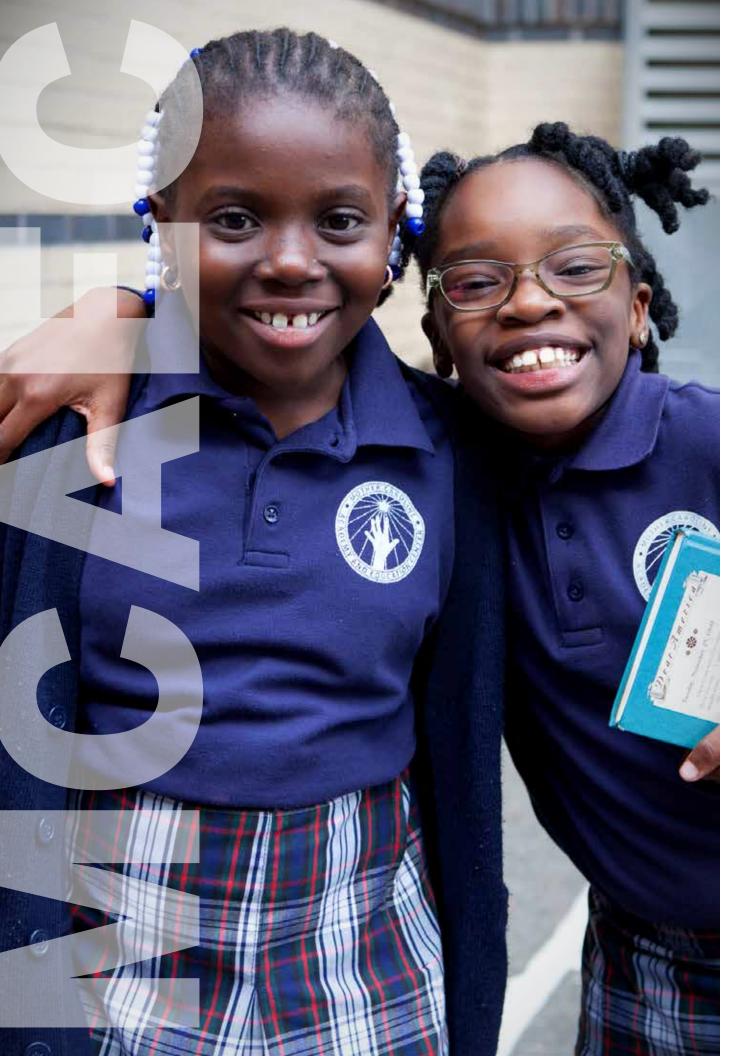
25 Years Transforming Lives Building a Bridge for the Future MOTHER CAROLINE ACADEMY MCA AND EDUCATION CENTER



Building a Bridge for the Future

The 2017-2018 academic year marks Mother Caroline Academy's 25th year of preparing young women for high school, college and a life of promise. Amidst the changes both outside and inside the walls since its founding, MCA has held steadfast to its core mission – providing a high-quality education that develops the individual gifts of each student and prepares her for success in secondary schools and college.

For a quarter of a century, thanks to an extraordinary community of committed families, volunteers, advocates, friends and investors, hundreds of young women have been able to access an educational opportunity that may have otherwise been out of their reach. The impact has been far reaching with alumnae attending exceptional high schools, colleges and many now holding positions within a variety of fields including education, marketing, finance, high tech, social services, health care and retail.

Now in a position to give back, many alumnae have returned to MCA as mentors, donors, volunteers, speakers and members of the Board. Their commitment to the MCA students who follow in their footsteps is unprecedented for a middle school. Alumnae are eager to build a bridge for the future that sets another generation of students and families on a path of promise.

In building the bridge for the future, MCA needs your support more than ever. Your donation will help ensure that MCA remains a place of excellence for girls from families with limited resources. On behalf of our students and families, we extend heartfelt thanks for your investment and interest in our mission.

Sincerely,

Ed Hudner Head of School

Edthin

Diana Monteith
Board Chair

What We Do

Building the path to high school requires high standards and an in-depth understanding of each student's individual gifts and challenges. As a school accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE), we hold our students to a high set of academic standards across Math, Science, English, History, Music and Art.

- **We utilize project based learning** to fully engage students in content and develop skills in collaboration, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving.
- Outside of the classroom, we offer experiences that build skills and knowledge needed for life through extended day programming that includes athletics, arts, STEAM, student clubs, field trips and service learning.
- Mentoring. Integrated into MCA's model is a mentoring program that supports current students as well as high school alumnae as they transition away from MCA, adapt to private high school culture, and undertake the college application process.
- We are devoted to providing a safe environment where each girl can develop self-esteem, self-confidence and the ability to advocate and make healthy decisions for herself.
- We partner with parents and adult caregivers to help students develop a sense of self needed to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

Founded in 1993, Mother
Caroline Academy is a
tuition free, independent
school, for girls in grades
4-8, serving Boston families
with limited resources.
Our mission is to provide
a high-quality education
that develops the individual
gifts of each student and
prepares her for success
in competitive secondary
schools and colleges.





Students in Grades 6-8 Take on Real Problems Using an Interdisciplinary Approach

Working on a core issue, an interdisciplinary approach requires students to bring knowledge and skills from different academic disciplines to address a real-to-life problem. Interdisciplinary approaches are often referred to as STEM, STEAM or project-based learning.

Under the leadership of Amy Perrault, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, interdisciplinary learning began in 2015 when a number of students participated in a summer program through our partnership with i2 Learning. Every year since then, upper school students in grades 6-8 have embarked on a weeklong journey that challenges them to see connections, develop the ability to identify and solve problems, and work as a team in creating an outcome. From tackling issues of public health, to designing spaces for gardens in the city, students use their knowledge in multiple disciplines to work deeply and collaboratively on a shared task.



For the week long course *Contagion: Pandemic* Response, faculty developed a larger framework that brought together science, social studies, literacy, and mathematics, beginning with students' summer reading project. Students were transported to 18th century Philadelphia through the novel *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson to gain an understanding of the yellow fever epidemic plaguing the city. They also read a nonfiction piece about the Yellow Death in Cuba in 1900. These two readings provided students with the foundational knowledge about the historical context and significance of the epidemics. Math and science classes focused on understanding the science behind viruses and the way in which they spread.

In the course itself, students spent a week working through the Engineering Design Process to develop items that would help prevent the spread of a viral infection, developing models of cells and viruses, and building a face mask. At the conclusion of the week-long project, students presented their work and discussed which modern tools and ideas would have been most useful in 18th century Philadelphia to stem the spread of disease.

An interdisciplinary approach significantly enhances students' abilities in critical thinking, analysis, drawing conclusions, forming a compelling argument, collaboration and presenting ideas and solving problems. These abilities serve MCA students well as they transition to high school, college and life beyond.



Mother Caroline Academy on Bird Street

Named after Mother Caroline Friess, a German born member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), Mother Caroline Academy in Dorchester, Massachusetts opened in 1993. Initially led by Sister Rita Brereton, SSND, Reverend Gerald Osterman, and Reverend William Francis, Mother Caroline Academy (MCA), a middle school for girls (grades 5-8) welcomed the first class into a small converted convent on Bird Street in Dorchester. With a commitment to Boston families with limited financial means, MCA was established to provide a high-quality education and prepare girls for secondary schools.



Volunteer Teachers

Since MCA's founding, each year a group of recent college graduates have dedicated two years to teach at the Academy. Through the years, they have shared their enthusiasm, talent, and a sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of MCA students.



One of the first classes at MCA Circa 1996

For the past 25 years families have entrusted their daughters with MCA faculty and staff. Knowing that education has the power to transform lives, MCA families have been invested in setting their daughters on a path of promise that leads to high school, college and a life of opportunity.



MCA Ribbon Cutting at 515 Blue Hill Avenue in 1998

In 1998, MCA moved from Bird Street to 515 Blue Hill Avenue in Grove Hall. With the purchase of the vacated old welfare building, a group of dedicated volunteers undertook a successful capital campaign to transform the building from a symbol of dependence to a center of hope and opportunity. The late Mayor of Boston, Tom Menino was an advocate of MCA.



The Education Center Formally Launched in 1998

With ample space at 515 Blue Hill Avenue, MCA's Education Center offered programs for adults including English as a Second Language. Shining Star offered 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls with an afternoon academic enrichment program to help prepare them for





Mother Caroline Academy Blazers First Edition Were Fuscia

Class Sponsors, Kim and Jim Pallotta with a class at the Annual Benefit Dinner



Volunteers and Donors 1993 to the present

As an independent, tuition free school, MCA relies on the extraordinary generosity of volunteers, individual donors, foundations and corporations. Many say that all roads lead back to Sue Hazard (middle) who has been a tireless fundraiser, volunteer and advocate for MCA. Sue is pictured here with Elin and John Harris, longtime supporters and volunteers.



Mother Caroline Academy
Blazers Second Edition Were Red

Former MCA Principal, Jane O'Connor, with students at the Annual Benefit Dinner



Annual Benefit Dinner
Former President of MCAEC, Ingrid
Tucker with Students in 2010



2017 and Beyond

With 309 alumnae, a 100% high school college graduation rate, MCA has a rich legacy within the City of Boston.

With no public or other tuition-free options for girls in the City of Boston, the demand for an all girls' school is great within Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and Jamaica Plain. We must ensure that the Academy is a place of excellence and remains a viable choice for girls within the Boston educational landscape.

Educating the Whole Family

Since the founding of MCA, supporting the whole family has been core to the mission. To support the success of each student it is important to develop strong and trusting partnerships with parents and guardians. In 2013, MCA offered its first Parenting Journey program, an intensive ten-week program providing parents with the opportunity to share their strengths as parents, develop supportive relationships with other parents, and develop other strategies needed to support their daughter's development.

Each Monday night for ten-weeks a group of 10–15 parents gather at MCA with two trained staff to share a meal and participate in the program. The program is designed to acknowledge and work from the distinctive strengths and experiences of each parent. Parents have the opportunity to reflect on how they were parented and determine how their own experience affects their own parenting style. With support from peers, this reflection allows parents to choose their own style of parenting, one that is reflective of their own personal vision and values.

The program also provides new parents with an immediate and supportive network of peers. In some cases, because of their newly formed relationships with other parents, their support networks expand well beyond MCA. Parents also learn how to devote time to support their own needs and interests.

Participation in the Parenting Journey has a positive impact on participants' daughters. As noted by Karen Ricketts, Assistant Head of School, who leads The Parenting Journey, "Not only do parents develop additional strategies for raising their daughters, they become more fully engaged in the life of the school and, most importantly, their daughters' education. In turn, daughters feel a sense of pride in their parents." Students of parents that have participated in the Parenting Journey often perform better in their academic classes as well as demonstrate higher levels of engagement and confidence.







Multiple Generations of Students

The women profiled in this story represent a remarkable extended family with daughters that have attended MCA since 1996. They are the daughters of three sisters, Althea Hankey, Allison Lawrence, and Lisa Spencer and their cousin, Allison Queensborough. Althea Hankey's daughters are Camille '00 and Latoya '01; Allison Lawrence's daughters are Afeisha '05 and Ashley '08; Lisa Spencer's daughter is Amber Spencer '08; and Allison Queensborough's daughters are Alyssa '16 and Kristin '20. Four mothers, six MCA alumnae and one current student!

Althea Hankey enrolled her daughters, Camille and Latoya, when MCA was located on Bird Street in Dorchester. She credits MCA teachers and staff for "the positive impact they had on the lives of my girls. In their time at MCA, Camille and Latoya developed self-discipline and a work ethic which carried through to high school, college and into their work life. Even though the school has changed over the years, I can see in the younger generations of our family that discipline has remained a core value for MCA students."

Watching the experience of Camille and Latoya at MCA, Allison Lawrence's daughters wanted the same experience. Afeisha, Class of 2005, remembers feeling that she "was not challenged in her public elementary school. Because MCA was

much smaller, it took me 3 months to begin to develop my confidence. In the beginning, the teachers had to call on me. With support from my teachers, I realized that I did have something to say. I also learned that it is is okay to have the wrong answer. That's how we learn."

When Allison's other daughter, Ashley, was in 5th grade and Afeisha was preparing for high school, with the help of MCA, Allison began to appreciate how different and unique her two daughters were. "Sister Susan Thornell took the time to counsel me about my kids' strengths and help us find high schools that would be good matches. I had the opportunity to sit with teachers and staff to make important decisions tailored to the specific needs of my daughters."

"At MCA, I learned how to be independent, accountable and manage my time well.

MCA afforded the space, time and support to establish my own personality. I also had opportunities outside of the classroom like summer camp. Going to summer camp helped me consider and prepare for boarding school." Within her growing sense of independence, Ashley also learned that she had many people who were invested in her success.

As Althea and Allison's daughters succeeded at MCA and beyond, they too furthered their own educational interests and goals. Allison remembered how she was encouraged to care for herself. "When I took the Nurturing Parent class at MCA, they gave us a pie chart to mark the slices that represented our current selves. My pie chart consisted of banker, chauffer, maid and cook my family. There was no slice that addressed my needs. It was an eye opener."

Through a grant provided by the Tudor Foundation to MCA and Cambridge College, Althea attended Cambridge College where she earned her BSM and later a Master's degree. With this educational opportunity supporting her professional goals and growth, Althea subsequently became a program manager for a large department at Boston's Children's Hospital.

Following the Hankeys, Lawrences, and a Spencer, in 2012, cousin Allison Queensborough, enrolled her eldest daughter, Alyssa, at MCA and her second daughter, Kristin, in 2015. "MCA has really helped me to understand my kids as different people. While at MCA I have grown to appreciate how different and special each of my daughters are." Allison watched Alyssa grow academically as she learned to take risks outside of her comfort zone. Currently a 6th grader, Kristin has begun to find her stride and challenge herself with the support of her teachers.

"MCA taught me about sisterhood," says Afeisha. "I am still close to my MCA classmates. I have retained more friends from MCA than I have from high school and college." Among members of this close knit extended family, the consistent theme is "I am up for the challenge and I can do it."

Camille Hankey Mensah '00, Proctor Academy '04 NH, Emmanuel College MA – *Licensed Massage Therapist*

Latoya Hankey Forde '01, Saint Paul's School '05 NH, Tufts University '09 MA –*Head of Talent Acquisition*

Afeisha Lawrence Harrison '05.

Marianapolis Preparatory School '10 CT, Saint John's University NY – Sales Manager for Catering Company

Ashley Lawrence '08, Chapel Hill – Chauncy Hall '12 MA, Regis College '16 MA – Senior Member Representative for Health Insurance Company

Amber Spencer '08, Emma Willard '12 NY, Agnes Scott College '18 GA

Alyssa Queensborough '16, The Cate School '20 CA

Kristin Queensborough '20



Josephine Santana, Miriam '01, Aurialis '10 and Alexa '22

At an early age, Josephine Santana immigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States. She grew up in New York City. Josephine moved to Boston seeking a better life. In 1997, a friend told Josephine about MCA and shortly thereafter, she enrolled her first daughter, Miriam, at MCA. Although it was a relatively new school, she had faith that MCA would provide a nurturing environment and solid education for her daughter.

Smart and bold tempered, Miriam entered MCA in September 1997 as a 5th grader. As Miriam says, "the teachers at MCA harnessed my energy, taught me self-discipline and kept me focused on what was most important." In addition to her academics, Miriam discovered worlds outside of her immediate neighborhood in Dorchester. She participated in a range of extracurricular activities that included athletics, field trips, summer camps, Outward Bound programs and sporting events. During her four years at MCA Miriam came to believe that there is "nothing I cannot accomplish. MCA's motto is Reach for the Stars. That is a motto I live by every day."

Upon graduating from MCA's 8th grade, Miriam attended high school at The Newman School in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. She then attended Lasell College in Newton, Massachusetts where she double majored in finance and

accounting while working part time as a certified credit and bankruptcy counselor. After graduating from Lasell in 2009, Miriam took a position as grant accountant for Boston's Public Health Commission. Within two years, Miriam was promoted into an executive level position as a Bureau Administrator overseeing a \$17 million budget. Miriam is currently in the midst of her CPA exams.

Josephine Santana's second daughter, Aurialis, enrolled at MCA in 2006. As Josephine said, "my second daughter, Aurialis, and Miriam are very different. Miriam was feisty and Aurialis was shyer. The teachers at MCA harnessed each of my daughters' individual strengths and built up their own personalities. For Miriam, it was directing her energy in positive ways and for Aurialis, it was about being independent and confident in herself."

With small class sizes, more structure and higher expectations Aurialis was a bit intimidated during the first months at MCA. By the end of the first trimester, Aurialis began to take risks academically and socially. While at MCA, "I learned to be my own individual person. I began to learn about myself and the world beyond. The teachers took a very special interest in me. MCA is where my self-esteem and confidence comes from."

Aurialis also attended The Newman School. With her experience at MCA propelling her, Aurialis began to explore her interests in fashion throughout her time at Newman. She interned at Karmaloop, an online retailer of urban style and streetwear and founded Newman School's first fashion club. Since arriving at Lasell College with the Class of 2018. Aurialis has worked and interned at a number of fashion-related companies including Nordstrom Rack, UNItiques, Saks Fifth Avenue, TESstylist and The Improper Bostonian. In April of 2016. Aurialis successfully completed her certification in Fashion Marketing and Branding through the Teen Vogue X Parsons program. Most recently, Aurialis spent a semester abroad at the Paris American Academy where she studied luxury fashion and business

management as well as interning with Elie Saab and Alexander Vauthier, two prominent fashion designers.

Always looking up to her older cousins, Miriam and Aurialis, Alexa entered the 4th grade this past September as a member of the class of 2022. Alexa is happy at MCA. "MCA is closer to my house so I can walk home. They teach me better because they challenge me. Someday I want to study abroad."

Reflecting on the last 20 years and two generations of students, Josephine noted how MCA supported her efforts as a parent. "When Miriam was at MCA, I enrolled in MCA's Nurturing Program for parents. I learned a lot about parenting and all the responsibilities in my role as a mom." With gratitude, Josephine closed by saving "MCA has given me the opportunity to have two daughters that are very well educated and strong women within society. The teachers and staff gave them the proper tools to succeed and move on in their life." Josephine is happy that her niece has the same opportunity as her own daughters knowing that Alexa too will "reach for the stars."

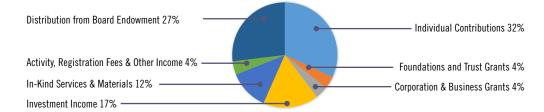




FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

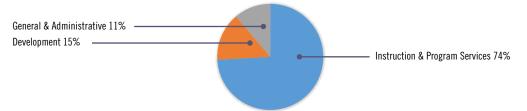
Revenue:

Individual contributions	983,746
Foundations and trust grants	118,622
Corporate and business grants	118,665
Investment income	525,653
In-kind services and materials	377,739
Activity, registration fees and other income	128,636
Total resources available (before support from endowment)	2,253,061



Expenses:

Instruction and program services	2,222,503
General and administrative	438,665
Development	335,746
Total expenses	2,996,914
Deficit before support from endowment	(743,853)
Distribution from Board endowment	830,000
Net operating revenue and support	86,147



Faculty and Staff

Behind the success of each student are committed faculty and staff. Their talents, expertise and compassion make a huge difference in student success and the experience of MCAEC families.

Olumide Adebo, *Information Technology*

Linda Shannon, School Nurse

Olivia Belofsky, *English Teacher 7th and 8th Grade*

Michelle Brito, Director of High School Placement and Social Studies Chair

Uche Egbuchulam, Academy Administrative Coordinator

Lisa Fauman, Science 6th and 7th Grade

Connie Forbes, Development Coordinator

Julie Gehring, Director of Mentoring and Community Engagement

Beverly Gill, *Receptionist*

Rebecca Hibbert-Kapler, Math Teacher 4th and 5th Grade

Ed Hudner, Head of School

Stan McLaren, *Director of Finance and Operations*

Nancy Merrill, English Language Arts Teacher – 5th and 6th Grade

Tracie Peaks-Sandy, Executive Assistant and Accounting Assistant

Amy Perrault, Director of STEM and Math Teacher

Karen Ricketts, Assistant Head of School

Peter Squires, Math Teacher 6th and 7th Grade

Nate Smith, Facilities Manager

Angela Williams-Mitchell, Special Events Coordinator

Teaching Fellows

A hallmark of MCA is the Teaching Fellows Program. Each year, a group of AmeriCorps Volunteers commit to two years of teaching at the Academy. They share their enthusiasm, talent, and a sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of MCA's students. The Fellows receive teacher training with room and board in our 4th floor residence. 2016-2017 teaching fellows included:

Zoe Isabella

Jordan Koerber

Mitchell Law

Mary Meas

Tiffany Pena

Erica Roberts

Victoria Valencia

Kayleigh Wanzer

Rebecca Wyczalek



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The following donations were made to the Joseph F. Flynn, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Joe Flynn was a founding Board member who was deeply committed to providing MCA students and their families with access to a high quality education. Each year several students are recognized as Joseph F. Flynn, Jr. scholars who demonstrate a love of learning; show leadership by being respectful, compassionate and responsible; and participate in community service.

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