



Growing Scholars
into Leaders



2017-2018
Annual Report



Emerald Academy's mission is to grow scholars into leaders by creating the best learning culture for city students to develop the skills, habits and values for success in high school, college and life.



A Message From the President

As we closed out our third school year at Emerald Academy and are now in our fourth year, I am inspired more than ever by the young scholars I see walk through our hallways each day. Our first class of kindergartners is now in third grade and is on a trajectory to outperform their urban peers.

Still, much work must be done to close the gap in academic outcomes between urban learners and their suburban peers, but we are making progress, and I am optimistic about the future. We continue to provide students with a transformative experience in which we are preparing them to have the skills, habits and character traits needed to be self-sufficient, reflective and resilient leaders in their community.

Our vision is steadfast: to increase the number of urban Knoxville youth who complete eighth grade well-prepared for high school and the college of their choice. You, our key partners, are helping us advance toward this goal each day.

Thank you for your persistence, advocacy and support. I am grateful to the many individuals who care deeply about our scholars and know the future is bright for them.

With sincerest gratitude,

Steve Diggs
President
Emerald Charter Schools

Leading the Next Generation

My personal mission and purpose in life is to empower others through education.

I consider it a blessing and an honor to guide the next generation of leaders in our city, state, country and world in a school setting that's committed to creating the best learning culture for city scholars to develop the skills, habits and values for success in high school, college and life.

Emerald Academy is making a difference by providing scholars and their families with hope through school choice. I'm truly passionate about our work because we are changing the trajectory of scholars' lives through innovative teaching, personalized learning and lots of love!

-Renee Kelly, School Director

Emerald Academy Values

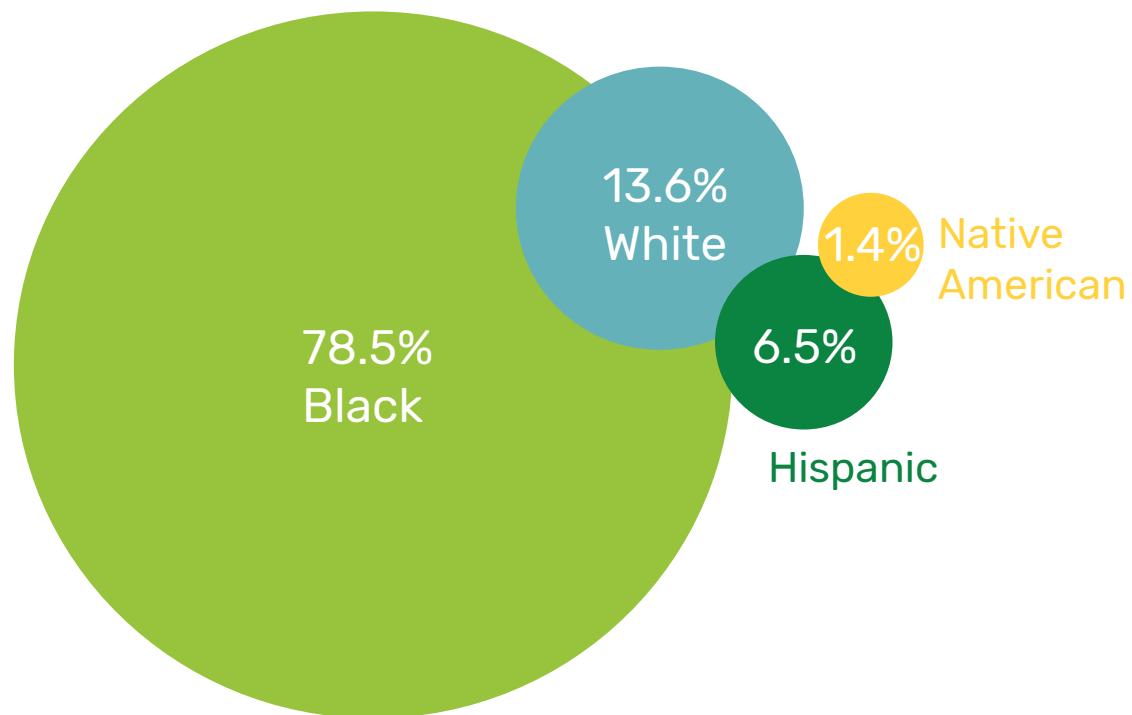
- We put children's needs first, in every single decision we make.
- We hold everyone to the highest expectations, from our kindergarten scholars to our board members.
- We share a never give up attitude, no matter what it takes.
- We believe in our scholars and know that every child can learn and excel.



Who We Served in 2017-2018

Emerald Academy families come from various cultures, neighborhoods and socio-economic backgrounds, but all are seeking a different academic option to serve their children.

ETHNICITY



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF SCHOLARS

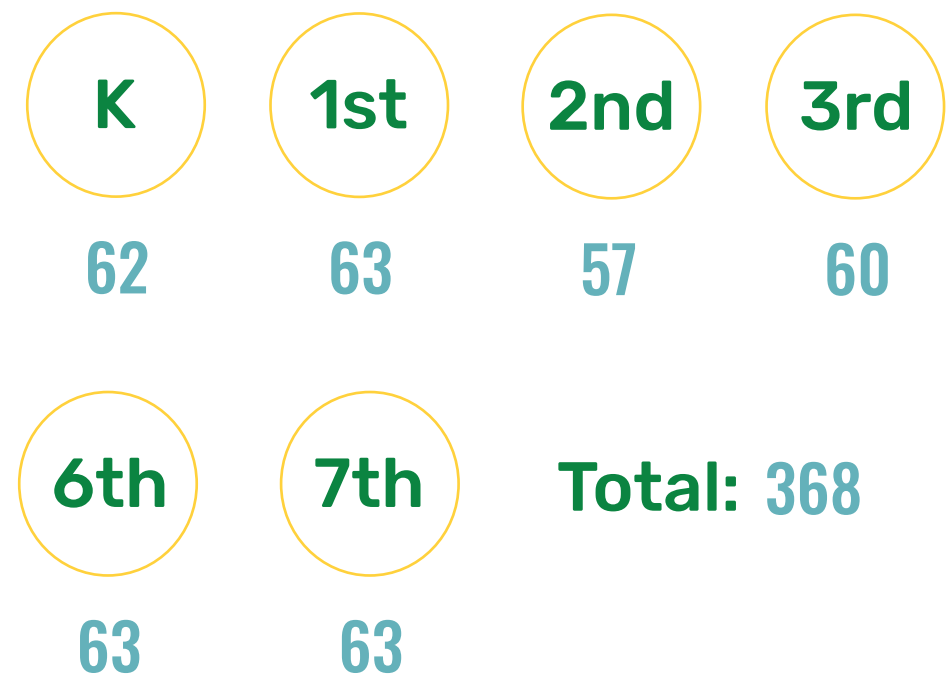
85.3% Scholars from center city neighborhoods

BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES SERVED IN THE DINING HALL

138,000



TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARS PER GRADE



A Parent's Perspective

The teachers have the children's best interest at heart, and while there is plenty of structure at Emerald Academy, the staff is down to earth, and they really care about the scholars. They go above and beyond to ensure my children succeed.

The parent nights at Emerald Academy are great, too. We learn strategies to help our kids academically and in other ways. I am in school studying to be a nurse, and it can be hard sometimes balancing my own education with my children's, so the parent nights teach me how to better support my sons' experience at Emerald Academy.

-LaJama Tate and her sons have been a part of Emerald Academy since the school opened in July 2015.

LaJama Tate's sons LaTray, Samyne and Trayvon.



Emerald Academy accepts young people from a variety of different backgrounds, including those that need specialized services.

Special education services (SPED) were provided to approximately 40 scholars during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Family relationships are key, though, to helping these scholars progress. SPED issues can be difficult to experience, so the bond between parents and Emerald Academy faculty is critical.

I love our SPED scholars like they're my own kids. Our teachers do an outstanding job supporting these scholars, and we strive for strong relationships with the children and their families on a personal level so we're all supporting one another.

-Sarah Shaver, Director of Specialized Services





Emerald Academy Goals

- Scholars will read at or above grade level.
- Every scholar will be ready for high school and on their way to a 4-year college.
- Emerald Academy will rank in the top 5% of all schools in Tennessee.

Scholars are Distinguishing Themselves from Their Urban Peers

Third graders outperformed most urban Knoxville schools in the percentage of students reading at or above grade level. This is a key indicator of continued academic success.

Sixth and seventh graders outperformed their urban Knoxville peers in the percentage of students who were at or above grade level in math. They will be prepared to take Algebra I in eighth grade and rigorous classes when they enter high school.



Rigorous, Engaging Curriculum = College-bound Scholars

When scholars walk through the doors of Emerald Academy for the first time, it doesn't take long for college to become normalized.

College is in the forefront, and our curriculum is geared to make post-secondary education a reality.

Distinctions of Emerald Academy's curriculum include:

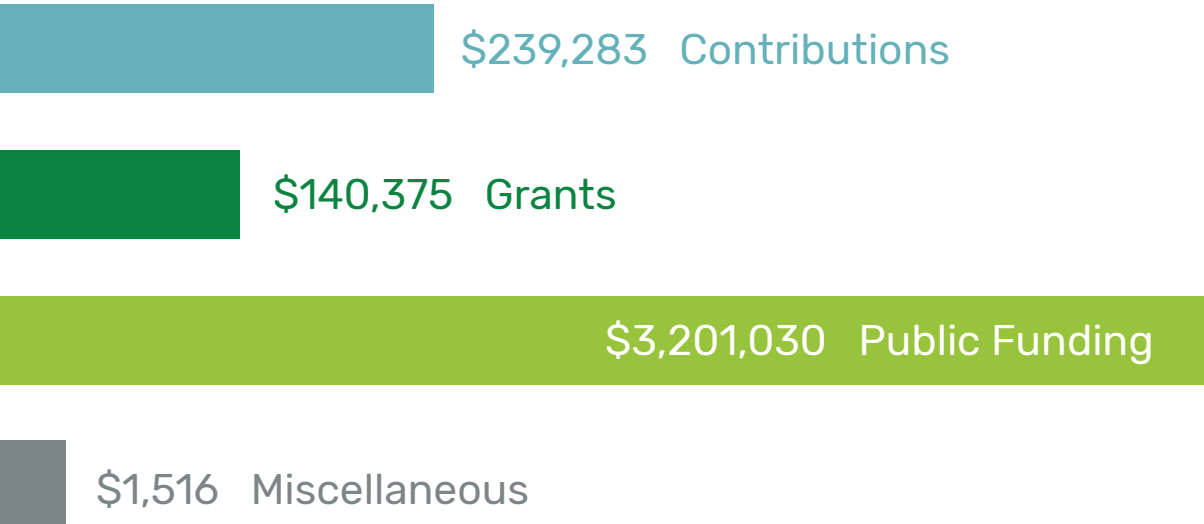
- It is flexible. Based on daily data, teachers and staff can address scholars' needs right away.
- Our STEM related arts class helps scholars apply learning they can use in their everyday lives as adults.
- Intersession weeks provide opportunities for scholars to go out in the community and gain "real life" experiences.

Emerald Academy's curriculum is aligned to State of Tennessee standards and is developmentally appropriate, but also challenging and rigorous so scholars will be prepared to go to high school and the college of their choice.

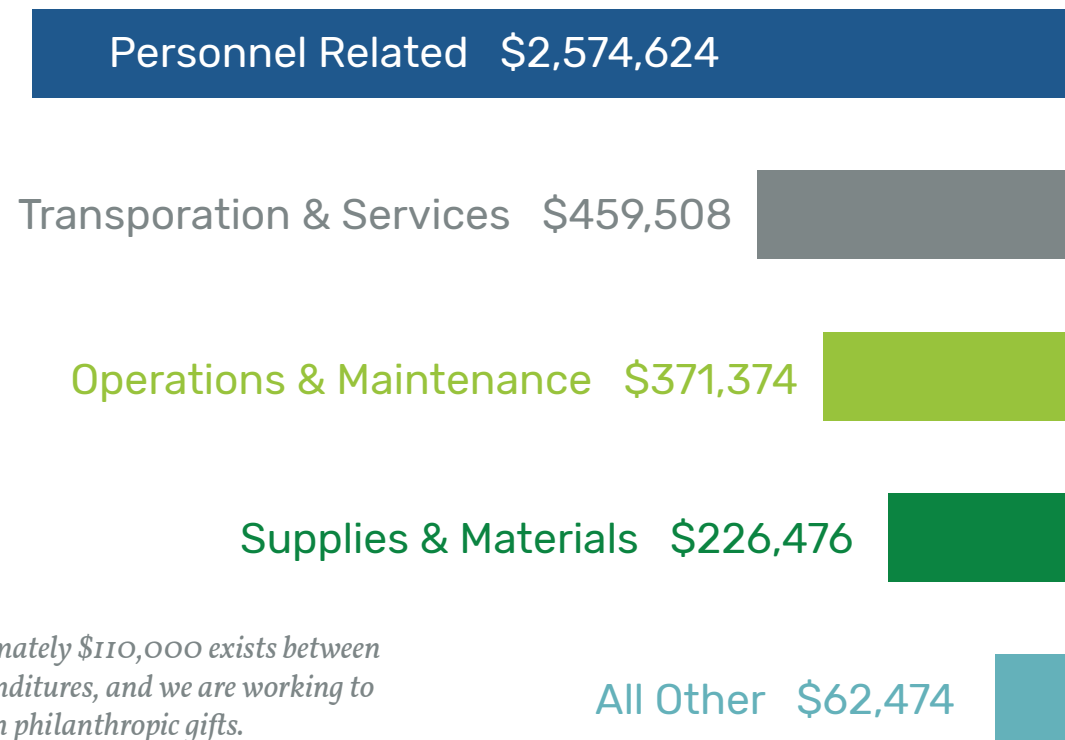


2017-2018 Financial Report

TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,582,204



TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$3,694,456



A gap of approximately \$110,000 exists between revenue and expenditures, and we are working to close this gap with philanthropic gifts.



Emerald Charter Schools Board of Directors

- Randy Gibson
- Dr. Kala Gray
- Ed Hedgepeth
- Tim McLemore
- Sanford Miller
- Alvin Nance
- Janene Nordin

Friends of Emerald Charter Schools

In Partnership with Emerald Youth Foundation

- Chrisi Bollinger
- Carlton Long
- Anne Loy
- David Reynolds
- Amy Romano
- David Schmid
- Eddy Smith
- Richard Stair
- Wes Stowers



emeraldacademy.org

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