



Frankford Friends School

Building a Better Future for Humankind

October 2023

Dear Friends,

A Frankford Friends School education is centered on nurturing a lifelong love of learning. Our philosophy is simple: we celebrate the inherent curiosity that resides within our students, and empower each of them to embrace a growth mindset that drives their pursuit of knowledge. We firmly hold the belief that an inner light illuminates every living being, and this principle guides our practices both in the classroom and in the community.

Imagine classrooms alive with enthusiasm, where students have the opportunity to delve into their interests and assume ownership of their educational journey. Our educators aren't just instructors; they are mentors, guiding students toward their fullest potential. This dynamic learning environment cultivates not only academic excellence but also essential social and emotional intelligence. Our students embody creativity, compassion, and kindness, developing the skills necessary for our future leaders.

As we approach the end of our 190th year, we reflect on a decade of growth and discovery, celebrating not just the end results but the remarkable journey of progress and achievement we've embarked upon together. Our operating budget has increased by 126%, with the student body growing by 20% over the same period. Contributions to our Tuition Assistance Program have soared. Last year alone, we raised \$512,000 in student grants, enabling us to give awards ranging from \$500 to \$13,000. Annual giving has also surged, with 100% participation from the Board of Trustees and the FFS faculty and staff, alongside an increasing number of engaged alumni and current families. We are deeply humbled by the support from families, community members, employees, volunteers, and special friends of the school who have made these advancements possible. Your contributions have sparked curiosity, embraced the joy of learning, and embarked on a shared journey of continuous improvement and growth.

A longstanding goal has been to establish a modest endowment to ensure that a Frankford Friends education remains accessible a century from now. The endowment has not been part of our fundraising plan, but thanks to a prudent tuition and investment plan designed by the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees, our endowment has grown by an impressive 58% over the past five years.

What's next? Frankford Friends School is expanding its horizons by bringing Quaker education to a new neighborhood in Philadelphia. The FFS Early Childhood Center in Fishtown, opening in winter 2024, will welcome students as young as 2 years and 7 months. Like their counterparts on the FFS Main Campus, these "littles" will learn through purposeful play, kindness, and love, within a diverse community of teachers and peers where everyone belongs.

Our students younger than third grade will have the opportunity to enroll in a full-year program. A summer experience, open to FFS students and the outside community, will spread our signature methods of joyful exploration, meaningful learning, and reflective practice with an expanded community, bringing the Frankford Friends School mission of building a better future for humankind to more students in the City of Philadelphia.

I extend my invitation to you to explore the interactive FFS Impact Report. It both serves as a reflection on our collective accomplishments for the 2022-23 school year and a heartfelt thank you to the generous donors, volunteers, families, employees, and community partners who have poured their hearts into making Frankford Friends School the exceptional place it is today. It also offers insights into our financial condition for all who care about our school. Please take a moment to explore, and let us know how we can assist you in becoming involved at FFS.

In partnership,

Head of School, Frankford Friends School