A Celebration of Grace Academy's 10th Year

THE POWER OF GRACE

Ten years of transforming the lives of girls in Hartford

A Virtual Benefit for Grace Academy

THE HARTFORD

Founding Sponsor

Virtual Program

THE POWER OF GRACE

Welcome
Zenaya F.

Celebrating Ten Amazing Years
Chion Wolf, Host, Connecticut Public Radio
Shea Kinney, *Chair of Power of Grace*
Matthew Fitzsimons, *Head of School*

Class Cheer
5th Graders (filmed earlier this year)

Donation Appeal
John Motley, *Motley Consulting*

Thank You
Kennedi K.

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS:

- **Power of Grace Challenge:** The Grace Academy Board of Directors will match your gift dollar-for-dollar up to $75,000!
- **Naming Opportunities:** For any donor who contributes $10,000 or more, we will name an area in our new school location at 457 Main Street in your honor or in honor of the person of your choice.

Donating Instructions

- Go to www.GraceAcademyHartford.org/the-power-of-grace
- Click "Make a Donation" using either PayPal or Facebook

Or

- Write a check payable to "Grace Academy" and mail to:

Grace Academy
Attn: Matt Fitzsimons
277 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Grace Academy Overview

Grace Academy is a private all-girls middle school in Hartford that was founded in 2010. As a college preparatory school, it serves underprivileged urban girls from Hartford. Grace Academy is tuition-free for all students.

How is Grace Academy funded?

Grace Academy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is completely funded by corporate sponsors, foundations, grants, and individual donors who want to make a difference. We stretch every dollar and depend on a team of volunteers and AmeriCorps teaching fellows who train here with experienced teachers. Students' families also play a key role in helping at the school.

How big is Grace Academy? How do students get enrolled?

Grace Academy is an intentionally small school. The school is at full capacity with 65 students in grades 5-8. We admit only 17 new girls each year, hand-picked after a 3 week summer program for 4th graders. We look for girls who show work ethic and desire. We are not an academic test-in school. Most girls come from public schools with scores significantly below grade level. Our goal is to harness their potential and help them grow into amazing, well-rounded students.

Is Grace Academy a religious school?

We are an interfaith school. We teach world religions and foster students' spiritual growth with a strong focus on values and social-emotional skills. During our first 10 years, our location has been on the campus of South Church, however, we embrace and celebrate students from all faiths.

Does your model work?

Our standardized test data shows class averages moving from below grade level to outperforming students nationwide by 8th grade. Most of our students go on to attend top private, parochial, and boarding schools in the area (e.g., Concord Academy, Watkinson, Westminster, Northwest Catholic, etc.). In our first 10 years, 97% of our alumnae have graduated from high school and our first class of alumnae are currently Juniors in college.

Grace Academy's Unique Model

- **More Time at School:** The school day lasts from 7:30am until 5:00pm. This allows for extended reading and math blocks and a curriculum rich with arts and music classes. After the academic day, all students spend an hour in a quiet study hall doing homework. Then all students participate in clubs or sports to gain exposure to extracurricular activities (e.g., robotics, dance, music, rowing, squash, soccer, etc.).

- **Robust Curriculum:** Grace Academy provides an outstanding evidence-based education. We have a strong focus on STEM, as well, as a core values-based curriculum.

- **Required Summer Programs:** To keep the learning environment going outside the school year, Grace Academy has a mandatory 4-week summer program with academic mornings and afternoon field trips.

- **Robust Programming for Alumnae:** After graduation, our alumnae receive eight additional years of tailored programs. They also have access to professional mentoring, career guidance and internship opportunities.

- **Significant Financial Assistance:** Grace Academy works with each family of our alumnae to help them apply for financial aid so that their daughters can go on to private high schools and colleges. When alumnae receive partial scholarships and the family can't cover the tuition gap or need assistance paying for supplies or transportation, Grace Academy helps with "last dollar" funding to ensure our alumnae can continue their higher education.

Where are they now?

Since Grace Academy opened in 2010, we have prepared students for academically challenging high schools. The extraordinary members of the Class of 2020 will be attending the following high schools:

East Catholic
Hotchkiss
Lawrenceville Academy (NJ)
Northwest Catholic
St. Mary's (NC)
Watkinson
Westover
Ethel Walker
Kingswood Oxford
Mercy High School
Miss Porter's
Taft
Westminster

Over the years, Grace students have been accepted to premier schools, including Choate Rosemary Hall, Deerfield Academy, and others, however, the schools offered partial scholarships and our girls were unable to attend due to lack of financial resources. It is our hope that in the future with help from sponsors like you that Grace Academy will be able to provide full "last dollar" funding so our girls can attend the high school of their dreams.

College Acceptances of Grace Alumnae

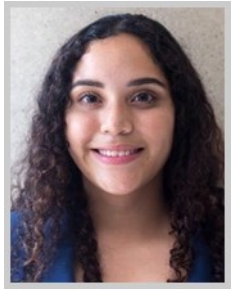
Our first three alumnae classes entered college in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Their hard work, dedication, and motivation have been validated by acceptances to over forty colleges and universities. Our alumnae are attending colleges such as:

Colby College
Goodwin College
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Loyola University Maryland
Providence College
Southern New Hampshire
Springfield College
Suffolk College
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of New Haven
University of Saint Joseph

10 Year Anniversary Student Highlights

SANDE MIN – Ethel Walker School, 10th Grade

- Member National Honors Art Society and member of Debate Club, French Club, Cooking Club and Multilingual Society
- Plays squash, volleyball, and ultimate frisbee
- Runner up for 2020 CT State Championship in poetry
- Testimonial writer and researcher for CT Women's Education and Legal Fund



XIMENA FRANCO-BAO – Providence College, Junior

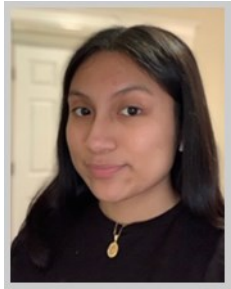
- Majoring in Elementary and Special Education
- Spent semester abroad in Belfast, Ireland
- Member of the Education Club, and on the executive board of the Figure Skating Club
- Interned at Stanley, Black & Decker for two summers

DOH PAW – Univ. of Hartford, Freshman

- Majoring in Criminal Justice
- Member of the Women's Advancement Initiative, Helping Hawks Service Scholars and the Asian Student Association
- Volunteers at Cathedral of Saint Joseph teaching Sunday school
- Employed part time at Brookdale Chatfield
- Obtaining a paralegal certificate and hopes to work as an immigration paralegal

ABIGAIL STAPELTON – Concord Academy, 12th Grade

- Plans to attend NYU, fall 2020
- Leads the Multiethnic Student Organization & Theater Tech Club
- Deeply involved in theater and film making having produced an original film that is currently being sent to festivals across the country
- Employed during summers at the Community Renewal Team in Hartford, Ivy International Group as a Peer Tutor and actively involved with Hartford Youth Scholars



JULISSA MOTA – The Taft School, 10th Grade

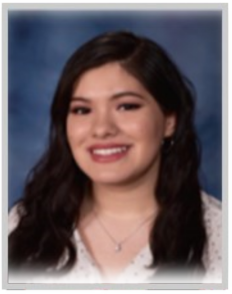
- Member of Varisty Squash Team (#3) and on Volleyball team
- Achieved High Honors and awarded the Cum Laude Award for Latin
- Chosen to mentor first year students and takes part in Mosaic, the Black and Latina Female affinity group
- Volunteers each Friday to distribute food at a homeless shelter in Waterbury

SABRINA WILLIAMS – Springfield College, Sophomore

- Elected to be Student Trustee for Springfield College Board of Trustees
- Participates in Criminal Justice Club as Treasurer, Student Mentor, Cultural Connections Leader, AmeriCorps student support specialist
- Founded, Women of Power
- Member of school magazine editorial board
- Work study at Brookings Learning and Support Team Site Leader

NARY OO – Watkinson School, 11th Grade

- Achieved Honors and High Honors
- Participates on the Soccer, Lacrosse, and Fitness teams
- Student trustee on Watkinson School Board
- Member of Wat Interns, Social Justice Club, CAP Diploma program, Ravens & Titans



NAOMI ARROYO – University of Connecticut, Freshman

- Member of National Honors Society
- Participates in Volleyball and Track
- Volunteers at CT Children's Medical Center Emergency Department
- Planning to obtain her graduate degree in developmental psychology

Family Highlight

SHUI SE PHOE, TARAPU PYO, & TARAPI PYO

We are so proud to have three sisters who are exemplary examples of our core values at Grace Academy. Shui Se graduated in 2018 and her twin sisters, Tarapu and Tarapi will graduate this June. All three girls have excelled academically and have been awarded full scholarship. Shui Se is a rising Junior at Westminster School and Tarapi will join her in the fall while Tarapu plans to attend The Hotchkiss School.

Supporting Our Amazing Alumnae

At Grace Academy, we make a twelve year investment in each of our students. Our specialized alumnae programs ensure that at every step of the way we are providing the support our alumnae need to break the cycle of urban poverty through education and launch them into careers.

High School Graduate Support Program

- Helping gain acceptance to private and parochial schools
- Mentoring programs to help ease the transition
- Holding summer skill-building workshops
- Providing structured support to ensure graduation
- Offering financial support to help fill the tuition gap
- Providing information on summer jobs and internships
- Holding SAT workshops, interview training, and campus visits
- Assisting with the college application and selection process

Pathways Through College

- Holding pre-college summer workshops
- Helping connect with resources on campus
- Monitoring progress and goal setting
- Assisting with FAFSA and financial aid application
- Providing database of opportunities for career exploration
- Helping with resumes, networking, and scholarships

Envision Your Future

- Providing career readiness skills
- Offering professional mentoring and access to shadow days
- Offering access to internship and job opportunities

Why Give?

One third of Grace Academy's annual budget is raised at the Power of Grace event each year. We are very thankful to each of you for your generosity. Every gift to Grace Academy makes a significant difference – whether the gift is large or small.

- $100 purchases school supplies
- $300 supports the Healthy Nutrition Program
- $500 purchases science kits
- $1,000 purchases two laptop computers
- $1,500 supports the Graduate Support Boot Camp
- $2,500 covers the partial cost of field trips
- $5,000 sponsors a student for one year at Grace Academy
- $7,500 closes tuition gaps for alumnae
- $10,000 sponsors an AmeriCorps Teaching Fellow

How You Can Help?

Our mission of educating girls through middle school and mentoring them through high school and college provides many unique opportunities to be involved. Here are some ways in which to share your time and talents with Grace:

Volunteer at Grace Academy

- Mentor a 7th grade student throughout her journey
- Become a Graduate Support Advocate
- Tutor a student
- Lead an after school club or coach a sports team
- Lead a Saturday enrichment field trip
- Join the Power of Grace annual benefit committee

Offer Your Time and Resources to our Alumnae

- Mentor a high school or college student
- Use your professional network to help make opportunities available to Grace alumnae
- Provide professional shadow day opportunities
- Make summer internships available
- Help our students establish a professional network

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Special Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment of the Grace Academy faculty and staff over the past 10 years. It is their energy, compassion, and hard work that foster the students' growth and success. Since mid-March of 2020, they have shown amazing resilience, innovation and courage as they have transitioned to teaching our girls through a remote learning environment.

THE POWER OF GRACE

Thank You!