



# Cooper Cafe

*Virtual  
Family  
Forum*

October 10, 2024  
6:00 pm via Zoom



Welcome!

# Agenda

- Safety Updates
- Harewood Project
- Cell phone Policy
- DC CAPE Highlights
- Parent Faculty Association
- Fall Festival
- Latin Pride Campaign
- Questions?

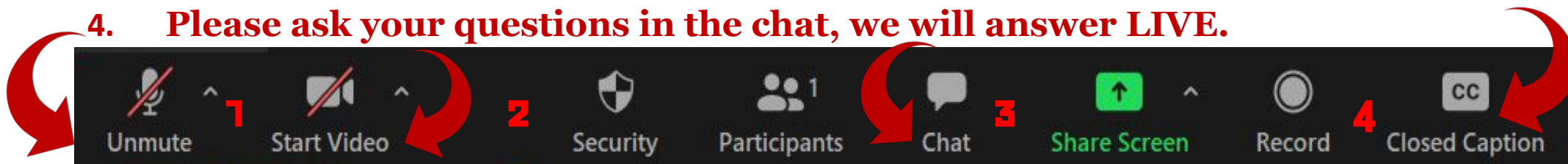


**Peter Anderson**  
Chief Executive Officer/  
Head of Schools



**Khashiffa Roberts**  
Principal

1. **Please stay muted** to eliminate background noise.
2. **Video is encouraged** (but up to you). We would love to see your faces!
3. **You can turn on live subtitles.** Click on the More link in the toolbar.
4. **Please ask your questions in the chat, we will answer LIVE.**



**Welcome!**



**Bill Clausen**  
Assistant Principal  
for Academics



**Carenda Nunn**  
Dean of Student  
Life & Culture



**Anaka Osborne**  
Director of Middle  
School & Literacy



**Lisa Moore**  
Director of Numeracy



**Kate Cromwell**  
Director of External Affairs



**Jennifer Thorpe-Lewis**  
Family Engagement Manager



# Safety Updates



## Quick Notes

- First things first
- DC Alliance and PCSB  
Bi-weekly School Safety call with MPD, DMPSJ, DME & Metro Transit
- Dialogue about effective policing
- Security review by DC/national school security expert
- Exploring mobile security solutions



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MOBILE SAFETY  
a Motorola Solutions Company

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WHY RAVE? SOLUTIONS RESOURCES ABOUT GET A DEMO

RAVE K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY SOLUTIONS

**Providing peace of mind when seconds count.**

Schools face emergencies almost every day, from mental health emergencies to the unthinkable. Communication is key throughout any critical event.

DOWNLOAD INFOSHEET

**Early Intervention**  
[Text-to-tip](#) technology enables crowdsourced student reporting of dangerous threats or bullying incidents.

**Open Communication**  
Parents, staff and students can stay informed about general topics, such as report card distribution or safety issues, through notifications.

**On-Site Coordination**  
Instant alerts can be sent to appropriate staff and 9-1-1 by activating a [panic button app](#) to coordinate next steps.

**Emergency Response**  
Direct [integration with 9-1-1](#) means incident details and location data can be immediately accessed by those arriving on scene.

## What schools are experiencing

### *Social media threats*

- Both local and “spam” from anywhere
- DC government (Mayor’s office, MPD) working in new ways to support schools’
  - Mayor convened summer meeting with Principals across DCPS and DCPCS schools to discuss safety
  - MPD reached out to Latin to directly support safety with presence with September social media scare
- Blessing of NOT having phones in students’ hands/pockets/bags → less sharing = less amplification of message and response (fear, distraction, stress)



## **What Latin is doing**

### ***Building security***

- Security at the main entrance
- Landline phones in all classrooms
- Security review by DC/national school security expert
- Safety top concern of new building design (Harewood)

### ***Faculty Training***

- Recently conducted a faculty lock-down drill
- Plan to do this with students on the half-day on 11/5

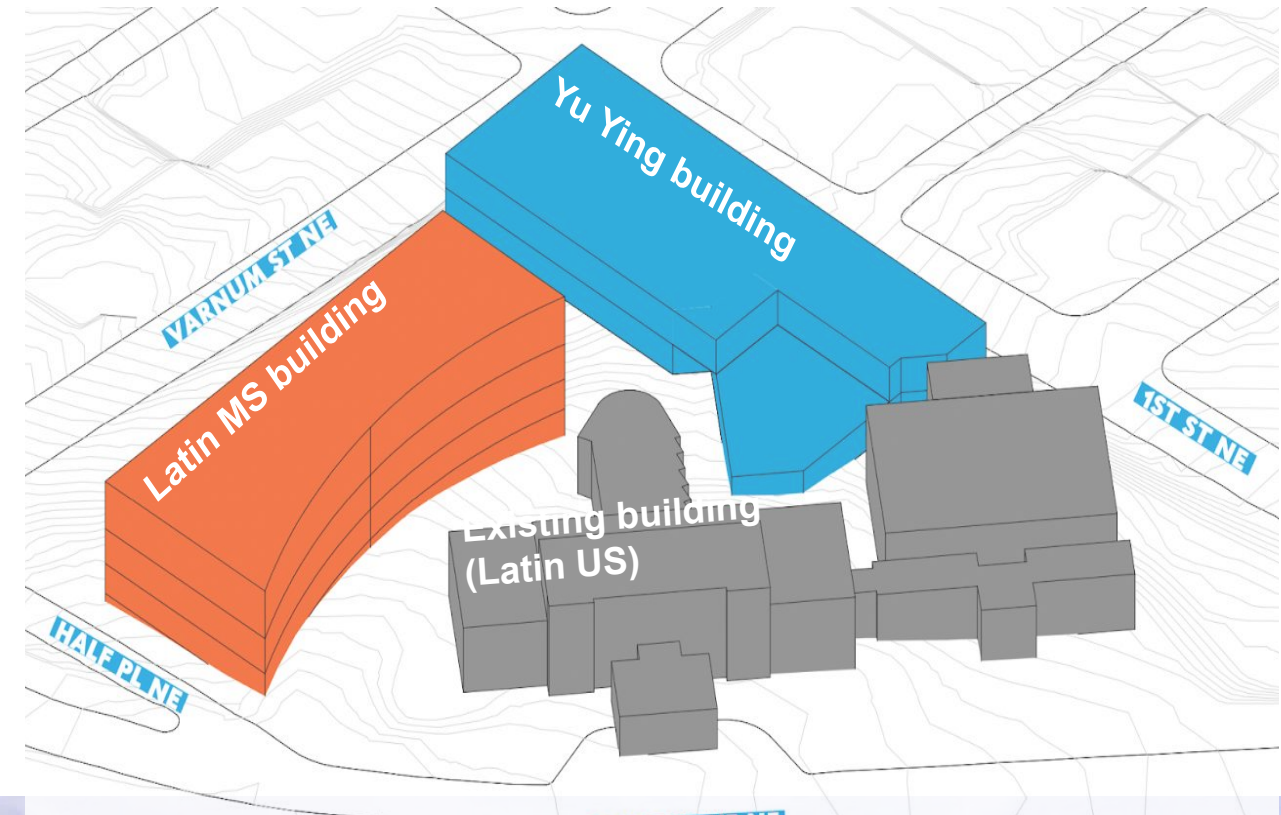


# Harewood Updates





# Harewood



Cooper Upper School building

# Harewood



New Cooper Middle School building



Yu Ying's building



## *Project Update*

- Latin's new building (Middle School) is on track.
- Renovations to the historic structure (Upper School) are also on track.
- All Cooper grades (5-9) will move to Harewood site for 2025-26 school year!
- Yu Ying is finishing their building with plans to move in December 2024.
- The project is funded through philanthropy and financing.



## Growth Campaign

### *Raised for*

- ❖ Property acquisition
- ❖ Operations

### *Raised from*

- ❖ Internal and external donors

### *Campaign Status*

#### *Quiet phase*

- ❖ Focus on major donors

#### *Public phase*

- ❖ Beginning in the spring

#### *% Toward Goal*

- ❖ Almost 70%

## Annual Operations Fundraising

### *Raise for*

- ❖ General Fund
- ❖ Faculty Fund
- ❖ Equal Access
- ❖ Donor Restricted

*This summer we closed on a \$50M loan*



# Cellphone Policy



## Cell phone policy

### *Explainer on the why and how*

- Phones policy has been in place since Cooper's starting year
- Research shows the negative impact of cell phones in schools
- Important that we have EVERY student following this policy, everyday



# Explainer: Academic Nights



## Academic Nights at Cooper

*8th grade → Upper School*

*7th grade → 8th grade*

- Goal - think ahead to the next step in academic career
- Take place in person
  - 11/14 for 8th grade
  - spring (date TBD) for 7th grade
  - Families and students!





# DC CAPE Highlights



## *What is DC CAPE?*

- Annual test **required** for all public schools in DC
- ***Administered each spring*** in Math and English/Language Arts (ELA) in grades 5-8
- ***DC Science test*** also in spring for 5th
- A good test of our ***students' growth and achievement*** at both individual and school-level
- DC CAPE is also used in ***rating schools***, including Latin



# Overall DC CAPE Performance - Cooper Campus

## SY2023-24 Language Arts

% Level 3+

85%

Previous Year: 83%

% Level 4+

64%

Previous Year: 63%

## SY2023-24 Mathematics

% Level 3+

74%

Previous Year: 73%

% Level 4+

50%

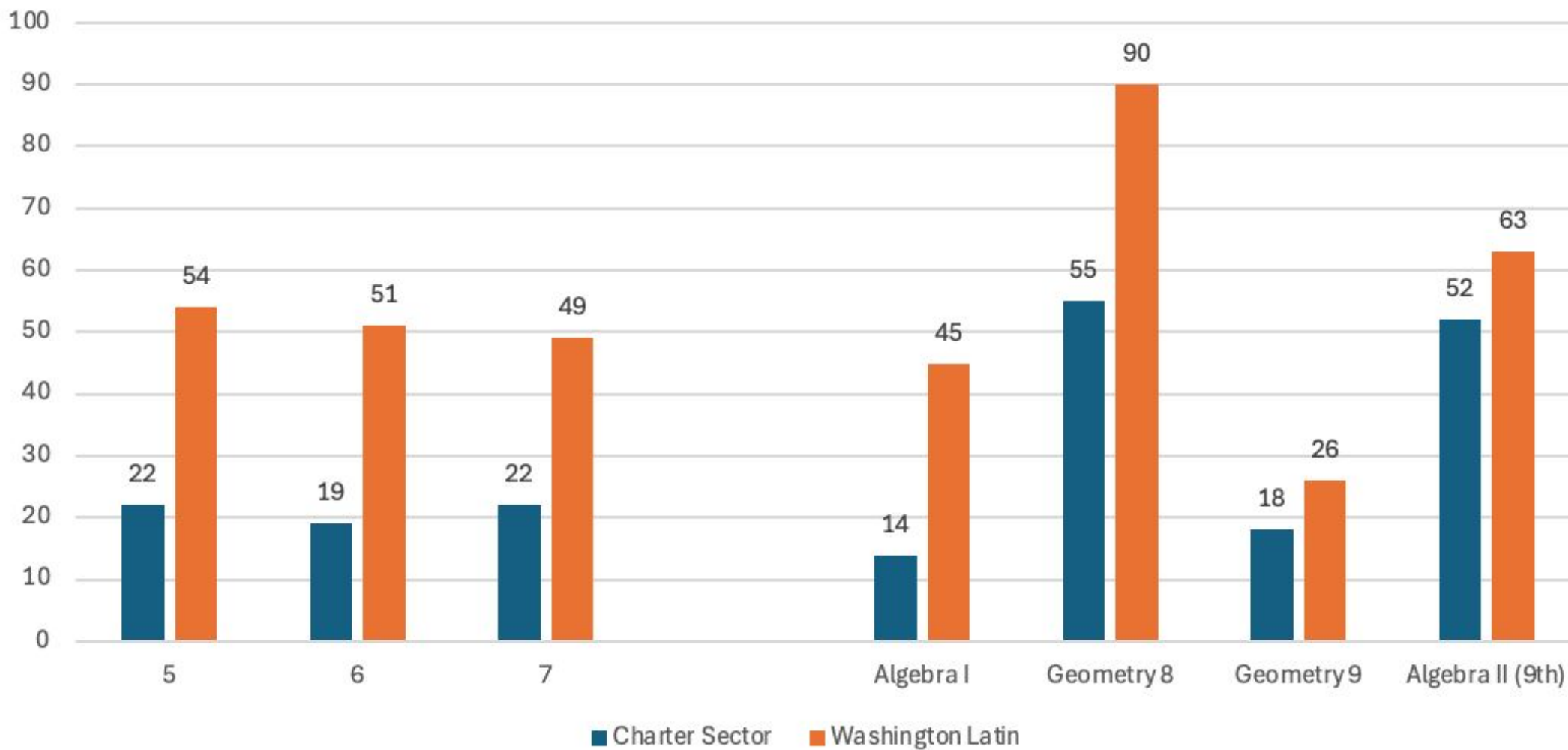
Previous Year: 49%



# Overall DC CAPE Performance - Cooper Campus + 2nd St. Campus

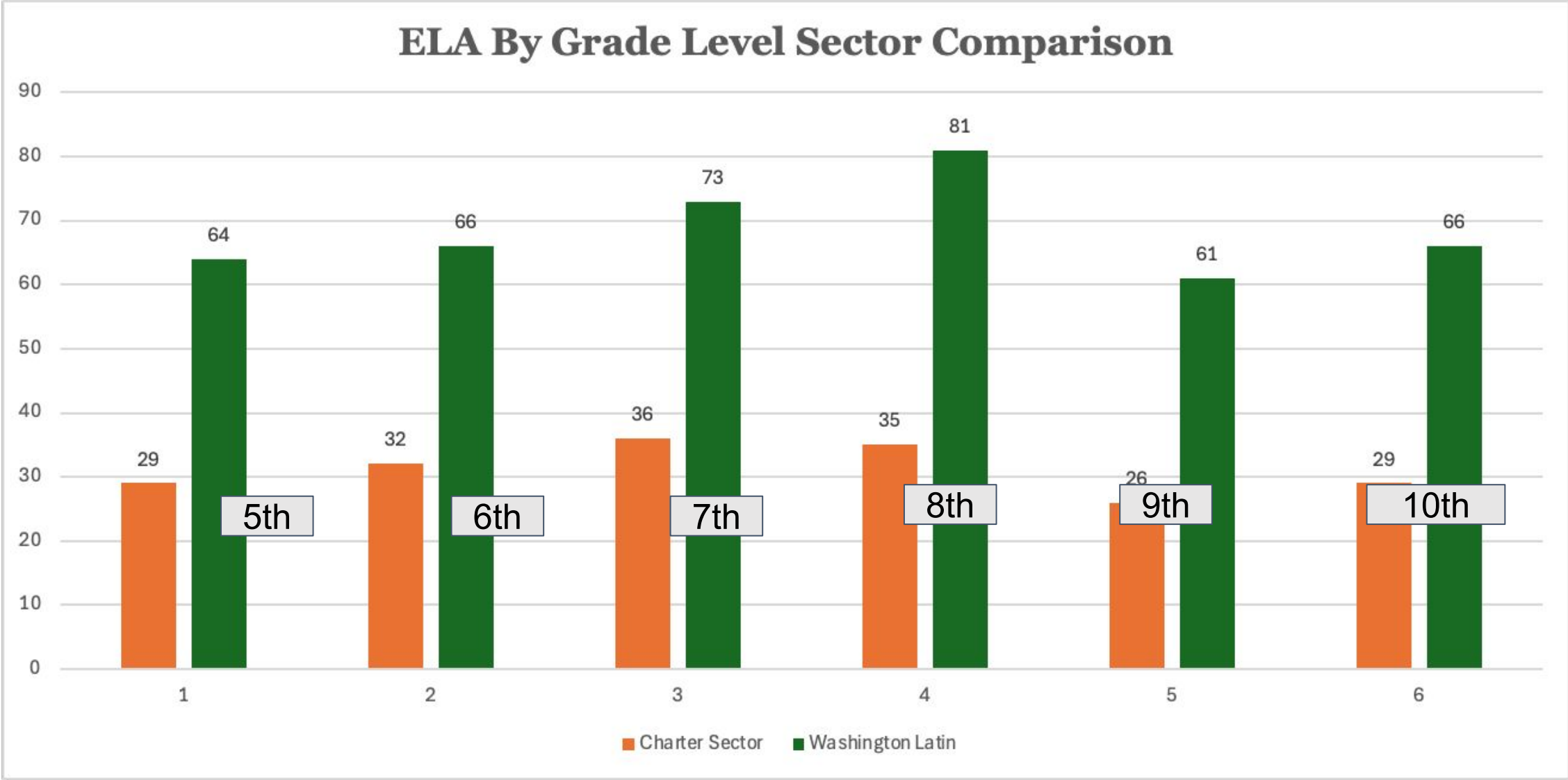
DC CAPE

## Math By Grade Level Charter Sector Comparison



# Overall DC CAPE Performance - Cooper Campus + 2nd St. Campus

DC CAPE



## *Key takeaways*

Latin continues to outperform the DC Charter School sector average in:

- Every grade level in both ELA and Math
- Every subgroup, including by race, IEP status, STAR.
- Math performance continued to improve, with small gains in these scores.
- English performance across both schools was remarkably consistent from SY22-23 to SY 24-25.
- Gaps persist between groups at Latin, however.



# Parent-Faculty Association



# *Introducing the AJC Parent Faculty Association*

- Our PFA connects families, support our school, cultivate a positive connection between families and staff members, and supports Latin fundraising.

Co-Presidents <b>Amy Toner/Mollie Ellis</b>	Vice President <b>Elizabeth Lindsey</b>
Treasurer <b>Jake Calhoun</b>	Secretary <b>Britt Stuart</b>
5th Grade Reps <b>Zina Abdelaziz/Sarah Carr</b>	6th Grade Reps <b>Carmen Ramirez/Rachel Sok</b>
7th Grade Rep <b>Debbie Gelernter</b>	8th Grade Rep <b>Kim Taylor</b>





# Fall Festival



## Join us! Saturday, October 19, 4pm-8pm

- Parent-Faculty Association hosted event for ALL Latin students and families at 2nd Street Campus. **FREE!**
- Activities include:
  - Face Painting & Costumes to Wear and Swap
  - Sports & Field Games
  - Inflatables
  - Cupcake Walk and Edible Crafts
  - Movie - “Ghostbusters” (2016 version)
- Advisory attendance competition - Pizza party prize!
- Upper School students - volunteer for community service!
- ***Questions? Can you help out?*** Email **Amy Toner!**



# Latin Pride



# ***Latin Pride*** - Parents-to-parent encouragement to donate; Brief & intensive campaign; Direct gifts to the school; Funds the PFA work for grants/events

## Fundraising

### What

Kickoff at Fall Festival  
Wraps by October 31

Cooper Goals - \$150,000  
& 100% participation

\$600/per student  
suggested *or what a family can afford*. Gifts range from \$25-\$5,000.

We encourage families to give generously to cover inflation, program improvements, etc.

### How - Volunteers

Parents contact fellow parents to encourage direct gift to school.

Volunteers work a list, making contact until a donation is made.

School receives/tracks all donations. Volunteers only learn whether a family has given, never how much.

### How - Parents

Families donate one-time by check or credit card

Can donate monthly or “subscribe” online

Parents are encouraged to share with friends and family

Many companies match your donations!



# Questions?



## Why give to Latin?

We have an expensive model, particularly our **small class sizes**

Charter schools are **not granted a facility** nor do they have access to DC government services as DCPS

Donations help us **cover unforeseen costs**, so Latin can continue to fund the most essential elements of the model.



Class sizes

Academics &  
Program

Facilities  
gap

Teachers

Surprises

Donations cover some **program expenses** and academic resources for our classrooms and **ensure equal access** for all students.

Donations help the school fund **faculty** salaries & professional development

## *Family Fundraising at Latin*

### 1. LATIN PRIDE

Started by parents,  
parent-to-parent  
encouragement to donate

Designed to be a brief,  
intensive campaign

Direct gifts to the school  
(no sales, for example)

Funds the PFA work for  
school: department grants,  
family events, and more

All \$ go to Latin!

### 2. BACCHANALIA

Twin goals: getting  
parent community  
together and raising \$ for  
Faculty Fund

Cooper did this in Spring  
2023! *Parties with  
purpose*

Hosts donate the party;  
guests donate to school  
instead of buying a ticket

### 3. OTHER

Parents often support  
other initiatives:

- ***Equal Access Fund***  
(including by paying  
extra for field trips)
- ***Arts Fund*** - such as  
the Cocktail Concert in  
September
- ***Capital Campaign***  
- the gym at 2nd  
Street, Harewood  
Project for Cooper

# Expansion Model

	<i>Ongoing Operational Fundraising</i>	<b>Growth Campaign - \$6M</b>		<b>FY totals</b>
		<i>Capital Fundraising</i>	<i>Operational Fundraising</i>	
<b>FY24</b>	<b>LEA FY24 Operational Goal</b> \$600,000	<b>FY24 Campaign Building Goal</b> \$3.5M	<b>FY24 Campaign Operations Goal</b> \$834K	$\$3.5M +$ $\$0.83M =$ <b>\$4.33M</b>
<b>FY25</b>	<b>LEA FY25 Operational Goal</b> \$600,000	<b>FY25 Campaign Building Goal</b> \$0	<b>FY25 Campaign Operations Goal</b> \$833K	<b>\$0.83M</b>
<b>FY26</b>	<b>LEA FY26 Operational Goal</b> \$600,000	<b>FY26 Campaign Building/Construction Goal</b> \$0	<b>FY26 Campaign Operations Goal</b> \$833K	<b>\$0.83M</b>



## *Budget: Priorities & Decisions*



Our \$25M (whole LEA) budget reflects our priorities.

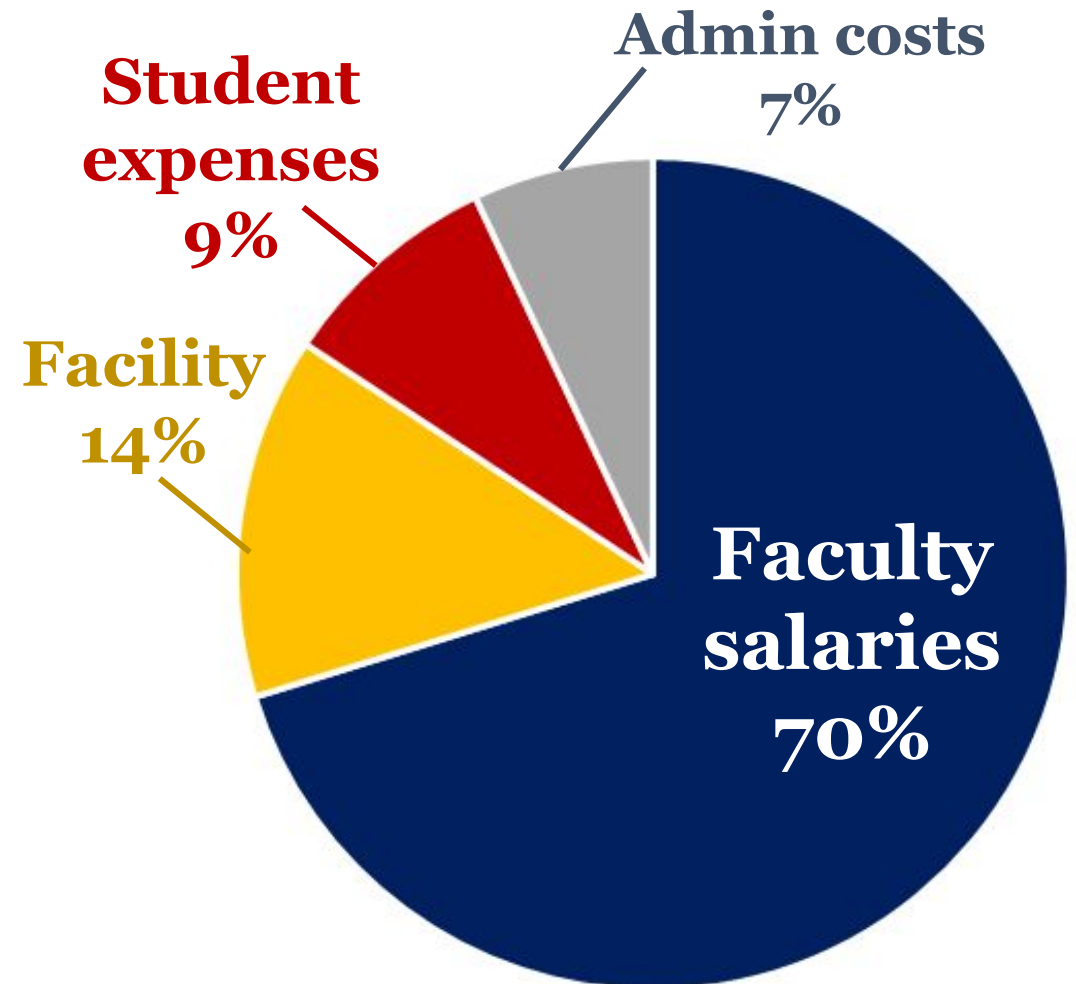
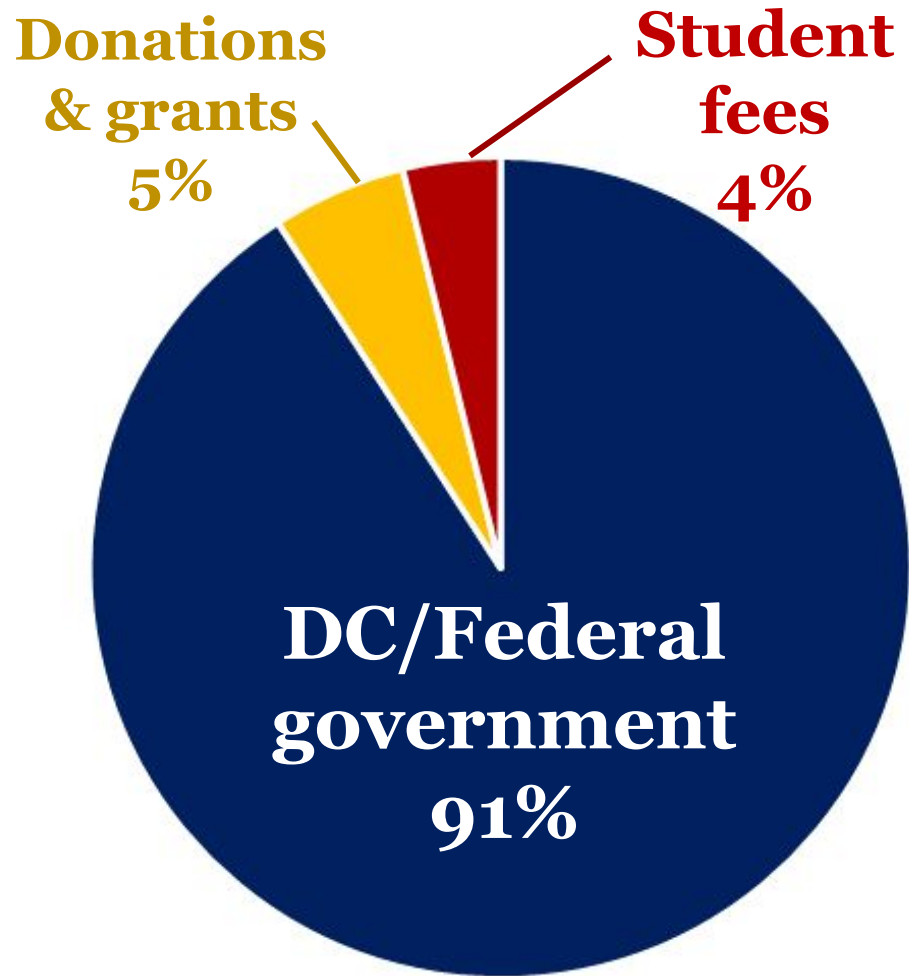
- ***SMALL*** - Commitment to small classes and maintaining a low teacher/student ratio.
- ***STUDENT-FOCUSED*** - We prioritize funding student-facing faculty over administrators (and our admins teach!)
  - 68% on teachers
  - 12% on support personnel (deans, counselors, aides, etc.)
  - 20% on administrative faculty
- ***SUPPORT*** - Latin has invested in academic interventionists, student support, and mental health faculty to foster all students' growth.

# Operational Revenue & Spending



2023-24 Revenues

2023-24 Expenses



## *Expansion - Adding the Cooper Campus*



### **Our Approach**

- Grow slowly - we opened with just two grades.
- Build on existing academic program, while offering campus autonomy.
- Leverage administrative team and shared resources (finance, communications, athletics).

### **Our Challenges**

- Our model is expensive.
- Lower enrollment means we have an operational funding gap.
- DC Charter schools must pay for facilities.