



# Road to 20 YEARS

The Capital City Public Charter School  
**3-year strategic plan** builds on 17 years  
of innovation and excellence in education.

# Capital City was founded in 2000 with a clear *Mission:*

Enable a diverse group of students to meet high expectations, develop creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, achieve a deep understanding of complex subjects, 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.



Today, Capital City serves nearly 1,000 students of all ages, all backgrounds, and from every Ward in the District. Through a focus on the whole child, we engage students in their own learning, community and world, using a project-based approach. Since our first senior class in 2012, 100% of all graduating seniors have been accepted to college.

**Our three-year strategic plan builds on our strengths to provide a well-rounded program of excellence.**

## About the *Strategic Plan*

Dear Capital City Community:

We are incredibly proud of all we have accomplished these past 17 years. At the same time, we understand the power and importance of always looking forward and striving to provide the best possible learning experiences for each one of our students. We are committed to developing young people who have the skills and capacity to be leaders and change agents in our world. We know this is ambitious, but possible.

When we completed our Middle States Accreditation in 2016, we engaged in a robust planning process that involved collecting feedback from various stakeholders, looking at our school against a set of standards, and developing a comprehensive seven-year plan. This 2017 strategic plan builds on that work. We involved our board and staff, checked our assumptions, and set priorities to develop an actionable three-year plan.

As part of the process, we asked our stakeholders what we do well. These program strengths are defined as our building blocks for success. We are still deeply committed to these key areas that form the foundation of our program. The strategic priorities identified in the plan will help make us even stronger. Naming these priorities allows us to align our energy and resources to keep improving our program and successfully meet our goals. We are excited about the work ahead and look forward to updating you on our progress.

— Karen Dresden, *Head of School* & Nick Rodriguez, *Board Chair*



## MATH ACHIEVEMENT

Increase math achievement at all grade levels in the school

### STRATEGIES

- Enhance vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum
- Build a consistent data-driven instructional culture
- Establish outside of classroom support programs



## EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Accelerate the progress of English Learners & students with disabilities

### STRATEGIES

- Implement a formal Response to Intervention program
- Strengthen implementation of best practices for instructing English Learners
- Modify internal assessments and projects to align with IEP and English Learner goals



## COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

Ensure graduates are prepared for success in college and beyond

### STRATEGIES

- Conduct root cause analysis of student successes and challenges in college
- Incorporate college-level literacy strategies into junior and senior year instruction
- Build additional systems for monitoring, tracking, and communicating alumni success



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Empower and engage families as partners in their child's education

### STRATEGIES

- Engage parents in developing a shared vision and plan for achieving effective family engagement
- Implement recommendations emerging from the vision for family engagement
- Build capacity of educators to engage families as partners in their students' learning



## LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure the long-term sustainability and stability of the school

### STRATEGIES

- Recruit, hire & retain a talented & diverse staff
- Develop additional sources of income & funds
- Reduce expenses where feasible to maximize funds for instruction

**With 17 years of innovation and excellence in education, Capital City has established a solid foundation for our three-year strategic plan.**



- 📦 Our model (EL Education, hands-on, project-based learning)
- 📦 Focus on the whole-child and graduating well-rounded students
- 📦 Strong sense of community and school culture
- 📦 Social justice orientation focused on race and equity
- 📦 High-quality teachers, leadership, and board
- 📦 Fully mature organization (stable leadership, developed program & strong finances) with opportunity to define exciting path forward



# *In 2020*

Capital City will celebrate 20 years of serving students in our nation's capital.  
We will continue to ensure every child receives the education, experiences,  
and opportunities needed to thrive in school and beyond.



*Many images are courtesy of Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action. Capital City participated in this photo project during the 2016-2017 school year.*