

# *New Parents' Orientation 2022*

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*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

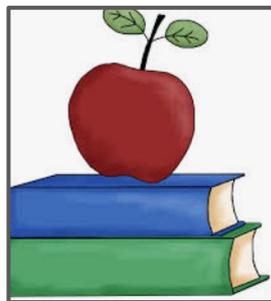


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# Harbor's Leadership Team



Nicole Fotis  
Lower and Upper School Principal

Krystina Gallo  
Early Childhood Division Head



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# Harbor's Leadership Team



Jennifer Taggart  
Director of Advancement



Cate Packard  
Advancement & Marketing Associate



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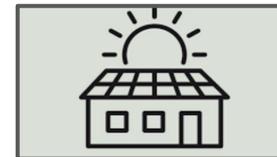
# Harbor's Leadership Team



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



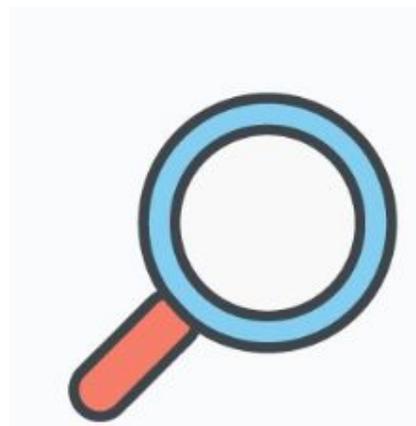
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# “Tech Talk...”

- Artie Weissbach our IT Expert, [aweissbach@hcdsny.org](mailto: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





# ***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\*\*\*](mailto:jtaggart@hcdsny.org)



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***Thank you!***



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