



SEPTEMBER 2023, ISSUE 1

CITY NEIGHBORS FOUNDATION

An update on the work of City Neighbors Foundation,
our City Neighbors schools, and our work to impact
public education everywhere.

FEATURED:

- Welcome Back to School
- Welcome New Educators!
- Rich and Meaningful Summer Camps
- Watershed Restoration at City Neighbors



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

For almost two decades, City Neighbors staff have welcomed hundreds of students and families with our first day of school tradition. As students enter our schools on the first day, each student selects a flower. When they arrive in their classroom, they place their flower in a vase and, together, create a beautiful bouquet for the classroom. This first day ceremony symbolic to the beauty, strength, diversity and community at City Neighbors.

This year has started with a sense of great joy, excitement and optimism with our 870 students. Mayor Brandon Scott was also in attendance to celebrate our students' first day of school tradition.



WELCOME NEW EDUCATORS!

This year, we welcome thirteen new educators to the City Neighbors family. They spent a week with Executive Director, Mike in order to ground themselves into the pedagogy of Progressive Education, Project-Based Learning and being Arts-Integrated educators. The team dug deep, rolled up their sleeves and truly launched their new City Neighbors journey.

We are excited and humble to have these dynamic educators to join our school family.



“CITY NEIGHBORS IS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR. THE CN LEGACY IS EVIDENT FROM THE MOMENT YOU STEP ON THE CAMPUSES. EVERYTHING IS DONE WITH INTENTIONAL PURPOSE AND WELL CRAFTED COMMUNITY CULTURE. I AM EXCITED TO BE A MEMBER OF SUCH A PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY, TO CONTINUE MY TEACHING JOURNEY AT THE SIDE OF EXCELLENT ART INTEGRATIONALISTS IS A JOY. I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPEN COMMUNICATION AND COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A STRONG CNCS COMMUNITY.”

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NIQUE DAYRIT, NEW CNCS MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA TEACHER



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

City Neighbors Foundation is proud to host two Communities of Practice this Fall. City Neighbors Communities of Practice, a free professional development opportunity, gather up to 15 people from across the region for a six month collaborative exploration of a topic.

This Fall, we are proud to host "The Power of Play in the K-5 Classroom", led by Kindergarten teacher Vicki Almon and "Anti-Racist, Equitable Teaching Practices", led by High School Math Teacher Elainia Ross-Jones. Our communities launched in July and will culminate in December. Look out for our next set of Communities of Practice in January!

SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING EVENTS

DIY PD at City Neighbors
Thursday, October 24 at 5 pm

The 13th Annual Progressive Education Summit
Saturday, January 20, 2024



RICH, IMPACTFUL SUMMER CAMPS

Through our City Neighbors Children Summer Program and our new City Neighbors Summer Boost Program funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, we were able to offer robust summer programming for over 100 K-8 students! While having a rich summer camp experience, complete with field trips, arts experiences, and lots of fun, students were also able to engage in meaningful summer academic learning!

Students were able to explore the Irvine Nature Center, Target Zone Arena, Baltimore Museum of Art, McFadden Art Glass Studio, Gunpowder State Park, Hamilton Library. They picked blueberries at the Andromeda Farm, gardened in our school garden, designed sneakers, learned Zumba, and rode bicycles.

Both programs had high success rates in not only reducing summer academic slide, but actually seeing summer gains.

We look forward to expanding both programs next Summer!



Work With Us !



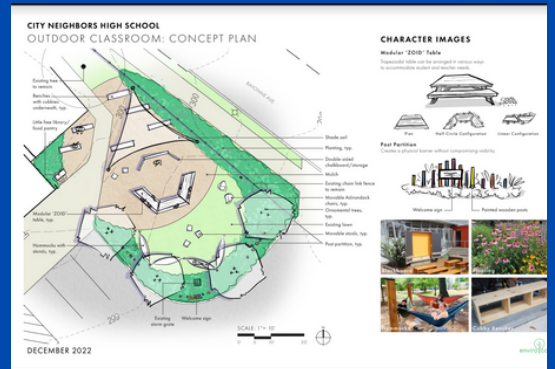
Support & Follow Our City Neighbors Community



CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED RESTORATION AT CITY NEIGHBORS

Across our campuses, we have invested in watershed restoration projects through support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to both beautify our campuses and contribute to our part in preserving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

At our City Neighbors Hamilton / High School campus, we have installed a new rain garden. We replaced a significant portion of concrete retaining wall, replacing it with native plants and soil. We are currently constructing an outdoor garden space, also replacing previously impervious surface.



City Neighbors Charter School has completed its watershed restoration efforts on its school parking lot. The school was able to complete a renovation of the school parking lot and its surrounding land to support native vegetation, add green space, and better support water runoff. We even added a student-created mural, in partnership with Arts with a Heart. This new restoration work adds to our ground renovations at City Neighbors Charter School over the last five years, including our Malone Memorial Playground and our side yard and garden.

