



2018 IMPACT REPORT



HORIZONS[®]

Dedham Country Day School



The Horizons program consistently supports my kids in and outside of the classroom. I can always count on Horizons!

-DEANDRA, HORIZONS PARENT

While talent is distributed equally, opportunity is not.

In 2009, we believed that bringing the nationally recognized Horizons program to the campus of Dedham Country Day School would be transformative for underserved children from Boston and Dedham who are often short on opportunity. Ten years later, we continue to deliver on our long-term promise to our students.

In 2018, we served over 150 students from Grades PreK through Grade Nine. Our program is stronger than ever as we seek expansion opportunities and continually strive to help close the opportunity and achievement gaps for more children. The results are clear: students who spend ten successive summers at Horizons are more curious about the world around them, more able to compete with their peers academically and better equipped to begin High School from a position of strength—with lasting support.

Last year we fulfilled our promise to our founding students and celebrated our first graduating class of eighth graders. In the fall of 2017, we entered an exciting new chapter and began a High School Program with the majority of our very first Horizons students.

In 2019, we will welcome over 160 students in PreK through Grade 10 and over 40 new and returning faculty members. We're looking forward to another dynamic year ahead with a motivated Board and leadership team and the development of a new strategic plan. We are eager to serve more students and I am humbled to be leading Horizons as we embark on this next phase of growth and impact.

It is rewarding to watch our students grow as I witness first-hand the generosity of the Horizons community, staff and volunteers who believe in the opportunities we offer our young people and are passionate about our mission. We are strengthened by the many ways that the Horizons and Dedham Country Day communities demonstrate their commitment to work with us to provide a program that so powerfully influences our students and their families.

Without your unwavering support and involvement, we could not offer this life-changing program. Thank you for your dedication to this incredibly important work.

With gratitude,

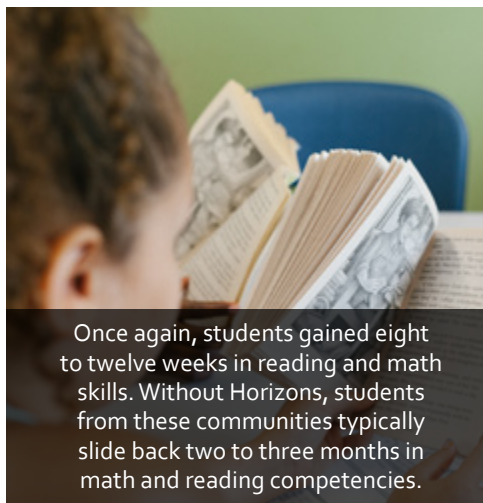
Meredith Laban,
Executive Director, Horizons at DCD

2018 Highlights

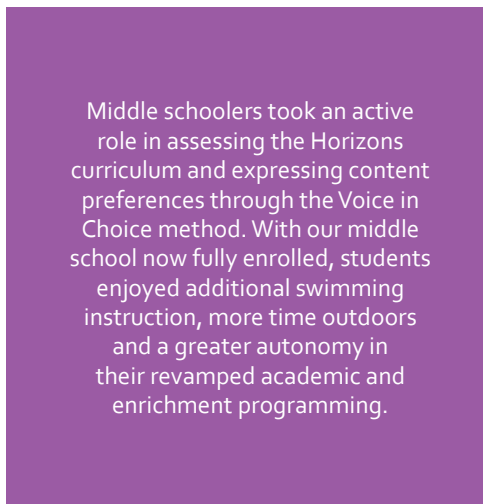
We served over 150 students in Prekindergarten through Grade Nine.

For the fourth year, we employed our popular Project Based Learning (PBL) approach across all grades and adjusted curriculum and programming based on learnings from previous summers. Our PBL modules allow students to have a role in choosing a project that straddles both math and ELA curriculums. We continue to be very encouraged by our results, where students consistently demonstrate strong reading and math gains each year, reinforcing that Horizons reverses "summer slide." We are proud to share 2018 highlights and successes.

Horizons has had an amazing impact on me. The program has made me a better person. It has affected how I approach life and being a student at school.
-Adrian, Grade 8



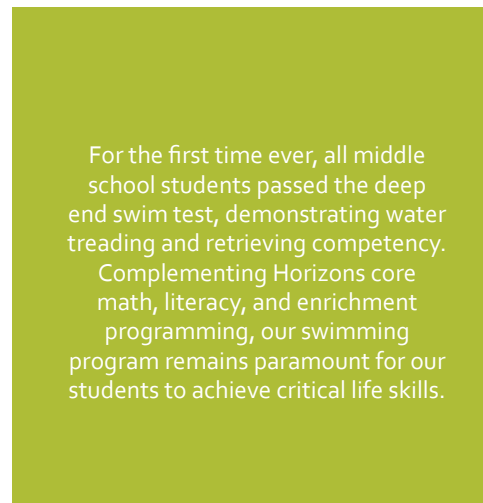
Once again, students gained eight to twelve weeks in reading and math skills. Without Horizons, students from these communities typically slide back two to three months in math and reading competencies.



Middle schoolers took an active role in assessing the Horizons curriculum and expressing content preferences through the Voice in Choice method. With our middle school now fully enrolled, students enjoyed additional swimming instruction, more time outdoors and a greater autonomy in their revamped academic and enrichment programming.



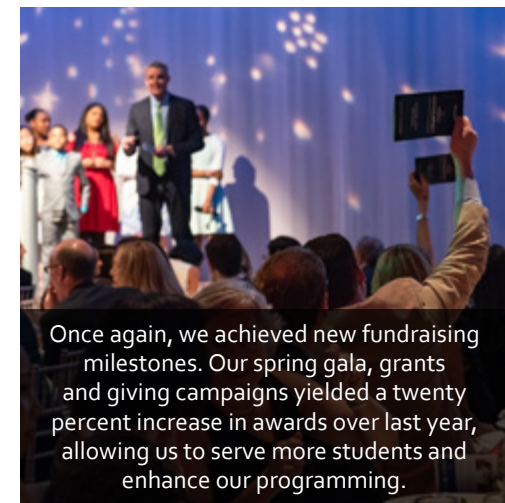
In addition to our program staff, we had a wonderful group of new and returning volunteers comprised of local and Horizons High School students who served as role models. As teenagers, these young people make invaluable connections with our students, complementing the work of our exceptional faculty and social worker.



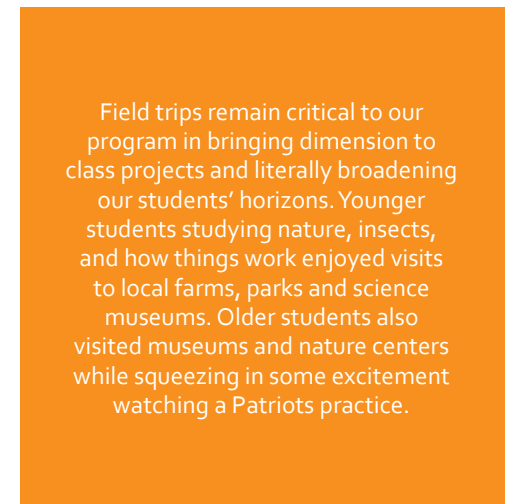
For the first time ever, all middle school students passed the deep end swim test, demonstrating water treading and retrieving competency. Complementing Horizons core math, literacy, and enrichment programming, our swimming program remains paramount for our students to achieve critical life skills.



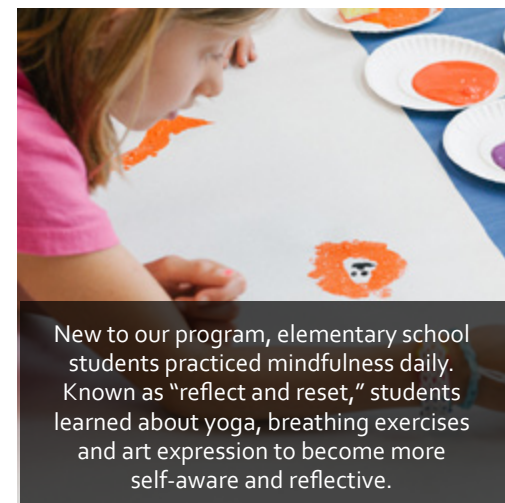
A dream long in the making, we started our High School Program and held our second Horizons eighth grade graduation. With most eighth graders and their families committed to staying with us through High School, this program is geared to support students as they navigate social and academic challenges, summer employment and internship opportunities and eventually, college application support. This year we will focus on cultivating more partnerships and offering academic support and leadership development to our ninth and tenth graders.



Once again, we achieved new fundraising milestones. Our spring gala, grants and giving campaigns yielded a twenty percent increase in awards over last year, allowing us to serve more students and enhance our programming.



Field trips remain critical to our program in bringing dimension to class projects and literally broadening our students' horizons. Younger students studying nature, insects, and how things work enjoyed visits to local farms, parks and science museums. Older students also visited museums and nature centers while squeezing in some excitement watching a Patriots practice.



New to our program, elementary school students practiced mindfulness daily. Known as "reflect and reset," students learned about yoga, breathing exercises and art expression to become more self-aware and reflective.



Your Impact

Thanks to your help, **over 150 children** from underserved communities experienced the Horizons difference. Here are just a few ways your donation made such a powerful impact:



Each student received at least 15 hours of reading and math instruction per week.



Every student went on at least 4 field trips.



35 students passed the deep end swim test.



+ 300 nutritious meals were served daily.



8 students graduated from eighth grade.



16 students enrolled in our 2018-2019 High School program.



90% of students returned in 2018



94% Average Daily Attendance Rate



65% faculty of color, mirroring our diverse student body.

WHY I GIVE TO HORIZONS

"We support Horizons because the service model is so compelling. Not only does it provide amazing opportunities for kids to have academic enrichment over the summer to drive success during the school year, it also makes ten year commitments to those kids ensuring that success will endure for a lifetime."
-Alida Coo-Kendall and Mike Kendall

WHY I GIVE TO HORIZONS

"We are firm believers in the mission of Horizons at DCD. We love the program's unique commitment to kids for ten consecutive from Pre-K through 8th grade, as well as its focus on Boston and Dedham children."
-Lisa and Andy Mims



Spotlight on Middle School

While our elementary school program is where Horizons students make some of their most important initial gains in reading and math, middle school is where we continue our core academic focus while also offering deeper student enrichment programming, allowing students to discover interests and broaden their sense of self.

2018 was our most successful middle school program to date. We continued High School preparation for eighth graders, offered new enrichment classes and made some impactful structural changes to the middle school program that were driven by our students.

- Students practiced more autonomy in a Design for Change approach as they assessed the Horizons community and proudly took on the role of recommending program adjustments based on what they found to be most impactful. They learned how schedules and curriculum content are developed and how organization goals are set. Met with enthusiasm by the students, the Design for Change approach piloted in sixth and seventh grade.
- Fifth graders showed off their entrepreneurial skills and started businesses! Students zealously developed business and marketing plans, offering the Horizons community a range of products and services from video creation, cleaning services, trash pickup and label making. Students heard from a variety of successful entrepreneurs and enjoyed an exciting field trip to the office of the founder of Hill Holliday, where he spoke to our students about how he created his business through determination and work ethic after growing up in a similar neighborhood as our students.
- Thanks to new fine arts grant support, middle schoolers relished their art curriculum. Seventh and eighth graders learned the art of personal storytelling by creating collages and visual journals. Sixth graders were tasked with inventing a new planet, depicting the environment and life that might occupy the planet through thoughtful renderings.
- Poetry was a wonderful new addition to the sixth grade enrichment curriculum. Initially skeptical about the subject matter, students studied different types of poetry and eventually crafted their own poems, proudly sharing their works and newfound voices.
- Eighth graders completed a high school transition course that focused on High School preparation in a variety of areas, including academic and social/emotional readiness. The course included panels led by Horizons alumni and culminated in the Thompson Island Leadership Development course, where students experience an Outward Bound style overnight on the Boston Harbor Island.

We see the difference Horizons makes—and the results show us time and again that the program works. But there's nothing better than hearing from our students what Horizons means to them and how profoundly it has impacted their world.



Horizons has impacted me in a good way. It has helped me make more new friends and this year specifically, it has taught me that poetry can be used for many different purposes. Most importantly, this program has taught me to stay true to myself, and not change for anyone. — Ryan

Horizons has had a big impact on my life! Because of Horizons, I learned how to swim, and discovered how much I love being in the pool! The teachers encouraged me to be more creative with my art, and to understand the surroundings of the world. — Ailani



"Horizons has had a positive impact on me as a student, and overall person. Without Horizons, I would not have met half of the amazing people that I now know. Additionally, I probably would not have had the opportunity to experience many of the field trips and group activities that my teacher leaders coordinated throughout the years." — Jasani

Horizons has had a big impact on my learning. The program has helped me be better in school. Having access to all the different classes at Horizons has been worth doing work in the summer; it has helped a lot! — Jose



My name is Thomas Hunt Junior.

I'm in the 6th grade I've been here for 8 years I am writing to say thanks. Thank you for the pool we get to swim in. I actually passed the deep end test. Thank you for the education because without it I wouldn't be getting As and Bs, thank you for the bus services without it I wouldn't be here on time or here at all, thank you for the home cooked meal we get to enjoy and stay healthy. Thank you for the field trips. I actually got to go down a waterslide that I never done ever before, and finally thank you for keeping the camp running from year after year so we can have fun every year. My favorite thing to do was going down a waterslide at a field trip.

Thank you and stay happy because you know you made a difference to me and other kids!!!

Sincerely,

Thomas Hunt Junior
Horizons 6th Grader

Thank you

Horizons is grateful for support from organizations whose involvement allows us to focus on our shared goal of empowering students to learn and thrive to their fullest potential.

Boston After School and Beyond
Boston Public Schools
Dedham Country Day School
Dedham Public Schools
Dedham School of Music
Horizons National
Jeremiah Project
National Partnership for Educational Access
Summer Search
Thompson Island Outward Bound

Horizons at DCD provides Greater Boston's underserved youth with an enriching curriculum of academic, arts and cultural experiences for ten consecutive summers. A public private partnership, Horizons prevents summer decline and closes the achievement gap. With nourished minds, students discover their full potential in school and beyond.

Communities Served

HORIZONS AT DCD SERVES STUDENTS FROM: BOSTON • CHELSEA • DEDHAM • DORCHESTER • HYDE PARK • JAMAICA PLAIN • ROSLINDALE • MATTAPAN • ROXBURY • WEST ROXBURY



Upon entering Horizons, approximately:



70% test below grade level



1/4 have learning disabilities



1/3 Latino
1/3 Black
1/3 White



1/2 girls
1/2 boys

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS

Max Bardeen
Curt Burmeister, Treasurer
Ben Cavallo
John Connors
Helena D'Angelo
Gita Iyer, Board President
Judi King, Clerk
Jennifer Krebs
Keith McCown

Skip McKee
Paul McMurtry
Lisa Mims
Audrey Nichols
Kathy Parent
Michael Sweeney
Allison Webster, DCD Head of School
Michael Welch



HORIZONS[®]

Please visit Horizonsgreaterboston.org to support our growing program.

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