

HORIZONS

SUMMER 2021 REPORT



WE HAD A "SUPER" SUMMER!

Thanks to the support of our fabulous community, we were able to offer six fun-filled weeks of adventure and learning for our incredible students this summer. On June 23rd, we welcomed 113 students to join us in our journey exploring things that soar: birds, superheroes, and our confidence. It was so good to be back together after a year of social distancing due to the pandemic. Our focus this year was to reconnect with our students to help them build their confidence to face the new school year with optimism and joy. The six weeks flew by far too fast. This report shares some of the highlights of our program.

We encourage you to visit our website or check us out on Facebook to stay connected with the many good things happening at Horizons.

We advance educational equity by building long-term partnerships with students, families, communities, and schools to create experiences outside of school that inspire the joy of learning.

2021 By The Numbers

- 113 Scholars
- 39 Team Members
- 62% Returning Staff
- 1 to 3 Student to Staff Ratio
- 6-weeks of Happiness
- 68% Returning Scholars
- 32% of New Students
- 56% Female
- 48% Male



BIRD STUDY

DID YOU KNOW THAT BIRDS ARE THE LAST SURVIVING LINEAGE OF DINOSAURS?

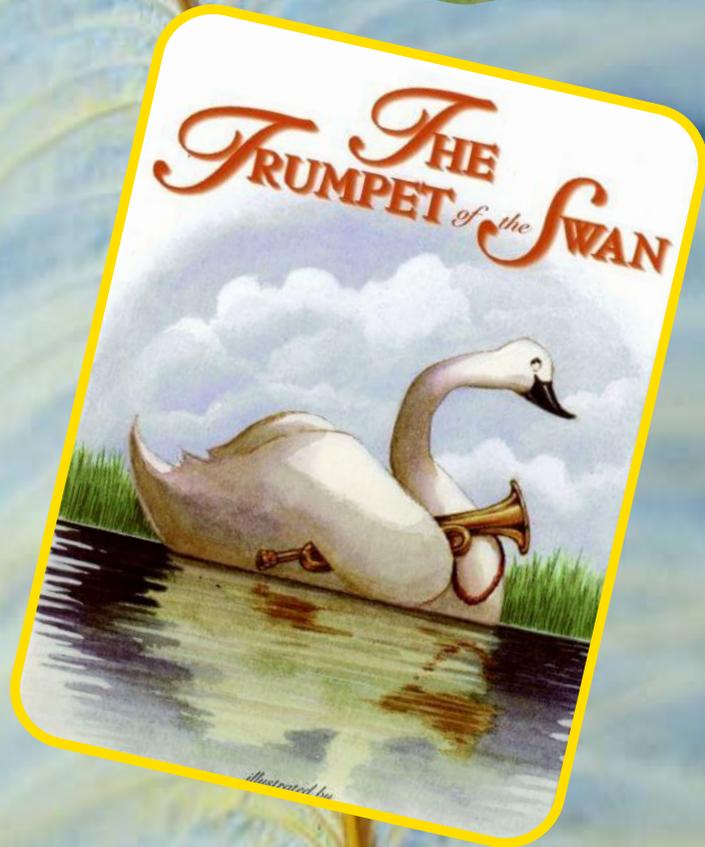
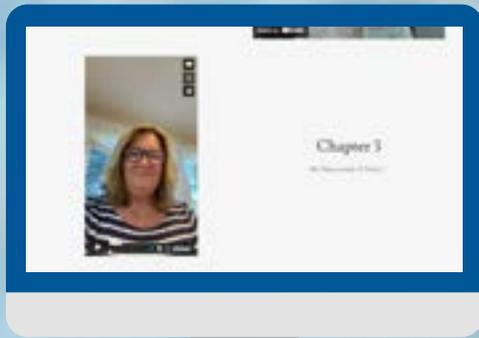
Horizons students had a glorious time this summer watching birds with their binoculars, recording their adventures in their bird journals, building birdhouses, as well as creating stories, songs, and summaries regarding all that they learned. Ms. Ashley from the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center taught us about birds of prey and led a birdwatching hike to help us appreciate the importance of preserving bird habitats. Students even created kites to learn more about flying and aerodynamics. It was a great opportunity for our students to develop a true appreciation of nature.



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

One of our favorite traditions at Horizons is "One School, One Book". This year, we all read *"The Trumpet of the Swan"* by E.B. White together. School principals, guidance counselors, board members, and other community members shared in the fun by recording a read aloud for our scholars to enjoy. Our students loved reading the adventures of Louis as he strived to find his way in the world utilizing his special talents and determination to live his best life.

Special thanks goes to local musician, Frank Plummer, for entertaining our students with his trumpet. It was the perfect kick-off to this treasured tradition.



"Reading the Trumpet of the Swan was my most favorite thing at Horizons this summer!"

~ First-grade scholar

FUN ADVENTURES

WEEKLY FAMILY SWIM NIGHTS

We gathered together at Camp Pecometh once a week. It was a wonderful way to spend a warm summer evening- cooling off in the pool and enjoying the company of family and friends.



THE PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II VOYAGE

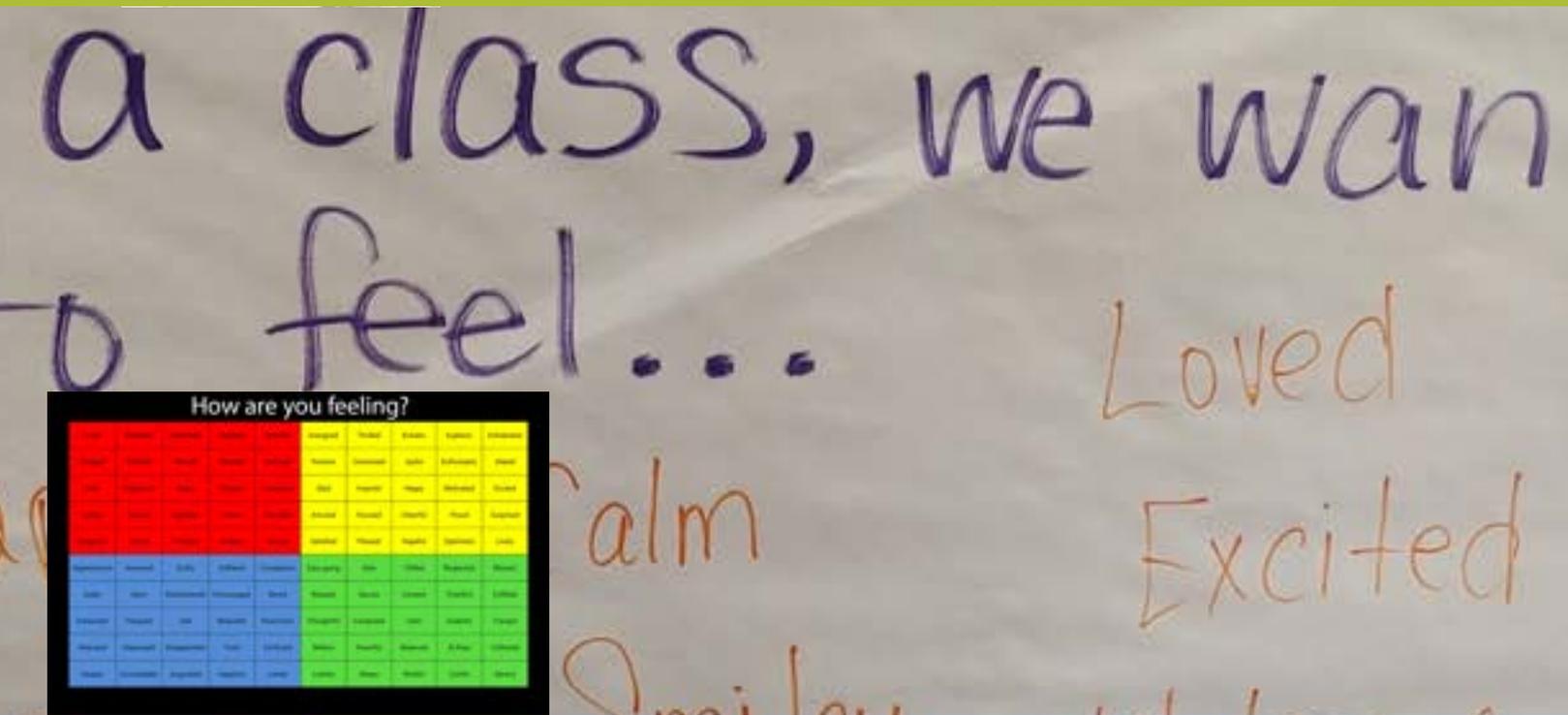
We helped raise the sails aboard the historic tall ship, The Pride of Baltimore II, and witnessed a cannon firing demonstration. It was an experience that will be remembered for a lifetime.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

RULER HELPED US TO ADJUST TO NEW SOCIAL SITUATIONS

After a year of social isolation due to the pandemic, we knew our scholars would need some extra support navigating social situations and peer interactions. RULER provided us with the framework we needed to explore our emotions and feelings to help us sort through the anxieties and uncertainties that the pandemic created. RULER is a social-emotional curriculum developed by Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence. It is based on the understanding that in order to manage our emotions, we must learn to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate them. We used the RULER mood meter to help us identify our feelings and established a Class Charter to ensure that we provided a safe space where all scholars were valued and accepted.



A MESSAGE FROM MS. JOSIE, HORIZONS COUNSELOR

"This summer I had the pleasure of being a part of the Horizons team. I enjoyed working with the children. Their kind and caring hearts, silly personalities, and determination to succeed made the 6 weeks at Horizons a blast! This year was different, as many students, and adults, were still navigating the challenges of the pandemic. Not having a normal school experience, seeing friends, teachers, and family members, and not having a routine can take a toll on our mental well-being. This summer, we worked on addressing our feelings, good or bad, and learning the best ways to deal with them. Being isolated for so long can cause us to forget how to really interact with people! The students and I talked about the importance of friendship, kindness, and taking care of ourselves. While it is important to treat others with respect, we also need to respect ourselves. Knowing when to ask for extra help, taking a "brain break", or simply doing something you enjoy, are all ways we can take care of ourselves. I am so proud of each student I was able to get to know and already look forward to next summer!"



LET'S TALK AND LT DAY CELEBRATION

At Horizons, we know the importance of trustworthiness, caring, citizenship, responsibility, respect, and fairness. We participate in daily Let's Talk discussions and character education is embedded in everything that we do.

Each summer, we honor the memory of L.T. Goodall who was a true friend to Horizons and a champion of character education. This LT Day, we asked students to select an organization that they felt made a positive difference in our community. Students created a short video thanking the organization for their work. This year our host schools, The Gunston School and the Kent School, as well as other important organizations such as medical services and health care workers were honored. (Please visit our website to see the videos.) After the projects were completed, students and staff enjoyed playing carnival games, cooling off with a snow cone, and visiting with Captain America who shared that to be a superhero, one must understand the importance of good character!



HORIZONS MADE LEARNING FUN

Our scholars enjoyed exploring and creating new things throughout our six-week summer program. From learning their multiplication facts through dance to utilizing robotics to make a project come to life, our students strengthened their confidence to enter the school year ready for success.

A large portion of the day at Horizons was dedicated to academic support. Our teachers and reading specialists used STAR and Lexia data to design lessons targeted to build reading fluency and comprehension skills. Teachers utilized hands-on activities to enhance students' understanding of mathematical concepts too. Scholars built models and calculated data from field studies. Some even designed a bakery, created a menu, and developed a business plan. It was a summer full of dreams, joy, and good work!



OPEN DOORS SPELLS SUCCESS

We were so grateful to partner with Open Doors this summer. The Open Doors Partners in Education is a new non-profit in Chestertown working to help students become proficient readers. Two of their Orton Gillingham-trained reading specialists joined the Horizons team and offered an assortment of lessons focused on foundational reading skills.

Reading is an essential skill to success. A confident reader can accomplish anything! Thanks to Open Doors, our scholars are well on the way to welcoming the new school year ready to master all of their learning goals.



THANK YOU FOR A SUPER SUMMER!

WE ARE ALL SUPERHEROES!

Horizons staff and students got to live their dream of becoming superheroes for the summer. Everyone participated in decorating their own superhero capes and masks. We even got to meet Captain America who taught us that everyone can have superhero powers if they practice the six pillars of character.



"I started coming to Horizons when I was 7 years old and now I am 14 and going into high school in the fall. I love Horizons because you get to see your friends and they have amazing teachers, and great opportunities!"

~ 8th grade scholar