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It's hard to believe, but our Summer 2022 program is in the books! There were so many memorable days for me, but our final day stands out as a particular highlight to the magic of Horizons. On this day, I had the privilege of going to all three sites and seeing the closing ceremonies at each site - my first time doing so in person! I

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over a pizza lunch and memories from the summer. Finally, I was at Maret for dismissal. There, I saw kids hugging one another and their teachers, sobbing, and looking forward to next summer. When the bus pulled away for the last time this summer, I watched teachers break into tears and come together for a group hug after another impactful summer. It was a memorable sight to witness and speaks to the power and the promise of our program.

Throughout this summer, it felt like each week was better than the week before. Our students dove into engaging books and texts, learned about famous artists and created their own art projects, built rocket ships and roller coasters, planted seeds (both literal and figurative), and mastered multiplication and algebra. They went on ropes courses, whitewater rafting, and rock climbing at Calleva. They coded apps and robots with IBM and websites with Capital One. Our students learned about Artificial Intelligence, business development, sustainability, and even tried caviar at HMSHost. And yes, they returned to the pool - swimming at least three times per week. At the beginning of the summer, 35% of our students were proficient swimmers. By the end of the summer, that number DOUBLED and 70% of our students could swim on their own.

This week, our Horizons students started back at school - and did so with the confidence, joy, and skill growth that occurs after every summer at Horizons. None of this success could be possible without your support and we are so thankful for everyone on this distribution list's support for our students and our program. Over the next few weeks, we hope you will join us to celebrate our students' success by joining our [End of Program Zoom](#) on September 8 and attending our [Reach for the Stars Gala](#) on September 30.

With gratitude,



Mike DiMarco
Executive Director

2022 Summer Program: By the Numbers

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Who We Serve

At Horizons, we make a **9** year commitment to our students and families. We serve **K-8** students throughout DC and Montgomery County. Over **50** local schools help with recommending, promoting, and placing students in our summer program.

Enrollment

We saw unprecedented demand for our Summer Program with **391** students enrolled across our three sites. This represented an **11%** increase from the previous hybrid year (virtual and in person) and a **55%** increase of students attending the program in person.

- **124** students were enrolled at Maret
- **135** students were enrolled at St. Patrick's
- **132** students were enrolled at Norwood

Instruction

Our students receive individualized instruction with a **5:1** student to teacher ratio. Each site has a dedicated Reading Specialist, Art Teacher, STEM Teacher, and Swim/PE Instructor.

- **64%** of teachers return year after year
- **70%** of teachers have advanced degrees
- The average teaching experience is over **7** years

Throughout the Summer Program students are provided with hands-on learning opportunities in the classroom, in the community, and in the pool to expand their horizons and build their confidence.

- Students were provided with **162** hours of instruction from dedicated teachers in the classroom
- **360** KiwiCrates were built by grades H1-H6
- **45** field trips were taken to museums, college campuses, outdoor activities, and partner organizations
- **7** guest speakers visited our program sites in person and virtually to help students build robots, code apps, and learn about water safety
- **202** hours were spent in the pool learning how to swim

Outcomes

Horizons students gain an average of **1-3** months of skills in math and reading during each 6-week summer program. Back in school, they have better attendance, higher GPAs, and higher promotion rates.

In addition, at the end of our 6-week summer program **70%** of our students know how to swim.

Swim Olympics



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On Monday, August 8 students across our three sites in H6-H9 showcased their swimming skills and all that they learned during the summer with the return of our Swim Olympics. The event was hosted at Howard University.

Prior to the festivities, our students had an opportunity to tour Howard University's campus, hear from members of the swim team, and have their questions answered.

Katie Ledecky Surprises Horizon Students



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Thank you to Katie Ledecy and TYR for making a memorable ending to our 2022 Summer Program!

On Wednesday, August 10, ten time Olympic medalist Katie Ledecy stopped by our Norwood site to speak to our students about water safety, answer questions, and take part in some of the fun water day activities. To see more please click [here](#).

We are so grateful for both Katie and TYR's continued partnership and support of our swimming program. At Horizons, swim lessons are an essential part of our curriculum. We work to ensure that every child leaves our program knowing how to swim and how to apply the lessons learned in the pool to challenges in and outside school. This is clearly shown in the results. At the beginning of this year's Summer Program only 35% of our students knew how to swim. By the end of six weeks, 70% of our students left knowing how to swim. TYR helped to set our students up for success in the pool by providing them with bathing suits, goggles, and swim caps ensuring that they able to fully take part in our swim program.

Teacher Spotlight: Jah Jah Bey



As one of our veteran teachers, Jah Jah Bey comes from a family of educators. Year after year, he comes back to the program because of the opportunities that he has each and every day to impact and effect lives in a positive way. To hear more of Jah Jah's story please click on the video link above.

Student Spotlight: Isaac H8



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above.

Upcoming Events & Dates



END OF PROGRAM ZOOM

We hope that you will join us on Thursday, September 8 from 4-5 p.m for our End of Program Zoom. The virtual event will provide you with an opportunity to hear from our Executive Director Mike DiMarco, see highlights from the summer program, and hear from teachers and students who took part in the 2022 Summer Program. To register please click [here](#)



Don't forget to reserve your spot at this year's Reach for the Stars Gala! It's sure to be a memorable night, celebrating 22 years of Horizons. For additional event details and to purchase your tickets or sponsorship please click on the button below.

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