools.

Workshops and presentations revolved around the innovative concepts and technologies that Catherine Cook utilizes with our students every day, including virtual reality, textile arts, computer science, Minecraft, 3D modeling and design, video production, and much more. Attendees also learned how concepts could be modified for the ages and abilities of the students they teach. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and they left eager to implement all of these new ideas.



IDEA:TE Conference 2017



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

Thank you to the Catherine Cook faculty, staff, and parents who made IDEA:TE 2017 a roaring success:

Amanda Burns
Nosson Cohen
Jill Due
Jeff Edmonds
Daniel Fierro
Kevin Freed
Margaret Hermanek
Rachel Hill

Tony Johnson
Andy Lelo
Miguel Martinez
JD Pirtle
Stacy Shafer Peterson
Kyle Smart
Dana Stewart
Max Weinberg





BUILDING A RESTAURANT THAT IS “JUST RIGHT”

Inspired by a writing assignment to review a local restaurant, Mr. Sutter's 1st Graders decided to create their very own pop-up restaurant, Just Right. Students trained hard to learn the roles of managers, servers, chefs, cashiers, musicians, and designers. They also mastered the math, writing, design, food handling, and collaboration skills necessary to smoothly operate a restaurant. 1st Graders then invited their Book Buddies from Ms. Tomscheck's class, as well as faculty and staff, to enjoy a multi-course lunch prepared and served right here at Catherine Cook. Their opening was a smashing success, and customers raved about their fantastic experiences.



Operating Statement

OPERATING STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2016 - AUGUST 2017

REVENUES

Instructional Services	\$13,836,596
Fundraising	\$1,389,979
Co-Curricular Programs	\$110,586
Investments	\$11,623
Miscellaneous	\$22,097
Total Revenues	\$15,370,881

EXPENSES

Instructional Services	\$7,665,719
Administration	\$2,636,945
Building Operations	\$1,076,199
Amortization and Depreciation	\$1,077,058
Debt Service	\$471,786
Total Expenses	\$12,927,707

NET REVENUE* \$2,443,174

*Unaudited end-of-year operating statement



	CURRENT NAIS	CATHERINE COOK 2017
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 2016-2017

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.