Summer Learning Loss

Over half of the ninth-grade achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years.

\(^1\)Alexander et al. 2007.

“We cannot afford to spend nearly 10 months of every year devoting enormous amounts of intellect, energy and money to promoting student learning and achievement, and then walk away from that investment every summer.”

- Jeff Smink, National Summer Learning Association
The Horizons Approach

- 9-year commitment beginning in Kindergarten
- Students with broad range of academic abilities
- Six-week summer session with year-round support
- Project-based learning
- Professional teachers, 5 to 1 student teacher ratio
- High year to year retention rate of students and staff
- Inspires children to become life-long learners and successful adults
- Swimming!

“Our school has gained in vitality, energy and identity because of Horizons, and this is a genuine return on investment for the institution.”

-Tim Cottrell, Head of School, Harley School
Benefits to Independent Schools

- Allows schools to demonstrate their public purpose
- Expands the school’s visibility in the giving community
- Develops motivated and informed lower income applicant families, helping the school achieve student diversity goals
- Attracts faculty and families who are committed to a diverse school community
- Provides summer employment and volunteer opportunities for high school students, graduates and faculty
- Broadens donor base to include corporate and foundation sources interested in supporting programs that benefit underserved children
According to a recent survey, Heads and Deans of Schools currently running a program have said that:

- Horizons is a meaningful expression of the school's mission: 100%
- Horizons has improved the school's relationship with the larger community: 100%
Parents who give to Horizons do not reduce their donation to the school.

Horizons is not a financial drain.

The net effect on development efforts is positive or neutral.
Horizons provides an ongoing connection that keeps parents involved with the school after their children graduate.

Horizons gives alumni additional reasons to stay involved with the school.

70%

75%
Horizons 2012

26 programs in 11 states – and growing!
2,500+ students
335 Public school partners
475 Public/private school teachers
260 Staff volunteers
94% Average daily student attendance
82% Year-to-year retention
90 Horizons graduate teaching assistants and volunteers
Horizons Network Model

- Central office
  - Single site
  - Regional
  - Multi-Site
  - Pilots

- Student Assessment
- Local/regional funders
- Central Database
- Unique Resources
- National Funding
- Conferences/ PD
- Innovation

Best Practices
Horizons National provides:

- Due diligence and strategic planning
- Fundraising support and bridge funding
- Training and implementation assistance
- National visibility, public relations and marketing
- Marketing, fundraising and communication templates
- Annual Horizons network conferences
- Monthly Affiliate ED conference calls
- Centralized student assessment and evaluation

horizonsnational.org
Expanding into the Future

• Multiple schools partnering to run one program
  • Single sex schools
  • Division of grades between campuses
• Higher Ed partnerships
• Endless possibilities!
Horizons at Greens Farms Academy

inspiring minds, building community, transforming lives
• Horizons Academic Advisory Group
• Morning academic time - academic gains in math & literacy
• GFA faculty, Lower School assistants and college placement staff become involved with Horizons
• Using expertise of GFA
• GFA students partner through volunteering during the summer and Saturday academy
Academics

• GFA students partner by volunteering during the summer and Saturday academy
• GFA graduates return as interns
• High School Program
Benefit to the Community

- A strong statement about our school’s commitment to diversity
- Very good PR for GFA in the greater community
- Allowed GFA to establish and fund raise for an endowed Horizons Scholarship
- Scholarships opportunity for qualifying Horizons students
GFA in Kind

- The school offers colleagues, resources and community
- Classroom space
- Technology resources and support
- Back office, payroll, etc.
- Under GFA’s 401 C3
- Communication between GFA Advancement office and Horizons
Board

- Horizons Board is a subcommittee of the GFA Board and reports to the GFA Board annually
- Many ex-GFA board members move on to serve on the Horizons Board
- GFA parents volunteer for Horizons
- Horizons board members help with summer programs and organizing fundraising events
Horizons at Sacred Heart University

- Expansion was difficult because GFA was at capacity
- Reached out to Sacred Heart University – started program this summer
- In order to ensure that the Horizons at GFA culture was conveyed to Sacred Heart University, we lent two very good teachers from GFA’s program
- We are working to coordinate fund-raising in some areas
- Three Horizons at GFA board members serve on the SHU board to help them through the start up years
Horizons in Colleges and Universities
“Horizons offers an exemplary program that supports both goals and provides an incredible opportunity for the college to be a true partner in improving student success within our community.”

-Dr. Anne Kress, President of Monroe Community College

**Current Higher Education Partners**

- Warner School of Education at University of Rochester
- Monroe Community College (Rochester, NY)
- Nazareth College (Rochester, NY)
- Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT)
- Kellogg Community College (Battle Creek, MI)
Benefits to Colleges and Universities

- Expands the reach to students in elementary, middle school
- Demonstrates the value of the school’s contribution to the community
- Decreases need for remediation
- Supports college readiness and completion
- Provides opportunity for:
  - Faculty members to act as lead Horizons teachers
  - Clinical experience for students and recent graduates
  - Increases alumni engagement in the college
- Attracts donors who might not otherwise be giving to the school
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