

MOTHER CAROLINE ACADEMY AND EDUCATION CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2021







Dear MCA Community,

Mother Caroline Academy is a small but mighty school. We have persevered through the recent pandemic because learning and belonging is at the heart of our mission. We embrace change and innovation and constantly strive to provide our students with all of the resources they need and deserve to become confident, successful women.

As education researchers have demonstrated, "Belonging is the foundation for learning and has the power to catalyze pro-social behaviors and students' motivation to learn." From Zoom tutoring sessions to providing MCA families with gift certificates for food insecurity, we have pushed forward and have tackled many of the Covid challenges with success.

I remember that dreaded day of March 15, 2020 when we received the news that MCA had to reorganize our teaching model to become fully virtual. Due to the pandemic and high Covid rates in the Grove Hall area, we had no other choice. I felt paralyzed as I could not conceive how to run a school from my kitchen table at home. I called my board chair immediately and said "What are we going to do?". The MCA board rallied around the school and stepped in to plan, organize, and write a Covid addendum. This was our first step in resiliency and determination that we would get through that year.

After running a fully virtual school for a year, we then pivoted to a hybrid model and extended the school year into July. Our teachers, students, and families made a collective effort to support our students. We continued working with our tutoring and mentoring partner, EVkids, to assist any student who needed extra help. Each quarter we handed out Stop & Shop gift certificates to help with food insecurity. We also distributed warm clothing, books, and baking kits to keep the momentum of the school steady.

We continue to be the only tuition-free, all-girls middle school in the city of Boston. With a 100% high school graduation rate and 85% college matriculation rate, we send our students to the best private, independent, and Catholic high schools in the area.

The power of engagement is essential in the lives of middle school students, and more so in the lives of underrepresented groups. Our mantra "Everyone deserves a seat at the table" is strong and thriving and we could not do our work without you. Thank you for all of your support, conversations, and dedication to Mother Caroline Academy.

In gratitude,

Ranmani Guerada

Annmarie Quezada Head of School

Mission

Mother Caroline Academy empowers girls in grades 4-8 to think bigger, bolder, and beyond, through educational excellence, leadership development, and community stewardship in a safe space that fosters social and emotional learning. Our aim is to empower students and families to achieve generational growth and development where all can imagine a future with limitless possibilities.



Our new mission statement, approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2021, best reflects our commitment to educating the girls who walk through our doors every day. Inherent in this revised mission is to achieve the goals for our students set forth in the founding of the school while acknowledging the current social and educational landscape to prepare our students for the best outcomes.

Mother Caroline Academy & Education Center has been extremely active

in supporting students and their families during this trying time. Due to the pandemic, MCA was forced to pivot to virtual learning. We immediately gave computers to all students to keep. We reached out to all families and provided hot spots, if needed. Many of our families did not have access to the internet or struggled with internet connectivity. MCA accommodated these families with necessary materials to ensure student success. Food insecurity was urgent, so we immediately reached out to our partner, The Boston Chapter of the LINKS, to help us provide quarterly food gift certificates to families. We also partnered with an area caterer, Fresh Food Generation, who distributed boxes of food to serve whole families. Warm clothes, shoes, books, activity kits were given out quarterly to all families.

During Covid, we started with a 23% success rate, which includes students who received a "B" or above in all classes. We ended the year with a 94% success rate. All students were promoted to the next grade. In addition to continuing to strengthen academic performance, our Parenting Journey series, a nationally recognized program that helps parents navigate the parental role, continued on a weekly basis in order to support our families.

Our Parent Liaison Group continued to meet with the Head of School, Nurse, Operations Manager, and Licensed Mental Health Counselor to navigate the Covid challenges. Our community embraced the Covid plan with acceptance and support. Our enrollment has increased and our families have supported us along the way.

To combat our hardships during the pandemic, we reached out to individual donors and raised \$350,000 for school improvements and staff needed for a Covid year. We hired a full time Registered Nurse and Licensed Mental Health Counselor to support our families. We also built a nurse's pod and isolation rooms to support the students and be ready for any Covid issues that may arise.

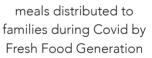




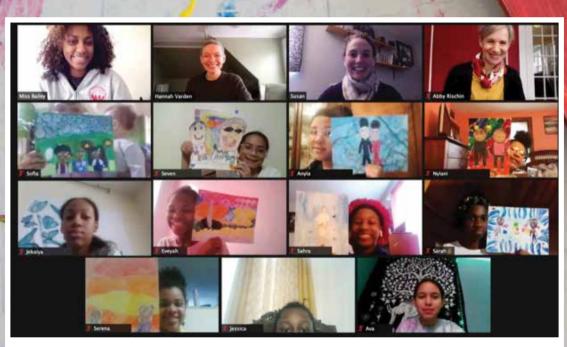
890 hours spent on Zoom online classes



150 meals distributed to



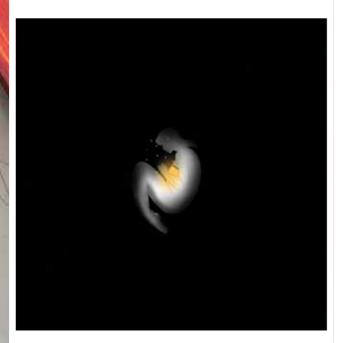
2200 hours of counseling support provided during Covid



Step into Art

In its 13th year partnering with Mother Caroline Academy, Step into Art reimagined this annual collaboration as a fully virtual program. Over a five-month period, 15 Mother Caroline sixth-graders actively engaged with great works of art from the Harvard Art Museums and the National Portrait Gallery. Participating in 15 Zoom lessons with Step into Art, students assumed several important roles: viewer, artist, and writer.

The students drew particular inspiration from the poignant central image in Pablo Picasso's Mother and Child and the rich patterned background in Kehinde Wiley's portrait of President Obama as they developed portraits of their own. Using speciallydesigned Step into Art art kits, students created meaningful watercolor paintings that represent important relationships in their lives, each one illuminated by a vivid background. They also expressed themselves in new ways as writers, composing descriptive and poetic reflections to accompany their portraits.



Mya - Grade 7

What I did for my "What is HOPE" project was a girl in a pit black hole holding a lantern. I chose this concept to represent hope because the light portrays hope in the dark. I believe hope is any little light you have left in the darkness, so I decided to take the term a little literal. I believe life without hope would be bland and boring and I feel without light life would also be bland and boring, basically dark, but not just literally dark but also metaphorically. Life without hope can be very mentally dark and if you aren't looking forward to something well, in the darkness you stay, and nobody wants that. My picture symbolizes that even in the darkest times of life and days if you have a bit of hope, a bit of light, it can light up your world more than you could ever imagine. With that thought and concept in mind I came up with this drawing of a girl clutching her lantern, clutching onto her hope, even in the darkness.

Parenting Journey

This year's Parenting Journey has been as unique as the times in which we live. Our weekly sessions began with a great deal of psycho-education on mental health and wellness topics such as stress, anxiety, depression, isolation, relaxation, and a consistent threading of self-care tools and encouragements into each session. Other topics were very specifically targeted to addressing specific stressors related to the impacts of Covid-19, homeschooling, racial unrest and reckoning, the election and ensuing insurrection. Finally, other sessions offered focus on pure wellness and nurturing of self in topics related to nutrition, meditation, and a three-part series offered by professional women of The Boston Chapter of the Links, Inc.

In turn, this year's group was truly built by the fabulous MCA parents who often gave great praise to the efforts of MCA to meet both their daughters' and their own needs during this challenging time.





100%

of MCAEC parents who responded to a survey feel supported by the school during the pandemic

"I thought it was just going to be another Zoom session, but now I look forward to them every Monday and they have helped calm me during the pandemic."

- Parent

Sneak peek:

Theater & Drama Program at MCA 2021-2022

Due to Covid-19, students at MCA were unable to have in person drama classes. For the 2021-2022 school year, MCA hired a theatre professional to teach the theatre/drama classes, Jacqui Parker. Parker is an actress, director, playwright and community leader. She has an extensive background in theatre, including but not limited to, writing and directing six plays as the playwright-in-residence at Hibernian Hall and appearing in various productions (Yerma 2019, A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration 2009, Gem of the Ocean 2004 and Breathe, Boom 2003). Jacqui credits her best theatre training to the New African Company run by Lynda and James Spruill.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Parker has themed the theatre/ drama program, "My Best Self." Students are learning more about themselves as they learn many different elements of theatre. The theme is about exploration and self-discovery through theatre. Students are learning what they love about themselves every day through culture and their surroundings, but theatre is another means. The introduction of theatre and the variety of elements it brings gives the students at MCA a chance to connect and learn from others.







Full Circle

As the top academic student in her MCA class, Taylor's leadership, resilience, and integrity has made her journey a legacy that no one will soon forget.

When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, she would confidently say, "a Supreme Court Justice!" This was just one of many professions that Taylor wanted and she knew that whatever she was to achieve, she wanted to make sure that it was working somewhere she would be able to help others and empower others to be their best selves, no matter what the circumstances.

After graduating from MCA, Taylor went on to Milton Academy and was thrilled to have been accepted to her first choice for college, Duke University.

After a successful freshman and sophomore year at Duke, Taylor knew that being halfway to her graduation date meant that it was time to work even harder than ever before. At the beginning of her Junior year, Taylor started experiencing severe headaches which was not the norm as she had felt the best while at Duke. After numerous hospital and doctor visits, it was determined that Taylor suffered from a brain tumor. Seven surgeries later and a medical leave from Duke, Taylor had returned back to her home in Dorchester to recover, just two short blocks, from another place she referred to as home, Mother Caroline Academy.

While recovering from her brain injury, Taylor was cared for by her mother, who had not only inspired her to always be her best, but to also never give up, no matter what life threw in your path. Taylor used this inspiration, bravery, and courage to return to Duke and completed her degree with the rest of her class.

After graduating from Duke, Taylor returned to her second home, Mother Caroline Academy. With the love, care, and guidance of her mother, Taylor was able to find her passion and vocation, teaching. It was Taylor's mom who inspired her to pursue her dreams, no matter what got in the way. Since her mother's passing in 2018, Taylor makes sure to continue her mother's legacy in all that she does and knows that her heart was always at MCA and that is where she wanted, and needed to be. In Taylor's own words, "Mother Caroline Academy heals me".

As a full-time paraprofessional at MCA, Taylor helps in various aspects of the academic day. Whether she is working 1-1 with students needing additional academic support or assisting students with public speaking and essay writing, she does what she does always making sure the students come first.

She regularly talks about her pride of being an MCA Alumnae and is always wanting to share her past MCA experiences and wisdom to inspire current students. While Taylor's brain injury resulted in her being legally blind, she has never used her disability as a deterrent to achieve her goals.

Taylor continues to inspire students with her story of resilience and love to motivate others to never give up. She is currently working towards the completion of her Master's Degree and continues to be that bright star that we saw in her many years ago.





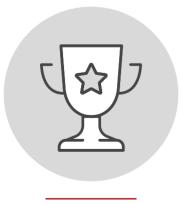
High School Acceptances

2010 – PRESENT

Archbishop Williams Arlington Catholic High School Beacon Academy Beaver Country Day School Boston Arts Academy Boston Latin Academy **Boston Latin School** Boston Trinity Academy **Brighton High School** Brimmer & May School Brooks School Buckingham, Browne and Nichols Buxton School Cambridge Rindge & Latin Cambridge School of Weston Cate School Cathedral High School CATS Academy Chapel Hill Chauncy-Hall School Commonwealth School

Concord Academy Cristo Rey High School Cushing Academy Dana Hall School Elizabeth Seton Academy EMK Health Careers Academy Emma Willard School Fenway High School Fontbonne Academy Holderness School John D. O'Bryant School for Math and Sciences Lexington Christian Academy Marianapolis Preparatory School Matignon High School Milton Academy Miss Hall's School Miss Porter's School Monsignor Ryan High School Mount Alvernia High School

Newman School Newton Country Day School Noble & Greenough School North Cambridge Catholic **High School Proctor Academy** Prospect Hill Academy **Putney School Rivers School** St. Andrew's School St. George's School St. Joseph's Preparatory High School Stoneleigh Burnham School St. Paul's School Trinity Catholic High School Waldorf School White Mountain School Woodward School for Girls



98%

high school tuition costs covered through various scholarships





funding awarded for high school acceptances

7:1 student-teacher ratio



Colleges Attended

2010 – PRESENT

Amherst College **Babson** College **Barry University Bates College** Bay State College **Becker** College **Bennett** College **Boston College Bowdoin College Brandeis University** Bridgewater State University Bunker Hill Community College Clark Atlanta University Clark University College of the Holy Cross Community College of Rhode Island **Connecticut** College **Cornell University** Curry College Dartmouth College Dean College Duke University **Emerson College Emmanuel College Endicott College**

Fairfield University **Fisher College** Georgia State College Gordon College Hampton University Harvard University Howard University Lafayette College Lake Forest Lasell College Lincoln University Middlebury College Mt. Ida College New York University Northeastern University Ohio Wesleyan University Pine Manor College **Providence** College Quincy College **Regis College** Roxbury Community College Salem State College Salve Regina University Simmons College Smith College

Southern New Hampshire University Spelman College St. John's University St. Leo's University Stonehill College Suffolk University Towson University Trinity College Tufts University University of Delaware University of Hartford University of Massachusetts - Amherst University of Massachusetts - Boston University of Massachusetts - Lowell University of Rhode Island Wellesley College Wentworth Institute of Technology Wesleyan College Westfield State College Wheelock College Williams College Worcester State College





Partnerships

Boston Chapter of The Links, Inc. Boston College Council of Women Boston College School of Education Boston College School of Nursing Boston College School of Social Work **Boston Compact** Boston Police Department School Safety and Trauma Training Boston Public Library – Grove Hall Branch Boston Shakespeare Project Boston University Center for Regenerative Medicine Bridgewater State University Center for Women and Enterprise City Fresh **Citylights Stage Stories** College of the Holy Cross Discovering Justice - Moakley Courthouse Emmanuel College Community Service and Service Learning **EVkids** Fresh Food Generation Greater Grove Hall Main Streets Handel and Haydn Society

I2 Stem Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum **ITR** Unlimited Massachusetts Department of Public Health School Health Unit Massachusetts General Hospital Massachusetts Historical Society 1619 Speaker Series MA Mentoring Partnership Max Warburg Courage Curriculum Science Club for Girls Shepley Bulfinch Sole Train Step Into Art Stop & Shop Tony Williams Dance Studio Tufts University Physician Assistant Program Urban Catholic Teacher Corps Valeo Soccer Vincent Thomas Dance Wellesley College Women in Nonprofit Network Women's Foundation of Boston YotMe



Dear MCA Supporter,

My name is Makayla, currently I am an eighth-grade student at Mother Caroline Academy (MCA). Next year, I will graduate and become an alumna of the school. That day will be a joyous yet sorrowful day. On graduation day, which is so far yet too soon to come, I will leave behind the place that has created so many positive memories for me. Mother Caroline has taught me values that not only encouraged me to excel in the classroom, but in my own personal life as well. Mother Caroline's values of respect, responsibility, strength, bravery, persistence and kindness are what caused me to strive past all difficulties to be where I am today. This wonderful school has taught me that letting down my pride to ask for help will make me stronger now and further down the line in life. As you may already know, Covid-19 has affected many lives negatively as well as my own. Covid-19 has made it difficult for my mother to earn enough money to pay for groceries when needed. This phenomenon did not only occur in my home but also in my fellow schoolmates' households.

Through this and many other hardships, challenges and turbulent times, MCA has offered helping hands, stood by our sides, and have provided much useful support. For example, MCA has supported my family and many others by providing canned, frozen and even cooked foods. MCA has helped myself and many others whether it was mentally, emotionally, or self-education wise. During this time, Mother Caroline Academy has and still is encouraging us all, whether staff or student, to succeed even through the impossible. The staff and fellow students whether we have been online or, as we are now, in person have brought only positive spirits and behavior. During my years in this astounding and loving school, it has brought me friends that have and will forever be my second family. Without Mother Caroline by my side, I'd still be the shy, voiceless, timid, naive child that I was years ago. In the past, schools that I have attended didn't try to push me out of what I was comfortable with. This left me afraid to try different things I saw as difficult, worrisome, or not worth testing out because of a lack of interest within that field. Mother Caroline has pushed me out of my comfort zone, allowing me to try new things even if I thought I couldn't or what I believed would be a waste of time. MCA helped me spread my wings that will help me soar to reach bigger and better opportunities when the time for high school applications comes around.

Mother Caroline helped me to realize that my voice, no matter if in the classroom or out in public, matters. This school has taught me that even if I happen to be a young, African American, female, I can move boulders from my own and others' paths. When I move on from this school, I hope it will be here for future children that come from similar backgrounds as myself. When school life gets hard to the point where I'm struggling and it ends up showing in my performance and grades, Mother Caroline has proven that they will be there through that hardship. Mother Caroline Academy has shed light on skills and traits that I haven't seen in myself. Before MCA I never knew about my love for helping and guiding others through their own struggles. Now, whenever someone is in need, I have the tools and preparations necessary to help others the ways that MCA helped me. Mother Caroline has and will forever be a great support beam in my life.

Sincerely, Makayla, 8th Grade



Financials

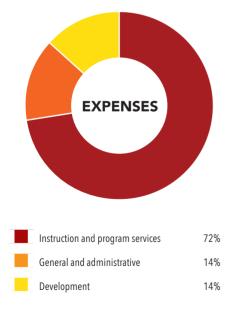
FY 2021 (JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021)



Individual contributions	30%
Foundations and trusts	16%
Corporations and other businesses	9%
Investment income	41%
In-kind services and materials	3%
School activities, fees, and other income	1%

REVENUE:

\$ 808,689
447,859
250,645
1,122,264
94,570
16,687
\$ 2,740,714



EXPENSES:	
Instruction and program services	\$1,697,308
General and administrative	331,502
Development	313,716
Total expenses	\$ 2,342,526

Thank you to our contributors

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the following list of donations and pledges made from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. If errors are found, please accept our apologies and be sure to contact MCAEC so we can correct our records. Names are published in the format they are received, unless otherwise specified. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to change how your name appears in future reports.

Marie Louise Greenidge Director of Development (mgreenidge@mcaec.org)

July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

\$100,000 and Above The Wallace E. Blackwood Family Irrevocable Trust Markey and Thomas Burke

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Todd and Marci Abbrecht Boston Chapter of The Links, Inc. Commonwealth Corporation - GEER Fund Phillip and Elizabeth Gross* Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P. Women's Foundation of Boston

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$249 and below

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The Founders' Society

Leave a Lasting Legacy for Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center

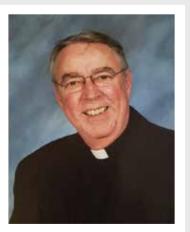
Mother Caroline Academy has formed a Planned Giving program in order to recognize those who have designated the school in their estate planning. In 2021, MCAEC was the recipient of a bequest from Fr. Wallace E. Blackwood, a friend of one of the founders. We are grateful for his legacy gift which provides financial support and sustainability needed for the school's continued growth.

The most common legacy gifts are bequests made in a will, as a beneficiary designation of a retirement fund, or a life insurance policy. Gifts can be restricted or unrestricted. Unrestricted gifts provide for the school's greatest needs while restricted gifts can go towards the endowment, academic programs, capital improvements, athletics, etc.

Establishing an estate plan creates membership in The Founders' Society. Planned giving is not just for the wealthy; anyone can create a lasting legacy for MCAEC students.

- Name Mother Caroline Academy in your will or living trust
- Designate Mother Caroline Academy as the beneficiary of your IRA or retirement plan.
- Make Mother Caroline Academy the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

If you wish to have Mother Caroline Academy provide you or your attorney with customized beneficiary language that is specific to your goal and interest, please contact Director of Development, Marie Louise Greenidge, or Head of School, Annmarie Quezada.



Father Wallace Blackwood 1939-2020

Bequest Giving

The following friend of the school made a generous bequest in support of the MCAEC mission.

Fr. Wallace Blackwood was a priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston for 53 years. He dedicated his life to the church and helping others, through his work as a Pastor and his work as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. Thank you to Father Blackwood and The Wallace E. Blackwood Family Irrevocable Trust for thinking of Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center and believing in the school's mission. Mother Caroline Academy greatly appreciates your gift and will ensure Fr. Blackwood's legacy continues.



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Boston Chapter of The Links, Inc. Ronald Bousquet Janet DeSimone Margaret LeBlanc Sacred Heart Parish, Newton Stop & Shop Elizabeth Tango

* Designates Class Sponsor



Faculty and Staff 2020-2021

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

Olumide Adebo, IT Consultant

Raymonde Alcindor, Operations Manager/ Nutrition Program Director

Lousillia Bailey, Art Teacher

Michelle Brito, Educational Consultant

Carrie Coughlin, Director of Development

Eddy Dacius, Facilities Manager

Magdalena Gaillot, Admissions and Outreach Coordinator

Sarah Harrison, 7th and 8th Grade English Language Arts

Isabelle Hattan, AmeriCorps Associate, 5th Grade Math and Science, 6th Grade Science

Katherine Hernandez, Executive Assistant and Receptionist

Robin Horgan, 5th Grade English Language Arts and World Religions

Jillian LaFond, RN, School Nurse

Hannah McGowan, 7th and 8th Grade Science, UCTC

Julianna Montminy, 5th Grade Math and Science, 6th Grade Science, UCTC

Jennifer Munoz, Assistant Principal

- **Taylor Parker**, Teaching Assistant, 5th Grade English Language Arts and Social Studies
- **Gabriella Pesce**, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and School Adjustment Counselor

Annmarie Quezada, Head of School

LaToya Robinson, Drama Teacher

Darwing Rodriguez, IT Technician

- **Dr. Thomas Savas, PhD**, 5th and 6th Grade English Language Arts
- Hanna Shibles, 6th and 7th Grade English Language Arts, UCTC

Peter Squires, 6th and 7th Grade Math and Mentor Teacher

Gloria Wilkins, Business Manager

Liam Wintroath, 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies, UCTC

Rebecca Wyczalek, Coordinator EVkids/MCAEC, 6th Grade Social Studies, 7th and 8th Spanish and 8th Grade Math





TRUSTEES FOR 2020-2021

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Essence Lee Souffrant, Vice Chair Channel Manager, Digital and Loyalty Stop & Shop

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