



HOPE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

a LOOK at 2020

A Year of Change, Challenges and, of course, COVID

HOPE ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RACHELLE GARDNER, MA, LCAC

As a Recovery High School, Hope Academy's mission is all about change. Change in behaviors, attitudes, grades, friends, and learning approaches. This past year brought even more changes that we have all experienced with the pandemic.

I'm proud to say that Hope Academy, its students, teachers, staff, volunteers and importantly, you, our supporters have adjusted and met those daunting challenges together as a strong community.

Today, Hope Academy has a new location, a new bus and some new teachers but remains steadfast to our mission to serve students with substance use disorders, thanks to your support. We couldn't do it without you!

Please take a moment to read and reflect on this report to see how your investment in Hope Academy has been used to impact students in Indiana.

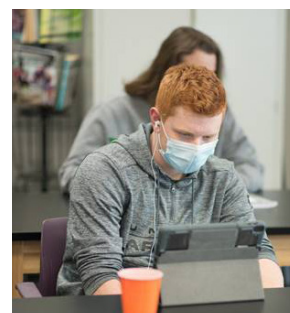
We are extremely grateful for your support and look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support!

Rachelle

— MISSION STATEMENT —

HOPE ACADEMY'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, SOBER, AND CHALLENGING ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS IN RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.



Photos at top, from left to right: (1) Deputy Mayor David Hampton was on hand for the official ribbon cutting ceremony along with School Board Chairperson Marissa Manlove, Vice-Chair Colleen Kenney and Board Member Michael Austin. (2) Photo of the front of our new location minutes from downtown. (3) We love the pool table donated by the Schafirs to the GPS after-school program. (4) The Girls' Club meets during Student Resource Time. **Photos at right, from top to bottom:** (1) Science class at work. (2) Banks, the Hope Academy Support Dog (3) iPads are used for testing and eLearning.



School Starts:
9:00 a.m.
Dismissal at
3:20 p.m.



Academic year:
August 10, 2020–
May 27, 2021



Uniform: Collared
Hope Academy Polo
Shirt and Khakis

\$125

Textbook Fees
per Semester

45

capacity during
covid

75

Normal Capacity

25

Current
Enrollment

\$0

Tuition Cost

\$24K

Cost per student annually
at Hope Academy

\$15K

State funding per pupil

\$9K

Gap per student funded
through charitable
contributions and grants



Core 40 and Academic
Honors Diploma awarded
to graduates

16%

of Indiana high school students
currently use marijuana which
affects the brain centers
responsible for attention,
memory, learning, cognition,
self-control and decision-making.



2020 GRADUATION

As we shifted to e-learning in mid-March, it was a quick pivot to a hybrid virtual/in-person environment to keep everyone safe and healthy. The teachers and staff put together a comprehensive plan to continue instruction using Zoom and other e-learning platforms.

Every student had a device to be able to participate in class through Zoom and we all learned how to be accountable and interactive in this new learning system.

As a result, six students graduated from Hope Academy in 2020 and we had 53 students enrolled during the year.

Graduation was limited in the number of family members who were allowed to attend. Masks and social distancing made it a distinctively 2020 event.

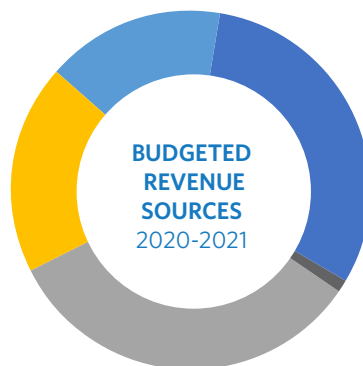


WE MOVED! July saw Hope Academy move to a new space near the University of Indianapolis. The space was previously used by Goodwill's Excel Center as an adult high school, so it was move-in ready and allowed us to start in-person instruction with plenty of room for social distancing in August.



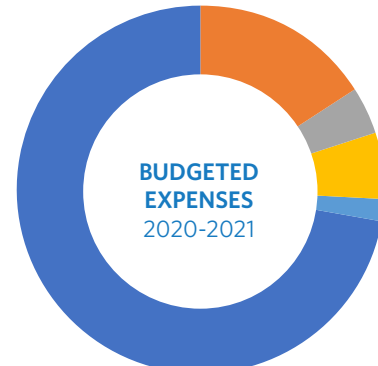
TAKE a Virtual Tour of Hope Academy:
hopeacademyrhs.org

HOPE ACADEMY REVENUE - where it comes from...



- State Funding (33%)
- Federal Grants (1%)
- Charter School Start-Up Grant (31%)
- Other Grants (16%)
- Contributions (19%)

HOPE ACADEMY EXPENSES - where it goes...



- Salaries & Benefits (72%)
- Facilities (16%)
- Technology (4%)
- Transportation (6%)
- Contributions (2%)

State funding and Federal grants provide **65%** of Hope Academy's funding.

This leaves a significant funding **gap** which must be raised through individual contributions and other grants.



HOPE ACADEMY GETS A BUS

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sheehan Family Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, Hope Academy now has its own bus which will reduce some of our transportation costs.

Watch for the white mini-bus around town as it picks up students around the I-465 loop each morning and returns them after school each afternoon. We will also use the bus for after school activities in our GPS (Guiding Paths to Success) alternate peer group program.

Because most of our students do not drive, the bus is a critical resource to ensure attendance. Last fall's attendance rate was 85%. Many of our students had attendance rates of 30% or worse prior to attending Hope Academy.



PARTNER - ANYTIME FITNESS

Our new neighbor, **Anytime Fitness**, has made the facility available to Hope Academy students for personalized work-outs several times a week. We are very grateful for the opportunity to keep our students physically, mentally and emotionally fit!



NEW PARENT ORIENTATION AND SUPPORT GROUP

Parents of Hope Academy students meet on Wednesday evenings to learn how to support their student and one another. Licensed Social Worker **Aleesha Bullock** facilitates the group to help parents develop their own support system with others who are facing similar experiences. The group is open to any interested parent whether they have a student at Hope Academy or not.

HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...



"Our children are the future of America, and we must not lose their talents due to addiction. Hope Academy has an extraordinary

culture and programs that allow students to excel and build a successful life in recovery. These are unique young adults that need a safe learning environment with teachers who understand them and care. We are very fortunate to have Hope Academy here in Indianapolis, and it deserves your support!"

- BEV MIDDAGH, BOOSTER



"I love working at Hope Academy because of the community here."

CHRISTINA STEIGERWALT
SCIENCE TEACHER



"Knowing our daughter was in a safe and sober place was very comforting."

DAVID MEIER
PARENT/BOOSTER

Staff:

Rachelle Gardner
Executive Director

Linda Gagy
Principal

Deb Leser
Director of Guidance

Jane Panyard
Director of Operations

Caroline Hartman
GPS Coordinator

Sarah Mokaitis
School Nurse

Alex Shaffer
Recovery Coach

Mariann Williams
Director of Development

Aleesha Bullock
Social Worker

Renee Carberry
Special Ed Compliance Monitor

Abigail McGill
Occupational Therapist

Sarah Platt
Peer Recovery Specialist

Georgia Wynne
Recovery Coach

Mr. Banks
Support Dog

Teachers

Anita Frauli
Math & Business

Bill Jensen
English

Jonathan McClure
Art

Jordan Mills
Social Studies

Janet Phelps
Special Ed

Christina Steigerwalt
Science

Board Members

Marissa Manlove, *Board Chair*

Amy Levander, *Past Chair*

Colleen Kenney, *Vice Chair*

Phyllis Land Usher, *Secretary*

Janine Shopp, *Treasurer*

Michael Austin

John Finke

Janice Gabe

Leah Mannweiler

Dr. Ukamaka Oruche

Dr. Angela Tomlin

Kevin Turner

HAWKS BOOSTER CLUB

Become a part of the Hope Academy community by joining the Hawks Booster Club! Your membership makes a statement that you care about teens in Indy who are committed to sobriety and academic success and your support brings critical resources to ensure our students have the necessary tools and resources to thrive. hopeacademyrhs.org/donate

To view the 2020 Booster Club list, go to hopeacademyrhs.org/boosterclub



TASTE OF HOPE 2020

Last year's Taste of Hope was bigger than ever! With more than 200 attendees, 150 Bags of Hope, **Rafael Sanchez** and his many jackets as well as a touching story by **2020 Hope Academy Valedictorian, Bella Depp**, those who attended were treated to some great food and in turn were very generous in their financial support.

In all, \$72,000 was raised at the event which was used to provide important recovery support to students. We added a Peer Recovery Specialist to the team and were able to pivot to an e-learning system quickly when COVID hit and forced a global lockdown.

Sadly, due to the pandemic, many of our amazing participating restaurants have been forced to close. Instead of continuing with the Taste of Hope fundraiser in 2021, Hope Academy will turn to the music world to offer an event called Sounds of Hope sometime this May. Watch for more details coming soon.



OUR FIRST VIRTUAL EVENT - RISE & SHINE FOR HOPE

Thanks to the generosity of St. John's Lutheran Church for the use of their space and technology, Hope Academy's Second Annual Rise & Shine for Hope was held last November as a virtual event. **Anne Marie Tiernon of WTHR** emceed the event which featured **Executive Director Rachelle Gardner** and stories by a student, an alumna, a parent and teachers.

More than 100 people viewed the event live and many more viewed it later on Facebook. You can view the event on Hope Academy's Facebook page. The event raised \$52,665 through Booster Club members, the day of the event gifts and matching gifts to provide recovery support and transportation for Hope Academy students. Thanks to all who participated and showed their support.

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

Speaker Series:

February 11, March 17 and April 29

Sounds of Hope: May

Graduation: tentatively May 23