



THE CHESTER FUND
FOR EDUCATION &
THE ARTS

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2017-2018 Donor Report

The Chester Fund's mission is to support The Chester Charter School for the Arts (CCSA), an arts-integrated, academically rigorous, public charter school serving children from the Chester Upland School District. CCSA enrolls 650 students in grades K–12.



***The Chester Fund Donor Report* | Fall 2018**

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For change of address, please notify Jennifer Camp at jcamp@thechesterfund.org or (610) 859-2988

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled and honored to recognize the following individuals and organizations who made an annual gift to The Chester Fund (TCF) in FY'18 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018). These generous donors contributed more than \$1.1 million, enabling CCSA to continue offering – and expanding – its distinctive academic curriculum. Without private support, CCSA would simply not have the resources needed to provide the programming and services that make a critical difference in educational outcomes. We rely on the commitment of our wonderful donors and volunteers to fund distinctive programming such as early literacy, arts-integration and post-secondary planning.

CCSA's dedicated supporters care deeply about our students and believe in their potential for a bright future. On behalf of those students, we extend our heartfelt thanks.



With gratitude and best wishes,

Akosua Watts
Head of School/CEO
The Chester Charter School for the Arts

Donna Armand
Executive Director
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> Student Spotlight: Isaiah Guy

From Second Grader to Senior: Growing Up at CCSA

CCSA twelfth grader Isaiah Guy has felt like a Senior since second grade, which isn't surprising considering he's been at the School since the beginning. "When CCSA started, we were the oldest class. We thought they would add students above us but they didn't. We've always been the oldest." It definitely feels like a big deal to be part of the first graduating class, but that doesn't mean it's free from pressure. Isaiah feels a lot of eyes on him and his fellow seniors. "There is a higher standard," he says. And it's not just adults watching. "The younger kids look up to us," he explains, fully understanding this is a responsibility that comes with being a Senior.

Isaiah might be unsure about being a role model himself, but he's got no shortage of them in his own life. His grandfather Wayne Guy, Sr., whose living room is filled with recognition plaques from his time working at Scott Paper, his older brother Brian, and CCSA English Teacher Mr. Deery all model three qualities Isaiah prizes highly: determination, motivation and dependability.

A good support system is vital when you've had a tough couple of years like Isaiah's had. There have been some health issues, challenging life situations and of course the inevitable drama that comes with being a teenager. Isaiah admits it can be hard to focus at times, but he relies on friends like Kamrin and Kabree, who have been with him since second grade as well as his extended CCSA family. This includes the many teachers who have known Isaiah for much of his life and the members of Safe Corridors—a dedicated group of volunteers who help usher CCSA's students safely into the building every day—who are, as Isaiah puts it, "like Care Bears." This is the advantage of a smaller school where people really know you. "Sometimes it's annoying," Isaiah laughs, "why do they care so much? But you realize it's better that they care."

“There is a higher standard,” he says. And it’s not just adults watching. “The younger kids look up to us,” he explains, fully understanding this is a responsibility that comes with being a Senior.

Isaiah knows this last year of high school will be challenging. But he has many resources to draw on and he recognizes the importance of asking for help when it’s needed. Adversity has taught him to keep things in perspective. Stuff that used to bother him a few years ago doesn’t matter much now. He has more important things to think about, like a career in multi-media arts. He doesn’t know yet what he wants to focus on—graphic arts, video game design—but his passion for the medium was sealed last year when he visited the RePlay Lab at Drexel University. “It was like taking a kid to Toys R Us,” he says, grinning.

Armed with the promise he made to his family—that he would never lose sight of what he wants—**Isaiah has stepped into the role he’s been preparing for since second grade: Senior.**



CCSA’s vision is that one hundred percent of CCSA students will graduate and be prepared for college, conservatory, technical school, the military or gainful employment. This means that students will demonstrate four essential qualities: scholarship, strong character, craftsmanship, and purpose.

> Recognizing our Annual Fund Donors

We are pleased to recognize donors of monetary gifts for restricted and unrestricted annual program support between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. Every gift is greatly appreciated and every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. In the event of an error or omission, please contact Amy Komarnicki at akomarnicki@thechesterfund.org or 610-859-2988.

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