

Celebrating over 15 years of Innovation and Excellence in Education.

Mission

CAPITAL CITY enables a diverse group of students to meet high expectations; develop creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills; achieve deep understanding of complex subjects; and acquire a love of learning along with a strong sense of community and character. We will graduate young adults who are self-directed, intellectually engaged, and possess a commitment to personal and civic responsibility.

History

CAPITAL CITY was founded in 2000 by a committed group of parents and educators making it the first parent-founded charter school in DC. The school began as a PreK-8th grade program in Columbia Heights. Motivated by the lack of small, public college preparatory programs in DC, Capital City amended its charter in 2006 to add a high school program. Following a robust planning process, the High School opened in 2008 and graduated its first class of seniors in 2012. Since then, 100% of seniors in each graduating class has been accepted to college.

In 2012, Capital City completed a \$24-million state-of-the-art renovation of the former Rabaut School building in Ward 4, and relocated the entire school to this site. The school now serves 981 students in grades PK3-12. There is a Lower School (PK3-4), Middle School (5-8) and High School (9-12) each with its own principal and staff providing the learning environment of a small school on each campus.

Approach

CAPITAL CITY offers an innovative approach to teaching and learning using the EL Education model school-wide to support students in meeting rigorous academic and character standards. Through this model, students engage in learning expeditions—long-term, in-depth investigations of compelling topics that include authentic research, fieldwork and service, and result in high quality products.

A strong focus on the social curriculum creates structures that build students' capacity to be strong, independent workers and thinkers. An approach to educating the whole child incorporates arts, fitness and wellness into the curriculum. Many features of our school program can be directly linked to the success in closing the achievement gap, including low student-teacher ratios, an approach to tailoring instruction to each individual learner, and the use of data to inform differentiated instruction.

Evidence of Success



- > **High School named Tier 1 High Performing High School** by the DC Public Charter School Board in 2013, 2014, & 2016.
- > **Designated an EL Education Mentor School** recognizing Capital City as one of the top performing schools in EL Education's national network of 165 schools.
- > **Won one of ten Career and Technical Education Makeover Challenge Prizes** by the U.S. Department of Education in 2016.
- > **Named U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School** for our focus on sustainability and the environment in 2016.
- > **Awarded Breakthrough Schools** grant for our innovation in education by the CityBridge Foundation in 2014.
- > **Visited by First Lady Michelle Obama** in 2014 as part of our College March, noting that Capital City, "should really be the model for every school."

Key Program Features

Individualized Student Support

- > Low teacher-student ratios—1:6 in PK, 1:10 in K-4, 1:13 in 5-12
- > Inclusion program with dedicated staff and school-wide commitment to differentiated instruction to challenge and support all learners

Dedicated and Experienced Faculty and Staff

- > Learning community for teachers and staff with on-going professional development
- > 101 teachers, 68% with advanced certifications or degrees

Stimulating and Challenging Academic Program

- > Hands-on and minds-on approach to math and science with real-world applications.
- > Daily readers' and writers' workshops support students in becoming lifelong learners
- > Authentic assessment based on multiple measures including student portfolios
- > Spanish language instruction in K-12
- > Focus on the arts with drama, music, and visual arts classes for all grades
- > Health and wellness program including fitness and health classes, adventure trips, and after-school sports
- > Technology integration and instruction
- > School garden program supporting expeditions and science education

Strong Social Curriculum

- > Opportunities for student leadership and service
- > Grade-level and campus meetings focused on building community
- > Community values at each campus guide student and staff work

Before and After School Programs

- > Before- and after-care programs for PK-6 offered on a sliding scale
- > Wide range of sports, arts and enrichment programs for middle and high school students offered free of charge
- > Participation in two sports leagues (ISSAC and PCSAA); championship teams in soccer and basketball

State-of-the-Art Facility

- > Large, bright classrooms
- > Two-level library with a Makerspace
- > Science and computer labs
- > Gymnasium, fitness room, and playing fields
- > Performing and teaching arts theatre

Parent and Community Involvement

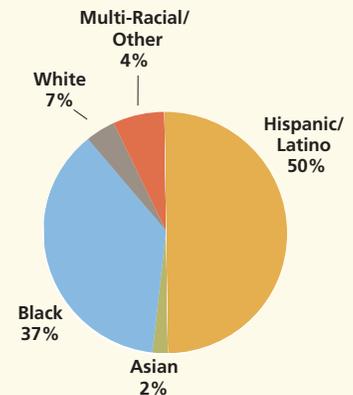
- > Active Parent-School Association
- > Parents expected to volunteer 20 hours per year for the school

Accreditation

- > Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- > EL Education Credentialed

Student Body

Capital City was named the most diverse school in Washington, DC by *Greater Greater Washington* and was featured in Richard Kahlenberg and Halley Porter's 2014 book, *A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education*. Our student body represents a wide range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and students come from every zip code in the city.



Capital City is considered a Title I low-income school under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.



18%

LIMITED/NON-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY



14%

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS



72%

LOW INCOME ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS

