



MISSION



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.

“Unity”

The title of the art piece on the front cover is “Unity”. The six people dancing and laughing together represent all of the art forms at CASA that join together, not only as a school but also as a family and community. We thrive on integration, and it forces us to become better artists - and that makes us stronger together.





crae

CAPITAL REGION ARTS & EDUCATION

Welcome you to

Celebration Soirée

Honoring

Lois Lehrman Grass

Dr. Glenn W. Zehner

at the time of the school's Historic Charter Renewal

Whitaker Center
Sunoco Performance Theater

September 20, 2018

CASA Student Performances

OPENING:

Bird's Eye

(Beauty of the Unknown)

Originally developed as the opening number for **The Wonder Within** (CASALive! 2017), this song asks the audience to take a step back and look at the bigger picture of life, to embrace a point of view where we cannot help but be struck by the beauty and wonder of the world around us. Originally staged as a collaboration scene involving Music, Dance, Theatre, Film, and Writing students, the song has been re-envisioned for tonight's celebration as a celebratory opening number with all performers live onstage. *Features: Band, Vocal Performance Ensemble, & Featured Dance Ensemble*

DANCE:

EARTH

This energetic duet first debuted as part of the 2017-18 Midyear dance performance at the Pennsylvania State Museum. It has since been featured in a national choreography showcase in New York City. *Features: Senior dance students Jordan Allen and Hannah See*

ART & MUSIC

COLLABORATION:

THE CREATIVE SPARK

This original music and visual art piece was developed especially for tonight's celebration. Inspired by a scene from **Mirror** (CASALive! 2018) called "Prisms," we wanted to feature visual artwork from throughout CASA's history. Culled from the Visual Arts archive and edited by Film students, "The Creative Spark" offers a creative, whimsical, and engaging format, propelled by the rhythms and melodies of our featured Music students.

Features: Band

CLOSING:

Kaleidoscope

This piece, commissioned to explore the theme of "Better Together," debuted with a small ensemble at The Penn Stater conference center as a feature performance element of a mental health symposium hosted by the State of Pennsylvania. It was then further developed for the final scene of **Mirror** (CASALive! 2018). The piece is a symbolic celebration of the essence of what makes CASA special; our collaborative approach to creating multidisciplinary art is in its own way a rich kaleidoscope of limitless possibilities.

Features: Featured Actors, Featured Dance Ensemble, Band

BAND:

Phillip Cave
Nathan Harding
Tamia King
Amante Randolph
Alex Valsing
Eli Weary

FEATURED ACTORS:

Caroline Chronister
Devon Hilt
Jessica Robinson

VOCAL PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE:

Gabe Aguilar
Khris Bass
Rayonna Bellamy
Caroline Chronister
Elise Dawson
Greta Diehl
Kiersten Frantz
Caroline Healy
Marisa Kowalski
Victoria LaBoy

Connor McKean
Amber Moreno
Emily Reusswig
Jessica Robinson
India Scott
Mikayla Shirley
Josie Siders
Averie Snader
Maya Spitzer
Sammy Wiener
Molly Young

FEATURED DANCE ENSEMBLE:

Gabe Aguilar
Jordan Allen
Elizabeth Antes
Caroline Chronister
Angelina DiCostanzo
Elise Dawson
Emily Reusswig
India Scott
Hannah See

Message from the Co-Chairs

Warm greetings to our friends of Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School (CASA). We are delighted that you have joined us as we celebrate the five year charter renewal and honor two remarkable leaders and volunteers, Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner.

Tonight provides us the opportunity to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to our incredibly generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers and loyal CASA Circle of Friends. You have demonstrated your belief in CASA's mission and recognize its success by your support. While we laud the accomplishments and leadership of Lois and Glenn, it also is important to remember that tonight's event financially supports CASA and reaffirms our mission to be the significant and innovative provider of multi-disciplinary arts and academic education throughout Central Pennsylvania. CASA is determined to attract the most talented students and will be a model for 21st century learning.

We were fortunate to work with amazing people who devoted their talents and skills toward making tonight a great success. To those who are listed on our program that led, volunteered, solicited and consistently shared the CASA story in our community....THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Tonight we commend the vision of Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner and all who supported them in creating, building, and improving this wonderful school. Our heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Tim Wendling, our Principal and CEO, as well as Ms. Amanda Rhinehart, our Assistant Principal, and all of the teachers, parents, and most importantly, the students for making CASA such a remarkable school.

We are proud to support and be a part of CASA Charter School!

Kristin Scofield

David Skerpon

Co-Chairs



Message from the Honorary Chair



Welcome to a truly special evening where we celebrate the renewal of CASA's five-year charter and honor the school's founders, Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner!

The commitment that Ms. Grass has to arts and education has been apparent in the impact she has had in our community in a myriad of arts organizations, but none more apparent than her contribution in helping bring to life the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School. She truly has been the "wind beneath the wings" of CASA since the school's inception in 2001 providing financial support and unwavering guidance.

Her vision of an arts-based education with a rich academic curriculum has allowed the talented young people of our area to come together at CASA to express themselves and reach their artistic goals. None of this would have been possible without her relentless determination to "make it happen" in the establishment of the charter school for our community. The word "cannot" has never been in her vocabulary and CASA today is a tribute to that resolve.

Tonight, we recognize the visionaries of CASA, Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner, and thank them profoundly for making a lasting and positive impact on countless young lives. We also thank you this evening for joining in the celebration!

Kristen Olewine Milke

*Honorary Chairperson
Celebration Soiree*

Message from the Honorary Chair



Tonight, we honor the hard work and dedication of two caring individuals and their passion for education and the arts! While we celebrate the future of CASA, we also reflect on the past, and the impact of Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner.

During his tenure at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, Dr. Zehner understood CASA's vision and worked closely with the founding board members to assure that their dream become a reality. Since the seed of CASA was first planted in 2001, Dr. Zehner has provided educational support, advice, and mentorship to all of his colleagues. His support helped to create an academically challenging school that provides an intense focus on the arts.

Dr. Zehner and Lois Lehrman Grass led the charge to create a "community" school for the arts that also strives to provide the best educational experience for all students.

We are sincerely grateful to Dr. Glenn Zehner and Lois Lehrman Grass this evening for never giving up on the dream of CASA. Additionally, we thank all of you for believing in this dream and helping us celebrate the Capital Area School for the Arts.

Dr. David Volkman

*Honorary Chairperson
Celebration Soiree*

Message from the President / CEO



CASA Charter School is a gem in Central Pennsylvania. Since 2013, over 150 students have received their diplomas from CASA. It has been a pleasure being associated with this incredible school. CASA not only offers top-notch art classes, but also a standards-based, rigorous curriculum that prepares students for college and career.

CASA students are succeeding in school, outside of school, and after high school. I am so proud of what they have been able to accomplish. The academic achievement of CASA students ranks them among the highest performing students in Central Pennsylvania.

I want to thank Lois and Glenn for all they have done to envision, create, and develop this amazing school. Without the knowledge, support, and dedication of Lois and Glenn, CASA would never have become what it is today. From the bottom of my heart and the students' hearts, I want to thank them for all they have done for the CASA family. We are truly lucky!

Timothy Wendling

CEO / Principal



LOIS LEHRMAN GRASS

We honor and celebrate Lois Lehrman Grass and her contributions in helping bring life to the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School (CASA). Glenn W. Zehner, Ed.D. and Ms. Grass helped turn a community dream into a reality. She has provided financial support and guidance since the school's inception in 2001.

As is the theme of the Celebration Soiree, we acknowledge Ms. Grass' impact through the allegorical "garden of talent" that has blossomed as a result of a rich academic and arts-based education. Through CASA, students and community members alike in the greater Harrisburg region have been touched by the expression, exploration, and study of the arts. As a long-time community philanthropist and Harrisburg native, her commitment to the arts and education is also apparent in her involvement in the Jewish Family Service, Allied Arts which became the Cultural Enrichment Fund, Whitaker Center for the Arts and Sciences, and the Rose Lehrman Arts Center at Harrisburg Area Community College. Ms. Grass was the first chair of the Board of Directors of CASA as well as Capital Region Arts and Education (CRAE). From 1983 to 1994, she chaired the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, now known as the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Ms. Grass has been the recipient of numerous awards including the 1999 Governor's Award for the Arts. She was named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania in 1988 and was the first recipient of the Theatre Harrisburg's Arts Award in 1989.



Message from Lois Lehrman Grass

To My Dear Friends at CASA:

For nearly two decades, CASA has provided a safe and welcoming environment that allows its students to explore and cultivate their talents.

So many superstars deserve a standing ovation tonight. From our volunteers, board members and teachers, to our students, sponsors and “real-world” partners, every character in our CASA cast have played a crucial role in transforming a struggling arts magnet school into a powerhouse of positivity and creativity. Today we are, impressively, 200 student-artists strong.

I am delighted to welcome you personally to the majestic Whitaker Center — CASA's home “field” and a building that holds a special place in my heart. We celebrate and build upon the inspirational legacy of so many founders and volunteers, like Anne Alsedek and Glenn Zehner. We truly are a family, from “A” to “Z,” united by a common purpose — a pure, vibrant love of the arts and CASA.

Our annual report is more than a series of charts, bar graphs and statistics. It is a montage of raw talent, disciplined practice, true grit, and creative genius. With the April renewal of our charter for another five years and the continued support of all our friends and supporters, we will continue making a critical difference in the lives of the young people who walk through our doors.

Thanks to you, we have created masterpieces in six fields of study: dance, music, creative writing, film and video, visual arts, and theatre. Moreover, we have cultivated both sides of the brain in our students—not only the creative right-brained hemisphere but the logical left side. Arts and academics combine to form a well-founded Renaissance student with a future as bright as those stage lights.

I am grateful for this opportunity to salute every single one of you for your involvement and selfless sacrifices. Thank you for ensuring that we can someday pass the baton to future artists and generations – whether that baton is in the form of a microphone, a paintbrush, a sheet of music, a laptop, or a script. You have magically changed, “I wish I could ...” into “I can't believe I am...”

Tonight, we celebrate 17 years of dream-making and look forward to years of dream-weaving to come. While we won't rest on our laurels, our Celebration Soiree is an appropriate time to appreciate how far we've come and re-commit to CASA's mission to, “provide students with a rich, rigorous, arts-infused high school program that enables them to succeed in college and careers.”

Sincerely,
Lois Lehrman Grass

GLENN W. ZEHNER, Ed.D.



With affection and gratitude, we thank Glenn W. Zehner, Ed.D. for his vision and role in founding the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School in 2001. From the beginning, Dr. Zehner envisioned a school with rigorous academic requirements. Over the years, he has continued to shape that rigor, cultivating the school's academic growth while serving as a board member and chairman of the Curriculum and Professional Development Committee.

Dr. Zehner is former superintendent of the East Pennsboro School District and retired executive director of the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in Enola. He is a part-time professor at Lebanon

Valley College and education consultant. As a graduate of Lehigh University, he received his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration. Dr. Zehner served on the board of directors for Central Penn College for 20 years. He now serves as a member of the college's Education Foundation Board as well as the board of the Capital Area IU's Champions for Children Foundation. Dr. Zehner has been honored with a George Leader Excellence in Education Award, a SAGE Award for service to the community, and a "World Series" ring as part of a Phillies Phantasy Camp championship team in 2011. He is married to Dr. Marsha Zehner and is a proud father and grandfather of son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Melissa, and their three children.



Message from Dr. Glenn Zehner

To My Dear Friends at CASA:

When I reflect upon the past 17 years at CASA, I often think of Duke Orsino's famous lament in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: "If music be the food of love, play on."

CASA has been playing beautiful music for 17 years, and with your help, we have the resources and the desire to play on. Those chords of harmony have fed the creative appetites and aptitudes of students, teachers and art lovers everywhere. CASA's music has allowed students to demonstrate love in its purest form: a painting, a poem, a photograph, a sculpture, a film, a song, a piece of fiction, a ballet.

CASA's successes surround and inspire us. I recently met a young manager at Hersheypark who revealed herself to be a CASA graduate. With no prodding at all, she told me how much she loved the school, and how she was temporarily working at the park to earn funds to continue to pursue her dreams. Although CASA's life has been a rollercoaster at times, that moment was a peak experience for me.

Likewise, when seniors announce their plans at the final performance at CASA Live!, those proud pathways always touch my heart. This is the culmination, the crescendo, the literary climax, the headline, the pinnacle. It is proof-positive that we have made a difference. So many graduating seniors rattle off scholarships they have earned, prestigious schools they are entering, and plays they will be headlining.

Without CASA, some students may not have finished high school. They may have felt too "different" in their traditional public school, but, here, we embrace different, we celebrate it, we cultivate it.

We treat students as individuals who are not only coming of age but coming, fully and fabulously, into their own.

Although we have witnessed phenomenal successes in the past 17 years, we have our eyes and ears fixed on the future. We must remain strong as a CASA family to overcome apathy and create art that lives on long after our time, and ourselves. Years ago, this school struggled to survive, and we cannot forget that it takes constant struggle to thrive.

I salute every supporter here tonight and thank you for your personal involvement and dedication in the renewal of our charter for another five years as well as your daily commitment. Thank you for working on behalf of CASA's talented, blossoming young artists, dancers, and musicians.

With your help, if all the world's a stage, CASA's students are destined to be the stars.

Sincerely,
Dr. Glenn Zehner

Who We Are | CASA

Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School (CASA Charter School) is Central Pennsylvania's premiere high school for arts education. The school provides rigorous standards-based traditional curriculum in all major subjects, as well as a unique arts education where students complete focused studies in the art field of their choice. CASA Charter School accepts students based on audition for entry into one of six artistic disciplines: dance, theatre arts, film and video, music, creative writing and visual arts. The school has become the region's hub for creative and academic talent, now serving nearly 200 students; and student test scores rank CASA as the second best charter school in the state.

CASA was first created in 2001 through a unique partnership between the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and Open Stage of Harrisburg. In 2013, the school received public charter school status and became an intensive, all-day academic and arts high school. In April of 2018, CASA received its charter renewal, allowing it to continue offering this unique arts and academics education. It is supported by the funding received from local school districts whose students attend CASA, as well as from Capital Region Arts and Education. For more information, visit casa-arts.org/.



Who We Are | CRAE

Capital Region Arts and Education (CRAE) is a nonprofit organization established to provide sustainable funding and financial support to CASA Charter School. CRAE's board of directors works with local communities, foundations, corporations and individual donors to provide the financial resources and community awareness necessary to sustain CASA's exceptional education and student support.

With the opportunity to celebrate both five years of incredible success as a charter school and the charter renewal, the CRAE board of directors honors Ms. Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner for their unwavering dedication to CASA's mission and success. Without their passion, persistence and substantial contributions of time, talent and resources, CASA would not have been established and would not be the thriving asset it is today.



supporting an arts-infused curriculum



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Supporting artistic education since 2013

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Alexandra Johnson | 19

Theatre

Home SD: Elizabethtown Area

Graduated in 2017

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: My home school district had an inadequate concentration for theatre arts, as the sports teams were the school's primary interest. I felt underwhelmed with the education I was receiving and wouldn't thrive in an unsupportive and stagnant learning environment. The idea of CASA appealed to me not only because of the concentration in theatre but because of their motto: create yourself. Having felt utterly invisible in my home district, CASA gave me a voice and identity.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: I wish that I dared to audition for CASA as soon as I started high school, but even just in the two years I attended, I learned so much more than I ever would have been able to at my previous school. Working with such patient and professional teachers as Lisa Weitzman and Robert Campbell, I learned not only the performance side of theatre, but also the production - a side that is seemingly undervalued and quite vital to virtually any performance. I learned multiple acting techniques such as Meisner and Stanislavski, as well as the basic skills of improv. I'm part of two well-respected improv troupes at my college and teach improv to students during the summer! If you're interested in a career in the theatre arts, CASA is definitely a skill builder that you want in your back pocket.



Benjamin Miller | 18

Film and Video/Creative Writing

Home SD: West Perry

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to attend CASA because I saw an opportunity to stray from the usual and delve into the immense world of art. I wanted to embellish what I knew I had within me. CASA seemed like the perfect place to do that.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: I've grown so much. Mostly, it's been trial, error, and effectively failing. The school is an amazing environment to allow creativity to flourish. Just being in the school has enabled me to become the artist I want to be.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement has been a combination of writing a feature-length screenplay, receiving photography awards, and being published.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan to move to Austin, Texas to go to college and pursue screenwriting and the film industry.

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Gaige Selvey | 18

Dance

Home SD: Central Dauphin

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: Originally, I wanted to attend out of curiosity. But over the years the curiosity about attending changed into my love of dance and an appreciation of the vast amount of education I was receiving.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: It has provided a supportive environment every day to train in my art.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan to attend West Virginia University for geology and dance.



Josiah Cash | 16

Music

Home SD: Susquehanna Township

Grade level: Junior

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to make the most of my music and prepare for college.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: Learning with [music teacher T.J. Boyer] - the way he teaches makes music fun.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: At the Student Council Fundraiser, I got Mr. Boyer with a pie.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan on going to an athletic or liberal arts college with a major or minor in music.

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Marirose Monaghan | 17
Creative Writing
Home SD: East Pennsboro Area
Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to attend a school where I could develop my creative skills and my passion for writing, as well as gain opportunities for exposure in the field I love.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: I have learned so much about the industry and collaborating with others.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My freshman year, I was published in The Burg. Seeing my work in print boosted my confidence and abilities.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I am studying politics at the Catholic University of America and hope to work in government relations with grassroots organizations.



Max Foster | 16
Music
Home SD: Northern York County
Grade level: Junior

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: CASA allows me to express myself in a safe environment.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: When I started, I was painfully shy but the noise program brought me out of my shell in collaborative environment. CASA also helped me to develop strong life skills.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: I am really proud of the last end-of-year. I almost wasn't able to perform, but I did despite the obstacles I faced, and I did well.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan to pursue a degree in nutrition, exercise, and physiology with the hopes of becoming a fitness model at some point.

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Neveah Hearn | 15

Film and Video

Home SD: Susquehanna Township

Grade level: Sophomore

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: I was able to grow through the many collaborative creative projects I worked on while at CASA.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: In the ninth grade, I was having a difficult time at the beginning of the school year, but by the end of the year all of my classmates and the staff felt like family to me.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan to attend college at an art institute for fashion design, buying, and marketing.



Christina Johns | 18

Theatre

Home SD: Big Spring

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to attend CASA?

A: I wanted to attend CASA to hone my craft, be a part of a community of like-minded people, and do what I love every day.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: CASA has helped me to work well with others, create something out of anything, find the artful in everyday things, and create art with a purpose. I have also learned about all the different career opportunities that are available in my art area.

Q: What is/has been your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement at CASA was taking part in the creation of two beautiful, original, entirely student-made productions.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I will be attending Ithaca College to study Theatre Studies.

Meet Our Students & Graduates

Jack Cotolo | 25

Visual Art

Home SD: Lower Dauphin

Graduated

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I did not care for much in school other than art and music. Art and music were the primary studies that I did well in and thoroughly enjoy. CASA was an obvious solution to study art more and advance my art education beyond what was available at my school.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: CASA taught me how to be disciplined within my art form. I've always been (and sort of still am) scatterbrained with creative endeavors. Some days I write music, others I do graphic design, and then I'll decide to do a painting. Gaining discipline is crucial when you're someone who pulls themselves in multiple directions frequently. You can't effectively build on a skill unless you commit to giving all of your attention to it.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement was getting to a point where I felt I could make the art I wanted and not immediately hate it. That is an instrumental feeling to anyone making art, especially when you are young.

Q: What do you do now?

A: Right now, I work as a freelance artist/musician aside from my day job. I write electronic music, and I do freelance artwork for album covers, t-shirts, independent companies, etc. I also make commissioned paintings. Aside from paid work, I still work on art/music projects of my own in my free time as well.



Morgan Calhoun | 18

Music

Home SD: Halifax Area

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to attend CASA to expand my knowledge of music, which is my passion.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: CASA has taught me how to make my own music, instead of reading someone else's work off a page.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement at CASA was helping create the CASA Live production with my music family at the school.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: After graduation, I plan to attend Lebanon Valley College and pursue a dual major in music education and audio production.

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Robyn Klawitter | 18

Music

Home SD: Susquehanna Township
Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to be able to explore music in a more in-depth manner which was not available at my public school.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: Everything I know about music today is because of this school and Mr. Boyer.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement was our CASALive! Performance from my junior year, "The Wonder Within."

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan on attending Shippensburg University to study marketing.



Samantha Buffington | 18

Visual Art

Home SD: Lower Dauphin
Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I went to CASA because I wanted to surround myself with my passion and better myself as a visual artist through daily practice and lessons.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: It has helped me learn of my weaknesses as an artist and how I can improve in those areas.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest moment was winning a Scholastic Art and Writing Award- Gold Key.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan on attending Bloomsburg University to become an artist.

Meet Our Students & Graduates



Lylee Leonard | 18

Dance

Home SD: Derry Township

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: When I found out it was a school centered on arts, which I love, I was immediately interested.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: The dance department and [teacher Rosemary Battista] helped open my eyes to how dance can help mold me as not only an artist but a dancer as well.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement at CASA was making tight bonds with teachers and students.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I plan to go to Unity College in Maine for Marine Biology.



Elijah Hyndman | 18

Visual Arts

Home SD: South Middleton

Graduated in 2018

Q: Why did you want to go to CASA?

A: I wanted to attend CASA because I found that I could not fit well in the standard public school setting. I tried to find somewhere I could grow as a person through art. I wanted a place with a genuinely accepting and inclusive social atmosphere. I couldn't imagine being anywhere but CASA.

Q: How has CASA's program helped you sharpen your creative abilities?

A: CASA has sharpened my creative abilities by challenging all of the ideas I had about what made good art and providing an atmosphere that allowed me to grow. The [classes] at CASA taught me how little I knew about art and composition but showed me where I could improve.

Q: What is your proudest achievement at CASA?

A: My proudest achievement at CASA has been my experience with the Scholastics Art and Writing awards. My first year submitting, my art did not receive an award or recognition. However, with the help of our art teacher, I improved and by my sophomore year, I received an honorable mention. By junior year, I received a silver key and by senior year I am proud to say that I was awarded a golden key from Scholastics. I could not have achieved this without the guidance of a professional art teacher and the studio time and curriculum that CASA has to offer.

This coming year will be my fourth and final year attending Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School in their visual arts program. I am hoping to become a professional artist after leaving CASA and am thankful for the head-start and opportunity my school has given me. Through artwork I can express emotion, share experiences, and reflect. My goal is to connect people through art in order to create a world with more acceptance and love.



CASA has taught me that if you share your art with the world, you can make it a better place.

Heather Roach

My time at CASA was short, having gone there only my senior year, but it was the best year of my educational career. I was welcomed into CASA with open arms, friendly faces, and open minds. Everyone from the teachers, to the administrative staff, to the students, made me feel like I was part of one big, crazy, artistic family who I was surrounded by every day. I can't imagine what my life would be like today if I hadn't gone to CASA, because all the people and positive experiences I had there shaped me into the person and artist I am today.

Julia Hollinger



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.



CREATE

Visual Arts

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 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.

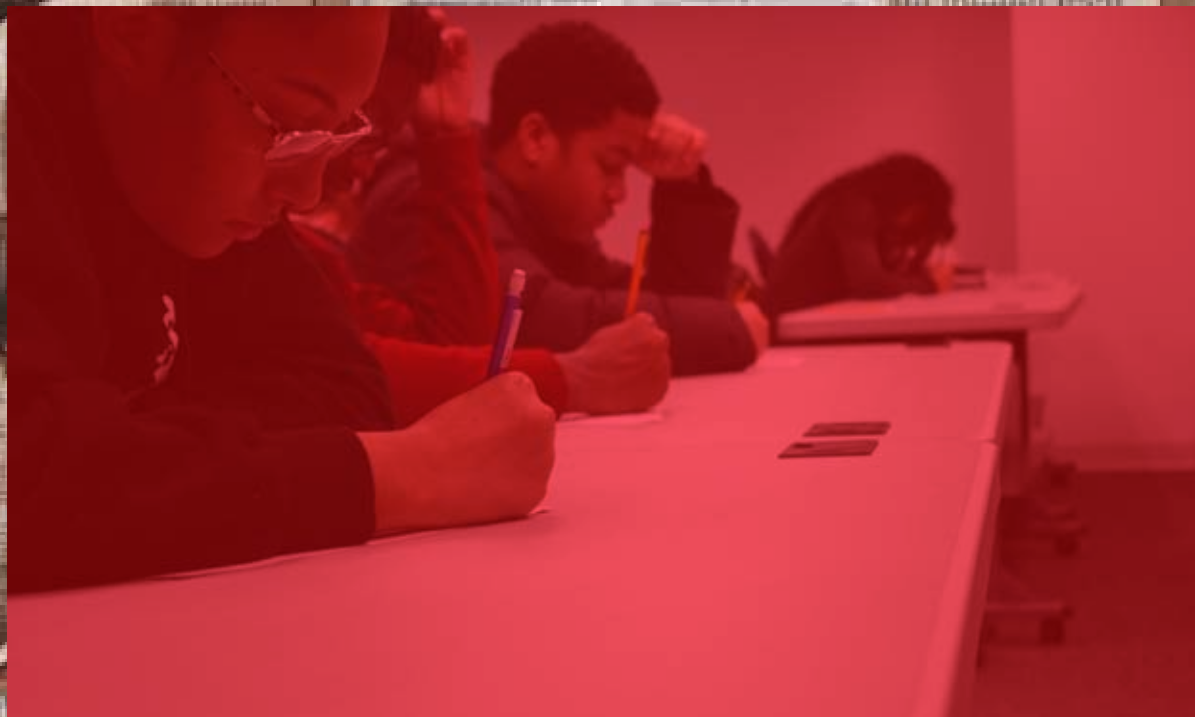


Theatre Arts

Students study acting techniques, improvisation, voice, movement, styles of acting and performance. The history of theater from the ancient Greeks to the present also is 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 workplace, whether arts related or not.



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 also are encouraged to work in mentoring positions with local media outlets.

CREATE

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 also are 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.



CREATE

Film & Video

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 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, theatre arts, visual arts, and creative writing students to create film and video pieces for incorporation into live performances.





CASA ADMINISTRATION



Timothy Wendling
CEO/Principal



Amanda Rhinehart
Assistant Principal



Sue Hill
Assistand to the Principal



Vicki Chambers
Administrative Assistant



Christine Baker
School Counselor



Barbara Bradigan
Nurse



Rebekah Amato
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

CASA FACULTY



Katherine Deane
Creative Writing



Kimberly Dickerson
Mathematics



Katie Flood
English



Monique Johnson
Visual Art



Erica Leonard
Social Studies



Kenna Ryder
English



Julie Segarra
Special Education



"I feel like I am truly making a difference. The kids come to school every day waiting to learn. Our students are phenomenally talented children that are genuinely good people, which is rare these days."

Mick Corman
Film and Video Teacher
Teaching at CASA for three years

"CASA has a safe and accepting environment for staff and students. Our students are open to new experiences and willing to take the plunge into the unfamiliar. They're eclectic, unique, a melting pot of cultural and economic backgrounds. There are many personal and stylistic expressions that enable students to teach each other as well as their teachers."

T.J. Boyer
Music Teacher | Teaching at CASA for 17 years

"The students keep me on my toes, and they motivate me daily. Students at CASA are eager for knowledge and interested in a deeper level of comprehension of the texts we read and discuss. It became clear to me from my first day here that our students aren't just here because they have to be - they want to be here."

"Through their questions and our class discussions and debates, I am motivated to dig deeper into a text and do more research into the author, the content, the historical background, and different literary criticisms so that I can help to give my students the more in-depth knowledge they seek. Our students are proud of our school, and that pride feeds into their drive to excel in all areas of their education."

Rosemary Battista
Dance Teacher | Teaching at CASA for 17 years

"Every day at CASA our students explore the humanities through their arts and academics. This makes CASA unique, especially since many schools have had to cut funding for programs that represent the humanities. I believe our students receive a well-rounded education that gives them a solid foundation for their future."

Kimberly Dickerson
Math Teacher
Teaching at CASA for five years



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Crystal Hackett	Susan and Stephen Symons
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Celebration Soiree

A Celebration Of Casa Charter School's Charter Renewal

Honorees ... Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner

Chairs ... Kristin Scofield and David Skerpon

Honorary Chairs ... Kristen Olewine Milke and David Volkman

**Leadership Consultants ... Marcia Cohen, Sylvie St.Hilaire,
and Betty Hungerford**

Emcee ... Alicia Richards, WHTM27 ABC

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- ☞ **Cheryl Howard**, *Orrstown Bank, Vice-President, Commercial Relationship Manager*
- ☞ **Larry Kluger**, *CEO and President of Rhodes Development Group*
- ☞ **Audrey Sanders**, *Community Leader*
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- ☞ **Oren Yagil**, *Director of Development, Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg*

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- 🍷 **Connie Kindler**, *Community Leader*
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- 🍷 **Jack Sherzer**, *Principal, Message Prose*
- 🍷 **Alyssa Skerpon**, *Digital Marketing Consultant, Capital BlueCross*

Production Supervision Committee

Co-Chair **Michael Greenwald**, *Community Leader*

Co-Chair **Jeff Lynch**, *Commercial Film Maker and Advertising Consultant*

Co-Chair **Tim Wendling**, *CEO and Principal, CASA Charter School*

MEMBERS

- 🍷 **Rosemary Battista**, *Dance , CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **T.J. Boyer**, *Music, CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **Mark Bradshaw**, *Administrative Assistant, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities*
- 🍷 **Robert Campbell**, *Theatre, CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **Mick Corman**, *Film and Video, CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **Katherine Deane**, *Creative Writing, CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **Monique Johnson**, *CASA Charter School*
- 🍷 **Jill Morrow**, *Community Leader*
- 🍷 **Chet Williamson**, *Writing and Consultation*

Decorations Committee

Co-Chair **Terri Maclay**, *Owner, Nature's Harmony*

Co-Chair **Jim Martin**, *Owner, The Garden Path*

Volunteers Committee

Chair **Amanda Rhinehart**, *Assistant Principal, CASA Charter School*

*Thank you to our students, parents and teachers
who assisted in making tonight a success!*

CASA Circle of Friends

Thank you to all of our incredibly generous friends:

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Jamie DePalma

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to CASA and CRAE from ...



Congratulations to two stalwart CASA Champions!

Don and Anne Alsedek

*Thank you for your commitment
to Education and Arts.*

Rosette and Steven Roth

*I would like to congratulate my dear friend
and philanthropist, Lois Lehrman Grass
on receiving this most deserving honor.*

Linda Schwab

Lois

*We join the entire Harrisburg community in celebration
and gratitude for your countless contributions.*

Susan and Stephen Symons

*Lois, you have always been a treasure
to not only the Jewish community,
but to the community at large.*

Love, Linda and Corky Goldstein

Lois and Glenn:

*Our community will forever be enriched by your dedication
and commitment to the arts and education ...
thank you for leading by example.*

Char Magaro

*Congratulations to the Capital Area School
for the Arts on the renewal of their five-year charter.*

Diana M. Reed

*Lois & Glenn - Thanks for cherishing Arts & Education.
CASA makes Harrisburg proud.*

Nicholas Hughes

*Lois, I thank you for your commitment
to the community.*

David Bronstein

*Congratulations Glenn! He is always looking of ways to
improve the educational system and student learning. I don't
know another educator as deserving of this award.*

Dominic Cavallaro

*Lois, From Women in the Arts to CASA,
your dedication to the arts
has helped our creative community thrive.*

Susan Silva Cohen

*Thank you, Glenn, for all that you do (and continue
to do) for children. You encourage and inspire;
challenging all of us to reach our fullest potential.*

Lenny Sweeney

*Glenn has been a true champion
of CASA for many years.
He has made a real difference in CASA's success.*

Winston and Nickole Cleland

*Ms. Grass and Dr. Zehner - The parents, teachers and
students deeply appreciate all you've done and
all you continue to do on behalf of CASA!*

CASA PTSO

*Glenn - During our 50 years of friendship,
you have excelled in your efforts to educate, advocate for,
and to inspire and lead educators. Congratulations!*

Robert and Ethel Wetzel

*Congratulations Lois and Dr. Zehner!
CASA makes the world go 'round!*

Helen and Spencer Nauman

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to CASA and CRAE from ...



*Lois, Congratulations on this recognition
of your steadfast commitment to the arts and education.
It's a privilege to honor you, my valued friend of 75 years.*

Marcia Wall

Bravo!

Crystal Hackett

*Lois, We admire your longstanding and
highly effective devotion to the Harrisburg community
and treasure your friendship.*

Ed Hauck and Sefanie Valar

*Thank you for your commitment
to Education and Arts.*

Rosette and Steven Roth

*Thanks to Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner
for their support of CASA and CRAE.*

Lucy and Martin Murray

*Congratulations to the CASA
on the renewal of their five-year charter.*

Triangle Press, Inc.

*Congratulations to Lois Lehrman Grass,
Dr. Glenn Zehner, and CASA Charter School!*

Peggy Grove

Enrollment

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
Total	133	176	185	197	207

"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!

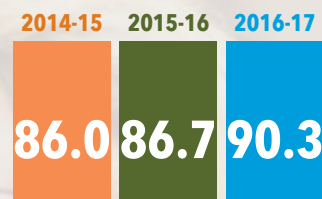
Students come from 30 Districts in
DAUPHIN, CUMBERLAND, YORK, LANCASTER, ADAMS, UNION, LEBANON and PERRY COUNTIES.



Academic Achievement

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE (SPP)

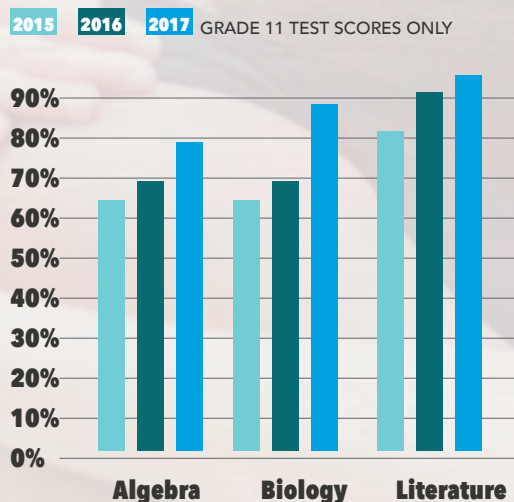
The Pennsylvania Department of Education has published School Performance Profiles for the 2016-2017 school year. CASA CHARTER SCHOOL'S BUILDING LEVEL ACADEMIC SCORE IS **90.3!** This score places CASA as one of the top-scoring charter schools in the Commonwealth and ranks the school higher than many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



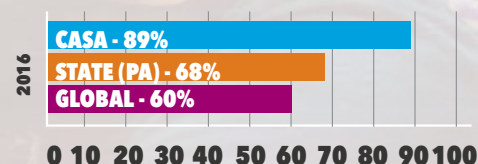
SAT/ACT
CASA students scored **above the state average** in both the SAT and ACT during the 16-17 school year.

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.



"I like that I am given free-reign in what I teach my kids, and I know that's because the administration trusts me. I can make arts kids like math, even if they think they won't.

Our students are a very diverse, tight-knit group. They are always there for each other, and different students are friends with people you might not expect."

*Erica Leonard
Social Studies Teacher
Teaching at CASA for four
years*

"I like working with the students and seeing the diversity. They are unique, gifted and full of surprises."

*Christine Baker
School Counselor
Teaching at CASA for six years*

"Every day at CASA our students explore the humanities through their arts and academics. This makes CASA unique, especially since many schools have had to cut funding for programs that represent the humanities. I believe our students receive a well-rounded education that gives them a solid foundation for their future."

*Kenna Ryder | English Teacher
Teaching at CASA for four years*

"CASA is very much like a family. The entire faculty emphasizes a caring, respectful environment. In my classroom, respect is paramount, especially respect for each other. Since the students all come to CASA with unique talents, it isn't long before those talents are shared, accepted and supported. Our mantra is: Knowledge is Power - Power gives Freedom - Freedom brings Creativity. In the end, no matter what the journey brings, the students interact to form trusting bonds that lead to a strong wonderfully creative ensemble."

*Rosemary Battista | Dance Teacher
Teaching at CASA for 17 Years*

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Lois Grass

*Lois Grass's vision, drive and philanthropy has truly enriched
the cultural heart of Harrisburg for so many years.
In fact, her commitment to the arts and even more importantly,
to the young people of Harrisburg region,
is one of the reasons why Central Pennsylvania
is such a wonderful place to live.
CASA is one important example of the indelible mark
created by that vision and drive.
Thank you, Lois, for choosing
to make such a meaningful difference in this community,
and for showing all of us how it's done!*

*Gary and
Sylvie St. Hilaire*



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"I loved getting a quality education while pursuing my passion for dance and attending a school with fewer students. I love the fact that we use "the city" as our classroom sometimes. The staff and teachers love their work and it shows."

— Senior 2017

"Capital Area School for the Arts is a great school for students aspiring to work in the arts and in need of technical skill teaching. I have learned so much about my art and myself since coming to CASA. I would definitely recommend the school to students similar to me."

— Freshman 2017

"I want to thank the staff from the bottom of my heart for creating and running such an amazing school and for taking my child under their wings and walking with him through some challenges. With all of the creativity, dedication and talent, I have no doubt that CASA will only continue to grow and flourish. I have watched my son regain his love of school and make a lot of new friends - for this I also thank you."

— CASA Parent

"Spending her senior year at CASA has been so rewarding for my daughter. The immediate acceptance and the friendships she has made, truly made her come alive and enjoy school again. I have seen more growth and maturity in her then I have in years. To say CASA was a good fit is a gross understatement. Most people lose touch after high school, she and her friends share such a strong bond, I feel they will be in each other's lives for many years to come."

— CASA Parent

"I love CASA's diversity and when there is a problem, I'm able to communicate with the staff and I've always been able to reach someone. The staff is very responsive."

"We wanted a school where our son could develop his interest and passion for dance along with good academic credentials. CASA provided all this and more, and our son has been able to have very sincere interactions with the staff."

— CASA Parent



*So happy to see CASA receive its new charter
and such accolades!*

*We are huge fans, supporters and believers
in the awesome power of this school!*

*Julia attended her senior year at CASA
and it changed her life!*

Our only regret is that we didn't get her in sooner.

*What an environment for learning and creating
and acceptance of each other.*

Congratulations CASA!!

*Deborah Myers Welsh
and Brad Hollinger*

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Lois ...

*For your many acts of kindness
and generosity for the community
and your fellow man, we give you heartfelt thanks.*

*We especially recognize your contribution
for the success of CASA.*

Congratulations!

Warmest wishes,

Margaret Hathaway



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Congratulations to

**Lois Lehrman Grass
and Dr. Glenn Zehner**

for your great work with the
Capital Area School for the Arts!

We are honored to join you in
the continued success of CASA!



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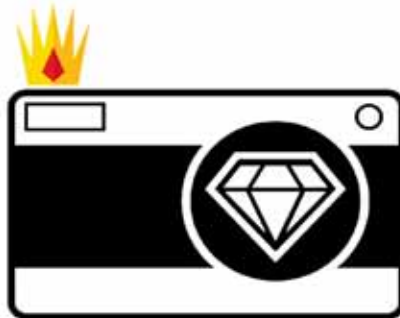
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Dr. Zehner

*Thank you to Dr. Glenn Zehner
for your dedication and passion in education.
Because of your commitment and pursuit of excellence
from its very inception, CASA Charter School
not only received its charter renewal,
it is thriving and providing its students
with the very best in all aspects of education.
Thank you for all you have done for this region
and its young people!*

*Gary and
Sylvie St. Hilaire*



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Congatulations Lois.

*Your remarkable love
and support for our community
over the years has helped make
the region a great place to live and work.*

Rocky Ortenzio





APPLAUDS

LOIS LEHRMAN GRASS

AND

DR. GLENN ZEHNER

Congratulations to our friend Lois Grass!

*Tony and
Brenda Pascotti*



My heartfelt congratulations to Lois and Glenn.

*Thank you for your guidance, wisdom,
generosity, and friendship!*

Sean D. Galloway

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Congratulations Lois! So much to celebrate!

The “wind beneath the wings” of CASA.

Kristen Olewine Milke



Congratulations, Lois!

*You have my admiration and sincere appreciation for all
that you have contributed to the lives of others and for
helping make dreams come true for CASA students.*

Betty Hungerford



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*Volume claim per AHM sales reports for 2017 calendar year sales in Zone 5, District D for Central PA.

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“As the parent
of a child who
attended CASA,
I’ve seen
first-hand what
a positive impact
it has had on
my sons life,
while at the
school, and after
graduation.

I congratulate
all who support
this fine
organization.”

DON PERRY

Senior GM

**Faulkner Auto Group
Harrisburg**

President, CASA Board of Trustees

*Congratulations to those who helped make Capital Area
School for the Arts the great success it is today.*

Denny & Patti Brenckle



*What an honor it has been to work closely with
Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner
on behalf of the Capital Area School for the Arts.*

They are both true inspirations!

Congratulations Lois and Glenn.

Audrey & Phil Sanders



SELTZER'S

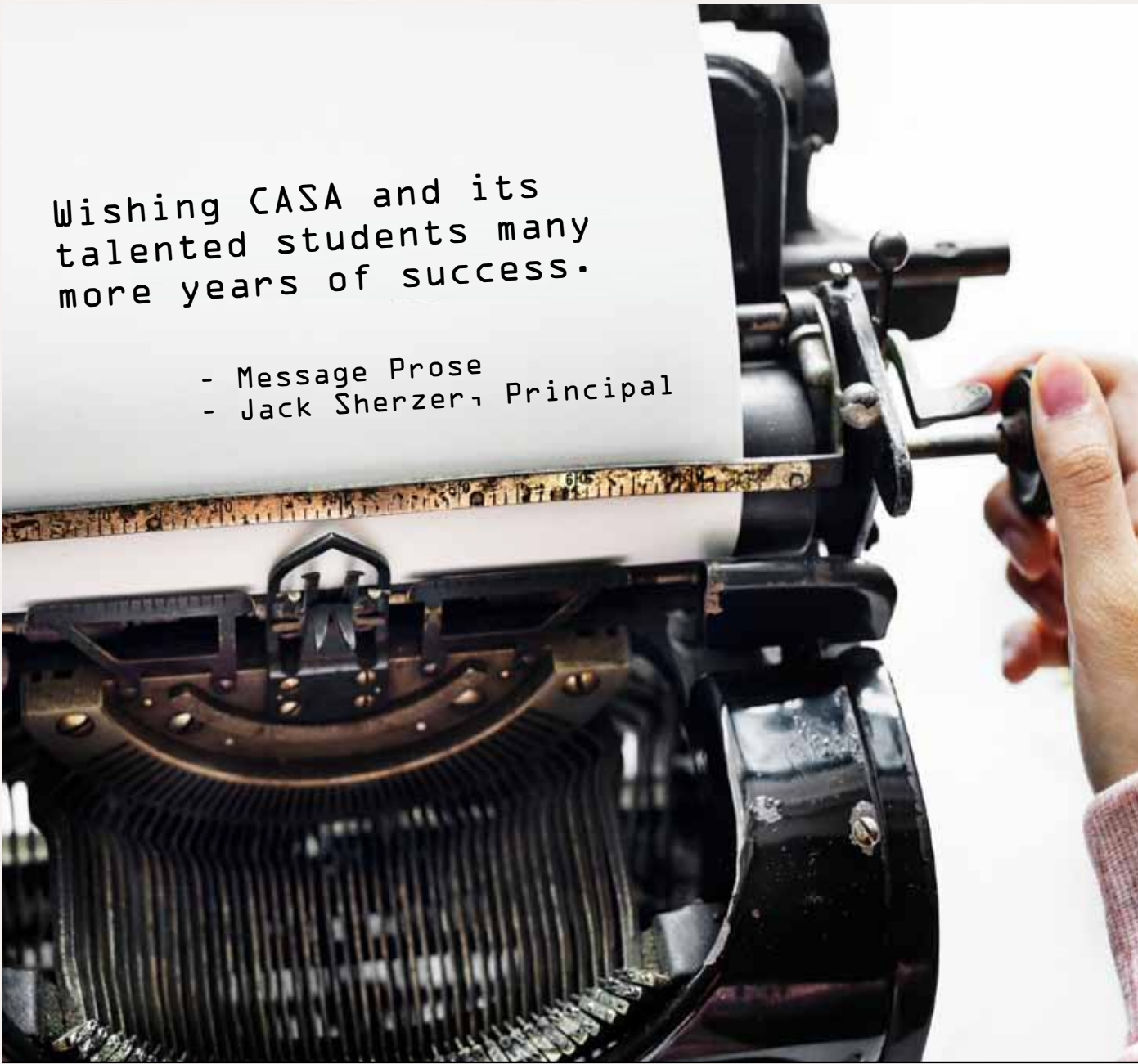
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Wishing CASA and its
talented students many
more years of success.

- Message Prose
- Jack Sherzer, Principal



Jack Sherzer
Principal Partner
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jsherzer@messageprose.com

Lois -

*Central Pennsylvania has a very rich arts scene
and much of it is because of you.*

Thanks.

Bill & Beverly Lehr



*Thank you Lois Lehrman Grass and Dr. Glenn Zehner for
your leadership, vision, and commitment
to CASA Charter School!*

*Congratulations to CASA on your charter renewal.
The best is yet to come!*

*Chris Baldrige
and Dave Skerpon*

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For more information, please contact:
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Congratulations

to Capital Area School for the Arts
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**Lois Lehrman Grass has always been an inspiration
to those who have worked with her to create
a vibrant, talented and welcoming community.**

**There is no one segment of Greater Harrisburg
that has not been touched by her generosity and commitment,
including the arts and theater, health and education
and the Jewish community.**

**CASA has been a work of time and energy and love.
Her children and grandchildren have learned by her example
of giving and commitment. It is our sincere hope
that her great grandchildren will carry on the tradition as well.**

**WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR MOM AND GRANNY,
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