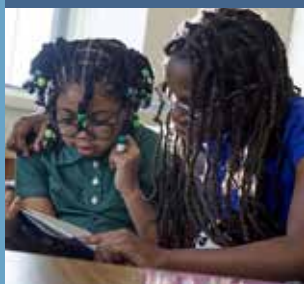
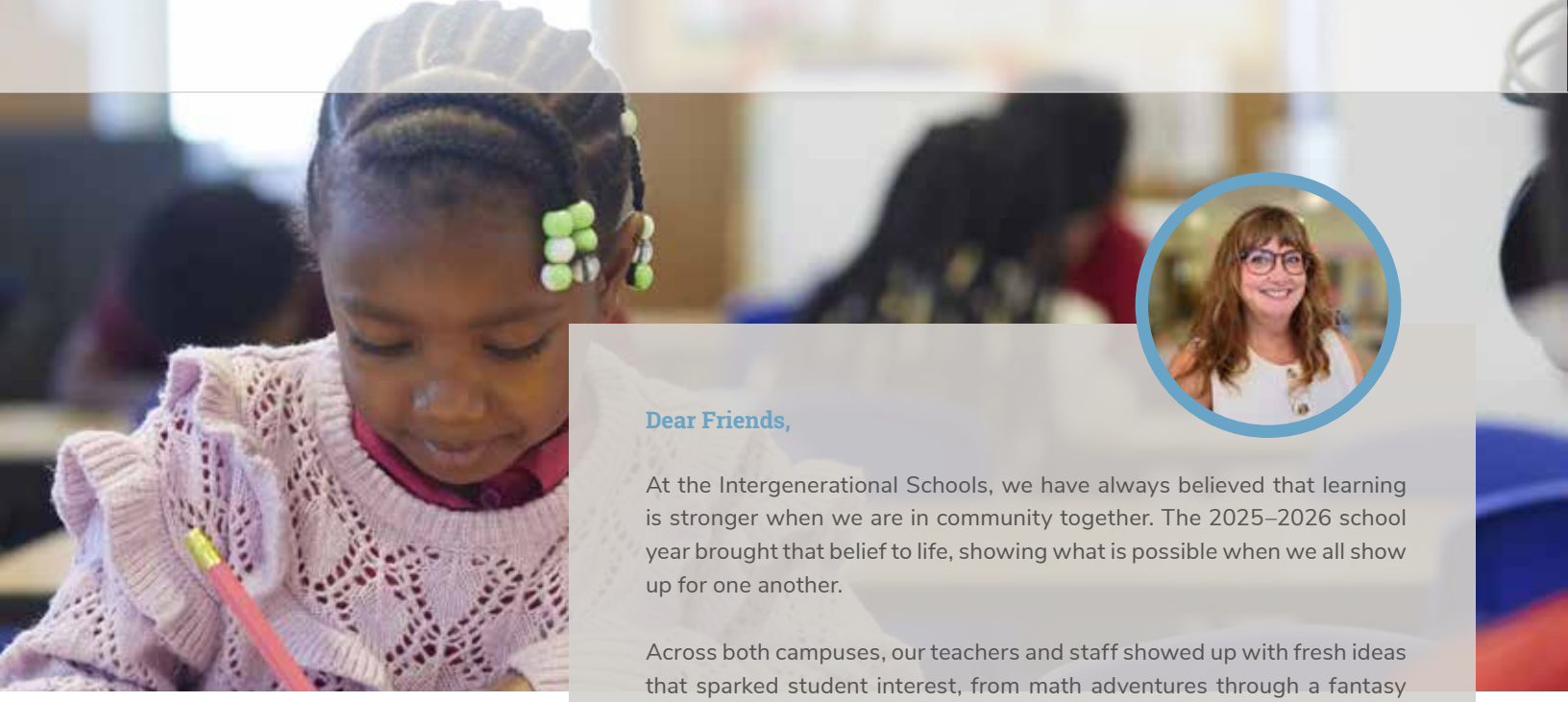
2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Learning Together.
Growing Together.



Intergenerational
SCHOOLS



Dear Friends,

At the Intergenerational Schools, we have always believed that learning is stronger when we are in community together. The 2025–2026 school year brought that belief to life, showing what is possible when we all show up for one another.

Across both campuses, our teachers and staff showed up with fresh ideas that sparked student interest, from math adventures through a fantasy game complete with an unlucky wizard to student-built race cars using recycled materials to illustrate laws of physics, lessons designed to build real understanding. Our students showed up too, with curiosity and confidence: proposing and raising funds for their own Black History trip to Detroit museums, composing original music using production software, and taking the stage in a musical performance at Playhouse Square. Families showed up by improving student attendance and supporting their children's growth. And our community partners showed up for students and families bringing healthcare resources, volunteers, and new student opportunities like the Korda Institute's Health Sciences summer camp program with University Hospitals and Mastery School of Hawken.

That commitment is reflected in this year's results. Both campuses outperformed nearly every nearby public school. Our students outperformed the "Big Eight" urban districts across Ohio in fourth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade English Language Arts (ELA). Last year, Generations United, in Washington D.C., named the Intergenerational Schools a Program of Distinction for the first time, honoring the relationships across generations that have defined our model since our founding in 2000. I'm proud to share that this fall, we earned that recognition once again.

As we launch the next chapter of the Intergenerational Schools, I hope the stories in this report inspire you to keep showing up with us, as we do for every student, every day. Our schools are stronger when we are in community with all of our supporters and friends.

Thank you,

Brooke A. King

Brooke King
CEO, Intergenerational Schools

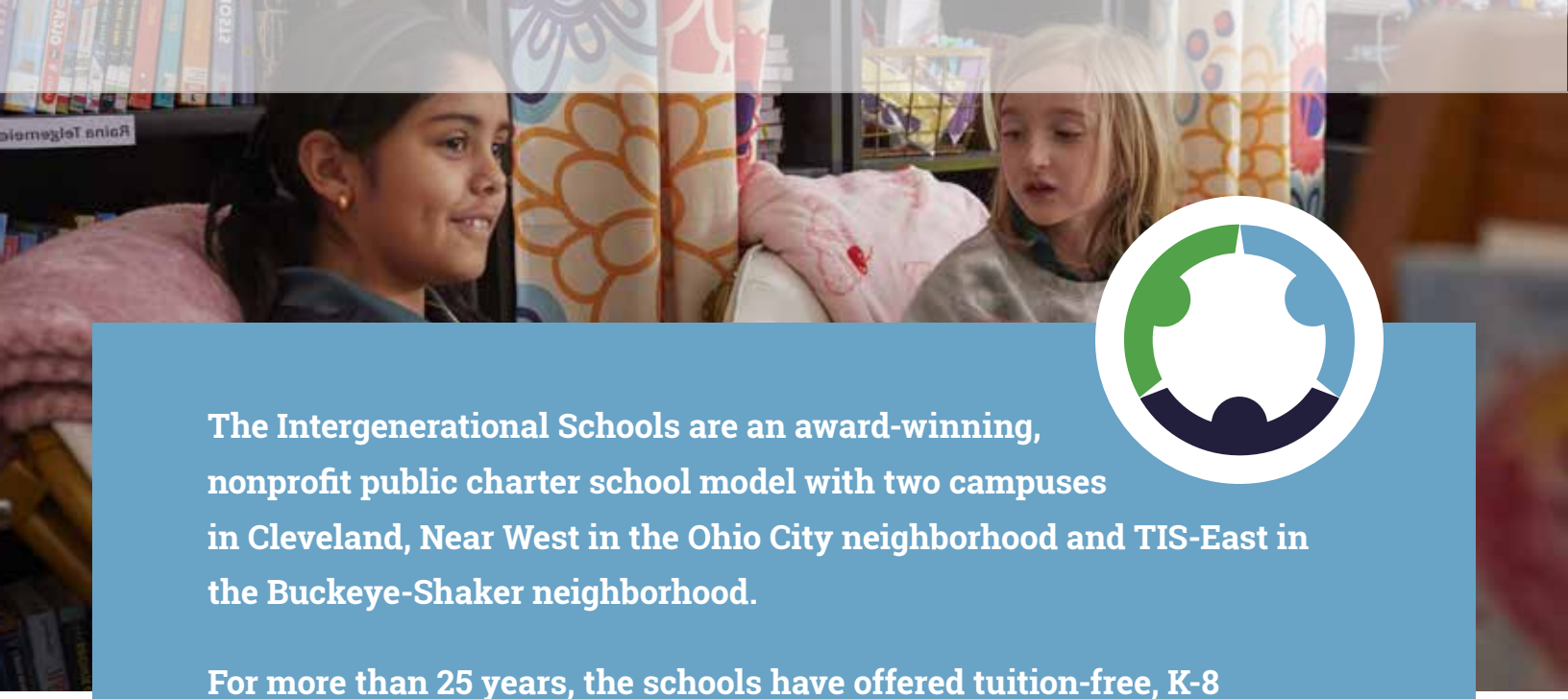
2025-2026 Highlights

PROGRAM of DISTINCTION
generations united

TIS–EAST EARNED
2026 District Engagement Award

STAY IN THE GAME!
KEEP LEARNING, EVERY DAY

Both schools outperformed every Ohio large urban district in 4th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade English Language Arts.



The Intergenerational Schools are an award-winning, nonprofit public charter school model with two campuses in Cleveland, Near West in the Ohio City neighborhood and TIS-East in the Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood.

For more than 25 years, the schools have offered tuition-free, K-8 education that combines multi-age classrooms, intergenerational community partnerships and whole-child learning to foster bright futures for students and a stronger community for all.

Our Mission

We connect, create, and guide a multi-generational community of lifelong learners and spirited citizens as they strive for academic excellence.

Our Vision

To be a top choice and thought partner in public education in Cleveland, transforming how children learn and communities grow.

Our Community

We serve students and families across Greater Cleveland, supported by a dedicated network of teachers, staff, volunteers, donors, board members, and community partners, including senior centers and local organizations working together to make learning meaningful across generations.

THE Intergenerational SCHOOL

Near West Intergenerational School

Where Innovators Come to Teach

Students at Near West are never afraid to experiment in their quest to learn. After all, they see their teachers trying new approaches all the time to spark interest and inspire understanding in their classes. While curriculum guidelines and academic standards inform our lessons, teachers at Near West know how to build on these foundations to make every day a new adventure.

In fourth-grade math, the adventure is sometimes literal. Kori Morris designs tabletop role-playing games where students solve word problems to rescue a hapless wizard or navigate a perilous dungeon using division. Matthew Phelps follows brief whole-class lessons with individualized activities that let students practice math at their own challenge level through real-world applications, from doubling a recipe for cooking, to measuring angles for air hockey bank shots. Both approaches build confident math learners: **In 2025-2026, every Near West fourth grader scored proficient or above on the state math test.**

In Emmet O'Melia's science class, seventh and eighth graders build cars from recycled materials to study force and motion, then race them as the whole school cheers. When one student's homemade biome accidentally came together upside down, it created a fortuitous mistake where "Mr. O" encouraged the class to study how it was thriving and why instead of fixing it. In music, Erica Zappia's students in Refining and Applying Stages (typical grades 5-8) compose original songs in a music production app, making their own creative choices within the requirements she sets.

Curriculum specialist Katie Bojko helps teachers turn new ideas into strong instruction and student skill building—skills that will serve them in many other areas of school and life. When the physical education teacher Christopher Meegan wanted to start an archery program, Ms. Bojko worked alongside him, checking in on what was working, and built from there. The program began with Applying Stage students (typical grades 7-8) and has grown to include younger students due to its popularity.

Every new approach starts with the same question: What will help these students learn? Near West teachers have the freedom to answer it creatively and the support to make it count.

About Near West

Near West Intergenerational School, in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood, is part of the award-winning Intergenerational Schools network. Students learn in small, multi-age classes, at their own pace, supported by dedicated teachers and community Learning Partners. Near West inspires mastery, belonging, and a lifelong love of learning for every student.

By the Numbers

2025 – 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
228	16

2025 – 2026 PRINCIPAL
April Maimone

OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

Akron	0.5%
Bay Village	0.5%
Bratenahl	0.5%
Broadview Heights	0.5%
Cleveland	85%
Elyria	0.5%
Euclid	0.5%
Fairview Park	0.9%
Garfield Hts.	4%
Madison	0.5%
Maple Heights	0.5%
Newburg Heights	0.9%
Parma	0.9%
Richmond	0.5%
Seven Hills	0.5%
Shaker Heights	0.5%
Twinsburg	2%
Willoughby Hills	0.5%

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Asian	.5%
Black	48%
Hispanic	6%
Native American	.5%
Multiracial	10%
White	35%
Students with Disabilities	19%
Economic Disadvantage	50%

**As of the last day of the school year.*

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL RATING

3.5 stars

#1
HIGHEST PERFORMANCE INDEX
among all 14 nearby non-selective public schools

100%
PROFICIENCY IN 4TH GRADE MATH

FINANCIAL DATA**

Income	
State	$3,248,270
Federal	287,979
Local Levy Funds	574,331
Philanthropy	207,500
Other	288,739
Total Income	$4,606,819

Expenses	
Salaries + Benefits	$3,150,820
Services & Supplies	1,321,583
Other	169,097
Total Expenses	$4,641,500
Surplus/(Deficit)	(34,681)

***Unaudited financial statements prepared by Robert Showalter, Licensed School Treasurer, Mangen & Associates*

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Near West Intergenerational School is sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. For more information please visit: www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/13633

SCHOOL BOARD

Stacy Miller
Board Chair
Retired Academic Administrative Coordinator, St. Martin de Porres

Danielle Clark
Vice Chair
Income Tax Administrator, City of Cleveland

Joanna Lopez-Inman
Secretary
Magistrate, Cleveland Municipal Court

Richaun Bunton
Member
Chief Program Officer, Our Place Resource Services

Lynn Carpenter
Member
Director of Lending, IFF Ohio

Bob Nicolay
Member
President, R. Nicolay Consulting

Brad Norton
Member
Wealth Advisory & Portfolio Manager, MAI Capital Management

Steven Lake
Member
Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Ohio

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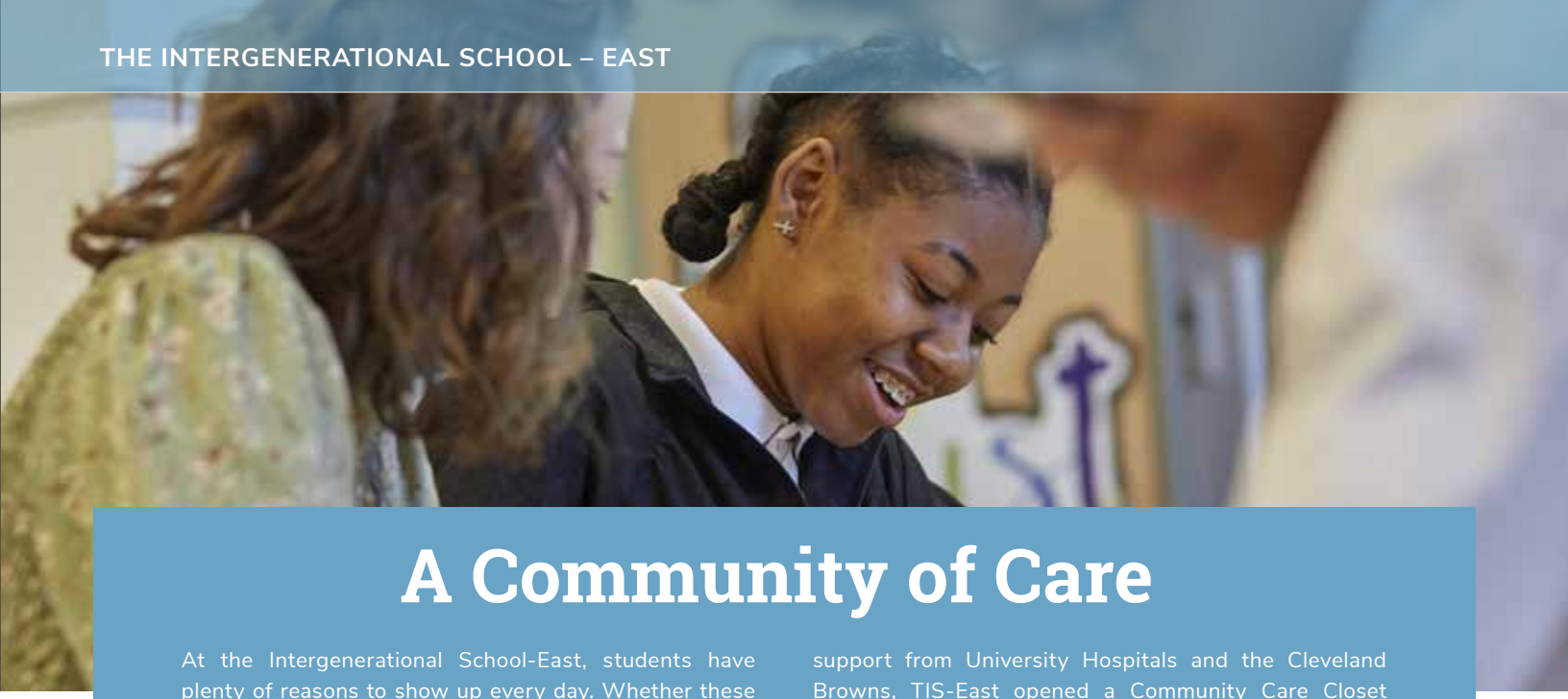
Near West Intergenerational School



A Community of Care

At the Intergenerational School-East, students have plenty of reasons to show up every day. Whether these reasons happen on stage, during a field trip or in class, all of them start with a school community where every child belongs.

About 30 students spent 19 weeks after school creating TIS-East's first full musical, Winnie the Pooh Kids, through Playhouse Square's Disney Musicals in Schools program. Primary Stage students (typical grades K-2) filled the ensemble, Developing Stage students (typical grades 3-4) took the lead roles, and Applying Stage students (typical grades 7-8) ran the crew. The cast then took a number from the show to the big stage at Playhouse Square. This was all made possible by a grant and countless hours of teacher dedication outside of school hours.

Applying Stage students also took their learning on the road. After researching pivotal moments in Black history, they proposed a trip to Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and The Henry Ford Museum, then ran the fundraisers to make it happen. The day after they returned, they shared what they learned with with the whole school community in Icons in Motion, a living wax museum and Motown tribute during Community Meeting.

Showing up also means having what you need. With support from University Hospitals and the Cleveland Browns, TIS-East opened a Community Care Closet stocked with essential personal hygiene products and clothing items they may need during the school day or at home. "When a student has an unexpected personal-care need, we can help immediately and discreetly," said Kiana Clark, Intervention Specialist at TIS-East. "They don't have to feel embarrassed or worry about going without. We can provide what they need and help them get back to class feeling comfortable and ready to learn."

"The Care Closet reflects our belief that when students' basic needs are addressed with dignity and compassion, they are better positioned to engage, participate, and learn," said Patricia Wilson, School Counselor at TIS-East. The results are adding up. Chronic absenteeism has dropped about 20% over two years, earning TIS-East statewide recognition through the Stay in the Game! Attendance Network. The school earned 3 stars on the Ohio School Report Card, its second straight half-star gain, meeting state standards and outpacing nearly every public school nearby. Its 4-star Gap Closing rating was the strongest in the area, and eighth graders ranked first locally in English language arts.

When students want to be at school and have what they need, learning follows.

About TIS – East

The Intergenerational School – East, located in Cleveland's Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood, is part of the award-winning Intergenerational Schools network. Students learn in small, multi-age classes, at their own pace, supported by caring teachers and community Learning Partners. TIS–East fosters curiosity, confidence, and connection, helping every student grow as a lifelong learner.

By the Numbers

2025 – 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
218	16

2025 – 2026 PRINCIPAL

Aziz Ahmad

OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

Bedford	1%
Cleveland	81%
E. Cleveland	0.5%
Euclid	1.5%
Garfield Hts.	9%
Lakewood	0.5%
Maple Hts.	2%
Mayfield Hts.	0.5%
Parma	1.5%
S. Euclid	2%
Warrensville Hts.	0.5%

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS*

Black	94%
Native American	1%
Multiracial	4%
White	1%
Students with Disabilities	17%
Economic Disadvantage	70%

*As of the last day of the school year.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL RATING

3 stars

GAP CLOSING

4 stars

#1 locally in 8th grade ELA

Chronic Absenteeism reduced by **20% over** past two years

#2 locally in 4th-7th grade ELA

FINANCIAL DATA**

Income	
State	$2,662,215
Federal	440,308
Local Levy Funds	496,739
Philanthropy	181,638
Other	298,482
Total Income	$4,079,382
Expenses	
Salaries + Benefits	$2,564,973
Services & Supplies	1,688,662
Other	130,102
Total Expenses	$4,383,737
Surplus/(Deficit)	(304,355)

**Unaudited financial statements prepared by Robert Showalter, Licensed School Treasurer, Mangen & Associates

SCHOOL BOARD

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Chief Program Officer, Our Place Resource Services

Lynn Carpenter
Member
Director of Lending, IFF Ohio

Bob Nicolay
Member
President, R. Nicolay Consulting

Brad Norton
Member
Wealth Advisory & Portfolio Manager, MAI Capital Management

Carolyn Wald
Member
Director, Customer Strategy, Progressive Insurance

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) served as sponsor for The Intergenerational School during the 2025-2026 school year. ESCLEW monitored the school's academic and fiscal performance, as well as the organization and operation of the school, and determined that the school was overall compliant.

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THE Intergenerational SCHOOL

Surrounded by Support

The Intergenerational Schools were founded on the belief that learning is stronger when we are in community. Over 25 years later, that community reaches well beyond our classrooms, through partners who help students learn, grow, and prepare for their future.

Intergenerational connection remains at the heart of our model. Every month, each class returns to the same senior center or residential care community, so students and older adults have a full school year to build real relationships. Twelve host sites welcomed our students last year, with Applying Stage students (typical grades 7-8) often serving as ambassadors, in charge of helping the younger classes interact with the seniors and helping to lead group activities. Back at school, fifty Learning Partners volunteered in classrooms to support reading and math.

Partners also help families with needs that reach beyond the classroom. Through the new SPARCK program, the Cleveland Clinic and regional healthcare providers brought a licensed mental health navigator into our schools, along with onsite medical appointments, behavioral health support and care coordination for families. And thanks to the Cleveland Browns and University Hospitals, students at TIS-East have access to a Community Care Closet, packed with school supplies, personal hygiene items and other necessities to ensure students are prepared to learn.

Other partners help make our campuses places students want to be. In a single afternoon last fall, more than sixty volunteers from Progressive Insurance and HLM Property Management landscaped outdoor spaces at both schools, built and stocked Little Free Libraries, played old school gym games with students, and donated supplies, books, mats and gym equipment to both schools. Organizations like Playhouse Square and Cleveland Metroparks open doors to the arts and the outdoors, while partners like Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cleveland and the Rainey Institute provide safe, enriching environments to keep the learning going beyond the school day—and even into the summer.

Each partnership looks a little different, but they share a common purpose: making sure every student has the support, opportunities and relationships needed to thrive. We are grateful to every organization and volunteer who makes our community stronger.

Intergenerational Visit Host Partners

Eliza Jennings Health Campus
Franklin Plaza
Governor's Village by StoryPoint Group
Gunning Park Rose Center for Aging Well
Haven at Lakewood
Rose Center for Aging Well - Alandt Lakeshore
McGregor PACE at Forest Hill
O'Neill Healthcare Fairview Park
O'Neill Healthcare North Olmsted
Slovene Home for the Aged
VITALIA Highland Heights
VITALIA Westlake

Community Partners

Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio
Case Western Reserve University
Children's Hunger Alliance
Cleveland Browns Foundation Stay in The Game! Attendance Network and Battelle
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland Metroparks
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Coats for Kids Cleveland
Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West
Edwins Restaurant
Generations United
Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Greater Cleveland Volunteers
HLM Property Management
John Carroll University
Korda Institute for Teaching
Mastery School of Hawken
Motogo
Ohio Guidestone
Playhouse Square
Progressive Insurance
Rainey Institute
Say Yes! Cleveland
St. Ignatius High School
Teach for America
The Ippy Dippy
The Centers
University Hospitals
Urban Hope
Woodhill Education Partners

Together, We Write the Next Chapter

For more than 25 years, the Intergenerational Schools have thrived on community: the families, educators, volunteers and supporters who believe learning is stronger when generations come together. The Friends of the Intergenerational Schools (FIGS) carry that spirit forward, connecting our classrooms to the wider community through philanthropy, advocacy, and volunteer engagement.

As we chronicle our history and launch our next chapter, FIGS will continue to bring together individual donors, corporate and foundation partners, and volunteers to sustain the next generation of intergenerational learning.

There are many ways to be a Friend:

Give
a one-time or recurring gift, or make a contribution in honor or memory of someone special.

Join
the FIGS board or a committee to lend your expertise and leadership.

Attend
A Storied Celebration on Saturday, April 17, 2027, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Tickets and sponsorships are available at igschools.org/celebration.

Partner
with us through a corporate giving, matching gift or volunteer program.

Share
our story online, at work or with a friend so more families discover the power of intergenerational learning.

Your generosity fuels joyful classrooms, meaningful relationships and a model of lifelong learning that reaches far beyond our school walls.

Learn more at igschools.org/donate

2025-2026 FIGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Learning that Honors Every Child

Every child grows at their own pace, and learning is stronger in community. Those two beliefs shape everything at the Intergenerational Schools.

Multi-age classes.
Students learn alongside classmates across two to three grade levels, grouped by developmental stage: Primary (typical grades K-2), Developing (3-4), Refining (5-6) and Applying (7-8). They move forward once they have mastered key skills and often stay with the same teacher for more than one year.

Progress you can see.
Mastery-based report cards show families where each child is thriving and where they need support. Students set goals and lead conferences about their own learning.

Learning across generations.
Each class visits the same community of older adults every month, while Learning Partners volunteer in classrooms each week.

Whole-child support.
Small classes, daily Morning Meetings and Responsive Classroom practices help every student feel known, engaged, and ready to learn.

Learning That Delivers Results

Each year, the Ohio School Report Cards give families and our community one measure of how our students are doing. In 2025-2026, both Intergenerational Schools campuses met Ohio's state standards and continued to outperform nearby public schools. Our students earned these results by learning at their own pace, in small, multi-age classes and a community that spans generations. We remain committed to continued growth in literacy, mathematics and science.

Both campuses meet state standards, **outperforming** nearly every public school (district and charter) within a 3-mile radius of each campus.

Both schools ranked #2 locally: Near West out of 15 nearby public schools, second only to a selective school for gifted students, and TIS-East out of 11.

Our students **outperformed** every large urban district in Ohio in 4th, 7th and 8th grade **English Language Arts.**

TIS-East posted some of the **strongest Gap Closing* results** on Cleveland's east side.

Near West **earned** another three-year designation as an **Ohio High-Quality Community School.**

*The Gap Closing Component is a major accountability metric that measures how well schools and districts are meeting performance expectations for specific student subgroups and reducing educational disparities.

High School Admissions

Our graduates go on to top high schools across Northeast Ohio. For the 8th grade class of 2026, this includes:

Public & Magnet High Schools

Brush
C.A.S.T.L.E (Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Tech & Leadership)
Cleveland School of the Arts
Duluth (out of state)
Euclid
Garrett Morgan School of Engineering & Innovation
Lakewood
John Hay School of Science and Medicine

Private High Schools

Benedictine
Hathaway Brown
Hawken
Holy Name
Lutheran West
Magnificat
St. Ignatius
St. Martin de Porres
St. Vincent-St. Mary

Learn and grow with us.

Make a gift, build your career, foster intergenerational partnerships, volunteer your time or enroll your child.

Visit **igschools.org** for all the ways to connect with our school community.

Intergenerational
SCHOOLS

Near West Intergenerational School
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