



**HYDE PARK DAY SCHOOL**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022





# Letter from the Executive Director



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Dear Friends,

Looking back on the 2020-2021 academic year brings to mind many things—the continuing challenges posed by Covid-19, the adjustment to a “new normal”, and most importantly, the persistence and resilience of our students and staff.

As one of the few schools operating in-person the majority of the year, we created new routines and creative work-arounds to keep our HPDS traditions and spirit alive. Lots of outdoor time balanced intensive learning periods, with special attention paid to our students’ socio-emotional needs. By following our safety protocols, we had a remarkably safe and healthy year. At the end of the year we were able to enjoy small in-person gatherings for our transition ceremonies, as well as for our graduates. Our staff once again demonstrated their exceptional commitment to our students and did whatever was necessary to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Our school is only as strong as those who support it. We are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff and faculty, supportive and engaged parents, and a generous and thoughtful cadre of donors. Thank you for being an important part of our vibrant school community.

Sincerely,

Casey Crnich, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

*“We also liked the fact that it was not a school whose intention was to keep students there the whole time. The idea of giving the students the skills to succeed resonated with us.”*



# Alumni Profile

## LIZ MEARA COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

Hi, I'm Liz Meara. I am here to congratulate you on your tremendous accomplishment. I, like you, attended Hyde Park Day School. I was there for fifth and sixth grade. This school changed my life and I hope it changed yours, too. I remember my first visit to HPDS. I met other energetic kids who seemed to actually like school. I met staff with positive attitudes who seemed to actually care. I was so excited to attend a school that could help me after years of testing, therapy, and frustration.

All of you graduating today have been through a lot. You have likely experienced this confusion and frustration that comes with a learning disability. That makes it even more exciting to graduate, right?

Hyde Park taught me many things. Two of which were how to write and spell. Neither of which I could do before attending. After just a few months at Hyde Park Day School, I did so well with spelling that I asked to take on the hardest word possible: pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. I can still spell it to this day.

If you reflect on your time at HPDS, I'm sure you can pinpoint times when you took on a challenge, worked really hard, and met your goal. Try to remember that feeling. Use that to accomplish future goals, big or small.

One of my favorite components of school at this campus was the focus on organization and other executive functioning skills. I learned about color-coding and labeling. I remember on my first day of sixth grade, there were a dozen cool Five Star binders sitting on a counter in my new classroom. I picked up a light blue one. To this day, I get frequent compliments on how organized I am at work. I owe that all to HPDS.

Speaking of work, I am an intervention specialist in Cincinnati, Ohio. I teach high school students who have autism. My job is so rewarding because I can relate to my students and see their progress. As you move toward adulthood, think about what really matters to you. Where and how can you make a difference? With whom? What motivates you?

For those of you graduating today, please know that you are prepared for your next learning environment, wherever that may be. You know what you need to learn successfully. You know how to self advocate. You know your strengths. Continue applying the skills you have learned and you may be surprised by how well you adapt.

I have been through several graduations like you will also experience throughout your education. My most recent one was a couple years ago from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. In the weeks leading up to graduation, I had the chance to design and decorate my cap. I ended up choosing "progress over perfection" as the phrase I prominently displayed on the top. That is because I have progressed in multiple domains since my time at HPDS by using the tools I acquired there. While I tend to strive for perfection, I have come to take pride in my progress.

I encourage you to celebrate every small and large achievement moving forward. Acknowledge when you use any strategies or tools you have acquired in your time at Hyde Park Day School. Today, I encourage you to celebrate yourself and all that you have accomplished on your journey to graduation from this wonderful school. Congratulations! Thank you.





# This is our Dream

HPDS—Chicago Campus Crowd-sourced Poem

*I dream a world* where people hold hands,  
where love helps people in need,  
and everybody feels like somebody.

*I dream a world* where there is no war but peace.  
No violence and no guns that hurt people.

*I dream a world* where people love the earth,  
and do not pollute it,  
where there is no global warming.

*I dream a world* where the ocean is blue. The coral reefs  
are filled with vibrant colors. Where the sky is blue and tree  
leaves are greener than ever before.  
Where the plastic in the ocean becomes no more.

*I dream a world* where everything and everyone is unique  
A unique identity that brings strength and courage  
to their lives.

*I dream a world* of love and respect,  
not a world of lying and division.

*I dream a world* for people to be kind.  
I want peace in the world.

*I dream a world* where there are schools like the Art Institute  
and Hyde Park Day School.

*I dream a world* where racism is eradicated and segregation  
is extinct.

*I dream a world* of equality where everyone has a home  
and we work together to make a better place without any  
frowny faces.

There's no time for hesitating: the time of peace, the time of  
love to let the world see the light above.

*I dream a world* where people will not criticize others based on  
their race-based on gender, based on love.

*I dream a world* where everybody has a cheerful face  
we can see.

*I dream a world* of joy in all the people,  
Where peace and love fight off hate,  
Because hate cannot fight off hate.  
No one can take your dreams away.

*I dream a world* where life and freedom are what you feel,  
let it into your heart,  
even if you also feel pain.

*I dream a world* where there is no violence and pain, let your  
pain go and find peace, joy, happiness.

*I dream a world* where each and every one of us can take off  
our maddening masks and join hands together singing without  
standing six feet apart from each other.

*I dream a world* with no discrimination and filled with smiling  
faces that are satisfied with a world where no one has to be  
afraid of getting treated differently because of your skin color.

*"They did a beautiful job....they created a safe space for me as  
a parent to go through this situation. They really met the whole  
family, which I appreciated as a single parent."*



*I dream a world* where racism is fully gone.

*I dream a world* where people help others in this time of Covid.  
To make things right, even when it might be hard.

*I dream a world* where we are positive, respectful and listen to others.

*I dream a world* where people share food with each other.

*I dream a world* where you can own a farm without money problems, where you can have all the space you want, for farmers and all their animals.

*I dream a world* where cold souls find warmth in their own homes instead of being sad on the streets.

*I dream a world* where you find friends because of your personality and are welcomed in with hugs and smiles, being part of all the activities.

*I dream a world* where equality is key, sexism isn't a thing, and we all respect each other's beliefs, likes, and dislikes.

*I dream a world* with love and dreams,  
not right and wrong.  
Where everyone is equal.

*I dream a world* with less homework and more hamsters.

*I dream a world* with love and kindness.  
Nobody should be alone in this world.  
Treat yourself and others with kindness and love  
and you will get love back.

*I dream a world* where everyone is nice.  
There is fun and friendship and 2 portals to Minecraft!

*I dream a world* of peace and love. This world is like a fluffy bed,  
like a warm hug and no one will hate each other. A world filled  
with hope and kindness, where no one big or small is alone,  
even if you are sad or lost you will find a way.

*I dream a world* where we do not get divided by the color of  
skin and I dream a world where we can see people smile, not  
just through their eyes.

*I dream a world* where there is always kindness and love for  
others and even though you don't know someone, but they  
look sad and no one is playing with them, you can still go over  
and ask if they want to play.

*I dream a world* where evil goes down and kindness goes up,  
where we take care of the Earth and every living thing.  
There are Beautiful sights and sunsets, as beautiful as can be.  
Where everyone has freedom, and everyone gets the help they  
need. Where everyone can be who they want to be.  
The colors in this world are the brightest of colors.

*I dream a world* where there is no covid and only peace and  
kindness in the world and where it is sunny and warm.

*I dream a world* where everyone has what they need, everyone  
gets the help they need, everyone has a place to eat and  
everyone helps people in need.

*I dream a world* where people can do whatever they want  
in life.

*I dream a world* where everyone can go to school and learn.

*I dream a world* where there are no homeless people, no cats  
and dogs on the streets without a home.

*I dream a world* where people are chill, where everyone can  
joke and not take offense.

*I dream a world* where people are treated equally and people  
don't care about what you look like.

A world where everyone has enough food to eat and water  
to drink.

No wars!  
No hungry families!  
No unfairness!

*I dream a world* where everyone has rights.

*I dream a world* where the people of earth treat people  
like they are your best friend.

Where people don't fight over opinions and we can all agree.

*I dream a world* where girls could wear what they want and  
not be criticized for it. I dream of a world where people would  
feel comfortable in the way they look and not be judged for it.  
Where girls could have the power to say the word NO. A world  
where people can love who they love without being criticized.

*I dream a world* where fish swim free and there are enough of  
them. Where animals don't go extinct.  
Where the world is not polluted and coral reefs are not dying.  
I dream a world where dogs do not get abused.

*I dream a world* where people are equal. You may have heard  
of those words before from Martin Luther King, Jr., but people  
are still fighting for equality.  
My dream for this world is for everyone to be equal,  
to be kind to each other and to our home Earth

*I dream a world* where there is world peace and the Blackhawks  
win the Stanley Cup 6 times in a row.

*I dream a world* where there are money trees so people can  
have homes and cars, where food lasts forever so no one  
goes hungry.

*I dream a world* where everyone gets an equal chance to  
succeed.

*I dream a world* where we can all speak freely no matter  
what color you are or political party.  
Where our lives are considered equal  
Where we treat each other the same way we want to be  
treated.

A world where none are made fun of because of their beliefs.

*I dream a world* without Covid-19 so we don't have to  
wear masks.

*I dream a world* where everyone is heard,  
Where we are safely home.

*I dream a world* without masks,  
playing in the sun with unseen friends  
surrounded by people,  
leaving home without worrying about germs,  
no more turning on cameras or muting ourselves,  
the smell of popcorn at the movies.

*I dream a world* where we see smiles,  
cheering at a football game,  
sneezing without suspicion,  
a world where everyone's healthy.



# Audited Financials FY2021

## REVENUE WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Tuition and Student Related Revenues (*1)	7,684,728
Unrestricted Donations	44,973
Net Investment Related Income	317,041
Other/Miscellaneous	176,489
<b>Total Revenue Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>8,223,231</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses	6,830,051
Financial Aid Expense	443,555
Management & General	831,138
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>8,104,744</b>

## RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Scholarship Related	494,281
Other	1,200
<b>Total Restricted Contributions</b>	<b>495,481</b>

Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program Loan	1,073,821
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## NET INCOME/(LOSS)

Total Salaries and Related Expenses (*2)	4,060,359
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## TUITION AND STUDENT RELATED REVENUES BY CAMPUS

Chicago	3,263,149
Northfield	3,145,429
Lemont	1,276,150
<b>Total Tuition and Student Related Revenues</b>	<b>7,684,728</b>

\*1 Includes Scholarship Income (Previously raised scholarship funds)

\*2 Includes HPDS Salaries, Contracted Services, Benefits and Other Consultants



*"He learned about who he was as a person and as a learner, how to best use his strengths, recognize challenges, know how to deal with them in different situations. Honor that everyone has strengths and challenges and know that his were a gift and not a consolation prize."*

# Thank you to our 2020–2021 Donors

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## **HYDE PARK DAY SCHOOL**

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6254 S. Ellis

Chicago, IL 60637

773-420-2550

### **NORTHFIELD CAMPUS**

1980 Old Willow Road

Northfield, IL 60093

847-446-7025

### **LEMONT CAMPUS**

13860 Main Street

Lemont, IL 60439

630-296-1229

**[hydeparkday.org](http://hydeparkday.org)**

