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Reach for the Stars, Horizons Greater Washington's first in-person gala since 2019, was held on the evening of September 30, 2022 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown.

Throughout the night, 200 members of our community heard remarks from Jessica Morales, the Principal at Bancroft Elementary School, about the impact of Horizons that she sees on her students every day during the school year and from Maryam Hassan, a Horizons alumna, about the effect our program had on her and her family. To view additional photos and highlights from the evening, please [click here](#) and enter "Horizons" as the password.

Thanks to the outstanding support from sponsors, donors, attendees, and Raise the Paddle commitments, over \$405,000 was raised setting a new record! This critical support will help to provide Horizons students with access to committed teachers and meaningful learning opportunities that improve their readiness for the school year, balance academics with social and emotional learning, and provides the tools they need to thrive and pursue their dreams.

Horizons By the Numbers



As learning loss has been exacerbated by COVID-19, our focus on our students' academic success and social-emotional well being is more urgent

ahead of the school year.

At the end of the 2022 Summer Program, **62%** of our students were at grade level or improved their scores in reading and **57%** of our students were at grade level or improved their scores in math. Our students who made gains, made **EXTRAORDINARY** gains, averaging **6.4 MONTHS** of gains in reading skills and **5.8 MONTHS** of gains in math skills over our summer program. Our best-in-class attendance (**82%**) and retention (**84%**) rates in 2022 demonstrate how much our families value our program and we are so proud of our students' achievements and the work of our dedicated staff.

Launch of Saturday Academy



With our inaugural Fall Saturday Academy underway, our Horizons middle school students have been hard at work coding and creating robots with iGen Education Academy and solving various social issues in their communities using Design for Change.

They have received homework and tutoring assistance during lunch and have

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students were also presented with an opportunity to hear from guest author, Joy Jones, on October 15. During that time, they heard an excerpt from Ms. Jones' most recent book and worked on creating identity poems.

Our Horizons Alumni have also gotten the chance to reconnect with the program in a brand new way through holding life skills discussions, social and emotional check-ins, and exploring different college opportunities and career paths.

Volunteer Opportunities



We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers and the impact they have on our students, operations, and success. We are currently offering volunteer opportunities for our 2022-23 Saturday Program.

To sign-up and receive information on volunteering for the Saturday Program, please [click here and complete the form](#).

Alumna Spotlight: Maryam Hassan

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At Horizons our impact on our students and families extends far beyond the 9 years of our program. That has certainly been true for Maryam Hassan who credits Horizons with supporting her ambitions and helping her on her path to working in medicine.

"Everyone who I talked to at Horizons supported my ambitions and their support is by far a crucial reason why I was able to accomplish them. I am an example of how Horizon's support for their students doesn't end after graduation but rather is a lifelong commitment."

To hear more of Maryam's story, please click on the video above.

Expanding Horizons



At Horizons, our whole-child approach to learning includes a combination of academics, swim instruction, field trip experiences, and guest speaker events. This approach exposes our students to opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise and builds confidence and academic skills that has yielded incredible and measurable results for our students over the past 22 years.

Serving as the Principal of Bancroft Elementary School, one of Horizons' feeder schools, Jessica Morales has seen first hand the impact that Horizons makes.

"Horizons has had a tremendous impact on our students' learning, confidence, curiosity, and life choices. Our kids have learned to become advocates for themselves and others. They have learned about empathy and the importance behind helping and serving others. Every year, after the summer break, students come back to share everything they did and learned at Horizons."

None of this success would be possible without the support of our Horizons community.

As we are entering the season of giving, Horizons is looking to raise \$85,000 to strengthen our flexibility and provide our students with the tools needed to thrive and pursue their dreams. We hope that you will join us in supporting our students and families.

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Upcoming Events & Dates



Politics & Prose Bookstore
Saturday, October 29, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
All Politics & Prose Locations

Come shop for a cause on Saturday, October 29th. From 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. 20% of all purchases at Politics & Prose locations when presented with this flyer will benefit Horizons and our students. If you can't attend the event you can make a donation [online](#).

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