

OPENING DOORS















A Path to Success

DR. ANGELINA ARRINGTON, HEAD OF SCHOOL



n July 2023, I was privileged to take the leadership helm from my predecessor, Michael Molina, who expertly guided the school through the tumult of school closures with great care and a level of empathy that is aspirational for all school leaders. Bishop Walker School has come out of the COVID era closer, stronger, and more intentional than ever. I have been able to step into a well-resourced school environment where a sense of solidarity and shared purpose permeates our culture. I am optimistic that I will be able to stand upon this solid foundation and pivot into a new era with gratitude.

One of our many highlights of the past two years has been hearing about our alumni and their lives after BWS. Our Outplacement and Graduate Support program continues to support scholars well beyond their years here. In the spring of 2022, we reached a significant milestone—we lauded our first class of graduating high school seniors! BWS scholars have continued their post-high school education at institutions such as Morehouse College and the United States Marine Corps and pursued their passions in the arts, sciences, and logistics, to name a few fields. Last fall, we hosted our inaugural Alumni Weekend. More than 50 alumni, sixth grade through college freshmen, and their families returned to campus to reconnect and share their stories of success, new academic and social endeavors, and life at their new schools. Our graduates are making their mark on the world!

As I enter my first academic year as head of school, I thank all of our supporters for their commitment to our work—guiding our Kind Independent Noble Generous Servant Leaders, our young K.I.N.G.S., along the path to success. When I see our students happily engaged in their classrooms, I find joy in knowing that we're impacting not only our current students, but also their children and grandchildren. Just as Bishop Walker's legacy is far reaching, so too do we aim to make such an impact on future generations. I am excited to see what lies ahead for our village!





Realizing Our Vision

ANDREW CLARKE, GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR



he 2022–23 school year was one of successful transitions and major milestones.

Last fall, our head of school, Michael Molina, announced that he would be leaving at the end of the school year. His accomplishments at BWS were extraordinary: He led our community through

he would be leaving at the end of the school year. His accomplishments at BWS were extraordinary: He led our community through the pandemic with grace and steadiness, secured the school's full academic accreditation, guided the development of a new strategic plan, and achieved ambitious fundraising goals.

Our amazing search committee, in partnership with The Education Group, was determined to find an equally strong leader with a background in elementary education, a deep understanding of how best to serve the needs of Black and brown boys, and a dedication to leading an Episcopal school. We found a person who embodies every one of those critical qualities. The BWS village was delighted to welcome Dr. Angelina Arrington as our new head of school in July 2023.

Our capital campaign, Securing Their Future, concluded in December 2022, allowing us to retire the school's debt, establish a small endowment, and secure a permanent home for BWS at Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC). The campaign's remarkable success allowed us to prepay nearly \$3 million in lease obligations to THEARC to stay in our beautiful new space until 2067.

In March, we honored the founders of THEARC, Chris and Lisa Smith, at our Annual Dinner. BWS alumnus Jordan Freeman, now a music student at the University of Maryland, inspired us all with his soaring voice. One of the joys of the past two years has been inviting back our BWS alumni who have graduated from high school and celebrating them as they begin college or start their career.

Our new custom student information system, BWS Connect, is enabling us to connect with our current and past students and their families and collect and tell the stories of our alumni community. This database will deepen connections across our network now and into the future.

As caretakers of the school's mission, we owe a debt of gratitude to all our supporters, whose contributions have sustained BWS throughout the 2022—23 school year. Building on a strong foundation, we are seeking the most effective ways to ensure a sustainable financial future so the school can continue its good work and the loving legacy of Bishop John T. Walker.





Lots of options for recess: indoors in our spacious lobby, outside on the grass, or on THEARC's large playground.



THEARC: Securing Their Future



The original BWS library measured 7x9 feet, with milk crates and sideways cubbies holding about 1,000 books. Now at THEARC, the school library houses around 10,000 volumes and a grand piano. The space is an important hub for school activities, meetings, performances, and a weekly chapel service.

n March 2, 2023, at the BWS Annual Dinner, Board Chair Andrew Clarke announced the completion of Securing Their Future, the school's first capital campaign. This marked an an enormous accomplishment, allowing the school to make nearly \$3 million in lease prepayments to stay in our beautiful home at Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC) until 2067!

BWS relocated to the THEARC in 2018, where the school occupies an entire floor of customized space. BWS students have access to a wide range of community resources in the state-of-the-art complex, including a children's medical clinic, a Boys & Girls Club, a community music school, theaters, urban garden, gymnasium, and playground.

"It is rare to see an institution leap so far forward in real time, yet this is what we are all witnessing at the Bishop Walker School."

ANDREW CLARKE, BOARD CHAIR

OUR NEIGHBORS AT THEARC

ArtReach

AppleTree Institute

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington

Covenant House

David Lynch Foundation

DC Central Kitchen

Levine Music

The Phillips Collection

Trinity Washington University

The Washington Ballet

Washington School for Girls

Children's National Health Center





Choices and Chances with Dean of Students David Wingate

While most schools employ a traditional consequences-based disciplinary model, BWS relies on "restorative practices" to foster a culture of mutual respect and personal responsibility. BWS students are taught to see the choices they have in any given situation. They learn that every

choice has consequences and that the power to choose is theirs.

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David Wingate returned to BWS in 2022 as dean of students after a year of coordinating the restorative practices program for District of Columbia Public Schools. He brought wisdom and dedication from a lifetime of personal experience and 28 years of working with children. He has

developed the program at BWS with clarity and consistency, training teachers and offering workshops to families with the goal of immersing students in a culture of respect and empathy. (This is one reason BWS doesn't accept new students after third grade. It takes years for students and families to absorb this approach, and adding new kids at higher grades could disrupt the process.)

"It's about respecting people. Period."

DAVID WINGATE

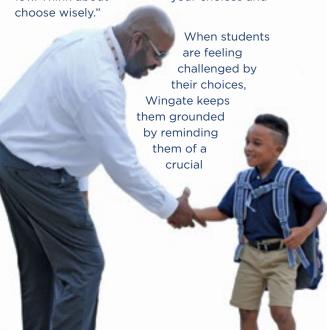
WHAT ARE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES?

The Restorative Practices framework is rooted in the ideals of Restorative Justice—a set of principles as old as human society itself. Restorative justice calls for repairing harm through accountability and responsibility rather than punishment. It draws on our humanity, empathy, and understanding as a means of seeking reconciliation and healing our relationships. Restorative practices take these ideals a step further, providing individuals with tools to comprehend the consequences of their actions, resolve differences constructively, and avoid causing harm in the future.

"CHOICES AND CHANCES"

When explaining how he came to champion restorative practices, Wingate says, "Some of us have to take the long way around. I took the long way around." As a high school student, Wingate made choices that cost him a college football scholarship. For a long time, he was angry about his situation. But eventually, he says, he was able to take ownership of his actions and realize that God had put him in that position to learn something.

During the school day, Wingate makes himself available throughout BWS, supporting students as they navigate moments of conflict. He uses lessons from his own life to encourage students to recognize their choice points and treat them as opportunities. "Every day you wake up with choices and chances," he says. "The better choice you make, the better chance you have to get something you want. Make a bad choice, and the chances of you getting something you want are really, really low. Think about your choices and



phrase from the school's honor code, which they recite every day: "I am responsible for my actions, words, and work." As Wingate puts it, "If you say it every day and you are not doing it, then you aren't being honorable."

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN ACTION

A crucial part of Wingate's approach is helping students understand that, no matter how badly we may want to do good, nobody will make the right choice every time. "School is a place to fail," he often reminds students. Accepting this as part of the process allows students to grow from their choices and seek to do better in the future.

"Every day you wake up with choices and chances. The better choice you make, the better chance you have to get something you want."

Wingate is the first to admit that the process is neither quick nor easy. It takes consistent practice, patience, and support. "The results aren't something you see overnight," he says. "By the time kindergarten gets to third and fourth grade, then we can see the results."

When students are going through a difficult time, insisting on acting out or behaving





in a way that is disruptive, Wingate assures them, "Okay, well, I'll be waiting for you at the other end." And lo and behold, he is. He then asks them to reflect on the situation and how it went relative to their expectations. If the answer is "not so good," Wingate guides them in reflecting on the choices they made and what might be a more constructive path in the future.

COMMUNITY GATHERING AND BEYOND

On the first Friday of every month, Wingate hosts Community Gathering, bringing together all of the school's students and staff for about 45 minutes in the morning in an atmosphere that he describes as "almost like having Sunday dinner." Each session focuses on a different "lesson on life" (such as Having Integrity and Being a Good Friend), which Wingate typically introduces with a short talk or video, followed by games and concluding with music and dancing.

Wingate has expanded the scope of his restorative practices program to include trainings and workshops for teachers and parents. Looking to the future, he hopes to bring even more people on board to share in his mission so the effort can grow and thrive beyond his own personal commitment to the cause.



It will take time for these practices to take root and build a foundation of trust and understanding. But already, students are coming to Wingate to share how his actions make them feel, showing that reflection, empathy, and healing can go in both directions. To them, this ex-linebacker is not an intimidating presence who hands down "consequences," but rather a beloved mentor who

Wingate keeps students grounded by reminding them of a crucial phrase from the school's honor code, which they recite every day: "I am responsible for my actions, words, and work."

offers them space to share their feelings and vent their emotions safely and constructively. And one who shows them every day that the school's commitment to these principles will not waver.

The first Friday of every month is **Book Buddies Day** at Community

Gathering. Wingate brings scholars of different ages together so older students can read books aloud to younger ones.

This builds relationships as well as literacy skills. "It's important to hear yourself read," Wingate notes, adding that reading to younger students builds the confidence needed to speak to more intimidating audiences.





BWS Alumni

"To see everything that the school is now, I can't help but look back on it with pride, because we did this."

We are proud of the impressive young men who have expanded the BWS community far beyond the school walls, and we are finding new ways to support and engage with them. The diversity of paths they are following is a testament to the school's commitment to supporting each scholar's academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth.

Jordan Dunston,
BWS class of 2016, student at
Morehouse College

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Alumni Weekend

Last fall, we were thrilled to welcome more than 50 BWS alumni and their families to campus for the inaugural Bishop Walker School Alumni Weekend, the first since the school's founding. From sixth graders to college freshmen, the graduates spoke about what BWS instilled in them, including a sense of responsibility to each other, self-confidence and ambition, the courage to try new things, and the opportunity to be a part of a legacy.

Members of the BWS class of 2017 (from left to right): Jordan Monroe (Fayetteville State University), **Deshawn Brooks** (Morehouse College), Caesar Quick (Georgia State University), **Tobias Howell** (United States Marine Corps), Jordan Freeman, (University of Maryland)





Where Are They Now?

BWS Class of 2022

Capitol Hill Montessori School

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

MacArthur Middle School

St. Columba Catholic School

Center City Public Charter Schools

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Academy

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Sandy Springs Friends School

Washington Episcopal School



BWS High School Graduates

Jordan Monroe, Fayetteville State University

Deshawn Brooks, Morehouse College

Caesar Quick, Georgia State University

Tobias Howell, United States Marine Corps

Jordan Freeman, University of Maryland

Alonzo Bulger, commercial driver licensure program

Jordan Dunston, Morehouse College

Devin Hill, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Gavin Puryear, American University

Devin Smothers, Morgan State University

Jordan Freeman performing a vocal tribute at BWS's first Alumni Weekend



2021-23 Financials

TOTAL GIVING

Gifts for Operations

Rental Income

Opportunity Scholarship

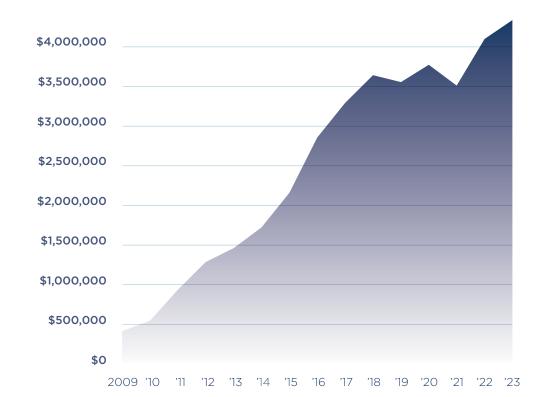
Release from Restricted Funds

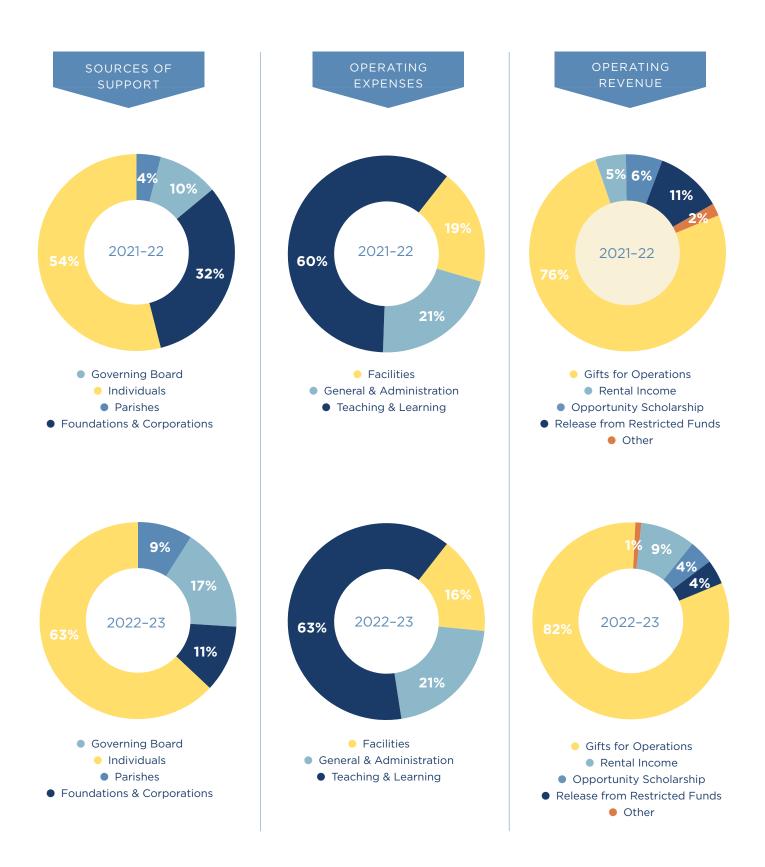
Other

Total

\$4,092,433	\$4,294,156
72,201	57,838
435,681	171,866
245,885	173,468
227,534	384,116
\$3,111,132	\$3,506,868
2021-22	2022-23

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Thank you to so many who have generously given their time, energy, and talents, ensuring that our students learn in a warm and stimulating environment. We especially want to thank our parents and community volunteers who participate in various projects throughout the year. Your role is critical to the success and continued growth of our community.

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The library is stocked with donated books and staffed entirely by volunteers.

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As a tuition-free independent school with no tuition revenue, BWS relies entirely on philanthropic support. To fulfill our mission of offering an independent ewducation to boys east of the Anacostia River, our governing board determined that the inability to pay tuition should not be a barrier to attendance.

For information on planned giving, stock transfers, or wire transfers, please contact:

Brenda Walker, Development Assistant 202-221-8059 bwalker@bishopwalkerschool.org

Gifts can be made by check mailed to the school or by credit card online at:

www.bishopwalkerschool.org/onlinegiving



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