



Cutting the Ribbon for Horizon's New Remodeled School!



Thanks to the grant from CG Schmidt and especially Rick and Eric Schmidt, Sarah Dunn, Ben Delzer and Boyd Sansone—and their construction partners—we have a vastly improved school! Director Traci Goll cuts the ribbon May 20.

Horizon's Journey Through 2021:

By John Fournelle, HHS Board President

Dear Friends:

We began to reopen slowly to in-person school this past spring; actually "hybrid", some sessions with students meeting with staff in-person, and other sessions via computer or cell phone.

The biggest change, however, was the completion of about a year of remodeling of the space down the street, below the old Taco Bell on University (delays due to COVID). We "cut the ribbon" on May 20. *We cannot thank CG Schmidt and their partners enough for their tireless efforts and generosity in overseeing the remodeling work on the two suites, merging them into one beautiful functional educational space.*

We have two other significant changes to report. After years of discussion, we moved forward with the hiring of an office manager, Suzanne Sweetnam. This step will allow us to improve our operations, particularly record keeping, important for grant applications. Additionally, we have just been able to hire an additional part-time counselor to bolster the support for our students. With between 15-20 students, our counseling efforts have been stressed thin, and the reality is that students' crises don't stop at 3 pm and only happen Monday-Friday. So having another counselor is a critical addition – and we could only do it with a grant from CUNA Foundation. Thank you CUNA!

We are planning to showcase the new school at an Open House September 29. We fully appreciate the seriousness of COVID and of the guidelines from our public health officials, and are currently planning on a carefully planned in-person open house to be augmented with an online version, for those who wish to check out the new school virtually. See details on page 2.

Finally, I would like to ask you to be as generous as you can, and make a contribution to Horizon. We need to raise \$57,000 by December 31 to cover this year's expenses.

Best wishes,

Update From Director Traci Goll

We moved into our new school at the end of May—just before we graduated 9 of our students. So starting off summer school in this new space was incredible! We cannot thank CG Schmidt enough for creating our new school!

We spent the first part of summer moving the boxes that sat for over a year due to the pandemic! We organized and created a beautiful space for our students and staff to learn and work in! Each week something new would be added -- we got a stove, so now we can cook and bake! We got internet! We got a washer and a dryer! Thanks to the EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools) grant Horizon was able to get new desks for all the students and staff -- and a smart board! And every student will have a Chromebook to utilize while at Horizon!

Summer school was a busy 8 week session. Students met Monday – Tuesday from 9–12 and Wednesday from 10-1. The focus this summer was on strengthening of basic skills, getting comfortable with being back in an in-person school environment, working on mental health and using coping skills in society.

On Monday and Tuesday, we worked on journaling skills and both reading and writing short stories. We also had the opportunity to take the time to do daily check-ins for both physical and mental wellness. Some of the topics worked on were anxiety, depression and what coping skills can be tried to move the bar towards wellness. We also started to cook in our new space and enjoyed lunching together with food that the students picked and often shopped for. Wednesdays were spent out and about working on physical activities and life skills. The students went biking, swimming, hiking and boating out in the community. At school they worked with our art therapist and made some cool tie dye t-shirts.

Kim and I also work with the students in CCS (Comprehensive Community Services-Dane County Human Resources) throughout the summer and continue to do so. We work on the student's independent life skills and support their individual needs. Each student has a recovery plan and goals that we support. We support students in CCS by helping them get jobs, transportation, housing, food, getting them to and from doctor appointments, set up bank accounts, helped with child care and emotional/social support.

The entire staff also participated the ARS (Annual Recovery School) Conference and the SOS, Sources of Strength Conference. Both conferences provided ideas, plans and resources we can implement into our program.

Horizon has now partnered with Second Harvest food bank and we will have a food bank at school! We will be able to directly provide food to our students, their families and former students with food needs.

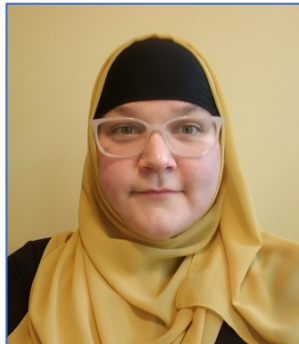
In May we hired an office manager, and this month hired a new part time counselor thanks to a generous grant from CUNA. We also hired a part time Special Educational Assistant to help support the individual needs of our students.

We are looking forward to the new year in our new space with renewed energy! Thank you all for your fantastic support!

--Traci, Bob, Kim, Darby, Erin, Suzanne, Dave & Dustin

**Introducing Suzanne Sweetnam,
Horizon's New Office Manager**

I was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin and attended West High School. I have a wide range of work experiences including as an office worker, Peer Specialist, Substance Abuse Counselor – In Training (SAC-IT), as well as work in caregiving and support roles.



I am fluent in Spanish and have training in trauma-informed care, and I am currently enrolled at UW-Madison pursuing my bachelor's degree in Social Welfare with a plan to go on for a Master's degree in Social Work. I am in recovery myself and am dedicated to acting as a role model and support person in the recovery process for other people, especially youth in south central Wisconsin.

**Introducing Dustin Lyons, Horizon's
New Special Education Assistant**

I graduated from the University of Florida in 2009 with a BSBA. I am currently enrolled at MATC in the Human Services Program. I have a SAC-IT and am currently working to become a CSAC



(Certified Substance Abuse Counselor). I am also a Certified Recovery Coach. I have been in recovery myself since 2/3/2017. Helping others is a huge part of my recovery, along with daily exercise/meditation, and having a healthy, positive support network. I can't express how excited I am to work at a Recovery High School.

Thumbnail views of the new Horizon High School



From top left, clockwise: the main classroom, an adjacent lounge area, the library, and the kitchen.

**Introducing Dave Krych,
Horizon's New Counselor**

My name is Dave Krych and I have been working as a counselor in the Madison area since 1992. My initial work in counseling was in group homes, but I have spent the last almost 10 years working as an AODA counselor, primarily at



NewStart and then Tellurian. I am in recovery and I am very passionate about working with young people who are trying to cope with their own struggles, including the impact of their drug/alcohol use. Being a human is hard and I believe we all can use some help, no matter who, no matter the age and no matter the issues. I look forward to working with the Horizon community and getting to know you all!

**Horizon Open House
Wednesday September 29 5 - 7 pm
@ 659 N. Whitney Way (below old Taco Bell)
Both In-Person and Virtually!**

Given the ongoing and changing public health situation, we are planning to provide a virtual option – with details provided on Horizon's web page by Sept 22. For those who feel comfortable attending (we assume you are vaccinated), we request that you wear masks and socially distance. We will organize small groups to enter and have guided tours from a staff member.

PLEASE RSVP* -- AND CHECK THE HORIZON WEB PAGE FOR ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES.

* RSVP to suzannesweetnam@horizonhs.org

Horizon High School is one of over 44 currently operating recovery high schools in the US and is the only recovery school in Wisconsin.

Horizon High School of Madison, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible. Our EIN: 20-1240272

P.O. Box 45045, Madison, Wisconsin 53744 • 608-442-0935 • www.horizonhs.org

I would like to support Horizon High School:

_\$10,000 _\$5000 _\$2500 _\$1000 _\$500 _\$250 _\$100 __other

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