

CCSA Today

News from Chester Charter Scholars Academy | Summer 2019



We did it!

CCSA
Class of 2019



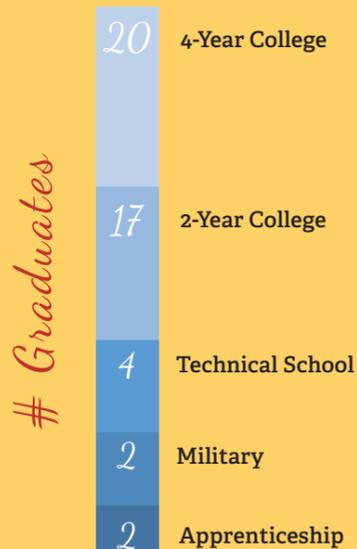
Making History

On June 10, 45 CCSA seniors - 100% of the class - made history as they walked across the stage of the Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College to become the School's first-ever graduating class. Eighty-two percent of graduates will attend a two or four-year college, with nearly half receiving full or partial scholarships. "It has been my privilege and honor to help shepherd these students, many of whom have been with us since fourth grade, to this momentous occasion," remarked Akosua Watts, CCSA CEO/Head of School.

"This first graduating class never failed to astonish me with their determination, grit and perseverance."

– Akosua Watts
CCSA CEO/Head of School

Post-Secondary Plans



CCSA Head of School Akosua Watts, CCSA Foundation Board Member Maurice Eldridge and NBC10 anchor Dray Clark with student panelists. (From left to right: Sierra Le'Bue-Richardson, Rahnaezah McDonald, Dionna Dill, Tah'Mir Lamb, Jaelin Pickett)

A Celebration of Gratitude & Graduates

On June 8, more than 100 of CCSA's loyal donors and friends gathered for a celebratory brunch to honor the Class of 2019. NBC10 anchor and Chester native Dray Clark moderated a lively and engaging discussion with five seniors, who reflected on their personal journeys to graduation and shared their plans and hopes for the future. "Today is a true celebration of all the hard work it has taken to reach this incredible milestone in the School's history," remarked Reb Speare, CCSA Foundation chair. "We would simply not be here without the love and support of our generous donors and committed volunteers," he added.

"These young adults have been empowered by their education and achievements, and driven by their dreams. I was profoundly grateful to share in their spirit of camaraderie and optimism, and left feeling inspired, awed, and excited for their futures and ours!"

– Mandy Kennedy
CCSA Foundation Board Member



CCSA Foundation Advisory Council Member Joanne Markman (left) with CCSA Board President Barbara Klock



CCSA Foundation Advisory Council Member Ted Peters with (left to right) Executive Director Donna Armand and CCSA Foundation Board Member Mandy Kennedy



1500 Highland Ave
Chester, PA 19013

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Board of Trustees

Barbara Klock | *President*
Marilyn Henkelman | *VP*
Alice Turbiville | *Treasurer*
Ramona Jones | *Secretary*
Ben Berger
Donald W. Delson
Dion Lewis
Ellen Milgrim
Joan Richards
Ian B. Wilcox
Akosua Watts | *ex officio*

CCSA FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

Robert N. Speare | *Chair*
Maurice G. Eldridge | *Vice-Chair*
Corliss Boggs | *Treasurer*
Cordelia Delson | *Secretary*
Scott Carroll
Eric Del Viscio
Wendy Emrich
Amanda Kennedy
Bryan Lentz
James J. McEntee, III
Anne Paisley
Drew Schmidt
Linton Stables
Jeffrey R. Wolters
Donna Armand | *ex officio*

Advisory Council

Scott Beaumont
Bruce M. Brown
Joanne Markman
Ted Peters
Johanna Vogel

Follow us on
Social Media...



Highlights from CCSA...Made Possible through Donor Support



Inspiring Philanthropy

Thanks to the generosity of two anonymous donors, CCSA Foundation launched a "Countdown to Graduation" social media fundraising campaign that offered donors the opportunity to double their donation. In just ten days, 70 donors contributed a total of \$60,788 to honor the graduating class. Funds raised through the matching gift campaign will provide critical core support for the School's educational program.

"I was moved by the students' tenacity, maturity, connection with one another and gratitude for their families and CCSA."

-Susan Brake
CCSA Volunteer



Susan Brake with Senior Dionna Dill

The Business of Storytelling

As a Wharton School lecturer, CCSA volunteer and supporter Susan Brake prepares MBAs for the communications challenges they will face as business and community leaders. This spring, Susan shared her expertise with CCSA's senior class through two public speaking workshops drawing on the power of storytelling. "Stories connect speakers with their message and empower them to meaningfully and memorably engage audiences," explains Brake.



Bringing History to Life

How do you engage kindergartners in a history lesson on legendary African-American figures? As part of CCSA's arts-integrated curriculum, music teacher Frank Hosking set Langston Hughes' poem "Bring Me All of Your Dreams" to music. At the same time, Alyssa Franklin, CCSA theater teacher, collaborated with the students on an original theater piece. The class then took to the CCSA school stage to perform the roles of Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, delighting audience members with their knowledge and creativity.

A Focus on the Middle Years

Educators agree that doing well in middle school is among the best predictors of post-secondary success. For the past two years, CCSA's middle school program has been masterfully led by Mindy Nguyen who, at the same time, directed CCSA's arts integration curriculum.



Tara Park with middle school students

This fall, Nguyen's expansive responsibilities will be divided into two positions. Nguyen will assume the newly created role of Director of Curriculum and Arts Integration. Tara Park, currently 6-8 Reading Instructor/Writing Coordinator will become Middle School Director. Park began her CCSA career in 2014, teaching Social Studies and English to seventh graders. "Middle school is my passion," she shares.



Art in Motion

Applying the physics principles of force and motion, CCSA eighth-graders designed one-of-a-kind "pendulum paintings" that produced canvases as unique as the scholars themselves. By changing variables - such as length of string, width of paint cap opening and speed of motion - the students created a variety of designs (pictured above). This hands-on project helped them grasp abstract concepts in a tangible, creative and memorable way.



Rising to Expectations

In her first year as head coach, Dejuana Mosley led the CCSA Varsity Girls Basketball Team all the way to PIAA State Playoffs for the 2018-19 season. A remarkable feat, coming on the heels of last year's 0-17 team record. For Mosley, it's not just about winning. "I focus on developing character, respect, and work ethic," she explains. Team Captain Sierra Le'Bue-Richardson says she loves how Mosley coaches. "It is so beneficial to me, not just as a basketball player but as a person." The players rose quickly to meet Mosley's high expectations. "They put the time in all year long. The end result is what hard work looks like."

Invest in CCSA's Scholars!

Please renew your gift to the Annual Fund today.

Visit www.ccsafoundation.org/donate

or call 610.859.2988

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

GIFT METHOD:

Check for **CCSA Foundation** enclosed.

Send to: 1500 Highland Ave
Chester, PA 19013

FIRST NAME(S) _____ LAST NAME(S) _____

COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I would like to make my gift: in honor in memory of: _____

I prefer my donation to remain anonymous.

Please charge my credit card:

Visa Mastercard Discover

A one-time gift of \$ _____

A monthly, recurring gift of \$ _____

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____

EXP DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

Double your impact! Visit ccsafoundation.org/matching-gifts to see if your company matches employee charitable donations.

All contributions to CCSA Foundation with EIN 20-3297449 are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

SIGNATURE _____