

Head of School Annual Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
2021/2022 School Year
John Zimmerman, Head of School

The 2021-2022 school year has been one of slowly returning to a sense of normalcy following the massive disruption caused by Covid-19. We began inviting guests back to campus, integrated the Middle and High school programs in a variety of ways, and adjusted our policies and procedures as we responded to the ever evolving pandemic. For many this felt like a return to form, for others it was a chance to experience much of Scattergood for the first time. For all of us, it was a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and lots of opportunities for learning and growth.

We welcomed 48 students to Scattergood throughout the year across both programs. As of this writing, we have enrolled 35 students for the Fall, with plans to continue to grow that number throughout the year. We are taking steps to strengthen our marketing efforts and admissions process to both attract more prospective students and accurately evaluate their fit for our program. Despite our enrollment numbers being less than what we had hoped, our tuition revenue remains strong. We ended our year with a small profit without the assistance of PPP loans or other lines of credit and feel confident we will do similarly this coming school year.

Our development efforts this year proved to be very successful and have helped us maintain our financial balance. Thanks to the efforts of Ethan Huelskamp, who stepped into the role of Development Coordinator last summer, we hit our annual fund goal of \$280,000. Additionally, We have been hard at work on many smaller projects as well as setting the stage for a large fundraising campaign that we intend to launch in the summer of 2023. All of these efforts are, of course, possible because of the generosity and support of our extended Scattergood community, for which we are both humbled and grateful.

On Sunday, June 5th, we celebrated the graduation of 10 seniors. Sabra Crock, Max Fauchier, Kathryn Arnold, Gillie Schmidt-Quee, Bazz Vande Hey, Elise Wittek, Asher Hockersmith, Eliza Meisenbach, Alia Kauper, and Ceci Clark. For their senior project, these students worked with staff to build a small greenhouse designed to be a cozy meeting space during our cooler months. We will miss this departing class very much and wish them well in the future as they scatter good along their journeys.

This year we say goodbye to a number of beloved staff members, each of whom has contributed to Scattergood's program and community in both their work and friendship. Shari Sollars (Director of Admissions), Christalyn and Stacy Thjorne (Teachers), Hanna Fay (Registrar), Annabel Higgin-Houser (Student Wellness), Katie Herbert (Marketing/College Counselor), and Karen Huff (Kitchen Staff) will be moving on to other communities and roles. Their work will be picked up by a number of current and new staff members including Asa Fisher (Teacher), Blueberry Morningsnow (Teacher), Mark Blackman (Director of Admissions), and Greta Optz (Registrar/College Counselor). We are saddened to say goodbye to our Friends and colleagues, but excited to welcome our new staff and their families into the community.

Our academic program continued to engage students and challenge them with lessons in and outside of the classroom. A personal highlight was our Spring production of the musical *Godspell*. I was fortunate enough to be the director of this production and was joined by Sonja Sponheim on music and Sadie Kirschenman on choreography, along with 8 brave and very talented students. We explored the many parables and lessons presented in the show and had many conversations about how the values expressed in the show reflected our values individually and here at Scattergood. It was a joy to watch these young people bring the show to life and gain confidence in themselves and each other through many hours of hard work.

Our Middle School program entered its second year ready to begin interacting more fully with the High School following a year of strict Covid-19 protocols that saw the two separated almost entirely. We have initiated a mentor program in which each Middle School student is partnered with a High School student for a once a week meeting to talk, play games, and close the age gap a bit. The mixing of the HS and MS students hit its peak this May as students from all grades participated in our May Term classes. Despite the fact that we have two academic programs, it is becoming clear that we are, in fact, one school with seven grades and should be thinking about ourselves in that manner.

There are several big projects that are currently ongoing in the background and helping pave the way for Scattergood's future. We are well underway with our next ISACS accreditation process, a lengthy task that takes place over multiple years. The teaching staff worked throughout the year to develop and refine a comprehensive Curriculum Scope and Sequence, which will serve as both an internal tool for consistency in our program, but also as a marketing tool providing prospective families with a clearer sense of what Academics look like here at Scattergood.

We are also in the process of transitioning our Healing Project from a place of initial listening and learning to one of action, conversation, and continued openness to further stories. This July, I sent a follow-up letter to my initial correspondence in the 2021/2022 school year. This letter is not the end of our work, but rather the beginning of an ongoing effort to educate our community and listen to those who choose to come forward with challenging stories of what they have experienced at Scattergood.

As we prepare to embark on the 2022/2023 school year, it seems that we are at a turning point for Scattergood. The work we have done to strengthen Scattergood is being felt by our staff and students. At the same time we must acknowledge the challenges we continue to face and seek means of addressing them, particularly with regards to enrollment and retention. I am confident that we will continue to deepen and grow our program as we seek to attract more students who fit our mission and ability to meet their needs. I remain enthusiastic about the future and our ability to address these challenges and I look forward to working with this community to do so.

Respectfully submitted in peace and gratitude,
John Zimmerman