

2023-2024 Annual Report



Illuminating Mind, Heart, and Spirit



The 2023-2024 school year's annual theme, "Illuminating Mind, Heart, and Spirit," integrated our thoughts, emotions, and actions, fostering presence, depth, and scholarship across all domains. The year was filled with educational experiences that stimulated curiosity, activated critical thinking, and cultivated a sense of wonder for all ages.

When we allow space to nurture our inner life, commune with nature, practice gratitude, seek joy, and embrace a disposition of curiosity and wonder, we are illuminating our mind, heart, and spirit. This year's annual report highlights how our programming for staff, children, and families celebrated these values.

Our staff began the year engaging the wisdom of two guiding texts, *The Soul of Education* and *Onward*, which illuminated professional practices designed to deepen purpose and resilience within the teaching field. This touchstone permeated our professional development and inspired new initiatives such as our 6th Grade Foundations Course, the initiation of two new mission-driven circles, and a capstone Omega trip exploring the Civil Rights movement and the capacity of our young people to be changemakers and compassionate leaders.

Rainbow cultivates alignment and intention among our community and within our institution. This year, we partnered with Kaplan CFO to reassess our budgeting practices, institutionalizing systems that reinforce our financial values and uplift our long-term vision. Our commitment to conscious campus planning was enhanced by the addition of a Facilities Committee balancing current campus care with evolving future planning.

This year's Annual Report shines bright with the many ways we captured the imagination, inspired the heart, and embraced the spirit of Rainbow Community School.

Yours In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susie Fahrer".

Susie Fahrer
Executive Director

Mission, Vision, and Holistic Journey



We develop accomplished, confident, and creative learners who are prepared to be compassionate leaders in building a socially just, spiritually connected, and environmentally sustainable world.

Our Method

We provide an engaging, nurturing learning environment to educate the whole child using the seven domains.

We inspire academic excellence with a program in harmony with the stages of child development.

We model within our community the kind of world in which we aspire to live.

The 7 Domains of the Whole Child



The Heart of Rainbow



Seven Domains



Rainbow Community School served 205 students in preschool through eighth grade and welcomed 36 new students for the 2023-2024 school year.



Reflections from New Staff Orientation

"The onboarding process as a new staff member at Rainbow can only be described as a loving, supportive embrace from my new work family. Not only have I been equipped with the knowledge and tools to begin a successful year at Rainbow, I also feel confident that I have the encouragement and friendship of every other member of this community. I believe that this is rare, especially for a first-year teacher. I am so grateful to be here."

- Abbey Zembower
Second Grade Assistant Teacher



"My first impression of Rainbow was a place of warmth, support, and excitement. Everyone knew my name and welcomed me with enthusiasm. The new teacher and beginning-of-year staff training gave us time and space to do some work on ourselves and align ourselves with our teams before diving into the myriad of beginning-of-year tasks. I felt that our staff centering times, personal development activities, and interactive training directly aligned with the culture that we hope to cultivate in the classroom."

- Noah Crosson
Omega 7/8 Science Teacher

"As a Rainbow parent for the past eight years, I thought I knew and loved the place as much as I could. But now that I get to peek behind the curtain, now that I get to know these incredible teachers as colleagues, now that I get to spend all day with these extraordinary students, I love it all the more."

- Christopher Arbor, Omega 7/8 Social Studies Teacher

Mental Domain



The heart of our programming fosters academic rigor through student-centered, developmentally appropriate pedagogy that encourages thinking dispositions for twenty-first century learning. The holistic lens on learning ensures students develop the confidence and self-reflection necessary to engage scholarship that extends beyond a single textbook, content area, or skill set.

Teacher Quality
100%
Parent Satisfaction



Philosophy and
Approach to
Education
97%
Parent Satisfaction

Standardized Test Scores

94%

An Average of RCS/OMS students in grades 4-8 that scored at or above national norms for all tested academic areas as reported by their Comprehensive Testing Program Scores

Teacher
Education
200

Internal Professional
Development Hours

Teachers participated in 200 hours of internal professional development focusing on themes of domains education, spiritual connection, science of reading, and Singapore math.



★★★★★ 5 Star Preschool ★★★★★



RCS Preschool earned an average score of 6.39 out of 7 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) Assessment in December, 2023. This comprehensive assessment is conducted by the NC Rated License Assessment Project every five years. The score reflects the high quality programming found in many aspects of the classroom such as professionalism, developmentally appropriate practice, variety of materials, and curriculum implementation.

205+

Specialized
Professional
Development Hours

Select teachers and staff participated in 205+ hours of specialized professional development including courses on Nonviolent communication, attending the NAIS People of Color Conference (POCC), Building Bridges of Asheville, Nurtured Heart Approach, attending the Holistic Teaching and Learning Conference, and more.

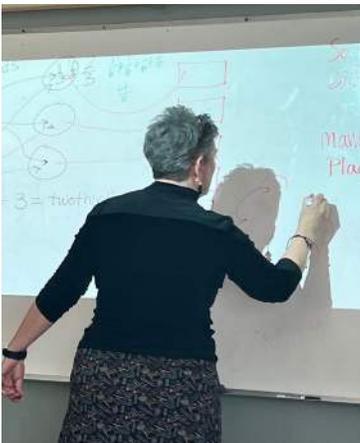


Omega 7/8 PIP Presentations

Every year, our Personal Interest Presentations (PIP) create a platform to celebrate the depth and breadth of our students ability to ask meaningful questions, explore logical solutions, and present their learning. Students in 4th-8th grade all research and present their projects, with the capstone experience of a TED Talk in eighth grade. Our eighth graders shined and raised the collective awareness for topics such as:

- The Road to Becoming a Professional Athlete
- The Impacts of Meat Production and Consumption
- How Media Portrays Women and Girls
- Universal Basic Income and the Impact and Importance of Local and Small Businesses

Singapore Math Trainer



Teachers became learners as they worked with professional Singapore Math Trainer, Cassey Turner. Cassey has supported teachers all over the world with their implementation of mathematics instruction and fluency. This initial visit was supported through federal funding and is the beginning of a longer-term partnership in support of continued growth and fidelity with math instruction across the grades.

Administrative Training

Core Leadership was assessed and trained in understanding their "Working Genius" to support strong and effective collaborative leadership.

Middle School Electives



Omega students participated in mental domain elective coursework including Spanish A and B, Debate, Equity, Flight Test, Foundations, Trivia Bowl, Newspaper, Beyond Dungeons & Dragons, Movie Magic, and a Screen Writing class taught by two Hollywood writers and actors.

“Rainbow has been educating my three children since 2014. My eldest by 5th grade was a published poet, thanks to the support of Rainbow, and is now looking at BU for her higher Ed. My younger daughter and son have been at Rainbow Community School for the past 4 & 7 years. The seven domain holistic education model builds on so many varying and complex human development models, and has excelled in educating our youth in empathy, social justice, community, and the academics with PIP, and tailored curriculum based on student needs, or world events sets these children up for resilience in a world that is constantly changing. That is it, developing able Change-Makers, and peaceful warriors! We love you Rainbow, so much gratitude in all the ways, for a hopeful future.”

- Parent Review 2023-24

Rainbow Core Values - Authentic Learning

One of the many great things about Omega Middle School is the opportunity to design learning experiences rooted in the interests and passions of our students. In the 2023-24 school year, an intrepid group of eighth graders debuted a new elective, called Newspaper.



The Omega newspaper challenged students to build real-world skills in a context that they really care about. They looked closely at issues in their community, honed their writing and editing skills, and crafted both insightful and entertaining stories. Each writer had a part - sports beat, editorialist, or advice columnist, to name a few - while working as a team to synthesize Omega news.

In this class, students took time to research, interview, write, and ultimately publish 5 issues of "The OMEGAN". Articles ranged from pop culture, student happenings, interviews, reviews of local businesses, and a reader favorite, "Ask the Wise..." This segment allowed students to ask anonymous questions of their middle school peers to seek advice and wisdom.

The OMEGAN

BREAKING NEWS!

A haircut to shock the crowd!



There's a New Hair Salon in Town

Mae, Mya, Helina, and Mia have opened a hair salon. If you'd like to get your hair looking gorgeous, come on down to the blacktop. We have all different types of hair tools and brushes. We indulge in lots of practice in hair styling and treating. We specialize in gel-based hairstyles! We are open during recess, and sometimes during snack.





Emotional and Social Domains

The focus on emotional and social development through the ages creates a balance of self-awareness and actualization along with empathy and compassion for others.



“Rainbow continues to support and nurture my son’s sense of self in an environment where learning is engaging and satisfying. Even through the pandemic, his exceptional teachers provided integrated, holistic experiences that incorporated all the domains of learning. To know that each staff member truly cares about your child is an absolute gift, and we are forever grateful to be part of this community.”

- Parent Review 2023-24

Equity Trip Reflections & Intentions

Omega 7/8 students embarked on an inaugural end-of-year trip facilitated by Danae Aicher, former Equity Director at Rainbow and founder of Culture Value, to engage an experiential tour of key historical elements of the American Civil Rights Movement.

In alignment with our mission to create a more socially just world, one of the goals of this trip is to make real for our middle schoolers the impact of inequities in our society and the broader world and to bolster their understanding with concepts of community resilience, multicultural amity, and their own power to affect change.



Omega 7/8 students were provided time to reflect on their learning, tap into the emotions evoked, and create a bracelet with a word to remind them of their experiences.



Sixth Grade Entrepreneurship Projects

Our sixth grade entrepreneurs created their own socially-conscious businesses. Students designed and created their own products, which were sold via an online marketplace and at the Spring Fling. Each student selected a local agency that aligned with their business model and social values to donate a portion of their profits.



Sixth grade students donated a total of \$137 from the sales of their products to non-profit organizations, including:

*Arts for Life
Brother Wolf
National Eating Disorders Association
Rainbow Community School
Read 2 Succeed
Riverlink
World Literacy Foundation*



Foundations Elective



The Foundations Elective was established as a mandatory course for all sixth grade students to help ensure a strong beginning for every middle school student. This course utilizes the framework of the Hero's Journey to help students explore all aspects of their developing adolescent identity, goal setting, and skill building for success over the next three years of Omega and beyond. The class closed out with a fire ceremony. Ceremonies are an important way to celebrate our students and set the tone for how we will continue to show up for ourselves and each other in our community.



Creative Domain

Engaging the arts and STEAM education empower our students to explore learning through a variety of lenses, mediums, and perspectives. The beauty and diversity fostered through the creative domain seeds our inspired school experience.

2nd Place Winner!



Music Teacher:
Laura Blackley



Middle School Electives



Omega students participated in diverse creative elective coursework including 3-D Design, Rock Band, Art I, Painting, Strings & Sings, Principles of Design, Artist Books, IMAGINE: Set Design, IMAGINE: Rock Band, and Yearbook Creation.

2nd Place Winner!



Art Education Program



A House Full of Joy



The Rainbow Community Center auditorium was packed on performance nights for our winter music program and for Shine, our student talent show. The theme of our winter program was *True Colors: A Celebration of Beauty and Light*.

The talent show was filled with music, dance performances, martial arts demonstrations and so much more - this event is a true highlight of the year!

IMAGINE: *The Diamond and the Black Hole*

Each spring our community comes together for IMAGINE, a celebration of the arts at Rainbow. This incredible performance combines original song, theater, storytelling, music and dance. Each Imagine script is interwoven with a storytelling thread that ties the performances together.



“A long time ago, deep in the woods, the quest of the Soul Seed sang the whoman into being. An act of pure love and faith among the animal world that would change the course of all that would follow... That very night, a new constellation was born. It became known as The Diamond. It was made up of three sacred stars...Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. A triad of strength that would guide the whomans for years to come.”

- Opening Narration: The Diamond and the Black Hole



Physical Domain

Our bodies help to define the multi-sensory experience of learning. Providing intentional outlets for movement, health education, and physical exploration engages one of the most critical modalities for educational wellness.

Special Events Highlighting the Physical Domain



Students ran, walked, galloped, and skipped laps at our annual **Gratitude Gallop**.



Students in grades 4-8 took to the slopes for a day of joyful physical activity on our annual **Ski Trip**.



Field Day provides a multitude of physical activities including Gaga Ball (Israeli dodgeball), team sports and games, a dance party, water play, and Dr. Bronner's Magic Foam Experience .

Middle School Electives



Along with traditional Physical Education courses for preschool through fifth grade, physical elective offerings for our middle schoolers in the 2023-24 school year included fitness training, ultimate frisbee, pickleball, hockey, and roller rock.

Weekly Physical Activity



Students participate in a minimum of 3.25 hours of physical activity and play a week through daily recess and other scheduled activities. Many classrooms exceed this amount in support of hands-on lessons and movement integrated into learning objectives.

“Play is the foundation of learning, creativity, self-expression, and constructive problem-solving. It’s how children wrestle with life to make it meaningful.”

- Susan Linn



Active Role Models



We are proud of our Rainbow staff for engaging in the physical domain at the Lake James Races. The staff team (sponsored by a generous family donation) showed their stuff with multiple age group podiums and a second-place overall finish.

Natural Domain



Commitment to nature play and environmental stewardship protects the inherent connections children have with other living beings and their surroundings. It cultivates wonder and inquiry and eventually leads to a sense of protection and personal responsibility toward human impact on the environment.



Art and Poetry Contest Winner!

RiverLink promotes the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed. Entries to the Voices of the River: Art & Poetry Contest are inspired by student connection to the Natural World. Congratulations to our third grade winner, Lucci Saraceno for her third place poetry entry!

Water

by Lucci Saraceno, 3rd Grade

Water as I stare into your depths
I wonder what is it like
Questions swimming around you like fish
Answers zooming by you like
water striders
And then they all come together as one
As a memory

Gardening Grants



Preschool teacher, Lauren Levine, began work in a year-long cohort with the Farm to ECE Grant in partnership with Buncombe County Partnership for Children and the NC Cooperative Extension program. Omega 7/8 science teacher, Noah Crosson, received a \$300 seed grant from the West Asheville Garden Stroll (WAGS) to revitalize campus garden beds and enhance student learning experiences in the natural domain. Through this project students from 4 different grades participated in preparing and planting gardens in 3 new thriving garden bed areas. Teachers and students can now utilize the garden plants, flowers, fruits, insects, soil, and more for lessons that involve the 7 domains.

Middle School Electives



Middle school students had the opportunity to choose from four natural domain electives including Wilderness Skills and Reading and Writing in Nature. A Facilities Management elective class worked collaboratively to build additional play structures and games for our preschool students and enhance other areas of campus. Students who participated in a course titled, “Choose Your Own Adventure: Food Waste and Climate Change” examined food waste trends on campus and proposed a new waste management and disposal system for the school that is proposed for implementation, as feasible.



Environmental Circle

An Environmental Circle was Initiated with the goal of fostering more sustainable practices, culture of care for campus, and reduction of nonrenewable resources and waste.

Spiritual Domain

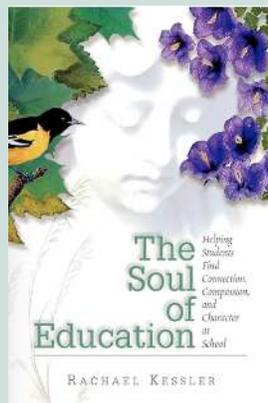
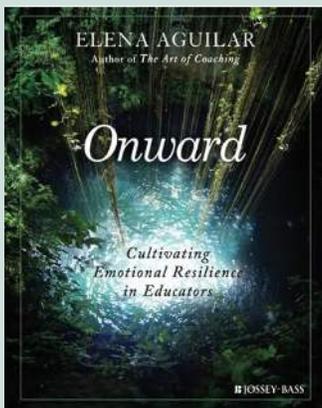


The capacity to entertain meaning within and beyond the individual and collective experience is at the heart of our contemplative practices. Students learn to cultivate a sense of “center” to prime their learning, encourage humane connection with others, and consider impact beyond the immediate environment.

Daily centering practice equates to a minimum of 81 hours spent in contemplative practice annually in every classroom.



Professional Development in the Spiritual Domain



Throughout our year-long professional development, staff used the anchor texts of *Onward* and *The Soul of Education* to deepen our spiritual practices and understanding to offer students and families meaningful access to the spiritual domain.



Administrators presented at the Holistic Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by the Center for Holistic Education. Their workshop titled, “*Seeding, Cultivating and Harvesting the Values of Nonviolent Communication in Classrooms and Communities*” explored the practices of nonviolent communication through hands-on activities and discussion, supporting a strong and thriving foundation of purpose, understanding, and belonging in communities.



Spiritual Circle

A new community circle grounded in the spiritual domain was initiated with the potential to formally integrate into our Dynamic Governance operational model moving forward.

Building a Culture of Belonging

Dear Community Member,

This year's theme of "Illuminating Mind, Heart, and Spirit" has guided our equity work throughout this year. Rainbow Community School firmly believes that equity work is not just a part of the mental domain, but we believe that it encompasses all of the seven domains and is an essential support in building a Culture of Belonging. Two of the things that this theme has encouraged us to do are to make the equity work that we do at Rainbow Community School more visible and delve deeper into the work that we are already doing.

At RCS, we are committed to making our social justice education visible. This year, we introduced two graphics centered around our equity work. The first is a concentric circle that illustrates how multiple aspects are interlinked to our mission. This infographic serves as a visual representation of our dedication to social justice education and how it permeates every aspect of our school.



Bali Mitchell
Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION
How does it all connect?

Socially Just Learners - Part of our Mission

Culture of Belonging - RCS works to build a Culture of Belonging, which we believe equity work is an essential component of.

Social Justice Standards, Racial Identity Benchmarks & Anti-bias education goals (PK) - Standards/goals and benchmarks for a developmentally appropriate approach.

Tools - Tools we have to help meet these standards, goals, and benchmarks.

- Pollyanna Curriculum
- Our Whole Lives Curriculum
- Diverse Materials
- Student Support Services
- Culture of Kindness
- Affinity & Alliance groups
- Restorative Practices
- Nonviolent Communication
- Professional Dev.

RAINBOW INSTITUTE

RAINBOW COMMUNITY SCHOOL - SOCIAL JUSTICE ENDS

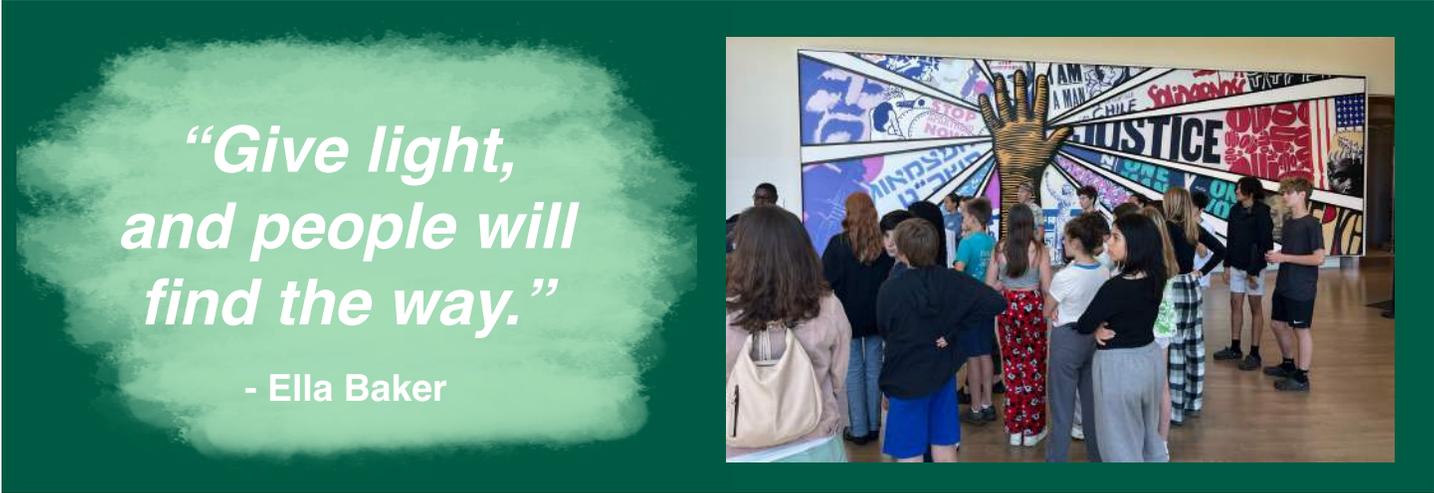
Grade Level	Identity	Diversity	Justice	Action
Preschool	Students will demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride, and positive social identities.	Students will express curiosity and joy with human diversity, use inclusive language for human differences, and form bonds, caring connections across all dimensions of human diversity.	Students will intentionally recognize antihuman (prejudice), hate language to describe antihuman, and understand that unfairness hurts.	Students will demonstrate a sense of empowerment and the skills to act, with others or alone, against prejudice and/or discriminatory action.
Kindergarten - 2nd Grade	Students will develop positive social identities based on their membership in multiple social groups.	Students will be able to engage comfortably and respectfully with people both similar to and different from themselves. Students will gain the language and knowledge to respectfully describe the similarities and differences between each other (and themselves).	Students will recognize unfairness on an individual level (e.g. biased speech). Students will relate to people as individuals rather than representatives of a group.	Students will express empathy when people are excluded or marginalized because of their identities and concern when they themselves experience bias. Students will recognize their own responsibility and power to stand up to exclusion, prejudice, and inequity.
3rd - 5th Grade	Students will develop language and historical and cultural knowledge that affirms and accurately describe their membership in multiple identity groups. Students will recognize that people's multiple identities intersect and create unique and complex individuals.	Students will respectfully express curiosity about the history and lived experiences of others and will exchange ideas and beliefs in an open-minded way.	Students will recognize unfairness on the individual level (e.g. biased speech) and inequity at the institutional or systemic level (e.g. discrimination). Students will build the skills to analyze the harmful impact of bias and inequity in the world, historically and today.	Students will speak up with their age and respect when they or someone else has been hurt or wronged by bias.
6th - 8th Grade	Students will express pride, confidence, and healthy self-esteem without denying the value/dignity of other people.	Students will respond to curiosity by building empathy, respect, understanding, and connection.	Students will recognize that power and privilege influence relationships on interpersonal, organizational, and institutional levels and consider how they have been affected by these dynamics.	Students will make principled decisions about when and how to take a stand against bias and inequity in their everyday lives and will do so despite negative or group pressure.

RAINBOW INSTITUTE

The second graphic displays the Social Justice Ends, which focuses on Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action. The preschool's Social Justice Ends were adopted from NAEYC's Anti Bias core goals, while Kindergarten through Eighth grade's Social Justice Ends were adopted from Learning For Justice's Social Justice Standards. These Social Justice Ends will guide all of our equity work and will be embedded across the seven domains. RCS believes that these ends will help institutionalize equity work while still allowing educators to cultivate a class and student-centered curriculum, which is one of the things that makes Rainbow great.



A way in which RCS has gone deeper into our equity education is by taking the Omega seventh and eighth graders on a social justice-centered end-of-year trip. This trip was organized by former Equity Director, Danae Aicher, of CultureValue. During this trip, we took a bus down to Atlanta to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Afterward, we visited Birmingham, Alabama, where students and their teachers stayed at Camp Fletcher. It was founded in 1926 by Pauline Gray Fletcher, Alabama's first Black registered nurse. While in Alabama, the Omegans experienced different activities. One of the experiences was speaking with a sister of one of the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombings after touring the church. Students gained a meaningful and personal connection to the history they had explored in their coursework. Students also toured the A.G. Gaston Motel followed by a visit to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institution. To walk in the footsteps of leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and to learn the origins of terms like Jim Crow were profound educational opportunities. All that was illuminated on this trip was unpacked through centerings, journaling, affinity groups, and other small groups. These are just a few of the highlights of this amazing multiday journey.



*“Give light,
and people will
find the way.”*

- Ella Baker



Ella Baker said, “Give light, and people will find the way.” This quote sums up Rainbow Community School’s philosophy about social justice very well. RCS believes that if you teach history, embed social justice in the various domains of education, and have meaningful discussions, then people will come to their own conclusions about these topics. That is part of the beauty of Rainbow. We illuminate mind, heart, and spirit, and then we let people find their own path.

In Community,

Bali Mitchell
Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Opportunities for Engagement

Equity Circle



Mission Statement: *Equity Circle strives to dismantle systems of oppression through actionable steps grounded in community building, curiosity, empathy, continued learning, & accountability. We recognize inequity as an institutionalized issue; we work to institutionalize the solution.* (Adopted 2022-23)

Family Class Meetings: Administrators offered opportunities for families to engage in meaningful connection and conversation about what a Culture of Belonging means and how it is fostered in our school community.



Film Screening: Students, parents, and staff gathered for 1.5 hours to watch *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, a documentary film that highlights and celebrates pivotal actions children took during the Civil Rights Era. A rich discussion followed the film.

Student Engagement: In addition to the *Pollyanna* curriculum and equity work done within the classrooms, P-8 students had opportunities to engage in *Affinity Groups*. Omega students also had opportunities to engage in an *Alliance Group*, *Equity Electives*, and the Omega 7/8 end-of-year *equity immersion trip*. Three students attended a *My Place in Race* workshop.

Equity Electives



Affinity/Alliance Groups



Omega 7/8 Trip



Love in Action

The mission of Love in Action is to strengthen our Rainbow family by providing equitable access to resources for members of our community.



sourcing specific needs



club scholarships & discounts



\$21,766
academic & counseling support



\$14,800
after school scholarships



\$5,057
enrichment programming

(field trips, end of year trips, etc.)

Tuition Assistance

\$211,777 Distributed



70
Receive a form of tuition assistance

Sources of Tuition Assistance:

- RCS Financial Aid
- Staff Discounts
- Opportunity Scholarships
- Disabilities Grant
- Preschool Vouchers



*Opportunity Scholarships, ESA+ Disabilities Grant, or Preschool Vouchers



36 RCS Families

CONTRIBUTED

\$25,285 to the VET Program

Since 2016 Rainbow families have had the option to participate in the **Voluntary Equitable Tuition (VET)** program, in which they can elect to pay more than the required tuition in order to help fund scholarships.

Engaging Summer Camps



weeks of camp



30

summer camps



151

campers served



campers receiving financial assistance or discounts



\$65,947 estimated income generated



Camp Themes by Domain



Mental

Dungeons & Dragons
Bots and Bites
Improv/Movement



Physical

Hula Hoops
Sports & Field Games



Creative

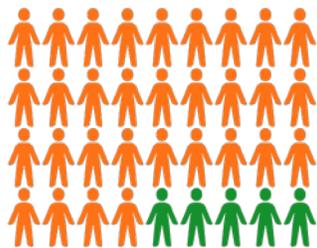
Yarn Arts
Theatre
Rock Band
Upcycled Fashion
Wood Working
Fiber Arts
Arts & Crafts



Natural

Surf & Turf
Nature

Camps are staffed by current/former RCS teachers, alumni, and student volunteers.



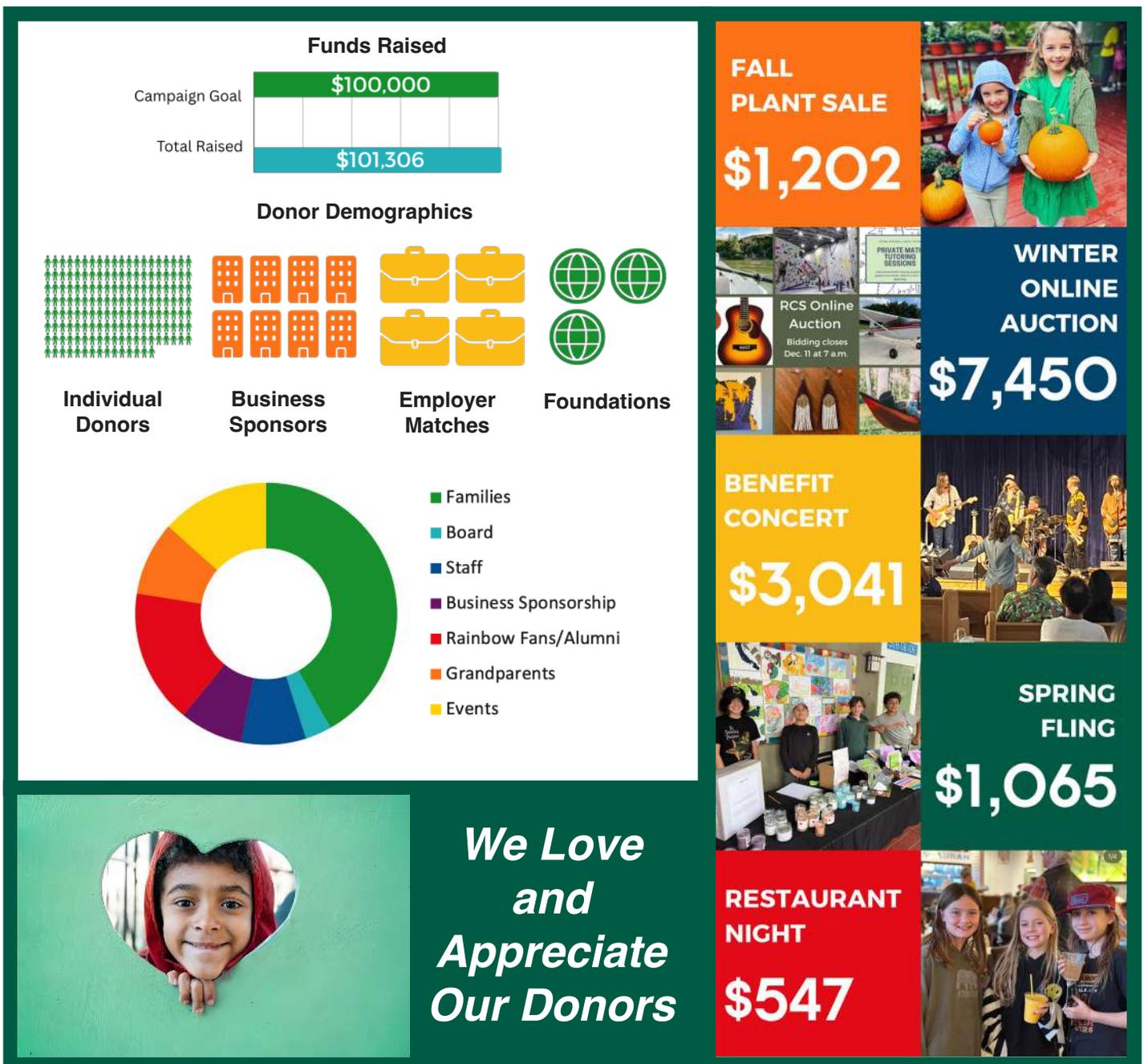
31 out of 36 counselors & mentors were alumni

Scampers Camp sessions (grades K-2 and 2-4) offered a low counselor-to-child ratio of 1:5 and included two specialty teachers, one alumni leader, two high school alumni, and one to two middle school volunteers. Specialty camps for 4th-8th graders were lead by one specialty teacher and one alumni counselor.

Development

Every independent school has an annual campaign that helps cover the gap between the cost of tuition and cost of operating the school. At Rainbow, 80% of the school's outgoing expenses pay for compensation and training for our highly qualified faculty, staff, and contracted employees. Tuition covers most of our outgoing expenses; but, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we also rely on tax-deductible donations, grants, and other fundraising efforts to help close the gap.

The 2023-24 school year's fundraising goal was \$100,000.



Donations Support EVERYTHING We Do. They...



• Retain Quality Teachers



• Support the relationships students make with their peers and teachers, their love of learning, and the safety they feel



• Maintain Small Class Sizes



• Help make RCS affordable to a wider range of students, bringing students the many benefits of social and economic diversity



• Enhance Our 5-acre Campus



• Fund Classroom Materials

There are Many Ways to Give...

One-Time Gift 

 Make a Pledge or Recurring Donation

Tribute or Memorial Gift 

 Matching Gift

Business Sponsorship 

 Gift of Stock

Planned Giving 

 IRA Charitable Giving

Do you wish to

DONATE?



SCAN ME 

Or visit our website: www.rainbowcommunityschool.org/annual-campaign-giving

**RCS is a 501(c)(3).
All Gifts Are Tax
Deductible.**

In Deep Appreciation for Our Donors

Foundations

The Fletcher Foundation
The McMichael Family Foundation
The Shem Family Foundation

Employer Matching

CDK Global
Duke Energy
HCA
Publicis

Community Members

Aaron & Andrea Dishman
Abbey Milazzo
Alec and Susan Taylor
Ali & Nate Banchiere
Amanda Campisi
Amber & Daniel Baseman
Amber Acheson & Michael Greenfield
Amy & Creighton Mitchell
Andrea & Peter Rosal
Angela & Randy Collins
Ann & Welcker Taylor
Anna & David Skinner
Anne Pagano
Anne Pagano & Luke Hopkins
Anne-Marie & Daniel Gentle
Ashley Munday
Bali & Stephen Mitchell
Barbi Brittain
Bella & Forrest Sleeper
Ben & Linda Meade
Billy Roberts
Bob & Judy Schrader
Bobbe & Thomas Spink
Brian Relph
Brigitta & Mark Catoe
Brigitte & Bradley Newsom
Carole & Doug McClellan
Carolyn & Dallas Gordon
Casey and Christopher Arbor
Clara Romero
Concepcion Cabanas
Curry First & Patricia Robertson
Dawn McCarthy & Carlos Arcos
Deavours Hall
Debby and Jim Broyles
Deena & Chris Burris
Derek & Leah Hoffman
Derek Keevil & Elizabeth Hamer
Dora & Keith Sharpe
Dusty McKeelan



Ed & Kate Connealy
Eleanor & Daniel Macken
Elyse & Jess Bernstein
Emi Kubota
Faith & Jon Laux
Gina Sassano & Douglas Buchalter
Gordon & Sue Robinson
Graham Carson
Griselda & Alvaro Ramos
Heather Brown-Power
Helen Kuhne
Hilawe Semungegus & Jessica Blunden
Holly & Todd McDonald
Holly Fink
Ilan Segal & Carolina Henao-Segal
Jana Watts & Terrence Greene
Janet Doellgast
Jean & Tom Keevil
Jeffie Cilano
Jeffrey & TJ Mool
Jenifer Fisher
Jennifer Bass
Jennifer Burnett & David Mulder
Jennifer Jacobs & Jeff Stettner
Jenny Armocida
Jessy & Marc Tickle
Jo-Anne Chassner
Joan & Jay Lannon
John & Wendy Bickart
Josh Shemroske
Josh Spivak & Julie Vreeland
Joy Cowburn
Julie & Neil Gillespie
Kali & Brian DeWine
Kate & Jonathan Chassner
Kate Brantley
Katherine Ayachi
Katie Lannon & Andy Schrader
Katie Washburn & Dustin Mason
Kendall Wright-Oliver

Keri Justice
Kevin Markham & Annie Riker
Kristen & Jeremy Winstead
Kristin & Gregory Candell
Larry & Medora Willmore
Laura Blackley
Laura Pierz & Jeffrey Rix
Lauren & Ben Levine
Leah Graham Stewart & Jeff Stewart
Linda & Phil Roach
Lindsay McKeelan
Lisa Saraceno
Lissadell Greene & Josef Butts
Liz Bulkley
Mahabisa Etzem
Marci & Daniel Bernstein
Marcus & Sarka Cade
Margaret Gerleve
Maria and Mel Saraceno
Marissa & Darren Green
Mark & Mary Northrup
Mary Sidney C. Surlis
Meg & Dan Ferrell
Melissa & Jeffrey Pheterson
Melissa Scott & Tanner Blair
Michelle Reames
Morgan Schweigert
Myron & Randee Jacobs
Natalia Chorna and Max Kushnirenko
Nathan Ellis
Niki Gilbert & Andy Wallace
Noah Crosson
Pamela Goodrum
Patricia Rockwell
Peggy Lyle
Rachel Hagen
Rene Bowser
Rene Treece
Renee Owen
Continued on the next page...

Fiscal Operations

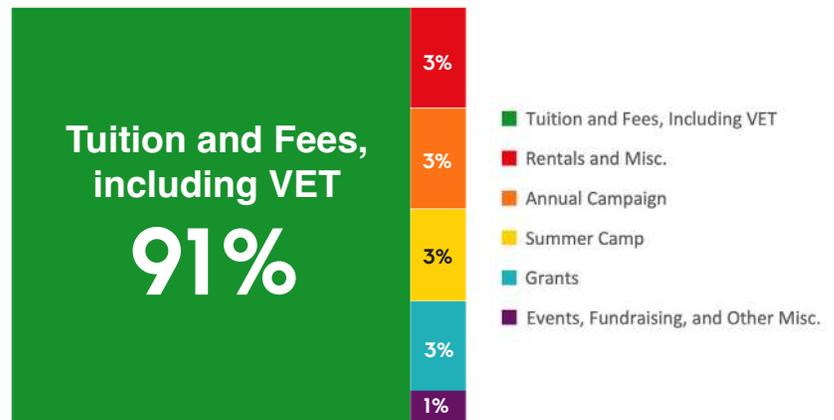
... Donor Appreciation Continued

Richard & Judy Appelbaum
 Rob Starr & Hannah Cosner
 Robert & Susan Hamer
 Rodrigo Garza & Allison Mascorro
 Ronn & Rae Gilbert
 Rosita Ferrell
 Roy Shapiro
 Ruth & Meहुल Bhakta
 Sahra Laird Barclay & Ibrahim Barclay
 Samantha Davis
 Sandra & Eddie McCassim
 Sarah & Aaron Kotranza
 Sarah & Ryan Slechta
 Sevn & Huma McAuley
 Shannon Ardaiole & Denver Gravely
 Sharon Hyman
 Shaun Fain
 Spring & Robin Haigler
 Stewart Stokes & Tracy Hildebrand
 Sunita & Nunzio Pagano
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 Susie Fahrer
 Tessa & Callum McDonald
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 Viviana Saraceno
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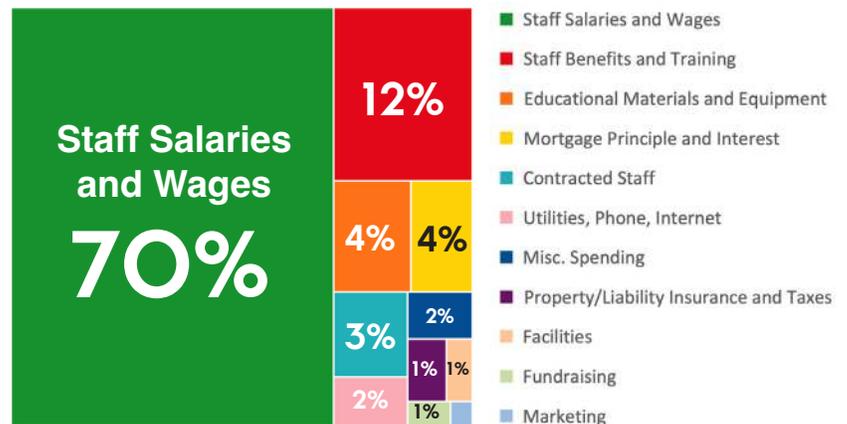
Kaplan CFO Solutions

Rainbow hired Kaplan CFO Solutions to partner on a deep dive into our fiscal practices and long term financial planning. In partnership with the Board, Executive Director, and Business Manager, budgeting tracking and long-term planning was revitalized in support of efficiency and budgetary best practice.

Total Revenue: \$3,272,754



Total Expenses: \$3,122,902



Additional Funding & Resources Outside of Our Annual Budget in Support of Our School Programming

- Title I Tutors were provided by Asheville City Schools.
- \$3,835 in Title II Funds (supports professional development)
- \$4,128 in Title IV Funds (supports well-rounded education)
- \$83,893 in Preschool Stabilization Grant Funds (supports teacher bonuses and facility upgrades.)



Community School

As a community school, we foster meaningful relationships between and beyond our campus community.

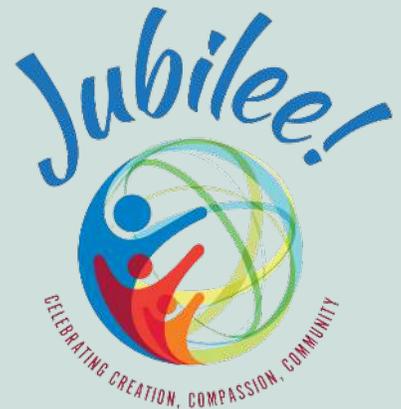
Grandfriend's Day



"Love is the greatest gift that one generation can leave to another." - Richard Garnett

Our annual Grandfriend's Day experienced the same record turnout that we experienced over the last few years. It was such an honor to welcome so many of our beloved and venerable Grandfriends to campus for a special program and classroom visits. We are so thankful for the love and light they bring to our students' lives.

Facilities Rental



RCS welcomed the Jubilee! community as permanent renters of our space. Jubilee meets in the RCS Community Center every Sunday.

Botiwalla Restaurant Night

In partnership with a Rainbow Alumni family and restaurant owners our community gathered for fellowship, fundraising and fun.



UNCA Basketball

RCS students were invited to attend UNCA basketball games and had the highest attendance of the season.



Manna Food Drive

Our students collected over 620 pounds of canned goods and other food items over the course of a food drive for Manna Food Bank, organized by our Omega 7/8 students.



Community Connections

A growing part of our Omega 7/8 program is "Community Connections". This is an opportunity for our students to take on leadership roles, to build relationships with younger children, and to serve our school community through creative collaborations and stewardship of our campus environment. For example, over one month in the fall, Omega 7/8 students partnered with kindergarten students to clear leaves from the Outdoor Classroom. Omega 7/8 students also led team-building and parachute games with second graders, hosted group games with fourth graders, and showed fifth graders how to work with microscopes and search for tardigrades.



Alumni Spotlight



Cassie Sweetland (RCS Alumni Class of 2020) graduated high school in May 2024. During her time at the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA), Cassie completed over 3,000 volunteer hours at a wildlife refuge, was a member of the track team, served as a Co-President of the Ecology Club, and was a member of HOSA (Future Health Professionals). She also served as the Science National Honor Society President, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was a member of the international mathematics honor society, Mu Alpha Theta. Cassie now attends the University of Georgia and plans to pursue Veterinary Medicine after she receives her undergraduate degree.

High School Expo



We partnered with eleven local high schools for a well-attended High School Expo, a public event hosted by Rainbow Community School and Omega Middle School that supports area middle school families in choosing a high school for their rising ninth grade students.



A Look Ahead



Facilities Committee: Visioning Into the Future

A Facilities Committee was founded by the Board of Directors to support short and long-term visioning and planning around our physical space and ways to manifest our mission and vision through our beautiful 5-acre campus. The Green Heart site plan, designed by Altura Architects in 2023, centers our sacred green space by shifting traffic patterns to the exterior of the campus. Using the Green Heart site plan as a guiding document, this committee gathers to make decisions in support of our campus.



Facilities improvements during the 2023-24 school year included replacing the roof on Rainbow Row, which houses PK, 1st, 4th, and 5th grades and installing Eufy security alarm system in all of our buildings.

RCS/OMS Board of Directors

- Kali DeWine, Chair
- Ruth Bhakta, Vice Chair
- Nate Banchiere, Finance Officer
- Pamela Goodrum, Secretary
- Jeffie Cilano
- Jean David
- Sevn McAuley
- Dusty McKeelan
- Melissa Scott



*Each member volunteering at least 10 hours monthly toward school visioning, governance, and longevity.



Individually we shine.
Collectively, we enlighten.

Thank you for brightening this path with us!