

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A LEGACY OF  
LEARNING  
25 YEARS OF HPDS



**OUR SOLE PURPOSE IS TO HELP  
BRIGHT FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH  
GRADE STUDENTS WITH  
LEARNING DISABILITIES REACH  
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.  
WE BELIEVE STUDENTS WHO  
RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE  
INTERVENTION CAN DEVELOP  
THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO KEEP  
PACE IN TRADITIONAL  
CLASSROOMS.  
WE ACHIEVE THIS BY TEACHING  
OUR STUDENTS HOW TO  
LEVERAGE THEIR SIGNIFICANT  
STRENGTHS IN AREAS THAT ARE  
DIFFICULT, AND HOW TO SELF-  
ADVOCATE FOR THE TOOLS THAT  
THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.**

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# A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The 2024-25 academic year marked a remarkable milestone, our 25th year of transforming the lives of bright children with learning disabilities. It has been a true privilege to help so many students and families discover the most effective ways to learn, grow, and thrive.

This anniversary year was filled with meaningful celebration and exciting progress. Highlights included:

- A **25th Anniversary Gala** celebrating our legacy and community.
- Our inaugural **Alumni Reunion**, which brought together former students, families, and staff.
- Continued development of our **new Student Dashboard**, which consolidates all student data for **more effective tracking and evaluation**.
- The expansion of the Joanne Steinback Educator Training Institute, now **offering national trainings and workshops** in Wilson Reading System® (WRS), Multisensory Math, and Regulation Strategies.

As always, the strength of our community is what makes our success possible. Our dedicated faculty and staff, engaged parents, and generous donors each play a vital role in helping our students reach their full potential. That we continue to flourish after 25 years is a testament to your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

Thank you for investing in Hyde Park Day School and in the bright young learners whose futures you help shape every day.

**With gratitude,**



A handwritten signature of Casey Crnich, Ed. D.

**Casey Crnich, Ed. D.**  
Executive Director  
Hyde Park Day School

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# Leadership for the Long Term

Hyde Park Day School is a legal entity of the **Leslie Shankman School Corporation (LSSC)**. The LSSC board of directors is composed of 14 members with a variety of expertise in education, business, marketing, law, and mental health. In an effort to continually refine our strategic model and seek out the counsel of thoughtful individuals, a number of new members have been recruited to join the board in the past year.

These include:



## Gil Gibori

An HPDS former parent, Gil is an education entrepreneur and the founder of **The House Tutoring Lounge**. Gil's commitment to education and his strategic and entrepreneurial mindset spans the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. He has served on the Board of Education in his local school in Chicago's North Shore for eight years. With a background in academia, consulting, and education, he is a frequent speaker and advisor on topics such as student mental health, educational equity, and the future of learning technology.

## Tina Mattera

Another former parent at HPDS, Tina is a **Board Certified Child and Adolescent psychiatrist**. She completed her Child and Adolescent fellowship at the University of Chicago after her general psychiatry residency at NYU/Bellevue. She has extensive experience in inpatient and partial hospitalization care for children and adolescents including as medical director in both settings. While in training at the University of Chicago, Tina provided care to the residents at the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School.



## Matthew Speiser

Matthew Speiser is the **Owner and Managing Member of S&G Partners, LLC** and affiliated entities, as well as **Vice President of Exxon Capital, Inc.**, a real estate management and investment company. Matthew is an attorney, having previously practiced primarily in the areas of corporate/securities, mergers and acquisitions, civil litigation and real estate law. He is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and DePaul University College of Law.

## Mike Kiser

Mike worked as an **educator of Special Education students** at a residential school in the Elgin School District. Mid-career, he decided to pursue his law degree and subsequently served as the **General Counsel and Assistant Superintendent for Personnel in Naperville Community School District 203**. After retiring from public service, Mike started his own law practice to represent kids in schools to make sure they obtained free and appropriate public education.



HPDS continues to position itself to be at the cutting edge of evidence-based instruction and best practices for independent schools. **Dr. Casey Crnich serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Learning Disability Schools** and is a former board member of **Everyone Reading Illinois** and the **Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools**.

# Audited Financials FY25

HPDS remains committed to sound fiscal stewardship while expanding programming and outreach to better support bright learners with language based learning disabilities who benefit from specialized instruction.

## Revenue Without Donor Restrictions

Tuition and Student Related Revenues (*1)	8,183,613
Teacher Training Income	188,100
Unrestricted Donations	47,090
Net Investment Related Income	152,621
Employee Retention Tax Credit	0
Other/Miscellaneous	36,208
<b>Total Revenue Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>8,607,632</b>

## Operating Expenses

Program Expenses	8,254,301
Financial Aid Expense	476,579
Fundraising	223,433
Management & General	869,913
Chicago Building Depreciation	177,958
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>10,002,184</b>

## Restricted Contributions

Scholarship Related	335,822
Other	7,500
<b>Total Restricted Contributions</b>	<b>343,322</b>

## Net Income/(Loss)

-1,394,552

## Total Salaries & Related Expenses (\*2)

7,586,053

## Tuition and Student Related Revenues by Campus

Chicago	3,220,072
Northfield	2,847,521
Lemont	2,116,020
<b>Total Tuition and Student Related Revenues</b>	<b>8,183,613</b>

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

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

# Educator Training Institute Expands Its Reach

The **Joanne Steinback Educator Training Institute (JSETI)** continues to broaden its impact within the learning disabilities community, offering high-quality training and courses that help educators strengthen their instructional practice. To date, JSETI has trained **more than 700 practitioners** in Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Workshops, with **over 200 completing their Wilson Practicums**. This year, an additional HPDS faculty member earned her Wilson Certified Coach designation, bringing our total to **2.5 FTE Wilson Certified Coaches**.

Our Multisensory Math offerings also continue to grow. With **two HPDS faculty members certified as Multisensory Math Coaches**, JSETI has now trained **347 educators** through MSM workshops. Newer professional learning options include an **Executive Functioning Workshop** led by HPDS Occupational Therapists, and we continue to provide ad hoc trainings and presentations throughout the year by request.

This year, JSETI also launched an exciting new initiative in partnership with the **Chicago Sky Foundation** to provide scholarships for Chicago Public School teachers seeking Wilson Reading System® training. Scholarship recipients will participate in a WRS Introductory Course and pursue **Level 1 Certification**. **Ten educators** have been selected for the 2025-26 cohort.



**Joanne Steinback**  
LSSC Board of Directors  
Emeritus



**Awvee Storey**, Executive Director of the Chicago Sky Foundation, spoke with HPDS faculty and staff about his experience with the Wilson Reading System® and the power of structured literacy.



**Tara Montgomery**, Director of Joanne Steinback Educator Training Institute, leads a Wilson Reading System® workshop as she guides 10 Chicago Public Schools teachers through their Level 1 Certification.



**Jennifer Hodges** and **Sarah Fisher** recently completed their Level 1 Wilson Reading System® Certification, and **Ashley Bean** achieved her Wilson Trainer Certification; important milestones that strengthen our school's capacity to support bright learners who benefit from structured literacy.



As we reflect on 25 years of serving more than 1,000 bright students with learning disabilities, we are reminded why our mission matters. Many students arrive at HPDS feeling discouraged, having struggled to learn in environments not designed for the way their minds work. Surrounded by a community of peers who learn like they do, and supported by faculty trained in evidence-based instruction, students gain the confidence and skills they need to thrive.

With three campuses firmly established and a dedicated staff whose commitment spans decades, our anniversary year began from a place of strength. The centerpiece of this milestone year was our **25th Anniversary Gala**, a celebration that honored both our history and the transformative impact of our mission.

The evening featured remarks from an HPDS alum who candidly shared his journey, his early challenges with learning disabilities, his perseverance, and ultimately, the academic and professional success he achieved. His story embodied the purpose and promise of HPDS. We were also honored to share messages from **Executive Director Emerita Dr. Pam Adelman** and **Board Chair Janet Hoffman**, whose leadership and vision helped shape the school we are today.

This evening served as a powerful reminder of the lives changed, the futures transformed, and the legacy we continue to build.



# 2025 Alumni Reunion

**"We are thrilled at [our son's] persistence in learning, and attribute a lot of his success to the strategies taught at HPDS several years ago!"**

To close out our 25th Anniversary Year, HPDS welcomed alumni, families, and current and former staff for a long-anticipated reunion that quickly became one of the most meaningful moments of the year. Alumni returned from near and far, stepping back into a community that shaped not only their education, but their confidence, friendships, and sense of belonging. Many spoke about how pivotal HPDS was during their formative years, how it was the first place they felt understood, supported, and able to learn in a way that truly worked for them.

**Executive Director Emerita Dr. Pam Adelman** joined the celebration as well, spending time with families and alumni whose lives she touched throughout her years of leadership.

Several alumni shared reflections about their journeys after HPDS, how the skills, self-advocacy, and confidence they built here became the foundation for success in high school, college, and beyond. Even though many years have passed since they walked our halls, their enduring connection to HPDS was unmistakable. This reunion was a powerful reminder that the impact of this community lasts long after graduation.

Additional photos from the event can be accessed through the QR code below.



**"I would not be where I am if I had not had HPDS."**

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

## **25K+**

Brian and Samantha Rubin

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Elise Weiler  
Max and Deborah West



**Every gift to Hyde Park Day School has a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of bright students with language-based learning disabilities. Your support helps ensure that each child who walks through our doors has access to the specialized instruction, encouragement, and sense of belonging they need to grow into confident, successful learners.**

**We are deeply grateful for your generosity and belief in our mission. Because of you, our students are able to discover their strengths, rebuild their confidence, and move forward with the tools to thrive in school and far beyond it.**





As we wrap up our 25th anniversary year, we find ourselves reflecting on just how much this community has built together. More than 1,000 bright learners have come through our doors over the past quarter century, each bringing their own strengths, challenges, and hopes for what school could look like. For so many of them, HPDS became the first place where learning finally made sense- where they were understood, supported, and met with teaching that truly fit the way they learn.

This milestone year offered several moments to pause and appreciate that impact. Our campus birthday celebrations, the 25th Anniversary Gala, and the summer Alumni Reunion each brought our community together in a different way. Across these events, one theme kept rising to the surface: the deep, lasting connection people feel to HPDS long after they've left our hallways.

We are grateful to every person who has helped build and sustain this school- our faculty and staff, families, donors, alumni, and friends. Your belief in the potential of bright learners who benefit from a different approach has allowed HPDS to grow, evolve, and remain a place where students gain both the tools and the confidence they need to thrive.

**Thank you for being part of our story, and for helping us build the next chapter. Here's to the future we will continue to shape together!**

# THANK YOU FOR TWENTY-FIVE AMAZING YEARS



# HYDE PARK DAY SCHOOL

Making Bright Kids' Futures Brighter

## CHICAGO CAMPUS

6254 S. Ellis Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
(773) 420-2550

## LEMONT CAMPUS

13860 Main St.  
Lemont, IL 60439  
(630) 296-1229

## NORTHFIELD CAMPUS

1980 Old Willow Rd.  
Northfield, IL 60093  
(847) 446-7025

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

