



2017

## ANNUAL REPORT

CREATE YOURSELF.  
**CASA**

FILM & VIDEO CREATIVE WRITING VISUAL ART MUSIC DANCE THEATRE



The mission of Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School is to provide students with a rich, rigorous arts-infused high school program that enables them to succeed in college and careers.



Capital Region Arts and Education (CRAE) is a non-profit organization that provides financial support to the operations of the Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) Charter School and raises awareness as to the importance of CASA in arts education and academic excellence in the Greater Harrisburg region.



***mission***



## LETTERS FROM THE BOARDS

Greetings from the Administration and Board of Trustees of Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School!

Chartered in 2013, CASA's unique combination of intensive arts instruction with an outstanding traditional academic curriculum has made it one of the top performing public high schools in Pennsylvania. In 2017, CASA received a School Performance Profile Score of 90.3, ranking it second of all charter high schools in the Commonwealth and first in Central PA. Highly qualified teachers lead rigorous academic instruction helping students to improve their performance in all subjects, including math and science.

CASA's arts program was established almost 20 years ago to give creative students the opportunity for intensive arts study generally unavailable in traditional public schools. Today at CASA Charter School, students spend half of each day in their individual arts discipline, instructed by exceptional teachers through a disciplined curriculum enhanced by performances and master classes led by working artists.

Collaborative opportunities such as CASALive!, the cross-discipline annual performance written, produced, and performed by Juniors and Seniors, allow students to develop skills broadly applicable in college and careers.

Students and parents agree, CASA is a Central Pennsylvania treasure.

*"I firmly believe that her love of learning and music began at home at a very young age, and was polished by CASA. The staff, students, and all those who give their time to the school have left a permanent impression on her and it is one that she will never forget. I am eternally grateful. She is now excelling in all areas of life. Thank you from my whole heart."*

*– Mother of 2017 graduate*

*I appreciate all of the hard work that the CASA staff continues to do; from academics to arts to teaching students how to make sense of the world, CASA excels. My four years at CASA have been the best years of my life so far. It was an incredible experience that I will treasure forever, and one that I would not trade for anything. I have never felt more respected or valued as a student than in the classrooms at CASA."*

*– 2017 graduate*

We are proud of our accomplishments during the past five years and are looking forward to many future successes as we move into the next chapter of our school.

CASA Charter School isn't for every kid. But for CASA kids, it's everything.

Elizabeth Mullaugh  
CASA Board President

Timothy R. Wedling, M. Ed.  
CEO & Principal  
Capital Area School for the Arts

### CRAE

CRAE's volunteer Board of Directors works with local communities, charitable foundations, corporations and individual donors to provide the financial resources necessary for CASA to sustain its important work in helping form our artists of tomorrow.

This work includes soliciting grants, seeking financial sponsorships and donations from local companies and individuals, and educating other community organizations and the general public about CASA. It also serves to better connect the mission of CASA to the cultural growth of our communities and the economic importance of the arts in our region. Your support of CRAE makes an enormous difference on the lives of our young people, the vitality of arts in Central Pennsylvania and the economic growth that benefits all of us.

Sylvie St. Hilaire  
CRAE Board Chair

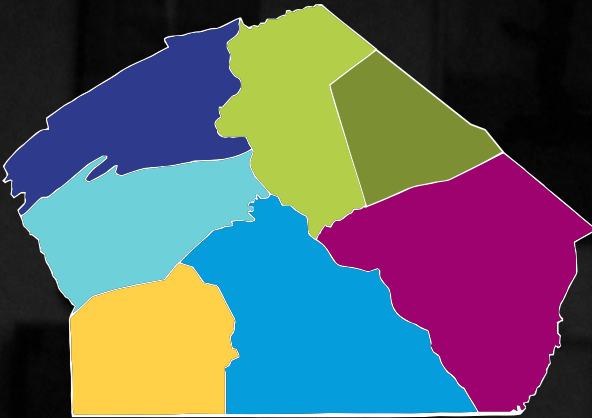
## ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-2018
Grade 9	39	45	42	56	49
Grade 10	38	46	46	49	54
Grade 11	37	43	46	46	53
Grade 12	19	42	51	46	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>199</b>

***"When running a comparative analysis of where CASA Charter School falls in the range of SPP scores of high schools in Central PA, CASA Charter School can take great pride in its effort."***

**DR. DAVID VOLKMAN**

*Executive Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary*



Talented youth come  
from all over the  
region to attend CASA!

Students come from 30 Districts in

DAUPHIN, CUMBERLAND, YORK, LANCASTER, ADAMS, UNION, LEBANON and PERRY COUNTIES.

# ***enrollment***

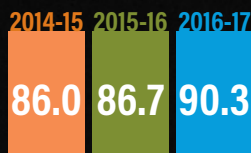


# *academic*

ACHIEVEMENT

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE (SPP)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has published School Performance Profiles for the 2016-2017 school year. CASA CHARTER SCHOOL'S BUILDING LEVEL ACADEMIC SCORE IS **90.3!** This score places CASA as one of the top-scoring charter schools in the Commonwealth and ranks the school higher than many area public high schools.

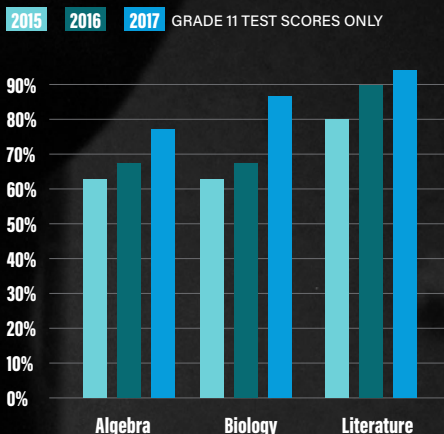


## SAT/ACT

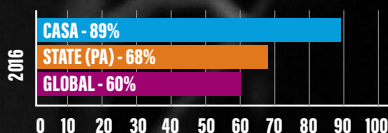
CASA students scored **above the state average** in both the SAT and ACT during the 16-17 school year.

## KEYSTONE EXAM RESULTS

The 2017 Keystone Exam results validate CASA's commitment to high quality, standards-based instruction in an environment where all students can thrive.



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS



79% of CASA AP test takers score a 3 or better on the exam, which qualifies them to receive college credit for those courses. In comparison, only 62% of AP exam testers in the state of PA scored 3 or better. **CASA students outperformed the state by 17%.**

*This data and chart are provided by The College Board.*

# *thank you to*

## **\$35,000 and above**

Alexander Grass Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. St. Hilaire  
Avalon

## **\$10,000 - \$34,999**

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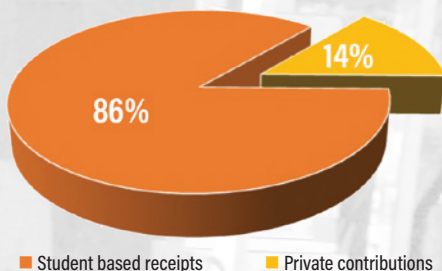
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Mr. Steve Perrault

# ***our sponsors***

CASA Charter School's primary funding is from student-based receipts in the form of student allocations from school districts and government grants and subsidies; however, these funds are not sufficient to cover CASA's operating expenses. As illustrated in the chart to the right, which breaks down total 2017 fiscal year expense funding source, foundation grants and private contributions are crucial for CASA's operations.

FY 2017 EXPENSES BY FUNDING SOURCE

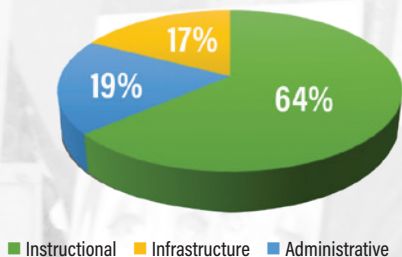


As stewards of these funds, the Administration and Board of Trustees of CASA Charter School annually develop a budget that reflects an investment in top quality arts and academic programs to produce the best possible outcomes for our students. Throughout the year, actual expenditures are closely monitored for adherence to this budget.

# *revenue & expense*

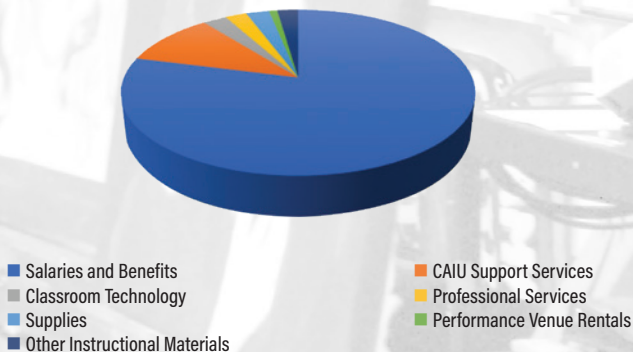


#### FY 2017 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



The chart at the left illustrates the breakdown of our 2017 fiscal year expenditures going towards expenses by function - i.e. instructional, infrastructure (facilities and technology), and administrative support. CASA's spending is focused on our students, with over 80% of our fiscal year 2017 expenditures going toward instructional and infrastructure costs.

#### FY 2017 INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSES



Highly qualified teachers are the key to academic success for CASA students. Accordingly, salaries and benefits make up the most significant portion of instructional expenditures, which reflects CASA's dedication to live teaching supplemented by online coursework (Capital Area Online Learning Association). Academic success is the proven return on this investment.

# *comparison*

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## CRAE

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Kristen M. Scofield - *Vice Chair*  
Audrey Sanders - *Secretary*  
Elizabeth Mullaugh - *Treasurer*

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Tracy Salinger-Long  
Fran Masciantonio  
Kristen Olewine Milke  
Elizabeth Reusswig  
Donna Curanzy-Seltzer  
David Skerpon

# board members



# staff

## CASA ADMINISTRATION

Timothy Wendling, *CEO/Principal*  
Amanda Rhinehart, *Assistant Principal*  
Sue Hill, *Assistant to the Principal*  
Vicki Chambers, *Administrative Assistant*  
Christine Baker, *School Counselor*  
Barbara Bradigan, *Nurse*  
Kate Adams, *Cafeteria Aide*

## CASA FACULTY

Stefanie Adlon, *French*  
Rosemary Battista, *Dance*  
T.J. Boyer, *Music*  
Robert Campbell, *Theatre*  
Jessica Christ, *Mathematics*  
Diana Cole, *Science*  
Mick Corman, *Film & Video*  
Katherine Deane, *Creative Writing*  
Kimberly Dickerson, *Mathematics*  
Katie Flood, *English*  
Renata Kagle, *Visual Art*  
Erica Leonard, *Social Studies*  
Kenna Ryder, *English*  
Julie Segarra, *Special Education*



## ***SAM ARNOLD***

Sam Arnold is a CASA graduate of the Class of 2017. While at CASA, Sam was a part of the music program. He started at CASA halfway into his freshman year when he decided that his home high school was not a good fit for him as a student. At CASA, he found success and a mentor in his music teacher, Mr. Boyer. He is grateful that CASA gave him a school experience that allowed him to grow as a person, and become who he is today. He gained wonderful friendships, skills for everyday life, and the motivation to succeed in the future. Sam is currently attending Dickinson College and majoring in Archeology, and he plans to continue his education and earn his Ph.D. While Sam is not pursuing a career in the arts field, he is very thankful for the amazing high school experience he had while at CASA.

# ***ALUMNI***



## ***KARA GRACE MILLER***

Kara Grace Miller is a CASA graduate of the Class of 2015. While at CASA, Kara was a part of the theatre program. Her experiences at CASA prepared her for her time with the Atlantic Acting School's Conservatory program in New York City, by teaching her how to be part of an ensemble. CASA encouraged her to be collaborative, create original work, and learn how to work with other artists, such as directors, musicians, and writers. She believes all of these skills have proven priceless in the New York City performance scene. Kara is currently busy acting and directing with Thirty-Three Theatre Company, a theatre company formed by her and her Atlantic classmates. She is auditioning for Broadway, Off-Broadway, and national tours for many popular shows, while also developing an independent web series. Kara is excited for the future and amazing opportunities she will have thanks to CASA.

## **IVORY MOON BROWNBACK**

is a CASA graduate of the Class of 2015. While at CASA, Ivory was a part of the theatre program. CASA provided her with an artistic environment and allowed her to be surrounded by other students who were excited to formulate new artistic ideas. Many of the techniques that she uses in her college theatre studies, she first learned in her time at CASA. She still uses many of the same warm-up exercises and performance techniques, as well as having a great knowledge of the history of theatre. Ivory is currently attending New York University's Tisch School of the Arts at the Lee Strasberg Studio. She has been practicing Strasberg's method, which is formulated for both film and television acting, and is grounded in the actor's deepest personal experiences. She most recently performed in the play, *The Time of Your Life*, by William Saroyan, as the character, Kitty. Ivory is excited to continue her training, and is appreciative of her preparation from CASA.



# SUCCESS

## **RAESHELL THOMPSON**

is a CASA graduate of the Class of 2015. While at CASA, Raeshell was a part of the dance program. She credits CASA for being a strong foundation for both her education and her dance career. At CASA, she developed the passion and discipline needed for her art. With her time at CASA, she had countless opportunities to perform in her community, explore her own movement language, and collaborate with other art forms such as visual art, music, and film. Raeshell currently attends Howard University, where she is majoring in dance. As she continues her career as a dance artist, she is grateful for many of the lessons she learned. She continues to "look at the world as her classroom", and is excited to push her art beyond the dance studio, as well as create a platform for her as an artist and activist. She credits CASA with inspiring her to pursue her passion.





**MUSIC** Individual and collective creativity are the focus of the music program. Combining study in content-based (music theory, ear training, solfege, music analysis) and performance-based (improvisation, technique, and expression) areas, vocalists and instrumentalists collaborate with each other to create original compositions and arrangements in a variety of styles. Additionally, students develop skills in reading music for their voice or instrument, and engage in interdisciplinary collaborations. Music students receive study and training to better prepare them for post-secondary music study and/or a career in the music industry.

***music***

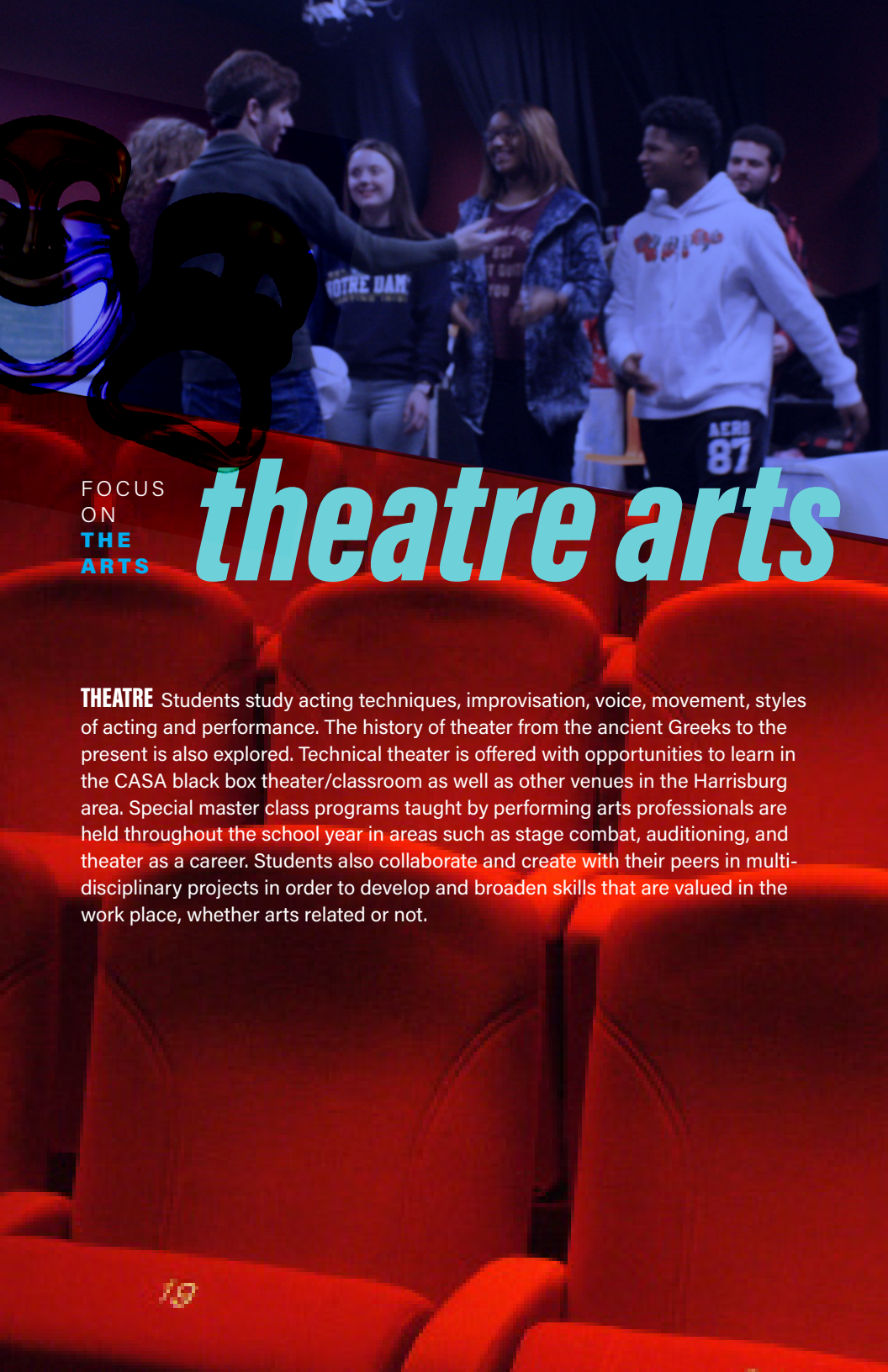


**VISUAL** The Visual Arts Program provides an introduction to philosophy of art; art criticism and art history, while offering art production classes in drawing, painting, and mixed media to build knowledge and technical skills for creative artworks. Introduction to a variety of drawing and painting media, compositional techniques, color theory critiques, and reflections upon the work provides skills needed to move from a realistic image to personal expression and



# *visual arts*

significant meaning. Through study of the urban landscape, still lifes and personally meaningful subject matters, students develop a strong foundation of observational skills and a portfolio of artwork for college reviews. The focus is on individual development of each student's personal style. Artwork displayed in local venues is used as a resource for study. Field trips and visiting artists provide connection to the real world of art. Students also exhibit their work and collaborate with their colleagues in other art areas.



FOCUS  
ON  
**THE  
ARTS**

# *theatre arts*

**THEATRE** Students study acting techniques, improvisation, voice, movement, styles of acting and performance. The history of theater from the ancient Greeks to the present is also explored. Technical theater is offered with opportunities to learn in the CASA black box theater/classroom as well as other venues in the Harrisburg area. Special master class programs taught by performing arts professionals are held throughout the school year in areas such as stage combat, auditioning, and theater as a career. Students also collaborate and create with their peers in multi-disciplinary projects in order to develop and broaden skills that are valued in the work place, whether arts related or not.



FOCUS ON **THE ARTS**

# *creative writing*

**CREATIVE WRITING** The program offers students an intensive workshop environment in various forms of writing and communication, including prose (creative nonfiction, fiction, personal essay and opinion, writing for news media), and writing for stage and screen. Students participate in the creation and publication of a literary magazine, develop screenplays, stage scripts and collaborate with students in other art disciplines. Writing students are also encouraged to work in mentoring positions with local media outlets.



# dance

**DANCE** Creativity and individuality as well as precise technical skills are the focus of the dance curriculum at CASA. Emphasis is placed on modern dance due to its expressive nature, classical ballet for its discipline and structure, and classical jazz techniques to achieve a well-rounded experience. Cultural forms are also introduced through guest artists. Harrisburg Area Community College partners with the CASA dance program by providing master classes, workshops, and mentoring opportunities through the Performing Artists Series of the College. The academic thrust of the program is based on the study of dance history, technique theory, and health awareness. Choreography and performance production is explored both through academic study and active participation in the creation of original dance compositions and formal performance. Resume, portfolio development, and audition preparation focus on each student's future aspirations.



**FILM** The Film and Video Program introduces the students to the creation of expressionistic, realistic video and film productions. Students are given theoretical and practical experiences in traditional and state-of-the-art video equipment. Using digital video cameras and Final Cut Pro editing software, the students create short

# *film & video*

narrative, artistic, documentary and music style films and videos. The film and video department has an updated editing lab, which allows each student to edit independently on Final Cut Pro. Emphasis on composition camera angles, creative content, and effective editing allow the students to create a strong body of work. They use this body of work to create a personal

DVD that can be shown during college visits, internships, job interviews, film festivals and to family and friends. Film and video students also collaborate with dance, music, theater, visual arts, and creative writing students to create film and video pieces for incorporation into live performances.





CASA Charter School has robust collective relationships with several area arts organizations and businesses, including Gamut Theatre, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, the Rose Lehrman Arts Center at HACC, Open Stage, Theatre Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania Chamber, JumpStreet, Market Square Concerts, Wildwood Park (Art in the Wild), Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz, and more. Collaborative projects have included internships, Master Classes, and performances, each contributing to the arts education of students of CASA Charter School and their role as valued members of the arts communities of Central Pennsylvania.



*student &  
community  
impact*

# Sunset Soirée



Capital Area School for the Arts

The annual Sunset Soiree is CRAE's signature event that is held in September of each year. Friends of CASA and CRAE gather to enjoy a casual evening of socializing, great food and terrific wine. Our 200 guests also have the opportunity to experience the incredible talent of the CASA students first hand. The event is typically held at a private residence, though the 2018 Soiree will be an even bigger celebration and will be held at the Whitaker Center and Hilton Harrisburg, as we honor Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn W. Zehner for their inspiring contributions to CASA since its very beginning.

## CASA LIVE

one night.  
one show.  
***ALL ORIGINAL.***

CASALive! is the culminating experience for CASA juniors and seniors. Students collaborate with each other and their teachers to create the entire production. Everything is completely original and new. Last year, over 600 audience members were able to experience "The Wonder Within." The production explored the beautiful, the unexpected, and the unfamiliar.