



ExplorerWest  
Middle School



LEAD. **EXPLORE.** DISCOVER.

**Annual Report**  
2016 • 2017

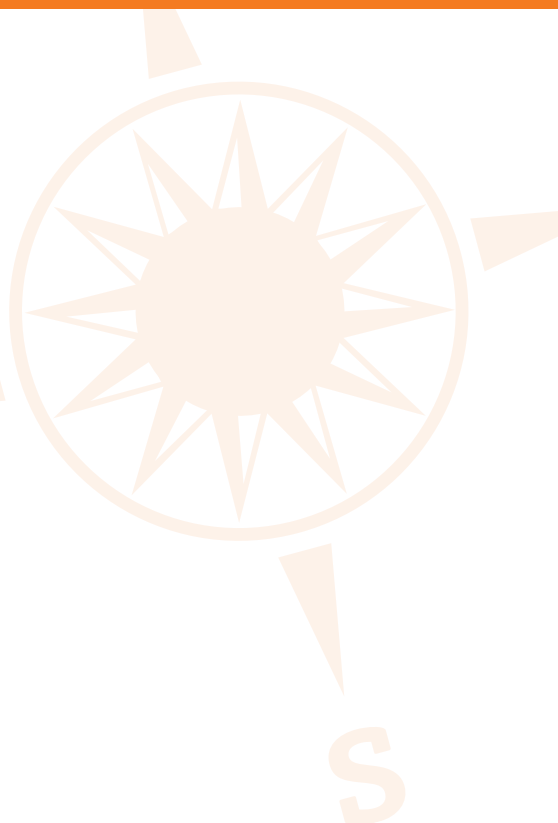


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Cover Photo: Community Service Day 2017

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.



## NWAIS


Northwest Association  
of Independent Schools

ACCREDITED MEMBER





## Mission Statement



**ExplorerWest Middle School** embraces the energy and enthusiasm of diverse young people on the journey to adulthood by fostering confidence and discovery. Offering the benefits of a small learning community, Explorer West views the complexity of adolescence as a unique window of opportunity to develop the academic, creative, and social skills required for a sustainable future.





# Tenth Year Reflections

## Evan Hundley

### Head of School

I cannot thank our faculty, parents, donors, and special friends enough for all of your support to help the kids this year. Your vision and passion for helping middle school students be successful is truly heart-felt. You telling your personal stories about Explorer West to your friends in the community is one reason the school will have enrollment of 109 students next year, just one shy of our all time high.

### Respect for One Another

Twenty one years ago the school was founded around many core values, and respect was at the forefront. The term respect could not have been more evident in this year's eighth grade graduating class. A day did not go by without the "fist-bump" of respect to me in our hall from so many eighth graders.

The eighth grade students each year are the true leaders in the school. They remind the sixth and seventh graders of what is right and wrong; they model integrity, a willingness to help others, and most of all, how to respect one another. The eighth grade commencement speeches reaffirmed why the core value of respect is so important in developing character and building confidence and leadership skills.

**Our children have been transformed into confident, intelligent and creative young adults.**

*Rosslyn Shea, parent*

### Making Connections and Setting Boundaries

The key ingredient in middle school is the faculty making everlasting connections to each middle school student and setting appropriate boundaries, so every student can feel safe while at school. This is where the Explorer West faculty truly shines. They work on the other core values every day as well, such



as integrity, personal and community responsibility, and the willingness to help others to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. A strong connection between the students and faculty is the key to ensure that no student becomes lost, loses hope, or feels that he or she cannot be successful.

### Developing our Future Leaders in the Community

Modeling leadership for the eighth grade is not just limited to inside the school. Our Change the World Project sets up Explorer West students for success in future involvement for civic responsibility. The presentations at the end of the project to a panel of adults is a great way to build confidence for high school and beyond.





### Students Studying Water Quality Issues

Thanks to the Russell Family Foundation, Tim Owens (social studies) and Kristin Moore (science) used a generous grant to empower our 34 eighth grade students to conduct water purification tests on the Duwamish Waterway and recommend water filtration systems to use in the developing world. Using test kits purchased with grant funds, students tested the water in science class for contaminants such as bacteria and lead, both of which were found in the untreated samples.

The all-school spring sustainability field trip to the Gates Foundation Visitor Center dovetailed perfectly with this project since one of their goals is to help provide safe drinking water to people around the world.

### New Families Benefit from the Rick Marting Endowment

We are so grateful for the wonderful supporters who are helping the dream to attend Explorer West come true for more families in need. Close to 100 donors came to the second annual Reach for the Stars Endowment Luncheon to help meet a matching gift challenge from a very generous anonymous foundation that pledged \$125,000. Parents, special friends, and four other anonymous foundations were the real heroes that helped the school meet the challenge and raise over \$250,000 to help the kids.

Every donor has a very special place in my heart. A special thanks to our keynote speaker, John McKay, whose passionate talk inspired everyone in the room to get involved in the community and help his or her favorite cause. The endowment now stands at over one million dollars. Three families of this fall's sixth grade class had their dream come true with financial assistance from the endowment.

### A Special Donor Helps us Build a New Gym Floor

Every student next fall will be able to play on a new synthetic hardwood gym floor. This will replace the original concrete floor that was very hard on the joints. I would like to personally thank Bill Eisiminger, our lead donor for the project, and the other gracious donors for your support. The kids will now have a much safer place to play for years to come.

Twenty one years ago the school was founded around many core values, and respect was at the forefront.

### You are the Kindest Supporters

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. After ten years, there is no place I'd rather be than here at Explorer West Middle School. **EW**

*Keynote Speaker John McKay, Mr. H., and John's sister, Patricia McKay*





## Farewell to Music Teacher Aurora de la Cruz

For the past nineteen years, Music Teacher Aurora de la Cruz has been the Pied Piper of Explorer West, leading her students along a unique and innovative musical path. Weaving together history, literature, drama, language and art, her music curriculum often fused with other subjects.

"Every culture has a music tradition," says Aurora. "Humans are compelled to create music and music has intertwined its way through all societies and time periods." Aurora believes that music is important for everyone. It connects us to our feelings and to each other.

On Aurora's second day at Explorer West she met a board member, who happened to be the co-founder of Explorer West. Manvel "Schauff" Schauffler. He told a story about birds, she recalls. He asked, "Why do you think that migratory birds fly in a V formation?" One of the teachers answered that it was to conserve energy and gain lift from the leader. "Correct," said Schauff. "But there's more to it. They all take turns being the leader."

"Schauff said he thought that was what Explorer West should be. A place where we all work together, taking turns leading and always supporting each other," said Aurora.

It was at that moment that Aurora knew Explorer West would be more than just a nice place to teach music. It would be an adventure alongside the wings of incredible people moving in the same direction.

Music wasn't offered at Explorer West until its third year. When Aurora started teaching at EW, there was no budget and there were no instruments. The students rustled up handmade instruments, created group compositions and sang. The curriculum has evolved over the years but the core of the program remains the same.

We may not  
need music  
to STAY alive,  
but we need  
music to  
FEEL alive.



Aurora went from handmade instruments to teaching over thirty different instruments over the years. From bassoon to bagpipes, from viola to voice, every student learns two instruments over their three years at Explorer West.

"Seeing the students step up and perform solos or in small ensembles fills my heart with awe and inspiration," said Aurora. "It takes courage because one is so exposed and vulnerable."

She recalls a student named Priscilla, who wanted to sing Greensleeves, solo, at Arts Night. Priscilla had a pure and focused voice and nailed it at the concert. Her voice was angelic and her presence powerful, stunning everyone. "It was so much fun working with her, her parents were blown away by her amazing performance." Priscilla went on to win perfect scores at the Washington State Solo and Ensemble Contest. She continued to study voice and eventually joined the chorus for the Seattle Opera. "I got to see her perform at McCaw Hall," said Aurora, "it was incredible to see how far she had taken her talents, on that stage with so many world-renowned performers."

It's those lasting and touching memories that Aurora will treasure from her time at Explorer West. **EW**



## Farewell to Drama Teacher David Kelly

When David Kelly joined Explorer West as the drama teacher, he didn't expect to stay ten years. He thought the experience would be a good entree to teaching high school. It didn't take long for David to realize that teaching middle school was where he belonged. "This time, when students transition from being young kids into young adults, is a unique creative window," said David.

He believes that drama is important for youth because it brings together a diverse set of skills including empathy, confidence, creativity, inquiry, responsibility, cooperation, and leadership.

David basically started his department with nothing. There was no real drama program and he created the foundation of what would become a thriving program. "We aligned with national and state standards," said David, "and made the program skill-based as opposed to artistic merit based." This meant incorporating all aspects of drama: directing, technical design, speech, playwriting, management, and set design.

For the past six years, Explorer West has participated in Seattle ACT Theatre's Young Playwrights Program (YPP). The program offers Puget Sound area middle and high school students a challenging theatre curriculum based on the art of playwriting. "Our work stood out from the start and we've been invited back every year," said David. Six students' plays received top honors and were produced and published at ACT Theatre. In 2016, David Kelly was named YPP's Teacher of the Year, an impressive, and well deserved, award.

Playwriting is a central part of the drama program. As with every subject taught at Explorer West, drama collaborates with the other disciplines. Drama works with art, with English and with social studies in historical presentations. Science even comes into play in the study of light.

The kids at Explorer West taught me how to be a better teacher.

For David, it's all about the kids. "What impacts me most, emotionally, is when a student exceeds their perceived potential," said David. "This happens often when I least expect it - a monologue at Arts Night or a student asking for the next level of work simply because they wanted to."

What David loves most about Explorer West is the community: the faculty, the students and the parents. Notable is the mutual respect among the teachers. "There are no egos, no judgements," said David. On his first day at Explorer West, former Dean Rick Marting told him two things. "One, always keep your coffee cup full and, two, if there's anything we can do for you, let us know." It's that kind of support that sets Explorer West apart.

"There is no high pressure at Explorer West. We have the freedom to fail," said David. "I could always turn to my students and ask, what worked and what didn't?"

David is headed to Casablanca, Morocco, where he will be teaching drama, English, debate and social studies. He's excited, yet sad, to be leaving Explorer West. "I will miss the day to day contact. But mostly I will miss the community." **EW**





# Rivers of Change

## Matt Kostle

### Outdoor Education

Change is the only constant in the world and rivers have a visual way of showing us that. They meander, curve, braid, flood, dry up, realign, pool, cascade and erode. They are the arteries of life in nature.

Just take a look at the flora alongside the river in a desert, much like our sixth graders were able to this spring. You will see that in an austere desert environment, the river's edge is different. It is vibrant, tall, green, lush, and invigorating. This is the energy that a river brings to nature. Its energy is a part of that constant change and this year, in the Outdoor Education Program at Explorer West, we too have been full of vibrant change.

Nature is the ultimate in the field of learning because nature is always changing. Similarly, we have been busy over the past year adapting our program to expand its horizon. As our student body grows, we try out new locations in light of our ever changing environment and landscape.

Some changes that affected our Outdoor Education program included:

- We added new backpacking tents, new camping stoves and new water filters for our seventh and eighth grade backpacking trips, thanks to our generous donors.
- We introduced challenge course experiences for our students in both sixth and seventh grade.
- We created a new electronic checkout system for our gear library so students can sign up for what they need ahead of time.
- We rearranged packing and prepping so that it all happens on the same day, maximizing the time students get to spend with trip leaders.





Explorer West's Outdoor Education programs this year included:

The sixth grade returned to Fort Worden State Park last fall to introduce them to nature and camping out. The students were able to spend three days there getting to know each other and form lasting bonds with peers. With the support of our donors we also returned to the Pacific Marine Science Center for an educational experience about the wilds of Puget Sound.

New this year we introduced a portable challenge course experience for students to allow those bonds to form even stronger. In the spring, the sixth graders car camped in the desert environment of Yakima River Canyon. This new location provided a better progression for our students as the change in environment and the increase in challenges that the desert brings set them up well for their next year.

Another new change this year was bringing the seventh graders to North Cascades National Park in the fall. With its relatively flat trails along the beautiful scenery of Ross Lake and the amenities of occasional pit toilets, picnic tables and even a boat ride to the trailhead, this was a great introduction to backpacking.

In the spring, the seventh grade pioneered a new region in the Blue Mountains in Eastern Washington. This scenic backpacking route was a good alternative to the lingering snow we encounter in the Alpine Lakes region. During the spring the seventh graders also took a field trip to Camp Long to participate in a more advanced challenge course experience that focused on building leadership skills for them as they start to prepare for their eighth grade year.

The eighth grade this year returned to Mt. Rainier National Park in the fall. Although the park was implementing a new reservation system which presented challenges, we adapted. We found the same routes and managed to have an excellent time backpacking in this wonderful region. The spring saw



the return of the Olympic National Park coast trip which was a wonderful treat for our eighth grade, complete with beautiful weather.

We had plentiful snow for our winter program. In fact, we almost had too much. The sixth graders continued making their own snowshoes out of willow branches and tested them out. The seventh graders learned how to cross country ski and the eighth graders cross country skied and snowshoed on more advanced trails.

All of these changes have brought new insight and experiences for our students. This year our Explorer West river has flooded, ebbed and changed directions and I am confident that we will continue to provide the most amazing, life changing programming to our students.

Thank you donors. This program would not be possible without the generous support from an anonymous foundation that helps every student participate. **EW**



## Alumnus Profile - Bailey Guess



A 2013 graduate, Bailey Guess's thirst for creativity and community was met the minute she walked through Explorer West's blue doors in sixth grade. "Everyone was so welcoming and friendly," said Bailey, "I felt comfortable instantly."

She credits Explorer West's core values as the foundation of her moral and academic future. Those core values include community and personal responsibility; integrity; creativity and inquiry; and confidence. A baseline value is respect.

"Respect isn't just a generic term at Explorer West," said Bailey. "It isn't just about respecting others. It is how that word turns into how you feel about everything. The environment, the world, yourself. It made us kind and true."

Bailey loved the way her classes at Explorer West interacted. She learned to appreciate the connection between earth sciences and social studies. The way creative and academic writing merged with history, Latin and the arts. "It all ties together. Time periods, language and culture," said Bailey.

An enthusiastic reader and writer, Bailey frequently attended Hugo House, a Seattle-based writers' center where participants sharpen their craft. "As a young writer, it is so important to be around other writers and connect with other scribes who care, as much as you do, about writing," said Bailey.

Explorer West supported her on her writing path by stretching her boundaries and encouraging discovery in a collaborative setting. "It's where I honed my writing skills," she said.

"As a new sixth grader, in the second week of school, Bailey stood up and performed an original poem before her classmates," said Explorer West Art Teacher Sarah Robertson Palmer. "She blew us away with her confidence, vulnerability and trust. I thought to myself - here is someone special. And indeed, we watched her blossom, becoming more creative and capable."

Upon graduating Explorer West, Bailey took the bold step of attending a progressive boarding high school, Dunn School, in California. The transition wasn't difficult and Bailey lends credit to the Outdoor Education curriculum at Explorer West. "Dunn had outdoor trips as well, so I was prepared for the physical and mental challenges," Bailey said. In addition to her award winning writings at Dunn, Bailey has completed a novella and a novel and is working on her second novel.

Bailey will be attending Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts in New York City in the fall of 2017. At Lang, independent, intellectual freedom and social responsibility meets rigorous academia. Bailey is going to study the intersection of literature and art and history.

Passionate about social justice, moral courage and community service, Bailey feels that she has privileges and that "it is my duty to fight for those who do not have the privileges I do." Not afraid to speak her mind, she urges other students to maintain their core values and explore new things. **EW**

**My advice to Explorer West students? Reflect, inquire and create. Oh, and keep calm, try new things and have fun.**



# The English Department: The Art of Writing

## Sherman English, EdD

### English and Dean of Students

This was another banner year for the English Department. Not only did we continue our efforts to improve the quality of the writing of our students, but we also continued to introduce new approaches to teaching writing, even as we maintained the cross discipline interactions.

Following a start to the year with basic study skills, sixth graders focused on writing coherent and unified paragraphs. They then progressed to studying the play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, while concurrently working on scenes from the play in drama. They wrote nightly summaries of assigned reading and produced an in-depth character study of one of the cast members. For their study of *Animal Farm*, they created an advertisement designed to entice animals from neighboring farms to join.

Karen Finneyfrock, our Writer-in-Residence from Seattle-based Hugo House, taught sixth graders the art of writing a short story. As in the past, she presented different elements of the short story and gave students weekly writing assignments connected to the particular aspect of her presentation.

Students also wrote a full length essay based on *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck. By having students focus on copying passages from the book that were connected to various themes and using a writing rubric borrowed from the history curriculum, the final essay was a testament to their strengthened writing skills.

The seventh graders continued to develop their writing skills by producing essays connected to the literature they read and discussed. They also had ample opportunity to be creative by writing poems and short stories. They likewise devoted time to tracing the development of language.

The eighth grade continued its cross discipline projects with the art and drama departments.

In collaboration with drama, the students read and discussed Shakespeare's tragedy of *Julius Caesar*. They wrote Shakespearean sonnets in English and worked on specific scenes or monologues from the play in drama.

During the winter months, the eighth graders, in groups of threes, produced newspapers connected to their study of *The Secret Life of Bees*. They examined different newspapers' editorial positions and layout, and wrote articles stemming from their study of the book and its themes.

One other accomplishment of the eighth graders was their assignment to write a graduation speech. They were asked to reflect on their years at Explorer West, consider their audience, and write a speech that would share wisdom, offer advice, and encompass their experience of middle school. Out of a class of 34 students, 16 of them shared their thoughts during graduation.

The goals of our writing curriculum are to teach students the importance of accuracy, to ensure their writing has power and relevance, and to learn how to edit their own writing. These efforts make Explorer West's writing program one of the hallmarks of the school. It also contributes to the vast majority of our graduates enrolling in high school honors English classes. **EW**





## Social Studies and Community Outreach

### Spring Community Outreach: Making a Difference in the Community

Explorer West continued its annual outreach with the community. Sixth graders and staff devoted a large part of a day working with a Seattle Parks Department Natural Areas crew clearing out invasive species on our adopted park, Seola Park.

Seventh grade students worked at the Community Orchard of West Seattle at South Seattle Community College and at Camp Long. As a team-building exercise, seventh grade students also participated in a low challenge course at Camp Long. As part of their Change the World Project, eighth grade students spent the day canvassing at four locations around West Seattle. Students passed out flyers, spoke with the public and gathered signatures related to their chosen sustainability issues.

### Environmental Issues Slam

The tradition lives on. This is now Explorer West's fifth year participating in the region-wide Environmental Slam, sponsored by the Washington Foundation for the Environment. Middle and high school students have five minutes to convince an audience that their chosen environmental concern is a pressing issue. Presentations come in many forms from songs and poetry to formal presentations.

Three teams went to the Slam, which was held at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center on Delridge. One team that presented a proposal of using ground alfalfa meal as an alternative to icing the roads won the Judge's Choice Award. This group was awarded \$750 to donate to the charity of their choice. Two other groups impressed the crowd of about one hundred with presentations on factory farms and how every bit of litter has the potential to reach our Puget Sound.





## Change the World Project

The multi-disciplinary Change the World Project is in its fourth year at Explorer West. Eighth grade students spend months together in groups of four to five. They chose a local sustainability issue, researched it, wrote essays on it, planned action, implemented the action, and finally evaluated their impact. All groups participated in a day of canvassing and all together, they collected 813 signatures for their causes. Students also wrote to elected officials, attended luncheons to meet important people involved with their issues and worked hard to make a difference in our community. As a final, culminating piece of the project, the groups invited outside speakers for a Change the World Day and presented their projects in front of sixth and seventh graders, faculty, staff, and families.

This year's topics were the bullying of students with disabilities, youth homelessness, sex trafficking, the wage gap, sexual harassment in schools, refugees, immigration reform, and youth depression. **EW**





# Admissions

## Katie Auker

### Director of Admissions

#### What Makes Explorer West Middle School Unique?

All the faculty and staff at Explorer West, at some point, have a similar experience. We are walking our long hallway with a student, perhaps just back from an outdoor education trip, perhaps walking to retrieve supplies, maybe to meet a parent, and a student shares a little about their life, their hopes, or their fears. For me, it has happened on the trail, on bus rides to and from basketball games, and most often, on that long walk down the hall. It's these moments I quickly recall the question that inquiring parents ask most often: What makes Explorer West unique?

The Explorer West experience includes these moments of connection that parents and students can't imagine before walking in our doors on their first visit. It is an honor to show them what a great middle school experience can look like as they tour our school.

In the autumn of 2017, we will welcome 38 new students from 21 different feeder schools in our region. Families are choosing a school that meets their high expectations of academic and social growth for the middle school years, as well as a school that meets their core values as a family. For the students, being able to have a connection with an adult who will always believe in them, in the classroom, on the trail, in the hall or on the field, makes the biggest difference in the world as they are navigating the middle school years.

#### Making New Friends and Building Community

The Explorer West community is the other hallmark of these experiences. With every new class we bring in, we do our best to make sure every student has the chance to find a friend and learn to build strong relationships. An often recounted experience by our



graduates at commencement is their first camping trip in sixth grade. While it seems bold to take students we hardly know camping for three days, it is the perfect, and proven, formula for building respect, memories and lifelong bonds.

At the end of their time at Explorer West, our students have gained confidence and independence as individuals and as members of the greater community. This year, we are proud to be sending 34 students on to their high school journeys. They will be illuminating their new hallways with the respect, creativity, responsibility, and curiosity that was cultivated inside our blue doors. Our 2017 graduates included three Rainier Scholars who participate in that organization's intensive academic program for hard-working, low-income students of color.

As Mr. H. likes to say during our school tours, "In middle school, you need to make a connection with at least one adult, and have one best friend." Without this, the middle school journey is so difficult to navigate. It's within these connections we can identify the teachable moments of our core values along with all the milestones that define the middle school experience. These moments are what make us unique. These moments build a community and they empower our students as they step towards adulthood. **EW**



# Update from the Board President

## Karen Kalzer

### 2017 Board President

In June I saw another set of wonderful Explorer West Middle School grads become alumni. I was impressed, as I always am, by their maturity, their principles, and the cheers of their families in congratulating these young scholars.

The past three years have flown by as I was privileged to act as president of the Board of Trustees. Thank you 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.

The Board of Trustees is composed of current and alumni parents and community members who make policy to ensure the health of the school, but it does not make operational decisions.

My philosophy has always been that the school creates the community of the future. When we create a representative student body that reflects all of the community strengths and differences, we are giving our kids the ability to function in their post middle school world. This is why I have supported our Rick Marting Endowment for the past three years and am so proud of how everyone has stepped up.

A second focus has been to keep our tuition affordable. The Finance Committee has done a wonderful job in keeping our tuition at a very competitive rate, and providing a plan that allows for predictability for parents once their student enters the school until the student graduates.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, we continue to emphasize the importance of academic rigor. The faculty and staff have shown such innovation and support over the last three years with the math club, the robotics team, the annual Change the World

**I'm grateful  
everyday for this  
school, a community  
of talented, caring  
teachers and engaged,  
respectful students.**

*Debbi Tillman, parent*

project, and our successes in the ACT Theatre's Young Playwrights Program. We will continue to examine and search for ways to challenge our students.

I know that the School and the Board will continue on the path of success under the experienced leadership of Jim Woeppel as he begins his role as Board Chair, aided by Eric Eberhard as Vice Chair and several strong new additions to the Board. I look forward to serving in an ex officio role and watching a new set of students graduate next year. **EW**





## Fundraising

### Eric Eberhard

#### Board Development Committee Chair

##### **Thanks to You, Contributions to the Rick Marting Endowment Fund are at an All-Time High!**

For the third year in a row, you, our donors, have contributed more than \$250,000 to the endowment. The challenge match of \$125,000 from a key anonymous foundation for the third year in a row has truly been a wish come true for the kids. Total contributions this year to the endowment totaled over \$263,000. The endowment now stands at over one million dollars and the earnings were used this year to provide financial aid to two deserving families from diverse backgrounds.

With the help of keynote speaker John McKay, the annual Explorer West Reach for the Stars luncheon, benefitting the endowment, was a big success once again. With over 100 guests in attendance, the beloved Edmonds/Crean family set the stage this year with a donation of \$30,000, and Benita Mooney, a longtime friend of the school added her gift of \$12,000 to get the luncheon off to a great start. Those gifts, combined with the generous gifts of several foundations, individuals, corporations, and our parent community, brought the total raised at the luncheon to \$84,000.

Mr. H wishes to thank his special friends from Whitman College, Decatur Island, the Spin Doctors tennis team, and others for making the event so special.

##### **The Auction/Annual Fund: Thank You Donors for our New Gym Floor!**

The net proceeds from the Be a Star! auction were \$97,000, including \$64,945 for our Fund-a-Need which was used for a new gym floor. We are grateful for all of the support for the auction and want to acknowledge the very generous donation of \$12,500 by Bill Eisiminger. As the lead donor, Bill's name will be honored with a plaque outside the gym. Thank you also to the Edmonds/Crean family for your \$10,000 toward the new gym floor.

This year for the first time, donors had the option of donating to the Annual Fund, the endowment, or both. Our board, faculty and staff continued a long tradition of 100% participation and 92% of our parent community participated. Overall donated gifts totaled \$24,625 for the endowment and \$35,825 for the Annual Fund to help cover operations and keep tuition costs as affordable as possible.

##### **Corporate and Foundation Donations**

Many thanks to the Boeing Company, Starbucks Coffee Company, Nordstrom, and Microsoft for their employer matching donations to Explorer West. Their generosity resulted in significant support for our students and to sustain our rigorous curriculum. We were once again fortunate to receive an anonymous donation of \$35,000 for the outdoor education program and \$20,000 to support our students from the Russell Family Foundation and two anonymous foundations. **EW**







*Thank you!*

# 2016 - 2017 Financials

## Financial Overview

Year Ending June 30, 2017

### Unrestricted Revenue:

Tuition and Fees	87%	\$2,051,000
Fundraising	3%	\$77,000
Release of Restricted Funds	7%	\$170,000
Other	3%	\$70,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$2,368,000</b>

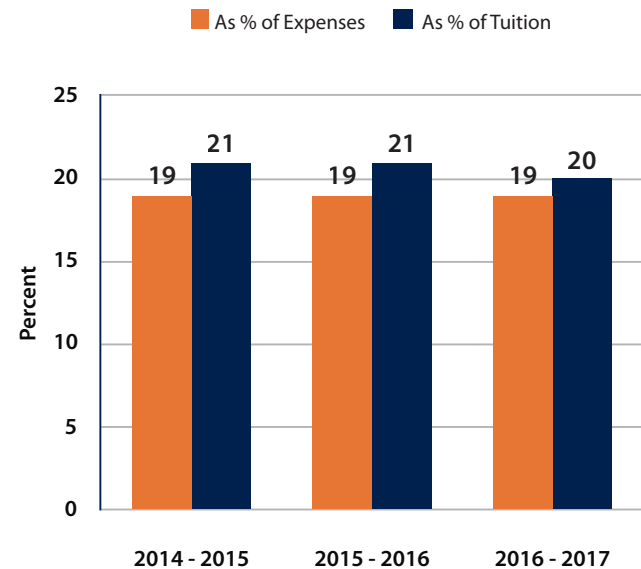
### Expenses:

Salaries and Benefits	57%	\$1,229,000
Financial Aid	19%	\$411,000
Occupancy Costs	10%	\$209,000
Program Expenses	8%	\$168,000
Other	6%	\$127,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$2,144,000</b>

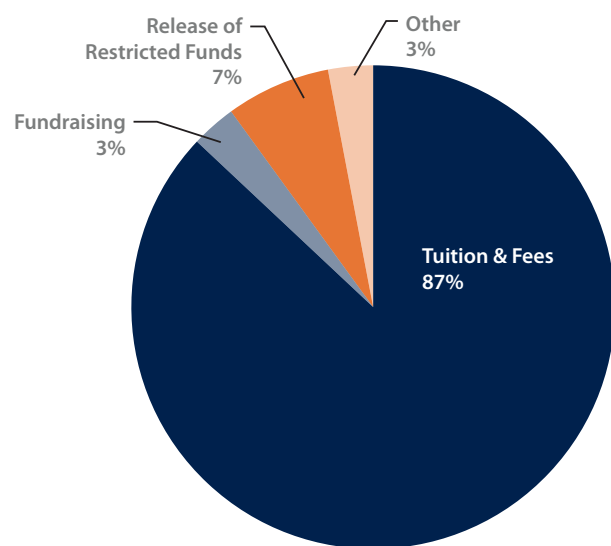
<b>Net Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>
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### Percentage of Tuition Allocated to Financial Aid

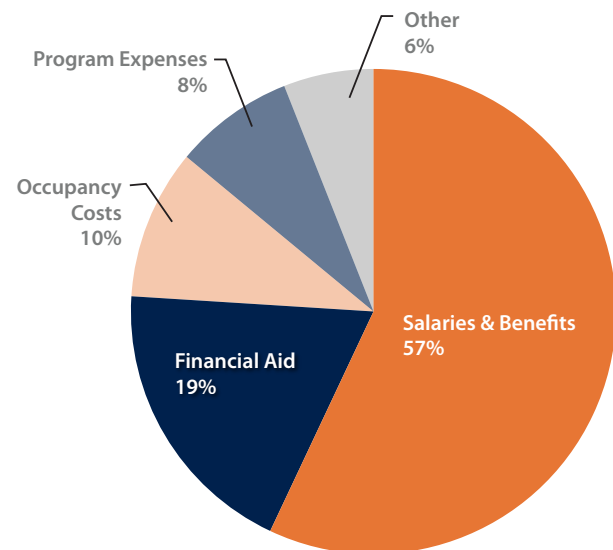
Explorer West's Rick Marting Endowment and generous donors allow us to allocate more tuition revenue to financial aid than other schools in the Seattle area.



### Unrestricted Revenue



### Expenses





## Farewell to the Eighth Grade

### The 2017 Graduates Will Be Attending These High Schools Next Fall:

Bishop Blanchet  
High School

Cleveland High School

Forest Ridge School

Holy Names Academy

Kennedy Catholic  
High School

Lakeside School

Liberty High School

Mount Rainier High School

Raisbeck Aviation  
High School

Seattle Academy of Arts  
and Sciences

Seattle Lutheran  
High School

Seattle Preparatory School

Stanford Online High School

Summit Atlas

The Center School

The Northwest School

West Seattle High School



**LEAD. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.**





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