



# The Graham School

encounter the world, engage the mind

## 2013-2014 Annual Report

### Our Vision

The Graham School:

- Serves the urban community of Columbus;
- Treats all students humanely and individually;
- Enlivens the human spirit via the concerned and positive ways mature, wise adults interact with teenagers and serve as role models for them;
- Causes students to become more thoughtful, inquisitive people particularly in core literacy areas including: science, math, the arts, communication through literature, writing, oral presentation, technology, social studies, languages and cultural studies, and community engagement;
- Respects the need for students to establish their own independence while at the same time developing in them a sense of commitment to their community;
- Is a place where adults working at the school always exhibit respect toward students and other adults;
- Serves every child equally who desires this kind of experiential education.

### Another Class of Life-Long Learners

The Graham School commencement ceremonies for the class of 2014 were held on Saturday May 31st at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on The Ohio State University campus. Parents, families, friends, board members, community partners, and staff celebrated with our students as they graduated. Before the ceremony, graduates gave presentations to the community on their individual Walkabouts, the culminating experience of their high school careers. As we ended another year at The Graham School we added 50 students to our list of graduates, which now totals more than 440 over the last fourteen years. Our graduates have gone on to universities outside Ohio including Bennington College, Boston University, Columbia University, DePaul University, Knox College, Reed College, and Sarah Lawrence and universities within Ohio including; Antioch College, Bowling Green University, Capital University, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus State Community College, Heidelberg College, Hiram College, Ohio Dominican University, Ohio Northern University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Shawnee State University, University of Cincinnati, Warren Wilson, Wittenberg University, and others. We also have alumni who have gone on to serve in the military.

### Our Mission

The Graham School has a particular mission to urban students in Central Ohio preparing them for lifelong learning and informed citizenship through real-world experiences and rigorous academics. Fostering ownership and responsibility for their education prepares our students to be successful in college, the workplace, and other endeavors they undertake upon leaving The Graham School.

### Governing Authority

The Graham School (TGS) is chartered by the state of Ohio and as such, is overseen by the Ohio Department of Education. Our sponsor, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESCCO), provides additional oversight. The Graham School Board of Directors provides governance, meeting a minimum of six times per year. A schedule of meeting dates and times, as well as a record of actions taken, are kept in the school's office and are available for review by the public. Board members in 2013-14 included: **Steve Gussler**, President; **William Fein**, Vice President; **Patricia DeMaria**, Secretary; **George Norris**, Treasurer; and **Bill Dawson**.

### Special Accomplishments/Achievements

Walkabout students around the world: one student worked as a teaching assistant at a school in Ashbourne, Ireland where she taught a lesson in American folklore; another student was a teaching assistant in Xi'an, China and was invited by several schools to return and teach English after graduation; and an aspiring entrepreneur spent her days at Pure Imagination Chocolatier creating delectable confections, filling orders for customers, and learning the ropes of owning a small business in Columbus.





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## 2014 Graduates

Jacob Brian Ashworth	Kaelyn Marie Gautier	Tabitha Sue Meyers	Deschenes Constantine Roussi
Dakota Jacob Barton	Cheyenne Alina Gilbert	Brianna Janell Murray	Zion Irie Rowen
Cortnie Lynn Bell	Shania Paige Goad	Jadin Rose Nettles	Shane Ulrich Siculan
Gabriella Joie Caldwell	Dakota Blue Gonzalez-Lycans	Tianna Jane Palmer	Bethany Sherie Stallings
Cheyenne Kiana Campbell	Micayla Beverly Griffin	Cody Allen Paternoster	Flannery Louise Stephens
Gabriela Isel Carrera	Victor Austin Gulyassy	Xavier Gabriel Rearick	Siandra Michelle Stires
Christine Marie Cotterill	Faith Taylor Hawkins	Nadine Elizabeth Reece	Maria DeRosario Torres
Henry Riggins Crowe	Nicholas Cody Hazlett	Anna Michelle Reed	Theodore Rosevelte Townsend
Adam David Daugherty	Emrys Andren Jackson-	Macie Elizabeth Rhoads	Chloe Rose Vottero
Sarah Margaret Derksen	Radcliffe	Faun Arianna Richards	Shelby Anne Waddle
Mary Kate Doyle	Shaqueel Brian Joseph	Mary Ellen Rose	Savanna Marie Warren
Tyrone Doyle	Maira Dong Sil Kannal	Joylena Bethany Rounds	Cellissa Nicole Woods
Kevin Tylar Gannon	Kwabena Ebo Maccarthy	Teresa Marie Rounds	

## Parent Group

Working in conjunction with staff at TGS, parents facilitated communication; built community; supported teachers, staff and families; organized events; enhanced educational opportunities for students and had a great time doing it!

They met monthly and communicated online with Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrahamPGC>; @GrahamPGC; Email at [grahampgc@gmail.com](mailto:grahampgc@gmail.com)

Twitter

Any parent, guardian or family member of a Graham student may join the PGC. There are many ways to be an active member of the PGC. Attend meetings for information and commu-

nity, help with new and ongoing programs and projects or participate in fundraising.

Parent volunteers donated time, food, & energy to a variety of events supporting both staff and students. Members of the PGC also attended the elegant *Have a Heart* event the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, which raised \$12,000 for the schools. The Graham School is indebted to the ongoing support of all its families, and is particularly grateful for the work of the PGC.

The Graham School completed its 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Race To The Top School receiving funds and guidance from Ohio Department of Education and reaching all of its RTTT goals.

## Donors

We gratefully acknowledge this year's generous donors who help make our work possible.

Ann Hobson Foundation, Inc,	Ms. Debbie Greene and Ms. Pamela Springer	Mr. Tom Paplaczzyk
Ms. Louise Antony and Mr. Joe Levine	Ms. Rebecca Gurk and Mr. Stuart Mangel	Bev Pettit
Mrs. Mary Babcock	Mr. Stephen Gussler and Ms. Melody Steely	Mr. and Mrs. Marc Pinsonneault
Mr. Seth Becker and Ms. Janet Meltzer	Larry Herson	Mr. Mark Real
Mr. Greg Brown and Ms. Nancy Perkins	Angela Holland	Robert F. Beard Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Busch	Ms. Patricia Brown James	Dwight Seeley
The Columbus Foundation	Gordon Johnston	Dr. Gordon Snider
Mrs. Harriet Donaldson	Charles & Misako Kannal	Robert Strasburg
Scott Estill	Kris Kuzora	Mari Sunami
Scott Lewis Donaldson	Mary Manning	Mr. and Mrs. Bob Weiler
Heather Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marland	Mr. and Mrs. Neil and Kelly Ziegler
Mr. and Mrs. Miles Gibson	Ms. Sally McCarley	
Clay and Alice Graham	Mr. Mark K. Merkle, Jr.	All of the generous individuals who supported Have a Heart.
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Graham	John T. Mount	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graham	Mr. and Mrs. George Norris	

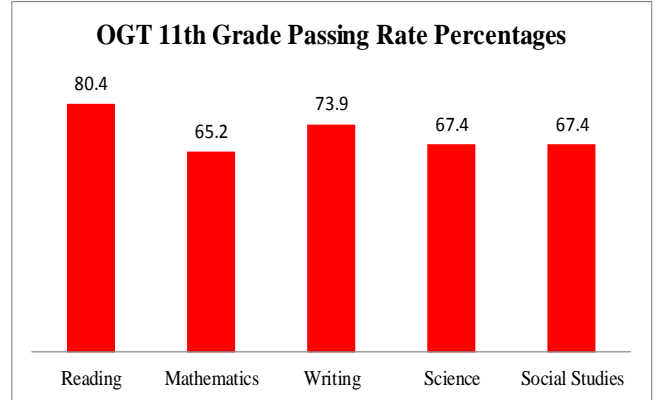
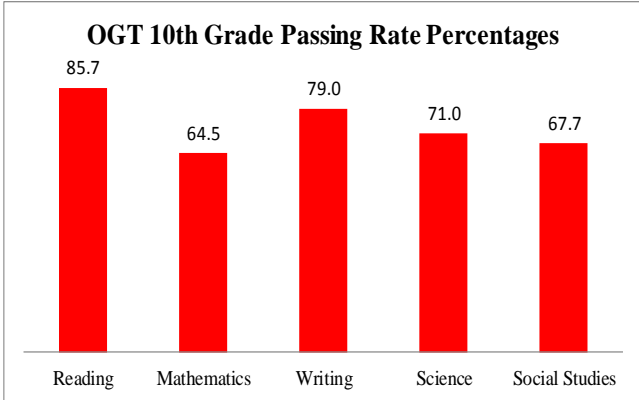


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## Report Card

A state graduation requirement in Ohio is passage of all five parts (Reading, Mathematics, Writing, Science, and Social Studies) of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), which is given for the first time in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The results, as published in the Ohio Department of Education’s “2013-14 School Year Report Card” for The Graham School are as follows:



## Experiential Education Curriculum

The Experiential Program's purpose is to provide students with research, teaching, and service learning experiences in community organizations and businesses. These experiences enable students to develop confidence in their abilities and give them opportunities to engage in significant work while fostering a tangible commitment to the community in which they live. Students meet in advisory groups before and after their time at sites to reflect on what they are learning and to follow a curriculum-guided education program that focuses on developing skills such as experiential/academic connections, interpersonal communication, professionalism and goal-setting.

Beginning in their freshman year, groups of 12-14 students work at sites such as The Habitat for Humanity Build it Again Center, Meadow Park Children’s Center, and Community Kitchen. Over 200 10th - 12th grade students interned individually at over 100 different sites through the 2013-14 school

year. That equals over 50,000 hours of service each year our students provide to our community.

In Spring of 2014, 50 seniors participated in The Graham School's culminating experiential internship: Walkabout. Walkabout provides students with the opportunity to participate in two eight-week, 30 hour per week internships. The objective of Walkabout is to provide seniors with intense and significant internships that help students mature in the responsibilities of self-direction. In 2013-2014, senior experiences included: working in the photography lab at The Ohio State University, exploring how to run a small business at Pure Imagination Chocolatier, hiking the Appalachian Trail, shadowing aeronautic engineers at Don Scott Airfield, teaching English in Turkey and Prague, aiding veterans at the VA Hospital, working as a teacher's aid in Ireland, and assisting horticulturists at The Franklin Park Conservatory.

## Staff for the 2013-14 school year

Debbie Addison	Susan Frank	Joanna King	Eileen Meers	Mary Slaback
Brett Bachman	Zachary Franklin	Marjorie Kirk	Tom Molnar	Amy Vickroy
Pam Boseker	Elaine Fujimura	Jamie Lenzo	Holley Morris	Jennifer Waddell
Greg Brown	Holly Garden	Kathryn Livingston	Genevieve Mulroy	Jeanne Weinberg
Jessica Butsko	Drew Gardner	Katie Logan	Maureen O’Brien	Jessica Weithman
Cathy Carrico	Johnny Ginter	Cheryl Long	Evan Rulong	Fred Whiteman
Amy Cass	Jeff Grunewald	Jake Mayer	Melissa Rulong	Jeff Wiseman
Randi Channel	Joseph Guth	Kathryn McDaniel	Rebecca Shell	
Laure Dachenbach	Bridget Henebry	Scott McMullen	Andy Shields	



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## Academic Requirements

The Graham School staff creates classroom work in traditional and non-traditional courses in order to help students acquire conceptual and factual knowledge and to develop our students' study habits, self-discipline, research skills, and teamwork. The Graham School curriculum includes courses in all required academic areas as designated by the State of Ohio for graduation. Students must progress experientially and academically in order to meet the requirements for graduation. Academic requirements include: 4 credits in English, 4 credits in mathematics, 3 credits in science, 3 credits in social studies, 2 credits in foreign language/cultural studies, 1 credit in fine arts, 1 credit in technology, 0.5 credits in health, 0.5 credits in physical education, and financial literacy. Between 1.5 and 4.5 credits are required in experiential education depending on how many years the student has been attending The Graham School. All students graduating in the class of 2014 and beyond are required to fulfill the CORE graduation requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education. Approximately 75 different courses were offered over the school year in all academic areas.

## Financial Status

In fiscal year 2013-14 the school received \$2,064,599 in state funds. The school also received \$453,484 in federal funds and \$111,474 in development funds, among other separated categories. Sources of income totaled \$6,711,533. In fiscal year 2013-14 the school paid \$5,111,206 in employee salaries and benefits, including payroll taxes and retirement; and \$93,680 in mortgage and loan payments on the purchase of the building. Uses, including the aforementioned items along with classroom support expenses, utilities, insurance and assorted services to and purchases for the school, totaled \$5,915,637. When the current cash in bank was added to the sources, the year-end adjusted cash balance was \$578,026 to be carried over to 2014-15. The school conducts its own on-going internal financial audit under the direction of its Board Audit Committee and treasurer Brian Adams, MBA, CMA, CFM, CGFM. Finances also were audited by the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, the school's sponsor. And, the school is audited annually by the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. All found the finances to be accurately and appropriately accounted for.

The Graham School presents several awards each year in June to students who exhibit achievement and leadership in a variety of categories important to the work of the school. In 2013-2014 the following students were honored as recipients of these awards

English	Hannah Moore
Foreign Language	Hailey Barton
Cultural Studies	Alex Dyer and Tess Morgan
Science	Ed Bell
Health/Phys Ed	Tianna Palmer
Perseverance	Shane Siculan
Reaching for the Stars	Maira Kannal
Experiential Research	August Young
Experiential Service Learning	Cheyenne Dodge Charles Simmons Ethan Crossman Savannah Hadinger Ted Townsend
Experiential Teaching	Ben Mugrage
Dean's Award for Courage	Maria Torres
Dean's Award for Leadership	Katie Doyle
True Dragon	Kwabena Mccarthy
Social Studies	Malayah McHenry
Math	Micah Phillips-Gary
Drama	Cellissa Woods
Photography	Kaelyn Gautier and Zion Rowen
Fine Arts	Javon Wright
Music	Michelle Harvey
Technology	Adam Daugherty
Outstanding Senior	Teresa Rounds, Faith Hawkins
True North	Cody Patemoster
Senior Spirit	Shane Roussi
Salutatorian	Maira Kannal
Valedictorian	Katie Doyle
Open Heart	Katie Doyle
Open Hand	Mary Ellen Abrams
Open Mind	Gabriella Caldwell