

SPEYER

Impact Report 2023-2024



SPEVER

Impact Report 2023-2024

To all who made the 2023-2024 year a success, thank you.



A LETTER FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL: LARRY DONOVAN

Dear Speyer Friends,

Last year was our 15th year of Speyer, and it's a prudent time to reflect on how far we have come. We started with two classrooms rented in an office building, and now we are a "real school" on Ninth Avenue with students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight. Our reputation in the city and in the gifted education community across the country has burgeoned. Our first Speyer students are now graduating from college! During this time of growth, one thing has remained constant: we provide gifted children an exceptional learning environment in which they thrive. Speyer was founded to provide an environment specifically designed for gifted learners to foster their natural talents.

In this impact report, you will see a balance of traditions and new initiatives that enable Speyer to continue to create an educational home for our unique cohort of students. You will hear from our division heads about how they are using a substantial gift from one of our families, enabling us to make improvements to our curriculum through a series of summer grants provided to our faculty. You will read about the investments we are making into the arts as evidenced by last spring's Lower School Dance recital. And, please note the track record of our alumni, with a special focus on two classes— the Class of 2024 and Class of 2020 — who are now entering high school and college, respectively.

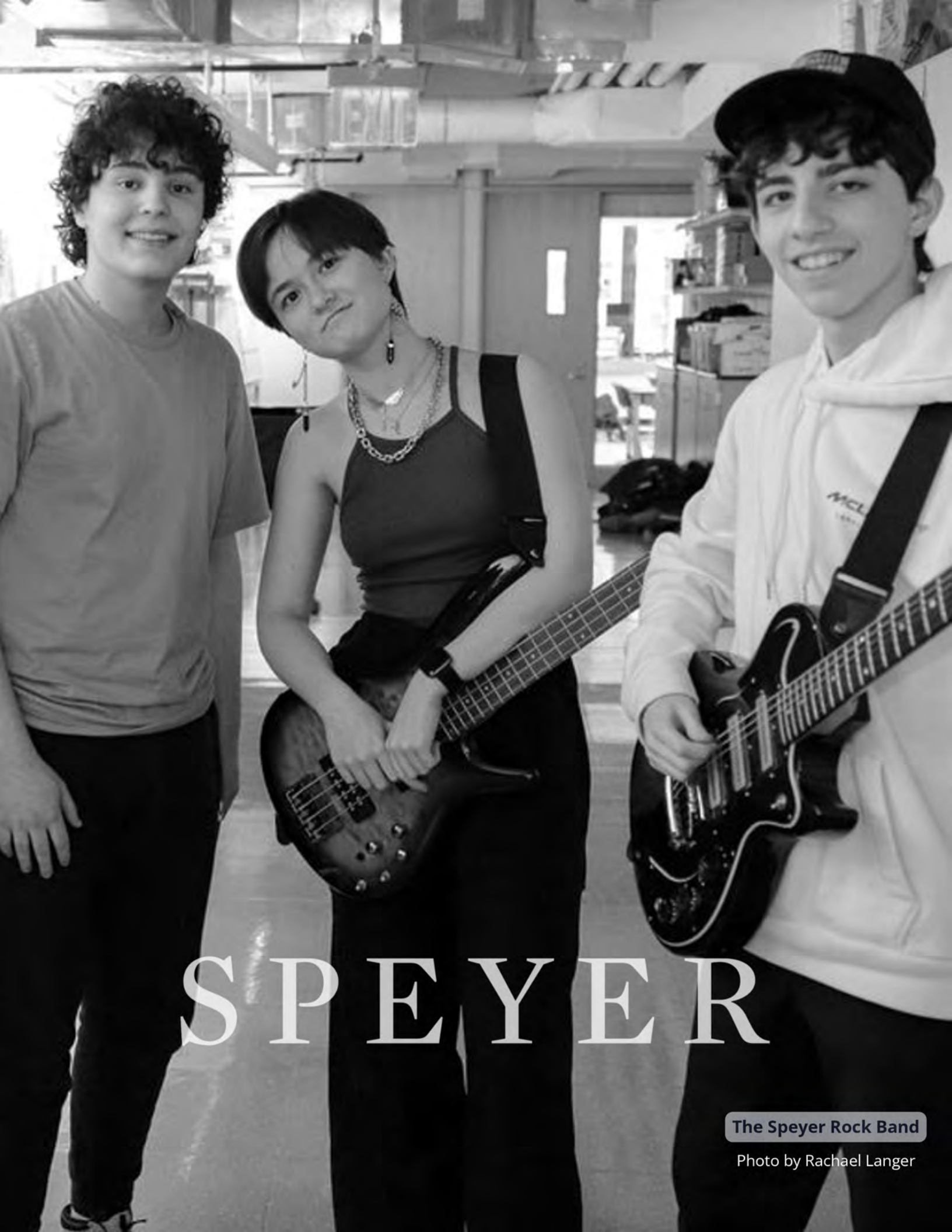


We could not do any of this without you, and I am excited to share the impact of your generosity and support. The importance of our community and your role in our progress cannot be overemphasized. From contributing to the Annual Fund and raising your paddle at the Gala to giving your time and expertise, we thank you.

I am beginning my 30th year in education — and my sixth at Speyer. I continue to be impressed by the myriad of thoughtful ways that our community shows their belief in the value of a Speyer education. The dedication exhibited by our donors is matched by our Speyer employees, the Board of Trustees, and the Parents Association, as well as a multitude of others. I am so proud of our community.

And, with your continued support, we will remain New York City's preeminent school for gifted children.

With warmth and appreciation,
Larry



SPEYER

The Speyer Rock Band

Photo by Rachael Langer

IMPACT REPORT

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YOUR DOLLARS IN ACTION

All this and so much more...



Mx. Ramsey teaching students to code in our state-of-the-art Makers Lab

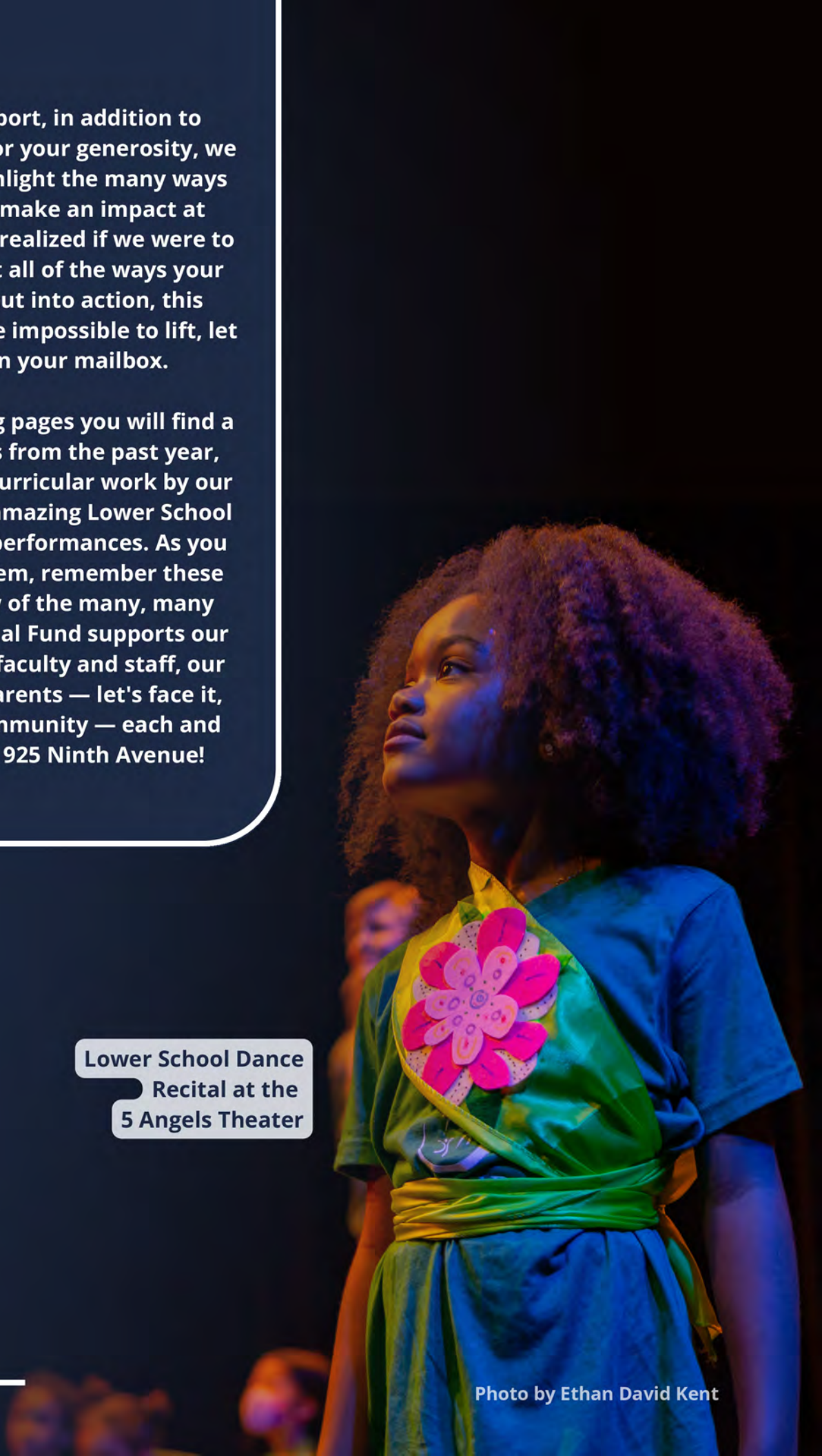

Speyer chess teams won 8 national titles last year!


Coach Song and the volleyball team mid-cheer


Ms. McKay and Mr. Deards at the first debate tournament hosted since Covid!

With this report, in addition to thanking you for your generosity, we wanted to highlight the many ways your dollars make an impact at Speyer. Yet we realized if we were to attempt to list all of the ways your dollars are put into action, this report would be impossible to lift, let alone fit in your mailbox.

In the following pages you will find a few highlights from the past year, from exciting curricular work by our faculty to the amazing Lower School Dance Spring performances. As you read about them, remember these are just a few of the many, many ways the Annual Fund supports our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni, our parents — let's face it, our entire community — each and every day at 925 Ninth Avenue!



Lower School Dance Recital at the 5 Angels Theater

Photo by Ethan David Kent

LOOKING AHEAD

A Conversation with our Division Heads — Sam Gabrielli and Dorothy Sandler Meyer

In July 2024, Speyer's Advancement team virtually sat down with Speyer Division Heads Sam Gabrielli (SG) and Dorothy Sandler Meyer (DSM) to hear what we can expect in the 2024-2025 school year. They answered a mix of personal and Speyer-related questions — many sparking a back-and-forth that highlighted their strong partnership. Throughout the conversation, there was a sense of renewal and excitement for the upcoming year and a clearly shared passion for education.

In thinking about her inaugural year as Interim Head of the Lower School, Sam is most excited about working with the faculty, though she knows she will miss being in the classroom as a teacher. She added, "What makes Speyer so special is the people. It's the way everyone seeks to be inspired and share a love of working with the kids. There's nothing like getting to be in, and observe, [the energy] of our classrooms with Speyer teachers and students," echoing a sentiment we have heard from our community members, from parents to board members to alumni. Dorothy agreed saying, "There are so many things to love about Speyer, but I always come back to the teachers. They bring such rich intellectualism, such passion for teaching and learning, and such deep understanding of what inspires and challenges gifted learners."

Dorothy is starting her third year as the Head of the Middle School and is looking forward to the Middle School expansion, increasing the number of Fifth and Sixth Grade students and growing to three classes per grade from the previous two. "We have such strong cohorts of students, wonderful new families joining our community, and passionate teachers joining our faculty. We are developing and expanding our Debate and Math programs, planning a new, rich slate of Electives, and growing our Arts program. There are a lot of exciting plans in the works!" Dorothy said. She also welcomed a new assistant to her team this summer, Sara Eismont, who has an excellent track record both in higher education and independent schools.



"[SPEYER TEACHERS] BRING SUCH RICH INTELLECTUALISM, SUCH PASSION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING" — DSM



DOROTHY SANDLER MEYER AND SAM GABRIELLI

In addition to hiring and training more than 20 new faculty and staff members, summertime at Speyer is a moment to reflect and improve. Some of the projects that took shape during the summer of 2024 included developing a Mentorship Program to support new hires as they learn the ins and outs of the magic of being a Speyer teacher, renovating faculty work spaces, working on curriculum grants, and enhancing Schoology training to refine best practices for the Middle School teachers. "We [also] looked at our values as an institution," Sam explained, "We want to better clarify what we mean when we say 'ethical values'. The goal is to tangibly define what a Speyer teacher, student, classroom looks like. This is particularly pertinent as we expand to make sure we maintain our high standards."

In part, what allows us to make these improvements over the summer is funding from our donors. There was one grant in particular, given by a Speyer family, in the amount of $100,000 for curriculum improvement. The grant was then divided into many smaller grants, which teachers applied for and may be used either during the year or over the summer. The smaller grant work supports larger school-wide goals by finding new ways to integrate learning differences and bridging the gap between the pre- and post-Covid learning.

"We're focused on finding resources that speak to the level of complexity that our students thrive with," Sam said. "The grants inspire teachers to approach the curriculum with fresh eyes, while finding ways to align with the mission and create shared language among each other."

"WE'RE FOCUSED ON FINDING RESOURCES THAT SPEAK TO THE LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY THAT OUR STUDENTS THRIVE WITH" — SG

Some grants can be easily described: in 2023, Mr. Deards and Mr. Jameson used their grant to look into how ChatGPT could benefit our students, while Ms. McKay used her grant to integrate philosophy into the Second Grade curriculum. This year, Ms. Mckay is working to prepare our students for High School by integrating "Model UN" philosophy into Humanities classes.

"Other curriculum grant uses are less 'flashy'," Dorothy admits, "but no less vital or inventive." One of the biggest projects of the past summer was an overhaul of Speyer's Math resources. Currently contained on Google Drive, all documents used by our teachers go into a hub, but "it was completely unorganized," Dorothy explained, "Mr. Kaufman stepped in and applied for a grant to sift through 15 years of documents and create a comprehensive 'differentiation library'."

Dorothy defined a differentiation library as a way to organize math not by grade level but by individual acceleration. While logistically very hard to calibrate what this looks like on an institutional basis, it will minimize inequities in learning, allowing all teachers to have resources that help students who learn differently. It will also create a systemization to see where individual students are in their math education from year to year.

"As Speyer grows, we find our gifted students have increasingly different learning types that we need to accommodate," Dorothy explained, "Just one assignment needs multiple versions, a version with more space for kids who have graphomotor challenges or are visual learners, a version with more challenging questions for those who grasp a concept faster, and a version with extra questions for those who need more practice." Mr. Kaufman's system will streamline this process so all teachers can have a virtual library at their fingertips. Both teachers and students will be able to feel increased support in everyday learning as well as in new courses and units of study that strive to modernize and prepare Speyer students for an incredibly bright future.

Without the curriculum grant, our faculty and staff could not do this essential curriculum improvement work. Developing a curriculum is, "intensive, hard work. It's not something that you can do on a day to day basis," Sam explained, "There is serious intentionality. Most schools purchase the curriculum from third parties. Speyer doesn't have that option. The curriculum we need doesn't exist and we believe in being adaptive to our students and letting our teachers be creative while aligning with the needs of our students. That can't happen without funding." We asked both division heads what their goals would be if they had unlimited funding and Dorothy and Sam had the same answer: investing in more physical space, money to send teachers to professional development training, and helping them pursue graduate education in gifted education.



As we wrapped up our chat, we asked Dorothy and Sam if they could share one fond memory from their school years — Sam in Elementary School and Dorothy in Middle School. Sam recalled that, in Third Grade, she was team captain for "Battle of the Books", where the students were responsible for reading as many books as possible. She shared how she loved reading poetry and working with her teachers. Dorothy remembers reading her first work from Shakespeare — *Romeo and Juliet* — and said, " I was shocked at the ending because I just couldn't believe their death was a preventable accident. I hated that it was a miscommunication." She was transported by the Bard's language. Through that experience, paired with her Latin class, she realized her lifelong passion for linguistics.

To end with some levity, we wanted to know which animal Sam and Dorothy thought represented their personality. Sam said, "a beaver because I am diligent and tenacious in my work and I care about building things and working hard." Dorothy was unsure but then decided that she was most likely to be an owl as she is wise and well-reasoned. We found these animal choices were more than accurate, as evidenced by where they were during our interview: Dorothy was sitting in her dining room that doubles as a library for her family's overflowing book collection, while (true to the busy beaver she is) Sam was working until the very last minute before leaving on vacation — her husband was packing the house and car in the background!

If our lively, smart, and passionate conversation with Dorothy and Sam is any indication, we have no doubt that the 2024-2025 school year will be the best one yet!

THE CRYSTAL BALL

Celebrating 15 Years of Speyer

On Wednesday April 17, in honor of Speyer's crystal anniversary, we threw the Crystal Ball! The Gala is always a highly anticipated event — the biggest community gathering of the year. The Gala was a smashing success from celebrating with our community to raising **the most money in Speyer's history**! A special thank you to our Gala Committee, Sponsors, and donors for making it a night to remember.

TOGETHER WE RAISED
$514,962!



Photos by Raoul Brown



Photos for Sale by Rachael Langer



Jeremy Udden Band



Parents and Faculty Dancing to DJ Carlo Barrera



Broadway Singer Crystal Moneé Hall with Head of School Mr. D



Silent Auction Items

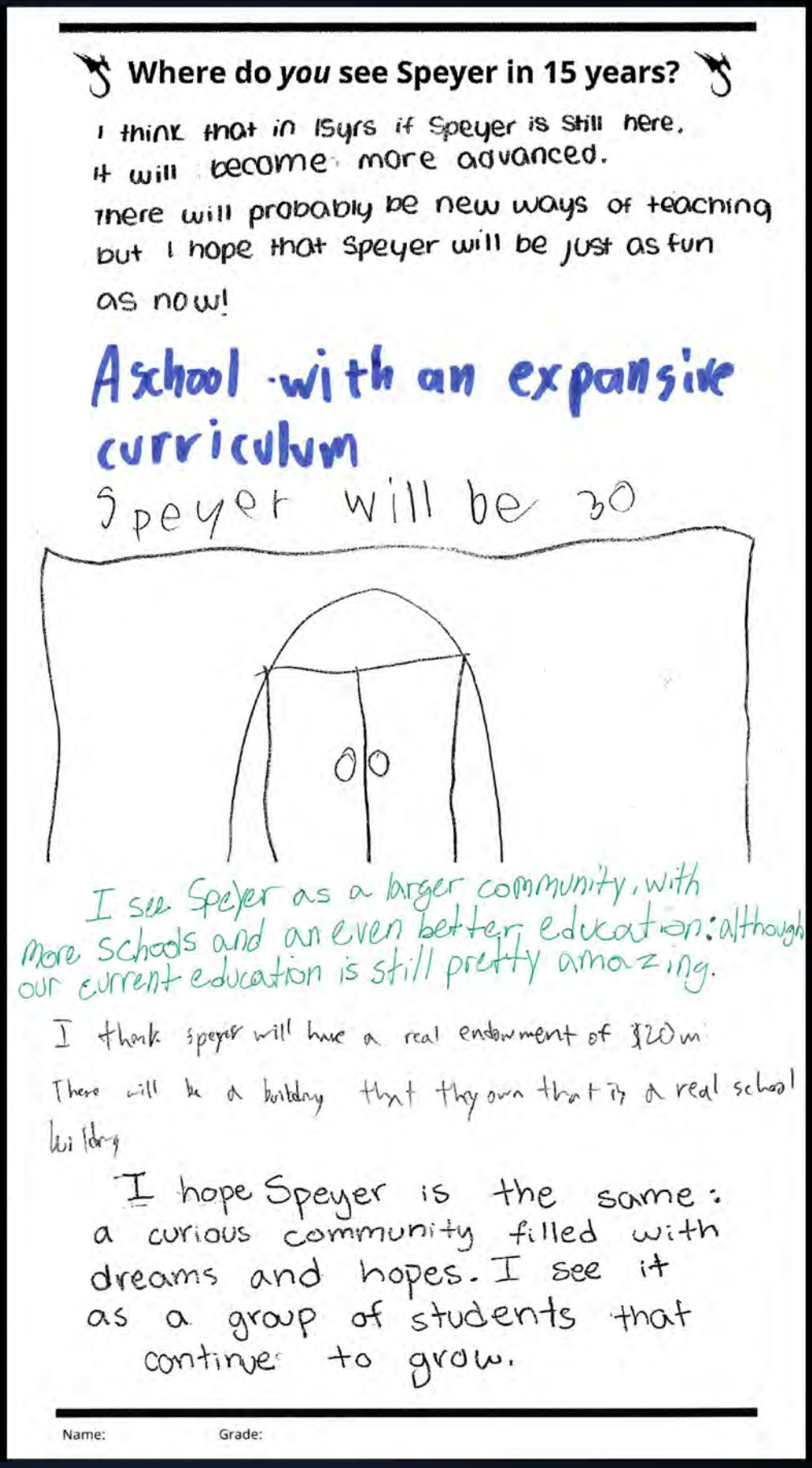


Live Auction



Auctioneer Lydia Fenet with Deputy Head of School, Paul Deards

In preparation for the event, cards were given to all students asking, "Where do you see Speyer in 15 years?" Their answers were displayed throughout the event. We received a large array of answers, some of which can be seen to the right. It was incredible to see the optimism and passion that our students have for, and how invested they are in, the future of Speyer.



Where do *you* see Speyer in 15 years?

I think that in 15yrs if Speyer is still here, it will become more advanced. There will probably be new ways of teaching but I hope that Speyer will be just as fun as now!

A school with an expansive curriculum

Speyer will be 30

I see Speyer as a larger community, with more schools and an even better education although our current education is still pretty amazing.

I think speyer will have a real endowment of $20m There will be a holiday that they own that is a real school holiday

I hope Speyer is the same: a curious community filled with dreams and hopes. I see it as a group of students that continue to grow.

Name: Grade:



In 1808, John Randel Jr was given the task of creating the infamous grid street system of New York City. For the next ten years, he and his team hammered thousands of survey bolts mapping the intersections of most of Manhattan. Then, those bolts were pulled up as the streets were paved. However, one single bolt allegedly remains. Imagine the intersection of 65th and 6th Avenue. Yes, this imaginary intersection is in Central Park (the idea for the grid system precedes the idea for Central Park). It is said that at this mythical intersection the last remaining Randel bolt remains. Help Mr. Thoren and Mr. Alonzo find this bolt! This adventure will take place in Central Park. If we don't enter a wormhole and end up back in 1811 banging bolts with Randel and his crew, we will then feast on pizza and ice cream at Columbus Circle.

One of the most beloved offerings at the Gala are the Educator Adventures. Our wonderful Faculty and Staff volunteer their time to organize experiences that are raffled off. Examples include "Head of School for a Day", "Donut Tasting on the Lower East Side", and "Cut Class with Mrs. Meyer". Speyer Parent and illustrator Karin Nguyen made illustrations to be used as images for the Gala website and also later printed out for the faculty/staff as a thank you. Below are just a few examples of the artwork and descriptions from last year's Educator Adventures!



Sew a Tote with Mr. Lindenburger and Ms. Hernandez! Learn how to sew on a sewing machine and make a tote bag to show off to your friends!



Ms. Jarrard is hosting a super fancy dinner party! Join her at the slightly spooky, but totally normal Speyer Mansion! Be sure to wear your favorite fancy outfit if you prefer. Perhaps a mystery or two will unfold while the dinner party guests are trying to dine. Hijinx may ensue and guests will need to solve clues along the way... to unlock the Great Speyer Mystery!

There are so many people who came together last spring to make the 2024 Gala such a success. From item or experience donations to the silent and live auctions to those who gave their time and energy, there isn't enough space to thank everyone!

We are so grateful to all who contributed — great and small!

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The Gala Committee

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Anna Ebbesen
Jessica Gerstle
Amanda Hoffman
Hyemin Koo
Karin Nguyen
Samantha Paull

To find out how to get involved in the 2025 gala, reach out to **advancement@speyerschool.org**



Join us for next year's gala!

April 30, 2025

Photo by C3 Photography

STAY CONNECTED

To find out *What's going on*

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AN INTERVIEW WITH SPEYER DRAGONS:

Lori Funk & Ethan Kent



Ethan and Lori at the Speyer Gala: The Crystal Ball

After almost a decade at 925 Ninth Avenue, Lori Funk and Ethan David Kent (EDK) are now watching their daughter Lucille '25 begin her final year at Speyer. In addition to making their Annual Fund gift every year, Lori and Ethan have been loyal supporters of the Speyer community in countless ways. We all witnessed how they built the Speyer Spirit Shop into what it is today and we continue to find them contributing their time and talent — Lori through her tireless work on the Admissions Team and Ethan capturing small and large Speyer moments with his photography (as evident on these pages and our website). As a family that has been instrumentally involved in the Speyer community, we asked them to reflect on their time here and their thoughts on the future.

What brought you to Speyer originally?

L: Lucille attended ACT Programs at St. John the Divine for preschool. Being from the Midwest, we began searching for her next school without quite understanding what "searching for a school" entailed in NYC. It was, shall we say, a very eye-opening experience. Ha! The Director of Programs at ACT at the time, told us about Speyer and encouraged us to apply for Lucille. We are forever grateful for that suggestion. Our first visit to Speyer sealed the deal. It was immediately at the top of our list, and, very thankfully, the fates decided in our favor. When the email admissions decision came in, we signed the contract within maybe five minutes. We were so excited!

E: During our first tour I remarked to one of the parent guides how incredible the environment was, i.e., the architecture, aesthetic, design, resources, etc. His remark back was a very humble, "Yeah, but it's the teachers that are the best part." That was it. The money you invest into a space means nothing without the principal investment being in the people. Figuratively, that's what brought us to Speyer, but it's worth mentioning because it's an element that I believe keeps bringing people to Speyer.

You two do so much for Speyer from Ethan's photography and volunteering for the PA to Lori's work in Admissions to your loyal Annual Fund gifts. What attracts your family to continue to be such strong supporters?

L: To us, Speyer is truly one of a kind. We know that when Lucille heads up that giant staircase every day, she is in the very best hands. Whatever we can do to support that journey is both our gift and our honor. And, to know that Lucille can look back and remember that we were a part of her Speyer journey a few steps along the way, is very meaningful to us.

E: Speyer has everything I wanted in a school for Lucille (and everything I wish had been in a school for me!) I firmly believe that every step is building the best future for her — opening up more and more opportunities and possibilities along the way. For me, participating, volunteering, contributing is easy. It's like saying "thank you for everything" because I know I'd never be able to say it enough.

How do you feel about having Lucille become an Eighth grader/your last year as Speyer parents?

L: "Bittersweet" can't even begin to describe this feeling. We asked Lucille what she would miss the most about Speyer and she said "teachers and friends". And, to that response, we extend our thumb and pinkie and shake our hands to say "same". Speyer has given Lucille an incredible foundation for learning and has given us an incredible respect for educators. The school has given her the tools to navigate life with an open and empathetic mind and has given us the tools to realize we still have work to do on ourselves as parents, too. We feel the future is bright, but we will never forget the amazing journey that got us here.

E: The first day of K — I remember thinking, "This is going to go by so fast. Make the most of it, live it, and enjoy it." Nine years later, I'm incredibly proud that we all did.

"For me, participating, volunteering, contributing is easy. It's like saying 'thank you for everything' because I know I'd never be able to say it enough."

- EDK



The Funk-Kent family including daughter Lucille (Class of '25)

Tell us about a time you felt the impact of Speyer?

L: For me, there are so many tangible impacts of Speyer. From incredible cross-curricular culminating events in Humanities to lovely works of art to beautiful pieces of original music to super cool science experiments to chess victories. But, for me, the greatest impact has been Lucille's journey in Debate. I've witnessed her shaking like a leaf, head down, barely speaking out loud while presenting in front of an audience. Now she is standing strong, thinking quickly on her feet, looking audience members squarely in the eyes, and speaking loudly with confidence on important and rousing topics. Having Debate begin in Kindergarten at Speyer is a stroke of genius, and the impact is undeniable.

E: I have to show my everlasting love for the Speyer Spirit Shop and say, every time I see someone wearing Speyer swag! Maybe a little silly in comparison to Lori's answer but all of those Ts, hoodies, and dad hats out there represent the collective enthusiasm, energy, and pride we have as a community. The success of the store is greater than the money it earns, and I couldn't have made it happen without the volunteers who helped me lead, the students who helped design, and anyone who has something Speyer-y at home.

What are you most excited about for your daughter's last year at Speyer?

L: I'm thrilled that Lucille will finally have an opportunity to learn from Mr. Deards. I'm looking forward to her continuing to be a Student Ambassador and to sharing the magic of Speyer with the "next generation". I'm delighted for her to go to Washington D.C. for the Eighth Grade class trip. I'm jazzed that she can have a voice in her own high school application process. These are just a few of the many things I'm most excited about. Attending a place like Speyer is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I want her to take in this last year to the absolute fullest.

E: I'm looking forward to something I won't be able to see exactly. Whether it's as a Debater, volleyball player, peer mentor, artist, or a tall Eighth Grade girl walking down the Boulevard, I'm excited for the times when a younger student quietly looks up to Lucille and is inspired by the person she's become.

What would you like to see more of from Speyer going forward?

L: No school will ever be perfect. As I've learned over these last years, there is no such thing as perfect. But, like our students, Speyer earnestly wants to be the best they can be. The school listens to their community and takes feedback to heart. Speyer is its own agent of change. So, I would like more of the same. And, in the future, when Speyer is celebrating its 150th+ anniversary, I hope they never take for granted that there will always be ways to evolve and improve.

E: Stay true to the mission. When the first thing your child experiences in the classroom is an intellectual connection with peers along with the support and attention of incredible educators, well, there are no limits.

Why do you choose to support the Annual Fund each year?

L&E: We found a home at Speyer. We can't even imagine what these last nine years would have been without 925 9th Avenue. Thinking that others could have the same amazing fortune as we have had makes the Annual Fund vital. Without the Annual Fund, Speyer cannot continue to operate as the Speyer we continue to know and love.

Every November, each community member (student, faculty, and staff) is given a leaf to write what they are most thankful for.

Our awesome Parents Association volunteers then "grow" the tree so everyone can see our gratitude.

Keep your eyes peeled around Thanksgiving for this Speyer Tradition!



A LETTER FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT: MARICOR SANTIAGO



Dear Speyer Families,

Whenever I catch up with friends outside of Speyer, I find myself describing a Speyer school year as busy…but the best kind of busy. Volunteering my time as Parents Association President, I am always filled with great pride to be a part of a parent body that is so directly involved in supporting Speyer's mission in all ways.

We all have heard the phrase "giving time, talent, and treasure", but our community truly embodies it. Just this past 2023-2024 year, our parents collaborated together and supported our students and our fearless faculty by: chaperoning field trips, coming into classrooms for read-alouds and special projects, operating our Spirit Shop, purchasing Speyer swag (and wearing it proudly and often), turning the Syms Lobby into a bookstore three times, supporting three donation drives to help our neighbors outside of Speyer, volunteering at the first chess and debate tournaments hosted at Speyer, dancing at the Gala, boosting class participation counts and donating to the Annual Fund, beautifying Riverside Park, bringing in trays of dishes from around the globe to celebrate our diversity, turning the Boulevard into a confectionery twice, and organizing a multitude of social events to help us strengthen and celebrate our Dragon family!

The impact from our parents volunteering in all of the ways listed above (and more) is felt and appreciated so deeply by our children, Speyer's staff and faculty, and fellow parents, especially in a small school community such as ours. But moreover, the powerful affirmations of gratitude for Speyer's mission that parents share while hauling hardcovers, planning picnics, and selling sweatshirts is truly awesome.

As you read about the highlights from this past school year, remember that it takes all of us giving our minds, muscles, and minutes to ensure our school and its mission continue to thrive. I am so grateful for the many ways you support Speyer. As we look towards the upcoming school year, I encourage you to join us and support our vibrant community… and be the best kind of busy.

Warmly,
Maricor

ALUMNI

ONCE A DRAGON ALWAYS A DRAGON!





Speyer Class of 2023



Playing a game of Speyer Themed Kahoot





Speyer Class of 2021



This event was made possible by donors like you!

As the number of Speyer Alumni continues to grow (NINE graduating classes!), we see our graduates making an impact across the world. From California to Maine, from the Czech Republic to Scotland, we are so proud to watch where our Dragons continue to roam. Our alumni outreach also continues to grow and we hosted the second annual Alumni Reunion last June. At the gathering, we asked them to share what they have been up to and you can read our latest Alumni Notes from those that sent us their updates. Plans are underway to reach out to our graduates throughout the year in a variety of ways — and Speyer alumni, if you are reading this, please scan the QR code (on page 29) to share your news with us!

Class of 2016

Gabriel Jacoby-Cooper '16 graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Philosophy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Currently, he is a Software Engineer on the App Store Frameworks team at Apple. At RPI, Gabriel's favorite classes were: Computability & Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics, Ontologies, Neuro Symbolic Knowledge Graphs, and Principles of Program Analysis. He also co-founded the Rensselaer Philosophy Society, led the Shuttle Tracker project in the Rensselaer Center for Open Source, and served in Student Government, among other activities. Gabriel also shared with us that he "conducted academic research in philosophy and symbolic reasoning, including the publication of a paper that [he] co-authored that introduces a Semantic Web ontology for automating Internet-of-Things devices in smart buildings. [He is] passionate about software engineering, urbanism and public transit, and philosophy, especially formal logic and metaphysics."

Class of 2018

Ben Miller '18 is currently studying Computer Science at NYU Tandon where he is a part of the OSIRIS cybersecurity club. Last summer, Ben worked as a remote intern with the Columbia Business School's IT department.

Class of 2019

Jonathan Manta '19 attended McCallie and now attends Tufts University. He spent the summer consulting with a geo-location start-up. He also let us know that he misses Speyer!

Nittai Huberman '19 graduated from Bronx Science and now attends Columbia University where his favorite extracurriculars are consulting club and intramural basketball. Last summer, he worked as a camp counselor, traveled to Tel Aviv, Berlin, and LA, and took a class at Columbia.

Ethan Tindel '19, a former member of the renowned Speyer Rock Band, is currently attending Brown University after transferring from Emory. His favorite classes are Psychology, proof-based Math, and Economics, and enjoys investing and playing poker in his free time. Last summer, he worked as a lifeguard and traveled.


Speyer Class of 2019

Class of 2020

Sasha (Alexandra) Miller '20 just graduated from Trinity School and is starting her first year at Rice University this fall. Her favorite class from high school was her "Some Great Not-American Novels" English class. She was also Editor-in-Chief of Trinity's writing magazine and was on the swim team. Last summer, Sasha worked as a tennis coach and traveled to Switzerland (and checked that off her bucket list)!

Deni Aliko '20 graduated from Dwight-Englewood last year and will be attending Princeton University in the fall. Deni's favorite classes in high school were Multivariable Calculus, Complex Analysis, and Modern World History. He was also a member of the Dwight-Englewood Robotics team for four years, which went to the world championship in 2023. During high school, he also continued his auto racing career, winning a club championship in 2022. Last summer, he backpacked in Europe with Mica Helder-Lindt '20, a lifelong Speyer friend!

Caroline Kelly '20 just graduated from Rye Country Day, where she enjoyed Biology, tennis, and research.

Class of 2021

Aydan Ergin '21 attends Horace Mann School where he enjoys "Precalc with Theory" and Robotics. Last summer, he traveled to see family, attended a pre-college program in Spain, and worked on his Computer Science passion projects.



Luke Metzidakis '21 currently attends the Davidson Academy of Nevada where his favorite class was "The History of the Inquisition". He is passionate about archery and has been shooting with the Junior Olympic Archery Development Program. Luke also performs stand-up comedy and was recently featured as the front page story above the fold of the Sunday edition of the Reno Gazette Journal (you can read the article on his website at lukejokes.com). Last summer, he performed comedy and traveled to visit family. (*See photo of Luke performing on the left*).

Class of 2022

William Lake '22 attends Stuyvesant High School where his favorite subjects are Chemistry and Biology. He enjoys his extracurriculars of theater, choir, volleyball, track, soccer, and basketball. Last summer, he toured with his Grammy-award winning choir in Norway and Denmark.

Ryan Vanterpool Stanford '22 is currently attending the McCallie School in Tennessee. His favorite subject is History and he enjoys playing lacrosse.

Taha Zaid '22 attends High School for Math, Science, and Engineering where his favorite subjects are Math and Science. He also enjoys playing football ("the real one") in his free time.

Johji Nakada '22 is now a Dalton junior and enjoys Math and playing soccer. Last summer, he traveled to Ecuador.

Sophia Kahn '22 attends Riverdale Country School where her favorite classes are History and Math. She is also a part of the Model UN and volleyball team (a sport she has been playing since her time at Speyer). Last summer, she attended a Columbia Climate Pre-College program in Vermont and started a year-long research project with the American Museum of Natural History. Sophia shared, "I miss Speyer so much!"

Imogen Cummings '22 attends Friends Seminary where she enjoys English class and singing. Last summer, she traveled to Barbados.

Class of 2023

Elijah Kulikov '23 attends the Bronx High School of Science where his current favorite class is Precalculus. He is also a member of the Jewish Student Union and Geography clubs. Last summer, he attended piano camp and took a three-week course at Johns Hopkins.

Maddie Chan '23 attends Horace Mann where her favorite subject is English. She also enjoys fencing and playing piano and guitar. She attended a Columbia pre-college program last summer.

Ripley Chang '23 attends Dwight-Englewood where she enjoys volleyball and music. Last summer, she traveled to Italy.

Siena Leis '23 attends Riverdale Country School where her favorite subjects are Art and English. She is a part of the field hockey, lacrosse, and basketball teams and volunteers at Riverdale Neighborhood House, a programming house for local youth. Last summer, she attended a pre-college Neuroscience course at Brown University, traveled to Italy, and worked as a hostess. Siena commented, "I am really enjoying Riverdale, and grateful for the admissions officers and preparation at Speyer!!"

Theo Brohme Chen '23 attends Bronx High School of Science where he enjoys Humanities, playing the bass, and playing soccer.

Gavin Leis '23 attends Riverdale Country School where his favorite class is History. He plays on the Soccer and Lacrosse teams, and last summer he was a sailing instructor.

Morgan Momen '23 now attends Phillips Exeter Academy where she is "most invested in the intersection between Science and Humanities and how to incorporate those concepts into improving our world through design/engineering." She plays ice hockey and is into Rocketry, Parliamentary Debate, Biology, Architecture, and the Arts (including writing, directing, and acting in plays). Last summer, she studied physics at Columbia, wrote a research paper with The Concord, did parliamentary debate at Yale, and returned for her fifth year at Cold Spring Laboratory.

Zadie Schonfeld '23 goes to Hunter College High School where her favorite class is social studies. Zadie runs track, writes for the school newspaper, coaches debate, and is on student government. She also loves baking — making bread for her family, cakes on birthdays, and soufflés for special occasions.
Last summer, she went to Korea and Japan with her family, worked an internship with Press Pass, went to camp, and did a PEN America free advocacy program in NYC.

Ness Boris Uskert-Raisen '23 attends Trinity School where he is a part of Model Congress, Model UN, Fear Symmetry (creative magazine), and the track team (Indoor and Outdoor). He also volunteers at his synagogue for Project Cicero helping migrant families, as well as leading a chapter of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement (part of Adamah). At Trinity, he was in a play, plays piano, tutors math, is on the Robotics team, and helps out with the Young Physicists Tournament. He is also starting two clubs this upcoming year at Trinity: the Improv Club and the Trinity Engineering Club. Last summer, Ness went to Hawaii, San Francisco, and New Orleans, did an online course about the Nature of Evil, and fit in some volunteering. He also learned how to code, worked on his novel, and trained for track. Ness shared with us, "I feel like I am not doing enough which is silly. So, what I want to do is be more of a leader and help people, as well as change the world somehow. I just want to make a 'difference'."

Congratulations to the

Class of 2020

on their high school graduation!

COLLEGE LIST

Bard College
SUNY Binghamton
Brown
Columbia
Cornell (2)
Emory (3)
Hampshire
Michigan
Northwestern
Oxford
Princeton (2)
Rice
St Andrews (2)
Smith
Stanford
Syracuse (2)
Tufts (2)
UCLA
University of Chicago (4)
Wesleyan (3)
Williams



Members of the Speyer Class of 2020 at the 2024 reunion

Thank you to our Alumni who donated to the Annual Fund

Deni Aliko '20
Tessa Chaet '21
Max Lindner '18
Jackson Molin '18
Akira Nakada '17
Johji Nakada '22
Stella Nakada '19
Ian Nicholson '22
Sylvie Oates '22
Jake Rosenberg '20
Zoe Rosenberg '21

Alumni who want to be included in future Alumni Class Notes, please fill out this form!

DANCING INTO THE FUTURE OF SPEYER:

Dance returns, better than ever!

Dance is back at Speyer and (again) a vital part of our curriculum. In every Dance class, our students are building skills well beyond those you see as they jump, tap, and twirl — they are deeply engaged in social-emotional learning that is essential. As we have known from our original partnership with the National Dance Institute (NDI) and now with Kelly Buwalda as our full-time dance educator, Dance allows Speyer students to stretch their risk-taking skills, strengthening their vulnerability and confidence. While they learn to build community and an interdependence on each other, they must also take individual responsibility in performing their role as part of the larger group. Not only is their physical endurance challenged in Dance class, their intellectual and mental rigor is tested as they learn spatial relationships, complex patterns, and sequences of movement. And as they prepare for performances, our students hone presentational skills, from narrating a show to sharing their movement and emotions fully with the audience.



Photos by Ethan David Kent



Last year, all of our Speyer Dragons danced! Beyond their curricular time for everyday skill building, our Lower School and Middle School students performed in a way that was a first of its kind in Speyer's history! In January, the entire Middle School gathered for its first Middle School Dance Assembly along the Boulevard. Each grade shared highlights of the techniques they learned throughout the semester and performed short pieces of choreography. In May, all of our Lower School students' hard work culminated in the Lower School Spring Performances at the fabulous 5 Angels Theater (only a short walk from Speyer). We packed it into one day — 10 classes, three casts, and shows for four audiences! Every Lower School student experienced performing in a black box theater with lights, large audiences, and costumes!

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who participated in the Gala and the Annual Fund, we are able to build on this momentum and add more programming to the arts — including Dance — at Speyer!











The theme of the performance was
The Power of Nature



Photo by Ethan David Kent

THE CLASS OF 2024

Gabrielle Adams
Nathaniel Blackman*
Olivia Bokk
Oliver Boydell
Kulyan Brar
Eli Breydo
Max Clateman
Lucas Hayes
Sidney Helder-Lindt
Remy Hertzberg
Una Joy Hornick
Iryna Ignatenko
Ariella Jacoby
Minseung Kim
Tanner Klipstein
Sophie Krupp
Christoffer Lamtan
Stella Lebowitz
Sophia Jiahui Lee
Hugo Lefer
Dimitri Lesokhin*
Yuyun MacAllister
Asher McClung
Devin Mehra
Johan Mendoza-Luna
Peter Nicholson*
Konstantine Okon
Anna Osadchaya
Gabriel Oscher
Reese Romolo
Karina Schwartzman
Wyatt Simpson
Julian Slaim
Ramiro Trasande
Francesca Vitiello*

**Denotes donor to Speyer's Annual Fund.*

SPEYER'S FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

is now in its tenth year!

Speyer's unique Financial Literacy Program, a centerpiece of the Middle School curriculum, offers students the opportunity to manage a real portfolio thanks to a generous gift from alumni parents Mary Harada and Greg Peterson (P '20). Each incoming class has a gift of $20,000 and over their nine years at Speyer, this portion grows with investment returns.

Each year, the net earnings/profit are split into two: the first half is used as a graduation gift back to Speyer and the second half is gifted pro rata to the students directly for their future education.

We are thrilled to share that the fund balance for the Class of 2024 grew from $20,000 to $40,932 — total earnings amounted to $20,932 — **the highest net earnings distribution in Speyer history!**

The Class of 2024 voted to donate their graduation gift ($10,465) to purchase new benches on the terrace and to make a contribution to the Sophie Krupp Girls Chess Fund. This tribute fund is launching in the fall of 2024 and their donation makes them the first to donate in memory of their classmate, Sophie Krupp.

The list of the Class of 2024 is to the left — we wish all of them well as they embark on the next part of their educational journey. The alumni who donated their portion of their pro rata gift to the Speyer Annual Fund are noted with an asterisk!



Photo by Ethan David Kent

Class of 2024 High School List

Bard Manhattan

Brearley

Bronx Science (2)

Brooklyn Latin

Cheshire

Choate

Collegiate (2)

Dalton (3)

Dwight-Englewood

Exeter (2)

Friends Seminary

Grace Church

Hackley

High School for Math, Science, and Engineering (HSMSE) (2)

Horace Mann

Ithaca Senior HS

Riverdale (3)

Spence

Stuyvesant (3)

Trinity (5)





June 11, 2024 Graduation
The Church of St. Paul the Apostle

Photo taken by Ethan David Kent



Students on the new terrace, made possible by donors like you

Photo by Rachael Langer

SUMMARY OF GIVING 2023-2024

The Annual Fund

Current Parents	$718,292
Board of Trustees	$190,658
Alumni Parents	$25,320
Alumni	$755.42
Grandparents	$8,150
Faculty & Staff	$2,624
Friends of Speyer	$22,027
TOTAL	**$967,826.42**

Restricted Giving

Curriculum Grant	$100,000
TOTAL	**$100,000**

Events

The 2024 Gala	$514,962
TOTAL	**$514,962**

2023-2024 TOTAL GIVING: $1,582,788.42



DONOR REPORT 2023-2024

On these next two pages, we honor our leadership donors (those who made gifts of $2500 or more) to the 2023-2024 Annual Fund.

Thank you to all of our donors, we couldn't do it without you!

Speyer Society

Ruvim and Olga Breydo
Yael Aflalo and Ludvig Froessen
Carl and Rui Johnson
Maxim Barskiy

Head of School Circle

Joseph and Eri Kofikawa
Jennifer and Philippe Selendy
Adam and Julie Taki
Robert Fergus and Agnes Chen
Richard and Natasha Krupp
Katherine and Benjamin Lederer
Gabriel and Jolie Schwartz

Dragon Society

ANONYMOUS
Tushar and Anjali Shah
Peter Nakada and Ellis Wood
Craig and Elizabeth Nemiroff
Gaurav and Isha Gupta
Carl Daucher and Elizabeth Styron
Choongbum and Soohee Lee
Mark and Julie Rosenberg
Morton and Anna Dubin
Jeremy and Meruert Planul
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Melissa Sefl and Ritu Ketkar
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Alexander and Anne Cochran
Michael Eastwood and Rebecca MacKay
Jordan Goldstein and Ilana Goldman
Aneal and Svetlana Krishnan
Yair and Ruth Livne-Kricheli
Matthew and Maaren Shah
Roman and Yevgenia Tiraspolsky
Yvonne Woo



Boulevard Society

ANONYMOUS
Betty and Kejian Wu
David and Helen Leis
David and Laura Yang
Ralph and Michelle Eissler
Marcus Lipner and Jessica Gerstle
Ying and Junfeng Yang
Yury Dubrovsky and Irina Plamovaty
Jesse Hertzberg and Gillian Fein
William and Nattavadee Hillegass
Adam and Shabnam Hayes
Amanda and Jarrett Hoffman
Maxim Kulikov and Victoria Averbukh
John and Joella Lykouretzos
Dana and Brian Ogilvie
Amy and Tal Tjiong
John and Suzy Lee
Yuan and Kai Sun

Legacy Society

ANONYMOUS
Josh and May Flowers
Ivy Lee and Edwin Tsui
Sarah Vaishville
Kathryn Zhao and Bill Hao
Marc Werner
Beverly and Staman Ogilvie
Laura Beech
Yiming Li and Jackie Hua
Nikos Panagiotopoulos and Katerina Bouzalis
Maria Tzortziou and Anastasios Papathanasiou
Conway Irwin and Michael Hirson
Matt and Danielle Gunlock
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Yoon Choi and Joseph Nam
Cristina Osmena
Serena Palumbo and Kurt Weiss
Samuel Jones and Kristine Riisberg
Steven and Helen Shin
Carolyn Sicher and Aaron Woolf
Scott and Lauren Stelzer
Stela and Horia Tipi
Cindy Chen and Sean Zheng

ANNUAL FUND HONOR ROLE

Parent participation for the 2023-2024 Annual Fund was 92%!

We are so grateful for our families and their commitment to Speyer. Please see participation by class below.

KINDERGARTEN
100% Participation

Nataliya Bliznetsova
Jim Cheng and Annie Li
Sarah Cone
Richard Corn and Nora Bojar
Adam and Christina Eames
Nitin and Aanchal Gupta
Gaurav and Isha Gupta
Jeremy and Sarah Hanson
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Adam and Stefanie Trilling
Mike Wang and Crystal Teng
Rui Yan and Xiaoxi Zhang
Akiva and Amanda Zablocki
Qi Zhang and Lianghua Yu

FIRST GRADE
100% Participation

Richard and Natasha Krupp
Markus Laine and Sooyeun Kim
Chi-Yu Liang and Won Chun
Carl Minzner and Yufeng Mao
Vikramjit Mukherjee and Nidhi Agrawal
Hiep and Karin Nguyen
Yliana Guzman and Richard Odige
Nikos Panagiotopoulos and Katerina Bouzalis
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Jeremy and Meruert Planul
Amotz and Shanah Segal
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Lee and Celia Wilson
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Rahul Yadav and Anjali Kashyap
Mutian Yang and Katherine Ji

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Toby and Astra Bonini
Owen and Kattia Bossola
Jae Chang and Songyun Kang
Rajeev Raizada and Tanzeem Choudhury
Zach Craun and June Ng
Carl Daucher and Elizabeth Styron
Allison Seidner and Michael Decker
Andreas and Sinziana Eckner
Ludvig Froessen and Yael Aflalo
Gaurav and Isha Gupta
Jeremy and Sarah Hanson
Josh and Vicky Hausman
Stephen and Gwyneth Huston
Steven Kwak and Hyemin Koo
Ariel and Bengi Lagares
Choongbum Lee and Soohee Jeong

THIRD GRADE
92% Participation

Hatam and Narges Anvar
Jonathan and Meredith Bettencourt
Gabriel and Hope Buerkle
Evan and Elissa Burnstein
Jason Cestero and Mila Luna
Howard Cheng and Amy Cerciello
Sung Choi and Isabelle Shin
Rommel Daniel and Leasta Saint-Cyr
Damiano and Tolu Dragone
Yoshimi Endo and Yoshiko Inoue
Josh and May Flowers
Jabez and Constance Foo
Michael Furrow and Vanessa Yen
Jorge Gallegos and María José Peñaherrera
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John Banks and Sang Mi Ji
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Morty and Anna Dubin
John Faigle and Kimberly Breger
Manoel Felciano and Christine Kuper
Janet and Ricardo Fernando

SECOND GRADE
87% Participation

Yair Livne and Ruth Krichell
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David Opolon and Coppelia Marincovic Opolon
Vinay Sharma and Jennifer Lee
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Emerson and Elena Wu
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FOURTH GRADE
100% Participation

Wenli Hao and Kathryn Zhao
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Jarrett and Amanda Hoffman
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FOURTH GRADE *cont.*

Flavio Kamenetz and Jennifer Bonheur
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Maxim Kulikov and Victoria Averbukh
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Yiming Li and Jackie Hua
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Daniel Lee and Caroline Montojo
Tai Moy and Tara Geer
Brian and Dana Ogilvie
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Conan and Elisheva Yuan

Nabeel and Sania Anwar
Sharone and Kara Baradarian
Owen and Kattia Bossola
David and Julie Brodsky
Daejin Chang and Siheun Cho
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FIFTH GRADE *100% Participation*

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Craig and Liz Nemiroff
Ruoming Pang and Zhiyan Liu
Michael and Maria Paskowitz
Daniel and Samantha Paull
Abraham Rancier and Kathy Arciniegas
Sam Jones and Kristine Riisberg
Rick and Maria Romolo
Maaren and Neel Shah
Tushar and Anjali Shah
Steven and Helen Shin
Ben Statz and Katy Lederer
Siu and Sinki Wong
Sammy Yuen and Jenny Yung
Sean Zheng and Cindy Chen

SIXTH GRADE *83% Participation*

Patrice and James Anderson
Elena Barskaya and Maxim Barskiy
Toby and Astra Bonini
Jason Cestero and Mila Luna
Stephen and Jini Cho
Eric Cohen and Lisa Cobert
Carl Daucher and Elizabeth Styron
John Faigle and Kimberly Breger
Anastasios Papathanasiou and Maria Tzortziou
Claus Hertel and Natalia Bruslanova Hertel
Jesse Hertzberg and Gillian Fein
William and Bingru Hill

SIXTH GRADE *cont.*

Chad and Shanti Ifill
Carl Johnson and Rui Dong
Sakeeb Anwar Khan and Zarin Anika
Tal Kimmel and Amy Tjiong
John and Suzy Lee
Matthew Liao and Wibke Grutjen
Alexey and Uliana Makarov
Laura Beech and Paul McClung
Sandeep and Vinita Mody

Charles Ardai and Naomi Novik
Nina Kang and David Auerbach
Matthew Chan and Yvonne Woo
George Chang and Lan Tran
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Josh and Vicky Hausman
Yinan Huang and Xuanyi Li
Ethan Kent and Lori Funk
Joseph Coffey and Eri Nishikawa
John and Suzy Lee
Kenneth Leon and Meier Hsu

EIGHTH GRADE *71% Participation*

William and Julie Adams
Dev and Piper Brar
Ruvim and Olga Breydo
Adam Hayes and Sarah Farivar-Hayes
Mark Helder and Nikki Lindt
Jesse Hertzberg and Gillian Fein
Peter Hornick and Jena Pincott
Yuri Krupp and Victoria Krupp-Rombalski
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David Lebowitz and Kate Kang
Nathan Oates and Amy Wilkinson
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Scott and Lauren Stelzer
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Horia and Stela Tipi
Frank and Juli Vitiello
Mike Wang and Crystal Teng
Rui Yan and Xiaoxi Zhang
Akiva and Amanda Zablocki

SEVENTH GRADE *92% Participation*

Tristan and Katherine Loanzon
Kim and Joseph Masibay
Michael Mendoza and Sofia Luna
Daniel Neill and Rebecca Leeman-Neill
Michael and Maria Paskowitz
Aaron Peyton and Roxanne Meyer
Sung and Helen Rno
Yirong Shen and Rui Zhang-Shen
Roman Tiraspolsky and Genya Zemlyakova
Raymond Tse and Chih Ling Liu
Sarah Vaishville
Aaron Woolf and Carolyn Sicher
Kejian Wu and Betty Chen
Conan and Elisheva Yuan
Liang Zhang and Helen Liu

Johnson Lee and Julie Wong
David Lefer and Yvonne Lui
Alex Lesokhin and Irina Sobol
Laura Beech and Paul McClung
Sundeep and Geetika Mehra
Michael Mendoza and Sofia Luna
Giles Nicholson and Peggy Sotirhos-Nicholson
Sveta Ksenofontova
Rick and Maria Romolo
Victoria Schwartzman and Zachary Schwartzman
James Simpson and Jessica Davis
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Allison Yu and Colin MacAllister

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American Online Giving Foundation
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Ares Management
BNY Mellon
D.E. Shaw & Co.
Epic Games
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Global Atlantic Financial Group
Goldman Sachs
Goldsmith Family Foundation (The)
Google Matching Gift
Moody's Corporation
Morgan Stanley
Neuberger Berman LLC
Pfizer, Inc.
Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLP
Principal Financial Group
Rolex Watch USA, Inc.
S&P Global
Schwab Charitable
Truist Securities
UBS Matching Gift Program
United Kingdom Online Giving Foundation

Above are the foundations and companies that supported Speyer in the 2023-2024 school year. To see if your employer has a matching gift program, check with your HR department or email advancement@speyerschool.org for assistance.

Matching gifts make a strong impact.



The Speyer Varsity Basketball Team
Photo by Ethan David Kent



Chess on the Boulevard

Photo by Rachael Langer

2023-2024

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Throughout this publication, we made every effort to ensure inclusivity and accuracy. However, in a production of this size and scope, mistakes are possible. If names have been omitted, misspelled, or improperly listed, or if there are other errors, please accept our sincerest apologies.

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Again, thank you.



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