



Love & Serve

Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021

SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS

American Province Ministry Connections

November 2020

Washington School for Girls (WSG)

Dr. Beth Reaves - Head of School

<http://www.washingtonschoolforgirls.org/>

Faith is central to our mission at Washington School for Girls. During these difficult times, we are keeping our faith alive and active, and one of the ways in which we hope to have achieved this goal was our virtual “Setting the Table” Thanksgiving prayer service. We began with the following words:

“We have an empty table in front of us because we believe in community - in what we have to give and receive from one another. We are created to be fed through relationship, and the table is our symbol of community.”



Prior to the service, families were given baskets that contained the following items to set on their tables at home.

A Tablecloth, to represent that each life is interwoven with every other life. The cloth is the symbol of the love that binds us together, supports us, and envelops us.

A Candle, to disperse the darkness of the world. We believe Jesus is the light of the world who brings forth Faith, Hope, Love, and Truth.

Fruits and Vegetables, to nourish us. This food serves as a reminder that God is the vine and we are the branches - all who live in Christ will bear great fruit.

A Plant, to remind us of the mystery and beauty of creation that surrounds us. Flowers are our symbol of Grace, which nourishes our souls and spirits, God’s unrelenting gift to us.

Bread and Wine (Juice), to remind us of the gift that a harvest can yield.

Washington School for Girls wishes you a peaceful and blessed holiday season!

Hope Partnership for Education

Rose Martin, RSM - Executive Director

<http://www.hopepartnershipforeducation.org/>

Pre-Covid, the Graduate Support Lounge would be full of students completing assignments, applying to college, bonding with old friends, giving middle schoolers advice, receiving mental health guidance, or simply taking a nap in a safe space. But we have come to realize Covid has given us an opportunity that is our very own “silver lining” to this unusual time. In an effort to meet local needs, we partnered with a local organization, *Ones Up*, to provide a fellowship for ten graduates.



The young people participating are members of the first-ever Philadelphia Community Action Team, working with other teams across the nation to address issues that affect underserved youth. Since June, our graduates have met to learn about civic and community engagement and put these teachings into action. As of last week, our alumni successfully completed 30,000 phone calls and 26,000 text messages to community members on voter registration.

As the Director of the Graduate Support Program, when I think about the vision of Hope that was created so many years ago, I reflect about how much Hope has grown. I think about how much Graduate Support has grown. I think about how much I have grown. The relationships that I have built over the years with our graduates, their families, and our North Philadelphia community at large, have taught me invaluable lessons. Lessons that cannot be taught in the classroom, but merely felt in the spirit. Lessons about growth. Lessons about the definition of success. Lessons around trauma. Lessons about love. Lessons about resilience. Most of all, lessons about Hope. We are well named, indeed! -- Brittany Holiday

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