



PROGRAM YEAR EVALUATION REPORT

2024-2025



About Girls First



Girls First is a tuition-free, out-of-school program for students in grades one through four.

The mission of Girls First is to build character, instill a positive sense of self, and provide tangible life skills through a creative arts-based curriculum with exposure to the sciences, academic reinforcement, and social-emotional learning.

Girls First provides a supportive, stable environment where students practice respect for self and others, exercise appropriate interactions with peers and adults, discover new skills and talents, and develop tools that will allow them to achieve greater success in school and beyond.

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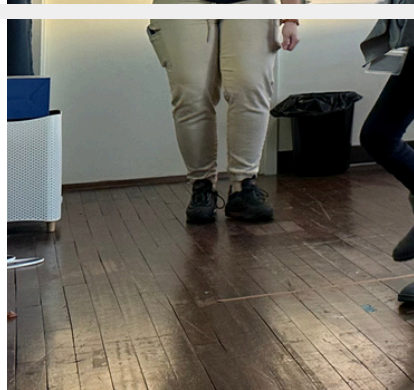
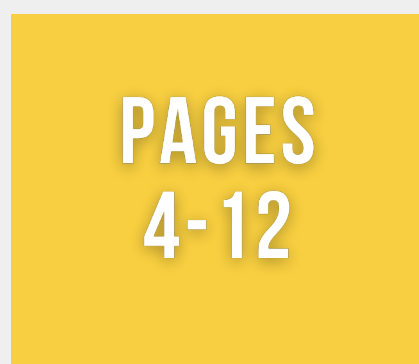
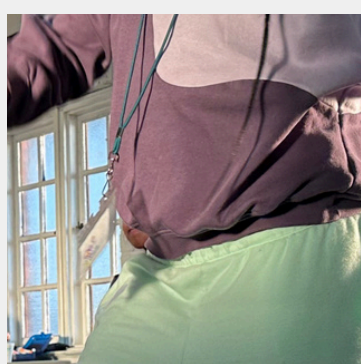
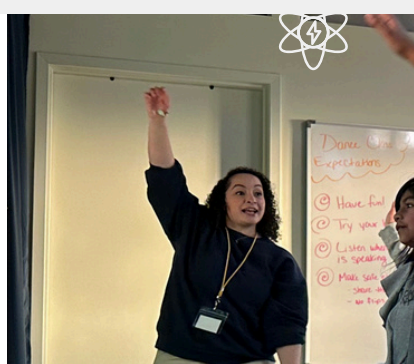
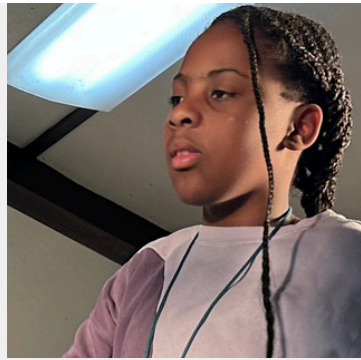
Kennedy McAlister

Miriam Reid

Christina Talley

Russle Thayer

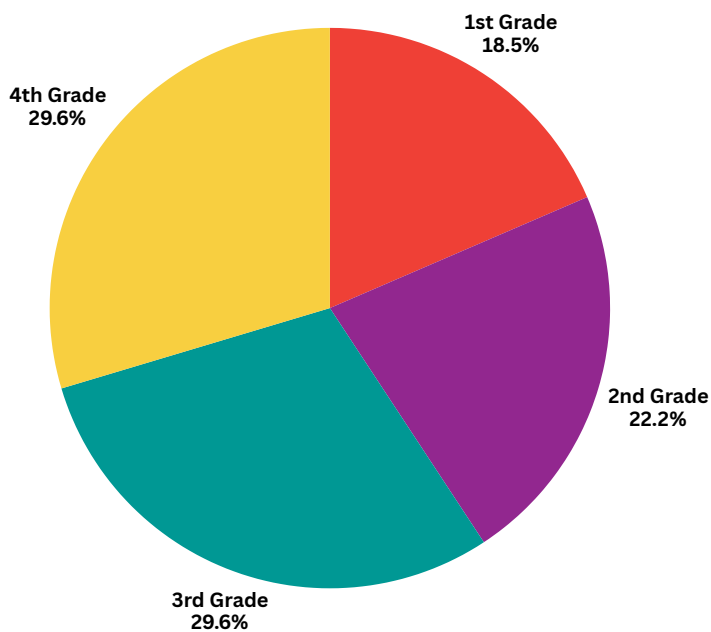
girlsfirst Norristown



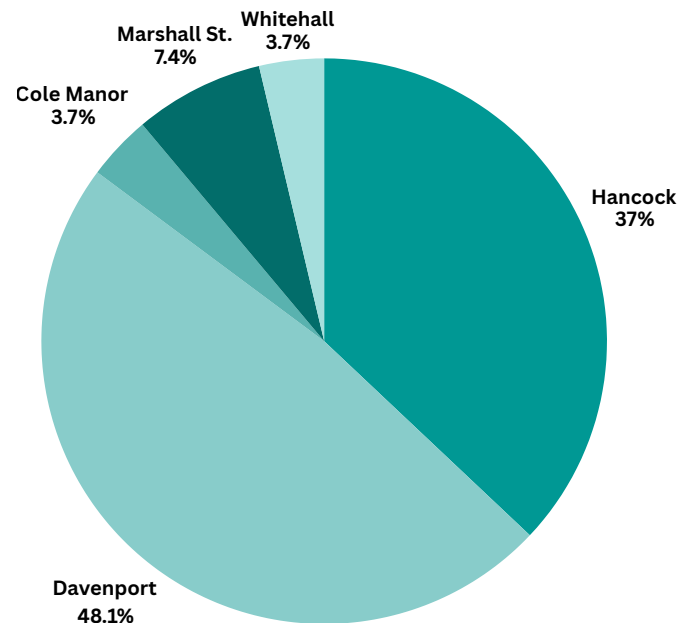
Student Population

Girls First served **27 unique students at Girls First Norristown** over the course of the 2024-25 program year^{1*}

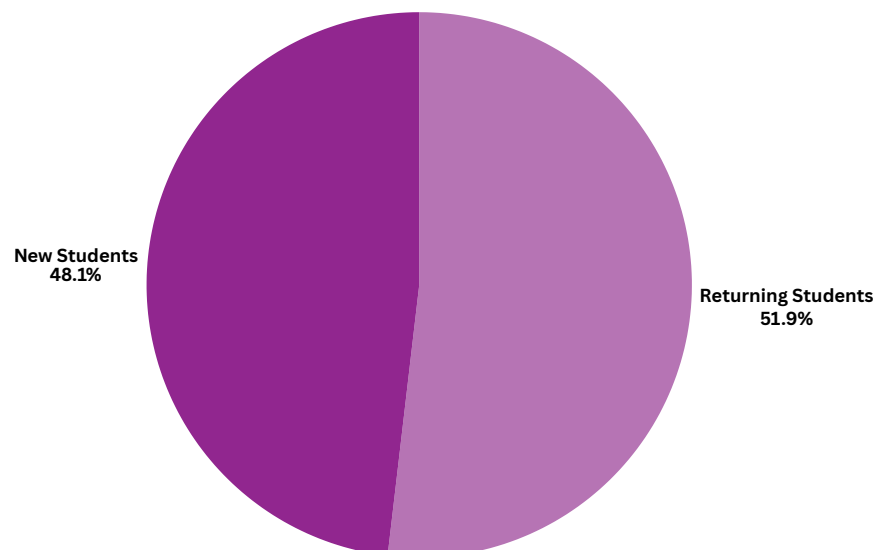
**2024-25 Program
Participants by Grade**



**2024-25 Program
Participants by School**



**2024-25 New vs. Returning
Program Participants**



Volunteers & Partners



Two Girls First alumni, now currently in 5th Grade, also volunteered **39 hours** of their time to help the younger students.

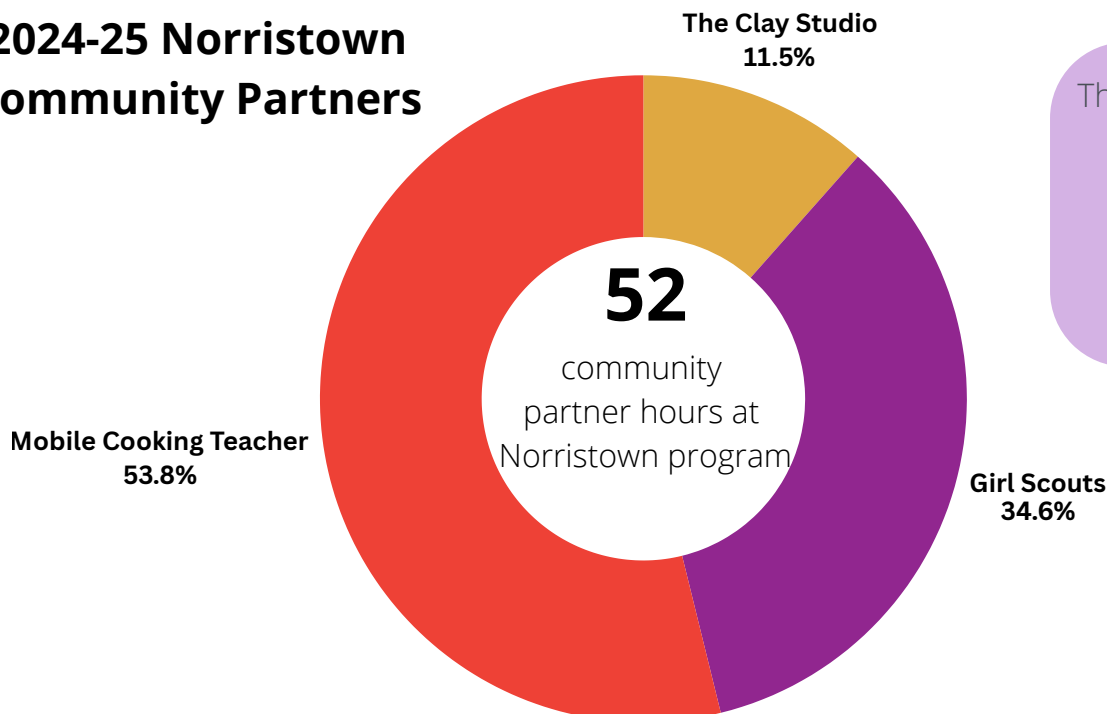
29 Volunteers

Girls First Volunteers support the program in a multitude of ways including preparing meals, facilitating Chew & Chat conversations, preparing supplies, leading activities, helping with homework, and most importantly, being caring and stable adults in the lives of our students.

In addition to the donation of time and talent, the following community partners supported programming through in kind and monetary gifts:

Ambler Savings Bank, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Eastern University, Huntington Bank, IMC Charitable Foundation, Lauren Morein - Team Leader Paper Pie, Montgomery County Community College, Norristown Area High School, Norristown Fire Department, Norristown Public Library, OneDigital, St. Augustine of Hippo Episcopal Church, TruMark Financial, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, Victory Church, & everyone who purchased from our Amazon Wish List

2024-25 Norristown Community Partners



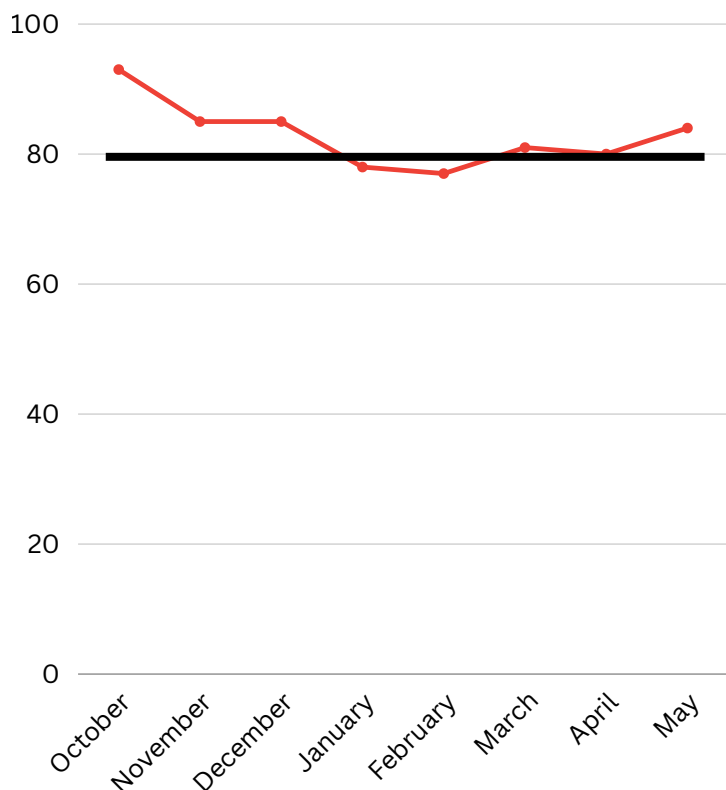
The 3rd and 4th Graders also took a field trip to the **Abington Art Center** where they toured the gallery and explored printmaking.

Attendance

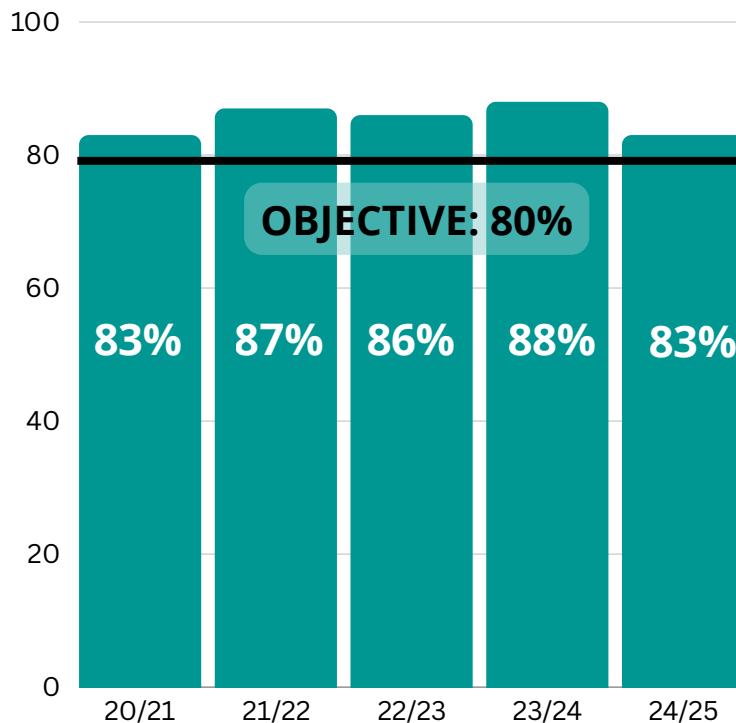
OBJECTIVE:

Students will attend the afterschool program a minimum of **80%** of operating program days

2024-25 Month-by-Month Attendance ^{2*}



Program Year over Year Average



**AVERAGE TOTAL
ATTENDANCE FOR 2024-25:
83%**



Meals



1,622
Total Meals Served
2024-25 Program
Year



*Boxed meals were provided
by Nutritional Development
Services, Archdiocese of
Philadelphia*

Students also participated in **"Cooking Club,"** led by Chef Keisha from **Mobile Cooking Teacher**. The menus included items such as chicken fajitas, mashed potatoes, green beans, vegetable lo mein, french toast, and more. Meals were prepared on-site with Chef Keisha during program and then packaged up to be brought home to enjoy with the students' families.



Behavior

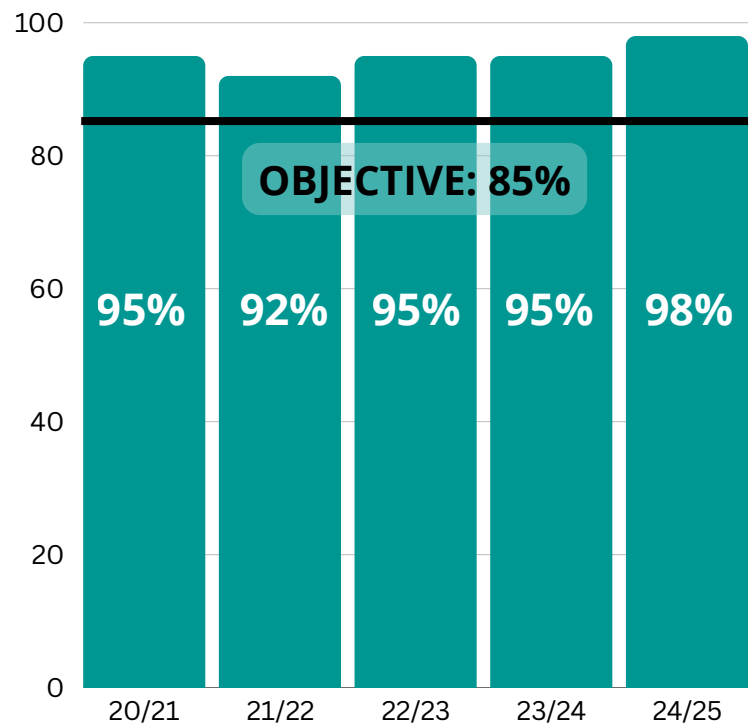
OBJECTIVE:

85% of students will demonstrate proficient to advanced prosocial behaviors and ability to follow program rules

*Girls First utilizes a **3-point Behavior Assessment rubric** for the Norristown program. Student Behavior is evaluated using 3 categories:*

- **Focus**
- **Following directions**
- **Working cooperatively with others**

Program Year over Year Average



98%

of students demonstrated proficient to advanced prosocial behaviors

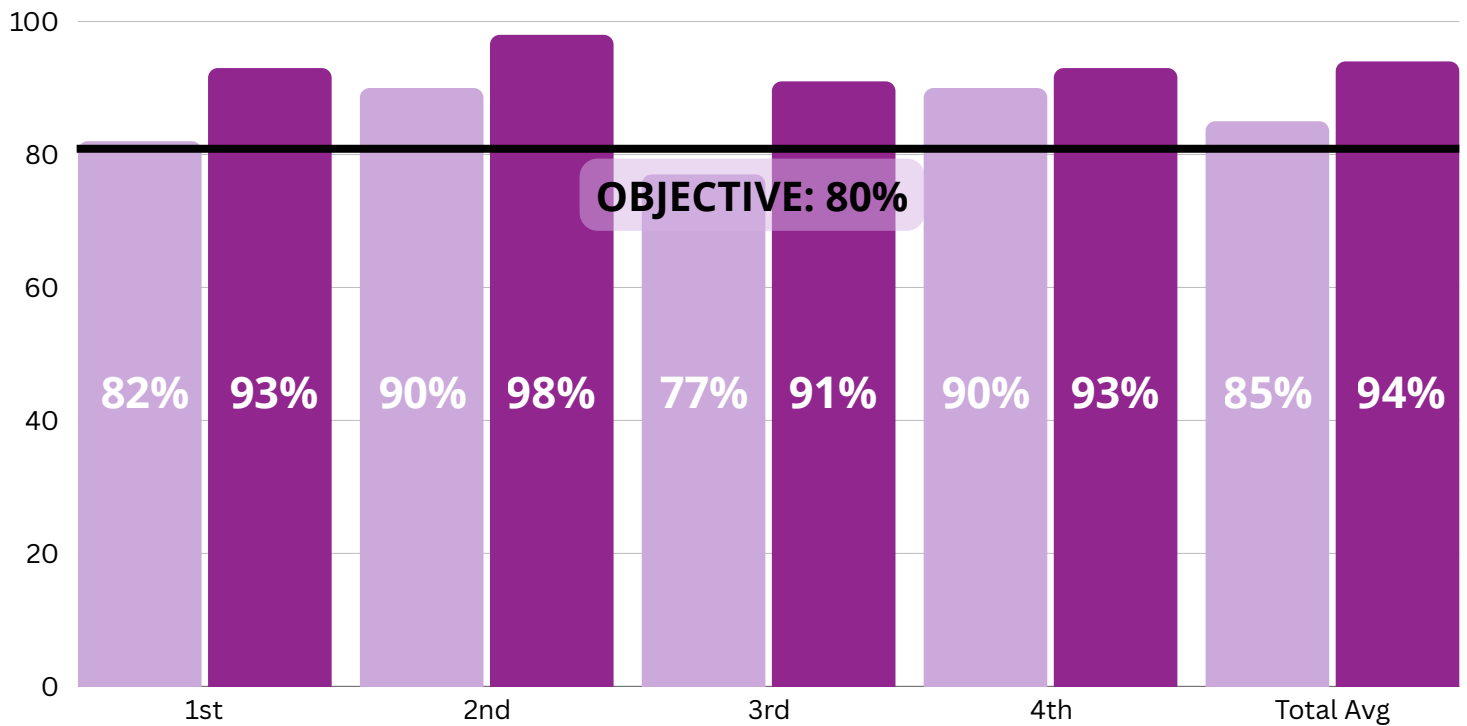
Social Emotional Skills

OBJECTIVE:

80% of students will demonstrate proficient to advanced social and emotional skills

2024-25 Year End Average by Grade

Pre Post



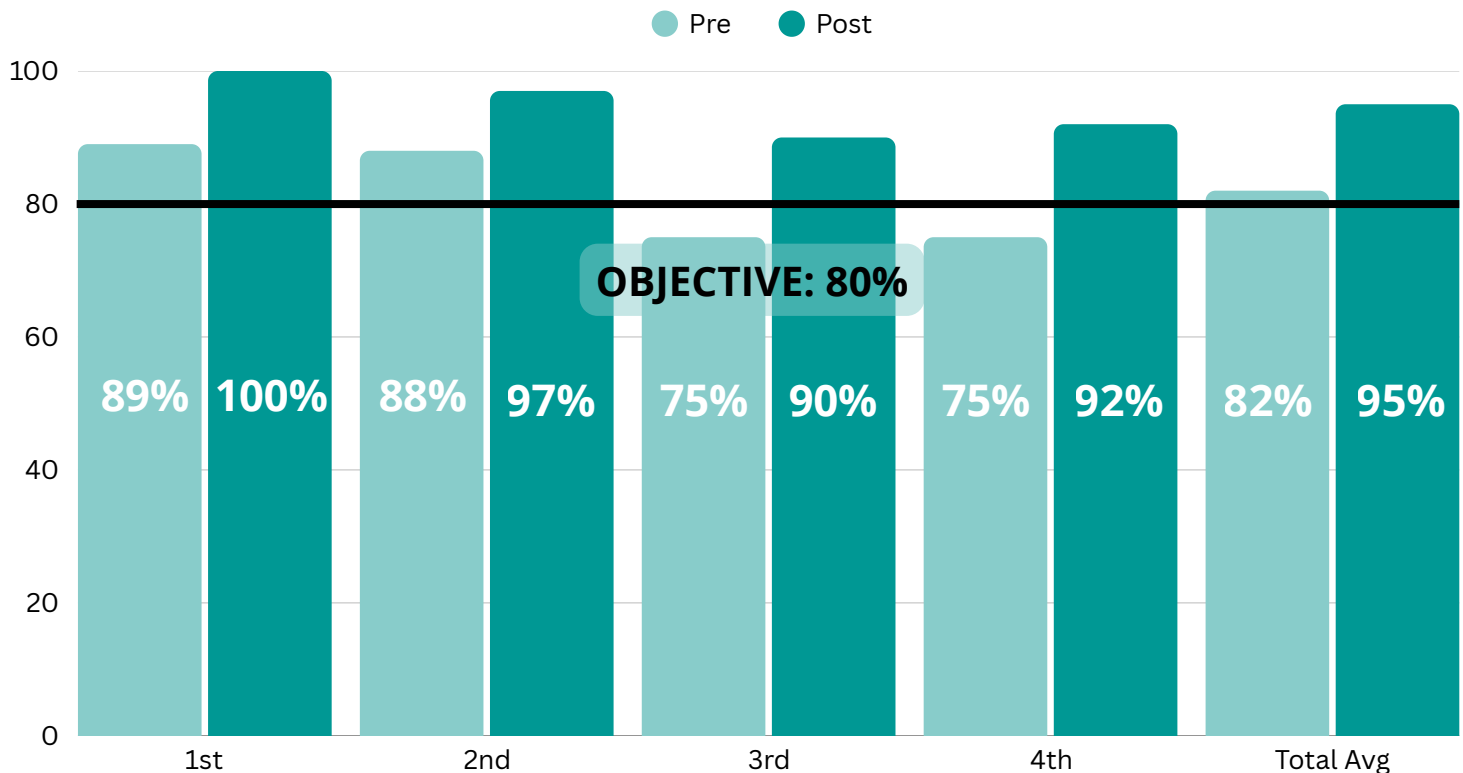
94%
of total students
demonstrated
proficient to advanced
SEL skills

Artistic Skills

OBJECTIVE:

80% of students will demonstrate proficient to advanced use of artistic skills

2024-25 Year End Average by Grade



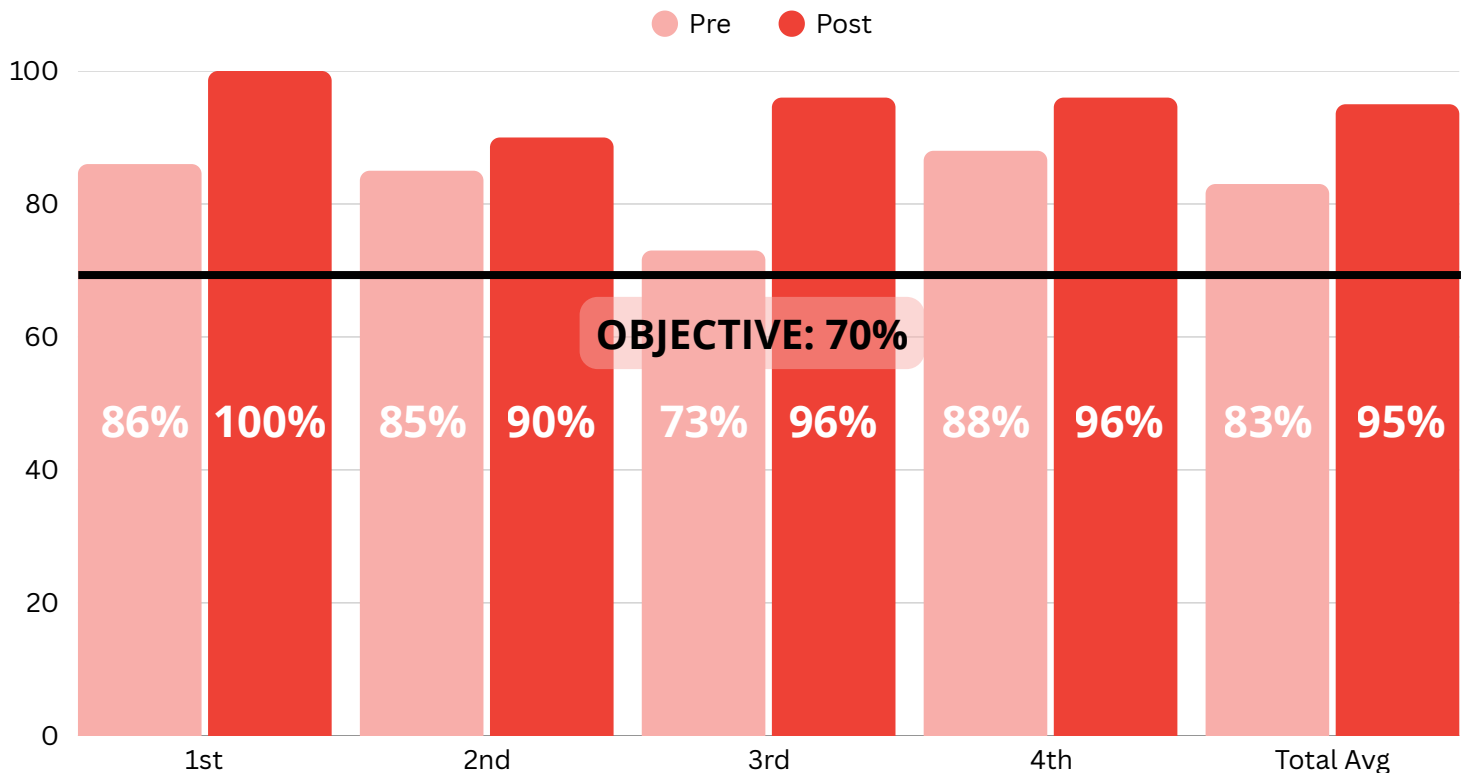
95%
of total students
demonstrated
proficient to advanced
Artistic skills

Academic Skills

OBJECTIVE:

70% of students will demonstrate proficient to advanced use of language arts and math skills

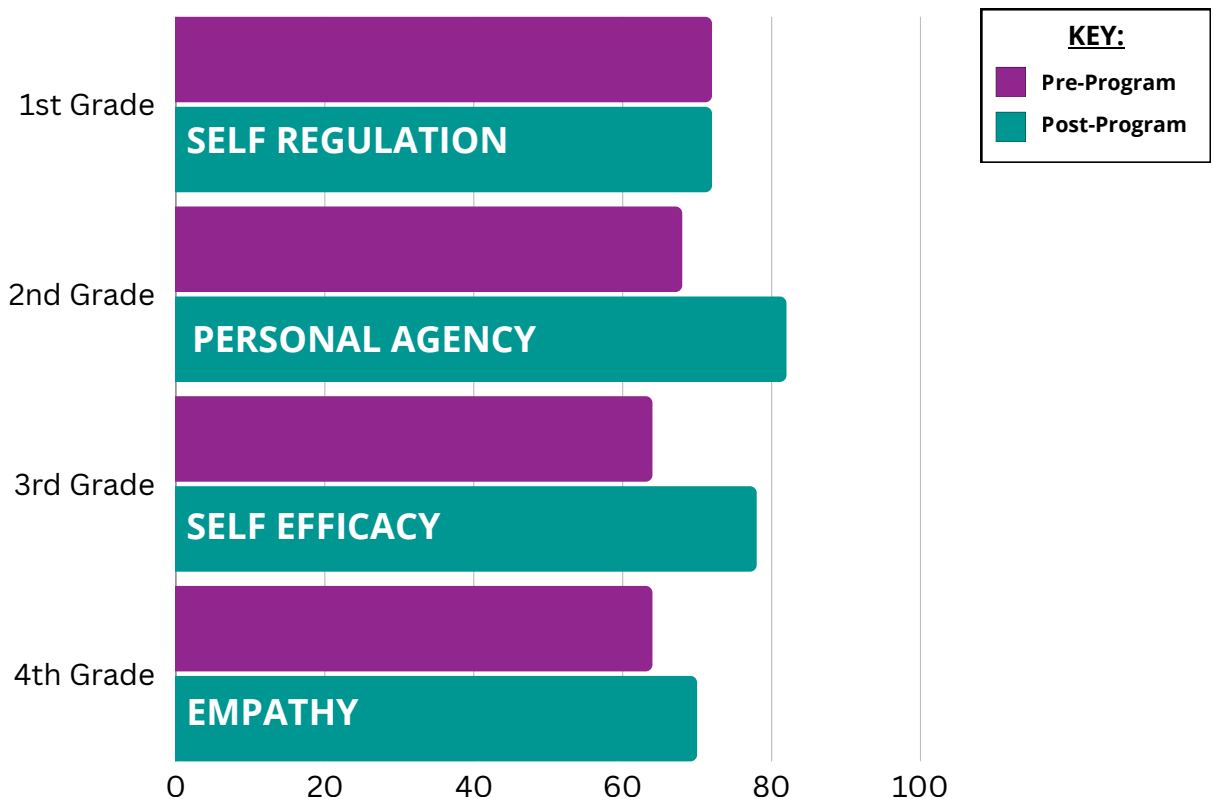
2024-25 Year End Average by Grade



95%
of total students
demonstrated
proficient to advanced
Academic skills

Change in Social Emotional Understanding

2024-25 Pre & Post Student Self-Assessments Average by Grade ^{3*}



EVALUATION METHODS:

- **Fast Track Project Child Behavior Questionnaire on Self Regulation**

(1st Grade self-assessment administered at the start and end of program)

- **Modified Self Determination Student Scale**

(2nd Grade self-assessment administered at the start and end of program)

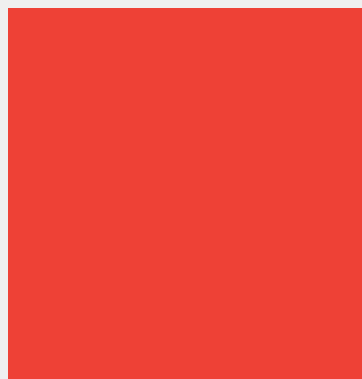
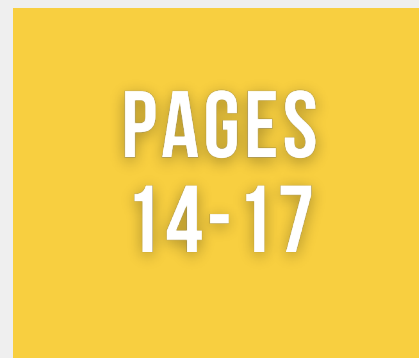
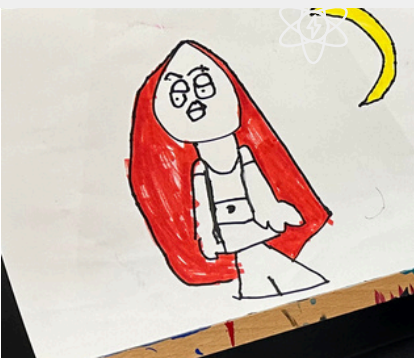
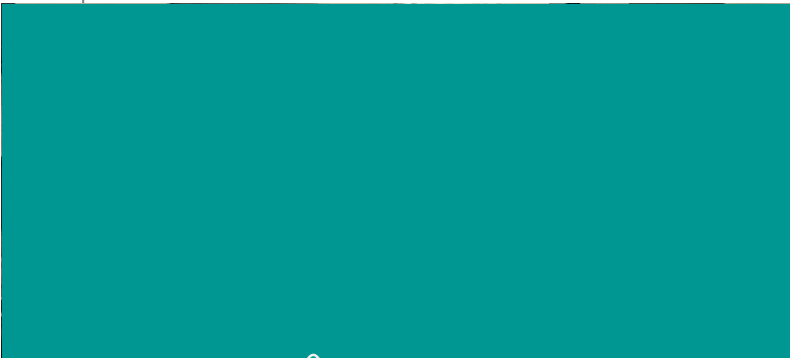
- **Self Efficacy Scale (Children)**

(3rd Grade self-assessment administered at the start and end of program)

- **Toronto Empathy Questionnaire**

(4th Grade self-assessment administered at the start and end of program)

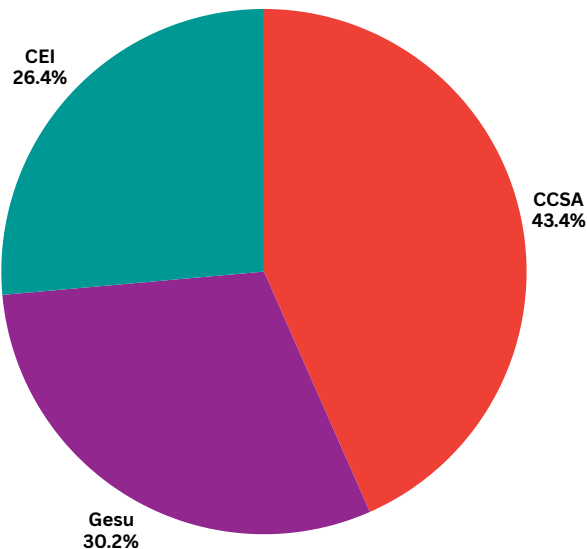
girlsfirst Outreach



Outreach Totals

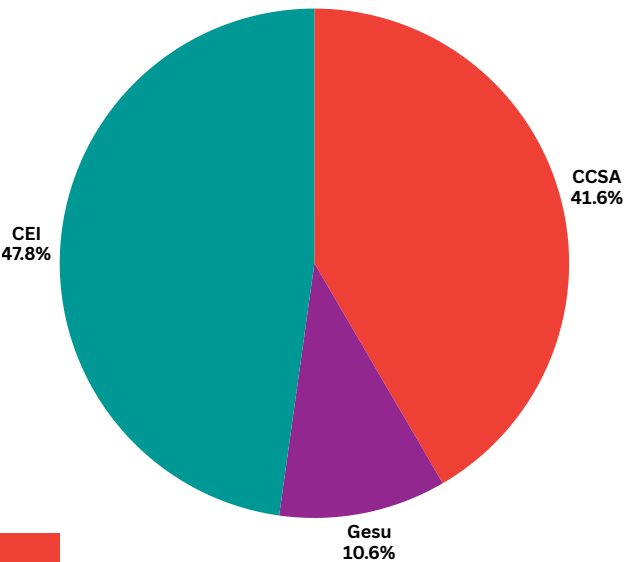
Girls First served **106 unique students at Girls First Outreach Programs** over the course of the 2024-25 program year

2024-25 Outreach Participants



Girls First Outreach Teaching Artists taught **452 on-site teaching hours** over the course of the 2024-25 program year

2024-25 Outreach On-Site Hours



Outreach - The Gesu School

OBJECTIVE:

In comparison to the Outreach students' pre-assessment scores (i.e. baseline data), the post-assessment data will reflect **at least a 10 point increase** of students demonstrating proficient to advanced use of skills in all categories: artistic, social/emotional, and academic

Total number of students served:

32 students

in Grades **1st - 4th**

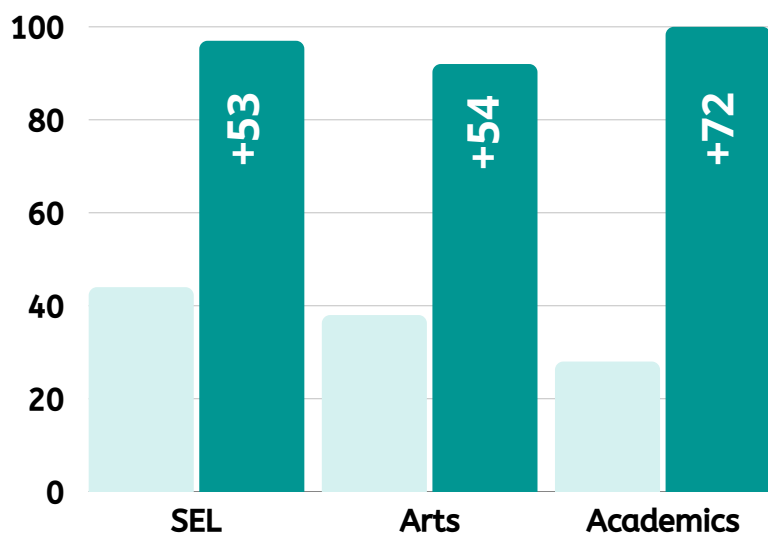
The Gesu students
received all four *Artsee*
curricula in
Dance



*Students demonstrated proficient to advanced
use of the following skill areas:*

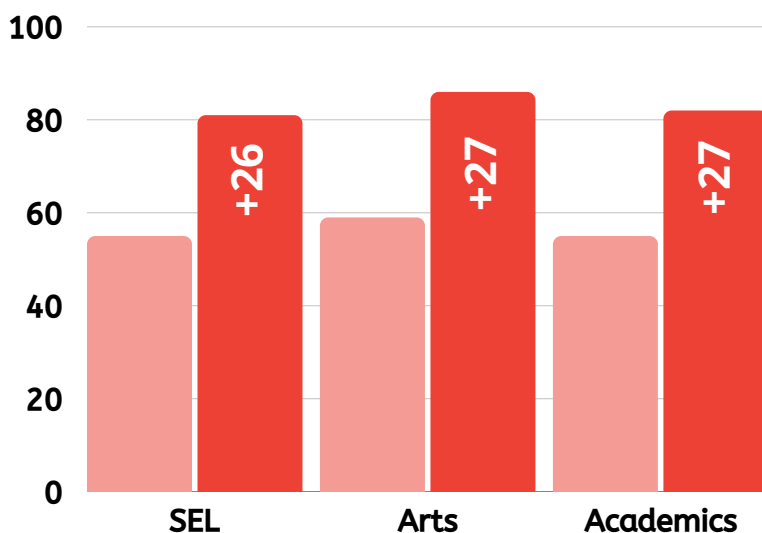
FALL 2024

Pre Post



SPRING 2025

Pre Post



Outreach -

Chester Charter Scholars Academy

OBJECTIVE:

In comparison to the Outreach students' pre-assessment scores (i.e. baseline data), the post-assessment data will reflect **at least a 10 point increase** of students demonstrating proficient to advanced use of skills in all categories: artistic, social/emotional, and academic

Total number of students served:
46 students
 in Grades **1st & 2nd**

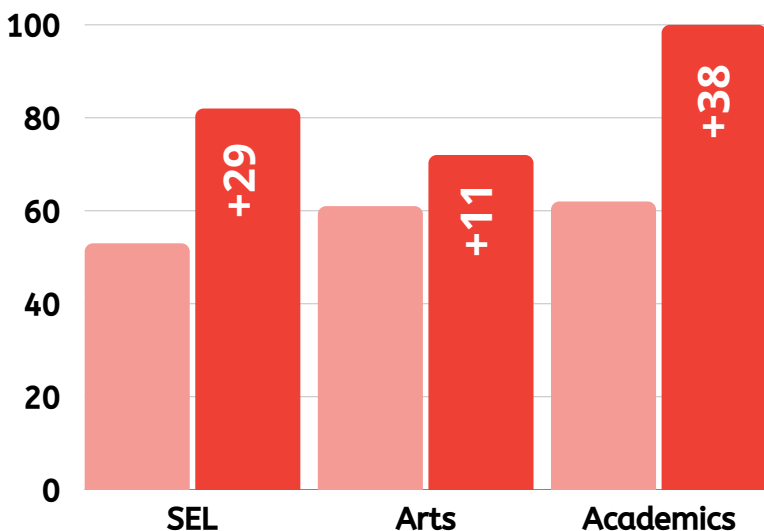
Artsee Curricula utilized:
Self Regulation -
Drama & Visual Art
Personal Agency -
Drama & Visual Art



Students demonstrated proficient to advanced use of the following skill areas:

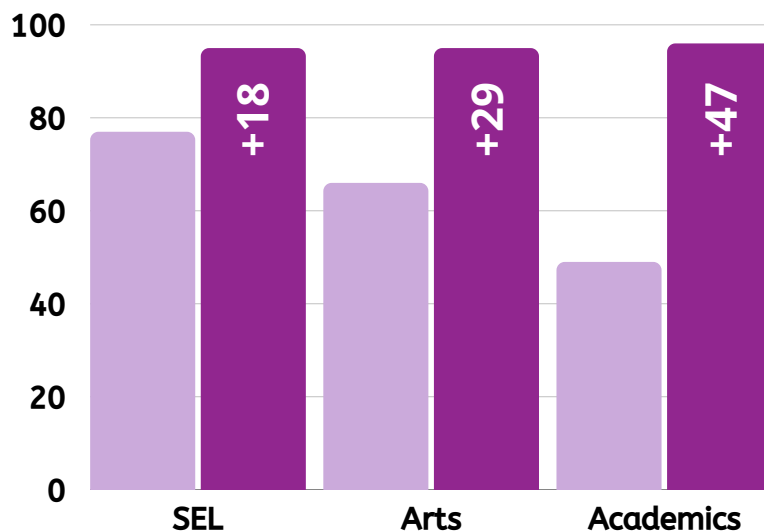
FALL 2024

● Pre ● Post



SPRING 2025

● Pre ● Post



Outreach -

Kids First: Chester Eastside, Inc.

OBJECTIVE:

In comparison to the Outreach students' pre-assessment scores (i.e. baseline data), the post-assessment data will reflect **at least a 10 point increase** of students demonstrating proficient to advanced use of skills in all categories: artistic, social/emotional, and academic

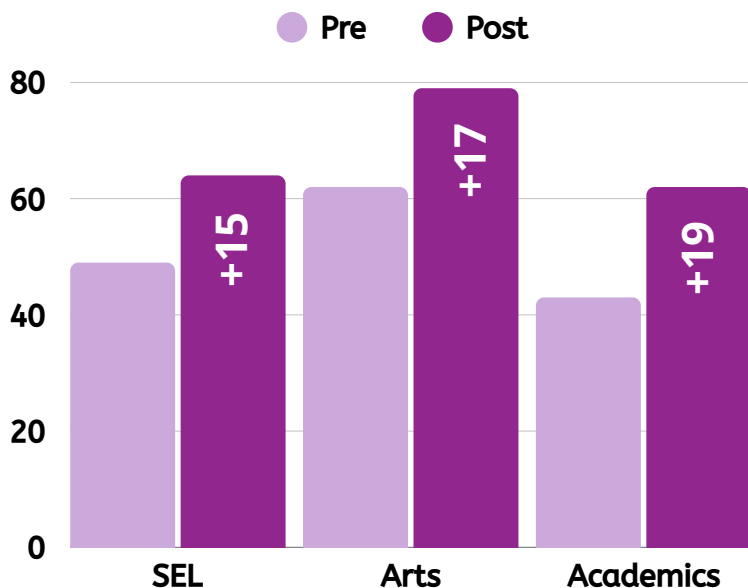
Total number of students served:
28 students
 in Grades 1st - 4th

The Kids First: CEI students
 received all four *Artsee*
 curricula in all four art forms:
Dance, Drama, Music,
& Visual Arts



Students demonstrated proficient to advanced use of the following skill areas:

FALL 2024 & SPRING 2025 ^{4*}



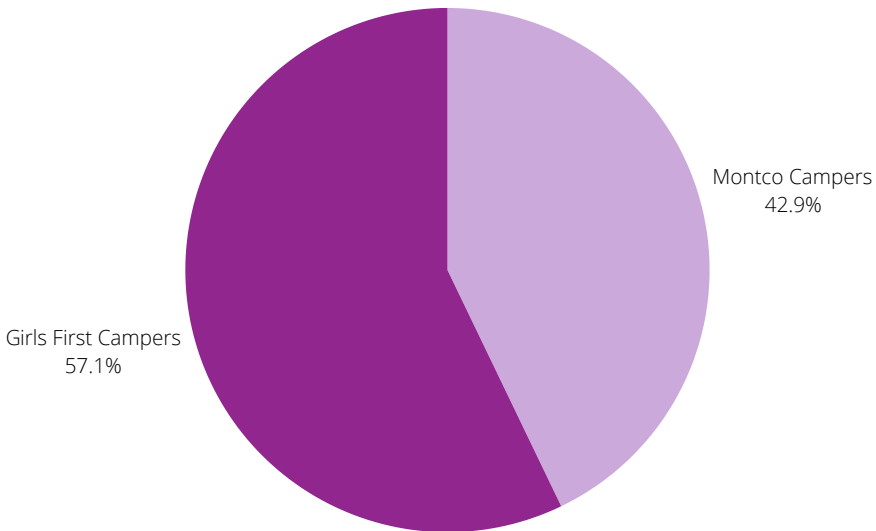
The concept of Kids First was created in partnership with **Chester Exchange**, an organization that provided a literacy component to the Kids First: CEI program. In addition to Outreach Teaching Artists leading lessons from the *Artsee* curriculum, Girls First also provided trauma-informed training for all staff and guidance on program structure.

Summer Camp



Girls First served **16 Girls First campers at Summer Camp** during July 2024. There were **28 total campers**, including campers enrolled with Montgomery Community College.

2024 Camp Participants



AVERAGE TOTAL ATTENDANCE AT CAMP 2024 FOR GIRLS FIRST CAMPERS:

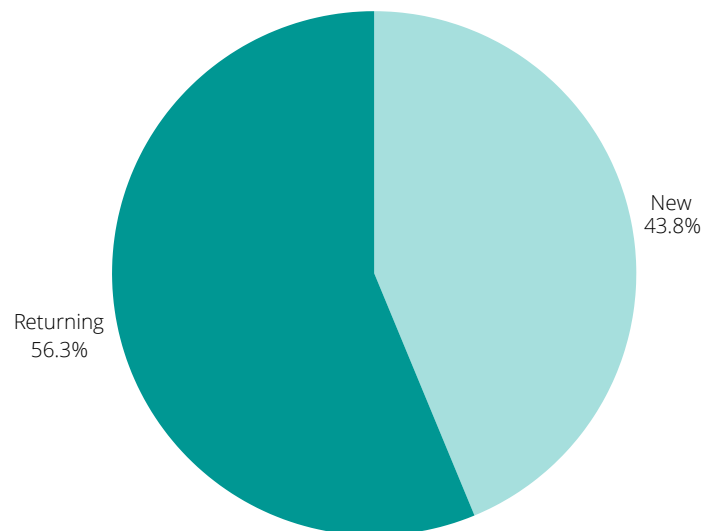
93%^{5*}

OBJECTIVE:



Students will attend the summer camp program a minimum of **95%** of operating program days

The theme of Summer Camp 2024 was
"The Amazing Arts Race: Mythical Creatures"

2024 New vs. Returning Camp Participants




Student Reflection Samples

artsee  





Student Reflection

Name: Sakannah

One thing that I learned was act really kind and loving, be respectful
and be brave




A drawing of a girl with brown skin and curly hair, wearing a blue dress and a brown hat. She is holding a blue flag on a pole. There are four blue stars around her: one to the top left, one to the bottom left, one to the bottom right, and one to the top right.

artsee    

Student Reflection

Name: Lamiah Burton Green

One thing that I learned was Paintrose made Land Bowe
CITY SCAPe.



A drawing of a large, multi-colored rainbow arching over a landscape. The landscape includes a black mountain range and a pink house. To the right of the rainbow is a green cactus wearing pink heart-shaped sunglasses and holding a pink heart-shaped sign with white hearts on it.

Family Reflections

"I like how Girls First isn't just about learning one subject, but you show them everything. S. likes to keep exploring new things every day. Ever since her last show, she has shown more bravery and has opened herself to the world more."

-Lucero Perez, Parent of 3rd Grader

"The teachers are a gem, and I love the friendships of the girls."

- Chandra Besong, Parent of 4th Grader

"I really appreciate the positive environment, structure, and the genuine care demonstrated by staff. M. now articulates her feelings better, and A. has enjoyed having a positive outlet for artistic expression, especially learning new modalities for art."

- Emma Rennie, Parent of two 3rd Graders

"I liked A. being surrounded by women and girls who influence each other to prevail."

Christal Watkins, Parent of 4th Grader

"My daughter came out of her shell."

- Richelet Joseph, Parent of 2nd Grader

"Girls First is always positive, even in tough situations."

- Kaitlyn Colson, Parent of 4th Grader

Teaching Artist Apprentice

Reflections

"Girls First has taught me so much about being a trauma-informed teacher, how to take care of myself so that I can better show up for my students, and how to navigate challenging behaviors through a compassionate lens. My experience at Girls First is one that I will cherish for years to come. Girls First is truly a special program that instills confidence, provides a safe-space for creative exploration, and equips students with skills that will benefit them throughout their entire lives."

- Bekah Brown, Drama TAA

"I had the best time at Girls First! I would say this was one of the most supportive, organized, and caring programs that I have been able to be a part of. Girls First helped me build confidence in myself in regards to teaching and leading a group of young students. I feel like I have new ideas of how to teach different things and navigate feelings and emotions with students."

- Kayla Childs, Music TAA

"I have learned so much -- from how to manage a classroom to how to write a lesson plan. Also learning about the value of supervised free time (Homeroom), learning all of the Social-Emotional and trauma-informed theory and learning how to figure out the specific needs of each student."

- Nicole Hehn, Visual Arts TAA

"I learned a lot about what it takes to work with kids with very different personalities, and it gave me more confidence in the work I was doing here."

- Krystal Rosa, Dance TAA

Outreach Teaching Artist

Reflections



"One of the things that I love about this program is the curriculum. A highlight was also the energy of the students and their willingness to make art."

- Carolyn Coyle, Visual Arts Outreach TA

"The highlight was seeing the students improve from the beginning of the semester in both classes."

- Sheron Gilmore, Dance Outreach TA

"Seeing their self-expression, creativity, and ideas take shape in our opening routines, movement games, and in their projects in completely original ways unique to them was wonderful. And most especially when they responded to guidance related to their social emotional learning that was given to help them work through a struggle or completing a project, breaking through and feeling a sense of accomplishment. Seeing their pride in themselves in those moments is always special."

- Allison DeSalvo, Visual Arts Outreach TA

"A highlight was when the students would use my opening questions on me and ask how I am and what feelings I have today. It really helped me through some tough days."

- Christina Talley, Dance Outreach TA

Report Notes



1. Girls First Norristown started the 2024-25 program year with 26 students. Over the course of the year, Girls First Norristown served 27 unique students, including 6 students who had to leave the program due to various reasons (*scheduling conflicts, transportation challenges, etc*), as well as 1 student who was recruited to the program during the school year.
2. Attendance at Girls First Norristown slightly dipped below our goal level in January and February 2025 due to weather and challenges in the community, however, for the program year we exceeded our attendance objective of students attending 80% of program days.
3. Through analysis of the pre and post student self-assessments average by grade, it is evident that most groups made gains this program year in social and emotional skills. Each grade was evaluated based on a specific self-assessment per their content area: 1st Grade students were assessed on self-regulation; 2nd Grade students were assessed on self-determination and personal agency; 3rd Grade students were assessed on self-efficacy; 4th Grade students were assessed on empathy. This data reflects the pre and post self-assessments from the 18 students at Girls First Norristown who completed the entire program year and had consistent attendance. Data was limited for the 1st Grade group as only one student completed the entire program year.
4. Due to incomplete data from Fall 2024 at CEI, student progress for this particular Outreach program was calculated using assessments from the full 2024-25 program year and is not broken down per semester.
5. We fell just below our targeted goal for Summer Camp Attendance due to illness, a family emergency, and a transportation issue.