



OVERBROOK
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



2021-2022 Annual Report

SUCCESS
Despite the Odds



THE MISSION OF OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND is to develop and deliver education that enhances the options available for persons with visual impairments, including those with additional challenges, so that they have the greatest opportunity to experience active and fulfilling lives.

THE VISION OF OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND is to inspire individuals with visual impairment, including those with additional challenges, to achieve their highest potential; to share our culture that embraces their abilities; to be a dynamic and leading educational organization; and to use our expertise to positively influence our students, families, partners and peers, regionally, nationally and internationally.



Dear Friends:

What does it mean to be successful?

For us, this is providing excellent educational and professional opportunities for our students, allowing them to be their best and most independent selves. Throughout the past two years, despite the pandemic and the challenges that have come with it, we've managed to continue to provide both for our students.

It's no secret that, to continue those successes, a lot of changes had to be made since the early days of 2020. Teachers and staff have been flexible, taking on additional responsibilities—or changing roles entirely—to ensure students who attend Overbrook School for the Blind receive the education and opportunities they deserve. We also began an extensive renovation towards the entryway of our school, forcing some teachers, paraeducators, and other staff to move classrooms and offices.

Every member of our community—Board of Trustees, alumni, donors, staff, and volunteers—has risen to the occasion over the past two-and-a-half years, and you'll read about some of them and their stories in this issue. Their perseverance, dedication, and passion are what make Overbrook a life-changing place for our students with vision loss and other challenges.

Without our incredible staff and their contributions, Overbrook would not be the place it is today. It is because of them that we are successful despite the odds of a pandemic put against us, and for that we are immensely grateful.

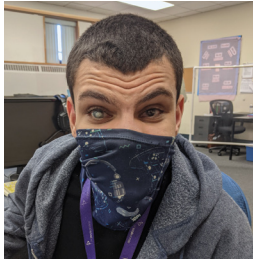
On behalf of the students we serve, thank you for your commitment to our school. We are proud to share this year's Annual Report with our family, friends, and supporters.

Sincerely,

Todd Reeves
Executive Director and CEO

Marjorie G. Stein
President of the Board of Trustees

2021-2022 AT A GLANCE



177 Students



62
CVI



42
Blind



135
Visually
Impaired



43
Braille



43
Large
Print



87
Objects/
Pictures



68
Non-Reader



33
Hearing Loss



102
Walker



58
Wheelchair



13
Assisted Walker



143
Occupational
Therapy



101
Physical
Therapy



130
Speech



22
Audiology



108
Orientation
and Mobility

INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM

Experiential: **83**

Life Skills: **36**

Functional: **36**

Academic: **22**

WORK EXPERIENCE

On Campus: **42**

Off Campus: **20**

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Intervener: **8**

1:1: **12**

1:1 Nurse: **20**

BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Counseling: **17**

Behavior Plan: **21**

OSB HIGHLIGHTS



First day of school! **Yosan P.**, a student in Overbrook's Early Childhood program, arrives with a big smile in September 2021.



In July 2021, students arrived on campus for **Extended School Year (ESY)**.



Eva Press received the 2021 Elinor Long Educator of the Year Award (ELEY) at the annual Penn-Del Awards Banquet for her outstanding work with students who are blind or visually impaired.



The **Kappen Aquatic Center** was awarded "Best of Aquatics" in the "Target Programming" section of *Aquatic International's* November/December 2021 issue.



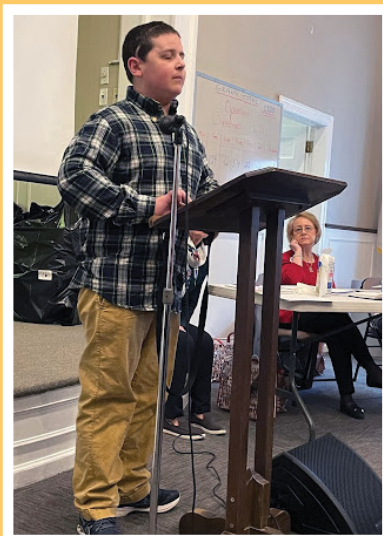
David Abrahams won Silver in the Men's 100-meter breaststroke at the August 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Abrahams was a student in Overbrook's Itinerant Services program.



Dauad Y. made a presentation to middle and high school students at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in Bryn Mawr sharing his experience about life as an individual with blindness.



In December 2021, students performed their annual **Winter Concert**. This year's performance was titled "Holiday Road: A Virtual Musical Road Trip" and featured Voices of Overbrook and the Bell Choir.



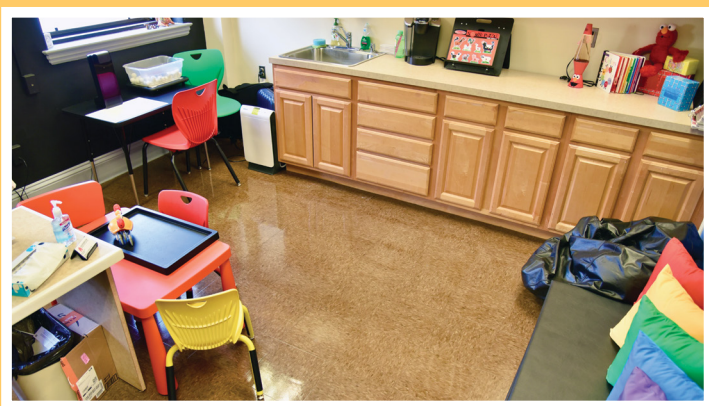
Nicholas L. was honored with the Great Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution 2021 Good Citizens Award.



Overbrook's School to Work program offered vocational training and job opportunities. Pictured here are **Angel M.**, **Frank C.** and **Breanna A.** at Logix, their School To Work job site.



In March 2022, students participated in **Spirit Week**.



OSB opened the CVI (cortical visual impairment) Complete clinic and a CVI Specialist was hired. Every OSB enrolled student diagnosed with CVI was assessed. The clinic opened ahead of schedule to serve non-enrolled students.



On May 12, 2022, student musicians premiered “Come Travel with Me” during the virtual **Spring Concert**. Pictured here are students standing on the steps of Friedlander, recording the video for the virtual concert and performing hand motions to a song.



The Horticulture Program’s **flower-selling service** inside the M. Christine Murphy Horticulture Education Center provides a practical way for students to apply what they’ve learned and gain valuable employment skills.

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District

Philadelphia Charter

Schools

Mastery Charter School

Clymer Elementary

Mastery Charter School

Grover Cleveland

Elementary

Mastery Charter School

Hardy Williams

Mastery Charter

School

Mann Campus

Mastery Charter

School

Pastorius-Richardson

Elementary

Mastery Charter

School

Pickett Campus

Mastery Charter

School

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Philadelphia

Performing Arts

Charter School

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Charter School

Donor Profile



Jim Murphy and his family—wife Erica and daughters Haley and Aubrey—are life-long Philadelphians.

The family has also been involved with the school since 2010.

Jim and Erica’s eldest daughter, Haley, was born with a rare, genetic eye condition called Aniridia, which means she was born without irises resulting in Haley having low-vision. In 2010, Haley began receiving Early Intervention services from the school, where she received vision, occupational, orientation and mobility therapies.

Haley transitioned to Overbrook’s Early Childhood and Elementary programs. She is currently in the seventh grade in the Middle School program.

In 2016, Murphy’s involvement increased. He joined the Board of Trustees, where he currently serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Budget and Audit committee.

“Overbrook is very important to our family, as the school provides Haley with the tools and navigational beacon for her to not only overcome her challenges, but to receive an exceptional educational experience tailored to her specific needs,” said Murphy.

The Murphy Family is also known within the Overbrook community for their fundraising efforts, including hosting various dine and

donate events, organizing a Philadelphia Phillies fundraiser and hosting an annual 5K Run and Walk in support of the school.

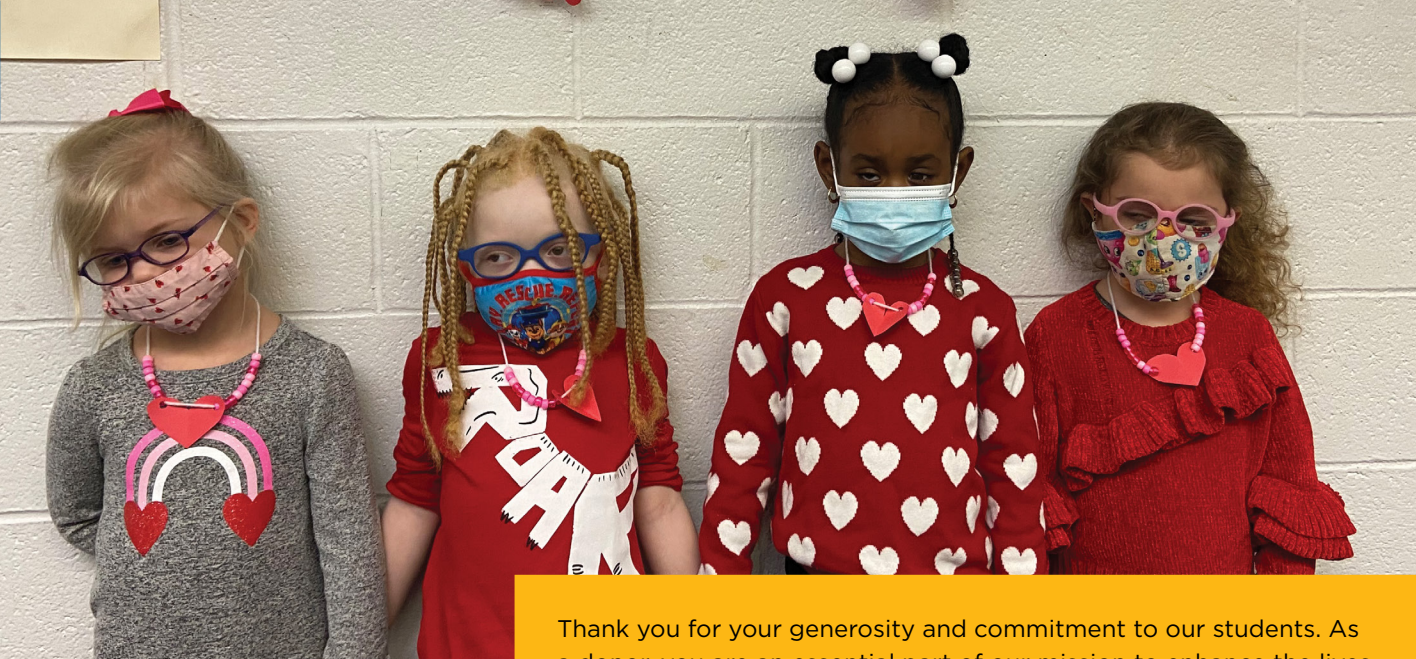
Most recently, the Murphy Family hosted the Aniridia 5k and 1 Mile Walk to raise awareness for Aniridia and OSB. In celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the event, the Murphy’s hosted their largest turnout with over 140 participants to support both Haley and Overbrook, raising over \$5,000 for the school.

Asked what his favorite part about the school is and why he contributes so much to Overbrook—Murphy mentions the hard work of the school’s staff and the care they give his daughter.

“From day one, the staff has never put a limit on Haley’s abilities or potential and fostered an environment for Haley to thrive in establishing and completing various goals throughout the years.”

“What especially stands out, is the growth from her first day in pre-school in 2012 to now seeing the improvement in her communications skills,” Murphy says he will never forget seeing Haley reach new milestones, such as reading a book, typing a sentence and learning to safely navigate her environment.

He also quips that Overbrook managed to get Haley to enjoy a variety of healthy foods in her school lunch, including spinach. ■



Supporters 2021-2022

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our students. As a donor, you are an essential part of our mission to enhance the lives of students with blindness, visual impairment, and other challenges. We have compiled a list of donors who made a gift from July 2021 through June 2022. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy. Please accept our apologies for an incorrect listing or omission, and let us know about the error by emailing development@obs.org.

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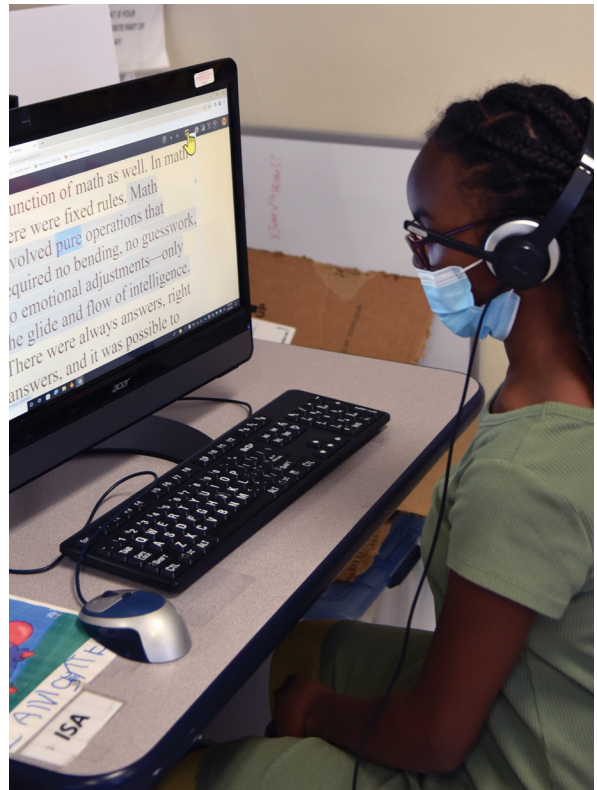
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IN CELEBRATION OF**Lois Beamesderfer**

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2021-22 FINANCIAL REVIEW

OPERATING REVENUES

STATE & LOCAL TUITION	20,443,519
GOVERNMENT & GRANTS	2,042,833
GIFTS AND PRIVATE SUPPORT	5,152,953
OTHER INCOME	477,132
Total	\$28,116,437

OPERATING EXPENSES

SCHOOL AGE	\$20,055,303
PRESCHOOL	6,685,101
EARLY INTERVENTION	1,087,267
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH	288,766
Total	\$28,116,437

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL

Overbrook School for the Blind is a private, non-profit educational organization that qualifies for tax-exempt contributions. There are many ways for individuals, organizations and corporations to support the School and its programs, including:

- A gift of cash made either directly or designated to the school through other agencies, such as the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign. Overbrook's number with the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania is 00816
- A gift of cash, if made by an individual, may also qualify for a matching gift from the donor's employer
- A gift in memory of or in honor of a relative or a friend
- In-kind gifts of services, goods, equipment, or property
- A gift of appreciated securities or real estate, outright or deferred
- A gift of a life insurance policy, designating the school as the beneficiary
- A charitable gift annuity, which in addition to helping the school, provides the donor or a designee with a regular stream of income
- A gift by will. Those who wish to make a personal bequest to the school may use the following language: "I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Overbrook School for the Blind, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____). I direct that this sum be applied to the general uses and purposes of the corporation under the direction of its Board of Trustees."

For additional information about methods of giving and other ways of supporting the school, please visit the Donate section of www.obs.org or contact:

Development Office, Overbrook School for the Blind
6333 Malvern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
Tel: 215.877.0313, ext. 264 Fax: 215.689.0401
E-mail: pamela.mcgonigle@obs.org



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