

2019-2020

CAPITAL AREA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
CHARTER SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT



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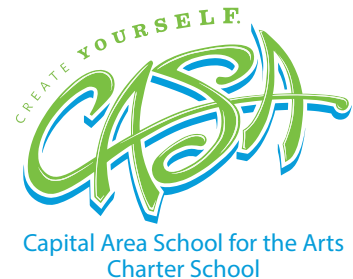


OUR MISSION_____

CAPITAL AREA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL

casa-arts.org

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



CASA CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION

casafound.org

CASA Charter School Foundation 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.



LETTERS FROM THE BOARDS

FROM THE CASA CEO & PRINCIPAL

Greetings from the Administration of Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School! Chartered in 2013, CASA's unique combination of intensive arts instruction with an outstanding 21st century academic curriculum has made it one of the top performing public high schools in Pennsylvania and the Nation.

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 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 curricular annual performance written, produced, and performed by juniors and seniors while guided by their teachers, allow students to develop skills broadly applicable in college and careers.



This past year has brought many challenges to schools across the country. Overnight, teachers, students, and families, had to rearrange their entire lives and adjust to the new normal. The COVID-19 crisis has changed the delivery method of instruction at CASA for the time-being, however, our teachers and students are always up for a challenge. As we look forward to the new school year, we are excited about the opportunities to come. There are many uncertainties, but we know one thing, because of the unwavering support of our donors and the community at large, we will be moving into a new 10,000 square foot academic wing in Strawberry Square where we can continue to expand our academic offerings and create lifelong learners. It is an exciting time at CASA and I am honored to be a part of it!

Timothy R. Wendling, M.Ed

CEO & Principal, Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School



FROM THE CASA BOARD

Welcome to YOUR 2019 annual report, which recounts yet another five-star performance.

The CASA success story features roughly 200 talented high school students, who dazzle both on stage and in the classroom. It also tells the tale about a cast of remarkably skilled, inspiring and creative educators, parents and supporters.

Our school is a rare and winning combination: achieving excellence in academics and the arts. Proof-positive: our enviable ranking as one of the best performing charter schools in Pennsylvania and among the top 16 percent of high schools in the nation, as reflected in US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

The accolades we earned are undoubtedly a harbinger of those to come. Yet the academic year was also peppered with hurdles to scale. When a global pandemic triggered a monumental shift in the way we lived and learned, our students and educators displayed amazing resilience and creativity.

While CASA students have always impressed me, my admiration for their ability to adapt and excel has grown exponentially. Amid uncertainty, our students continued to rewrite the script, which is still creating their art and creating themselves.

The board is optimistic about the future for our students and school. Our classroom expansion project on the third floor of Strawberry Square will soon be open for discovery, housing our academic classrooms including a new science lab and administrative offices. STEAM learning opportunities will grow, and our academic needs will be fulfilled, in an exciting topping to a novel year.

The board thanks our team of educators for being so incredibly motivated to ensure the continuity of education this past year. We also thank our community of engaged parents, our dedicated students and our supporters.

Together, we at CASA will continue to create beauty in our world, and within.

Fina Salvo

CASA Board of Trustees President



FROM THE CASA CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD

In 2019, the CRAE Board of Directors voted to legally change our name to CASA Charter School Foundation. After several years of confusing our donors, and community with a name unrelated to CASA Charter School we agreed it was time to more clearly brand the fund raising board of our school. To complete its mission, Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School Foundation (CASA Charter School Foundation) is a nonprofit 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.

The Board of Directors of CASA Charter School Foundation is proud of its association with CASA during the school's formative years, and continues to support the school as it enters the second year of our 5-year charter renewal.

The CASA Charter School Foundation Board is enthusiastically supporting the most recent financial need of the CASA Charter School, building out an academics wing in the Strawberry Square space where CASA Charter School resides. The board has set a goal of raising \$2,000,000.00 to not only outfit a state of the art academics wing, but to also raise operating funds, and begin an endowment for future needs of the school.

CASA Charter School Foundation board members dedicate countless hours to making sure CASA students have the very best in available resources to achieve their goals and receive the best education possible. 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 Charter School. Through these efforts, CASA Charter School Foundation seeks to better connect the mission of CASA Charter School to the cultural growth of our communities and the economic importance of the arts in our region. Your support of CASA Charter School Foundation makes an enormous difference in the lives of our young people, the vitality of arts in Central Pennsylvania, and the economic growth that benefits all of us.

David Skerpon

CASA Charter School Foundation Board Chair



ENROLLMENT_____

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
GRADE 9	42	56	41	37	51
GRADE 10	46	49	55	49	46
GRADE 11	46	46	52	51	53
GRADE 12	51	46	51	49	50
	185	197	199	186	200

Students come from

29 school districts

7 Counties:

BERKS, CUMBERLAND, DAUPHIN, LANCASTER,
LEBANON, PERRY, YORK



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

ADVANCED PLACEMENT RESULTS

When admissions officers see “AP” on a students’ transcript, they know that what the student experienced in a particular class has prepared them well for the challenges of college. Taking AP is a sign that the student is up for the most rigorous classes the school has to offer.

**Percent of students
scoring a 3 or higher
on the Advanced
Placement Test**

CASA
80%

GLOBAL
59%

KEYSTONE EXAM RESULTS

	CASA	STATE AVERAGE
BIOLOGY	91.3% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED	63.2% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
LITERATURE	87% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED	71.5% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED
ALGEBRA	80% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED	63.3% PROFICIENT/ADVANCED

EVIDENCED-BASED READING/WRITING

CASA STATE GLOBAL
580 545 531

CASA students excelled in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing with a score of 580 in 2019, while the Pennsylvania state average was 545 and the global average was 531.

SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) RESULTS

CASA AVERAGE 1095

STATE AVERAGE 1082

GLOBAL AVERAGE 1059

CASA students’ SAT scores were **above** the state and global average.



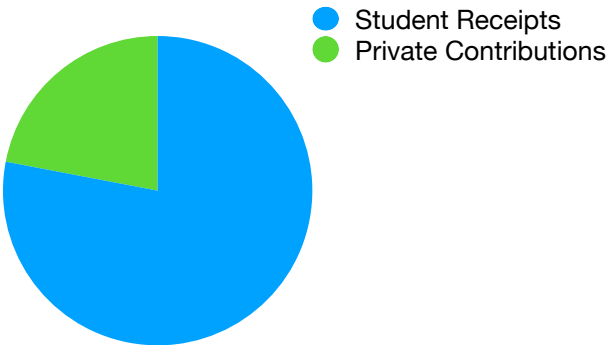


REVENUE & EXPENSE

COMPARISON

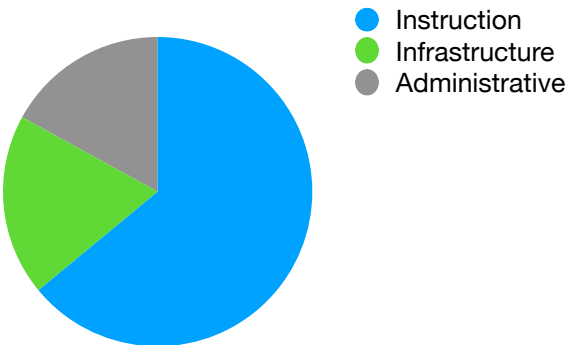
2019 INCOME BY FUNDING SOURCE

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. Foundation grants and private contributions are crucial for CASA’s operations.

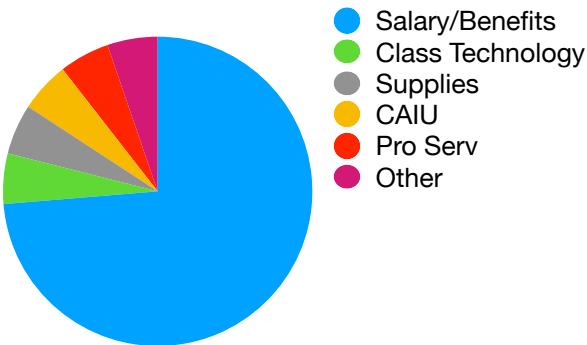


2019 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

The chart illustrates the breakdown of CASA’s 2019 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 83% of our fiscal year 2019 expenditures going toward these costs.



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.



As stewards of these funds, the Administration and Board of Trustees of CASA Charter School develop an annual 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

2019-2020 CASA SPONSORS

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Select Specialty Hospital
Weis Markets

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UPMC Pinnacle Health Foundation
William and Virginia Brody Fund

This list recognizes the individual contributions of \$50 or more to CASA Charter School and CASA Charter School Foundation received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. We make every effort to be complete and accurate.



CREATE YOURSELF.

ANNUAL REPORT

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