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ExplorerWest
Middle School



LEAD. **EXPLORE.** DISCOVER.

Annual Report
2017 • 2018

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Explorer West Middle School does not discriminate in any admissions, financial aid or hiring on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.



Mission Statement

ExplorerWest Middle School embraces the energy and enthusiasm of our diverse young people on the journey to adulthood. As a small and inclusive environment, we view adolescence as a unique window of opportunity to build a community with strong academic skills, creative expression, and character development required for a sustainable future.

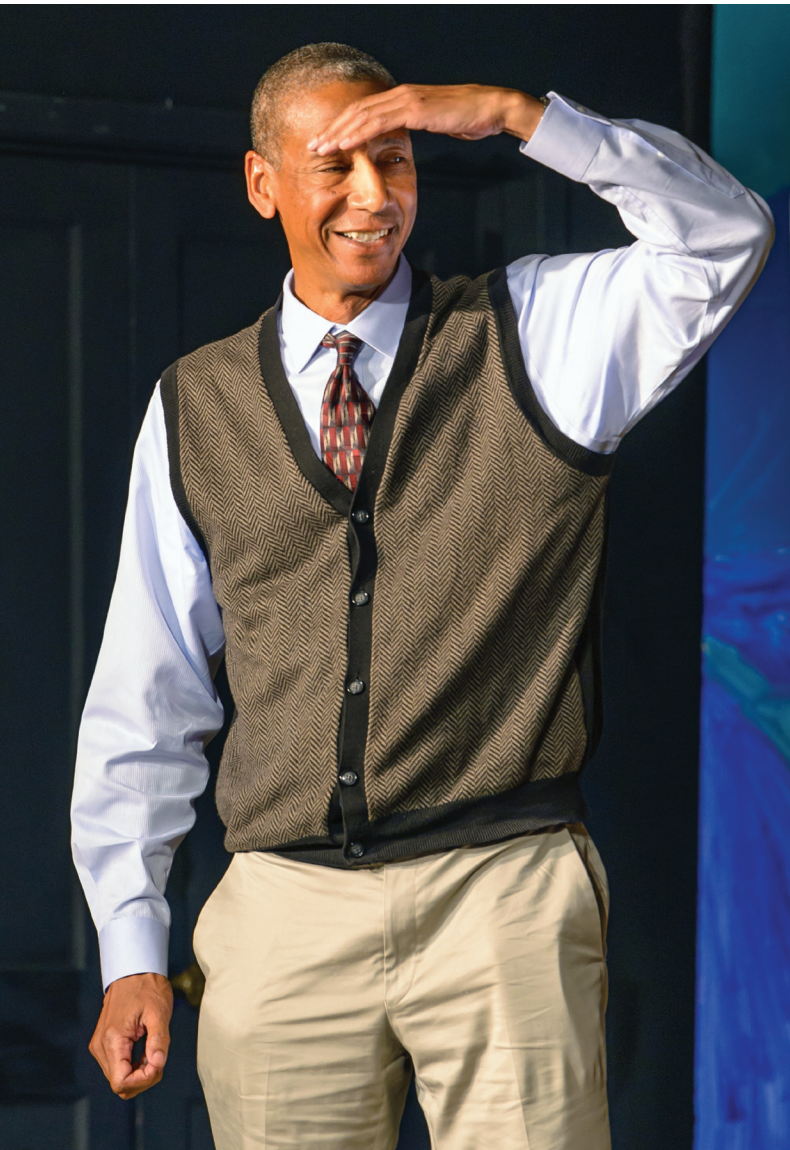




Eleventh Year Reflections

Evan Hundley Head of School

As I shook hands with each 8th grade student this year at graduation, I asked myself, why am I so proud of each graduating class? I am proud of the progress they have made academically, but more importantly, it’s knowing that we put a high priority on teaching character in middle school. The faculty and staff have embraced this since the school was founded in 1996. Just as important as academics, teaching character counts at this critical age of adolescence.



Character has often been defined as the combination of qualities or features that distinguish one person or group from another. At a conference this year in Chicago, an educator noted that many students today do not have a good moral compass or good character traits when they enter college. We believe the middle school years are the perfect time to teach good character traits.

A Mission-Appropriate Student is the Key
Building character starts in our admissions process. The faculty and staff brainstorm each year on this topic: What is a mission-appropriate Explorer West student? Words that are mentioned include: polite, nice to others, good hearted, having empathy, a leader, the courage to care, inclusive, and many more. These are the characteristics the admissions committee looks for each year, and these traits lay the foundation over three years for students to learn character.

Teaching Core Values
The second phase in teaching character starts with the overarching Explorer West core value of respect, followed closely by the other core values of a willingness to help others, integrity, personal and community responsibility, and confidence. We work on these core values on a daily basis in the classroom, in advisory, at assemblies, and in service projects with the community.

Making Connections with Adults
Students making connections with an adult among the faculty and staff is a critical element in shaping character. Not only do the adults reinforce the rules and boundaries of the school to make it a safe place to learn, but they are also there to be good role models.

This is where our faculty truly shines. A strong connection between the students and faculty is the key to ensuring that no student becomes lost, loses hope, or feels that he or she cannot be successful. Here, morals are embraced, taught and modeled to the students by every faculty and staff member.

You will not see teachers huddled together away from the kids during lunch. Instead, you will find teachers eating in the classrooms with students from every grade playing games, talking about life, helping with homework, or just being there in time of need. This additional time for the faculty to make connections with each student is critical for helping character development. This is the teachers’ chance to reinforce character traits that our students crave so much.

Community Pride
I am very proud of the way our students’ character is reflected in civic public service opportunities throughout the year. Whether it’s competing in the Environmental Slam to educate the public on issues, or working with the Seattle Parks Department to help conserve water, or writing to elected officials regarding youth homelessness, sex trafficking, local refugees, animal testing, and other topics, our students have the moral consciousness to take on issues for years to come.

We continue to develop students who are deeply and morally good, and I believe that this is the most important trait with which a student can graduate. Can you tell by a person’s personality what school he or she went to? I can when I meet an Explorer West graduate. Character still counts, and it’s the thing I am most proud of after my 11 years here as Head of School.

Reaccreditation
It will be a busy year for us in 2018-2019 as the school begins its second reaccreditation cycle as a member of NWAIS. The Board is busy drafting new strategic objectives for the school and the faculty and staff get to reflect on the many aspects of what makes this school so unique.

The first step in this process was a review of our mission statement. After a board/faculty/staff retreat last fall, we decided to make a small change to reflect more of the school’s core values. See Page 2 for our new mission statement.

A Special Donor
Every student will be able to play on our newly refurbished playfield next fall. The field was not suitable for play, especially P.E. classes. I would like to personally thank Bill Eisiminger, our lead donor for the project, and the other gracious donors for their support. The kids will now have a much safer place to play for years to come.

Nine foundations generously gave gifts to the school this year, and, from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for believing in our kids and the school. Your gifts make such a difference in the lives of each and every student. **EW**

“We believe the middle school years are the perfect time to teach good character traits.”





Alumna Profile: McKenzie Carlson



McKenzie Carlson, Explorer West class of 2014, graduated from the Seattle Academy of Arts and Science, Class of '18. She now attends the University of Washington, following her parents' path and forging her own in the study of earth and science. She is very involved with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and is passionate about the environment. She recently visited Peru's Machu Picchu, one of her dream trips.

How did Explorer West prepare you for high school?
I was very well prepared for high school, especially in math. It took me until my sophomore year to learn anything new, which shows you how much we were taught at Explorer West. Also writing skills. Tim Owens built a "writing foundation" for me that was a huge help in high school.

What was your academic highlight in middle school?
Science was my main focus, as was history. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with science, but my teachers, Kristin and Virgil, steered me in the right direction. I remember going to class so excited. Kristin was so helpful, she was always encouraging me to explore. Having a woman as my science teacher was so supportive. I always knew there was place for me in the STEM fields.

What stands out most about Explorer West for you?
The Outdoor Education program, by far. I wasn't really an outdoorsy person, but now it's a defining part of me.

The 8th grade coast trip is impossible to beat. There's an emotional component, being with your friends, and the different ecosystem was amazing to see. This year I was Youth Ambassador for the WA Trails Association. I love the outdoors.

Where do think your love of science will lead you?
I got into robotics and the environment in middle school. I'm interested in combating climate change and in college I'll be focusing on earth and space sciences. Robotics is the only sport where everyone can go "pro." I'll continue studying in the STEM fields. Getting the word out, public communication, the outreach part. I want to be on the cutting edge of discovery and fighting climate change.

How did Explorer West change you?
I was super shy in 6th grade. I hated public speaking and giving presentations, but by the end of middle school, I felt like a total pro. I had so much more confidence. Graduates leave so mature, they know what is going on in the world, have a purpose and are driven in their passions. Explorer West was a supportive and safe place to be. At the end of 8th grade, it felt like a family. I could talk to my teachers; they were my friends. And I think it's really important to "know" your Head of School. Mr. H was so cool, he was always there for us. He was always walking the halls, giving us fist bumps. He was very approachable.

Did you enjoy the Rome trip in 8th grade?
It was incredible. It was my first time in Europe. I have an obsession for ancient cultures and Roman mythology, so I really loved Latin class. Our Latin teacher, Maripat, was so encouraging and prepared us for the trip so well. Going to Rome with my friends was so amazing. The small size of our class allowed us to build a very strong community. The Rome and Outdoor Ed trips and Advisory have had a lasting impact on me.

What's one thing about you that would surprise us?
My favorite author is Jules Verne (dubbed the "father of sci-fi" 1850-1905). I just love his adventure stories, his weirdness. Oh, and I was obsessed with Harry Potter, Yes, I was one of those kids. **EW**

Student Profile: Connor Clemons



Connor Clemons is entering his third year in middle school, yet speaking with this poised, articulate young man, you would guess his third year in high school. Connor is an accomplished playwright and exceptional student. His 7th grade musical, "Pencil Pushers," was awarded top honors in ACT Theatre's Young Playwright Program competition. His play was performed by a team of professionals at the Young Playwrights Festival last spring and by TOPS Middle School.

What do you enjoy most about EW?
That's easy. It's the community. We have the best. We want each other to succeed and that's not always the case. Middle school's not an easy time, we support each other. We're all going in the same direction at our own pace.

What's your favorite part of the day at school?
I challenge my math teacher, Jon, to a chess game every day. After losing 37 games. I finally beat him. I have photographic proof.

How is chess like middle school?
In 6th grade you don't feel like a power player. You feel like a pawn. But you're moving up the chess board, gaining experiences, making friends. In 7th grade, you're in the middle of the board and you put yourself out there, more vulnerable and confident. In 8th grade, you advance, the pawn becomes a queen and you can take the lead.

What is the theme of your play, Pencil Pushers?
My play is a campy anti-bullying musical. It's easy to just make an anti-bullying campaign, put it in your face that "bullying is bad." I prefer "it's not good, here's why." It's hard to change behavior. People don't realize what they are doing. If you show them what tormenting and bullying looks like and how it affects people, that will change behavior. Show people the consequences.

What inspired you to write this play?
It's a very personal story. When I was younger, while living in Idaho, I was harshly bullied. It was really hard for me and I didn't handle it well. The characters in my play are all people who I knew, exaggerated. I tried to put a light spin on it, as being preachy is a turn off. It was healing, it has really helped me.

Why a musical?
I was told not to make a musical, that it would diminish the heart of the play. People didn't believe it until I was four songs into it. I promised my drama teacher (and mentor) David Kelly that I would make a musical. All the songs are parodies of 80's songs, I like songs that tell a story. Making music is hard.

How has Explorer West helped shape you?
Explorer West gave me the confidence to make friends, to put myself out there, to be vulnerable. I've done debate, public speaking and I joined the ultimate frisbee team. I enjoy working in groups, it helps me figure out and learn about people. I like the feedback. I thank Mr H for creating one of the best experiences of my life.

As a writer, what would be your spirit animal?
There was a giant, majestic looking llama that lived next door to us in Idaho. We called him "King Bob Llama." One day, while feeding him bread, he bit my hand. So, a llama has always been my animal.

What's your dream career?
I'd love to be a voice actor for Pixar. I can do Scottish, Australian, Russian accents. I can do a little southern. I can totally do Brooklyn. Fuhgeddaboutit! **EW**

Outdoor Education: Waves of Momentum

Matt Kostle Outdoor Education Coordinator

Last year I reflected on the changing river that has been the Explorer West Outdoor Education Program and all the bends and changes we put into the program. This year put those changes to the test along with more additions. And continuing the theme of water, I feel that our waves are getting bigger and stronger!

“Waves” that we have built on and added this year include:

- Returning to last year’s new locations of Ross Lake in the North Cascades, Yakima River Canyon and Cabin Creek Sno Park in the winter.
- Trying out a new location this year: the east side of the Olympic National Forest.
- Rearranging the order of locations to create a program that builds on itself as students progress from car camping to challenging backpacking trips.
- Continuing to incorporate challenge courses in both 6th and 7th grade, building community and leadership skills.
- A new food system allowing more backpacking suitable meals, decreasing packaging and using only one vehicle to shop for food, reducing our environmental footprint.
- New first aid kits and group gear organization system and new cross country ski gear.
- Hiring our own cross country ski instructors for the 7th grade winter trips.

The 6th graders were welcomed into the school and our fall Outdoor Education Program at Fort Worden State Park. With the support of our donors we also returned to the Pacific Marine Science Center to learn about our unique Puget Sound Ecosystem. Having new students out in nature for three days allows them to form lasting bonds with their peers and teachers.

In the spring the 6th grade returned to the desert environment of Yakima River Canyon. This proved to be a solid progression for our students as they still car camp, but the change in environment and the increase in challenges sets them up well to prepare for backpacking in following years.

The 7th grade returned to beautiful, scenic Ross Lake in the North Cascades National Park this fall. With its flat trails and the amenities of occasional pit toilets, picnic tables and even a boat ride to the trailhead, it was a spectacular introduction to backpacking. This trip has now consistently ranked as a favorite among both students and staff. The springtime has always brought difficulties in terms of access to trails due to lingering snow levels in the alpine environments. We pioneered a new location on the eastern side of the Olympic National Forest, sliding perfectly into the “waves” of our OE Program with increased backpacking difficulty paired with breathtaking scenery and comfortable campsites.



“We continue to provide life changing experiences for our students.”

The 8th grade returned to Mt. Rainier in the fall and did what we do best. Adapt. Due to wildfires near our normal routes, we had to make some changes. As students have learned, we adapted, found similar routes and managed to have an excellent time backpacking in this wonderful region again. This spring, the 8th graders enjoyed seeing their own waves of momentum at Explorer West reflected back at them in the waves of the Pacific Ocean on the Olympic National Park coast trip. It was a wonderful trip with fabulous weather.

The winter programs this year also saw a few new changes. We hired cross country ski instructors from the Professional Ski Instructors of America Association to teach our 7th graders. This was made possible thanks to the generous donations of our funders which allowed us to purchase our own skis, boots, and poles instead of renting them. This reduced our overall winter program costs and allowed time for the instructors to build stronger bonds with our students. The 6th graders continued to make their own snowshoes and learn how valuable they are. The 8th grade was able to do a mix of cross country skiing and snowshoeing. While not a new location, we used the Cabin Creek Sno Park more extensively this year for both 7th and 8th grade.

I look forward to next year and the changes it will bring as we continue to provide life changing experiences for our students.

We cannot say thank you enough to our anonymous foundation that provides partial funding for this wonderful program each year. You are helping to change lives and build character in so many ways. **EW**



Social Studies and Community Outreach

Tim Owens

Social Studies and Sustainability

Sustainability and Seattle Parks and Recreation

At the beginning of the year, our Head of School, Evan Hundley, brought in the sustainability director for Seattle Parks and Recreation to see if we could work together on a project with our 8th grade students. We decided that the focus for this year’s research project would be water and Seattle parks. In each 8th grade social studies class, students were divided into two groups: one would research innovative ways that Seattle Parks and Recreation could save water and the other would research methods of capturing stormwater, gray water (wastewater from sinks), or black water (wastewater from toilets). Students collaborated to produce four separate research essays with recommendations.

The next step was to invite the sustainability director, the water manager, and the interim superintendent for Seattle Parks to hear from the students themselves. Several 8th grade students volunteered to be part of the lengthy presentations and Q and A session. The students presented exciting new technologies that could enable Seattle Parks to make progressive changes to how they use and reuse water.

The culminating piece of this year-long project was when students, who again volunteered, presented their recommendations to the Seattle Parks Board. The board not only applauded the students’ effort and expertise, but they discussed new innovations researched by the students. The social studies department is looking forward to working with the sustainability director again next year. This time the theme will be the use of energy throughout Seattle parks.

Environmental Slam

The Environmental Slam at Explorer West has really taken on a life of its own. In our sixth consecutive year, nine teams of students competed at the school-wide level. With five minutes to educate and entertain students and staff on any local environmental issue of their choosing, we had quite the range of issues and performances. Three Explorer West groups focused on the pressing need to save local animals, from bees to orcas and the spiny dogfish. Three other teams focused on pollution’s effects on Puget Sound. The audience learned of dead zones from algae blooms, oil spills, and even manganese effect on our Puget Sound’s complicated, delicate ecosystem. Another group showed how, by using a simple washing machine bag when washing polar fleece, we could prevent tiny

microfibers of plastic from reaching the Sound. Raising awareness about Washington State’s continuing reliance on, and involvement with, coal was another powerful presentation. Finally, one group was even able to link puppy mills to environmental degradation.

Five teams were awarded slots in the citywide Environmental Slam held at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, in West Seattle. Once again, an Explorer West team finished ahead of the pack. The 7th grade group “Killer Whales or Killed Whales?” entertained and educated the audience, securing the People’s Choice Award. The winning team chose to donate their \$750 prize to the Orca Conservancy.

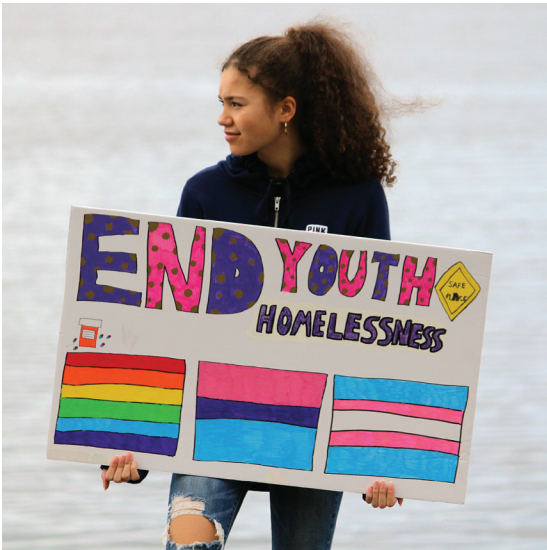
Change The World Project

The Change the World Project has garnered more attention in its fifth year at Explorer West. 8th grade students spend a considerable amount of their second semester in groups of four or five students, focusing on a sustainability issue chosen by each group. Students researched their issue, wrote essays, planned action, initiated the action, evaluated their impact, and finally presented the topics to their 6th and 7th grade peers and a panel of experts. The topics chosen were animal testing, refugee assistance, youth homelessness, sex

trafficking, police accountability, more sustainable packaging, Duwamish River pollution, and wolf habitat in Washington State.

Two groups were given the opportunity to attend fundraising luncheons related to their causes, making valuable contacts, learning the difficult skill of approaching adults and networking to raise awareness for their causes. Students also spent most of one day canvassing in West Seattle, and they collectively gathered over 1,100 signatures for their specific causes. The signatures were included in letters sent to elected officials at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

The most important piece to this successful project is instilling a sense of power in every student; the project shows them that they can make our world better, even if it is in some small way. Also, it demonstrates that the civic engagement component of what it takes to be an active citizen in our democracy is critical. **EW**



Rome 2018



Maripat Webber

Latin

At Explorer West, two and a half years of Latin study culminates in 8th grade with the opportunity to spend a week in Rome, known for centuries as Caput Mundi, the “Head of the World.” Rome has served as the capital of kingdoms, empires, and world religions for two millenia. For just as long, the study of Latin and Greek has formed the backbone of education in the West. Latin’s logical structure, order, and consistent patterns underly Science, Medicine, and Law, as well as numerous modern languages.

This was the 16th year Explorer West traveled to Rome and 34 students joined six faculty and staff during the mid-winter break in February. The school is proud of the fact that financial aid is available to any family that cannot afford the full price of the trip.

In all Explorer West classes, students learn to look at all aspects of their lives from a global perspective. In Latin class, students study Roman civilization and its contributions to art, architecture, and European and American political structures, giving them a unique understanding of the roots of our modern world.

Before venturing to Italy, the 8th grade completed 25 research assignments along with class discussions about Rome’s history and architecture. Each student

picked a structure - ancient, medieval, or Renaissance - and presented its story to the class for their Rome Building Project.

Our students brought to Rome everything they had absorbed about the Romans in almost three years of Latin. Most are astonished at how much more immense their buildings are than they had imagined and how the foundations of so many buildings consist of construction built many centuries ago.

Romans value mos maiorum, the “way of our ancestors.” Students stood in the Forum Romanum awed by the puny remains of the majestic buildings that graced the area in the centuries of the modern era. They saw physical proof that the Romans built for the “ages.” My favorite part of the trip is watching this realization dawn on students who spend most of their lives wrapped in technology and the minutiae of contemporary life.

A memorable moment included karaoke on the bus to Hadrian’s Villa. Urged on by our guide, Francesca, Tim Owens led us all through “Yellow Submarine,” and three students reprised songs from the winter Arts Night, gathered around a microphone on the bus.

Over lunch in Tivoli, Francesca and chaperone Sherman English devised an ingenious scavenger hunt for the afternoon visit to the gardens at Villa d’Este. Chaperoned groups competed to find everything on their list. It was fun to watch from above as multiple clumps of students darted up and down the many levels of the beautiful gardens. Many students listed this activity as one of the highlights of their trip.

Students say they got to know their classmates in entirely different ways on this trip and felt like different people when they returned home. They enjoyed the independence they experienced, but most noted that visiting “their” researched building was the highlight of a week they will never forget.

As their Latin teacher, I treasure their realization that in-depth study broadened and deepened their appreciation of everything they saw in Rome. **EW**

Admissions

Katie Auker

Director of Admissions

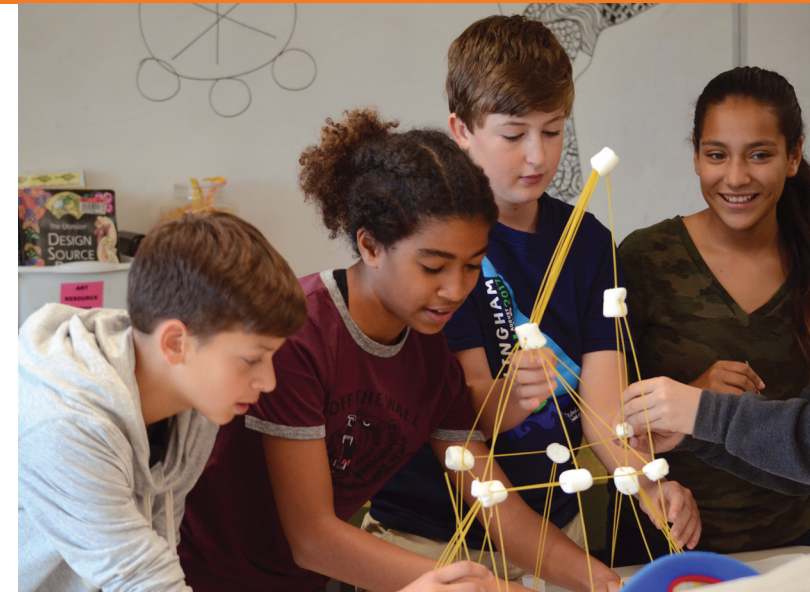
Navigating the Path Through Middle School

Middle school can feel like a tumultuous journey - loud, chaotic, and confusing. Explorer West recognizes this and focuses solely on the middle school years, making us experts in taking students to the next level, no matter where they start and where they want to go. We have cultivated the right combination of personalized attention, academics, arts, and activities that turn the middle school years from an awkward stumble to a confident march to high school.

As admissions director in a small school, I have the pleasure to see students from their initial introduction at an open house, all the way to high school. Students start on the path by attending one of our open houses, then our family visit. During those experiences, our community, curriculum, and programs are on display, helping families see where they fit in.

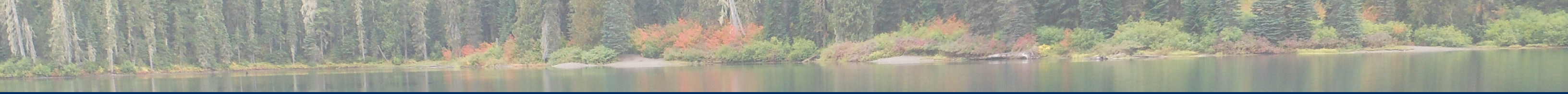
In the fall, our new students from Seattle and South King County walk through our blue doors. Twenty different schools will be represented in the 6th grade class. Students with diverse stories and backgrounds will create a unique class. Faculty, staff, trip leaders, and coaches play a role in helping them learn what it means to be confident, creative, curious, and responsible.

By the time I circle back in 8th grade to work with families on their high school applications, the maturity and growth I see is stunning. The sky’s the limit for our students, because in three years they make the crucial academic and social shift towards independence, self awareness, and responsibility. Our staff and faculty are passionate about working with young minds to make the middle school years the launching pad for their dreams. This fall, members of the class of 2018 will be attending competitive independent and religious schools with honors for service and academic advanced placement and International Baccalaureate classes, specialized arts and science programs, and competitive sports teams.



As students share what middle school meant to them during their commencement address, stories about camping trips, group assignments, and friendships shine a light on their growth in all our core values. They understand the gift of three years in a safe space with caring adults, challenging activities, and intellectual inspiration. It’s a brilliant journey to be a part of and it is what makes Explorer West retain a special place in the hearts of our 478 alumni.

What starts as an overwhelming search for many parents of 5th grade students becomes a smooth transition to high school after attending Explorer West. Our graduates are ready to step in the direction of their strongest skills and passions. They are prepared to become great citizens and community members. Explorer West successfully demonstrates that the middle school years can be a safe and confident journey that prepares students to make a difference in our world. **EW**



Update from the Board President

Jim Woeppel
2018 Board President

This June I had the honor of being a part of the graduation of our amazing 8th graders. Their respect for their classmates, their maturity, their principles, and the support of their families and friends was wonderful.

This past year has flown by as I have been privileged to serve as president of the Board of Trustees. Thanks to all of you who expressed your support for the school, shared your thoughts and hopes for its future, and participated in so many of our activities and fundraisers.

I am fortunate to be on the Board of Trustees which is composed of parents, alumni parents, and community members who work hard to ensure the healthy running of the school. We work with the Head of School to make Explorer West the amazing school that it is.

As Mr. H begins his final year with us, I want to thank him for all he has done for Explorer West over the



past 11 years. He has done an amazing job growing, strengthening, and making the school a wonderful place for our students.

Evan has built a strong foundation as we prepare to transition to a new leader. He is planning a busy year to ensure that our students continue to have a memorable experience during his final year and in the following years under the new Head of School. He is also preparing the school for its next Head. The Board will continue its work to help create a community for the future and have a representative student body that reflects the community strengths and differences so that we give our students the ability to flourish after middle school. We will continue to focus on keeping our tuition affordable, with the able assistance of our Finance Committee which has done an excellent job managing and strengthening our financial resources. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we will continue to emphasize the importance of academic rigor. The faculty and staff have shown great innovation and support for the math club, the annual Change the World project and our success in the ACT Young Playwrights Program. We will continue to examine and search for ways to challenge our students.

Work has already begun to select Mr. H's successor. Eric Eberhard, an alumni grandparent board member with a wealth of board experience, is heading the Search Committee, and we have engaged a search consultant to assist. The Search Committee will be updating the community as that work continues. We are confident that the search will be successful as Mr. H has built an remarkable school that will be attractive to potential successors.

I am honored to be leading the Board during this next year, and am confident that Explorer West and the Board will continue on the path of success that Mr. H has paved. I am equally confident that our Search Committee will have a successful search, and that our new Head of School will lead Explorer West to even greater success in the future. **EW**

Explorer West Strategic Priorities

Leslie Thornton
Strategic Planning Committee

The Board of Trustees' Strategic Planning Committee has been busy developing the next set of priorities for Explorer West. These priorities will drive our focus in the near term and support our next independent school accreditation review that concludes in 2020.

Board members started the strategic planning process by gathering feedback from parents, faculty, staff, and students. We also looked at the external academic environment to identify approaches that help middle schools grow and prosper. These ideas and observations were translated into priorities under the board committees for Development; Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Facilities; Finance; and Trustee Affairs to focus our energy and resources on fulfilling the Explorer West mission.

Here is a sampling of recent priorities that have been accomplished and some of our new priorities going forward. This fall, a more complete description of our school's strategic priorities will be posted on our website.



Accomplishments

- Student support: Established the Rick Marting Endowment Fund for financial aid. Named after Explorer West's founding Head of School, the fund has recognized a balance of over \$1.5 million.
- Facility upgrades: Installed a new gym floor to support indoor athletics and group activities; enriched art and science learning through classroom remodels; restored the green space playing field; updated the wi-fi network and replaced all indoor lighting with LED products.
- Academic advances: Created afterschool Pi Eaters math enrichment program with successful impact on high school placement; instituted the Challenge Program to give students choices in level of rigor in each academic discipline; upgraded classroom technology with new Chromebooks.

Priorities for Future Focus

- Provide a safe learning and working environment.
- Continue to develop challenging and engaging learning opportunities that maximize the growth of every student and prepare them for success in high school and beyond.
- Invite open communication and exchange of ideas between the parent community, faculty, staff and Board of Trustees.
- Ensure strong fiscal health for the school through a balanced financial plan and ongoing stream of economic support.
- Thoughtfully sustain and respect our diverse and inclusive school community so that everyone feels welcome and valued. **EW**



Fundraising

Eric Eberhard
Board Development Committee Chair

The Rick Marting Endowment Fund

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Explorer West community, many friends of the school, and the challenge match of \$125,000 from our anonymous donor, we were able to add \$286,000 to the endowment. With the help of our keynote speaker, Tom Hillier, the former Federal Public Defender for Western Washington, our annual Reach for the Stars luncheon in November was a big success. The Crean family donated \$60,000 and the Doris Snyder Foundation added a gift of \$10,000 to get the luncheon off to a great start. Those gifts, combined with the generous gifts of several anonymous foundations, individuals, corporations and our parent community, brought the total raised at the luncheon to \$117,500. In the last four years we have raised over \$1,500,000 for the endowment. We have been able to use the interest earnings on those funds to provide financial aid to students and help achieve Rick Marting’s dream of serving students from diverse backgrounds.

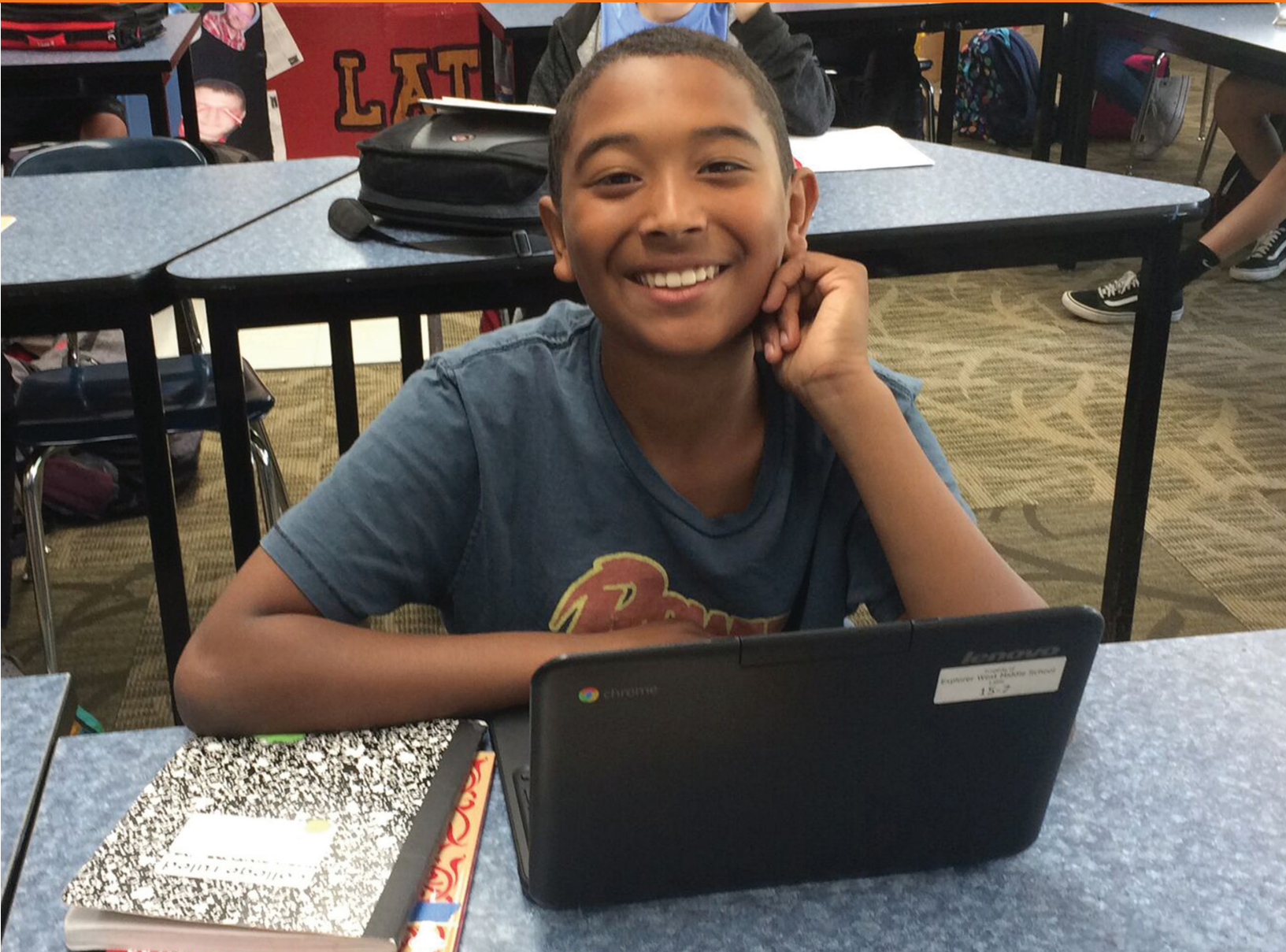


Annual Fund and Auction

We offered donors to the Annual Fund the option of donating to the endowment, the Annual Fund or both. Our board, faculty and staff continued a long tradition of 100% participation and 87% of our parent community donated money or contributed volunteer time. Overall donated gifts totaled \$31,000 for the endowment and \$48,000 for the Annual Fund to help cover operations and keep tuition costs as reasonable as possible. The net proceeds from the “Passport To The World” auction was \$87,830, including \$48,625 for Fund-a-Need which was used to restore the outdoor play field and purchase new technology. We are grateful for all of the support for the auction and want to acknowledge the very generous donation of \$15,000 by Bill Eisiminger toward the restoration of the play field. We are also grateful to Debbie Ehri for her dedicated service to Explorer West, including 18 years of work to ensure the success of the auction. 2018 was her last year with us at the auction. Thank you, Debbie!

Corporate and Foundation Donations

Many thanks to Bank of America, Blackrock, Inc., the Boeing Company, Dell EMC, the Gates Foundation, the Microsoft Corporation, Starbucks Coffee Company, Russell Investments, and Wells Fargo for their donations to Explorer West. Their generosity resulted in significant support for our students and the continuation of our rigorous curriculum. We were once again fortunate to receive an anonymous donation of \$36,750 for the outdoor education program and \$6,000 from the Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation to support the gym floor project. We also received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to support our technology programs. **EW**



Thank you!

2017 - 2018 Financial Report

Financial Overview

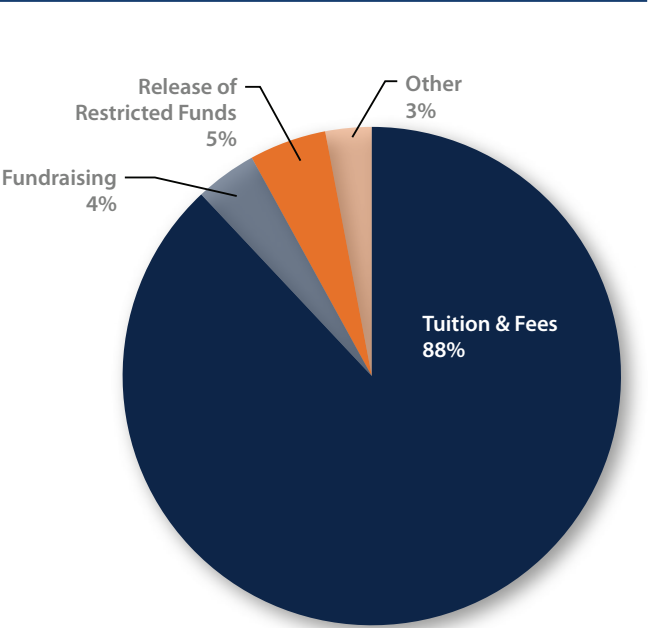
Year Ending June 30, 2018

Unrestricted Revenue:		
Tuition and Fees	88%	\$2,119,000
Fundraising	4%	\$91,000
Release of Restricted Funds	5%	\$126,000
Other	3%	\$59,000
Total Unrestricted Revenue	100%	\$2,395,000

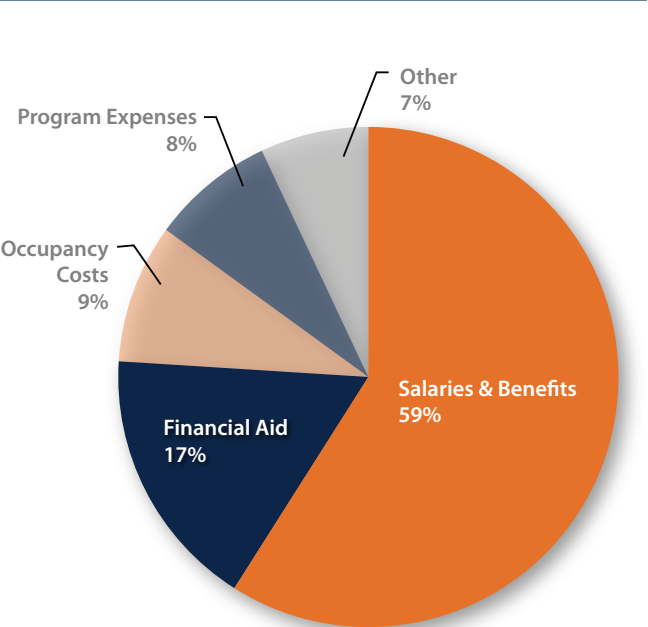
Expenses:		
Salaries and Benefits	59%	\$1,252,000
Financial Aid	17%	\$374,000
Occupancy Costs	9%	\$197,000
Program Expenses	8%	\$172,000
Other	7%	\$145,000
Total Expenses	100%	\$2,140,000

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$255,000
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Unrestricted Revenue

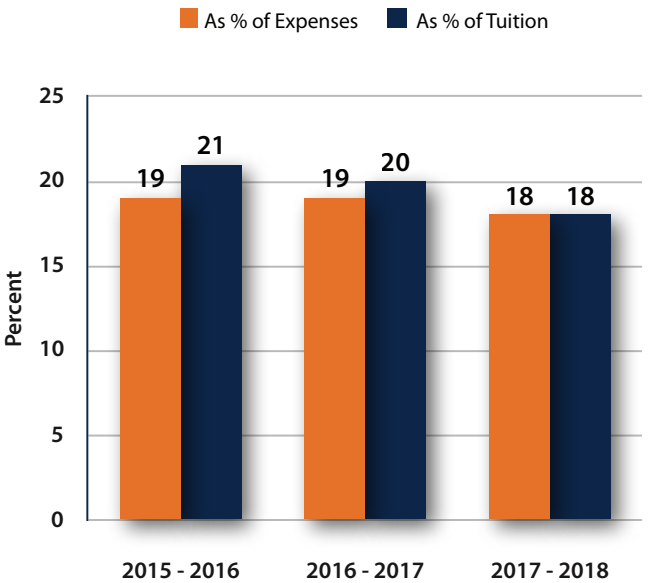


Expenses



Financial Aid Awards

Explorer West's Rick Marting Endowment Fund and many generous gifts from donors allow us to allocate more tuition revenue to financial aid than many other schools in the Seattle area.



Farewell to the Eighth Grade

The 2018 Graduates Will Be Attending These High Schools Next Fall:

Big Picture High School	Holy Names Academy	Seattle Lutheran High School
Chief Sealth International High School	Kennedy Catholic High School	Seattle Preparatory School
Evergreen High School	Mount Rainier High School	Summit Sierra High School
Fountain Valley School of Colorado	Nova High School	Vashon Island High School
Garfield High School	Raisbeck Aviation High School	West Seattle High School



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