

on the horizon

SPRING 2017

REACHING OUT, REACHING POTENTIAL AT HORIZON ACADEMY

A Breath of Fresh Air

Students are energized about a new addition to the school day--a post-lunch walk. With an extended school day comes an opportunity for students to stretch their legs, breathe in the fresh air, and practice their social skills with friends.



Meredith and Kaleb get a chance to chat during the school walk

“Not only are students getting physical exercise, but 10 minutes of sunlight in the middle of the day can help relieve stress for many students, and simply allows them to get some fresh air,” Mike

Chamberlain, PE & Sports Coordinator, remarked.

Staff members aren't the only ones who see the benefits, students can also recognize the value in a daily walk. Ella in 5th grade noted, "It's good exercise." and Ben in 4th grade added, "It wakes us up when we're really tired."

Vicki Asher, Head of School, shared her dream for the walk and how she sees it growing in the future. "I would love to construct a walking path and include strength training stations that students could use throughout the day."

If you know someone who can help make this dream a reality for our students, please e-mail Katie Lindgren in Development at klindgren@horizon-academy.com.

Your Helping Hands Make a Difference

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, our volunteers, for all that you do to help our students.

Through the Junior Master Gardeners program, students learn about plants, animals, and the important role they serve in our ecosystem. Each month, volunteers lead students in a hands on activity whether it is planting in the garden, building a bug house, creating a bat cave, or sifting through owl castings.

Volunteers powered two fundraising events (Fall Fest and Bayou Bash) that generated around \$110,000 for students with learning disabilities. They worked long hours setting up and tearing down the events, running carnival games, selling entries to auction games, and creating beautiful gift baskets.



Robyn and Claire sell raffle tickets at Fall Fest

UMKC interns also gave their time throughout the school year, providing support to teachers and working directly with our students in the classroom, in PE, and in our after school clubs.

Parents and family members provided an endless amount of support whether it was maintaining the school library, inputting data, helping out with handyman projects, or leading a station at one of our Learning Disabilities Simulations.

Your support is invaluable and makes a huge impact for our students. We couldn't do it without you! 🌟



A Master Gardener helps Jace build a bug house

School Day Snapshot

Student scientists (pictured from left to right) Sean, Alek, and Audrey presented some of their recent projects at our March board meeting. Sean showed off his 3-D plant cell model (that resembled a golf course). Alek demonstrated a Rube Goldberg contraption he created consisting of several simple machines. Audrey displayed her Jurassic Zoo featuring dinosaurs from the time period.



Donor Spotlight

A Community Coming Together

It takes a village to raise a child, and likewise to fund school opportunities for more than 80 children!

You Are Making a Difference

Horizon Academy would like to thank all of you who volunteered your time, offered your talent, and contributed your support this year to ensure student success. You make it possible for Horizon Academy to continue its mission as a 100% privately-funded specialty school for students with learning disabilities.

Horizon Academy has been able to offer some exciting opportunities for students, staff, and the community this year thanks to the many generous individuals and entities. Special thanks to **Bartlett Grain Company, Blue KC, the Jamaal Charles Youth Matters Family Foundation, the Kevin**



Joey, Nia, and Fisher in an Orton-Gillingham lesson

A. Dunn Charitable Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Heeney, Midwest Distributors, the R.A. Long Foundation, and Dr. Marita Thompson and Dr. Paul Sheeran.



Steve Heeney shows off his festive hat at Bayou Bash

You have helped so many of our students find that 'aha!' moment by supporting training opportunities for our teachers. These programs include the multi-sensory math manipulative program, Math-U-See, Orton-Gillingham small group and one-on-one reading instruction, and continued education with KU Center for Research on Learning strategies.

You Made Bayou Bash a Great Success

Horizon Academy's 13th annual Bayou Bash kicked off the month of February, raising more than \$100,000 for need-based scholarships and student programs. We would like to thank event co-chairmen,

Jean & Jim Schrader and Brad & Ginny Epsten along with our Bayou Bash committee, and our gracious sponsors!

The new event location at The Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland drew approximately 500 guests who supported the school through a silent auction, popular raffles and games, a live auction, and record-breaking fund-a-need donations. The evening was a fun-filled celebration of the success students who have struggled with learning disabilities continue to find because of your support. Program speakers featured student Max Chmel with his parents and student alumni, Sabrina Saleh, both with a message that we all have many gifts to share with our community.



Student speaker, Max, with his family

Thank you to our village for helping Horizon Academy students shine! 🌟

Horizon Academy Summer Offerings



Programming for students with learning disabilities:

Orton-Gillingham Tutoring | June 5- July 28
Math Tutoring | June 5- July 28
June Full Day Program | June 5-30
July Half Day Program | July 10-28

www.Horizon-Academy.org/Summer-School



For parents & teachers!

Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator Training

Learn how to teach students diagnosed with dyslexia or language-based learning disabilities.
June 12-17

Horizon-Academy.org/O-G-Training

Planning for a Bright Future

WRITTEN BY MIKE KOEPPEN, BOARD PRESIDENT

Strategic Planning. A term referenced by many organizations and Boards. The Horizon Academy Board of Trustees is reviewing and updating the current Strategic Plan which expires in June 2017.

The Strategic Plan is a document which governs overall decision-making by the Board of Trustees and staff members. The Plan includes a vision for the future of the school and addresses significant values key to the continued success of Horizon Academy by focusing on the students, staff, facilities, community and finances. Key performance indicators will measure our progress as an organization and identify areas which may require enhancement. The students will be happy to know that the Board and the teachers are also receiving a report card!!



Nathan greets Board President, Mike Koeppe

The strategic planning process was initiated in August and is directed by a Committee of Board members and Vicki Asher, Head of School. The Committee solicits feedback at each step from Horizon Academy's administrative staff and teachers.

A significant number of hours have been invested in this process and a significant number remain to attain completion. I am delighted with the effort which has been made by the Committee, the staff and the teachers. My sincere thanks to each of those participants. The Board looks forward to sharing the final document as we plan for a bright future for students with learning disabilities. 🌟

You Are Somebody!

You are somebody. This is the message we are trying to convey to our students this school year. We want to remind them that despite the struggles they may face in life, they matter and they have something to offer the world. However, we can't do it alone. You--the donors, volunteers, parents, board members, alumni--are the ones who create these opportunities for Horizon Academy students, and for that we are so grateful.

I was reminded of this as I watched one of our students, Max, give a speech with his parents at Bayou Bash. Before arriving at Horizon Academy, Max was told that he was word blind. But at



Vicki Asher,
Head of School

Bayou Bash, he was able to stand in front of 500 people and READ! What an amazing accomplishment! He closed his speech by reading, "I will always have dyslexia, but at Horizon they are teaching me how to live with dyslexia and that I am somebody!"

"I will always have dyslexia, but at Horizon they are teaching me how to live with dyslexia and that I am somebody!"

You have made this possible. Your support of Horizon Academy provides scholarships, enrichment programs, access to academic programs, and training for our teachers. All of these allow our students to shine. Thank you for supporting them. **You are somebody!** 🌟

Alumni Spotlight: Michael Jury Overcoming Obstacles

Since graduating from Horizon Academy in 2006, I went on to receive my high school diploma from Bishop Miege in 2010. By 2014 I received my bachelor's degree in Geology with a minor in Mathematics from Western State Colorado University. I am currently working as a Geologist for Black & Veatch here in Kansas City. On the weekends I spend time with friends and family enjoying this beautiful city that we call home. I have participated in community softball and soccer leagues in the past few years, and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. I enjoy all types of physical activity from hiking and running to skiing and rock climbing.



Michael dressed for work at
Black & Veatch

My greatest accomplishments since leaving Horizon would have to be my achievements throughout the rest of my educational career. I received several scholarships while attending both Miege and Western, and despite my continual struggle with dyslexia, I was able to accomplish any task I put my mind to. I am also quite proud of how much my skiing improved while attending school in Colorado!

"Despite my continual struggle with dyslexia, I was able to accomplish any task I put my mind to."

Some of my favorite memories from my time at Horizon Academy have everything to do with the people. The teachers, my fellow students, and all of the staff members were the kindest and most encouraging people you could ever meet. **I owe everything I've accomplished to my parents and to Horizon Academy.** Thank you to everyone at Horizon, past and present, for everything you have done for me, and countless others who struggle with learning disabilities. 🌟

Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 20, 2017

LEARNING DISABILITIES SIMULATION

See page 4 for more details!

Horizon Academy | Free Registration

www.Horizon-Academy.org/LD-Series

7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

COMMUNITY TOUR

Learn more about Horizon Academy!

klindgren@horizon-academy.com

9:30 AM

Friday, May 26, 2017

HORIZON ACADEMY GRADUATION

Families and alumni are invited to attend

Horizon Academy | 913-789-9443

klindgren@horizon-academy.com

10:30 AM

Saturday, June 10, 2017

ALUMNI EVENT AT TOP GOLF

www.Horizon-Academy.org/Alumni-Reunion

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

June 5-July 28, 2017

HORIZON ACADEMY SUMMER SCHOOL

ORTON-GILLINGHAM & MATH TUTORING

Grades 1-12

June 5-30, 2017

HORIZON ACADEMY SUMMER SCHOOL

JUNE FULL DAY PROGRAM

Grades 1-8

July 10-July 28, 2016

HORIZON ACADEMY SUMMER SCHOOL

JULY HALF DAY PROGRAM

Grades 1-12

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Visit horizon-academy.org/blog to see what's going on at Horizon Academy

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Horizon Academy's Vision

To create a community of lifelong learners

Horizon Academy's Mission

To provide a caring and respectful environment for students struggling with learning disabilities, where they are given the opportunity to achieve their highest potential, become lifelong learners and develop into productive, responsible citizens of their community.

Please help us save money on our postage and go electronic! Provide your e-mail to our development office at ametzler@horizon-academy.com

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Head of School

Vicki Asher



**HORIZON
ACADEMY**

...inspiring children with
learning disabilities

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Learning Disabilities Simulation

April 20th, 7:00-8:30 PM at Horizon Academy

Our Learning Disabilities (LD) Simulation provides an opportunity for you to step into the shoes of a student with a learning disability. Throughout the simulation, participants will travel to 6 different stations where they will experience a condensed school day with simulated learning disabilities.



Tim struggles with a station at the LD Simulation

A truly unique and powerful event that sheds light on the struggles these students face every day. Past participants have said, "We have a son that struggles with dyslexia. We see him suffering with his self-confidence. It opened up my eyes. I can see why he's not feeling good about himself." and "You feel the frustration first hand. The helplessness."

Don't miss out on this eye-opening experience! Seats fill up quickly, so RSVP to reserve your spot at www.Horizon-Academy.com/LD-Series

Dancing to Success

Jake Fisher, a local dance instructor, has been working with students at Horizon Academy for years. He provides weekly dance instruction throughout the 3rd quarter of the school year for our middle and upper team students, culminating in a school dance where students show off the moves they've learned. We recently sat down with Jake and talked to him about why he began this partnership with the school and why he feels dance is so important for our students.



Jake leading a dance class

"When I was younger I wish that someone had taken the time to teach me dance. I know with my learning disabilities it would've been really helpful to learn something like that. It really let me focus on something and use my skills-- with my learning disabilities--use the skills I have to actually succeed. I decided this would be something great to do to help out the community and help out some kids that are just like me. It's something that they can succeed at and I think that's the coolest thing, knowing that they found something." 🌟