



LAMPLIGHTER

10 | Stay-at-Homecoming

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Hiram Hershey

DOCK Mennonite Academy
WINTER 2021



Challenges inspire **CREATIVITY**

Dock Theater's "distanced" drama charted new territory

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ON THE COVER: Junior **Isabel Bergin** performs during a scene from "Little Women," the play based on Louisa May Alcott's iconic book. Turn to page 2 to read more about the ingenuity behind Dock Theater's live virtual production of their fall drama.

Right: The view from the cockpit is pretty amazing for Dock senior **Nathan Smeland**, who recently received his glider pilot's certification. Read more on page 7. *Photo by Martin Wiens.*



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Grades Nine to Twelve

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Character Revealed

You cannot always change what is happening around you, but you can determine your response. This is a basic principle of personal development and it is true for a school as well.

Dock is navigating a situation for which no teacher or school leader prepared. No student or parent saw this coming. Since March 13, 2020, when all Pennsylvania schools moved to remote learning, we have traversed a road no one has traveled. Dock, as well as each family, has needed to make many difficult decisions. Amid this pandemic, our country has experienced an increased focus on racial equity and injustice as well as a polarizing political climate.

We could not choose to avoid the pandemic, social unrest related to racial injustice, or the political polarization. As with many challenging situations, we could only decide how we were going to respond to these external influences.

In times of challenge, one's true character emerges and becomes more visible. In these recent months, every school's character and resilience is being noticed. A school's character is only as strong as the community of teachers, students and families of which it is comprised.

I have been impressed by and grateful for our school community! I have noticed an amazing resilience in our Dock family. Even as we have navigated tough situations, we have been attentive to the opportunities that always arise out of the most difficult challenges. These times offer the opportunity to strengthen our community and to re-evaluate how we teach, assess progress, and engage students in learning. We are making adjustments this year and look forward to sustained changes that will inspire our students for years to come.



Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber, Superintendent

I want to share some evidence of our resilient school community:

- Students are delighted to be back on campus! Social interactions have strengthened our emotional health.
- Our few remote students have quickly adjusted to a virtual reality, making the best of these weeks. Families have appreciated the fluidity of two learning options.
- Our faith foundation is compelling this year. It offers hope in God who is in control and invites us to the work of reconciliation.
- We began working this year with Dr. Amanda Kemp, consultant and author, on issues of racial equity and implicit bias.
- We have encouraged critical thinking and respect for every person in response to the extreme polarization our country is experiencing.
- We continued our plan to transition to MAP growth testing for K-Grade 6, a new protocol that will help us better assess how our students are doing in math, reading, language, and science, and how we can best inspire their learning.
- While we are grateful to only have been minimally impacted by positive COVID-19 cases, our teachers did an amazing job as a few needed to navigate remote learning for short periods of time.
- Our families were equally as amazing and patient as they adjusted to changes and disruptions to their lives.
- We surveyed school families and have been pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response regarding the way Dock has navigated the year.
- We safely hosted an outside event for our 7th and 8th graders to share their projects as we re-created "Expo Night."
- Music and drama teachers are finding creative ways to encourage students to keep acting, singing, and playing instruments, albeit with different approaches. Athletic coaches continue working with our sports teams.
- Our teachers love and care deeply about our students. These relationships are even more critical to the development of our students as they face a reality that can feel unstable.

Dock's resilient character is being revealed this year. **In response** to the external influences around us, we continue to identify areas of growth and strategic initiatives. We **choose** to build on a strong foundation of teachers, students, staff, parents, and a community that provides a stable environment of hope and growth.



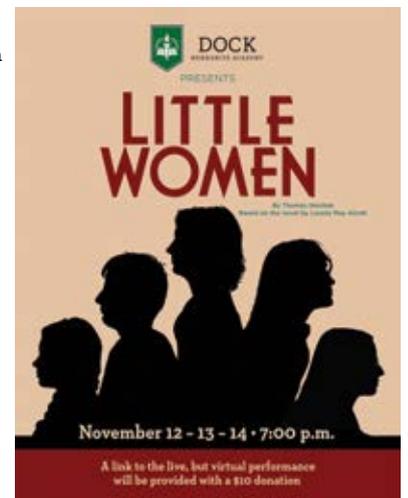
Little Women BIG Production

Dock's fall drama was the first of its kind:
A live, but virtual performance.



Dock decided to flip its fall musical and spring drama this year, in the hopes that a musical could be staged in the spring, when COVID-19 is a bit more under control. That decision also meant that Dock Theater would have to perform a fall drama in a way that had never been done before—as a live virtual performance.

The drama was “Little Women,” a play based on the iconic story by Louisa May Alcott, and our cast and crew were up to the challenge.



What does a “live virtual” performance mean? It means that the cast of 14 students were spread around the school, each of them in front of a green screen with their own microphone, camera, and lights. Some of the actors also had a stage manager close by to help with props and costume changes. A formidable tech team ensured the actors appeared on screen when they were supposed to, with the proper set pieces behind them, and a few pre-recorded elements incorporated at the right time.

It was truly an amazing and unprecedented way to present a drama like this, and worthy of a curtain call for the entire Dock Theater team.



Visit the Theater page at dock.org for cast and performance photos and a link to watch the performance.







STUDENTS ORGANIZE FOOD DRIVE

Earlier this Fall, Dock middle school student focus groups discussed the idea of “Thinking Globally and Acting Locally.” One particular group of students chose the topic of *Homelessness and Hunger* and decided to run a food drive and collect food items for our local community. Their project came full circle in mid-December as the students—**Sophia Veltre**, **Gretchen German**, **Kaitlyn Good**, **Madison Ruby**, and **Sam Wong**—dropped off six HUGE cartons of canned goods and other food items to Keystone Opportunity Center’s food pantry in Souderton, PA. We’re proud of our students for being #dockstrong!



WORD DETECTIVES

Mrs. Kelly Kratz’s first grade class did not let remote learning stop them from celebrating all of their hard work becoming word detectives for the Super Secret Detective Agency. These students received 17 missions to help them build their reading skills and become official word detectives. They also received case files to learn about tricky spelling patterns and solved the Case of the Silent E, the Case of the Letter Twins, the Case of the Words in Disguise, and many more mysteries. Congratulations to these super-smart sleuths!





SUBSTITUTE STUDENTS?

When Dock went back to remote learning temporarily toward the end of November, Dock teachers found creative ways to connect with their students virtually. Teachers were observed clapping, singing, jumping, and engaging their students. Middle School math teacher **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker** (left) even encouraged her students' to bring in stuffed animals and other toys that capture their personality; each student placed their animal at their desk as a way to remind Mrs. Wanamaker of them!



A COMMUNITY "SCHOOL-RAISING"

This fall, fourth grade students in Bible class studied a unit titled, "Community is the Center of our Life." After studying Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, they invited visitors in to help them understand different aspects of community. A highlight each year is having Director of Advancement **Mr. Robert Rutt** share true stories about how the Dock community pulled together to build our school, similar to the barn-raising tradition of the Amish.



RACE FOR EDUCATION GOES ON

Our annual Race For Education looked a little different this year, with classes spaced out over a week rather than one day, and students racing without friends or family to accompany them. In spite of our COVID-19 modifications, the 2020 RFE was a huge success, and we are grateful to all of our students, parents, friends and family members who supported us in so many ways!



DID YOU SEE THE CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT?

Did you miss this year's combined Christmas Benefit Concert featuring Early Childhood to Grade 12? Our elves recorded it for you, and you can watch it on our Dock Mennonite Academy YouTube channel!



EC to Grade 8 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



GRATITUDE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

The EC-Grade 8 Campus experienced several recent faculty and staff retirements:

- After 25 years in various teaching roles, **Mrs. Bev Guengerich** (above) retired from teaching and is looking forward to spending time with her family.
- **Mrs. Shelley Berg** (left) retired from teaching after 20 years of serving as our music director. Shelley is looking forward to spending time with her new grandchild born in November.
- **Mr. Gary Detweiler** (right) retired after seven years as head of our maintenance staff.

We are grateful to these dedicated servants for their years of service and all the gifts and talents they have shared with our students!



NEW FACULTY FOR 2020-21

Dock welcomed these new faculty for the 2020-21 school year (pictured l to r):

- Mr. Steven Hunsberger** - Grades 9-12 Business
- Mrs. Sandy Curry** - Grade 1
- Miss Jenna Landis** - Grade 3
- Miss Sarah Rittenhouse** - Early Childhood



READING WITH MILO

Third grade students in **Mrs. Amy Rodriguez's** class earned a "Read with Milo" Day together. Milo happens to be Mrs. Rodriguez's adorable pup, who just loves coming to class! In addition to reading with Milo, each student also adopted his/her very own furry friend to take home so that they can read even more to these "low maintenance" pets! Thanks to Milo and Mrs. Rodriguez for encouraging students to read!



DOCK WOODS GARDEN AS CLASSROOM

Students in **Miss Valerie Metzler's** *Agricultural Connections* science elective class spent some time in the Dock Woods gardens, helping residents pull out corn to prepare the gardens for the fall and winter. The corn stalks were shredded and turned under the soil to increase the organic matter and nutrient content of the soil. The class also had their own plot in the garden, where they grew broccoli, lettuce, carrots, peas, and beets! We were excited to see the return of produce we received from the garden, and were grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Dock Woods Garden.



DOCK SENIOR SOARS!

Congratulations to Dock senior **Nathan Smeland**, who earned his Private Glider Pilot certification on September 1, 2020. He took his father, **Jason**, for a ride as his first passenger, but also had Grades 9-12 Principal **Mr. Martin Wiens** up for a spin. Congratulations Nathan! (See photo inside front cover).



STUDENT CHEFS STAR IN DOCK COOKS 2020

The Kitchen (Dock's Family and Consumer Sciences Lab) was less crowded this year, but the entries in Dock Cooks 2020: Muffins and Scones were as yummy as ever. Congratulations to senior **Isabella Benner**, whose Pumpkin Cheesecake Crumb Muffins were awarded the blue ribbon! All of our 2020 contestants made it difficult for the judges, including 2nd place finishers **Haley Harper** and **Abigail Neiderer**, and 3rd place ribbon winners **Clara Benner** and **Conor Matje**. Thanks also to our hard-working (and well-compensated) judges—faculty members **Mrs. Kellena Smith** and **Miss Valerie Metzler**, and Director of Admissions **Mr. Doug Hackman**.

AP Bio Students Impress Panel of Medical Professionals

Students in **Mrs. Jane Mast's AP Biology** course completed an extraordinarily timely project as part of their summer academic work to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Each of her 19 students researched, prepared and recorded a presentation on a pandemic caused by the pathogen of their choice, including origin, statistics about the disease or virus and how it spreads, how it affects humans, and a plan for treatment and/or eradication. The presentations were then viewed by an authentic audience—a panel of medical experts who evaluated the presentations and provided feedback to students. Presentations ranged from Covid-19 to Ebola to Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease, and others.

“The students did a great job,” said Mrs. Mast. “This was great exposure for our students to the larger medical community. I even had one expert say they’d love to hire the two speakers they listened to.”

Each medical expert listened to 3-4 presentations and provided detailed feedback, including some of these excerpts:

“I really enjoyed this presentation. It was clear and quite thorough, specifically her in-depth description of the immunopathogenesis. She did a wonderful job highlighting the unique

aspect of granuloma formation in atypical mycobacterial infection because of poor antibody control, which she discusses around minute 12.”

“This young woman followed the instructions for the presentation flawlessly, and addressed every aspect of the Varicella virus with a variety of well-sourced information. She elaborated on each of the components of the presentation—from the origin and discovery of the virus, to the treatment, economic impact and two case studies. Overall, a strong presentation, with good scientific sources, visuals and an academic tone to her work. Well done!”

“I liked that your plan included having the WHO provide more vaccinations to countries that still have higher incidences of diphtheria, such as in Africa. I wonder what the cost of this would be? What other steps would need to be taken in addition to providing more vaccinations (distribution, education, etc.)?”

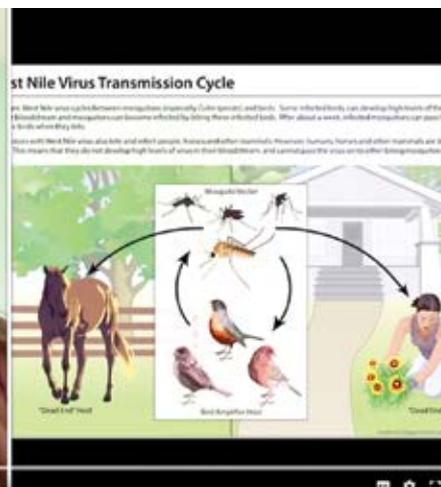
“You did a nice job giving the audience information about the transmission, symptoms, and global incidence. I liked that you provided maps about the change in global incidence over time.”

“This was excellent exposure for our students to the larger medical community. I even had one expert say they’d love to hire the two speakers they listened to.”

— AP Biology teacher
Mrs. Jane Mast



Mirabel Fizzano - West Nile Virus



Laura Frederick - Ebola

The Panel

Medical Professionals Reviewing *AP Biology* Student Presentations:



Morgan Pollock, RN, labor and delivery nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown and a certified childbirth educator.



Dr. Matthew Basiaga, pediatric rheumatologist and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine.



Cathryn Gunther, Vice President of Global Population Health at Merck & Co.



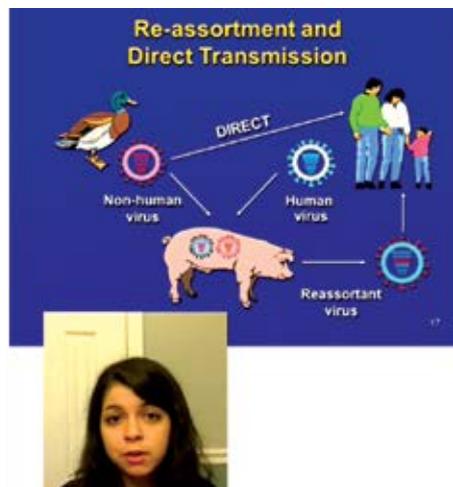
Kate Mancini, RN, chemotherapy certified inpatient oncology nurse at Abington Hospital and Einstein Medical Center. She is also care manager for Aetna Insurance, providing telephonic support to oncology patients and their families.



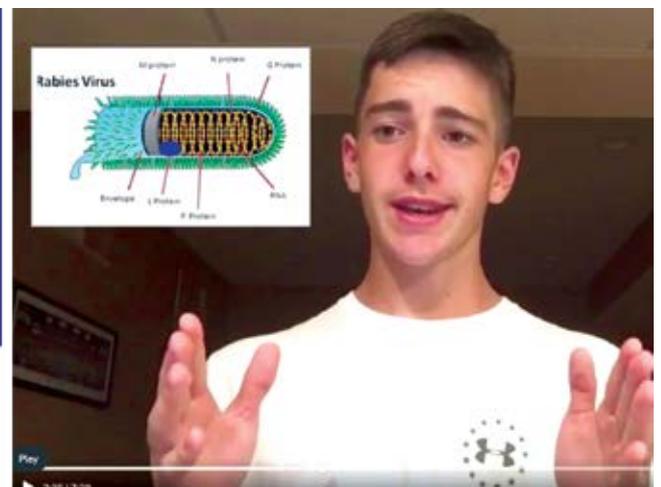
Sarah Stoeckle, PA-C, Physician Assistant practicing emergency medicine at Abington Hospital's Emergency Trauma Center for the past 10 years.



Dr. Johnathan Stoeckle, practicing family physician and Associate Director of Population Health for Lehigh Valley Health Network.



Savannah Youssef - Influenza



Aidan Sweeney - Rabies

Stay-at-Homecoming

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade.
When life gives you a pandemic, you create a Stay-at-Homecoming!

Homecoming 2020 was a virtual event for Dock this year—a Stay-at-Homecoming, if you will, highlighted by our second Alumni Challenge, Zoom workshops for kids, a sidewalk chalk contest, and a virtual coffeehouse that was a showcase for current students from both campuses as well as accomplished alumni musicians and singers.

In the Alumni Challenge that ran all day Friday, Dock achieved its goal of 100 new donors, which meant that a quartet of teachers—Middle School teacher **Mr. Nathaniel Freed**, and High School teachers **Mr. Zach Bower** (right), **Mr. Caleb Benner**, and **Mrs. Darla Bergey**—all took a chilly plunge into Groff Pond.

Other Stay-at-Homecoming highlights included students creating magical designs on their sidewalk or driveway as part of the Sidewalk Chalk creativity contest; a Zoom workshop on how to build a terrarium hosted by Dock junior **Madelyn Lewis**; Senior **Isabella Benner**'s virtual culinary workshop in which participants baked pumpkin chocolate chip pudding cookies; and a ZOOM workshop led by junior **Laurel Latt** demonstrating how to make your own lava lamp.

Winners of the Sidewalk Chalk Contest:

- Best Fall Theme - **Jessica LoRusso** (2nd Grade)
- Most Creative - **Averie Ryan** (2nd Grade)
- Most Colorful - **Macy Youssef** and **Zoey Fisher** (7th Grade)

The Virtual Coffeehouse was a perfect way to spend a cozy Saturday evening at home and featured a wide variety of performances by current students and ensembles from both campuses, as well as Dock alumni scattered across the country. Participants demonstrated both musical skill and creativity in their recordings. We are grateful to Dock Director of Technology **Mr. Darwin Zehr** and especially to Assistant Director of Technology **Mr. Jason Sprunger** for their roles in assembling the videos for the Coffeehouse and getting the production livestreamed.



Visit Dock online at dock.org/alumni to see more photos and a recording of the Virtual Coffeehouse.



Alumni *of the* Year 2020

Our 2020 Alumni of the Year bear witness to the first line of the school's mission statement: "Dock inspires and equips each student to serve."

Outstanding Achievement Award



Beverly Lapp—Class of 1987

Beverly is Vice President and Academic Dean of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, IN. She works with a dynamic team of faculty to deliver graduate programs, including the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees in theology, peace studies, Christian formation, and global Anabaptism. She recently developed a partnership with Meserete Kristos College to enable pastors and church leaders in Ethiopia to earn a master's degree in theology through AMBS.

Beverly was previously on the music faculty at Goshen College from 1995-2018, where she taught piano and chaired the Music Department. She received her master's and doctoral degrees from Westminster Choir College of Rider University and Teachers College of Columbia University. With her spouse Dale Klassen and their two young adult daughters, she enjoys frequent trips to the Lansdale area to visit family.

Outstanding Achievement Award



John L. Frankenfield—Class of 1964

John is a former owner and employee benefits advisor at Franconia Insurance & Financial Services. Prior to entering the insurance business, John worked as Director of Alumni Relations and Community Relations at Goshen College and as Director of Development at Penn View Christian School. He is an active member of Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, and currently chairs the Board of Directors at Peter Becker Community and serves on the Committee of Trustees for Dock Mennonite Academy.

John was married for 52 years to Jane (Gross) Frankenfield ('64), who passed away in November 2019. They have two daughters, Meghan Frankenfield Schrag ('91) and Sarah Frankenfield Price ('91), and three granddaughters, Greta ('20), Libbie ('21) & Eden ('24).

Distinguished Service Award



Laura Gaugler Lazić—Class of 2004

Laura spent her Dock Senior Experience doing a week of service in Honduras with the MAMA Project, and the desire to serve others has only grown stronger since then. Recently, Laura served as the Healthy Niños Honduras team leader for several groups, including one from her former church. Laura has since relocated to Pittsburgh and plans to continue leading groups to Honduras with Healthy Niños. Laura is a registered nurse at St. Clair Hospital and Mon General Hospital. Her trips to Honduras with Healthy Niños helped shape her decision to return to school to pursue master's level medical courses.

Distinguished Service Award



Dustin Leatherman—Class of 2002
Dustin is the Director of Eagles Wings Disc Golf ministries, a division of Push the Rock. He coordinates national and international tournaments, recruits staff and leads fundraising. He also started children's and family programs to teach the game of disc golf, and has built courses in Zambia and Costa Rica.

Before joining Push the Rock in 2008, Dustin gained invaluable sports management experience as an intern with the Philadelphia Phillies, and in full-time positions with the Philadelphia Flyers and Philadelphia Phantoms. Dustin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sports and exercise at Messiah College, and a Master of Arts in missional theology from Missio Seminary (formerly Biblical Theological Seminary).

Young Alumni of the Year



Maura Hanlon—Class of 2007
Maura serves as a Forensic Psychologist at Norristown State Hospital, writing assessments for the courts and serving as an expert witness. In a part-time capacity, she works as a certified school psychologist in private practice doing educational assessments.

Maura completed her undergraduate degree at American University in Washington, DC, a Master's in Business Administration with a focus on Healthcare Management at Widener University, and a Doctorate of Psychology at Widener University. Maura coaches intramural and travel basketball and serves as a leader in the children's ministry at LCBC-Branch Creek in Harleysville.

Young Alumni of the Year



Benjamin Bergey—Class of 2007
Benjamin serves as assistant professor of music at Eastern Mennonite University, where he directs the choirs and orchestra and teaches courses in music theory and conducting. He also conducts the Rapidan Orchestra, a community orchestra in Central Virginia. He completed his undergraduate degree at Eastern Mennonite University and his doctorate and masters degrees in Orchestral Conducting at James Madison University. Benjamin serves as Music Editor for *Voices Together*, the new hymnal for Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. He is also Director of Music at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church.

Because much of our 2020 Homecoming was celebrated virtually this year, our 2020 Alumni of the Year will be honored on campus in Fall 2021.

Do you know someone who deserves to be Alum of the Year?

Submit their name at dock.org/alumni.



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**MT WASHINGTON
SUMMIT**
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What Kind of Women?

Strong, smart, talented, compassionate.
These amazing female students and alumni embody the Dock spirit.

Liz (Derstine) Anjos ('03)

Mercury rising

To say that Liz Anjos is goal-driven is a dramatic piece of understatement. After running cross country at Dock and in college, Anjos has been avid road runner, competing in half and full marathons, and finishing fourth in her first 100k in December 2019.

She has enjoyed hiking on the Appalachian Trail (AT) since she was a child, but it wasn't until 2015—when Scott Jurek covered the trail's 2,189 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine, in just 46 days, averaging 50 miles per day and setting the AT speed record—that Anjos began thinking about a record of her own. She wanted to become the fastest woman to thru-hike the AT.

A Belgian dentist, Karel Sabbe, had since smashed the men's record with a time of 41 days, 7 hours, 39 minutes; the female record-holder was Jennifer Pharr Davis, who hiked the trail in 2011 in 46 days, 11 hours, and 20 minutes. Anjos was shooting for a time somewhere between those two.

Training began with multi-day hikes near her home in Portland, OR, but ramped up in July 2019 when she attended the Appalachian Trail Institute in Tennessee, a five-day workshop preparing hikers for the mental and physical rigors, as well as the logistics, of hiking the trail. The ATI was run by Warren Doyle, who has hiked the AT more times (18) than anyone and at one time held the speed record himself. In November 2019, Anjos made a 200-mile supported hike on the trail; soon after, she committed to attempt the speed record in the summer of 2020. Doyle agreed to support her.

Anjos had given herself the trail name Mercury, inspired by her

classical music background and Gustav Holst's orchestral piece, *The Planets*. Mercury is the smallest and fastest planet in the solar system, named after the fleet-footed messenger of the Roman gods, and Anjos' strategy for setting the AT record included getting out to a fast start.

On July 7, 2020, after downing a McDonald's Big Mac, she set out at midnight from Springer Mountain. When she finally called it quits at 9:14 p.m., she had been on the trail for over 21 hours and had covered an astounding 69 miles.

For the next 50 days, Anjos would routinely put in 15- to 20-hour days running and hiking, in almost every conceivable kind of weather, and many of her miles coming in the dark, with only a headlamp to light the way.

"I prayed probably more than I have ever prayed in a period of 51 days," she said. "Each day was so hard. The themes of faith, belief, and trust were always present. There were so many times I repeated the words of gospel songs my dad (former Touring Choir Director Mr. Rodney Derstine) taught in choir. *Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.*"

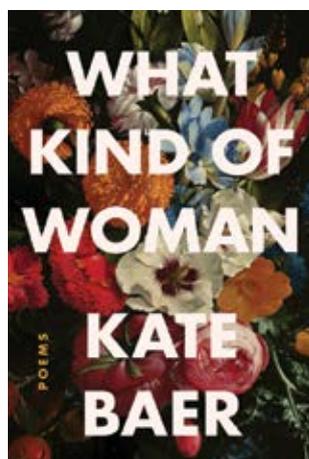
Just a few days into the hike, Anjos began to suffer shin splints, which would not go away completely until she hit New Jersey. She was also slowed by an infected big toe, which, by the time she finished, was the size of a golf ball. About 18 days in, the reality that the women's record was out of reach began to sink in. It was the physical and psychological low point of the hike, and she briefly contemplated packing it in. But she and Doyle adjusted her goals and mapped out a new strategy, and with less shin splint pain, she began to churn through the miles again.

"I can't presume to know whether I was meant to be out there on the trail, but every day I persisted, and every day the trail continued to open itself up to me," she said. "I hiked through more thunderstorms than I can count, climbed over and around hundreds of blown down trees following Hurricane Isaias; I had scary bear encounters, I got lost, I had injuries. But I was able to walk, so I kept walking."

On August 25, she celebrated her 35th birthday with her longest day on the trail yet, hiking from 2 a.m. to 11:50 p.m., covering nearly 45 miles. That left 70 miles for her last two days, and Anjos touched the sign at the top of Mount Katahdin—the northern terminus of the trail—around 4:30 p.m. on August 27. Her finishing time: 51 days, 16 hours and 30 minutes. Not enough for the women's record, but it was the fastest known time for a north-bound transit of the trail. Her celebration that night was pretty low-key: another McDonald's meal, this time a double quarter-pounder.



photo credit: Austin Baer



Kate (Baker) Baer ('03)

Teachers change lives

Kate Baer is having the kind of career moment that most writers only dream about: Her first collection of poems, entitled *What Kind of Woman*, was recently published by Harper Collins and almost instantly appeared on the New York Times print paperback bestseller list. Previously, she authored blog posts that went viral on Facebook and the Huffington Post, and she is increasingly in demand as a podcast guest.

She gives much of the credit to the teachers who have inspired and motivated and encouraged her along the way, from her 2nd grade teacher, who looked her in the eye and told her she was going to be a writer some day, to her teachers at Dock and professors at Eastern Mennonite University ('07). In fact, on the Acknowledgments page of *What Kind of Woman*, Kate wrote:

"This book is dedicated to the teachers and professors who encouraged me from elementary school through my twenties to keep writing. The encouragement you give students to take risks and keep going is such important work."

During a recent episode of a podcast, Kate said more about how

Anjos is still processing her experiences on the trail, but she did have at least one significant takeaway.

"One big epiphany I had out there was that I don't need to accomplish great feats to be worthy of love," she said. "I felt like such a failure, at first, when it became clear I wouldn't reach my initial goals in Virginia. I felt like I would be letting everyone down, and I was tying my self-worth into my achievements. It's a pretty dark way of thinking, and it simply isn't true. Through all of this, I had family and friends share similar sentiments, that they felt a sense of pride for what I was doing and admired my bravery, but what they cared about most was my well-being."

Learn more about Liz Anjos' amazing AT thru-hike attempt at dock.org/alumni, including excerpts from her trail log, links to press coverage, photos, details about what she ate along the way, and some high school Cross Country memories.

The New York Times Best Sellers Print Paperback

November 29, 2020

THIS WEEK	Paperback Trade Fiction	WEEKS ON LIST	THIS WEEK
1	WHAT KIND OF WOMAN , by Kate Baer. (Harper Perennial) Poems on subjects such as freedom, the birth of a son and grandmother's cake.	1	1
2	THEN SHE WAS GONE , by Lisa Jewell. (Atria) Ten years after her daughter disappears, a woman tries to get her life in order but remains haunted by unanswered questions.	70	2
3	THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT , by Walter Tevis. (Vintage) Sixteen-year-old Beth Harmon goes through changes as she plays chess in the U.S. Open championship. The basis of the Netflix series.	1	3
4	THE INSTITUTE , by Stephen King. (Gallery) Children with special talents are abducted and sequestered in an institution where the sinister staff seeks to extract their gifts through harsh methods.	11	4

her high school experience shaped her.

"My high school English teachers, I think about them all the time. I plan to send each of them a book with a thank you letter," she said. "Maybe I was just lucky, but in my mind I've had such an inflated view of teachers because I've had so many good ones, so many encouraging me and saying, 'Stick with this.' That can change the course of someone's life, and it really has for me. I'll cry right now thinking about it."

Baer credits one of those English teachers, **Mrs. Gretchen McTavish**, with expanding her worldview in terms of literary inspiration. "She pulled me aside and said, 'You need to read Margaret Atwood.' That changed my life. It changed the kind of books that I read, the kind of writing that I did, and I'm forever grateful."

We interviewed Kate in December 2020, not long after her book was published. Read what she had to say, link to her book page on Amazon, and listen to the podcast referenced here, all on Dock's website at dock.org/alumni



Joanna (Benner) Rosenberger ('13)

A calling to compassion

American theologian and writer Frederick Buechner has famously said that “the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” For Joanna (Benner) Rosenberger, that place and calling is to be the most caring and compassionate nurse she can be.

A pediatric nurse at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Rosenberger recently combined her compassion and skill to help a young family navigate a difficult COVID-19 birth.

Terianny Vicente was anticipating the birth of her child in the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown in March when she unexpectedly tested positive for the coronavirus just as her contractions began. Suddenly her labor and delivery plans changed. Instead of her partner, Carlos Medina, accompanying her to the hospital, she was fetched by an ambulance.

“I was scared, and I just didn’t know what to do, honestly,” said Vicente, recalling the tearful scene in her driveway as she bid Medina and his mother goodbye.

She delivered her baby in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center rather than the maternity ward, and right after her son Calvin entered the world at 1 a.m. on March 31, Vicente caught only a quick glimpse before he was taken to the Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit (PIMCU). Doctors told her that because the virus was so new, they weren’t sure what to expect and they wanted to do what was safest for Calvin.

Alone and in pain in the wee hours of the morning, Vicente remembers waking up and crying, knowing that a 14-day quarantine stood between her and the opportunity to hold her newborn son. Later that morning, nurse Jo Rosenberger was back at work after a week off and feeling nervous about the growing pandemic—especially when she was given charge of a 7-hour-old baby whose mom had COVID.

But from the moment she locked eyes with Calvin, she was in love—and determined to meet his every need as if he were her own.

“I could not imagine how his mother must feel, not being with him for the first day of his life,” Rosenberger said.

That’s when she decided to get creative. She enlisted a colleague to help her FaceTime with Vicente. “I told Mom that I was going to do my best to make her feel like she was right there in the room,” Rosenberger said. “I held Calvin and turned him toward the camera so she could stare at him, and I narrated everything I did for him. There were lots of tears shed, for sure.”

Rosenberger was also the first to introduce Calvin to his daddy via FaceTime. “I unswaddled Calvin and showed every little piece of him to his dad,” she said. “I showed him the dimple on his cheek and the little birthmark on his leg. His dad was looking at him so adorably, and I could see how much he loved him.”

Knowing there would be no pictures to document Calvin’s first days of life, Rosenberger, who is also a professional photographer, offered to do a newborn photo shoot. With Vicente watching remotely, Rosenberger photographed the baby with props she brought along, such as a basket and blankets. Everything had to be washed and rewashed, but the effort was worth it, she said.

“I was sweating bullets in my PPE (personal protective equipment) to get the shots I wanted,” Rosenberger recalled. “It was a surreal combination of my two careers and my two passions coming together—and definitely a highlight of both careers and of life in general.”

When he’s older, Vicente said she’ll tell Calvin all about the strange and difficult time in which he was born. “I’ll tell him we were both troopers for going through what we went through,” she said, “and then I’ll tell him there was a very special nurse who made all the difference.”

For her efforts, Rosenberger was honored with a Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses, a national award that recognizes nurses for their clinical skills and the compassion they provide. We are indebted to Penn State Health and Carolyn Kimmel for this story. Read the full text and see more photos at dock.org/alumni



Samantha Osborn ('21)

The need for speed

To say that Samantha and Dylan Osborn were racing before they could walk isn't that much of a stretch. "When my brother and I turned 3 my dad got us a go kart to start practicing in around the yard," says Samantha, now an 18-year-old Dock senior. "We drove that for a couple of years and then he decided it was time to get us into real race cars. So, when we were 5 years old, he bought two quarter midgets; 2008 was our first full race season."

If the thought of a 6-year-old girl racing quarter midget cars around a dirt track makes you queasy, you probably don't want to know that it was actually flipping her race car that made Samantha into the fearless driver she is today.

"I was scared when I started racing. I drove as slow as I could and just had fun driving around the track. I was scared of flipping my car," she said. "Then one day in practice with Dylan, we hit each other and I ended up flipping. That's when I realized it's actually kind of fun, and now in 12 years of racing I've flipped three times. From that day on I have never been scared behind the wheel of any car."

It doesn't hurt her confidence that she's had some success behind those wheels. Her first win came in 2011, at the tender age of 9. The following year she won the quarter midget track championship, and that experience was a slingshot for her racing career.

"The following year I won the Light World Formula Grand National Championship in New Smyrna, FL, one of the fastest classes in

quarter midget racing," she said. "That was probably the best day of my life."

The following season she graduated to asphalt late model stock cars, and last fall she won her first-ever race at Mahoning Valley Speedway.

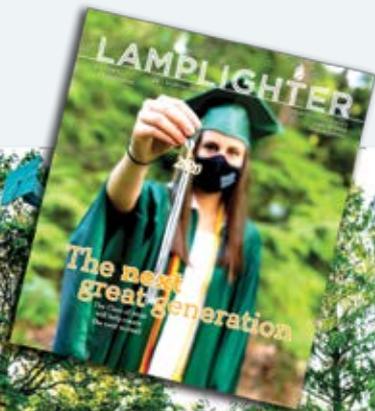
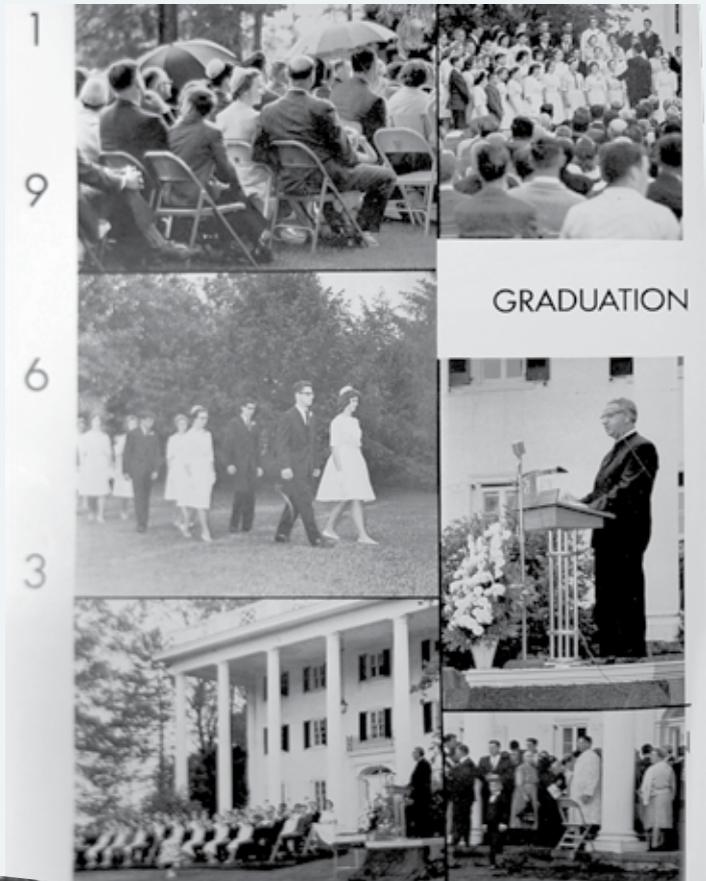
"One of the things I love about racing is the feeling of driving a car as fast as possible around a small track with up to 25 other cars—all trying to be first to the finish line. It is an amazing feeling no one would understand unless they experience it," she said. "When I race, I am so focused and relaxed at the same time; I never experience that anywhere else. I do not think at all while I race—I just leave it all to my reactions."

Speaking of reactions, Osborn gets some interesting ones as the only female in her division. "Many people love to see me be successful because it is not common to see a girl racing," she said. "My age also plays a part in this. No grown man is going to be happy about being beat by a teenager, especially a girl. However, during a race no one cares who you are, they're going to race you as hard as they can. I want to try my best and prove to everyone that young people, and girls, can be just as good, or better, than adults or guys in a sport which is mostly dominated by men."

Read more about Samantha's passion for racing at dock.org/LamplighterExtra. You're going to love the story about the race she won on the best day of her life, what it's like to race against her twin brother, Dylan, and where she'd like to go from here.

CORRECTION

Abram Moyer ('63) correctly called us out on our claim on the inside front cover of the Class of 2020 Special Edition (below) that the Class of 2020 was the first to have an outdoor graduation ceremony since the Class of 1961. It was actually Abe's class, the Class of 1963, that was the last to have Commencement on the lawn of Detweiler House—and we have the page from the 1964 *Schul Andenken* to prove it (right). Thanks to Abe for setting us straight!



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ON THE COVER: Sydney Lesman
and her classmates finished their senior year in a way they will never forget, so the school worked hard to give them a Commencement they would never forget—the first graduation ceremony to be held on the lawn in front of Detweiler House since 1961.



ALUMNI NOTES

1957

Clayton K. Gotwals II, of Cincinnati OH, passed away on March 19, 2020

Grace Elizabeth (Meyers) Anders, 81, of

Souderton, PA passed away on Thursday, October 1, 2020. She was the loving wife of Marvin A. Anders for 60 years. Grace worked for the former Bucks County Bank & Trust Company in Perkasio for four years, and also worked at Alderfer Auction



Company in Hatfield for 18 years. Grace was a member of Salford Mennonite Church.

1960

Francis Larry Kulp, 77, of Martinsburg, PA,

passed away on Friday, December 11. Born in Sellersville, he met his wife, Mary Ann Rice, at Christopher Dock and they recently celebrated their 57th anniversary. Together they operated the Lar-Ann Dairy Farm in Martinsburg for 26 years. In 1999 the farm changed to Kulp Family Dairy LLC, and is currently owned and operated by their son, Phil, and his family.



1963

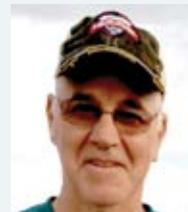
Ruth M. Moyer, 75, of Souderton and formerly of Lansdale, died Saturday, December 12, 2020. Ruth was a member of Souderton Mennonite Church and



previously of Grace Mennonite Church in Lansdale. She worked as a bookkeeper and also was a talented floral designer. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Preston Lowell Moyer, and daughters Jan, Thea and Kipp Glass. Kipp is a 4th grade teacher on Dock's EC-Grade 8 Campus.

1971

Arden Landis passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2020, of pancreatic cancer.



1972

David Metz Beidler, 66, died at home in White River Junction, VT, on Friday, August 28, 2020.

Dave was a Master Plumber, and worked at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH, for more than 35 years. He was married to Doreen Hange in 1975, recently celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. Dave loved spending time with his children, and especially his grandson, Little Wiley. He also loved to help people, and had a heart to serve. He found great joy in supporting many children through Compassion International and Growing Roots, an organization his daughters started 13 years ago to serve children in Haiti. Dave also traveled to Haiti and Puerto Rico to help with construction and plumbing.



SEND US
YOUR
NEWS

If you have a new
Spouse
Baby
Degree
Job/Promotion
Award/Recognition

We'd love to share
your news!

Drop us a line at
alumni@dock.org



2007

Eleanora Grace was born August 8, 2020, to **Patrick** and **Jessica (Hedrick) Miller**. She weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz., and was 21.5 inches long.

2009

Kate (Swartley) and **Mike Little** welcomed their first child, Colson, on Monday, October 26. That's Colson with his grandmom (left), Grades 9-12 Guidance Office Assistant **Mrs. Jan Swartley**. Congratulations to all!

2011

Brooke (McDanel) and **Brett Firely** welcomed their second daughter, Liliana Mae, on May 11. Lily joins her big sister Rosie. The family resides in Sanatoga, PA. Last April, Brooke earned her bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration from Southern New Hampshire University.

2016

Emma Chimera graduated from the University of South Carolina and is now a registered nurse in the emergency department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



2021

Congratulations to **Nathan Smeland**, who earned his Private Glider Pilot certificate on September 1. He took his father, Jason, for a ride as his first passenger (see inside front cover and page 7).



CLASS OF 2015: LOVE IS IN THE AIR

These friends from the Class of 2015 either became engaged or got married recently (l to r):

- **Mattea Ruth**, engaged to **Jordan Alderfer** ('15) and getting married summer 2021
- **Lexi Ludwig Clemmer** married Trey Clemmer on March 16, 2019
- **Brooke Rotelle**, engaged to Woodrow Gwaltney and getting married June 28, 2021
- **Emalene Sylvester** married **D.J. Swartley** ('15) on June 14, 2019
- **Capril Mirarchi** married **Rob Penyak** ('16) on November 14, 2020.

Congratulations to all!



Remembering HIRAM HERSHEY

Dock's first music teacher, and director of the very first Touring Choir, helped establish a high bar for the school's music program.

Hiram was 'my first Mennonite,' introducing me to a group of people with whom I felt instantly at home – Alice Parker, American composer

Dock lost a special part of its musical legacy when Hiram Hershey died on September 13, 2020 at the age of 94. Hiram served as the school's choir director for much of its first decade of existence, and provided leadership for the first Touring Choir in 1955.

Hiram was born on May 27, 1926 to Adele Hostetter Hershey and Hiram Frey Hershey who owned Peerless Orchards in Hamburg, PA. He spent his childhood on their 700-acre fruit farm and was homeschooled until high school. While a student at Eastern Mennonite College, he heard on the radio a recording of Bach's *B Minor Mass*. Enthralled by the rich sounds, Hiram began pursuing music and eventually transferred to the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, prior to his junior year. In 1953 he received a master of music degree. Later he would also study sacred music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

In 1949, while still an undergrad, Hiram began his choral conducting career in the Souderton community. His first

group of teenage singers was called the Voice of Youth, which evolved into a larger adult choir, the Franconia Lancaster Choral Singers. For decades he met with the local group on Tuesday nights and rehearsed in Lancaster on Thursday nights. He conducted Handel's *Messiah* nearly 40 times, and his last performance, in 2005 at the age of 80, was conducted by memory.

He was the first music teacher at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School (now Dock Mennonite Academy) and earlier taught music at Franconia Mennonite Day School. Hiram and wife Mary Jane were faithful members of Salford Mennonite Church, where he assisted in the music program.

For his memorial service, Hiram had requested a gathering for hymn singing and a performance of parts of the *Messiah*. Because of the pandemic that was not possible, but the family hopes to fulfill his wishes sometime in 2021. We recommend you read Hiram's complete obituary online.



Alice Parker

For this beloved composer, Hiram was like family



Hiram was ‘my first Mennonite,’ introducing me to a group of people with whom I felt instantly at home. I loved their focus on simple living, family life, good cooking, and superb singing within and outside of worship. We met in San Diego in 1955 at a Robert Shaw Workshop, and our friendship grew. In 1961 Hiram invited me to be part of the Family Music Week at Laurelville Church Center and for the next

10 years our families forged lasting ties as we lived and sang together there. Beginning with hymns and simple anthems, we progressed to summers studying Haydn’s *Creation*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* and the Bach *St. John Passion*. This culminated in 1970 with the first performance of my opera *Martyrs’ Mirror*, commissioned by Hiram with a libretto by John Ruth, who was pastor to the gathering. It seems impossible, looking back, that we could have learned a newly written work in one week and presented a staging which was deeply moving to all of us taking part.

Hiram kept encouraging me to write, commissioning the cantatas *Christopher Dock* (1966), *Sermon from the Mountain: Martin Luther King* (1968), *Melodious Accord* (1974), and two operas, *Family Reunion*

(1976), and *Singers Glen* (1978). There is no way that I can overstate the importance of Hiram’s influence on my growth as a composer. His constant challenges to me to produce, and then opening up the opportunities to perform the works with his fine singers, were exactly the spark that ignited the outpouring of compositions in the 1970s.

Meanwhile our family friendships deepened, with visits to each other’s homes. The five Pyle children and four Hersheys overlapped in age, and we all have wonderful memories of vacations together. Mary Jane’s wonderful hospitality and Hiram’s continuing generosity put the cap on all the musical activities. We kept in touch over the years, with grateful appreciation on my part for all that the larger Mennonite community has meant to me. Hiram’s loss is like that of a family member—my children all responded to the news with different warm memories. Our loving sympathies go out to his family and all the singers in whose lives he played so vibrant a role.

Alice Parker is an American composer, arranger, conductor, and teacher. Her body of work includes operas, cantatas, choral pieces for chorus and orchestra, and more than 40 hymns—all original compositions. Dock choirs have sung a number of her compositions and arrangements, including *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*, *Come Away to the Skies*, *Take Me to the Water*, *Sometimes I Feel*, and others.

Ralph Alderfer

Hiram was a mentor and encourager

Hiram was my choir director for my freshman, sophomore, and senior years at Dock. He taught us Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, and arrangements by Alice Parker and other great musicians and composers. He led a club where we listened to classical instrumental music. I also remember we learned a few folk songs and humorous pieces to sing at the Kutztown Folk Festival, only to have the school board refuse to let us attend this "worldly event."

He also had me sing two solos in my junior and senior years. When I came near the end of my senior year, I talked to him about going further with music training and he suggested I apply to Eastern Mennonite College.

I started to sing with the Franconia Lancaster Choral Singers after I left teaching. He appointed me Assistant Conductor, and eventually turned the choir over to me in 1995. Hiram encouraged me to continue the tradition of great classical music.

Ralph Alderfer (58) directed choirs at Christopher Dock from 1967 to 1986. Ralph is standing in the back left corner in the photo of Dock's Music Club from the 1958 *Schul Andenken* (below).



Seated—left to right: N. Kittenhouse, J. Landis, Mr. Hershey, Advisor.
Standing: M. Landis, R. Alderfer, C. Swartley, E. Bechtel, A. Dorstine, L. Landis, W. Meyers, P. Clemens.



HIRAM R. HERSHEY

Music, Chorus, Driver Training

B. Music, M. Music, Westminster Choir College





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Dock Mennonite Academy inspires and equips each student to serve with a global perspective by integrating faith, academic excellence and life-enriching opportunities in a Christ-centered community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EC to Grade 8 Calendar

JANUARY 2021

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **No School**
January 25 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
January 29 – Early Childhood & Kindergarten Admissions Open House, 8:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2021

February 9 – Early Childhood & Kindergarten Admissions Open House, 8:45 a.m.
February 15 – Presidents' Day, **No School**
February 25-26 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

MARCH 2021

March 3 – Hoagie Day
March 13 – Early Childhood to Grade 8 Admissions Open House, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.
March 24 – Dock Rocks Giving Day

Grades 9 to 12 Calendar

JANUARY 2021

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **No School**
January 25 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

FEBRUARY 2021

February 12 – Arts Day
February 15 – Presidents' Day, **No School**
February 17 – Pastors' Day
February 25-26 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

MARCH 2021

March 20 – Grades 9-12 Admissions Open House
March 24 – Dock Rocks Giving Day
March 30 – Senior Breakfast, 7:15 a.m.



ARTS DAY



DOCK ROCKS GIVING DAY

ARTS DAY 2021

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Dock is moving forward with a modified virtual Arts Day using the theme, "Can you imagine?" Based on the creativity and ingenuity we have seen from students in projects like the virtual choir and live virtual fall drama, we can imagine we'll see some amazing Arts Day entries!