



SYNERGY

2024–2025 GRATITUDE REPORT

Thank you to our donors for empowering innovation in education for children who learn differently.

FROM OUR FAMILIES



"CBA is amazing and has been truly transformational for our daughter. It's an incredible relief to me to see her happy to attend school each day, feeling like she is included and accepted, and making huge strides in academics that were so challenging as to be nearly impossible for her before attending CBA. Her success at CBA has 100% justified the leap I took in relocating to the area from Tennessee so that she could attend."



"Our child has been allowed to blossom in the environment created at CBA. It has been a miracle for our whole family. The division director sets high standards for teachers. She is an incredible educator, and we are lucky to have her."



"The division director and teachers are amazing, and I feel like I can communicate all my child's concerns."

"I can't tell you how much finding the school has meant to our family! Our daughter has flourished both academically and personally this year thanks to CBA! I wish every child had an opportunity to go to a school as wonderful as this one!"

"Our son has gained confidence in himself and the world. He feels like he belongs and his little light is burning brightly. To have a school that reinforces that you are enough exactly how you are, and everything can be figured out in whatever way it needs to be for you, is a gift."

"We loved this year. Great hands-on learning, my child's growth this year was amazing."



OUR MISSION

Chesapeake Bay Academy educates students through academic programs individualized to address their learning differences, empowering them with the skills and confidence necessary for success in higher education, careers and life.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear CBA Family and Friends,

Twenty years ago, our family's life was forever changed when we enrolled our daughter at Chesapeake Bay Academy. What began as hope quickly grew into gratitude as we witnessed her flourish in an environment designed to nurture her unique gifts. From that moment forward, my extended family and I became ardent ambassadors of this extraordinary school.

For the past five years, I've had the privilege of serving as Board Chair. It has been an honor to work alongside dedicated board members, visionary administrators, compassionate educators, supportive parents, and, of course, our remarkable students. Together, we embody the very spirit of **synergy**—the belief that when diverse strengths, experiences, and perspectives are united, the results are far greater than any individual contribution alone.

Over the past decade, this synergistic culture has elevated CBA to national recognition as a **School of Excellence**. We are a community where collaboration, mutual respect, and open communication fuel innovation, enhance problem-solving, and create a cohesive vision for the future. That shared vision is visible in every corner of our campus and in every success story of our students.

Because of this collaborative spirit, CBA offers an innovative, technology-rich, personalized educational experience that empowers students to reach their full potential. Our **Makerspace curriculum**, for example, was built through partnerships between our faculty and the local business community to provide hands-on, career-centered learning. Likewise, our **Center for Educational Research and Technological**

Innovation (CERTI) grew out of collaboration between teachers and researchers in higher education, paving the way for initiatives like **CadetNet Virtual Academy**, which extends our reach through virtual-reality-based instruction.

Synergy also connects us to the broader Hampton Roads community. CBA partners with universities, military family services, and nonprofit organizations to expand resources and opportunities for exceptional learners. Our annual symposium with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters is just one example of how we come together to support children with ADHD.

The impact of this synergy is profound: lives changed, families strengthened, and futures opened wide with possibility. I am humbled to have witnessed this transformation and honored to play a part in it.

Serving as Board Chair of CBA is a role I deeply cherish. To our donors, advisors, and families, thank you. Your commitment and partnership make this work possible. Together, we are ensuring that every student is empowered to lead their own learning journey and step confidently into the bright future ahead.

With gratitude,

Dave Levin, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear CBA Community,

Since Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) was founded, our mission has been clear: to provide an education that transcends the limits of traditional classrooms and meets the unique needs of exceptional learners. That mission has always required collaboration, creativity, and courage—qualities that together form the synergy that drives our success.

When the global pandemic disrupted education everywhere, CBA rose to the challenge. Technology, faculty expertise, and board leadership converged at exactly the right moment, transforming upheaval into opportunity. The results were extraordinary. That seamless joining of strengths is synergy in action.

From this foundation, CBA reached outward—partnering with the Center for Education Reform, which recognized CBA as one of the most innovative schools in the nation. Through collaborations with technology start-ups pioneering gamified and virtual reality learning, we have stretched the very boundaries of what education can be. This, too, is synergy: ideas, people, and purpose working together to redefine the future of learning.

Today, through the growth of the Center for Educational Research and Technological Innovation (CERTI), we are extending that synergy even further.

By working alongside universities and research institutions, we are building the evidence base that will not only enrich CBA classrooms but also influence education everywhere.

At the very heart of this synergy is you. Our donors make it possible for vision to become reality. Your generosity fuels the research, empowers our teachers, strengthens our community, and ensures that students with learning differences receive the education they deserve. Together—with your continued partnership—we will keep leading boldly into the future of education.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Jankowski".

Dr. Judy Jankowski
Head of School



SYNERGY THROUGH SUPPORT

THE FANTL FAMILY

“Ten fingers? Ten toes?”

Those are the first questions many parents ask in the delivery room. The answers don't change how you'll raise your child, but they bring relief. You're a parent now—your job is to make sure your child is healthy, safe, and thriving.

But then comes a question that really can shape your child's future: “Has Owen ever been tested for ADHD or dyslexia?”

It was the end of second grade, just days before the onset of COVID. Owen's teacher told us that he struggled to sit still and stay focused, and she recommended an evaluation. We were stunned. Did she have the right child? The boy we saw at home was a laser-focused Lego contractor.

He played violin in the school orchestra and Gaston in our community theater's production of *The Little Mermaid*. He conducted science experiments in the kitchen and built complex inventions out of cardboard and spare parts from our garage. He even idolized Thomas Edison!

Still, we kept an open mind and scheduled the evaluation. For the first time, we were faced with something we hadn't planned for—something that could affect Owen's learning, confidence, and, most importantly, his happiness.

With an official diagnosis, we leaned on the public school system. We were grateful for caring teachers and a well-crafted IEP, but Owen still came home exhausted from navigating noisy hallways and being pulled in and out of classrooms for support. “What's wrong?” we would ask, hoping he could articulate the missing



piece we hadn't figured out yet. Several teachers quietly admitted they wished they could do more. And like Owen, we were tired, frustrated, and disheartened.

We knew we had to do better. And we did.

From the moment we stepped onto the CBA campus, we knew it was different. This was a school that valued not only education but the individual. Small classes. Teachers who embraced challenges rather than avoided them. A culture built to unlock potential—not just raise test scores. At last, we'd found the missing piece: a school that understood Owen's learning differences and celebrated his strengths. Most importantly, Owen was happy.

Since joining CBA, Owen has thrived. He was elected Lower School President his first year, co-hosted the spring concert, had artwork chosen for display at MOCA and won a Science Academic Award. Perhaps, most meaningful of all, he has made real friendships and comes home with a glint in his eye.

So now, instead of asking “What's wrong?” we ask, “What's next?”

SYNERGY THROUGH GOVERNANCE

CHESAPEAKE BAY ACADEMY IS PROUD TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRUSTEES



Steven M. Miner, Ph.D. – Trustee

Dr. Steven M. Miner is the Program Manager for Corporate Radiation Health overseeing a variety of health physics programs supporting the nation’s nuclear shipyards and Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. His PhD in Instructional Design & Technology aids his additional role as the Corporate Training Manager. From his military assignments and follow-on work in the civilian sector, Steve has over 30 years of leadership, management, and training experience. Dr. Miner is inspired to support the school’s work as his daughter-in-law, Tara Miner, is the Director of CBA’s CadetNet Virtual Academy.



Gordon Wagner – Trustee

Chesapeake Bay Academy is delighted to welcome one of our newest trustees Gordon Wagner. Gordon joined the CBA Board of Trustees in 2024 and is director of consultant relations for Brown Advisory’s Endowments & Foundations. He is responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with investment consultants and nonprofit committee members. Prior to this role, Gordon served as an endowment and foundations advisor, partnering with clients to ensure the proper team and investment solutions were put in place.

A NEW CHAPTER OF SERVICE



Billy Brock – Trustee Emeritus

After 27 years of dedicated service on the CBA Board of Trustees, William (Billy) B. Brock was elected to Trustee Emeritus status as the board recognized his distinguished service to the school. Mr. Brock, a lifelong Norfolk resident, is an alumni parent who joined the board of trustees in 1996. During his tenure he served as the board’s vice chair, on the strategic planning committee, and on the committee on trustees. Mr. Brock also founded the CBA Spirit Wear initiative and was an honorary cabinet member for the Transformation Capital Campaign. He earned a law degree from the University of Virginia and is a retired from Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate in his role as an investor. Other affiliations include Norfolk Young Life, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and Norfolk Collegiate School. CBA is incredibly grateful to Billy for his long service to our mission of the school.



SYNERGY THROUGH LEADERSHIP

HONORING DR. JUDY JANKOWSKI

This May, the Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) community will gather in celebration to honor Dr. Judy Jankowski's thirteen years of service as Head of School. "Dr. J", as she is known to her students, has dedicated her 40-year career to educating exceptional learners of all kinds and will leave behind a powerful legacy. Her dedication to CBA has attracted many gifts to our community. Under her leadership CBA established an Endowment Fund, elevated the school's learning environment by prioritizing innovation and best practices, exceeded admission and development goals to ensure healthy financial fitness, brought nationwide recognition to the school and positioned CBA as an educational thought leader through the creation of CERTI, CBA's Center for Educational Research and Technological Innovation.

Recently, when asked about what she hoped to be remembered most for, she thoughtfully

replied, "The importance of synergy, and how all the moving parts came together to lift up the organization."

Dr. J's transformative leadership, continued commitment to providing high-quality professional development opportunities, and attentiveness to maintaining and growing an evidence-based educational environment has set the bar high and positioned CBA as a leader on the national level. Under her leadership, in 2023 CBA was named by the Center for Education Research as one of the most innovative schools in the country and awarded \$200,000.

In addition to her work at CBA, Dr. J has served on various non-profit boards across the region including the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS), the Virginia Foundation for LD Students (VFLDS), the Westminster-Canterbury Foundation and Horizons Hampton Roads. In 2015, Dr. Jankowski was recognized for her

outstanding work by Virginia Beach Mayor, William D. Sessoms, Jr., on behalf of the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Dr. Jankowski is Community Faculty at Eastern Virginia Medical School and serves as the community representative to the accreditation council (ACATE) for the Counseling and Art Therapy Program at the Joan and Macon Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University. She has received multiple honors including the Women of Distinction award (2020) from the YWCA of South Hampton Roads and the Klingenstein Fellowship at the College of Education at Columbia University (2020).

Accomplishments

- Advocated for Tax Credit legislation to support students with specialized learning needs
- Developed the MAKE CBA Entrepreneurship Program & Makerspace funded through grants from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and the E.E. Ford Foundation
- Launched the Center for Educational Research and Technological Innovation (CERTI) in 2021 to study the increasing use of technology specifically in special education
- Secured Higher Education Partnerships: Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU), Old Dominion University (ODU), Eastern Virginia

Medical School (EVMS), and Norfolk State University (NSU)

- Developed CadetNet Virtual Academy: Integrated direct instruction, gamified learning platforms, and real-time content in a virtual reality assisted environment
- Founded Annual ADHD Symposium in partnership with Children's Hospital for the King's Daughters (CHKD): 10th annual symposium scheduled Spring 2026
- Instrumental in Faculty Professional Development: prioritizing advanced degrees for faculty
- Successfully applied to the Center for Education Reform at the Semifinalist level securing a \$200K award identifying CBA as one of the most innovative schools in the country
- Implemented Art Therapy, Social Work and School Counseling internship programs for EVMS, ODU, VWU graduate students

Dr. Jankowski has been a mentor and inspiration to those who have had the privilege of working alongside her. After years of dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment, Dr. Jankowski is stepping into a well-deserved retirement. The community wishes her happiness, health, and fulfillment in the years ahead.



SAVE THE DATE

Community Celebration
to Honor Dr. J

Friday, May 29, 2026

5 – 7 pm



G. ROBERT ASTON, JR. HALL BUILDING DEDICATION

On Saturday, October 5th, 2024, Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) and Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU) held a ribbon cutting ceremony at CBA to officially renamed the building "G. Robert Aston, Jr. Hall". The naming recognizes the lasting contributions of G. Robert (Bob) Aston, Jr., Founder and Executive Chairman of TowneBank. Aston is a member of the VWU Board of Trustees and a supporter of both VWU and CBA. CBA Head of School Dr. Judy Jankowski, VWU President Scott Miller and Mr. Aston all provided remarks to gathered friends and colleagues.

"We are deeply grateful for Bob's unwavering support for both CBA and VWU," Dr. Jankowski shared.

CBA's building is located on the east side of the VWU campus, adjacent to TowneBank Park, home of Broyles Field (VWU softball) and Perry Field (VWU baseball). VWU purchased the CBA building in June 2024 and executed a long-term lease back

to the Academy.

CBA will continue to operate as a separate organization and a VWU Partner in Progress. This transaction has

significant financial benefits for both organizations and will create a wide range of new opportunities – academic, athletic, and extracurricular.

"VWU is committed to serving the neurodiverse community, as evidenced by our recent announcement regarding VWU's new Center for Career Development and Neurodiversity," VWU President Dr. Miller added. "By further enhancing our relationship with Chesapeake Bay Academy, we look forward to expanding the many possibilities for collaboration."



SYNERGY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



CHESAPEAKE BAY ACADEMY AND VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Since Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) opened in 1989, we have found a great partner in Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU). After opening in a storefront in Norfolk, CBA relocated in its second year to the Heritage United Methodist Church, directly adjacent to what was then Virginia Wesleyan College (VWC). While CBA had access to the church building, there was no space outdoors for students to play. Founding board member Alan Rashkind reached out to the good folks at VWC to inquire about the use of green space for CBA students. As Alan recounts the story, the next thing he knew he was being greeted by VWC President Dr. Billy Greer, accompanied by Robert DeFord, then Chair of VWC's Building and Grounds committee, to personally roll out the welcome mat for their new neighbors.

Since then, CBA and VWU have continued to build an important relationship, expanding and improving educational opportunities across Hampton Roads and beyond. After CBA officially became part of the VWU campus last year, our collaborative efforts have expanded exponentially. While CBA's Upper School students have enjoyed the opportunity to take low-cost college coursework at VWU for several years, recently our faculty and staff have gained that benefit as well.

For years CBA has hosted VWU student interns in school psychology and provided clinical observations for students at the college of education. In recent years, research opportunities have increased through the collaboration between VWU professors and the Center for Educational Research and Technological Innovation (CERTI),

CBA's research arm. Currently, Dr. Taryn Myers, Chair of the VWU Department of Psychology, and Dr. Mindy Gumpert, CBA Board Member and Adjunct Professor at VWU, serve on the CERTI Advisory Council. The council works to select and oversee the research studies being conducted. This collaboration is bound together through the leadership of Dr. Shantanu Tilak, Research Director of CERTI and Adjunct Professor at VWU.

Opportunities to work together continue to expand with CBA's establishment of our online offering, CadetNet Virtual Academy, and VWU's Global Online Campus. New teacher training programs specific to digital learning environments are under discussion. Together, VWU and CBA professionals are studying teaching and learning in virtual environments, embracing VR and AI in that process.

Excitement abounds at CBA and VWU about the construction of the new Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (VMOCA), scheduled to open on the VWU campus in spring 2026. Under the leadership of Truly Matthews, Director of Education and Engagement at VMOCA, plans are underway to ensure CBA students and faculty benefit from this world-class resource.

Over the past 35 years, Chesapeake Bay Academy and Virginia Wesleyan University have built a partnership defined by trust, innovation and shared purpose. That synergy has contributed to the significant growth of both institutions. At this pivotal moment in the history of CBA and VWU, we look forward to the limitless possibilities that lie ahead!



CADETNET: EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH VIRTUAL LEARNING

By Tara Miner

Director of CadetNet Virtual Academy



When I first stepped into the classroom at CBA, it was during the height of the pandemic, a time when parents were overwhelmed, and students were feeling drained and disconnected. Despite the challenges, CBA's philosophy of meeting each student where they

are, emotionally, academically, and personally, resonated with me deeply. I spent two years there, discovering not just my love for teaching, but also my passion for the difference a place like CBA can make in a child's life, even during the hardest of times

But then, life took a turn. My husband's job moved us three hours away, and I found myself in a public school position that left me feeling uninspired and frustrated. It was a far cry from the dynamic, student-centered environment I had grown to love at CBA. That's when an opportunity to help build something truly innovative, something that could change the landscape of education came my way: CadetNet.

I joined CadetNet at its inception in the fall of 2024, filled with excitement and the drive to bring the best of CBA's approach to the virtual world. Our mission was simple: we wanted to create a learning environment that would be as engaging, personal, and flexible as our CBA classrooms but accessible to students anywhere, anytime. For neurodiverse students and those who need individualized support, this wasn't just about improving education, it was about giving them a chance to thrive in ways traditional classrooms often can't.

The Challenge

One of the biggest challenges we faced was reshaping people's perception of online education. So many had negative views after the pandemic, associating virtual learning with disconnection or disengagement. But CadetNet isn't like that. We're not your typical online school. Our classes are live and synchronous, and we integrate immersive VR technology to make learning more interactive and hands-on. This approach perfectly aligns with my belief that learning should be fun, engaging, and, most importantly, accessible. Using VR, students can explore ecosystems, travel through the solar system, or walk through historical events in ways traditional methods simply can't replicate.

The Impact

What's made this journey so worthwhile are the stories I hear from students and parents. I've worked with students who once dreaded school. These students felt anxious, frustrated, or disconnected from the learning process. Now, I hear them say they love their CadetNet classes. These are kids who had felt left behind in the rigid, one-size-fits-all traditional school model. But with CadetNet, the flexibility and personalized approach have allowed them to not just catch up but thrive.

Parents have shared how this virtual experience has changed everything for their kids. One parent said their child finally received the accommodations and support they needed to succeed. To hear that CadetNet is not just a school, but a lifeline for these students, is honestly the greatest reward. It's moments like these that keep me pushing forward.

Looking Forward

The potential for CadetNet is vast, and what excites me most is that we're just getting started. Technology continues to evolve, and with it, our ability to adapt and improve. In the coming year, we're equipping teachers with coding skills so they can create custom VR experiences, like interacting with AI-powered historical figures or exploring landmark court cases. This isn't just about learning facts; it's about immersing students in experiences that expand their world and their imaginations.

As CadetNet continues to grow, I envision a new kind of learner emerging; one no longer limited by geography or the traditional classroom. CadetNet students are not just absorbing information. They are engaging with technology in ways that spark creativity, build critical thinking skills, and help them see possibilities that once felt out of reach.

A Personal Mission

CadetNet is not just a project for me; it's a deeply personal mission. It's about giving every child the opportunity to receive an education that meets their needs, whether they live in a rural community with limited resources, are part of a military family relocating every few years or have learning differences that require a more

personalized approach. This work has only deepened my belief in the power of education to change lives. Now, with CadetNet, we can take the incredible CBA experience and offer it to students across the country. That is my dream. I want every child to experience the kind of education that empowers them to love learning and realize their full potential.

The Future of CadetNet

We are only at the beginning, and I'm thrilled to see how far we can go. The innovations we're bringing to the classroom are just the start. With each passing year, CadetNet will continue to evolve, expanding what's possible for students who need it most.





SYNERGY THROUGH INNOVATION



BY: DR. SHANTANU TILAK, DIRECTOR OF CERTI

Innovation has always been at the heart of Chesapeake Bay Academy's culture; whether it be our project-based classrooms, our use of machine learning algorithms to attune to student skill, or our sensory gym and peace room that allow students to decompress as they undertake challenging classes. Sharing how and why these practices can transform the lives of children like ours can help create transformative change, even in programs where special education teachers of the future learn the tricks of the trade. It is this multifaceted notion of delivering the best instruction we can to our kids and transforming how teachers themselves learn that inspired the establishment of CBA's research arm, The Center for Educational Research and Technological Innovation (CERTI). The goal was to generate an evidence-base using real-time data from CBA to help not only our teachers make decisions in their classrooms but also create synergy with higher education institutions to change how young educators in college learn to serve K-12 students with learning differences. Starting with an action research project at CBA, collaborative professional development practices were designed by consulting teachers about their goals.

After our initial work in the building to understand how staff and researchers at CBA could collaborate, we hit the ground running in 2023-24, receiving the prestigious Yass Prize (offered by the Center for Education Reform and

Forbes), and a grant from the Blocker Foundation to build out a virtual middle school program at CBA that incorporates virtual reality. The result was CadetNet Virtual Academy, which relies on immersive learning to create a balance between didactic learning in a videoconference, and project-based VR-assisted building activities. Scientific concepts learned in class become everyday concepts as students build them in ways they find most comfortable using 360 videos, images, 3D Models, and even text. A plethora of research studies were implemented to test every step of creating and implementing CadetNet. Teachers used MagicSchool AI to design the virtual curriculum, reporting several challenges and new possibilities associated with using AI to craft instructional scenarios.

Research assistants from Virginia Wesleyan University's psychology program were enlisted to help with research initiatives that were conceptualized with the CERTI Advisory Council, tapping into the possibilities that our budding partnership with the university brings. A socioemotional learning component of the curriculum teaching mindfulness and meditation in the Metaverse was studied with students in the building as part of a grant funded by the Sentara Foundation. The results showed that VR-based mindfulness simulations could gradually improve students' ability to cope with stress.

The summer program using CadetNet's VR-based approach was studied in July 2025, through

the collection of surveys, network data from VR headsets, and audio recordings. So far, the data analyzed has shown that CadetNet students became more competent with understanding complex concepts in the core subjects and also developed deeper social bonds with our teachers and each other. Standardized scores for math, as well as visuospatial reasoning, also showed growth after VR instruction.

Since the inception of our research program, synergies between our teachers, researchers, and college students have heightened its impact. I believe that the work of CERTI will become a beacon for families, educators, and budding researchers as we move deeper into the Information Age.



CERTI

Center for Educational Research
& Technological Innovation

ADVISORY COUNCIL



J.D. Ball, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Eastern Virginia Medical School



Linda Miller-Dunleavy

Master Lecturer, Old Dominion University (retired)



Michael Glassman, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Educational Studies, The Ohio State University



Taryn Myers, Ph.D.

Director of Academic Effectiveness and Professor of Psychology, Virginia Wesleyan University



Mindy Gumpert, Ph.D.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education, Old Dominion University & Virginia Wesleyan University



Mary Roberts, Ph.D., LPC-ACS, ATR-BC, ATCS

Professor, Counseling and Art Therapy, Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University



Judy Jankowski, Ed.D.

Head of School, Chesapeake Bay Academy Community Faculty, Eastern Virginia Medical School

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Jack Wagner – Class of 2014

CBA alumnus, Jack Wagner '14, and CBA trustee, Julie Hashagen, along with their spouses and fellow business partners, have teamed up to open a new coffee shop in Norfolk. FR8 House Coffee opened this past December in the Railyard at Lamberts point, right next to the train tracks (hence their name Fr8 House Coffee.) Drop in and see our friends at FR8 House Coffee - tell them CBA sent you!



Nigel Robertson – Class of 2022

Nigel Robertson '22, is currently stationed in Japan and proudly serving in the United State Navy as a Gas Turbine Systems Technician. Nigel's role involves operating and maintaining gas turbine engines aboard cruisers, destroyers, and other surface ships.

"We are incredibly proud of the man he's become, and we know that the foundation he received at Chesapeake Bay Academy played a key role in helping him get to where he is today. Thank you for the continued support and encouragement!" – Kezia Hendricks, Nigel's mother

Thank you, Nigel, for your service to our country!



John Carmel – Class of 2020

Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) prepared me for the journey I am on today. The school taught me that the world is diverse, and that patience and understanding go a long way. I carry all those valuable lessons with me every day.

After graduating from CBA, I moved to Richmond to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). While at VCU, I learned the fundamentals of filmmaking, from storytelling and cinematography to editing and production. College gave me the foundation to not only grow as an artist but also to understand the collaborative nature of filmmaking. In 2024, after graduating VCU, I moved

to New York City to study in the Producing Conservatory at the New York Film Academy, where I have gained a deeper understanding of the industry and the many facets of film producing.

During this time, I also began interning for award-winning filmmaker Josh Fox, known for his work as a climate activist and director of *Gasland*. He is currently producing a project set to screen at the Venice Film Festival, and I was fortunate to contribute to post-production work on that project. Most recently, my own thesis short film *Jessica Goes to New York* was selected to screen at the Roosevelt Island Film Festival in New York, where it won the award for Best Comedy.

Looking back, CBA gave me the confidence I needed as a student, something I truly lacked before attending. It taught me that I can succeed at anything if I am willing to work a little harder and surround myself with the right people. That belief, instilled in me by CBA, continues to shape how I approach both my life and my career, and for that I will always be grateful.



CBA UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY: DECADES OF SERVICE

BY JARED SETNAR, UPPER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

As another school year begins, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable educators who make our upper school a place of inspiration, growth, and joy. It's impossible to overstate the impact our teachers have on the lives of our students, and I want to take a moment to thank them for their years of dedicated service and the lasting legacy they continue to build.

I want to begin by recognizing our phenomenal Math teacher, Marzena Bogacki, who has been

a cornerstone of our school for 20 years. Her ability to adapt to the ever-evolving world of technology in education is truly impressive. Whether it's integrating new tools into her lessons or finding innovative ways to engage students, she consistently rises to the challenge. Her commitment to excellence and flexibility in teaching has made math not only accessible but exciting for our students.

Our Science teacher, Kevin Foss, with 18 years of

service, brings energy and enthusiasm to every lesson. Science can sometimes feel intimidating, but Mr. Foss has a gift for making it fun and approachable. His hands-on experiments, engaging discussions, and genuine love for the subject help students see the wonder in the world around them. He turns curiosity into confidence and transforms classrooms into laboratories of discovery.

With 16 years of inspiring students, our English teacher, Synnika Lofton, has cultivated a space where creativity flourishes. Through poetry and storytelling, he encourages students to explore their inner voices and express themselves with authenticity. His classroom is a sanctuary for imagination, and his influence helps students find meaning in words and power in their own stories.

While these three educators have served our school for many years, I also want to honor those whose impact is equally profound.

Our Maker Space / Film teacher, Rachelle Viar is a beacon of creativity, helping students bring their ideas to life. Her classroom is filled with innovation, laughter, and a contagious sense of possibility. She adds a ray of sunshine to our school, reminding us that learning can be playful and powerful.



Destiney Kooiman, our Music teacher, helps students discover their inner voices and brings out the performer in each of them. Through rhythm, melody, and harmony, she fosters confidence and self-expression, making music a joyful part of our school culture.

Our Social Studies teacher, Christian Hodson connects with students on a personal level, helping them understand not just historical facts, but what it means to be a citizen. His ability to make history relevant and meaningful is a gift that stays with students long after they leave his classroom.

And finally, our newest teacher, Lane Rocks who leads Home Economics, has already made a delightful impact. The aroma of delicious recipes wafts through the halls, and with each dish, she teaches students valuable life skills. Her presence is a warm and welcome addition to our school community.

To the entire Upper School faculty—thank you. Your dedication, creativity, and care shape the hearts and minds of our students every day. You are more than educators; you are mentors, role models, and champions of learning. I am grateful for all that you do. You are truly great educators.



OUR DONORS

Supporters of Chesapeake Bay Academy contribute in many ways including contributions to the Endowment Fund, Scholarship Funds, Fun Run, Annual Fund, Annual Auction & Gala, the Golf Classic, and more. **To all who make this vital work possible through your continued financial support — thank you!**

CBA is deeply indebted to the following donors who made charitable contributions between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

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Jennifer Van Pelt

Teresa Van Pelt

Jack and Hannah Wagner

Rob and Linda Zaremski

SPECIAL GIFTS FROM COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



ENSPIRE ENERGY

Enspire Energy, a woman-owned, full-service natural gas marketing company headquartered in Norfolk, provides comprehensive energy solutions for commercial and industrial clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. As part of their growing commitment to CBA, Enspire Energy made a generous contribution to our annual Fund-A-Cause during this year's 29th Annual Auction & Gala. We are truly grateful for their generosity and their continued support of our school.



Hampton Roads
Community Foundation

HAMPTON ROADS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Founded in 1950, the mission of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation (HRCF) is to make life better in Hampton Roads through civic leadership, philanthropy, and grantmaking. Over the past 75 years the HRCF has put almost \$395 million into action through nonprofit grants and student scholarships. Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to provide online, high dosage, after school tutoring to local middle school students with unique learning needs. This is the sixth grant CBA has received from HRCF, and we are grateful for their continued support.



TOWNE BANK
Serving Others. Enriching Lives.

TOWNE BANK

TowneBank is committed to serving others and enriching lives. Formed in 2001, the TowneBank Foundation provides charitable grants and donations to non-profit organizations across Hampton Roads with \$127 million donated to date. CBA is honored to have TowneBank as a long-standing partner and supporter. Thank you, TowneBank Foundation, for helping us achieve our important mission.



PRIORITY AUTOMOTIVE CHARITIES

Priority Automotive Charities has grown over the years, but the mission remains the same - to support dozens of charities that help local kids grow, learn, and succeed. Every year, the organization is approached by many charities requesting funding. The Charities Board of Directors carefully researches and selects from the various organizations applying for funds. To date, Priority Charities has raised over \$4.85 million dollars and served 65 different charities. Chesapeake Bay Academy is honored to have been selected as a beneficiary for the seventh consecutive year. We are deeply grateful to Priority Automotive for their help to make our important work possible.

EASTERN DATA, INC.

For the past seven years, Eastern Data has been a trusted partner and steadfast supporter of CBA—truly living up to their motto: IT people you can talk to, IT people you can trust. In addition to serving as regular sponsors and attendees of our Annual Auction & Gala and Golf Classic, Eastern Data keeps our organization running year-round as our dedicated IT team, providing 24/7/365 support. Headquartered in Virginia Beach, Eastern Data brings 38 years of expertise in information technology services. We are grateful for their continued commitment to CBA in so many meaningful ways.



JPIXX

Jpixx is committed to capturing life creatively. For more than a decade, Jpixx has been a valued partner and friend of CBA, helping to further our mission by capturing our story and bringing it to life through powerful video. Beyond their creative contributions, the Jpixx team are regular supporters of our Annual Auction & Gala and Golf Classic. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment and look forward to growing our partnership in the years ahead.



MERMAID WINERY

MERMAID WINERY

As Virginia’s first urban winery, Mermaid Winery, with locations in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, continue to be great supporters of CBA. The folks at Mermaid are long-standing community partners and the winery generously provided their delicious wines for CBA’s 2025 Annual Auction and Gala in February. To our friends and neighbors at Mermaid Winery, thanks for pouring so much into our community!



VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

Founded in 2004, the Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament is part of the Virginia Beach Billfish Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving back through youth and marine-related initiatives. Showcasing the world-class fishing off our coast, the tournament has contributed more than \$1.5 million to charitable causes. CBA is grateful for their continued support and for sharing our commitment to improving the lives of children in our community.



ALLEGRA

For more than a decade, Allegra Hampton Roads has supported local nonprofits through its FootPRINT Fund, awarding marketing communications and print services to help organizations strengthen their image, expand their reach, and stretch their budgets. CBA is proud to have been a FootPRINT Fund recipient for six consecutive years. Beyond this generous support, the Allegra team also joins us regularly at our Annual Auction & Gala and Golf Classic. We are truly grateful for their longstanding partnership and growing commitment to our school.



BE INSPIRED: 29TH ANNUAL AUCTION & GALA

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

SPONSORS

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At CBA, we find inspiration in every student that walks through our doors and in the exceptional work done each day by our amazing faculty. THANK YOU to more than three hundred members of the CBA community who collectively raised over \$325,000 in support of our exceptional learners. This year's fund-a-cause, First Impressions to Lasting Outcomes, provided new alternative and flexible seating options for classrooms and common areas, new carpet throughout the building, and front office flooring and entryway enhancements to ensure a welcoming first impression to new students and families as they find their way to CBA.

Attendees and volunteers enjoyed a beautiful evening at The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center featuring surprise emcee, CBA parent Dustin Jones, and auctioneer Randy Fiel, before dancing the night away to the Red Stapler Duo.

Thank you to our sponsors, attendees, and volunteers - we were all INSPIRED!

15TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

MAY 5, 2025

Under clear skies and with spirits high, the 15th Annual Golf Classic in support of Chesapeake Bay Academy was a resounding success! Held at the Princess Anne Country Club, the day brought together over 140 players, volunteers, and sponsors in support of the school's mission! This year's event was a true celebration—not just of golf, but of the ongoing commitment our community has shown to helping every child thrive. Thanks to generous participation and support, the Golf Classic raised vital funds that will directly benefit our students, programs, and innovative approaches to learning.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Overall Winners

Joseph Young, Matthew Young,
Michael Young & Jeff Fisher

Closest to the Hole 7 & 11

Jim Oliver
Rachel Clark

Straightest Drive

Chip Hilbourne

Guess Distance:

Mark Horton

Longest Drive

Mens: Chip Hilborn

Ladies: Elizabeth Taraski

Putting Contest

Bill Hedrick



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Betsy Atkinson

The Glenum Family



Mike & Susan Hauser
Brent & Linda Bowers



Martha and Pat Thrasher

The Rashkind Family

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Children's Museum
of Richmond
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Jpixx Video Agency
Jungle Golf
K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel
Kaado MD Aesthetics
Karla's Beach House
Keagan's Irish Pub
Kettler International, Inc
Khames Jewelers
Kilwins
Kitchen Barn
Latitude Climbing + Fitness
Leaping Lizard Cafe
Lemon Cabana
Let's Roam
Dave and Beth Levin
Lizzie Bankowski Photography
Long Jewelers

Longboards East Beach
 Luray Caverns
 Lynnhaven Coffee Company
 Mad Science of Hampton Roads
 Mancoll Cosmetic & Plastic Surgery
 Marco's Pizza
 Massage LuXe
 Brenneman Farms
 Mermaid Factory
 Mermaid Winery
 Military Aviation Museum
 Mission Laser 757
 Moe's Southwest Grill
 Moke America Virginia Beach
 Mosquito Joe
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 Norfolk Tides
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 Ocean View Diner
 Oceans East Bait & Tackle
 Onelife Fitness
 Pale Horse Coffee
 Panther Pieces
 Party People Rentals
 Pedego Electric Bikes Norfolk
 Philly Pretzel Factory
 Pickleball Virginia Beach
 Darlene Pierro
 Pilates-4-Virginia Beach
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 Stony's Dockside Bar and Grill
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 The Aromatherapy Shoppe
 The Back Deck
 The Banque
 The Beauty Tree Spa
 The Cheesecake Factory
 The Fishin' Pig
 The Industrial Cottage
 The Omni Homestead Resort
 The Porch on Long Creek
 The Royal Chocolate
 The Well
 Thin Brew Line
 Brewing Company
 Thrivent
 Tiki Bar Band
 Top Golf
 Torch Yoga Studio
 Total Wine & More
 Trader Joe's
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 Two Sweets Slime
 VB Tiki Tours
 Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
 Virginia Arts Festival
 Virginia Beach Chorale
 Virginia Beach Inflatables
 Virginia International Raceway
 Virginia Living Museum
 Virginia Stage Company
 Virginia Symphony Orchestra
 Virginia Zoological Society
 Waterman's Surfside Grille
 Wave Riding Vehicles
 Wawa
 Wegmans
 Westin Virginia Beach
 Town Center
 Whiskey Kitchen
 Wingman Guide Service
 Wooden Pine
 Yard House
 YMCA of South Hampton Roads
 Zeiders American
 Dream Theater



CHEERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHOSE DEDICATION AND SELFLESS EFFORTS
MAKE OUR WORK WITH STUDENTS POSSIBLE, THANK YOU!

Cari Babington
Jazmine Beatty
Deb Best
Trish Bloom
Beth Brevik
Ardis Brittain
Brienne Charoenpojana
Libby Fantl
Darcy Gill
Joshua Hagan

Nicole Hagan
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Liana Nobre

Cara Olsen
Debbie Ramos
Doug Rashkind
Lane Rocks
John Rowe
Kim Rowe
Linda Shannon
Ryan Terry
Brandon Tripp
Angela Weakley





11TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST MARCH 28, 2025

SYNERGY THROUGH COLLABORATION

This annual event provides our professional community with the opportunity to collaborate and network with other area professionals who serve students with educational needs akin to those at CBA.

While the group enjoyed a lovely breakfast, they engaged in a deep conversation about the use of technology to support neurodiverse learners. As artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) provide new and expansive horizons for learning, the group discussed some of the socioemotional opportunities that these technologies make possible for those without access to more traditional outlets. The group delved into new approaches and expressed a variety of perspectives.

“As someone with a deep passion for educating both the neurodivergent community and the “neurotypical” population around us, I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions. I’m also super excited about the direction CBA is taking with research and technology! I am particularly interested to see how your CadetNet Virtual Academy unfolds and serves those with uniquely wired brains. Thank you for bringing the community together each year; I always look forward to this event and hearing about CBA’s newest projects and initiatives!”

– Terrie Livingston, Inside Out Learners

Thank you to all who joined us!

9TH ANNUAL ADHD SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 5, 2025

CBA welcomed over 100 attendees to our 9th Annual ADHD Symposium presented in partnership with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (CHKD). Keynote speaker, Dr. Sharon Saline, clinical psychologist and award-winning author, shared powerful strategies for helping young people shed the shame associated with having ADHD and build self-worth. Following the keynote, guests had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions offered by experts from our local community and reconvened at a post-conference luncheon. Our annual event is focused on increasing awareness, understanding, and resources to support those living with and/or working with individuals diagnosed with ADHD. (Sam) Fabian, who we are grateful to call a partner, and a friend.

Special thanks to all our presenters, and to our partner and friend, Sandra (Sam) Fabian, without whom the event would not be possible.

Thank you to this year's breakout session presenters!:

Mindy Gumpert, Ph.D. – Assistant Adjunct Professor, Virginia Wesleyan University & Old Dominion University

Christin McDonald-Fix, Ph.D., LP, BCBA, LBA – Psychologist and Behavior Analyst, Children's Hospital of The Kings Daughters

Jessica Poggioli, Psy.D. – Psychologist, Elements Psychological Services, LLC

Samuel Scott, M.D. – Pediatric Psychiatrist, Children's Hospital of The Kings Daughters





MELINDA VOOSS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

APRIL 24, 2024

The CBA community enjoyed a beautiful day as we celebrated the third annual Melinda Vooss Creative Arts Festival showcasing our incredibly talented artists. Special thanks to the Vooss family and CBA faculty members Ms. Kooiman, Mr. Lofton, Mrs. Viar and Ms. Beatty for orchestrating a truly memorable event. We are so proud of our community and this vibrant celebration of the arts!



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025

JUNE 5, 2025

The CBA Community celebrated nine new graduates at the 25th commencement ceremony. City Councilman Michael Berlucchi delivered an inspiring keynote speech, while Dr. Dave Levin, board chair, and Dr. Judy Jankowski, head of school offered their congratulatory messages to the group.

In keeping with CBA tradition, each graduate was presented by a speaker of their selection. This year's speakers included Alexandra Babb, mother of Connor Babb; Rebecca McClure, mother of Evan McClure; Margaret Meyers, former CBA middle school director; and Peter Mack, Patricia Lausier's Eagle Scout Master. CBA faculty member Jared Setnar spoke for graduate Elliott Turner, Rachelle Viar spoke for Mia Rashkind, Destiney Kooiman spoke for Gabrielle Ward, Christian Hodson spoke for Xavier Revels, and Lane Rocks spoke for William Jones.

Congratulations to the class of 2025 and we look forward to hearing about your future endeavors!

Congrats CBA Class of 2025!

College & University Acceptances

Beacon College · Christopher Newport University · George Mason University · Old Dominion University
Virginia Tech · Virginia Wesleyan University · University of South Alabama · West Virginia University



From left: Connor M. Babb, Brock Hunter Hanley, William Louis Jones, Patricia Riqqiyah Lausier, Evan Cash McClure, Mia Kaylin Rashkind, Xavier Russell Revels, Elliott Matthew Turner, Gabrielle Aniya Ward



ALUMNI

CBA will always remain a part of their journey, just as they will forever be a part of ours. We are dedicated to keeping our alumni engaged and connected, continuing to celebrate and support them as they move forward into the next chapters of their lives.

Homecoming and Socials

Fostering meaningful connections between our alumni and the school community is central to our mission. Over the past year, graduates came together to reconnect at events like our Annual Alumni Homecoming Social, 'Pints at Pixels,' and CBA Day at Harbor Park for a Tides game. Though our graduates move forward to new chapters, they will always have a home at CBA.

Alumni Giving Circle

Every gift plays a vital role in CBA's success. Alumni make an especially powerful impact when they give back, helping ensure that future students can enjoy the same innovative opportunities and classroom experiences they once did. No matter the size, each contribution matters. Alumni who make an annual gift to CBA are recognized as members of the Alumni Giving Circle.



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Parent Advisory Council is a vital part of the CBA community, offering families meaningful ways to connect—and plenty of opportunities to have fun! This year’s highlights included the annual CBA Chili Cook-Off & Bingo Night and the Spring Carnival, where families came together to laugh, play, and build lasting memories. The year concluded with Teacher Appreciation Week, filled with thoughtful surprises and treats to celebrate our dedicated faculty and staff.

Thank you to the following individuals who volunteered and/or donated items to Bingo/Chili, Teacher Appreciation Week, Spring Carnival, and/or Sunshine Club.

Dashaun Bender
 Trish Bloom
 DeShonna Brown
 Chimere Clark
 Robin Collett
 Anna Dingel
 Libby Fantl
 Darcy Gill
 Nancy Gill
 Ashley Hartson
 Tegan Herrera

Joyce Holt
 Ashley Lumas-Donnell
 Laura Oliver
 Ariel Revels
 Shelby Reynolds
 Jeanette Rumford
 Aaron Scolnick



MEET THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Cami Best-Jones
Director of Development



Cary Terry
Special Events Coordinator &
Development Assistant



Kassidy Piper
Community Outreach Assistant

WAYS TO GIVE: INVEST IN FUTURE GENERATIONS

By making a gift to CBA, you are investing in our mission of serving our exceptional students with learning differences. Your support provides students with access to state-of-the-art facilities, engaged teachers and the transformative educational opportunities only CBA provides. Our dedicated community donors are vital to achieving the mission of preparing students for lives of purpose. In addition to cash donations or pledge commitments, there are many ways you can support that work.

Give the Gift of Stocks, Bonds or Mutual Funds

One of the most financially sound ways to give is through the transfer of stock. Donors have the capacity to transfer stock, bonds or other securities as gifts to CBA. Giving the gift of stock has significant benefits for the contributor. For example, if a security has appreciated in value, the holder may choose to donate it as part of a tax planning strategy developed with a certified financial planner.

Planned Giving

Planned giving can be an important part of your estate planning and ensures your on-going support of CBA. By including CBA in your estate plan, you make a strong statement of confidence in our school and ensure our continued ability to serve our important mission. The Planned Giving Society recognizes those individuals who have made provisions in their estate plans for CBA.

Tax Credits

CBA participates in the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program (NAP) and the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program (EISTCP) through the Virginia Foundation for Learning Disabled Students (VFLDS). Gifts directed for the purpose of providing scholarships to low-income, learning-disabled students may be eligible for Virginia state tax credits up to 65%. CBA is pleased to offer this benefit to our donors, as credits are available. Contact Cami Best-Jones, director of development, to secure tax credit approval prior to making a gift.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA's

Individuals who are age 70 ½ or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a charity and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution. This is known as a qualified charitable distribution. It is limited to IRAs, and there are other exclusions and considerations.

Contact Development Director: Cami Best-Jones at 757-747-1673 or cbestjones@cba-va.org

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Save the Date:

30th Annual Auction & Gala

Saturday, February 21, 2026
The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center

16th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, May 11, 2026
The Princess Anne Country Club

10th Annual ADHD Symposium

Spring 2026

Community Celebration to Honor Dr. J

Friday, May 29, 2026

Graduation

Thursday, June 11, 2026