

# WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL?

**A SCHOOL IS NOT JUST WALLS, LOCKERS, DESKS AND BLACKBOARDS.**

**A SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY OF TEACHERS & STUDENTS, COUNSELORS & ALUMNI, PARENTS & FAMILIES WALKING TOGETHER.**

**CHICAGO JESUIT ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



CHICAGO JESUIT ACADEMY

A.M.D.G.

Summer 2021

Dear Members of the CJA Community,

In late June, I got to spend a few moments with a group of our alumni who recently graduated from Marquette University, Williams College, St. Louis University and Knox College (pictured right). The pandemic disrupted their commencement ceremonies, so they gathered with us at CJA to mark their graduations, celebrate and take photos in their caps and gowns. Some of their parents joined us too, and together we marveled at the path each young man had traveled.

It was a beautiful summer evening filled with light.

In the past year, light has sometimes felt like it has been in short supply, but the more I think of that evening with our recent college graduates, the more I hear the words from the preamble of John's Gospel: **"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it."**

On the pages that follow, I hope you will be inspired by the many ways in which the Light shines in our students, alumni and families. Their courage, grace and determination have filled me with such joy and gratitude – and given me such strength – during the darkest parts of this past year.

I take great hope from our alumni Jaquan Grier (CJA Class of 2009) and Julian Wicks (CJA Class of 2011) – who have joined Jason Williams (CJA Class of 2012) as members of our faculty and staff.

I love hearing from our parents like Ms. Lyons about their enthusiasm for our new girls' program, which will enroll our first young women in June 2023 after we've completed a 50,000-sq.-ft. addition to our campus.

I am grateful for our partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), which is helping us expand our College-Persistence Program to students, families, teachers and school leaders at eighteen elementary schools in under-resourced communities throughout Chicago through our High School Bridge Program.

Amidst all this light, I take my greatest inspiration from the deep relationships that continue to define CJA: our alumni who work tirelessly as classroom aides during summer term to model the road ahead for our youngest students; a new third-grade parent who searched so hard to find CJA and then worked with Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Weber and Ms. Fleming to ensure her child will have what he needs at CJA; the alumnus who knows he can always return to CJA – a place that has known him since he was 10 – when he is struggling to discern his next best steps in life.

This is what we are about. This is our shared mission. Thank you once again for joining us in this important work and for believing in the great promise of each of our students and alumni.

In gratitude,



Matthew Lynch  
President, Chicago Jesuit Academy



Sam Taylor  
CJA 2012,  
Loyola Academy 2016,  
St. Louis University 2021



Julian Wicks  
CJA 2011,  
Fountain Valley 2015,  
Knox College 2020



Eric Smith  
CJA 2011,  
Episcopal High School 2015,  
Williams College 2020



Mateo Murphy  
CJA 2012,  
Loyola Academy 2016,  
Marquette University 2020



Jermell Shackelford  
CJA 2012,  
Loyola Academy 2016,  
Marquette University 2020

# A FAMILY TOGETHER



We are excited to expand our school community to serve young women beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year following a 50,000-sq.-ft. addition for which we hope to break ground in January of 2022. Our current and prospective families often share that one of the biggest obstacles to enrollment is that their daughters cannot attend CJA. In fact, this prevents many families from ever enrolling a student at CJA, since navigating two school systems can be challenging. Our expansion plan will remove this barrier, which will be an incredible opportunity for us to welcome many talented young women to the CJA community. Karla Lyons is the mother of two CJA students and the aunt of another. She would love to see her niece enroll when we begin serving young women. Ms. Lyons speaks to her family's connection to CJA and what it would mean to have CJA be accessible to both boys and girls.

**What does Chicago Jesuit Academy mean to you and your family?**

For my family, Chicago Jesuit Academy inspires hope for the future. CJA has provided a foundation of accountability for my children. They have encouraged community, religious understanding, and empowerment for my children to be themselves and discover their own path.

CJA's staff and teachers have become family to my family, a source of constant motivation for my family. CJA exceeds the expectations of a school. Every student, every family is made to feel welcomed and immediately embraced by the kindhearted staff. The teachers at CJA make a concerted effort to establish a foundation that encourages a trusting relationship with their students and a partnership with the parents.

Students and parents alike find a resource in CJA that is not always readily available at other institutions. CJA nurtures a culture of communication, consideration, and belief in process and people. I look forward to activities such as Family Bingo and Coffee and Conversation, both validating the authenticity of the CJA spirit. CJA places emphasis on brotherhood, support, strong community and shared learning.

**What would it mean to you if young women in your family were able to attend CJA along with your young men?**

To have a young woman of my family share in the CJA experience with my sons would be an amazing opportunity for the family, in particular the student. She would be afforded the same incredible platform, emphasizing educational excellence and vigorous principles for life situations.

CJA would provide her with the same faculty expertise that continues to motivate and influence my sons. She would secure an increased opportunity to develop her intellectual aptitude while flourishing as a scholar in such a wholesome environment. CJA would aid in the evolution of the leader growing within, the student thriving daily, the sister that is becoming and the individual unknown.

CJA would dispense exposure to opportunities that will ultimately lead to a burgeoning future. I believe CJA would feed the continual thirst for knowledge that encompasses my young woman, allowing her to soar into a limitless future.

**TO HAVE A YOUNG WOMAN OF MY FAMILY SHARE IN THE CJA EXPERIENCE WITH MY SONS WOULD BE AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY.**

**Why do you think it is important for CJA to serve young women?**

I believe it would be a disservice to all young women if they are not afforded the opportunity of the CJA experience. Your institution provides a completion that others can only hope for. A CJA student is blessed to receive the love, guidance and compassion shown daily by the faculty, working tirelessly to ensure the students know their worth. Students are encouraged to dream the impossible and achieve it.

CJA promotes academic excellence, self-confidence, and poised leaders. CJA will provide a safe environment for young women, instilling in them the importance of life skills, individuality and creativity. You all allow them to be individuals while learning to successfully interact with others. I am a product of an

all-girls Catholic institution where I received a stellar education and a lifetime experience. I look forward to young women sharing a noteworthy experience that they will be talking about for years to come.





# THE HEART OF A SCHOOL

Many of us can look back upon our time in school and think of a teacher that deeply affected us. Our connection and work with teachers can impact the way we think, write and look at the world. Maria Eidietis is a Language Arts and Reading teacher who has had the unique experience of working at CJA when it was first founded and then returning years later. This year, as part of our remote faculty, Maria created the eLearning content for all sixth graders, while other faculty were dedicated to the in-person care of our on-campus students. She speaks to the importance of relationships with our teachers and how these relationships are what make a school, regardless of what that physical space might look like.

The first time I walked into Chicago Jesuit Academy, the school consisted of eight students, an equal number of faculty members, two classrooms and an all-purpose room which housed the lunchroom, library, morning meetings and the faculty workspace. It was the summer of 2005, and, two weeks earlier, CJA had opened its doors to its inaugural class of students in a borrowed space on the second floor of Marillac House. Within the year, the school would double its number

of classrooms, and the student population would grow from single digits into the dozens.

Too often, I think, we are tempted to identify a school as a physical structure or geographic space. Those first three ever-changing, dynamic years of CJA's existence remind me that the heart of a school is something else entirely.

After the 2007-2008 school year, I took an extended leave of

absence from CJA. Eleven years later, I returned to a community that numbered not dozens, but hundreds.

Teaching is like riding a bike, and the balance does come back; it just takes time and a not insignificant amount of grace. It took six months before I fell back in stride — which was when COVID swept in and yet another variation of Chicago Jesuit Academy was born. This time around, classrooms no longer had desks and chalkboards but were virtual constructions of Canvas pages and Zoom calls.

Over the course of the 2020-2021 school year, it has been my privilege to teach sixth-grade Language Arts and Reading to 35 of the most amazing young men I have ever encountered, most of whom I have never spoken with in person. It is hard

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to imagine a teaching experience more strikingly opposed to that tiny, intimate, everyone-within-arm's-reach school that I walked into in the summer of 2005. And yet, the heart of both years feels very much the same: a community of teachers and students learning and growing, meeting each other where we're at and walking together from there.

Over the next few years, Chicago Jesuit Academy will grow and adapt again. Along with younger brothers and nephews, we will welcome our families' sisters and nieces. For

someone who, as I did, leaves and then returns to CJA a few years down the road, the school may appear very different, maybe even unfamiliar. I have no doubt, however, that, once they look deeper, they will find that this place and its community remain, at heart, very much CJA.





# MAKING A CONNECTION

Innovation and flexibility were vital to a successful year at CJA. We invited students back into the building in September 2020, and by the end of the school year, we had 40% of our students in the building for proctored eLearning and 60% participating in remote eLearning. CJA distributed 166 laptops and 60 hotspots to enable all students to access their learning without technological barriers.

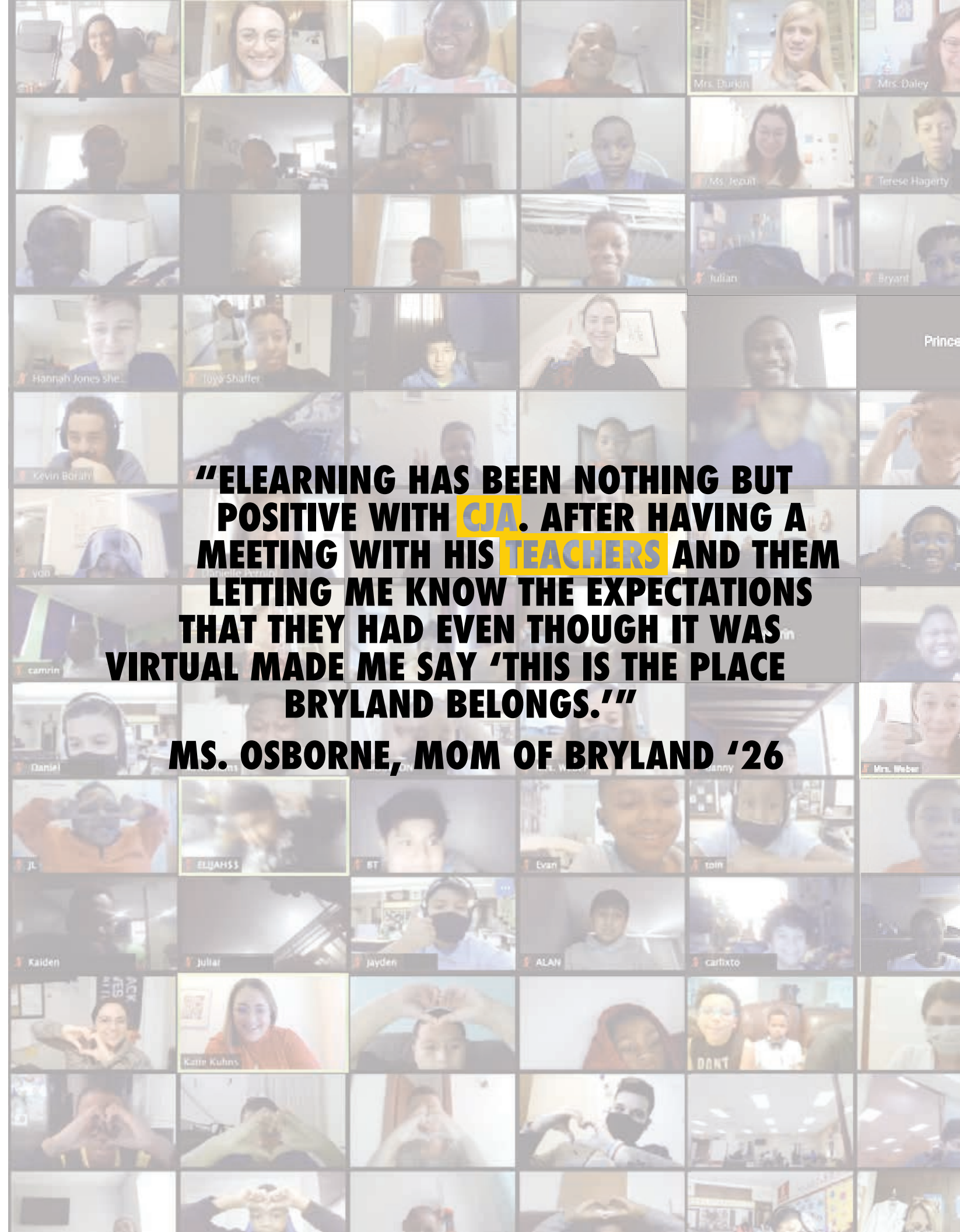
In-person students worked with dedicated in-person faculty who helped guide them in their studies while also creating movement breaks, self-care challenges and lunch bunches. To ensure all students received the same high-quality education, each student accessed the same online lessons led by their remote subject-matter teachers. Both in-person and remote students worked with the Learning Resource Center and Social Work staff for personalized learning interventions

**NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR BENEFACTORS, FACULTY AND STAFF, FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS.**

and social work services and participated in grade-wide socio-emotional curricula. In-person students received breakfast and lunch at school and were sent home with food for the weekend. Our food provider, Gourmet Gorilla, diligently delivered nutritious breakfasts, lunches and afternoon snacks to each remote learner every week.

To ensure the safest learning environment possible, CJA instituted bi-weekly in-school COVID-19 saliva testing for all students and faculty, universal masking, hospital-grade filtration systems and social distancing.

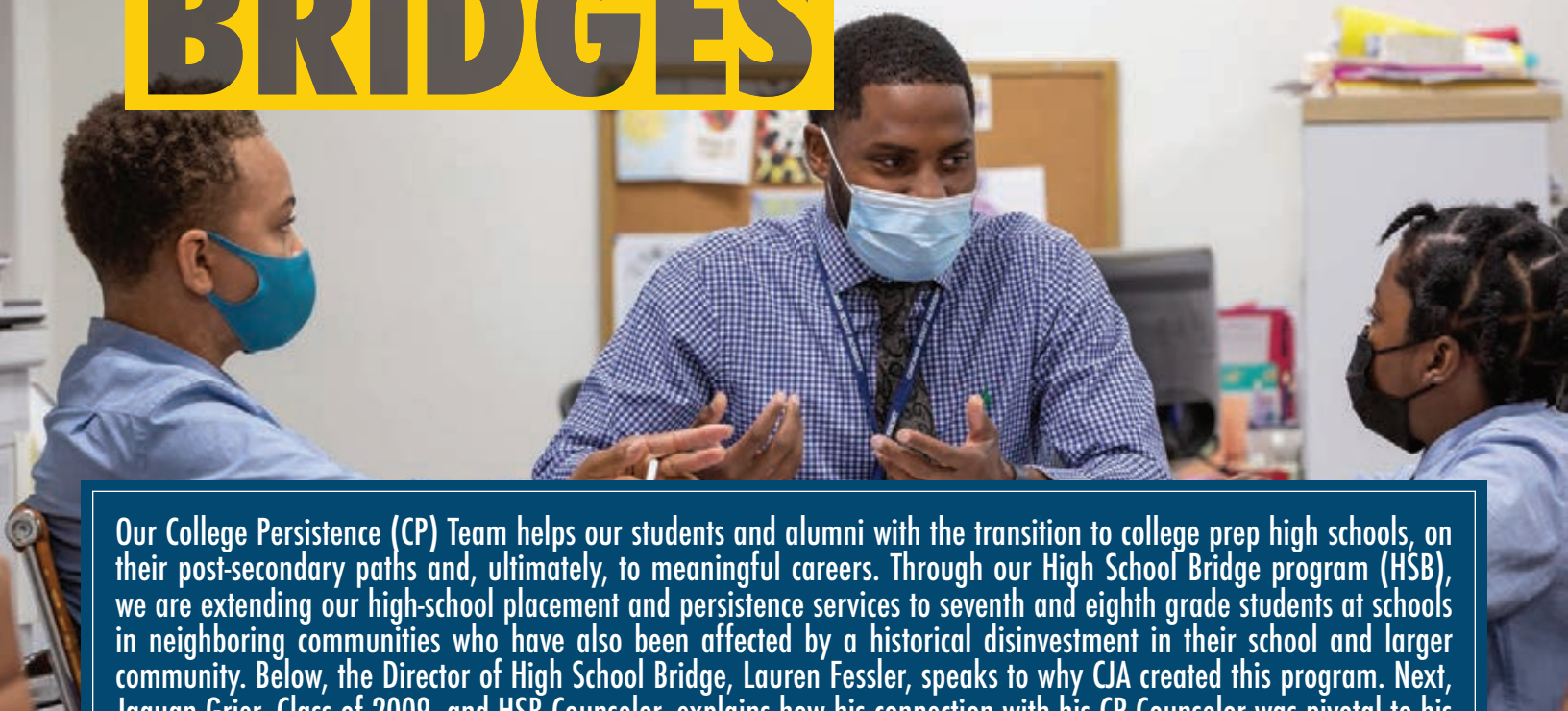
None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our benefactors, faculty and staff, families and volunteers. Thank you for walking alongside us every step of the way.



**"EARNING HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT POSITIVE WITH CJA. AFTER HAVING A MEETING WITH HIS TEACHERS AND THEM LETTING ME KNOW THE EXPECTATIONS THAT THEY HAD EVEN THOUGH IT WAS VIRTUAL MADE ME SAY 'THIS IS THE PLACE BRYLAND BELONGS.'"**

**MS. OSBORNE, MOM OF BRYLAND '26**

# BUILDING BRIDGES



Our College Persistence (CP) Team helps our students and alumni with the transition to college prep high schools, on their post-secondary paths and, ultimately, to meaningful careers. Through our High School Bridge program (HSB), we are extending our high-school placement and persistence services to seventh and eighth grade students at schools in neighboring communities who have also been affected by a historical disinvestment in their school and larger community. Below, the Director of High School Bridge, Lauren Fessler, speaks to why CJA created this program. Next, Jaquan Grier, Class of 2009, and HSB Counselor, explains how his connection with his CP Counselor was pivotal to his academic journey and why it is important for us to expand our support services into the larger community.

To better understand the high-school landscape in Chicago and how we might scale our current CP services, from 2017 - 2019, we completed an analysis of 75 community-based organizations serving students along the journey from elementary school through college. We found that for students with a GPA below 3.0, who live in communities that have experienced systemic disinvestment and are first in their family to chart a path to college, there is a gap in support as they transition to high school. Unaddressed, this gap can lead to fewer high school choices, lower high school graduation rates and fewer opportunities for continued education or training post high school.

Chicago students have the right to a well-resourced high school education, and the placement process is complicated to navigate alone. We know this through our work with our own alumni. CJA is not academically selective, and we have walked with our alumni as they have pursued a wide range of high school and post-secondary options. The successes of our 302 graduates have shown us the impact a trusted advisor can have on an individual's long-term outcomes. As our analysis found, not all students have access to a trusted advisor as they find their best-fit high school. To address this gap, we began our

High School Bridge programming in 2019. High School Bridge, an outgrowth of our CP Office, provides accompaniment and high school placement support to even more students across Chicago.

Our High School Bridge Team begins working with our partner school students in seventh and eighth grade to introduce them to Chicago's complex high school landscape and the application process. We then accompany them through ninth and tenth grades as they navigate their transition to high school, empowering them to take full advantage of the resources available at their high schools and troubleshooting obstacles as they arise.

Last school year, we worked with three partner schools and have added three more schools for the 2021-2022 school year. We plan to bring on three new partner schools each year across the next five years thanks to a partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities. Ultimately, High School Bridge will serve nearly 1,900 students across 18 schools by the 2025-2026 school year.

— Lauren Fessler, Director of High School Bridge

Serving others and advocating for the vulnerable is my natural calling. I am always mindful of how race impacts the work we do and the people we work with. I've worked with others who do not look like me. It was a learning process as I struggled to differentiate those who had developed a white-savior complex and those who were genuine. One person whose authenticity I will never question is my former CP Counselor, Jay Kemper.

Jay keeps the fun in social work while being a true advocate for others. Jay's amazing work is clear in how he helped me graduate college by advocating for a scholarship that would help me pay for my last semester. I struggled half of my college career. Jay saw past these shortcomings and knew that if I finished, I'd have more success in my professional career.

It takes years of relationship-building to know what someone needs in a critical time and a strong leader to know that people are not a reflection of their mistakes. People learn from what

they've been through and are better for it. I am modeling that same concept at CJA. Jay taught me that authentic love is essential in building a foundation for real advocacy.

**PEOPLE LEARN FROM WHAT THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH AND ARE BETTER FOR IT. I AM MODELING THAT SAME CONCEPT AT CJA.**

CJA has been blessed with extremely generous leaders that help us provide for the families we serve. Because our mission is so rooted in serving others, we have an obligation to continue to expand the number of students and schools we serve. Our partner schools may not be as fortunate to receive as much support as CJA does, and I am honored to be able to provide support to non-CJA students and families. High School Bridge recognizes the challenges our partner schools face, and we will continue to cultivate those relationships with trauma-informed care, love and intentionality to build a stronger community.

— Jaquan Grier, High School Bridge Counselor, CJA 2009, Loyola Academy 2013, St. Norbert's College 2018





# HOME COMING

CJA is thrilled that our alumni have chosen to return to CJA as faculty and staff members. To have our students see themselves reflected back in the adults in their classroom is an irreplaceable gift. Two of these alumni speak about their relationship to CJA as students, alumni and now employees.

Chicago Jesuit Academy is a family. It's a place where kids can come and learn, kids can come in and be safe, boys come in and turn into actual gentlemen.

To me, a gentleman is someone who cares for the well-being of the people in his community and does his best to improve his life and the lives of everyone around him. CJA is very intentional in its efforts to provide these young men the skills they need to be successful anywhere they might land on this world. That is one of the main reasons why I am so excited to come back and teach here at CJA.

I know the care that every teacher puts into their classes and into each young man that walks in this building.



Julian Wicks at CJA's 2011 Graduation

— Julian Wicks, Faculty Member, CJA 2011, Fountain Valley School 2015, Knox College 2020

More than that, I know how important it is to have a positive male role model in your life, and I want to be that for these young men.

Any school is going to get kids to high school; however, CJA is going to get kids not only to high school but also set the boys up to succeed in high school and beyond. It's a proper stepping stone for these boys to reach their full potential and the limitless opportunities and possibilities that are available to people from wealthier backgrounds.

It takes a village to raise a child, and CJA has been part of my village which is why it's so special to me.

Answering the question as a CJA graduate and as an adult, "What does CJA mean to you?" is still as tough as it was when I was asked as a student.

CJA to me means a lot, and I have a lot of feelings for CJA, but if I were to explain it in one word I would say family.

My definition for family is having someone to talk to, having people help you up when you have fallen, people you can trust, people you can love, people that will tell you when you are right or wrong in a situation. For me, Chicago Jesuit Academy means family. CJA is my family.

When I think about my experience as a student that sat in these same classrooms, to come back to Chicago Jesuit Academy and



Jason Williams and Dr. Lauren M. Smith, CJA's Board Chair, at CJA's 2012 Graduation

work as a teacher is a little shocking. It's shocking because there have been a lot of changes throughout the building, from the shoes I had to wear to the work we had to complete as students.

The changes that have happened are some great changes. I am grateful to be able to come back and see young men grow to become better than how they started.

— Jason Williams, Classroom Aide, CJA 2012, Wells Community High School 2016





# TEAM MAKER

At Chicago Jesuit Academy, all employees, whether they are faculty members or not, have the unique opportunity to work with students as coaches, tutors and reading buddies. Unlike many schools, activities that are normally after school are instead built into the school day as co-curriculars. CJA believes this time is equally important to our students' development as their academic time, and sixth, seventh and eighth graders choose a specific co-curricular to participate in each quarter. Activities range from soccer, to Black American Music Ensemble to Culinary Arts. Co-curriculars offer students the chance to pursue a current passion or discover a new one. They also enable students and staff to get to know each other outside of the academic setting and grow in their relationships. Development Officer Roger Garvert and David, Class of 2021, discuss working together this year on the Robotics Team.



**Roger:** On the Robotics Team, what's a scenario that you can think of where everybody came together to help you?

**David:** In seventh grade, we were about to present our robots to compete at the competition. I remember everybody came together to find solutions, fix things and do what they could to improve. It felt like that moment was amazing.

**Roger:** I don't know that I could have been more proud of the entire team. When you guys won the Judge's Award, our other coach, Mr. Borah, looked up the award criteria... a team that has overcome tremendous obstacles to do some really amazing things. It was indicative of all of the students at CJA. We were just so incredibly proud of you.

**Roger:** What stands out about your two years of Robotics at CJA?

**David:** What stood out to me was how we were all working together because I remember in my other school, we didn't really work together. It was just like each man for himself. If you couldn't finish something, I guess you were doing bad. But here, it's like each of us share our ideas to motivate each other. When we share ideas, it creates this, I guess, friendship, and then

everyone else comes together too, sharing ideas. The difference between both is that it's CJA. It's like a team. The whole team works. I say the more people there are the better. It is more ideas, more brains, more people to help you with something. I feel like that's the big difference: teamwork.

**Roger:** We did this entire season remotely, never spending time together in the same room and yet still had some of the highest scores that we ever had.

**David:** We had a bunch of new students who were able to overcome those challenges. I think the thing that helped a lot was the fact that we had more time to do it at home. Overall, it was amazing that we were able to do that and come home with an award. It's mind-blowing.

**David:** What do you think is your biggest achievement while coaching Robotics?

**Roger:** The few returning veterans - of which you are one of them - the leadership that they provided to new students.

**David:** I would agree, I think that the greatest achievement, the prized possession for the team, would be us students just working hard and being there for the whole team.



# THE CLASS OF 2021

## IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR PARENTS & FAMILIES

"This stuck with me, the idea of working hard for something even if it's not what I want to be doing, and I will carry that with me to high school. I would like to thank you for not giving up on me when at times I could not figure out how to do things."

— Torrance '21



## IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR BENEFACTORS

"I am so grateful for what all of the benefactors have done. All of the benefactors have made a difference in a lot of our families' lives and will continue to impact students and families to come. So I say to all of the benefactors who have not just helped CJA but made CJA, thank you!"

— David '21



## IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR FACULTY & STAFF

"Our teachers help us to learn what we like to do which makes it easier to be able to plan for life after CJA. You've been able to push us to find the things we really love in life, no matter if it's popular or underrated, whether it's sports, wanting to be a teacher or being an artist."

— Dariyon '21



"You survived 2020... Now, take that 20/20 vision and apply it going forward — everything you learned about yourself and others — and move onward and upward. The opportunities are limitless, the road may not be easy, but the possibilities are there."

— Dr. Lauren M. Smith  
Chair, Chicago Jesuit Academy Board of Directors  
Associate Chief Medical Officer, Patient Logistics,  
Director of ED Operations at UI Health





# GRAD-AT-GRAD AWARD WINNERS

## Religious awarded to Ryan and Octavius



“**Ryan** holds himself to a standard. He has a confidence that he is meeting the challenge he set for himself, to accept who he is — a person made in the likeness of God. The world can see it... **Octavius’s** faith is a faith of action. A faith of noticing the world around him, seeing who needs help and saying, ‘God has entrusted me with gifts. I know how to use them. I can bring God’s light to others, so they know that they too matter.’”

— Mr. Houlihan



## Open to Growth awarded to Matthew and Daniel



“**Matthew** takes ownership of his learning and is a leader among his peers, holding himself — along with his classmates — to high expectations. As a result, he has made tremendous growth as a reader and mathematician... **Daniel** constantly reflects on his progress, recognizing that perseverance and struggle are necessary components of growing and learning. He encourages feedback because he knows it only makes him stronger.”

— Ms. Buethe



## Intellectually Competent awarded to Dariyon and David



“Whether in the building or remote, **Dariyon** and **David** practiced planning for the future by joining teams that could help them improve themselves; they practiced communicating effectively with teachers and peers to ask for help; and, they thought critically by participating in classes with questions and ideas that spurred their learning and their peers’ learning.”

— Mr. Diehl



## Committed to Doing Justice awarded to Christopher



“**Christopher** showed his commitment to doing justice in the service of others by deepening his understanding of injustice and its root causes. He held up the ugliness of injustice to the cleansing light of compassion and love.”

— Mr. Klooster

## NEXT STEPS

The Class of 2021 will attend the following high schools:

### Boarding

- Culver Academies
- Noble Network of Charter Schools**
- Chicago Bulls College Prep
- Golder College Prep
- Muchin College Prep
- UIC College Prep

### Private Catholic

- Christ the King Jesuit College Prep
- Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
- Holy Trinity High School
- Loyola Academy
- St. Rita of Cascia High School

### Selective Enrollment Public

- Whitney Young Magnet High School

### Other Private

- Chicago Hope Academy

### Other Public

- Air Force Academy High School
- Curie Metropolitan High School
- Intrinsic Charter School
- Ogden International School
- Prosser Career Academy
- Proviso Math and Science Academy

## Phoenix Award awarded to Aaron and Deon



“The spirit that drove **Aaron** to success and rebirth was a desire to be his best self, to make his unwavering and supportive family proud and to be part of the solution to the world’s problems which he so aptly noticed on a daily basis... It is not often that you will find a student like **Deon** who can successfully name the emotions that get in the way of his learning, stare those emotions straight in the face and persist anyway. That takes courage and that courage opened worlds of knowledge for him.”

— Mr. Mason



## Loving awarded to Thomas and Elijah



“**Elijah** and **Thomas** graduate today, imparting on this community and imprinting in the hearts and minds of so many a legacy of empathy, solidarity and love. Your kindness and compassion remind the people whose lives you have touched that we too are worthy of love.”

— Ms. Odom



## CJA'S SCHOLARSHIP MODEL

Benefactors who choose to support CJA are investing in the long-term future of our students. That investment signals a belief in our students' promise – not only academically, but also as people who are committed to doing justice in the service of others.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a scholarship benefactor, please contact Mary Grawe, Vice President of Development, at (773) 629-8600 or [grawe@cjacademy.org](mailto:grawe@cjacademy.org).

### Magis Scholarship **\$5,000/year** Comprehensive **\$17,500/year**

A Magis Scholarship ensures that a CJA student has access to social workers, a school nurse, learning and reading specialists and other supports to help overcome trauma, chronic struggles and other special needs.

A Comprehensive Scholarship provides all of the resources of both the Magis and Core Scholarships for a CJA student.

### Core Scholarship **\$12,500/year** Full Cost **\$28,600/year**

A Core Scholarship provides a student with an excellent college-prep education for 9.5 hours per day and 11 months per year in small class sizes with high-quality teachers.

A full-cost scholarship takes into account the approximate true cost per student per year at CJA. This cost is in line with the amount spent by many suburban public school districts whose average school day is three hours shorter and whose school year is two months shorter than CJA's.



## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BY PROGRAM

Scholarships	\$5,913,518	60.8%
Special Programs	\$2,039,595	21.0%
Annual Fund	\$1,775,063	18.2%



The majority of CJA's annual fundraising is in support of student scholarships. Scholarship fundraising is essential to CJA's continued growth. By raising students' scholarships in four-year pledges, we are able to ensure that we have the funds necessary to serve each young man through his eighth-grade graduation. Over 80% of scholarship benefactors choose to renew their four-year commitment in support of the incoming fifth-grade class. Some benefactors choose to support specific programs such as our Healthy Students Program, our College-Persistence Program or our Arts & Music Program. Others give to our General Operating Fund, which directs contributions to areas of the school that need it most.

Each year, we aim to raise more than our budget so that we can continue to grow our enrollment responsibly while growing our reserves. Currently, we have capacity for 180 students, and when we finish our campus expansion, our capacity will double to allow us to serve almost 400 students. Additionally, our goal is to have a four-year scholarship raised for each student entering our fifth-grade class before they enroll with us in June. Our third- and fourth-grade classes are funded separately, and this year, we received an extraordinary gift that will fund these classes for several years to come.

## SPENDING BY DEPARTMENT

The majority of spending at CJA during the 2020-21 school year directly supported the Academic School Day, ensuring an 8:1 student-to-teacher ratio and funding for five social workers, three social work interns, four specialists in our Learning Resource Center and a full-time school nurse. This holistic approach addresses the needs of each young man through the Jesuit tenet of *cura personalis*, care for the whole person.

The Business and Development Team accounted for 11% of our expenses and raised \$9.7 million for our current operating expenses. Additionally, the Development Team raised \$15 million toward our \$30-million capital campaign goal for our campus expansion and new girls' program.

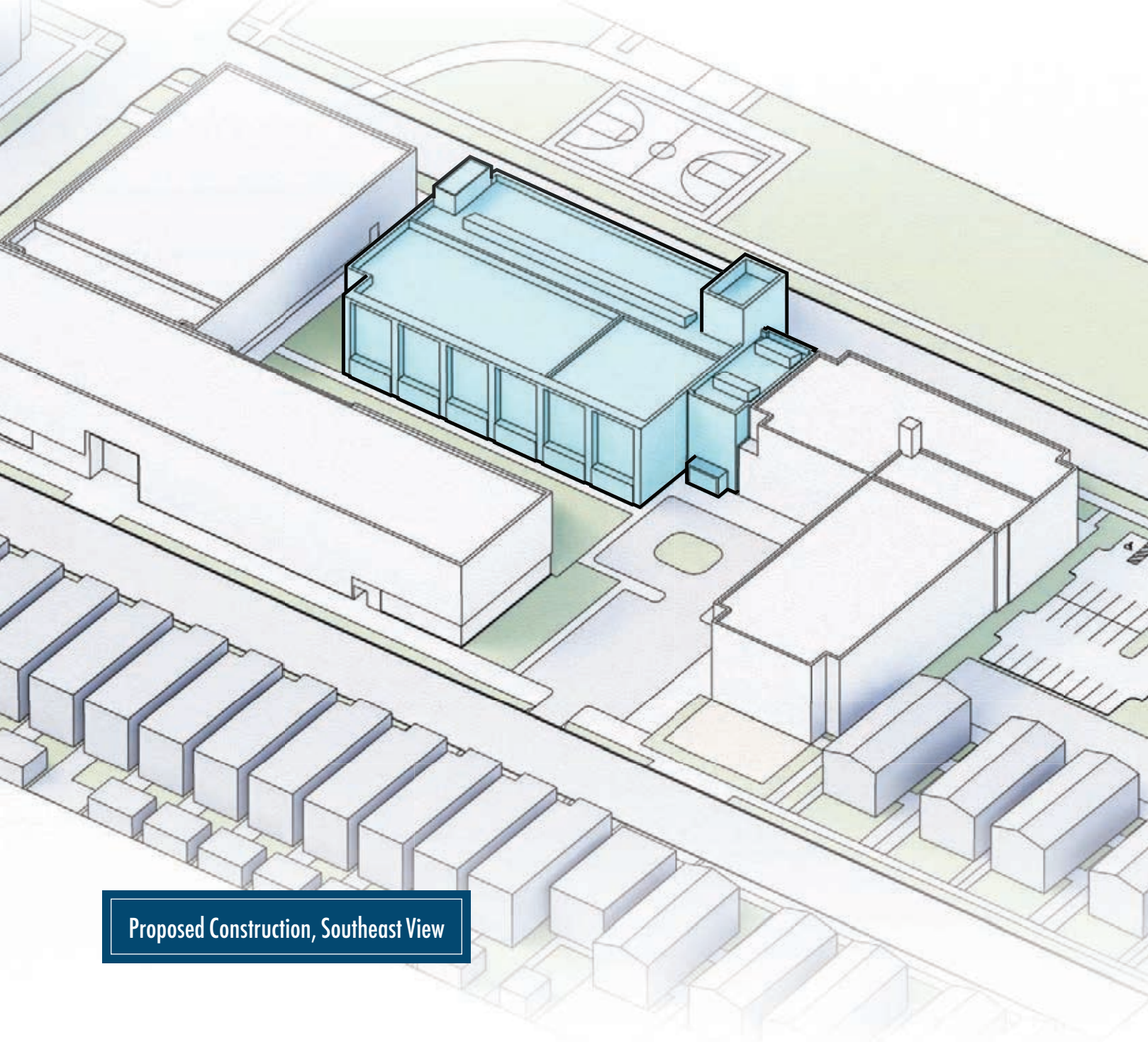
The College-Persistence Team worked with our students and their families starting in sixth grade to help them prepare for the transition to high school. They continue this work with our alumni in high school, post-secondary education and in their careers through the age of 25.

The Operations Team managed technology, campus safety and the buildings and grounds for our students and alumni.

Academic School Day	\$4,641,829	60.5%
Business & Development	\$861,715	11.2%
College Persistence & High School Bridge	\$892,077	11.6%
School Operations	\$1,271,102	16.6%



These data were unaudited at the time of publication. For a copy of CJA's audited financials, please contact Mary Grawe.



Proposed Construction, Southeast View



Proposed Construction, South Facade

# ROOM TO GROW

CJA's capital campaign goal is to raise \$30 million: \$25 million for the campus expansion and \$5 million for scholarships for the first young women who will enroll in CJA in June 2023.

## GIRLS' PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

*The following donors have made generous commitments in support of the girls' program prior to August 1, 2021.*

- |                                   |                                  |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous                         | General Mills                    | Michael L. and Suzanne M. Nelson         |
| Fred J. and Leona Conforti        | Seth and Dorothy Hemming         | Mary B. and Patrick A. O'Neil Foundation |
| Dan and Maureen Connolly          | IMC                              | William J. and Barbara A. Schmidt        |
| Conway Family Foundation          | Jewel-Osco Foundation            | Family Foundation                        |
| Deloitte on behalf of Carl Weber  | Donald Kash and Carole Sowa Kash | Roger and Anne Taylor                    |
| The John & Susan Dewan Foundation | Bill McIntosh                    | William S. and Nancy E. Thompson         |
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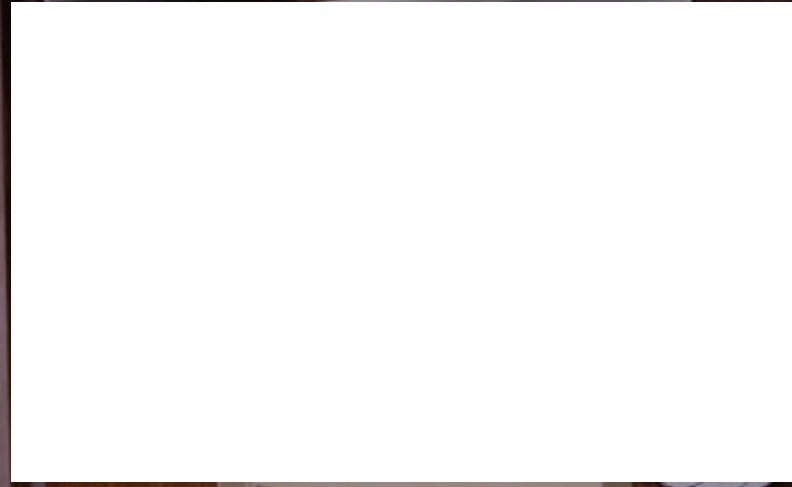
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