



# THE PEAKS OF SUMMIT

NEWSLETTER FOR SUMMIT ACADEMY OF GREATER LOUISVILLE

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## Congratulations, Graduates!

For the first time in our 27-year history, Summit Academy graduated a class of seniors. The High School Class of 2019 graduated in May. Many of these 11 seniors had been proud Summit students for years (3 since Kindergarten!), and they have certainly left their mark on Summit. Some graduates will be continuing their education at the University of Cincinnati TAP program, Ivy Tech Community College or Montgomery College. Over half the graduating class had secured employment or were considering employment options at the time of graduation. We are so proud of them all, and we are excited to see what wonderful things they accomplish in life!



FROM LEFT: Susan Beach (High School Division Head), Hannah McCarty, Alex Mounkes, Angelina Salomon, Zach Dries, Anne Stevenson, Derek Beary, Maggie Reeves, David Johnson, Dianne Streble, John Gagnon, Alexandra Jones, Jenny Miller (High School Teacher)



The mission of Summit Academy is to provide a nurturing educational environment for students with learning differences, in which each student's academic achievement comes to reflect his or her learning potential.



## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The past school year has been a truly expeditious and remarkable one. While there has been much to celebrate, the High School Class of 2019, our inaugural graduating class, is certainly the most significant of them all. Watching these amazing young men and women cross the stage to receive their diplomas was a very special occasion to witness. We send them forth with much love and respect and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.

We also want to celebrate the legacy and leadership of our school's founder, Margaret Thornton. Next year will be Summit Academy's first without Margaret and we are ever so grateful for the foundation she has laid. We stand on her shoulders as we continue to provide a quality education in a safe and inclusive environment for students of all ages who have the need to learn in a way which best suits them. We wish Margaret and Tom all the best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

The core of our mission is the children and families we serve. We were very pleased to experience an enrollment increase of 20% during the past school year. Continuing the positive momentum, our development efforts netted a tremendous year. Our two signature events, Mountaintop Breakfast and Bluegrass, Bourbon & BBQ, were both highly successful. I would like to express my deep appreciation to those of you who graciously provided physical and financial support to our mission. I ask for your continued generosity and urge others to join us as we broaden the scope of our commitment and reach for greater heights.

As we look to the future, a successful organization must continue to set the vision for its mission and its community. Thus, our Board of Trustees has undergone an extensive strategic planning process, the results of which will be formulated and shared in the year to come. And though it may be in our human nature to resist change, it is often empowering to embrace change as "an opportunity for virtuous actions."

So many wonderful things have been accomplished in the past year, and so we look to the 2019-20 school year with great excitement and anticipation. Our Board of Trustees, Faculty and Staff have set higher standards for the future. What we accomplish in the coming months and years will be in partnership with the support of our alumni, parents, friends and business community. I invite you to join us in our mission.

Douglas L. Strothman  
Head of School

## UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 7 | NEW PARENT SOCIAL

SEP 7 | MIDDLETOWN PARADE & SUMMIT FAMILY PICNIC

SEP 12 | GIVE FOR GOOD LOUISVILLE

OCT 24 | MOUNTAINTOP BREAKFAST 8a

NOV 10 | VILLAGE ANCHOR NIGHT 5-9p

DEC 12-13 | HOLIDAY PROGRAM 1p

MAR 6 | BLUEGRASS, BOURBON, & BBQ 6p



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*As we look to the future, a successful organization must continue to set the vision for its mission and its community.*



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PTO President, Lacy Ran and CJ Powell (4th) at the end of year carnival; Alex Mounkes (12th) at graduation; Coleman White (3rd), Calloway Lacer (4th), and Olivia Distler (5th) receiving technology awards; Saire Van Inwegen (5th) on the playground; Trey Calhoun (K), Josiah Day (K), and Elijah O'Brien (K) on a field trip; Principal, Rebecca Hoffman, Will Terlau (6th), and Jack Clark (5th) after the Holiday Program; Anne Stevenson (12th) with Dianne Streble (12th); staff members covered in sauce at the end of year carnival  
CENTER: Occupational Therapist, Cindy Morgan, with intermediate students





# Building School Community

During the 2018-19 school year, Summit Academy held monthly Building School Community meetings. Students were put into 10 different family groups - each family consisted of students from all different grades and was assigned a unique color as an identifier. With an overall theme of Growth Mindset, family groups read books, watched videos and did activities to learn about grateful giving, tolerance, encouragement and perseverance,

Here are reflections from some of our middle school participants:

## Aiden Nace

"My favorite memory during the meetings is probably the time that we had to build a house using only pretzels. My team got pretzels alone, while the other team had to build a house using pretzels and marshmallows. Even though the other team had more materials, we still won with a taller house by using the pretzels as Lincoln Logs. We worked hard at it despite the fact that we had to work on possibly the shakiest table in the world and that all the other kids kept wanting to eat the pretzels! I believe the meetings helped the school by teaching social skills and showing all students that they should be open-minded and happy to share with others."



## Aidon Henderson

"What I liked best about it was we got to meet other kids from other grades, creating lasting friendships, drawing pictures, reading stories."



## Corey Jackson

"These activities were inclusive and entertaining for everyone in the classroom, and they also allowed students a chance to talk to others about their differences and issues. These family meetings have built confidence and created unity."



## Madison Calvert

"These meetings helped Summit Academy become even more of a family than it already was. It taught me that making someone's day even a little bit better can make you feel amazing. I think my favorite part of the groups was when we go to do crafts that went with the word of the month. With the word perseverance, we made bridges out of marshmallows and pretzels. Even if the bridge broke or fell apart, we kept on trying and we didn't give up until we made the bridge."



## Connor Kalvar

"This way of organizing the families helped grow a sense of school community by allowing people that wouldn't have otherwise met to meet and forge new friendships. I think that these meetings helped teach students important lessons about growing and being open to new things and helped students make new friendships."





# Best Wishes, Margaret!

Summit Academy extends a heartfelt thank you to our Co-Founder, Margaret Thornton! The 2018-19 school year marked Margaret's last year with Summit Academy. We truly appreciate her 27 years of service and wish her all the best in the future.

Margaret's vision, passion and dedication over the years have made a remarkable impact on the lives of countless students and their families. Margaret has built a powerful legacy that will continue to touch generations to come. We are privileged to have worked with Margaret, and we look forward to building and growing Summit in her honor.

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*"Margaret was on to something back in the summer of 1992. Starting a school that served kids that needed something different. Though the beginnings of Summit were humble, the school started off with a bang. Margaret knew what she wanted to do and put it into action from day one. Hats off to Margaret!"*

- Sue Sabo, Summit Academy teacher since 1992

## 8th Grade Graduates

Summit Academy celebrated two graduating classes this year! In addition to our senior class, twelve 8th graders graduated from Summit in May. Some of these students will be returning to us for high school, while others will be continuing on to other area private, public, and parochial schools. We wish them all a happy and successful high school career!

*Clockwise from left: Max Musich, Trey Schneider, Connor Kalvar, Conner Romero, Corey Jackson, Aiden Nace, Hayden Lusardo, Lindsey McIntosh, Madison Calvert, Travis Rogers, Hannah Von Busch, Natalie Neal*





# WHAT'S NEW?

## Graduating Seniors

Summit Academy High School graduated its first-ever senior class this spring. Congratulations to the Class of 2019!



## Facility Improvements

We have made several capital improvements on campus, including a new roof on the main building and other much-needed maintenance and repair work.

## Signage

Thanks to our amazing PTO, we have new signage at our school entrance!



## Strategic Plan

The Board of Trustees has undergone an extensive strategic planning process, and we will share the results and plans of that work as we move through the year ahead.

## Gym Divider

Thanks to a generous donation from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Jamie Parsley Family Foundation, we were able to install a safety divider in our gym to make it a multi-purpose space.





Archery Club



Cooking Club:  
Kessler's Kitchen



Lego Club



Drama Club

# Girls RUNNING CLUB

Intermediate teachers, Stephanie Cain and Carey Girardi, co-sponsored Summit Academy's Girls Running Club during spring 2019. Open to students in grades 4-12, the Girls Running Club focused on teamwork, goal-setting, encouragement and perseverance.

During their weekly runs, the nine participants built strong relationships with each other while embracing exercise and healthy lifestyle habits. They learned how to inspire and motivate each other as well as how to find inspiration and motivation from within. All nine girls gained self-confidence and self-awareness.

To celebrate their success, the Girls Running Club participated in the Fe Fi Fo Run, a 5K race at Bernheim Forest in May 2019. Congratulations, runners!



From left: Carrie Crace, Olivia Crace, Carey Girardi, Lexi Olash, Stephanie Cain, Kaydence Watson, Olivia Distler, Dr. Mark Distler, Maliea Newsome, Anna Coomes, Emily Parks



# Thanks for joining us!

Thank you for supporting the Mountaintop Breakfast and Bluegrass, Bourbon & BBQ this year! Combined, these two signature events raised almost \$200,000 during the 2018-19 year. These funds helped provide essential classroom resources, highly-qualified teachers and specialists, and financial aid. Your support made a difference for our students, and we are forever grateful.



## 2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Susannah Stevenson, *President*  
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# 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT ♦♦ Tribute Gifts

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Summit Academy's fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30. If you made a donation between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, your name should be listed on these pages. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.

If you have a correction, please contact the Development Office at 502.244.7813. Thank you!



# 2017-2018 ♦♦ Donors By Giving Level

## **\$50,000+**

Kosair Charities\*

## **\$15,000 - \$49,999**

The Community Foundation of Louisville

Dr. and Mrs. I.W. Hughes Family Fund

Chuck and Louanne Shultz  
WHAS Crusade for Children

## **\$5,000 - \$14,999**

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All About Kids Foundation\*

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vDiane Bailey Doll

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\*part of a multi-year pledge



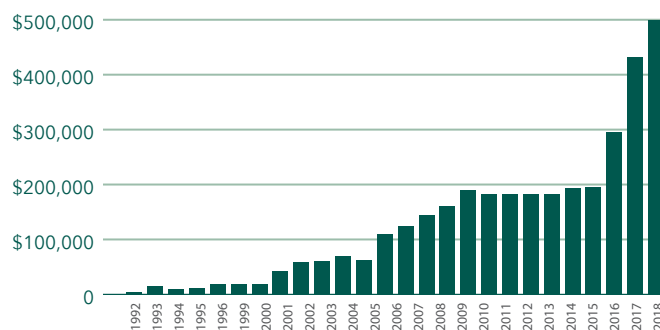


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## Financial Aid

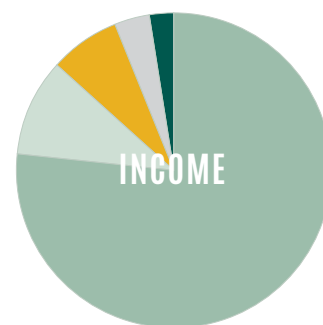


**Sixty-six** families received financial aid (**48%** of our enrolled families). The average financial aid award was **\$7,567**. We awarded **\$499,445** in financial aid for the 2017-18 school year.

## Financial Overview

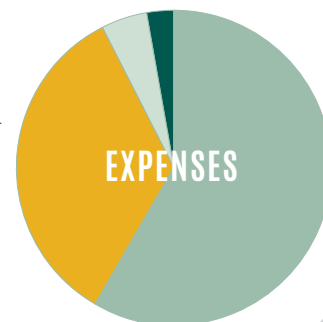
Tuition & Fees:	\$1,691,796
Contributions:	\$221,274
Grants:	\$158,662
Ancillary Income:	\$78,063
Other:	\$52,983

**Total Income: \$2,202,778**



Program Services:	\$1,417,017
Administrative/General:	\$820,554
Fundraising:	\$114,310
Depreciation:	\$65,920

**Total Expenses: \$2,417,801**



**Ending Net Assets: \$1,688,796**



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# Thank You

As an independent, non-profit school, Summit Academy relies on community support. Tuition and fees only cover about 75-80% of annual expenses. Philanthropy makes up the difference. We are deeply appreciative of the families, alumni, grandparents, businesses, foundations and other partners that contribute almost \$500,000 each year. Their investments help cover the costs of classroom materials and supplies, skilled teachers, professional development, technology, therapy services, scholarships, and other operating expenses, all of which allows us to fulfill our mission of educating children with learning differences.

