IMPACT REPORT

HORIZONS®
Dedham Country Day School

2025-2026







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IMPACT

OUR MISSION





Horizons at DCD provides Greater Boston's youth with an **enriching curriculum** of **academics, arts, and cultural experiences** for **10 consecutive summers**.

A public-private partnership, Horizons **prevents summer decline** and **closes the opportunity gap**.

With **nourished minds and bodies**, students discover their full **potential in school and beyond**.









HORIZONS COMMUNITY

18 Years of Impact and Innovation

Dear Friends of Horizons,

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I want to begin by expressing my deep respect for the history of Horizons at Dedham Country Day School and for the many people who have shaped this community over the years. This program exists because of the vision, care, and generosity of those who believed, and continue to believe, in the potential of our Scholars.

For 18 years, Horizons at DCD has been a place where children are known, supported, and challenged to grow. The relationships built here, the academic confidence fostered each summer, and the sense of belonging our Scholars experience are the result of sustained commitment from educators, families, volunteers, and donors like you. I am honored to join an organization with such a strong foundation and meaningful impact.

As we look ahead, I do so with gratitude for all that has come before and with a clear commitment to carrying this work forward. My pledge is to steward this program with care, to listen closely to our community, and to ensure that Horizons at DCD continues to be a place where Scholars are supported not just academically, but holistically through all stages of their 10 years with us.

Your partnership makes this possible. Because of your support, our Scholars return year after year to a learning environment that nurtures curiosity, builds confidence, and opens doors to opportunity.

I am appreciative of your trust in this program and look forward to strengthening our impact together.

Thank you for standing with Horizons at Dedham Country Day School and for your continued belief in our Scholars. It is a privilege to serve this community, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Jessica Cohen

Jessica Cohen

Executive Director
Horizons at Dedham Country Day School



HORIZONS COMMUNITY

A Letter From Our Board Chair

Dear Friends of Horizons,

It is such an honor to introduce myself as the new Board Chair of Horizons at DCD. This past year has been marked by transition, as we welcomed an all-new staff with Jessica Cohen as Executive Director and Indya Donovan-Pinot as Bilingual Assistant Director of Programs and Advancement.

As Horizons at DCD enters its 18th year, I can't help but find parallels between its growth and our 18-year-old alums, who are graduating from high school and preparing to step into adulthood, whether through work, college, or new paths of learning and independence. Similarly, this moment of transition at Horizons at DCD feels like a natural point for maturation. It's an opportunity for thoughtful evolution, new thinking, appropriate shifts and subtle rebalancing, all while staying true to who we are.

At 18, there is new capacity for high-level thinking, expansive possibilities, and greater independence. But peel back the layers, and the core of who that young person is remains deeply intact—their passions, values, and sense of self. The same is true for Horizons at DCD. As we actively integrate the pillars of our strategic plan, explore partnerships and connections to improve our program, and thrive under Jessica's leadership, our foundation remains steady.

Our longstanding relationships with families, our unwavering commitment to see and support each child and help them thrive, the life-changing impact of our swim program, and the generational change that defines the Horizons model are always paramount.

Our Scholars and their families are at the center of a Venn diagram where a vibrant collection of volunteers, faculty and staff, Board members, our DCD, Dedham, and Greater Boston communities, and our loyal donors and champions like you all overlap. This network of support is powerful—not just for a single summer, but across a decade and more of a Scholar's life.

Thank you for helping nourish our Scholars and sustain this extraordinary community. 18 years is something to celebrate, and we're excited to continue sharing updates as Horizons at DCD steps confidently into the next chapter! We made it this far because of you, and we are so looking forward to all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Seneca Francione

Board Chair
Horizons at DCD





Horizons Board of Directors

(September 2025 - August 2026)

Ivy Alphonse-Crean
Director of DEI at DCD

Max Bardeen

Tom Burke

Curt Burmeister
Treasurer

Ben Cavallo

John Connors

Melissa Crowe

Seneca Francione
Board Chair

Michelle Freniere

Gita Iyer

Mo Lackenbauer

Katie Lynch

Keith McCown

Katie McDonnell

Lisa Mims

Nan Murphy

Lisa Palmer

Caitlin Reisman

Lisette Santiago

Michael Sweeny
Clerk

Lindsay Wands

Allison Webster
Head of School at DCD

HORIZONS COMMUNITY

Meet Our Newest Board Members



TOM BURKE



Tom Burke is an accomplished entrepreneur and executive with over 24 years of experience leading and scaling early-stage companies across biotech, healthcare, and direct-to-consumer industries. He brings a strong record of operational excellence, financial strategy, and organizational leadership, having overseen company operations, finance, logistics, technology, legal, human resources, and strategic growth initiatives.

Tom currently serves as CFO and COO at Olaris, Inc., a biotech diagnostics company advancing its first test for kidney transplant patients to market. Prior to Olaris, Tom helped drive ButcherBox—an innovative, direct-to-consumer subscription meat company—from $32 million to $600 million in revenue while maintaining profitability and scaling its operations, technology, and supply chain infrastructure.

Earlier in his career, Tom held senior finance and operations roles at several venture-backed biotech companies, including Hydra Biosciences and Infinity Pharmaceuticals, where he helped raise hundreds of millions in venture and non-dilutive funding, led M&A and IPO efforts, and built high-performing finance and operations teams.

Tom began his career at KPMG in Boston and Dublin, managing audit engagements for high-growth technology and multinational clients. He holds master's degrees in Accounting and Business Administration from Northeastern University and a bachelor's degree in Physics from the College of the Holy Cross.

KATIE LYNCH



Katie Lynch is the Special Education Team Chair at Wellesley High School. She has spent over 25 years supporting students with disabilities through the development and coordination of individualized education programs (IEPs). She brings extensive experience in special education leadership, collaboration, and compliance. Katie holds a Special Education Administrative Licensure from The Education Cooperative/Boston University, a Master's in Special Education from Cambridge College, and a B.A. in Psychology, Special Education, and Elementary Education from Marist University.

She is thrilled to join the Horizons at DCD board, a program she and her husband, John, have supported and loved for many years. She's excited to contribute to its continued growth and impact.

When she's not working, Katie can usually be found cheering on her kids from the sidelines, arranging flowers, and training for marathons. She and John, founder of Dwell360, live in Needham with their three children, Jack, Colin, and Ellie.

LISA PALMER



Lisa Palmer is a seasoned commercial real estate finance professional with experience in portfolio management, compliance and loan administration at leading institutions including John Hancock/Manulife, Wells Fargo Bank, and State Street Bank & Trust. She currently oversees all aspects of the commercial real estate closing process for Beacon Bank and Trust (formerly Brookline Bank), providing strategic oversight and fostering collaboration across various teams and stakeholders to ensure smooth and successful transactions.

As a board member of Horizons, Lisa is passionate about supporting a mission to advance educational equity by opening doors for students to grow and succeed, strengthening communities, and creating pathways for young people to thrive. She is proud to support an organization that makes a lasting impact in students' lives.

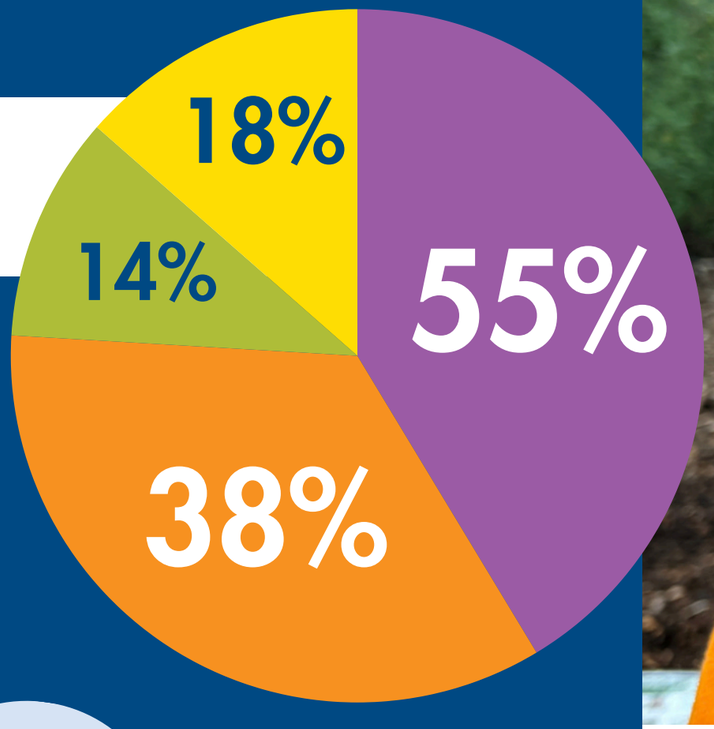
PROGRAMMING

Summer Demographics

133

Pre-K through 8th grade students

- 13 live in Dedham
- 105 live in Boston
- 15 live in surrounding towns



52%
Female

46%
Male

2%
Other















PROGRAMMING

Class of 2026



Agny
Brielle
Cameron
DeAndre
Keilani
Kelis
London

Congratulations Graduates!

"As a student who has been here since Pre-k, I can proudly say that Horizons has impacted my life in a very positive way. Throughout my many years of attending Horizons, I have made new friends, learned new skills, and kept prior knowledge from school fresh in my mind. I truly believe that coming to Horizons has taught us all many qualities that we can take into life with us to become the best version of ourselves that we can be. I can't quite tell you all what my first day ever of Horizons was like, but I can definitely say that I have changed from then and gained many new qualities and character traits that have shaped who I am today."
—Brielle, Class Speaker



2026 Karen McPherson Award for Kindness

In 2023, we established the Karen McPherson Award for Kindness, in honor of our Food Service Director. Karen has led our food service program for 10 years and is a crucial part of the Horizons community. Karen exudes warmth, is always available to lend a helping hand, and is a friend to all who step foot in the dining room. She makes Horizons Scholars feel at home every summer.

Like Karen, DeAndre carries a modest kindness where they don't need praise or expect anything in return. He builds relationships with others regardless of their background, belief, or identity. DeAndre radiates acceptance and understanding with authenticity, celebrating the person as an individual who deserves to be acknowledged.





2026 Maureen Simonson Award for Literacy

Maureen Simonson is an educator who served as a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher, Reading Specialist, and Academic Coordinator for Dedham Country Day School. Even in retirement, she remains deeply tied to child literacy, reading advancement, and academic development as she continues to be a long-standing supporter and donor to Horizons at DCD.

This past summer, while many were taking a well-deserved break, Kelis embarked on an extraordinary academic journey. On her own initiative, she immersed herself in her studies and conquered over 20 texts in her 8th-grade summer alone. This unbelievable feat did not just prevent the typical summer slide; it propelled her forward to finish reading an incredible two grade levels above her age group. Her accomplishment embodies the very spirit of Horizons at Dedham Country Day School—showing what happens when immense talent met tireless effort.

PROGRAMMING

Volunteer Program

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering with Horizons at DCD is a summer highlight for a majority of our volunteers. Summer 2026 brought together 43 7th-12th grade students in roles spanning classroom support, event planning, and programmatic development. Through applied experiences in working with children, administrative support, and leadership responsibilities, our volunteers develop a sense of purpose. In bringing their best selves and determined energy to the program each day, they show up as strong role models and near-peer mentors for our Scholars. These relationships help build Scholars' self-confidence and add to the high-quality support they receive. It is because of these bonds that many volunteers choose to return year over year, and even discover that working with children is their passion.

Caroline Shih began volunteering for Horizons at DCD in 2022, returned for the summers of 2023 and 2024, and was ultimately hired as an Assistant Teacher for the 4th grade. Shih now attends Columbia University and will obtain her B.A. in Psychology in 2029, fueled by her experiences as a volunteer to pursue a future in a helping profession.

Executive Director Jessica Cohen sat down with Shih to learn more about her time as a volunteer and what she took away from those summers.

Why did you come back to Horizons at DCD each year?
"I was a fan [of the fact] that I could use the prior experience I had with my kids year over year. Their teachers would look to me to get the real feedback on how a kid's day was going. I had the insight on who may have needed a break or a walk because they were having a hard day."

I understand you want to work in a helping profession. How did that come about?
"My Mom asked me to think about what I liked to do and what made me happy in my life. I spent time mulling it over and realized there are very few things that I go back to and very few things that I look forward to, and one of them was Horizons. I love the kids I worked with and I love the work that is done at Horizons. Where I see myself in the future completely came from Horizons."

How would you describe a Horizons Scholar?
"The beautiful thing about Horizons is that you don't have to be any particular person to be a Horizons Scholar. We have a wide array of really wonderful kids who mesh together and come back summer after summer. While there is no one type of Scholar, there is a sense of community that exists amongst our kids. It's a lovely group of kids who come together from all walks of life to learn and grow together."







"Horizons is a beautiful opportunity for kids. The magic of Horizons is that we come together every summer and we take advantage of the field trips and the incredible opportunities that the program provides.

One of the hard things about a program like Horizons is that on paper it's hard to convey how the day goes, but I can tell you it truly is a wonderful experience."

—Caroline Shih





FUNDING

Celebrating Our Sustaining Scholars Society

Will You Become a Member?

The Sustaining Scholars Society represents a deeply committed group of supporters who have chosen to invest in Horizons at Dedham Country Day School through multi-year giving.

Their generosity provides more than financial support—it offers stability, continuity, and confidence as we plan for the future of our Scholars. Because of Sustaining Scholars Society members, Horizons at DCD can look beyond a single summer or school year.

Multi-year commitments allow us to retain exceptional educators, strengthen academic programming, and ensure that our Scholars return to a consistent, nurturing learning environment year after year.

This long-term partnership is essential to the success of a program built on sustained relationships and growth.

As a new Executive Director, I am especially grateful for this community of donors who have demonstrated trust in Horizons' mission and in the students we serve. Your commitment enables thoughtful planning, responsible stewardship, and the ability to respond to our Scholars' evolving needs with intention and care.

We are honored by your belief in the long-term impact of Horizons at DCD. Thank you for standing with our Scholars, for investing in their futures, and for helping ensure that this program remains strong for years to come.

Please contact **jcohen@dcds.net** with any questions or if you would like to join this select group of donors as a member of the Sustaining Scholar Society.

Welcome New Members!

Amy and David Beckwith

Elizabeth and Zach Blume

Jane and Roger Cheever

Alexander and Carol Grant

Kristin Kara and Yanni Tsipis

Katie and John Lynch

Audrey and George Nichols

Lisa Palmer and Brian Blackman

Linda and Ashley Shih

Katie Wakeley and Tom Burke

Thank You to the Founding Members of the Sustaining Scholars Society!

Ivy Alphonse-Crean & Jared Crean
Anonymous
Beth & Max Bardeen
Angela & Ben Cavallo
Tina & Ray Clark
Larisa & John Connors
Melissa Crowe & Joseph Cuccinelli
Helena D'Angelo
Sandra Einsel & Keith McCown
Seneca & Chris Francione
Michelle & Rick Freniere
Janea & Vince Gubitosi
Suzanne Ibbeken & Curt Burmeister
Gita Iyer & Vijay Vishwanath
Alyson Kelley Hedgepeth & Chester Hedgepeth
Katie & Jake McDonnell
Lisa & Andy Mims
Nan Murphy
Morgen Peck & Morgan Lackenbauer
Caitlin & Jon Reisman
Lisette Santiago
Kate & Michael Sweeny
Lindsay & Michael Wands
Allison Webster & Andy Stromberg



FUTURE/BRIGHT

ICONIC NIGHT

APRIL 10, 2026
BCA CYCLORAMA

510 GUESTS REGISTERED
$383,745 TOTAL RAISED

























FUTURE/BRIGHT

ICONIC NIGHT

APRIL 10, 2026
BCA CYCLORAMA

510 GUESTS REGISTERED
$383,745 TOTAL RAISED

















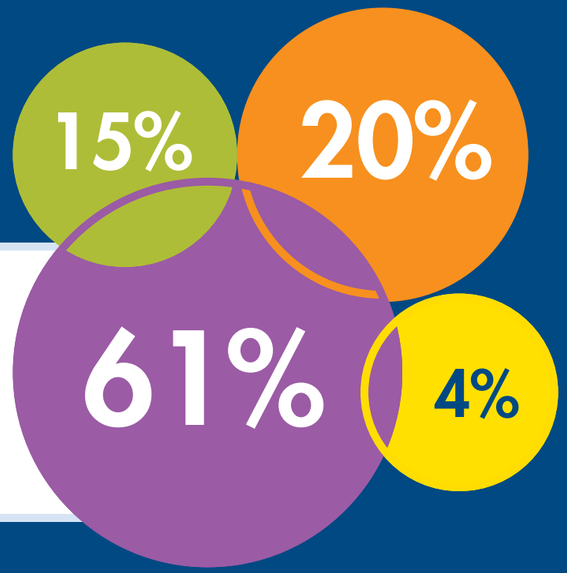








FUNDING



- Individual - $349,745
- Corporate & Foundations - $117,594
- Investment Income - $87,858
- Miscellaneous Income - $20,872

BUDGET & EXPENSES

for Fiscal Year '26











Thank You To Our 2025-2026 Donors

(Donations received between 7/1/2025-6/30/2026)

Salutatorian

$20,000 - $49,999

Boathouse Group Inc.
Boston Afterschool and Beyond
The Boston Foundation
Angela and Ben* Cavallo
Larisa and John* Connors
Helena D'Angelo
Morgen Peck and Morgan* Lackenbauer
Kate and Michael* Sweeny



Summa Cum Laude Society

$10,000 - $19,999

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The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
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Magna Cum Laude Society

$5,000 - $9,999

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Arbella Insurance Foundation
The Baupost Group. L.L.C.
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Amy and Patrick Carney
Chapters on Chestnut
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The Morgan Palmer Foundation
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Nick Steffey
Megan and Raghav Tanna
Katie Wakeley and Tom* Burke

Cum Laude Society

$3,000 - $4,999

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Dedham Savings
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Katie* and John Lynch
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Morgan Stanley
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Trillium Brewery
Ritu Valiyil and Rohin Rajan

High Honors Circle

$1,000 - $2,999

ALKU Foundation
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Atlantic Stainless
Daniela and Justi Bakes
Bain Capital Community Partnership
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Glenn Berger
Carolina and Josh Bloomberg
Astrid and Thomas Burns
Michael Canning
Elizabeth and Brendan Cashman
Cashman and Dunlavey Family Foundation
Alexa and Dennis Caulfield
Jessica Cohen and Lynsey Voy

(High Honors Circle Continued)

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C2 Body
DAFgiving360
Dwell360
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Honor Roll

$1 - $999

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Katie and Todd Alwart
Spandana Anantatmula
Melissa Arbour
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Lauren and Jason Baum
Allyson Biegeleisen
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Kristin Bittinger
Ali and Billy Blauer
Julie and Josh Bloomberg
Sara Braz
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Paige Brewster and Ben Snow
Tamika Estwick Buckmire and
Wesley Buckmire
Anne Bunn
Alisha and Wil Carwell
Kristin and Joseph Hill Casey
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Diane Lewis
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Maryanne and Jordan McInturf
Emily Mechem and Amy Trumbull
Susan and George Mihailidis
Stephanie Millon
Lara Moberg
Annie and David Moore



(Honor Roll Continued)

Sarah Moore-Ede
Mary Coffey Moran
Sarah and Josh Muncey
Suman and Arvind Murali
Nan* and Charles Murphy
Marie and Stuart Nagode
Kevin Nason
Ginny Naughton
Inke Noel
Laura and Joseph O'Garr
Gail O'Leary
Kevin O'Neill
Michelle ONeil-Turner and Ezzard Turner
Elizabeth Ostrander
Katie and Evan Ouellette
Bella Pace
Lee Peterson
Katie and Nick Philippi
Brendan Pierce
Lisa and Eric Pizzi
Wendy Poland
Allison Porter
Supriya Rao-Hwang and Allen Hwang
Lara Suarez and Ricardo Brau
Sumati and Ritesh Ram-Mohan
Kelly and Arun Ramappa
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Eric Trachtenberg
Dena Silver Upton and Jake Upton
Nicolas Vondrak
Mara Voukydis
Sarah and Matthew Walker
Mary Walsh
Michelle Werner
Janet Williams
Katherine Witman
Amy Yang and Po-Shun Lee
Jackie and Josh Zweig

*Denotes Horizons at DCD Board Member FY26

In-kind Donors

The Brant
Boston Madison Square Garden Club
California Closets
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Leah and Ben Coakley
Jamie and Kevin Connors
Melissa Crowe and Joseph Cuccinelli
Seneca and Chris Francione
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Liz and Todd Marcus
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M.S. Walker
Sarah and Josh Muncey
Cassandra Perry and Benjamin Leander
The Red Sox Community Relations
Caitlin and John Reisman
Satellite Bottle Shop
Cara Soulia Photography
Sun Cruisers
Megan and Raghav Tanna



Sign up for a summer tour by emailing Jessica Cohen at jcohen@dcds.net!

HORIZONS®
Dedham Country Day School

2026 at a Glance

6-8 weeks of math and ELA skills gained

6 new swim skills learned this year average per student

43 dedicated volunteers (18 returners from last year)

258 hours of enrichment classes this summer

133 students

26 teachers, staff, and enrichment specialists

2-3 hours of swim instruction each week per child

5,000 volunteer hours served

11,970 Nutritious meals and snacks served

7 eighth grade graduates

26 fun-filled field trips

89% average summer attendance rate

5 enrichment class offerings across all grades

3.5 hours of daily academic instruction per child

90 hours of STEAM over the summer

We Appreciate Your Support!

Click here to donate



HORIZONS®
Dedham Country Day School

STAY CONNECTED