

W H O L E

CHILD | FAMILY | COMMUNITY

SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW
22 / 23



PEACE
PREPARATORY
ACADEMY

IMPACT
REPORT



OUR MISSION

PEACE PREPARATORY
ACADEMY SEEKS TO BE A
PLACE THAT EDUCATES
THE WHOLE CHILD,
SUPPORTS THE
WHOLE FAMILY, AND
PROVIDES GROWTH
AND CHANGE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WHOLE COMMUNITY
IN A HIGH QUALITY,
CHRIST-CENTERED
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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In the following pages, you will find many statistics about our work and finances that help us measure our impact. Yet maybe more important, you will find stories of our students, families, and staff who make this work meaningful. Our hope is that their dignity, joy, and goodness gives you a real glimpse into life at Peace Prep and how God is moving in our neighborhood.

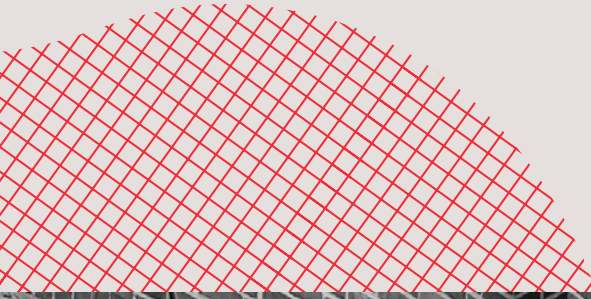
The neighbor stood and stared in awe as he admired the new construction. “God is so good!” He exclaimed.

“W HAT’S GOING ON in this building?” A long-time neighbor who had been away from English Avenue for some time was noticing the physical changes on the block.

“A school,” I replied simply. He stood and stared, mouth agape. In line to pick up my kids from after school programming, I began to slowly drive away, but as the neighbor continued down the street admiring the campus, I could hear and see his reaction to the renovated apartments, historic church-turned-school building, and brand-new modular campus serving 1st through 7th grades. “God is so good!” He exclaimed.

The work we’ve done over the first eight years as a school has meant a lot of things to a lot of people. One of my deep and often unspoken hopes





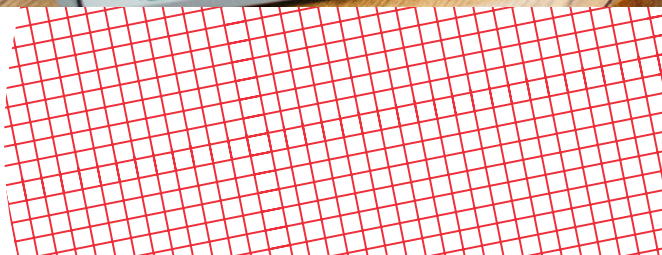
has been that people would see something happening here that could only be attributed to God. This short interchange was a poignant reminder for me that the things we do can be signposts for the Kingdom of God. Our vision to make earth look more like heaven in English Avenue and on the west side of Atlanta is more than just a lofty aspirational statement. It is our commitment to bear witness to the power of God we see displayed here each and every day.

Your partnership with us, and ultimately God, makes possible the tangible love, joy, and peace that are evidence of God's activity here. It has been my heart's desire to see, as the psalmist describes, the goodness of God in the land of the living. This year we have seen that goodness, and so much more. As you journey through the pages of this report, I pray it invites you to remember the goodness of God in your own life as you walk with us in the days and years ahead. God is so good!

Joyfully,

Benjamin Wills
Founder, Head of School

WHOLE





C H I L D

Math Olympics

RAPPORT AND TRUST create a solid footing for education. During the '22/'23 school year, Peace Prep staff and students had plenty of opportunities to build trust with one another: We added a new after school program, new teachers, new students in each grade, and a new team of academic interventionists.

As Emerald* entered Peace Prep as a new 6th grade student in August of 2022, Ms. White likewise found herself in a new role for the new year as a math interventionist. The intervention team was established to help bridge academic gaps that were created by virtual learning or other obstacles to success. The intervention staff intentionally created a welcoming and fun environment for students to receive individualized support outside their regular classrooms. This was the space where Emerald and Ms. White's paths first crossed, although reluctantly for Emerald. "I would have to pick her up 10 to 15 minutes early for math group because she would walk very slowly across the street," Ms. White noted. This was Emerald's deliberate, unhurried rebellion against math.



2022/23
School Year
Quick Facts

90

Students
Enrolled

12:1

Student/
Teacher Ratio

33

Students in
Academic
Intervention

28

Students in
Mental Health
Therapy



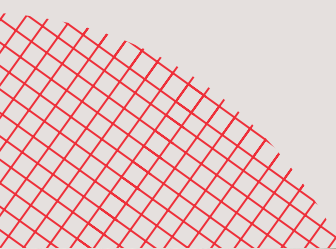
Despite her stubbornness, Emerald is incredibly smart and capable, and Ms. White is creative. Ms. White gave Emerald choices on how to participate in math group to give her back some autonomy. Attendance was never an option, but together they could find ways to learn what Emerald enjoyed. A math-enhanced version of the card game *spoons* soon became a standing favorite. “I won every time,” Emerald bragged. By the middle of the year, Emerald’s perspective on math shifted; she was complaining that Ms. White was walking too slowly to math group now! “She started booking it across the street,” Ms. White laughed.

Across the board, students in intervention grew academically. And for Emerald, more than just her test scores improved. “I love math now!” She proudly announced. And it’s likely that *spoons* wasn’t the only catalyst. Ms. White explained, “Learning doesn’t happen without failure, and if you aren’t willing to fail because you don’t trust the adult [teaching you], actual transformative learning won’t take place.” Relationships built on trust not only create opportunities for real learning to take place, but also for a love of learning to be curated on our campus.

**Name changed for anonymity*

WHOLE





FAMILY

A Place to Lay Your Head

WHEN PEACE PREP was founded in 2015, we knew we would need to have safe, affordable housing for our students and families in order to curb the high rates of displacement in our neighborhood. As many of you know, our partners at oaksATL Community Development have made this their mission, now renting 32 units to community members. Nearly a third of their tenants are Peace Prep families.

Yet during the '22/'23 school year, we recognized an alarmingly high rate of Peace Prep families were unhoused. Typically a variety of systemic factors are to blame for transiency in English Avenue and its surrounding west side neighborhoods. However, this school year, the lifting of the eviction moratorium displaced many of our families in one fell swoop. Mrs. Michaela, Peace Prep's Director of Student Support Services, worked non-stop to aid families as they searched for permanent housing by coordinating alongside oaksATL and by accessing other community resources.



**2022/23
School Year
Quick Facts**

45

Families
Engaged

95%

Student
Retention

90%

of Students in
After School
Programs

44,640

Breakfasts,
Lunches, and
Dinners Served

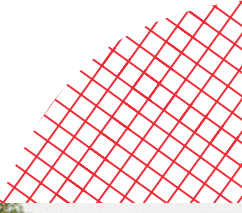


The road was long and discouraging. At one particularly low point, as many as 10 families were forcefully displaced during the school year, mostly due to circumstances beyond their control. One family, for example, was removed from their home the week of Christmas after finding their landlord did not, in reality, own the home they were renting. In the midst of this shock wave of displacement, our parents and caretakers became more resilient and determined, often asking Mrs. Michaela to help connect them to resources to fill the gaps. We started by providing groceries and hotel gift cards. Then Mrs. Michaela was able to connect some families to organizations which cover the renters' security deposit and first month's rent. Persevering in their efforts, by the end of the school year, all 10 families had found new, more stable places to live.

Because families often lose essential furniture in the midst of transiency, a partner organization stepped in to provide 20 bed kits for families in new homes. On a hot May Saturday, our staff and volunteers built all 20 new beds in homes without essentials. The following Monday, our ecstatic students couldn't stop bragging about their new beds! What a fitting close to the school year.

Families who relocate under duress are pictures of incredible resilience. We are honored to be a small part of their victory during the '22/'23 school year.

WHOLE





COMMUNITY

It Takes A Village

WE OFTEN DESCRIBE our community mindset with the phrase “village mentality.” People at Peace Prep go above and beyond, not only for their families, but also for their neighbors.

Returning to in-person learning in 2021, students nationwide struggled to adjust to classroom environments. Mrs. Olson’s 2nd graders were no different; they found creative ways to express their classroom angst. Mrs. Olson took particular notice of one of her students whose response to the stress was unique: “Lola* would do cartwheels...and show me the craziest back-bends, I’d ever seen.”

The 2nd graders needed to have structure and stability reintroduced into their daily routine. For Lola, Mrs. Olson wondered if sports might provide her a space to release some energy, learn discipline, and gain confidence, all while practicing those back-bends in a more conducive environment. After talking with Lola’s parents, her family and Mrs. Olson signed Lola up for gymnastics.

For the last year and a half, Mrs. Olson and Lola have repeated the same routine: a weekly car ride together from school to gymnastics practice and home again. Each week Mrs. Olson, Lola, and Lola’s family have been able to celebrate the new things she’s learned, the new friends she’s made, and the confidence she’s gained. Lola even shared her new found love for gymnastics at Peace Prep,



**2022/23
School Year
Quick Facts**

4

Staff Moved
to English
Avenue

4

After School
Sports Teams
Established

20

Families
Connected
w/ Additional
Support
Resources

15

Units of
affordable
housing
developed
with oaksATL



teaching her peers how to do a proper handstand! “She became a role model for her classmates,” Mrs. Olson shared. Soon, the whole Peace Prep Pride was invested in Lola’s gymnastics.

At the end of her ’22/’23 gymnastics season, Lola was scheduled to perform in a showcase. Word traveled fast. On the day of the showcase, her mom, siblings, two former teachers, her current teacher, two other Peace Prep staff, and her entire class of 12 peers all showed up to cheer her on! Each time Lola performed, the gym erupted with cheers from the Peace Prep section. When she finished and joined her classmates, they tackled her in one big group hug.

During the ’22/’23 school year, the Olson family moved into a house in English Avenue next door to Lola’s grandmother. Longtime English Avenue residents, Lola’s family welcomed the Olson family with open arms. “We have a different level of camaraderie now,” remarked Mrs. Olsen. “As an outsider, they really make me feel like I belong.”

Beyond the new sparkly leotards, Mrs. Olson and Lola both gained so much from their weekly trips to gymnastics. They have a deeper relationship with each other and their community. They are a part of a village cheering them on, both on and off the gym floor.

**Name changed for anonymity*

OPERATING BUDGET

\$2.9 Million

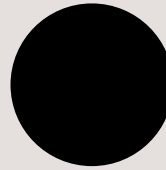




881 NORTH AVE NW
P
Peace Preparatory
ACADEMY

P Peace Preparatory
ACADEMY
Redeemer
CHURCH

SPENDING BREAKDOWN



Facility Costs

19%

Curriculum
& Programs

8%

Administrative
Expenses

3%

GIVING SOURCES



Foundations &
Grant-Making
Organizations

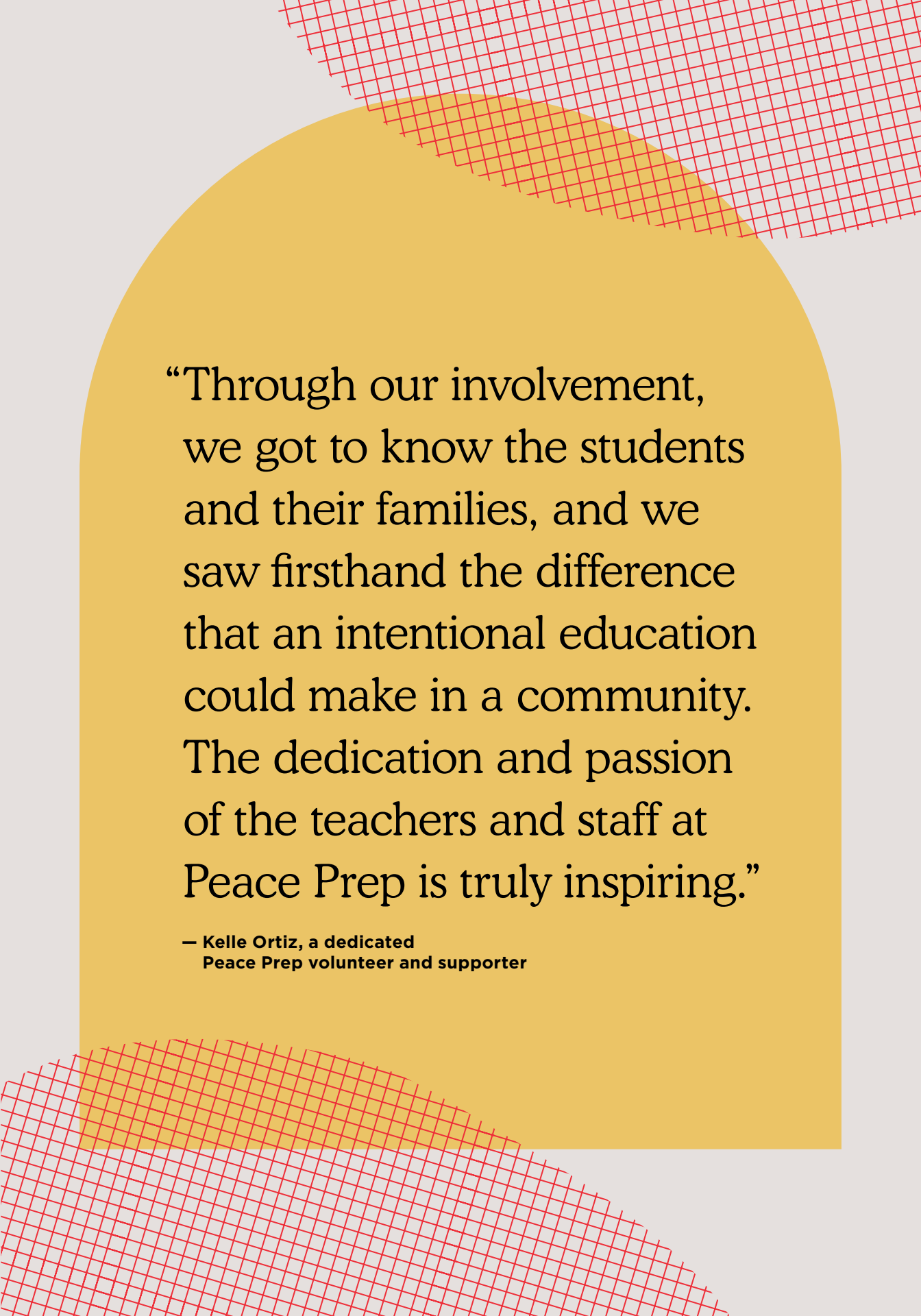
15%

Businesses

10%

Churches &
Community
Organizations

10%



“Through our involvement,
we got to know the students
and their families, and we
saw firsthand the difference
that an intentional education
could make in a community.
The dedication and passion
of the teachers and staff at
Peace Prep is truly inspiring.”

— Kelle Ortiz, a dedicated
Peace Prep volunteer and supporter

**2022-2023
STAFF**



Benjamin Wills
Founder,
Head of School



Ben Jordan
Art
Teacher



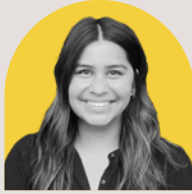
Bridgette Jeffcoat
Reading
Interventionist



Brittney West
Restorative Center
Coordinator



Chanterria Shelby
Recess & Lunch
Coordinator



Daniela Reyes
Executive
Assistant



Danielle Fedd
After School
Coordinator



Eddie Sanders
5th Grade
Teacher



Eron Jenkins
Principal



Esther Mallard
MS Social Studies/
Science Teacher



Eulice Hooper
Pre-K
Teacher



Jasmaine Watt
4th Grade
Teacher



Jasmine Rush
After School
Staff



Jeff-Audry Joseph
Director of
Operations



Jennifer Marable
3rd Grade
Teacher



Jessica Hedden
Senior
Development Officer



Jon Abrams
PE Teacher



Kathryn Stanley
Dean of Students



Katie Martin
MS Math Teacher



Kiki Bryson
Social Work Intern



Kyle Woodruff
After School
Staff



La Donna Williams
Performing Arts
Teacher



Laura Jones Burnett
Director of
Instruction



Libby Hovey
Kindergarten
Teacher



Macy White
Math
Interventionist



Matthew Maxwell
Director of Community
Development



Maya Riddles
Behavior
Interventionist



Michaela Guthrie
Director of Student
Support Services



Paulette Woodruff
MS ELA Teacher



Raman Enigbokan
After School
Staff



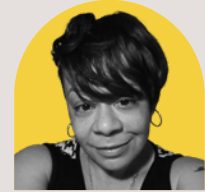
Rose Denaut
Operations
Coordinator



Rue Gunter
Director of
Development



Savannah Olson
2nd Grade
Teacher



Stefanie Smith
After School
Staff



Terrance Jones
After School
Staff



Vanja Thompson
1st Grade
Teacher



Will Ramanakiwai
Music
Teacher



Looking Forward

AT THE TIME you are receiving this report, we have begun our 9th school year in 2023/24. We have added an 8th grade class and built out our model for elementary and middle school. We have 38 incredible staff who make up our team of classroom teachers, intervention specialists, culture support, administration, and after school programming. We use every square inch of our campus: Our students eat a hot breakfast and lunch in our sanctuary-turned-cafeteria space. An unused office in our main building has been turned into a food pantry and family resource center, and every single classroom in our newest modular is filled with children. We will serve more than 100 students and 45 families this year. God is still working in our midst! What a privilege it is to do this work alongside those who care deeply about English Avenue. Undoubtedly, we continue to think creatively and prayerfully about the road ahead. My hope is that you will continue to walk with us as we write our next chapter. The best is yet to come! On behalf of the students, families, and community members whose stories fill these pages, thank you for being a part of the wholeness we are experiencing on our block.

Rue Gunter
Director of Development





**2022/2023
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

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Mike Davis

Vice Chair
Lee Torrence

Treasurer
Andrew Case

Secretary
Davis Mitchell

Board Members
Benjamin Wills
Garin Narain
Gloria Cox
Keith Roberts
Kyle Francis
Lecrae Moore
Steve Hufford
Tedashii Anderson
Adam Martin
Piper Sullivan
Dee Hoover
Paul Robertson
Zakya Williams
Sara Wills (ex officio)





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ACADEMY



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