

STRATFORD
— FRIENDS SCHOOL —
40 YEARS



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends:

SFS is celebrating 40 years of Quaker Education this year and I am humbled when I think of the hundreds of children who have benefitted from our intimate, multi-sensory approach to working with unique learners. Our founders, Dorothy Flanagan and Sandy Howze, recently stopped by for a visit and we spent almost two hours reminiscing on our school's humble beginnings – Sandy thought they'd won the lottery when a generous friend donated an electronic typewriter to them. We (and technology) have come a long way and it's incredible to see the impact that assistive technologies are having on our population.

When Sandy and Dorothy decided to found the very first Quaker school for children with learning disabilities they were driven by the desire to be of service, to meet the needs of a population that the academic community knew very little about. Using the principle of seeing the light in everyone, they were able to make tremendous strides working with children with learning differences.

And true to Quaker form, they shared the Stratford Friends model and their

knowledge with colleagues to help establish other schools like Delaware Valley Friends and expand Goshen Friends School's elementary program.

My conversations with Sandy and Dorothy always leave me feeling inspired and in awe of the legacy that has been handed down to me. I am really fortunate to have been gifted a time tested whole child approach for working with our students, a gifted faculty that is deeply committed to our mission and values, and the opportunity to continue to deepen the types of services we provide to our families.

One of our current parents shared with me, "SFS was a life preserver in the midst of a terrible storm". Thank you Dorothy and Sandy for having the grit to blaze a path that has allowed us to be of service to this family and many other families, and thank you for being a part of our community of learners.

In Friendship,



Jill Dougherty
Head of School



“
*SFS was a life
preserver in the midst
of a terrible storm.*

– A Stratford Friends Parent

”

Stratford Friends School is a leader and a pioneer in the education of children who learn differently. SFS students are intelligent and imaginative, but find it difficult to learn in a conventional classroom setting. The school's mission is to empower our students with the skills to be successful learners. The school provides a full multisensory academic curriculum and a small classroom setting. SFS is a school committed to diversity, peacemaking, social justice, and the recognition of the spiritual dimension of life. At Stratford Friends School, children with learning differences discover and celebrate their strengths as students and as individuals.

OUR MISSION

Stratford Friends School educates elementary and middle school-age students with language-based learning differences through a structured, multisensory program that celebrates students' strengths, builds self-esteem, and develops self-advocacy. Guided by Quaker principles, the school provides individualized attention and instruction in a safe, intimate, and caring environment.



It is hard to think that Tr. Richard retired from SFS. I remember that he always had every class picture in his room. At the time I thought they were just pictures, but I now realize that they are all people he empowered to become independent learners. His class pictures may not hang at SFS anymore, but the impact he has had on every one of his students will last forever.

From: Matt Cahill



Richard Schultz: Teacher. Mentor. Friend.

My son, Dan (SFS '91), came to Stratford Friends School around the same time Teacher Richard arrived. He was newly graduated from Swarthmore College, enthusiastic and eager to make a difference.

Our family took to him like fish to water. He was friendly and energetic and, we soon learned, shared many similar interests. Years later, we credit Richard for encouraging Dan in pursuits he continues to this day—camping, fishing, canoeing, woodworking and science.

Twenty-some years later, I was honored to be able to call Richard a trusted colleague. Richard was easy to work with, always keeping his eye on the prize: our students and our school. I was happy to help him finalize a grant to PA&PA to establish a rain garden and a native plants garden on our campus.

Richard's enthusiasm for science—and preserving and protecting natural resources—was contagious, relentless, and steadfast. Year after year, he organized annual camping and canoeing trips, nature outings, and Family Science Night. A penultimate teacher, he addressed not just items in the curriculum but many other skills such as organization, sharing, and patience. Time spent with Richard was time spent learning, exploring, and having fun.

Richard's impact on our students and our school are long-lasting and enduring. Thank you, Richard.

Lydia Driscoll



A Fond Farewell to Teacher Richard

Teacher Richard was so amazing because he was patient and was constantly teaching us in new and different ways. If someone didn't understand the material he would try to explain it differently. There was one time when he was explaining why land features on maps are so distorted. Tr. Richard drew a quick map of the world on an orange and preceded to peel it. Then, he flattened the peel out on a sheet of paper and filled in all the spots where there were gaps in the land. After the demonstration, everyone understood that the distortion is caused by flattening a globe into a map. Tr. Richard was a fantastic teacher and is an all around great guy. Although I am happy that he is getting to enjoy his retirement, I am still sorry to see him go. One of my parts about visiting after I graduated was seeing him. My only hope is that Stratford Friends will be able to find someone as incredible as Tr. Richard to wear his many hats. — Kyle Simkins



Tr. Richard was the best science tr. I ever had.

From: Ben Brown

I loved teacher Richard's class because we got to do cool things, like break open a castle and make color cars. The one class I liked was the time we urned paper with a magnifying glass outside and making little plastic tubs pop up. Teacher Richard knows lots about acids and bases.

From: Mikayla





“

In our school, no one makes fun of you and it is OK to be different, because everyone is different.

– A Stratford Friends Student

”

THE VALUE OF A QUAKER EDUCATION

All Friends schools seek to create an academic environment which nurtures the spirit of each person and promotes optimal scholastic growth. At Stratford Friends School, this mission is realized every day, in every part of our school. Building upon the Quaker value that there is that of God in every person, we all work together to create a community which reflects our values.

Leading with the philosophy that there is Light in everyone, we apply a whole child approach to working with our students. We plan our lessons to support the gifts and talents of each unique learner and balance classroom experiences that develop individual skills with group learning, recognizing that the insights of every individual contribute to a rich collective understanding. As one of my students sums it up, ***“Teachers don’t go too fast and you are encouraged to get help from other students, and to give them help when you can.”*** At Stratford Friends we are a community, and our role as educators is not limited to time spent in the classroom.

Teachers’ caring presence at lunch, and recess, and bus time as well as in classroom instruction allow us the opportunity to model

and teach the skills of interaction based on our understanding that people can grow in goodness. Helping children negotiate the playground, and the self-management necessary for success at school, are important parts of our work. Children’s social and emotional development are as much the realm of the teacher as academic skills. It is this multi-disciplinary approach, coupled with our multi-sensory approach to education that really helps students who have struggled, achieve personal and academic success. One unique learner observes, ***“Teachers here have time to give you whatever help you need.”***

For some of our students, the “outside world” can move at a startling pace. At Stratford Friends, we have nothing but time – time where we connect with others in our classrooms and across the grades for work, service and for play. Time for our younger students to be nurtured by the kindness and helping hands of our older ones. Time, at the start of every day, to sit in meeting for worship, where our community strengthens our bond as equal partners in the growth of each child entrusted to our care.

STRATFORD — FRIENDS SCHOOL — 40 YEARS

40 years ago, Dorothy Flanagan & Sandy Howze founded Stratford Friends School with just four students in a church on Stratford Avenue.



Co-Founder Dorothy Flanagan

Sandy and Dorothy sought and received advice and seed money from the Committee on Education and Friends Committee on Education, and sponsorship by Chester Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. They also secured rental space in the Methodist Church in Lansdowne.

Stratford Friends School opens in the United Methodist Church on Stratford Avenue with four students. Dorothy and Sandy begin to develop multisensory curriculum in all subjects.



Co-Founder Sandy Howze

Stratford Friends School moves to 84 North Lansdowne Avenue with 21 students.



1975-76

The first Friends school for children with learning differences incorporates as Stratford Friends School.

SEPTEMBER 1976



Asher and Teacher Tabor

Outreach workshops begin for teachers, parents and professionals outside the SFS community.

- “What it feels like to have a learning difference.”
- “Learning Differences in Your Classroom”
- “Multisensory Mathematics”
- “Math and Language”
- “Early Identification of Children with Learning Disabilities”
- “Orton Gillingham Reading Program”
- “Multisensory Reading Program”
- “Multisensory Teaching Techniques in Math, Reading, and Science”

1981



Jamey, David and Richard



David returns as a Hero



CO-DIRECTORS: Stratford Friends School Co-Directors Dorothy Flanagan (left) and Sandra Howze stand in front of the Llanerch school building on Darby Rd. in Llanerch. The building is the new site for the Stratford School, which will begin classes this Fall with 43 students. Contractors and volunteers have been renovating the building throughout the summer in preparation for opening of school.



Stratford Friends School becomes the first Philadelphia area school for children with learning differences to enroll five year olds. The Primary Class opens.

Extended Day Program begins.

Pennsylvania Association of Private Academic Schools evaluates Stratford Friends School and grants accreditation.

Stratford Friends School, Orton Dyslexia Society, and Pennsylvania State University collaborate to offer a masters level reading course at the Pennsylvania State University Great Valley campus. In conjunction, a follow up Practicum is instituted at SFS summer school.



Jenny, circa 1981



Jenny returns as a Hero, 1990

Co-founders and directors of Stratford Friends School, Dorothy Flanagan and Sandra Howze, are given the Janet L. Hoopes Award by the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. This award is presented to an individual in the Greater Philadelphia area who has made a significant contribution to the education of people with learning differences.

Heroes Program begins. The Heroes Program brings to the school successful adults with learning disabilities to share their school and life experiences with the students.

We win! Our bid of \$378,000.00 for the Llanerch Elementary School building in Havertown is accepted.

Capital Campaign wraps up with a total of \$1.3 million, having exceeded its goal.



Ted & Jusef using multi-sensory tools



Benjy & Jamey working with wood

Stratford Friends School moves to 5 Llandillo Road, Havertown. Dorothy, Sandy and the School Committee decide to grow gradually. We start the year with forty-three students in the new building. We rent space to a copy products company and Congregation Mishkan Shalom.



Lydia & Dan Driscoll

The After School Reading Program for non-SFS students begins. The Summer School and Summer Camp programs begin.



Teacher Elsie uses the Orton-Gillingham method to instruct students Danielle, Nicole, Bobby and Lauren in reading.

SFS becomes an affiliate of the Academic Language Therapy Association as a Teacher Training Center and is certified to prepare teachers for the national examination for Academic Language Therapists.

Sandra Howze and Dorothy Flanagan are announced winners of the 1999 Sunny Days Awards by Sesame Street Parents Magazine. The award is part of a program designed to spread the word about exciting and innovative techniques in early-childhood education and to recognize the visionaries behind them.

SFS Teacher Training Center is accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council to confer certifications as Language Teacher, Instructor of Teaching, and Language Therapist.

Stratford Friends School is named the "Top Special Needs School" in the region by *Philadelphia Magazine*.

Stratford Friends School is awarded PECO's Green Power award for excellence in educating children about solar energy.

Under the leadership of Tim Madigan, SFS moved to our Newtown Square campus.

Stratford Friends School added our tech lab.

Jill Dougherty assumes leadership and becomes Head of School.

Stratford Friends School added two new classrooms.

Tim Madigan joins SFS as Head of School.

APRIL 2002

APRIL 2003

NOVEMBER 2003

2007

2009

2010

2012

2015



LETTER FROM THE CLERK

Dear Friends,

I have had the privilege of being part of the Stratford Friends community for twenty years; first as a parent, then through committee work, and now as a board member. Over the years, I have had many rewarding experiences, including the opportunity to know and work with all four Heads of School. Co-founders Sandy Howze and Dorothy Flanagan were at the helm when my son Ben entered Stratford in 1997. Within less than a year, the multi-sensory teaching approach and supportive environment grounded in Quaker values that are the hallmarks of a Stratford Friends education, transformed Ben from a non-reader into a reader and did wonders for his self-esteem. My family will always be grateful to Dorothy and Sandy for changing the trajectory of Ben's life.

Dorothy's and Sandy's visionary approach to educating children with learning disabilities lives on in Stratford Friends today. As was true for her predecessor Tim Madigan, our current Head of School, Jill Dougherty, is committed to sustaining the legacy of Stratford's co-founders, while at the same time enhancing the curriculum and expanding services to ensure that Stratford remains at the forefront of educating elementary and middle school-aged students with learning differences.

With all best wishes,

Madge Rothenberg

Madge Rothenberg (Parent of Ben Brodfuehrer '01)
Clerk, Board of Trustees



STRATFORD
FUND DONORS



Our sincerest thanks to all our donors.

Founder’s Circle
(\$5,000 and up)

William C. & Laura Buck*
Irish Pub Children’s Foundation, Inc.
Shirley A. Resnick*
Sarah & John Schmader*

Head’s Circle
(\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Peter Brodfuehrer &
Madge Rothenberg*
Lisa & Gary Olsen*
SFS Parents’ Association*

Heroes’ Circle
(\$1,000 - \$2,499)

James and Judy Allison*
Toni Bushnell*
Jackie V. Brady*
Elena Casanova & Alok Ghosh
Jill & Mark Dougherty
Chester Quarterly Meeting*
Edward & Lydia Driscoll*
Franklin Mint Credit Union
Sandra Howze*
Diane Lewis*
Miriam K. Rothenberg*

Teacher’s Circle
(\$500-\$999)

Sharon & Barry Bedrick*
Shauna Brown

Winnie Doyle & Paul Ryan*
Katherine Kidder Doerr*
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
Donald Kidder*
Susan Larson*
John & Kara Newell Wilkin
Glenn & Laura Madere*
Patty Plousis*
Heather Potts Brown*
Judy & Robert Raymond
The Jonathan E. Rhoads Trust*
William & Nancy Rosecrans*
Deborah T. & Leroy E. Simpson*
Elizabeth & Edward Stone*
Daniel & Cheryl Strickland*
G. Richard & Kathryn Wynn*

Friends’ Circle
(\$250-\$499)

Benjamin Bedrick*
James & Marygene Broussard*
Sean Boyle
Carol Corson*
LaVerne & William Earl
Emma, Inc.
Julia Haines & Roseanne Fox*
Michele Hartigan &
Mark Harbison*
Diana Hearn*
Caroline Perry & David Hircock*
William & Louise Keane
Debbie Koutsouroubas*

Nadia R. Murray*
Lucretia & Dennis Murphy*
Andy Poth*
Michele & Christopher Reichow*
Shannan & Reid Schuster
Daniel & Cheryl Strickland*
Helen Taylor
Kathy Turner
Cesiley & Scirocco Watson*

Supporters’ Circle
(up to \$250)

David and Holly Ambler*
Phyllis L. Babcock*
Meg Backus*
Richard Bayan
Jack & Liz Baxter
William E. Belanger
Laurie Bernstein &
Robert Weinberg
Lynn Bornfriend*
Paul & Helen Brink
Rose Marie Brunner*
Frank & Dawn Casper*
Alice & George Chittenden*
Barbara Coaxum
Ben Cohen*
Betsy Christopher &
Charlie Murphy
Mayland D. Crosson*
Jeffrey & Barbara Culbert*
Kelly Cunningham

Rita & Donato DiAntonio*
Anne Downey & Ed Barnhart*
Marie Downey*
Edward & Lydia Driscoll*
Anna D. Ensor*
Whitney Joyce Fairbrother
Dorothy Flanagan*
John E. Frascone
Polly C. Fine
Sophie Forge*
Howard & Alison Frysinger*
Michelle Gagliano
Danielle Gallagher
Kelly Gebhardt
Joe Giannone
Donna Giaquinto
Stephen & Patricia Gluckman
Alan Guffanti*
Helen S. Hardin*
J. Barton Harrison
Cynthia Hoekstra*
G. R. Hoffman
Timo Holland
Robert Hoyt*
Patricia & John Klaus
Alexandra Kendrick*
Emma Lapsansky-Werner
Katheryn Lindsey
Janis & Brian Lipsitz
Barbara J. Lorry
Jeanette Maleno
Shelley Mansky
Rebecca Martin-Scul &
William Scull*

Ketanah & Isaac Mason
Margaret & Thomas Mayer
Tiffany Miccoli*
Joan McIlvaine
Susan McCarter
Richard & Martha McGee
Ellen Millick*
David Morgan Frost
Dana Mullaney
Joe Murray
Laura & Gerd Naydock*
Corinne News
Marjorie Ogilvie
Elsie & Michael Pacilio*
Wendy Pecorella*
Shari Petty-Clark & James Clark*
Mickey & John Rowe*
Richard & Diane Quammen*
QVC Partners in Giving
Dilip & Parvi Ramchandani
Roger & Mary Randall
Dorothy M. Reichardt
Rosemary Ricciardi
Michael & Genevieve Ritzman
Jonathan E. Rhoads
Carey & Robert Roseman
Sandra & Majid Sadeghi*
Rebecca Sample
William & Sarah Saunders
Mary Sawyer
Richard & Lee Schultz*
Bill Schmader*
Jeffrey Schmidt
Joanne Sencindiver*

Cecily & Geoffrey Selling*
Nicholas Spinella
Paul Steege*
Susan Stone
William A. & Susan Strong*
Joan Strauss Feldman
Swarthmore Monthly Meeting
Target
Letty & Bruce Thall*
Jane & Russell Tredinnick
Yvonne & Bill Wagner
Allan & Margaret Walters
Joan Wenger
Vanguard Community Fund*
Margaret &
Edward Van Steenwyk*
John Van Steenwyk*
Donna & Rob Yanelli*

Gifts in honor of:

Frankie Casper
Henry Hart
Tristan Hoyt
Robert Krick
Clark Randall
Paul Ryan
Robbie Stararkovic

Gifts in memory of:

Wilton & Ruth Dangler
Barbara Krick
David Krick
Stephen Strickland

*Denotes 5 years of giving



SPOTLIGHT ON SPEECH & LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Stratford Friends provides its students with the unique opportunity of receiving therapy across academic and social settings. The philosophy of the speech and language program is to integrate speech and language support wherever students face communication demands, and that is most likely to happen anywhere throughout their school day. Students are expected to use their communication skills in the classroom to participate in discussions and answer questions. They use their speaking skills during oral presentations, whole school programs and during Meeting for Worship to name a few. Students also use their oral communication skills when undertaking a variety of leadership roles. Many of our students with language-based learning differences, can find communicating and expressing themselves in these situations challenging at times. Our students, however, do very well in all of these speaking situations because of the support they receive by all of the staff who are trained in facilitating and enhancing language comprehension and good oral communication skills.

The integration of speech and language services across settings is derived from evidenced-based practice and helps the therapist to work more efficiently and effectively with both staff and students. Research supports integration of speech

and language support across school settings as it promotes the following:

- Maximization of strategies to support the students and help teachers to encourage use of strategies all day to make a lasting impact.
- Generalization -- When intervention is provided using classroom content in the student's natural setting, and consistent strategies are carried over throughout the day, our students use the skills they've learned when they really need them, not just in the therapy room.
- The creation of building blocks for rapport and community with teachers and students alike. The SLP is seen as an integral part of each student's day and receiving speech and language support is viewed as natural instruction throughout the school community.
- Most importantly, service integration initiates change in our students in the everyday settings, rather than the incremental change that is only seen in the therapy room. (Clapsaddle, K., *The ASHA Leader*, August 2013 vl. 18, 26-27)

Each student needing speech and language support is evaluated by the SLP and goals are developed not only from assessment results but also from teacher input, observations of communication demands throughout the student's day and from team meeting discussions in which the SLP often attends.



While the speech language pathologist works with students using the "push in" classroom based model and along with the school's psychologist in the STEPS program where collaboration on social pragmatic language lessons occur, many children are also seen individually and during small group "pull out" sessions comprised generally of no more than 2-3 students.

Providing speech and language services to students in these various settings allows SFS's students to receive therapy a minimum of 2-3 times per week and maximizes their communication abilities and potential.

Barbara Coaxum
Speech-Language Pathologist

HEAD OF SCHOOL
JILL DOUGHERTY
jdougherty@stratfordfriends.org

DEAN OF STUDENTS
LISA OLSEN
lolsen@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS
PATTY PLOUSIS
pploysis@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS
NADIA MURRAY
nmurray@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT
CATHERINE SUI
csui@stratfordfriends.org

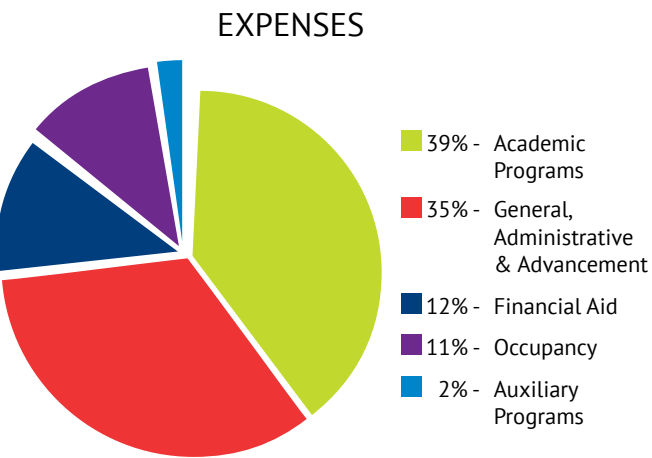
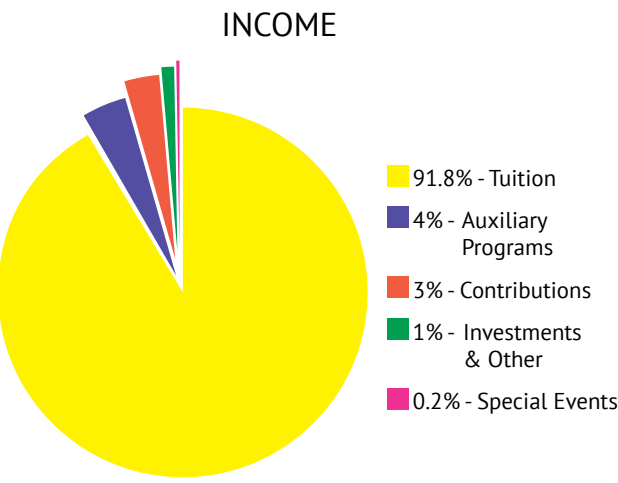
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
VAL YODER
val@valyoderdesign.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
William Belanger
Scott Booth
Jackie Brady
Heather Potts Brown
Edward Driscoll
Mark Harbison
Robert Krick
Susan Larson
Madge Rothenberg
John Schmader
Julianne Sullivan

- This report reflect gifts made between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.
- If an error or omission has been made in reporting your gift, we apologize and ask that you contact the Development Office.
- Please send address corrections to csui@stratfordfriends.org.
- Stratford Friends School is accredited by the PA Association of Independent Schools.

Stratford Friends School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in admissions and financial aid programs nor in the administration of its educational program.

FINANCES AT A GLANCE



WAYS TO GIVE TO STRATFORD FRIENDS

- Cash or check
- Donate online at www.stratfordfriends.org
- Gifts of appreciated stock
- Matching gifts from your employer
- Charitable gift annuities & charitable trusts
- Life insurance policy; name Stratford Friends as the beneficiary
- Bequests—Join the 1976 Society when you name Stratford Friends in your will
- Make a United Way Pledge, Southeastern PA #4793
- Participate in the PA EITC Program

For more information, call 610-355-9580 or visit www.stratfordfriends.org.



**"Children are the world's
most valuable resource and its
best hope for the future."**

— John F. Kennedy

SAVE THE DATE

► MARCH 11, 2017 ◀

THE STRATFORD AFFAIR

Teca Restaurant • Newtown Square

Parent Association Auction

STRATFORD

— FRIENDS SCHOOL —

40 YEARS



STRATFORD
FRIENDS SCHOOL since 1976
— guiding unique learners —

2 Bishop Hollow Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073