

# VOICES

Annual  
Report

WINTER  
2018



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Dear Friends,

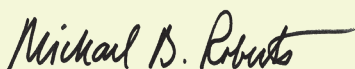
Now in my fourteenth and final year of service to the school, I am so pleased with the progress we have made, as evidenced by the quality of our program and validated through the amazing high school placement results for our 8th Grade graduates. I am also proud that we have continued to strengthen our commitment to cultivating community norms in the areas of cultural competence, global citizenship, ethical literacy, and technology integration.

As a pathway to making our strategic initiatives a reality, it is imperative that we hire the best and most-qualified faculty, staff, and administrators. It is through our positive regional reputation, competitive salaries and employee benefits, a rich array of professional development opportunities, and the adoption of best learning practices that we are able to attract these individuals to our institution from across the country. We could not achieve all this without your philosophical and financial support, for which we are very grateful. Your support has also made possible a thorough and inclusive succession plan that resulted in naming a new Head of School and, soon, a new Head of Early Childhood.

Even though there are bittersweet feelings in leaving the institution I have nurtured and loved through the years, I am excited to see our future unfold in this thoughtful year of senior leadership transition. I understand that change can be difficult in any committed community. However, change is a natural and positive consequence of strategically moving the institution into what is new, next, and best as we continue to build a firm foundation for the future of our children through innovative, progressive, and constructivist curricula. These changes will be successful only with trust, patience, and support by all members of our community.

There is nothing more important than joining together for the success and happiness of our children and their future. I sincerely hope that as you read this Annual Report you will see evidence of a vibrant and loving learning community working to develop compassionate and empathetic leaders of an ever-changing world. I wish you all the very best as you step together into an exciting future.

Warmly,



**Dr. Michael B. Roberts**

Head of School





## Mission and Diversity Statements

# 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.



# THE ART OF EXPLORATION

# Academics



## PHYSICS

The Middle School science program focuses on the development of critical thinking and problem solving. Once students find a topic to explore, they learn to design investigations, experiment, observe, make measurements, and interpret data.



7th Grade students explored physics principles like position, speed, and time with a series of experiments. In one experiment, students used photogates to analyze the speed of a car as it traveled down a ramp and tested how the location of the photogate on the ramp impacted the speed recorded.

**The study of science is a lifelong learning process that begins with inquiry and exploration. Our students are introduced to new concepts daily and are equipped to ask the necessary questions and find evidence-driven answers based on experiments they design.**



## SENSES

Early Childhood students learn to think like scientists as they explore big ideas, such as observation, data gathering, and prediction. Their exploration begins with the five senses and extends to exciting projects like building touchpads, going on virtual reality tours, and cooking. Preschoolers went on a "sniffing safari" and tried out new and familiar foods.

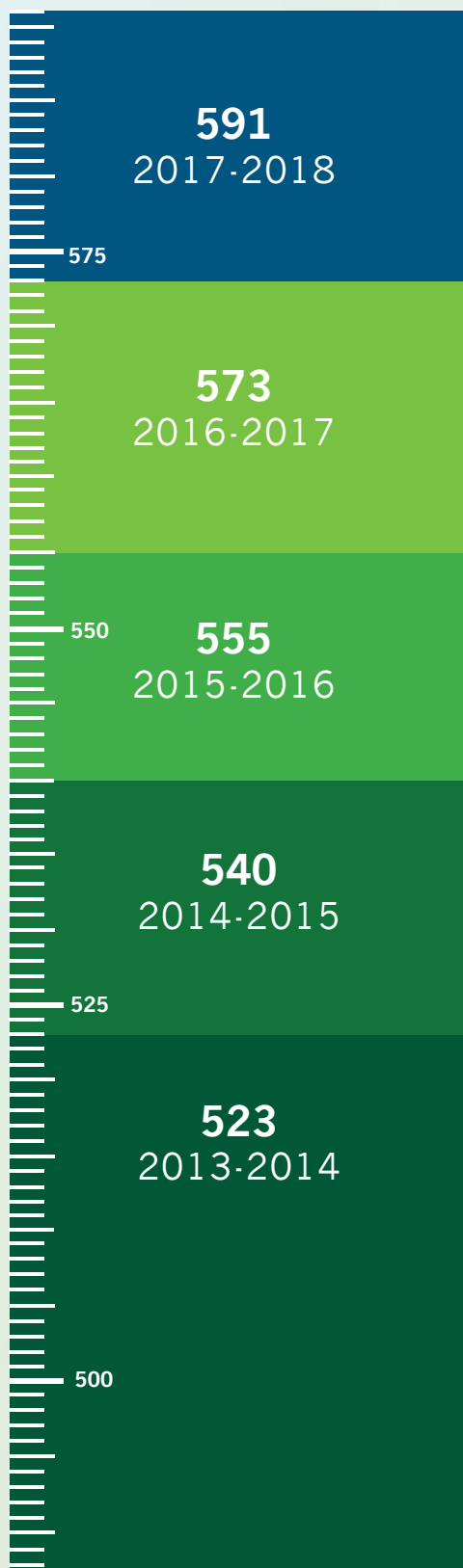
## LIGHT AND SHADOWS

In Lower School, students learn more about the natural world by working as scientists. Their in-class explorations encourage collaboration as students work together to gather data and find evidence to support their reasoning.

1st Grade studied the concepts of light and shadow in science class. By blocking a flashlight with various objects, students established a rule that a shadow is made when an object is placed in front of a light source. They then experimented with how different materials block light - some block the light completely (opaque), others let a little light through (translucent), and some let significant light through (transparent).



## Enrollment Five Year History



# ADMISSION & ENROLLMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**38**

Chicagoland  
zip codes in  
which our  
families live



student retention  
rate — higher  
than the NAIS  
average

**3**

sections of 6th Grade,  
approaching our goal of  
a three-section school  
through 8th Grade



# Admission and Enrollment



# CLASS OF 2018

We are proud of our students from the Class of 2018 and where they decided to continue their academic journeys. The vast scope of high schools they attend is a testament to the strength of our curriculum and the character of our graduates.

This year, an astounding 94% of 8th Graders were accepted into at least one of their top three high school choices. 88% were accepted into a Top 5 Selective Enrollment High School in Chicago, compared to 30% citywide! Here is where the Class of 2018 attends high school:

**94%** **ACCEPTANCE  
RATE INTO  
TOP THREE  
CHOICES**



<b>7</b> Latin School of Chicago	<b>1</b> Northside College Prep
<b>6</b> Jones College Prep	<b>1</b> Chicago High School for the Arts
<b>5</b> Lane Tech College Prep	<b>1</b> Lake Forest Academy
<b>2</b> Francis W. Parker School	<b>1</b> The Hotchkiss School (CT)
<b>2</b> Walter Payton College Prep	<b>1</b> St. Ignatius College Prep
<b>2</b> Whitney Young Magnet	<b>1</b> Jones College Prep CTE Engineering Program
<b>2</b> Lincoln Park Double Honors	<b>1</b> Lincoln Park International Baccalaureate Program
<b>2</b> Pensacola Catholic High School	



# GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP DOING OUR PART

At Catherine Cook, our students are challenged with learning about world issues and exploring their role in becoming a part of the solution. The 2017-2018 school year introduced many social justice topics, including local children in need and hunger around the world. Students contributed by making blankets for sick children, volunteering at a local pantry, and packing meals for malnourished youth in different countries.



### PROJECT LINUS

In collaboration with Project Linus, Junior Kindergarteners designed and created security blankets for hospitalized children. Each blanket was a collection of cheerful drawings and messages made on quilt squares to provide comfort to children in need. After working in the IDEA Lab to sew the quilt squares together, their security blankets were delivered along with handmade greetings cards offering well wishes to the patients.



### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

4th Grade partnered with Feed My Starving Children, an organization seeking to end childhood hunger across the world. Feed My Starving Children relies mainly on volunteers to hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and then ships these meals to distribution partners all over the globe. During their service project, students helped pack 96 boxes of food that will provide more than 20,700 meals to children in need.

### LAKEVIEW PANTRY

Although hunger is a huge problem around the world, there are also people in our own communities who struggle with providing a meal for themselves and their families. In fact, one in nine people on the North Side of Chicago are food insecure. To help make a difference, our 5th and 6th Graders volunteered at Lakeview Pantry. Students assisted with working the counter, stocking food, repacking bulk foods, and sorting clothing. In the spring, students also organized a toiletry drive to collect essentials for Lakeview Pantry to deliver to clients.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017-2018

**The Board of Trustees is comprised of volunteers – current parents, Alumni parents, and outside community members – who dedicate their time and talents to help Catherine Cook School fulfill its mission. Trustees establish the long-term strategic plan for the school, hire and review the Head of School, and approve and oversee the school's budget, among many other duties. Thank you for all you do!**

**Linda K. Myers, Chair**  
**David Laurensen, Vice Chair**  
**Penny Fine, Treasurer**  
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**Julie Campbell**  
**Marta Delgado**  
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**Tom Fuller**

**Michelle Kilkenney**  
**Roger Liew**  
**Diana Sands**  
**Lisa Snow**  
**Bob Whelan**



# PARENT ASSOCIATION 2017-2018

Our parents and guardians are a huge part of what makes the Catherine Cook community so strong. We appreciate the time they give to make sure our students, faculty, and staff have the support they need to be successful. Our parent volunteers help advance the mission of Catherine Cook, and we couldn't have come this far without them.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Stephanie Free

### Secretary

Kira Elert (partial year)

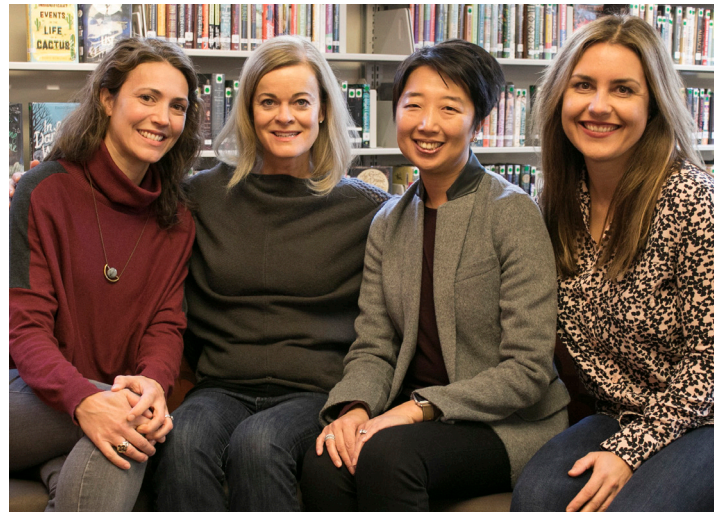
Leslie Hauser (partial year)

### Vice President

Daisie Siska

### Treasurer

Janeen Hayward



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Ambassador Program

Emily Bennett  
Jennifer Buckley  
Judy Pomerantz

### Library Support

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Kathy Hoff  
Shawna Norsman  
Wendy Roseth  
Casey Ray  
Renee Salomon

### Art/Nurse/Enrichment Support

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Kim Lorimer  
Jessie Williams

### Parent Education Program

Stacy Ackley  
Eric Gudell

### Back to School Celebration

Megan Schrecengost  
Kelly Waters  
Merel Wokke-Nieuwenhuizen

### Room Parent Coordinators

Kristen Flather  
Christine Lyons

### Community Cares

Casey Harris

### School's Out Celebration

Adrienne Eisenstein  
Julie Levenstein  
Erika Maschmeyer

### Faculty and Staff

### Appreciation Luncheon

Rachael Leckow  
Seema Patel  
Kyle Schauenberg

### Harvest and Halloween Celebration

Kira Elert  
Melissa Filkin  
Beverly Gonzalez  
Jennifer Rice

### Service Committee

Jessica Dunne  
Ellen Kellogg  
Allegra Weiner

### Social Committee

Kate Callery  
Mia Sossei  
Megan Weiland

### Spirit Committee

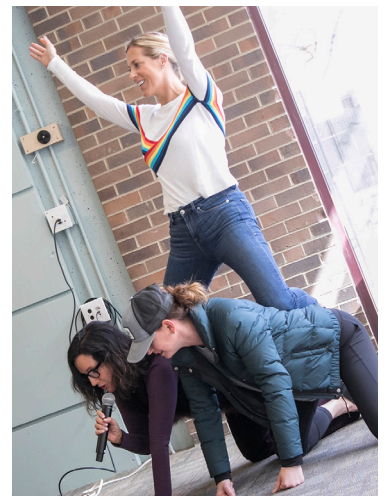
Megan Aling  
Katie McMillan  
Sarah Pearsall  
Julianne Walsh

### Staff Appreciation Breakfasts

Hampton Horton  
Kim Kirincic  
Jessica Nunziata

### Teacher Lunchroom Relief

Susan Flosi  
Megan Gill  
Kelly Lerner  
Ashley Manzella



# CONNECTING LITERACY WITH TECHNOLOGY

# Innovation and Design Thinking

Providing our students access to state-of-the-art facilities with innovative equipment allows them to learn problem solving and critical thinking skills while exploring their creativity. Through coding and a variety of applications, students are learning the importance of planning and how to guide a project from beginning to end.

## LITERACY

Literacy remains at the core of our curriculum, and our students are always excited to integrate it with technology, especially if it means sharing their favorite book with their classmates!

Students in 4th-6th Grades selected their favorite books and coded a one-minute “trailer” in Scratch to inspire others to also read the story. After identifying important parts of the book, students used a graphic organizer to plan the project and search for corresponding images. Once the storyboard was completed, students used Scratch and their knowledge of sequencing and timing to code images, audio, and text into a video format.



## CREATION

With the Book Creator application, Senior Kindergarteners blended their passion for reading with their excitement to use new technology. This app allows students to make their own digital books that feature a cover and content, including text, photos, illustrations, and videos. To guide their exploration of this application and make friends with their new classmates, students created digital friendship books. Using photos and audio clips, the students identified all their friends in the class and compiled the information into a fun book.

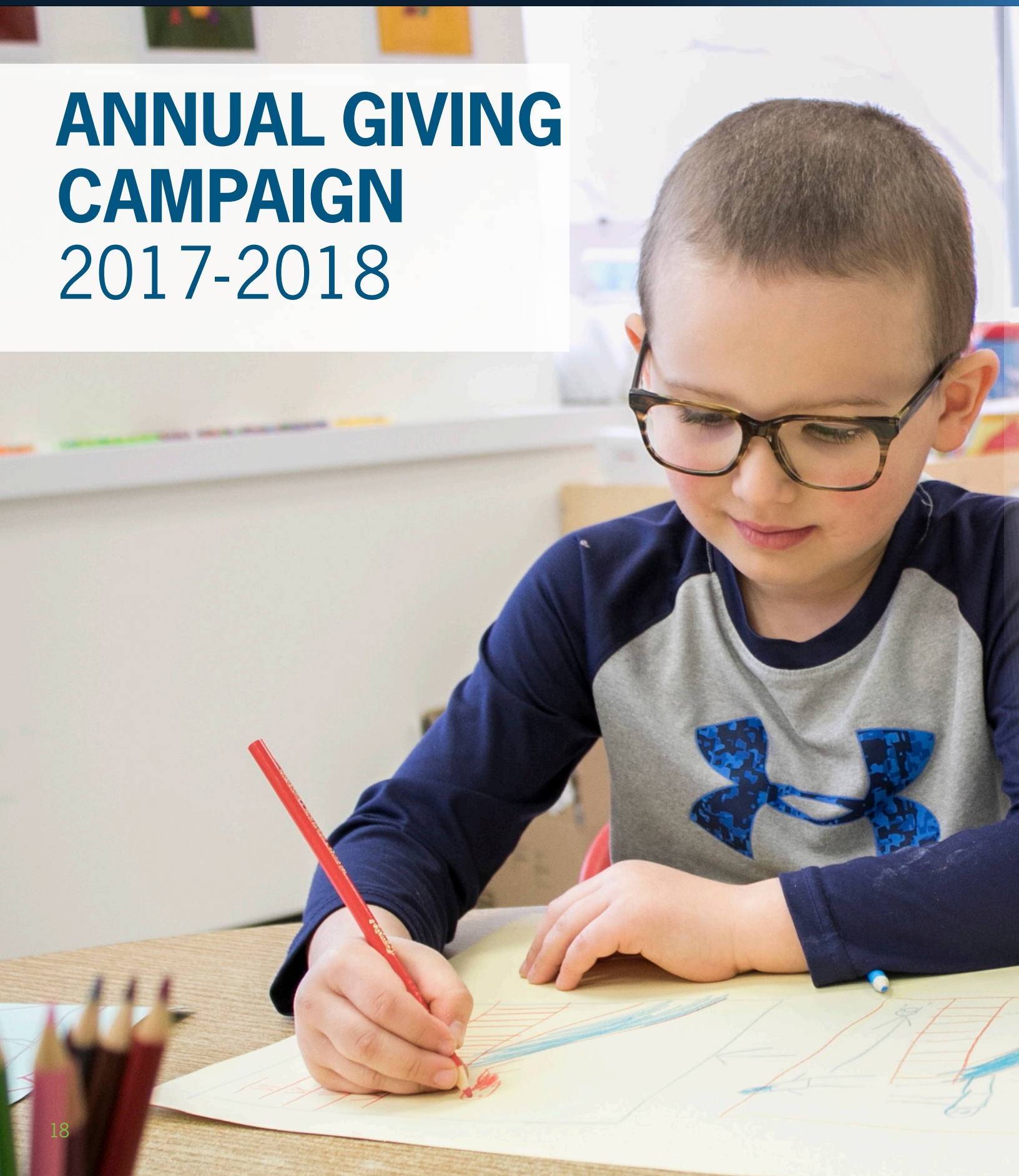
## DESIGN

In a unit called “How-To,” 2nd Graders learned the importance of following instructions and understanding which details to include when creating a step-by-step guide. To showcase this, each student created a How-To video for a building project they completed in the IDEA Lab.

Using an application called Blokify, students worked in groups to create step-by-step instructions about how to design a building, starting with the blueprint. After drawing a blueprint of their structures, students brought their art to life using LEGOs. Once students were happy with their creations, they finally designed them in Blokify, with specific colors and customizable building features.



# ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2017-2018



# Annual Giving Campaign

**The 2017-2018 Annual Giving Campaign was led by our tenth Annual Giving Cabinet. As ambassadors of the Campaign, these volunteers shared the importance and impact of every family participating. Thanks to the generosity and continued support of Catherine Cook leadership, volunteers, and donors, contributions to the Campaign have increased steadily. Thank you to all who gave!**

## Co-Chairs

Marta Delgado and Ryan Harris

## New Family Captains

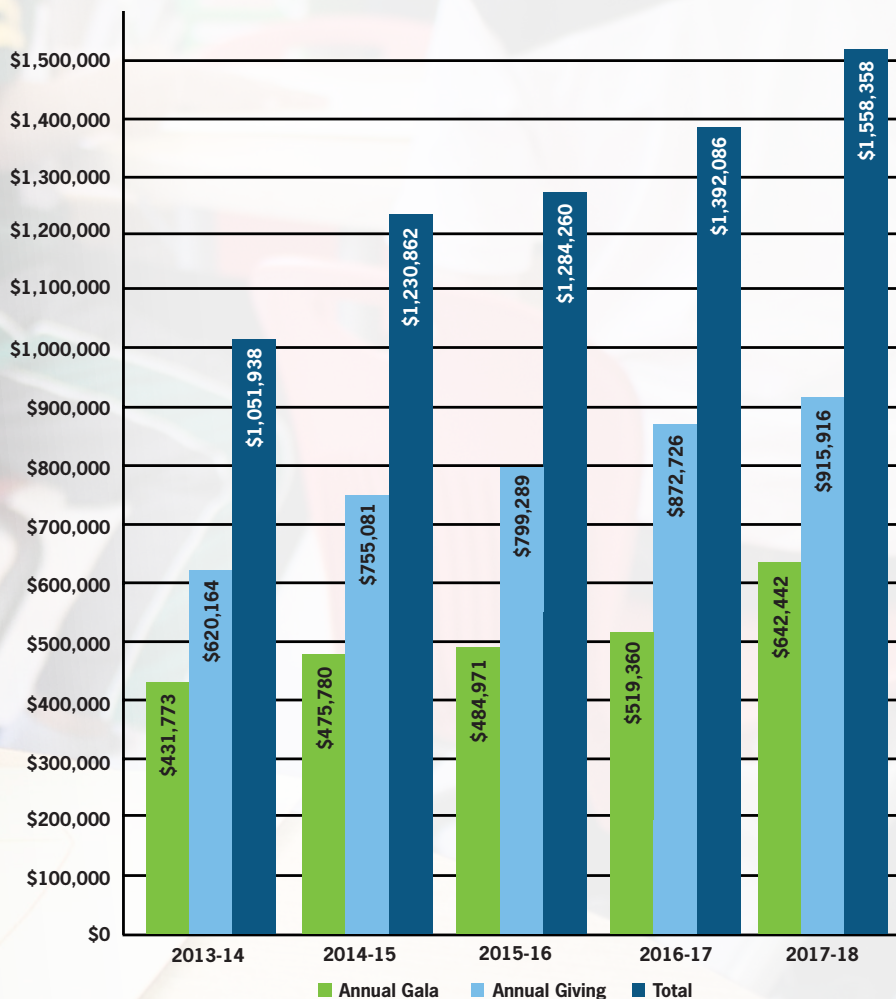
Josh Lerner and Sam Pollack

## Captains

Flavio Arana, Al Flosi, Don Mizerk, Rita Powers, Tricia Rexford, and Jenni Pencyla

## Faculty and Staff Captains

Daniel Fierro, Christina Pappas, and Natasha Witte



# ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

## **CORNERSTONE SOCIETY**

**Gifts of \$30,000 and above**

Linda and Dennis Myers+

## **ANAGNOST SOCIETY**

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

Ryan and Casey Harris\*  
Michael and Ashley Joyce\*  
Diana and Michael Sands+  
Tracy and Justin Ward\*

## **FOUNDER SOCIETY**

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

Josef and Rachel Guzowski\*  
Megan and Michael Hodes\*  
In honor of Elle and Ava Hodes  
Ryan and Michelle Kilkenney\*  
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Suzie Desai and Roger Liew\*  
Katie and Glenn McMillan\*  
Marta Delgado and Sam Nandi\*  
Wendy Roseth\*  
Trevor and Kyle Schauenberg\*  
Don and Sandra Schwarz\*  
Bhavan Suri and  
Bhavana Devulapally\*

## **TRUSTEE SOCIETY**

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

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Maha Halabi Ditsch\*  
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Umrai and Meghan Gill  
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Leonard Wanger  
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Ellen Best, Greg and  
Christopher Zrazik+

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

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Ruth Barber\*  
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Paul and Elisabeth Beerkens\*  
Maureen and Chris Bennett\*

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Kim and Max Kort\*  
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Catherine Gilmore-Lawless\*  
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Kimberly and Scott Lorimer\*  
Scott and Christe Lyons\*



# Annual Giving Campaign

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 In honor of Kiran and Kyra Mathew  
 Evie and Bob McCullen\*  
 Chris McKean and  
 Kathy Sandstrom\*  
 Andy and Antoniette Mechavich\*  
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 Rebecca Rokos\*  
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 The Williams Family  
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 Alex and Benya Young\*

## PACESETTER CLUB

**Gifts of \$1,250-\$2,499**

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 Anne and Andrew Appel\*  
 William and Shizuka Baarsma  
 Kurt Baldassari and Virginia Devlin\*  
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 In honor of Haley Hanfling  
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 Jeff and Erika VanDam  
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 Craig and Amy Ziegler

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**Gifts of \$500-\$1,249**

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 Ako Amegah and  
 Camille Hamlet-Amegah  
 Martha Solares Moya  
 and Alejandro Asali Michelsen  
 Sergio and Jane Bertolini  
 Tom Doar III  
 The Dugan Family  
 Kristen and Fred Flather  
 Michael and Melissa Graham



Kris Haines  
Michelle and Scott Hanfling  
Karolynn Earl and  
Gregory Hanrahan  
Humberto Iniguez  
and Kathryn Thomas  
David and Sara Kaminski  
Kenneth and Maria Kaufman  
Sunni and John Kitson  
Jon and Christy Levy  
In Honor of the Catherine Cook  
Class of 2018  
John and Annie Moroney  
Jeff and Natalie Nathanson  
Scott Peach and  
Samantha Sommers  
Justin and Stephanie Pike  
JD Pirtle and Kimberly Keith  
Brian Puerling and  
David Recksieck  
Michael B. Roberts  
Carlos Rodriguez  
Dan and Erica Rosskamm  
Gregg Rzepczynski  
and Susan Meade  
Fran and David Schneider  
Daniel and Charla Simon  
Gilbert and Jill Valentine  
Andrew and Molly Watkins  
Matthew Weidle and  
Meagan LeGear  
Max Weinberg and Craig Seip  
Art and Jennifer Wolf  
Carrie Beyer and Adam Zysk

## **GREEN & WHITE CLUB** **Gifts of \$1-\$499**

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Kemi Adeodu  
Megan Altmayer  
Abigail Andrick  
Anastasia A. Aviles  
Bill and Carol Baarsma^  
In Honor of Bill and  
Shizuka Baarsma  
Valerie Barnes+  
Jim Behrendt and Michael Janik  
Darren Bell  
Erica Broder  
Amanda Burns  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Burrows  
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Nosson Cohen  
Alex Daugherty  
Barbara Dawn

Hannah Dreher  
Mark Droegemueller  
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Tony and Jacqueline Johnson  
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Sandra and Nick Kane  
Maura Kiernan  
Irene King  
Joyce Kopp  
Lara Kossiakoff  
The Krumwiede Family  
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Amy Lawrence  
Andy Lelo  
Lindsay Madden  
Kenny Males  
Emily Malette  
Miguel Martinez  
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Kadin McGreevy  
Sarah and Paul McHugh  
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Allison Towsley  
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Heather Vardis  
Bob Whelan  
Cory Williamson  
Natasha Witte  
Jessica and Joel Wintermantle  
Justin Woodward

## **CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

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Barclay's Capital  
Boeing  
Brookfield Investment Management  
Capital One Financial  
CME Group Community Foundation  
Exelon Corporation  
GE Community Foundation  
Matching Gifts Program  
Google  
i9 Sports  
J.C. Kellogg Foundation Fund  
JLL  
Kirkland and Ellis Foundation  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Matching Gifts Program  
Prudential Match Plan  
TIAA  
UBS Matching Gift Program  
Wells Fargo Education Matching  
Gift Program  
William Blair & Company

\* 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).  
+ indicates a Catherine Cook Alumni Parent  
^^ indicates a Catherine Cook Alumnus/a

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.



The Legacy Circle was established to acknowledge the consistent and generous support of our many donors to the Catherine Cook Annual Giving Campaign. Their gifts have enabled the school to grow and thrive and create a culture of philanthropy for the entire community. Please join us in recognizing the following donors to the 2017-2018 Annual Giving Campaign for their years of consecutive giving to Catherine Cook.

## LEGACY CIRCLE

### 10+ YEARS

Heather Haukness  
and David Bentrem  
Paul Collier and  
Kristen Werries Collier  
Alex and Yuko Darcy  
Barbara Dawn  
Michelle and Kelley Drake  
Mark Droegemueller  
James and Jill Due  
Jolene Fairchild  
Jodi and Richard Flohr  
Corrine Stutts and Kim France  
Anne Russell and Kevin Freed  
Melissa Copley and  
Francis Freeman  
Michael and Melissa Graham  
Kris Haines  
Rachel Hill  
Sandra and Nick Kane  
Jordan Kass and  
Stacia Garriott Kass  
Sunni and John Kitson  
Lisa Coconato and Shelly Kulwin  
Melissa and Dave Laurenson  
Jon and Christy Levy  
Keith Morgan  
Linda and Dennis Myers  
The Norman Family  
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Catherine Cook celebrated its milestone 20th Annual Gala with The Roaring Twenties on March 10, 2018. Guests gathered at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago for a glittering evening that highlighted the best of the last 20 years. Thank you to the generous volunteers and guests who made the evening possible, along with our sponsors and donors who graciously contributed to support Catherine Cook.

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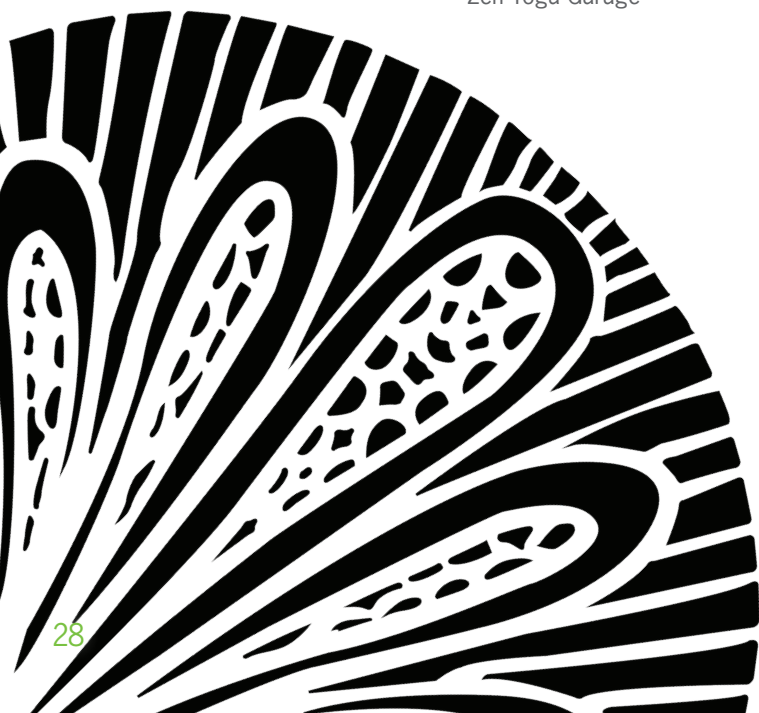
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## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL THE GRANT FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Thanks to the record-breaking financial support of parents, trustees, faculty, staff, and other friends of Catherine Cook during the 20th Annual Gala Paddle Raise, we will be able to welcome new students to our community. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, the Grant for Diversity and Inclusion will provide two students with fully-funded tuition, fees, lunch, and after school programs. Recipients will be able to enter at any grade level, and the Grant is renewable each year through 8th Grade.

Diversity is crucial in preparing students for successful futures. When children work with other students whose backgrounds and experiences are different from their own, they learn better communication, collaboration, and problem solving skills that will last a lifetime. It also teaches students to embrace and celebrate the things that make each of us both similar and different from one another. For these reasons, and many more, we are incredibly grateful for the contributions that made the Grant for Diversity and Inclusion possible. Your dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion is creating incredible opportunities for all students at Catherine Cook School.



## Operating Statement

## OPERATING STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2017 - AUGUST 2018

## REVENUES

Instructional Services .....	\$15,126,530
Fundraising .....	\$1,242,725
Co-Curricular Programs .....	\$175,160
Investments .....	\$33,375
Miscellaneous .....	\$21,305
<b>Total Revenues</b> .....	<b>\$16,599,095</b>

## EXPENSES

Instructional Services .....	\$8,437,146
Administration .....	\$3,206,738
Building Operations .....	\$1,367,920
Amortization and Depreciation .....	\$1,185,321
Debt Service .....	\$289,914
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>\$14,487,039</b>

**NET REVENUE\*** ..... \$2,112,056

\*Unaudited end-of-year operating statement



	CURRENT NAIS	CATHERINE COOK 2018
Tuition as a % of total revenue	79.8	89
Fundraising as a % of total revenue	9.8	7.5
Tuition Assistance as a % of total revenue	14.5	5.1
Salaries/benefits as a % of total expense	69	65
Technology expenditures as a % of total expense	1.3	11.6
Professional development as a % of total expense	.7	1.3

# VOICES: CATHERINE COOK

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM 2017-2018

**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.