



# Intergenerational S C H O O L S

## 2023- 2024 Annual Report

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## INTRODUCTION

### Dear Friends,

**T**he 2023-2024 school year marked 24 years since the first Intergenerational School opened, the fifth school year since Covid-19 disrupted education across the globe, and was also my oldest daughter's senior year at Cleveland School of the Arts, where she graduated with some pre-college experiences at the Cleveland Institute of Art and a strong sense of independence after attending Near West Intergenerational School. Violet is one of hundreds of Intergenerational graduates over the years who have found their unique talents and voice, learned to navigate their own learning, and set their sights on bright futures through our schools. She built a strong foundation and lasting relationships here, and this family milestone was a poignant reminder to me of the value of the Intergenerational Schools experience for every student and their family.

In this year's report, you'll hear from Learning Partners who have been helping children thrive and community grow for years—sometimes decades! You'll also hear about the joyful, creative, and sometimes messy work of developing a love of learning across our schools. And while our approach remains as outside-the-box as always, we continue to outperform many neighboring schools in student achievement. Our students are thriving, and we have our entire school community to thank—the families, teachers, Learning Partners, board members, students and staff who embody our mission and work every day to learn and grow.

The school year closed out with many celebrations including Market Day at TIS-East, Field Days, and 8th Grade Graduations and Senior Trips that were full of joy and pride for families and staff alike. Amid closing out the year on a high note for students, TIS-East tragically lost a beloved staff member to domestic violence. Staff supported each other in their grief as they remembered and honored their colleague,

and the ways she embodied kindness in our community every day she was with us. The school still feels the impact of this loss.

Soon after, a critical decision needed to be made about our Lakeshore campus given newly announced leadership changes and preliminary state test scores showing signs of continued strain. Unfortunately, Lakeshore did not make the progress we'd hoped for in the first year of a multi-year turnaround plan. After considering all options, the Boards voted on June 12 to merge Lakeshore into TIS-East, a move supported and approved by both the Department of Education and Workforce and our sponsor, CMSD. Lakeshore students were offered free bussing to the TIS-East campus, and all newly hired highly qualified teachers were offered employment to fill TIS-East vacancies.

The merger strengthened the educational experience for both TIS-East and Lakeshore students and helped us move forward as a united community providing the exceptional, multi-generational education experience all our children deserve. Of the students who transferred, a few in particular went from severely struggling to thriving in a more structured and supportive environment. Seeing one go from daily fights to dancing down the hallway reinforced for me, that this was the right decision.

We have two very strong East and West campuses, fully staffed and growing so our students can continue to thrive. To learn more about what is ahead for the Intergenerational Schools, please see page 10 for an overview of our strategic plan.

Thank you,



**Brooke King**

CEO, Intergenerational Schools

## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

The Intergenerational Schools are a top choice in public education for Greater Cleveland families. We foster joyful and independent academic and social-emotional learning that allows students and learning partners to excel both individually and together in one equitable community. As innovative and progressive educators, we are catalysts and collaborators in improving public community. As innovative and progressive educators, we are catalysts and collaborators in improving public education.

## About the Intergenerational Schools

Our award-winning and nationally recognized model is 100% focused on fostering student achievement and growth in a multi-generational environment.

The Intergenerational Schools are an award-winning **network of K-8 public charter schools** in Cleveland where children learn developmentally (at their own pace) based on mastery, and in a diverse and supportive community environment.

Our schools have **small, multi-age classes** that allow children to receive an individualized education based on what each child needs next in their learning. In this setting, students have the opportunity to be both a teacher and a learner.

Older adults from the community serve as **Learning Partners**, who help students develop a love of reading and learning. They share stories and experiences together, play math games, and forge **positive intergenerational relationships** together. Each class also ‘adopts’ the residents at area senior facilities. They visit and partake in mutual

learning activities. These experiences help develop valuable social emotional skills and help to enforce the learning in the classroom.

The Intergens are nonprofit, public charter schools, which means any student can attend for free, there is no selection process, and the schools provide Special Education and other student services required by law. Our performance is measured alongside traditional district schools through the same state tests, but the charter model allows us the flexibility to innovate.

Since 2000, we have been challenging the status quo in elementary education, and our approach has been recognized in Cleveland and internationally. Our students go on to high quality public and private high schools with the skills they need to succeed and thrive in school and beyond.

## Community Schools of Quality Designation



**W**e are proud to say all three of our schools were designated as Community Schools of Quality by the Ohio Department of Education. The 2023-2024 school year marked the second year of this three-year evaluation cycle.

To receive this distinction, the schools had to have received a higher Performance Index score

(measuring overall student achievement) than the local district AND achieve four stars for the Progress measure (meaning more than one year’s growth occurred within the school year). These two measures, along with being sponsored, or accredited, by a high quality sponsor, qualified them for this distinction.

THE INTERGENERATIONAL SCHOOL – EAST

# Entrepreneurship as a Spark for Experiential Learning

Students at The Intergenerational School–East hosted their second annual Market Day on May 24, 2024, transforming their learning environment into a bustling marketplace. The event offered students an opportunity to showcase their creativity, talents, entrepreneurial spirit, and financial literacy by developing, marketing, and selling a variety of products.

Market Day has become a highly anticipated tradition to practice experiential learning and character development. To prepare, students worked collaboratively, refining their business plans, assigning roles, and problem-solving in real time. Teachers guided them in setting realistic goals, tracking expenses, and



Market Day at TIS-East

understanding customer engagement. These essential skills empowered students to connect classroom concepts to meaningful, hands-on experiences they will carry well beyond the classroom.

The students' hard work paid off, generating more than \$1,400 in combined sales. True to their commitment to spirited citizenship, the students donated 10% of their profits to two meaningful causes: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Do It For James Foundation.

The success of Market Day 2024 reflects not only the students' dedication but also the strong support of the school community. Families, staff, and other members of the Intergens community eagerly participated, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere that made the event so special.

Beyond the numbers and products sold, the day fostered a sense of accomplishment and joy among the students, instilling confidence in their abilities. As they look ahead to future Market Days, students are already reflecting on what they learned and brainstorming ways to expand their businesses and deepen their impact.

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Intergenerational School (TIS - East) is transforming the educational experience for students and families. For over 20 years, TIS – East has been a leader in K-8 education with an approach like no other public school. Our students are curious learners surrounded by innovative learning opportunities, making TIS – East a top performing school and a joyful place to learn. The Intergenerational School is part of an award-winning network of public charter schools in Cleveland that help children learn at their own pace in a diverse and supportive community environment. **The Intergenerational Schools have small, multi-age/multi-grade classes, individually paced learning, a nationally recognized educational model, and Intergenerational Learning Partners from the community to support every child.**

# 2023-2024 School Year By the Numbers

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**      **AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**

**205**                      **15.6**

**2023-2024 PRINCIPAL**  
**Dr. Mario Clopton**

## OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

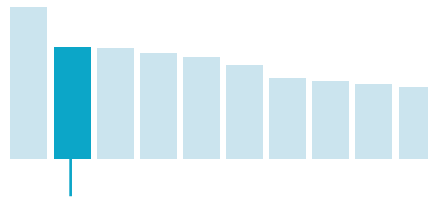
Bedford	1.0%
Cleveland	82.5%
Cleveland Heights	3.5%
East Cleveland	1.5%
Euclid	0.5%
Garfield Heights	5.5%
Maple Heights	4.0%
South Euclid	0.5%
Warrensville Heights	1.0%

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS\*

White	0.5%
Black	93.5%
Asian	0.5%
Native American	0%
Hispanic	3.0%
Multiracial	2.5%
Students with Disabilities	17%
Economic Disadvantage	72%

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

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



TIS-East outperformed 8 of the 9 neighborhood public schools in achievement.

**Overall Rating**      ★ ★

**83%**

TIS-East students outscored their peers at the 8 nearest district and charter schools 83% of the time on state tests.

## FINANCIAL DATA\*\*

<b>Income</b>	
State	\$ 2,932,530
Federal	1,156,082
Tax Distribution	13,456
Philanthropy	-
Other	196,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,298,068</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries + Benefits	\$ 2,279,159
Purchased Services	1,222,508
Supplies & Materials	165,445
Other	53,928
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,721,040</b>

**Surplus/(Deficit)**      **\$ 577,029**

\*\*Unaudited

## SCHOOL BOARD

\*23-24 school year, †24-25 school year

**Lynn Carpenter, Board Chair\*†**  
Co-Founder, EPOCH Pi Investment Banking

**Stacy Miller, Vice Chair and Education Advisory Council Chair\*†**  
Academic Systems Administrator, St. Martin de Porres High School

**Joanna Lopez-Inman, Secretary and Governance Advisory Council\*†**  
Magistrate, Cleveland Municipal Court

**Richaun Bunton, Education Advisory Council\*†**  
Executive Director, University Settlement

**Mark Charvat, Finance Advisory Council\*†**  
COO, Lake Ridge Academy

**Danielle Clark, Finance Advisory Council\*†**  
Director of Finance and Business Operations, ADAMHS Board

**Brad Norton, Finance Advisory Council\*†**  
Wealth Advisor + Portfolio Manager, MAI Capital Management

**Mark Olson, Facilities Advisory Council Chair\***  
Principal, Bialosky Architectural Firm

**Lee Trotter, TIS Rep. to FIGS Board\***  
Retired Cuyahoga Co. Deputy Administrator

**Carolyn Wald, TIS Rep. to FIGS Board†**  
National Strategic Account Manager, Progressive Insurance

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) served as sponsor for The Intergenerational School during the 2023-2024 school year. ESCLEW monitored the school's academic and fiscal performance, as well as organization and operation of the school, and determined that the school was overall compliant.

## CONTACT THE SCHOOL

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[igschools.org](https://igschools.org)

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[instagram.com/\\_igschools](https://instagram.com/_igschools)





## NEAR WEST INTERGENERATIONAL SCHOOL

# A Lifetime of Learning and Teaching

**L**earning Partners play a vital role in intergenerational learning at Intergenerational Schools. Julie Rae, a retired Lakewood City Schools teacher, is one of many volunteers who work as Learning Partners with Near West students, offering one-on-one academic practice to complement classroom instruction, peer learning and the support they get at home to encourage a love of learning.

Julie shared how she helps students build confidence, recalling moments when students approach her shyly, their heads down. “I remind them learning is tough, and mistakes are how we grow,” she explained. By tailoring her approach to each student, Julie helps them understand concepts in a way that works for them. As confidence builds, she encourages them: “Look! You thought you couldn’t do it, but you did!”

She believes this individual attention is the program’s greatest asset. “It’s a chance to reteach and correct errors privately—something that’s hard to do in a classroom,” she said, adding that

“I can be another adult who encourages students to believe in themselves, to try hard, and to persevere despite challenges.”

- Julie Rae, Near West Learning Partner



many students crave this focused support.

She said Learning Partners would have been a welcome addition to her own classroom, supporting personalized relationships that nurture both academic and emotional growth.

Julie’s work helps cultivate the school’s culture of support, encouraging students to believe in themselves and persevere. Her passion for guiding students academically and emotionally embodies the heart of the Learning Partner program, showing how dedicated attention can make a lasting impact.

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

In 2011, a group of parents seeking a high-quality public school for their children helped bring this award-winning educational model to Ohio City. Today, Near West Intergenerational School is a top performing school whose students are excelling in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. Near West is part of an award-winning network of public charter schools in Cleveland that help children learn at their own pace in a diverse and supportive community environment. **The Intergenerational Schools have small, multi-age/multi-grade classes, individually paced learning, a nationally recognized educational model, and Intergenerational Learning Partners from the community to support every child.**

# 2023-2024 School Year By the Numbers

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**      **AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**

**211**                      **15.1**

**2023-2024 PRINCIPAL**  
**April Maimone**

## OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

Bay Village	0.9%
Brooklyn	1.9%
Cleveland	82.0%
Cleveland Heights	0.9%
Elyria	1.4%
Euclid	0.9%
Fairview Park	1.4%
Garfield Heights	1.9%
Lakewood	0.9%
Maple Heights	0.5%
Newburg Heights	0.5%
North Olmsted	1.9%
Oberlin	0.5%
Parma	1.4%
Parma Heights	0.9%
Twinsburg	1.9%

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

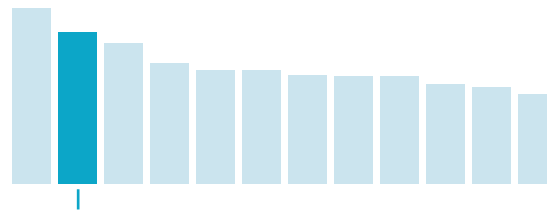
White	35.5%
Black	32.2%
Asian	0.5%
Native American	0.5%
Hispanic	24.6%
Multiracial	6.6%
Students with Disabilities	20%
Economic Disadvantage	64%

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

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

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

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



Near West outperformed 10 of the 11 nearby peer schools in achievement and gap closing. Only one school, a selective school for gifted children, exceeded Near West's performance.

**Overall Rating**  
★★★★★

Near West's overall rating is highest among all non-selective K-8 district and charter schools in the city of Cleveland.

**#1**

## FINANCIAL DATA\*\*

Income		Expenses	
State	\$ 1,950,145	Salaries + Benefits	1,294,674
Federal	547,318	Purchased Services	979,059
Tax Distribution	192,677	Supplies & Materials	116,518
Philanthropy	-	Other	38,552
Other	158,821	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,428,803</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,848,961</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 420,157</b>

\*\*Unaudited

## SCHOOL BOARD

\*23-24 school year, †24-25 school year

**Lynn Carpenter, Board Chair\*\***  
Co-Founder, EPOCH Pi Investment Banking

**Stacy Miller, Vice Chair, Education Advisory Council Chair\*\***  
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COO, Lake Ridge Academy

**Danielle Clark, Finance Advisory Council\*\***  
Director of Finance and Business Operations, ADAMHS Board

**Steven M. Lake, Near West Rep to FIGS Board†**  
Founder and Principal, Vanguard Strategy

**Bob Nicolay, Near West Rep to FIGS Board\*, Governance Advisory Council Chair\*\***  
Director, California Casualty Management

**Brad Norton, Finance Advisory Council†**  
Wealth Advisor + Portfolio Manager, MAI Capital Management

**Mark Olson, Facilities Advisory Council Chair\***  
Principal, Bialosky Architectural Firm

## CONTACT THE SCHOOL

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[instagram.com/\\_igschools](https://instagram.com/_igschools)



**Near West**  
Intergenerational School

# Looking Forward

Each year, we revisit and refine our strategic plan to build on past progress, adapt to change and ensure we are continually working toward our vision. The four main goals below were set in August 2023. The HOW has been updated to reflect our current areas of focus.

We are encouraged by the progress to date on each of these goals and will continue to work toward target outcomes for each in support of our mission.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**1** Every student will experience a high-quality, developmental, multi-age education in a social and emotionally safe environment centered on intergenerational learning opportunities.

### HOW?

- Focus on Responsive Classroom Social-Emotional Learning Framework
- Coordinate student support teams including our new full-time Counselors
- Recommit to our foundations with purposeful intergenerational programming, multi-age instruction, and refreshed report cards with standards-based grading
- Implement structured Teacher Based Teams for collaborative data-driven instruction

## STAFF PROFICIENCY

**2** Educators and staff will exemplify the knowledge and competencies needed to ensure the success of every student within the intergenerational model.

### HOW?

- Continue to focus on recruitment of highly qualified teachers, using new Compensation Plan
- Improve staff onboarding and adult asynchronous learning
- Implement school-based full-time Curriculum Specialists to provide Instructional Coaching for all teachers
- Implement new Science of Reading curriculums
- Create “new to teaching” and “new to IG’s” scope and sequence for all new hires

## FAMILY + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**3** The Intergenerational Schools foster home-school partnerships that center student success, family voice, and clarity of the intergenerational model.

### HOW?

- Implement a multi-pronged family communication strategy
- Execute two model-wide intergenerational events each year
- Continue to refine uniform model-wide communications and expand our reach
- Help foster family group activities linked to student learning and stronger communities

## OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**4** Create consistent policies and procedures to support shared accountability and sustainability of the intergenerational educational model.

### HOW?

- Continue to oversee the Advisory Council structure to support Strategic Plan goals
- Establish a culture of shared responsibility and stewardship for fundraising
- Educate Board members on sponsorship requirements and the intergenerational model
- Encourage use of software system to prepare for meetings and decision-making
- Implement skills-based recruitment strategy to fill board advisory council vacancies with members reflective of the community we serve
- Establish clear evaluation systems for board and administrative leadership



**“It’s rewarding to be part of a school network that works so hard to cultivate community connections and a love for learning in its students.”**

–Kelly Lytle, FIGS Board Chair

## With a Little Help from Our Friends

**F**riends of Intergenerational Schools (FIGS) was established to support the fundraising and marketing needs of Intergenerational Schools (IGS).

Board members champion the mission and serve as active ambassadors in the community, both in person and online, representing the organization with a unified voice, sharing knowledge and raising awareness to support our schools.

Several FIGS Board Members also serve as Learning Partners, including Board President Kelly Lytle. He describes the experience as, “The moments of joy you’ll have learning with and from the students are just good medicine for your soul!”

Kelly and the students he has partnered with laugh a lot and sometimes put down the books to talk about science or math, homework and projects coming due, weekend fun, or sports. More than once, he admits, “Students and I have had to be reminded to watch our volume while in the library.” He goes on to say, “It’s rewarding to be part of a school network that works so hard to cultivate community connections and a love for learning in its students.”

### FIGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\*23-24 school year, †24-25 school year

**Kelly Lytle, Chair\*\***

VP Sales and Carrier Partnerships, Proformex

**Cena Hilliard, Finance Advisory Council Chair\*\***

Associate Dean of Finance, Administration, Case School of Engineering

**Steven M. Lake,**

Near West Rep to FIGS Board†

Founder and Principal, Vanguard Strategy

**Eric McGarvey\***

Executive Director, Summer on the Cuyahoga

**Bob Nicolay, Near West Rep to FIGS Board,\* Governance Advisory Council Chair\*\***

Director, California Casualty Management

**Susan Paul\*†**

Project Management Consultant, Confluence Project Management

**Norma Polanco-Boyd†**

District Community Affairs Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

**Lee Trotter, TIS Rep to FIGS Board\***

Retired Cuyahoga County Deputy Administrator

**Carolyn Wald, TIS Rep to the FIGS Board†**

National Strategic Account Manager, Progressive Insurance

**Amanda Yoho\***

Chief Technology Officer, Proformex

*Become a Friend of the Intergenerational Schools*

## We do more with less. Give today to build community and support lifelong learning.

The Intergenerational Schools receive less in per-student funding and do not have access to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Funding like traditional district schools. With small classes and less in per-student funding, we look to community support to enable the valuable experiences, like the Learning Partners and Intergenerational visits, that

benefit both students and seniors. Friends of the Intergenerational Schools is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization positioned to raise funds and spread awareness on behalf of the Intergenerational Schools to close this gap.

**Help us transform public school education! Make a gift today at [igschools.org/donate](https://igschools.org/donate)**



**Where children thrive**



**and community grows**



**Intergenerational**  
S C H O O L S

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