

New Parents' Orientation 2022

Tuesday, September 6



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Welcome to Harbor

This morning's plan:

- Welcome from Andy Sperling, Head of School
- Leadership Team & Admin Assistants
- Parents' Association Chairs & Class Parents
- About Independent Schools
- Why Harbor?
- Why and how to get involved
- Questions and Answers → Tours
- Rejoining Students



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Harbor's Leadership Team

We're Here to Help...

Andy Sperling, *Head of School*

Diane Abrams, *Director of Finance*

Nancy Busa, *School Nurse*

Nicole Fotis, *Principal of Lower and Upper School*

Krystina Gallo, *Early Childhood Division Head*

Christine McBrien, *Director of Admission, Enrollment and Parent Relations*

Dave McClure, *Building and Grounds*

Jennifer Taggart, *Director of Advancement*

Artie Weissbach, *Director of Technology*

Admin Assistants: *Caitlin Packard, Lynette Mutschler, Meredith Valasek*



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Welcome!



Andy Sperling
Head of School



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Harbor's Leadership Team



Diane Abrams
Director of Finance &
Business Manager



Nancy Busa
School Nurse



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Nicole Fotis
Lower and Upper School Principal

Krystina Gallo
Early Childhood Division Head



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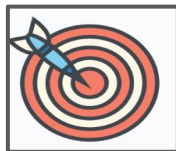
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Harbor's Leadership Team



Jennifer Taggart
Director of Advancement



Cate Packard
Advancement & Marketing Associate



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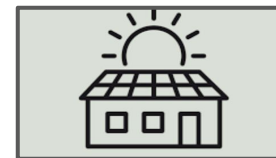
Harbor's Leadership Team



Artie Weissbach
Director of Technology



Dave McClure
Director of Facilities



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Harbor's Leadership Team



Christine McBrien
Director of Admission, Enrollment
and Parent Relations



Lynette Mutschler
Assistant to the Head of School
& Admission



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Administrative Assistants



Lynette Mutschler
Assistant to the Head of School
& Admission



Meredith Valasek
Front Office Associate
Business Office Associate



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Harbor's Parents' Association

- Parents' Association Chairs
 - Devan Finamore
 - Christine Mellert
- Class Parents
- Monthly Meetings
- Family & School Events



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Harbor's Mission

**“Harbor cherishes childhood, cultivates wonder and
inspires confident learners and leaders.”**



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Harbor's Mission (Distilled)

Why these three verbs?

Cherish, cultivate, inspire – they all add layers of reflection, strength, and longevity.

Why childhood?

I would argue that nothing on earth is more precious than our children. That creating space for children to embrace that innocence is priceless.

Why wonder?

We ask a lot of questions but often downplay the importance of it. Removing those boundaries gives children an opportunity to become rooted in empathy.

Why confidence?

When a child develops their sense of self – their inner confidence – with authenticity, their ability to become enlightened, successful, autonomous young adults increases exponentially.



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What this Means Each Day

- A broad academic and co-curricular program enables students to discover their talents and interests
- The faculty helps students recognize, develop and grow those interests
- Students then developing self-confidence, self-advocacy and love of learning
- This is the “magic of the classroom”



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What Current Parents Say

In a Parent Survey during the 2021-22 School Year...

- “Why Harbor?”
 - “A sense that the faculty & staff know my child.”
 - “My child enjoys being at school.”
 - “My child is receiving a solid social, emotional, and academic education”
 - “Diversity and inclusion are core values at Harbor.”



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Independent Schools...

- Have a compelling mission statement
- Embrace differentiating factors
- Have visible signs of healthy culture and safe community
- Engage in ongoing professional dialogue
- Strive to develop a child's sense of self and build autonomy
- Aim to be thought leaders in their community
- Have a continual focus on creating a high caliber, balanced, and accessible curriculum based on best practices



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The Zone of Proximal Development

- A learning “sweet spot”
- Only exists when a child feels deeply known and cared for
- Feeling stretched “just outside of their comfort zone”
- Creates a pattern of self-reflection

"the distance between the actual developmental level as determined by independent problem solving and the level of potential development as determined through problem-solving under adult guidance, or in collaboration with more capable peers"
(Vygotsky, 1978)





Partnership

- Open dialogue and two-way communication
- Listening with empathy
- Transparency
- “How can I be helpful” and “I could use a helping hand”
- Dr. Michael Thompson – What are you hoping for?
- Finding common ground with trust at the core of each conversation



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Why Harbor?

- The importance of play
- Developing a child's social toolkit
- Becoming a confident, cogent speaker and critical thinker
- Being comfortable in the presence of an adult
- Honing executive function skills and study strategies
- Being able to develop, embrace, and apply a deep understanding of empathy



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Parent Engagement

The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPIE)

- Advocates for parent and family involvement in schools
- Students with involved parents:
 - Are more likely to achieve
 - Better social skills
 - Greater happiness at school
 - Children thrive when parents are involved at school



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How to Get Involved at Harbor

- Attend school-wide and classroom events
- Attend PA meetings and events
- Review weekly Harbor communications
- Download the Harbor App
- Read our eblasts and notifications
- Attend a coffeehouse meeting
- Check out the website and links
- Get to know your class parents
- Attend a sporting event
- Reach out as needed



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“Tech Talk...”

- Artie Weissbach our IT Expert, aweissbach@hcdsny.org
 - How to find “Quicklinks”, the school calendar and PCR on the website
 - [Harbor Website](#)
 - Subscribe to the school calendar
 - Download the Harbor App



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Advancement Department Information

- Jennifer Taggart, Director of Advancement
 - Marketing, Advertising, PR, Admissions Support, Alumni Relations
 - Communications/Website/Mobile App
 - Fundraising Oversight
 - Spring Benefit - Friday, March 24, 2023
 - Capital Campaign for Harbor
 - The Harbor Fund
 - Email: ***jtaggart@hcdsny.org***



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Thank you!



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