



The Graham School

encounter the world, engage the mind

2014-2015 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.

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 students to be successful in college, the workplace, and other endeavors they undertake upon leaving The Graham School.

Governing Authority

The Graham School is chartered by the state of Ohio and 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 2014-15 included: Steve Gussler, President; William Fein, Vice President; Patricia DeMaria, Secretary; George Norris, Treasurer; Bill Dawson, and Kim Gulyassy.**



2015 Graduates

Parris L. Bennett
 Charrice Renée Bickerstaff
 Darnell Elbert Billings
 Kayla Marie Billingsley
 Kaitlyn Denise Blythe
 Devin Gabriel Calem
 D'Angelo NaJee Cospier
 Joseph T. Cramer
 Mathew Jason Estill
 Pheonix Morganna Etheridge
 Jamie Anne Flinn
 Macy Marie Andrea Frazier

Gage Jay Lee Groce
 Savannah Nicole Hadinger
 Michelle Joanne Harvey
 Cody Micheal Henkaline
 Terryn Leigh Hodge
 Christopher James Hoffman
 Michael Ryan Huston
 Dealize Travonne Jefferies
 Alexis Nicole Johnson
 Bryn Elizabeth Kalson
 Hayley Erin Knight
 Emyli Shilaine Knouff

Bobbie Angela Lackey
 Courtney Leanne Long
 Kayla Michelle Luke
 Aaron Lewis Mackey
 Elish Rylan Marcum
 Ashley Marie Meyers
 Molly Catherine Mitchell
 Benjamin Lewis Mugrage
 Aleah Ann Pedersen
 Isaac Isaiah Juan Reed
 Marjorie Mary Rhinehart
 John Harrison Seeley

Kade M. Strathie
 Noah David Stump
 Shoshannah Rebecca Taub
 Brandon Michael Watkins
 Geremi Christopher West
 Khalil ReQwan Wharton
 Shawnice Lamar White
 Preston Nathaniel Wilbur
 Javon Christopher Wright
 August Louene Young



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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 time at their 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 to 14 students work at sites such as The Habitat for Humanity Build it Again Center, Meadow Park Children's Center, and Community Kitchen as part of the Foundations Experience. Over 200 10th - 12th grade students interned individually at over 100 different sites through the 2014-15 school year. That equals over 50,000 hours of service each year our students provide to our community.

In Spring of 2015, 52 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 an intense and significant internship that helps students mature in the responsibilities of self-direction. In 2014-2015, senior experiences included: hiking the Appalachian Trail, working to beautify Columbus neighborhoods with Neighborhood Pride, running volunteer activities at the Wylie P. Chalmers VA Hospital, assisting with recruitment for the Boy Scouts of America, learning at the Columbus East Veterinary Hospital, and working directly with the director of a local YMCA assisting with organization and programming.

May Days is a month long semester in which students focus in-depth study on one course with opportunities for fieldwork, hands-on learning, group participation, and individual challenges in the academic areas. 2015 May Days courses included: Feeding the Community, in which students established a community garden while learning about the local food economy; Game Theory, where students learn mathematics through popular games like blackjack, poker, and Rock Paper Scissors; The History of Hip Hop, an English class that encouraged students to write their own song lyrics; and World Religions, providing students opportunities to explore various religions around the Columbus area.

Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors in 2014-2015 and all of the generous individuals who supported Have a Heart through volunteering, donating, purchasing auction items, attending, and sponsoring the event.

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Addison	Jean & Dennis Champoux	Ms. Melody Steely	Mr. Tom Paplaczyk
Judith Ahlbeck	Albert Chapman-Layland	Bridget Henebry	Bev Pettit
Ms. Jan Alloy	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Copeland	Larry Herson	Cleve Ricksecker
Ms. Louise Antony & Mr. Joe Levine	Michelle Crossman	Ms. Patricia Brown James	Kathleen Schmidt
Mrs. Mary Babcock	Mr. & Mrs. Paolo DeMaria	Dorene Johnson	Dwight Seeley
Brett & Hadley Bachman	Mrs. Harriet Donaldson	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kiefer	Cleve Ricksecker
Robert T. Barkley	Scott Lewis Donaldson	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kindred	Kathleen Schmidt
Maria Barney	Shannon P Easter	Penny Lamp	Dwight Seeley
Dr. & Mrs. David Brandt	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fein	RJ Larry	Marty Shuter
Mr. Greg Brown & Ms. Nancy Perkins	Pamela Ferrell	Kate Livingston	Deborah S. Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Busch	Heather Fisher	Joanna Malachowsky	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weiler
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Burton	Zach Franklin	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Marland	Eric G. Weinberg
Mike & Jessica Butsko	Suzanne Fryer	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Martin	Jessica Weithman
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Calem	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Graham	Ms. Sally McCarley	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Whiteman
Peggy & Ken Calestro	Debbie Greene & Pamela Springer	Katie McDaniel	
Doris Calloway Moore	Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Griffin	Mr. Mark K. Merkle, Jr.	
Amy Cass	Ms. Rebecca Gurk & Mr. Stuart Mangel	Mr. Steve Miller	
Lisa Chambers	Mr. Stephen Gussler &	Sara Neikirk	
		Dr. & Mrs. George Norris	
		Corinna Owens	



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Staff for the 2014-15

Debbie Addison	Director of Advancement
Genevieve Adkins	Science
Brett Bachman	ISS
Pam Boseker	Enrollment
Greg Brown	Co-Superintendent, CEO
Jessica Butsko	EMIS Coordinator
Cathy Carrico	Business Office
Amy Cass	Spanish
Randi Channel	Art
Kevin Elliott	English
Margaret Fehling	Social Studies
Susan Frank	ISS
Zachary Franklin	Math
Johnny Ginter	Social Studies
Jeff Grunewald	IT Manager
Bridget Henebry	Front Desk
RJ Larry	Math
Jamie Lenzo	Director of Special Education
Kathryn Livingston	English
Katie Logan	Business Office
Cheryl Long	Business Administrator
Joanna Malachowsky	Math
Jake Mayer	Math and Science
Kathryn McDaniel	ISS
Eileen Meers	Co-Superintendent, CEO
Holley Morris	Front Desk
Maureen O'Brien	ISS
Evan Rulong	Dean
Melissa Rulong	English
Rebecca Shell	Dean
Andy Shields	Science
Mary Slaback	Experiential
Ashley Traucht	ISS
Amy Vickroy	Cultural Studies
Jennifer Waddell	Development
Jeanne Weinberg	ISS Aide
Jessica Weithman	Counselor
Fred Whiteman	Tech
Jeff Wiseman	Lead Network Engineer

Assessment Results

A state graduation requirement in Ohio for all students who entered 9th grade **before** July 2014 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 10th grade.

- Graham 10th grade participation numbers were: 80 students tested in Reading; 81 students tested in Mathematics; 80 students tested in Writing; 81 students tested in Science; and 79 students tested in Social Studies.
- Graham 10th grade passing rates were: Reading, 78%; Mathematics, 60%; Writing, 71%; Science, 56%; and, Social Studies, 62%.
- Graham 11th grade participation numbers were: 21 students tested in Reading; 26 students tested in Mathematics; 27 students tested in Writing; 26 students tested in Science; and 27 students tested in Social Studies.
- Graham 11th grade passing rates were: Reading, 38%; Mathematics, 42%; Writing 19%; Science 32%; and Social Studies 42%.

A state graduation requirement in Ohio for all students entering 9th grade **after** July 2014 is taking a two part assessment. The first is performance-based and taken in the fall and the second is end-of-year and taken in the spring. The student's scores are combined to create a final score for each subject. Graham administered AIR tests for Physical Science, and American Government or American History, and PARCC tests for English Language Arts and Math.

- 60 Graham students took the AIR Physical Science assessment and 40% scored proficient or higher. 37 Graham students took the AIR American History assessment and 32% scored proficient or higher, 43 Graham students took the AIR American Government assessment and 40% scored proficient or higher.
- 43 Graham students took the PARCC Math assessment and 41% scored proficient or higher. 60 Graham students took the PARCC ELA assessment and 56% scored proficient or higher.

Parent Group

Working in conjunction with staff at TGS, parents facilitate communication; build community; support teachers, staff and families; organize events; enhance educational opportunities for students; and have a great time doing it! They meet monthly and communicate through; Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrahamPGC>, Twitter @GrahamPGC; and Email at grahampgc@gmail.com.

Any parent, guardian or family member of a Graham student may join in the PGC. PGC members attend meetings for infor-

mation and community, help with new and ongoing programs and projects and participate in fundraising.

Parent volunteers donated time, food, and energy to a variety of events supporting both staff and students. Members of the parent group also attended the elegant Have a Heart, a fundraiser for all of TGFS entities. The Graham School is indebted to the ongoing support of all its families, and is grateful for the work of the PGC.



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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.

The Graham School completed its 5th year as a Race To The Top School, reaching all of its RTTT goals.

Financial Status

In fiscal year 2014-15 the school received \$2,327,694 in state funds. The school also received \$296,533 in federal funds and \$117,975 in development funds, among other separated categories. Sources of income totaled \$7,075,254. In fiscal year 2014-15 the school paid \$6,200,166 in employee salaries and benefits, including payroll taxes and retirement; and \$226,318 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 \$6,996,922. When the current cash in bank was added to the sources, the year-end adjusted cash balance was \$468,739 to be carried over to 2015-16. 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 school also received the Auditor of State Award for filing timely financial reports and having a "clean" audit.

Awards

The Graham School presents several awards each year in June to students who exhibit achievement and leadership in a variety of categories. In 2014-2015 the following students were honored:

English	Talia Nutt & Emma Parrill
Foreign Language	Cleopatra Featherstone
Cultural Studies	Henry Stout
Science	Malik Ingguls
Health/Phys Ed	Nico Buoni
Perseverance	Brandon Watkins
Reaching for the Stars	Ben Mugrage
Experiential Research	Makayla Craft-Ford
Experiential Service Learning	Mitch Ulibarri, Alex Cochran, Hannah Moi, Ciera Cochran, Damon Drumsta, & D'Angelo Cosper
Experiential Teaching	Payton Willison
Dean's Award for Courage	Kayla Luke
Dean's Award for Leadership	Terryn Hodge
True Dragon	August Young
Social Studies	Micah Phillips-Gary
Math	Alex Dyer
Drama	Micah Phillips-Gary
Fine Arts	Khalil Wharton
Music	Parris Bennett, Javon Wright, & Jacob Lamp
Technology	Elijah Ayotte
Outstanding Senior	Kayla Billingsley & Ashley Meyers
True North	Alexis Johnson & Pheonix Etheridge
Salutatorian	August Young
Valedictorian	Jamie Flinn
Open Heart	Savannah Hadinger
Open Hand	Aleah Pedersen
Open Mind	Erin Knight

The Graham School is a member of an OAPCS Consortium that received a 5 year Straight A grant to fund the use of Illuminate, an IIS system enabling teachers to collect and use classroom data efficiently and effectively. Staff meets in weekly data teams.