

THE FRIENDSHIP QUILT

Friends School Mullica Hill

Annual Giving Report 2024-2025
and Notes to Friends



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Photographs in this publication have come from the following sources: Friends School Mullica Hill, Abigaile Brace-Higgins, Adriana Essilfie, Dee Giordano Photography, Schoolhouse Pictures, and personal photos submitted by families with their updates.

Cover

Featured on the cover are FSMH legacy siblings Olivia '26 and Clayton '31. Both their father and aunt are school alumni as well. The opportunity to appear on the cover is a result of a winning bid from the FSMH November 2025 Monthly Auction. Cover photo courtesy of Schoolhouse Pictures.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Friends School Mullica Hill empowers students to achieve their full potential and become responsible global citizens by providing a comprehensive academic program infused with Quaker values in a diverse and inclusive learning community.

LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL AND CLERK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Friends,

All of the magic that happens at Friends School Mullica Hill is in large part because of generous donors like you! Without the support of people committed to all that we do, we could not keep providing the meaningful educational opportunities that our students have the chance to experience. We are grateful for your gifts to help sustain our programs.

We hope this publication is just one way that we can capture our gratitude for your giving while also offering you a glimpse into all of the wonderful things that go on at FSMH every day across all grade levels. In this magazine, we also hope to provide snapshots of what our alumni are up to... they are out in the world, doing their best to have an impact on the lives of others.

As the new leadership at FSMH — the new Head of School and the new Clerk of the Board of Trustees — we are delighted to step forward in these roles and into the future of our school. Coming in together has been a special opportunity; we are inspired, invigorated and empowered to bring forward ideas and plans for Friends School Mullica Hill. It is truly an honor and privilege to be serving the school and to carry on the school's commitment to Quaker education.

Together, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participates in making FSMH so special: our volunteers, donors, alumni, students, families, and faculty/staff who help us keep the magic of FSMH alive and well. We simply could not do it without you!

In Friendship,

Erica Salmon, Head of School

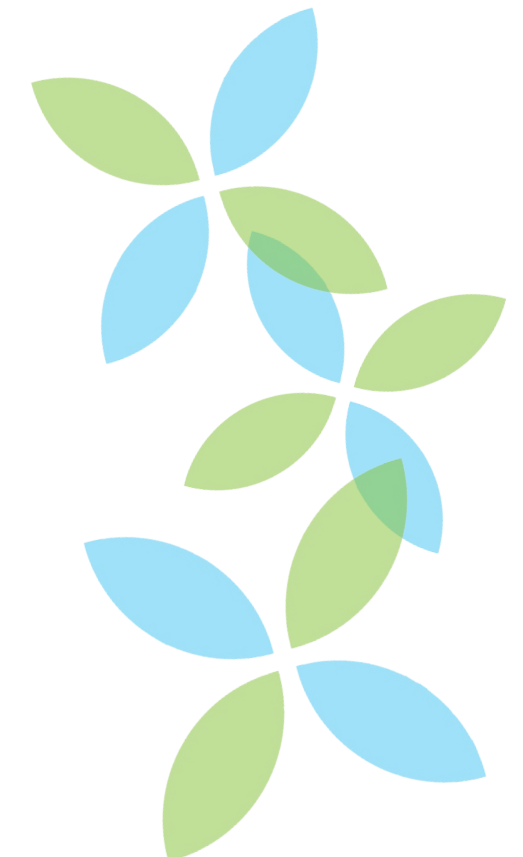
David Calamaro, Clerk, Board of Trustees



Erica Salmon, Head of School and David Calamaro, Clerk of FSMH Board of Trustees



Erica Salmon, Head of School with FSMH Board of Trustee members, (L-R), Alexandra Benas '98, David Calamaro, Steve Waddington, Erica Salmon, Cori McMahon '89, Kathi Stetser and Mike Ayars. Not Pictured: Hanshi Deshbandhu, Jenel Giles, Victoria Kuhn, Curt Lefferts, Melissa McCourt, Jessica Waddington '95.



2024-2024 ANNUAL FUND

(including gifts through July 31, 2025)

1969 Leadership Society

Redwood

Gifts of \$5,000 and above

D'Olier Foundation
Cornelia Schmidt
Anonymous

Salem Oak

Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999

Chris Brown and Vivian Vega
Hanshi Deshbandhu
Brian W. Jones and Joanne Katzen-Jones

Silver Maple

Gifts of \$1,500 to \$2,499

Maurice Mike Ayars
The Cometz Family
Roy Lavine
and Arun Deshbandhu Lavine '76
Ali and Anu Deshbandhu Leemann '73
James G. Waddington
Woodstown Monthly Meeting
Anonymous

Flowering Dogwood

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$1,499

Jeff and Donna Gibson
Paul Ricci and Marlo DiDonna
Salem Monthly Meeting
Salem Quarterly Meeting
Victoria Sanders
Keith Wasserman
and Betsy Riley Wasserman

FSMH Annual Fund Giving Levels

1969 Leadership Society

Redwood	\$5,000 and above
Salem Oak*	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Silver Maple	\$1,500 to \$2,499
Flowering Dogwood	\$1,000 to \$1,499

Friends of Friends

American Holly	\$500 to \$999
Norway Spruce	\$250 to \$499
White Pine	\$125 to \$249
Sapling	to \$124

Falcon Pride

Young Alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years and contributed to Annual Fund

*in honor of the Salem Meeting Oak

Annual Fund giving levels are named for trees found on our campus.



Friends of Friends

American Holly

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Orest and Olga Bezpalko
Mark and Penny Cipolone
Glen and Janice DiMaria
James and Mary George
William and Kathleen Kettleson
Mickleton Monthly Meeting
Walter Pierson
Keith Ragone and Terry Fox-Ragone
Erica Salmon
Alice W. Waddington

Norway Spruce

Gifts of \$250 to \$499

Sydney Burns Brady '06
David Calamaro
Peter and Suzanne Ciancia
Christopher DiFranceisco
and Renee Miraglia
Colleen Farrell '00
Brad Gibson '03 and Sophie Ragone '01
Terence J Gleeson
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz
Jean Minder
John and Paula Montana
Thomas W. Moore and Richard Bost
Isaac Riley Wasserman '15**
Patti Sanderson and Fran Walls
Drew Smith and Rebecca O'Leary
Barbara Thomas
Alexander Zwil and Kyle Stiffler
Anonymous (2)

White Pine

Gifts of \$125 to \$249

Bradley and Erica Adams
Gwen Baraniecki Zwil '08
John Baraniecki Zwil '04
Monica Beller
John and Linda Brown
Audrey Campellone '38
John Carter and Mary O'Connell Carter
Christine Eisenbrey
Andrew F Fussner
Kathryn Knauss
Victoria Kuhn
Wade Mair and Raquel Wright-Mair
Melissa McCourt
James and Mary Jane McFarland
Glenn and Lisa Parker
Jane S. Read
Judy Sanderson
Susan K. Seyl
Monika Shealey
Barry and Dianne Sloane



Starr Snead
Anonymous (2)

Sapling

Gifts to \$124

Christian and Elisabeth Benjaminson
John and Theresa Bond
Kevin Bond '06
Gregory and Barbara Borak
Matthew H. Bradley
and Melinda Wenner Bradley
R. C. Goetter
Jonathan and Lauren Hodges
Ben Laicovsky '38
Mason Levens '21**
Peter and Mary-Ann Manzelmann
Paul and Cori McMahon '89
Joseph Milicia and Cecile Imbert
David Prella and Donna Sarli-Prella
Carlotta Carrington Redden '15**
Garry and Lori Rowe
Bill and Michelle Rueter
Denise Lynn Rutledge

Eileen Salmon
Anthony Santangelo and Robin Perry
Nina Stack and Bob Gould
Cedric and Sharon Stallings
Jared Valdez
Robert and Dollie Wells
Anonymous

**Falcon Pride

To make a gift to support the Annual Fund, please use this QR code



or contact Allison Kostiuk, Director of Philanthropy and Volunteerism at 856-478-2908 x0501, or akostiuk@friendsmh.org

Gifts-in-Kind

We are grateful to the following donors who have provided gifts of items or services.

322 BBQ & Butcher
Valerie Aglioloro
Annie's Cranny
Maurice Mike Ayars
Michelle Bach
The Bambrick Family
Gary and Kathryn Bell
blueplate Restaurant
Sydney Burns Brady '06
Lindsay Butler

Crave Pitman
Robert and Brandi Cromley
D-Signed for You
The DeMarco Family
George De Maris
Richard Friendlich and Karen Capozzi
Jose and Jennifer Garcia
Brad Gibson '03 and Sophie Ragone '01
Jeff and Donna Gibson
Harrison House Diner
John Hasse and Esther Mas
Hideaway Salon Retreat
Hill Creek Farms
David Holmer
Robert and Gloria Horvay

Impact Landscapes, LLC
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz
Kathryn Knauss
Joseph and Meredith LeConey
Lowes Home Improvement Store - Mantua
Marino's of Mullica Hill Restaurant
Paul and Cori McMahon '89
Adam and Piera Meil
Christopher and Colleen Moran
Mullica Hill ShopRite
Naples at the Warehouse Restaurant
Thomas and Dawn O'Chuida
Matthew and Rebecca Ober
Over The Top Party Planning
Charles and Patricia Platt
Glenn and Lisa Parker
Keith Ragone and Terry Fox - Ragone
Rastelli Foods Group
Rosie's Farm Market
Garry and Lori Rowe
William and Lora Rueter
Erica Salmon
Salon 23 Home
Salon Sage
Serendipity XIX
Christopher and Michelle Shay
Michael Simenstad and Jennifer Flowers
Grant Sporny and Lisa Montana
Matthew Sprang and Tjitske Mills-Sprang
Studio 23 Home
Sweetsboro Pastry Shoppe
Tasting Room on Main
The Cake Boutique - Alexandra Benas '98
The Dressing Room on Main
The Home Depot - Mantua
The Kinsey House
Visalli's Farm Market
Warren's Hardware Store
Robert and Dollie Wells
Jason Young and Kimberly Smith Young
John and Margaret Zander
Anonymous (2)

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Often our donors and their families give gifts in memory of a deceased friend or family members or like to designate their gifts in honor of someone special.

Gifts in Honor of:

In Honor of Matthew Bradley
Starr Snead

In Honor of Erica Salmon
Jonathan and Lauren Hodges
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz

Gifts in Memory of:

In Memory of Dr. William Harris, Jr.
James and Mary Jane McFarland

In Memory of Dorothy Kramme
Susan K. Seyl

In Memory of Stephanie Marek
Terence J. Gleeson

In Memory of Sheryl "Sherry" Marzullo
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz
Fran Walls and Patti Sanderson

In Memory of Linnea Maska
Christian and Elizabeth Benjaminson

In Memory of Lillie Mae Moore
Cedric and Sharon Stallings

In Memory of Donald Powell Sanderson
Judy Sanderson

In Memory of William Clarke Schmidt
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz
Cornelia Schmidt

In Memory of Jean Smith
Hanshi Deshbandhu
Arun Deshbandhu Lavine '76
Anu Deshbandhu Leemann '73
Bob Gould and Nina Stack
Edward Karpowicz
and Judith Corona-Karpowicz
Denise Lynn Rutledge

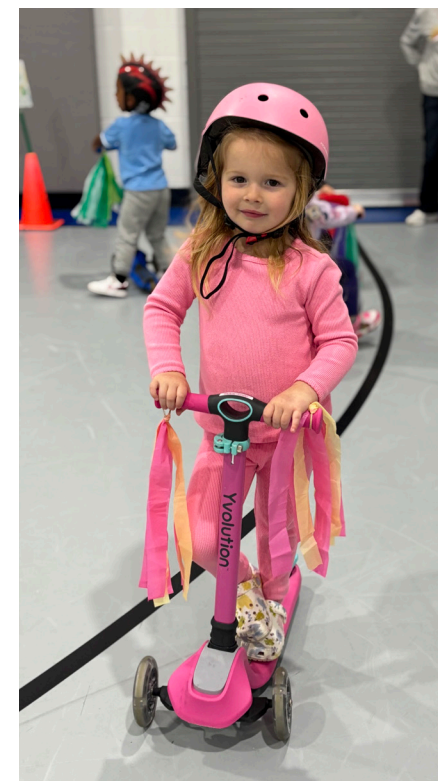
In Memory of Donna S. Weimer
Michael and Amy Sarachman

Restricted Gifts

We thank our generous donors who have contributed towards specific programs or funds here at FSMH. Some of the areas included Endowment, Professional Development, and Tuition Assistance.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends -
Sue Thomas Turner Quaker
Education Fund
Friends Council on Education
Friends Fiduciary Corporation -
Emlen Institution Grant,
T. Wistar Brown Teachers Fund
Mickleton Monthly Meeting

We have made every effort to include everyone who supported Annual Giving and other special projects. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.





T. ERICA SALMON'S INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

On a beautiful Fall morning in October, Erica Salmon P'17 & P'18 officially became our 10th Head of School. Her Installation Celebration breakfast and ceremony was held in our Kramme Gymnasium in front of a crowd including current and former Board members; current students and families; alumni and their families; current and former faculty and staff; friends of the school; Erica's family members, friends and mentors; and members of the Mullica Hill meeting. The FSMH community showed up!

The morning began with refreshments and old friends greeting one another. The program began with beautiful music played by two current students, Keegan Reed '27 and Cambria Cromley '27 under the direction of FSMH Music Director T. Kate Hayden. The Clerk of our Board of Trustees, David Calamaro, began the day with a warm welcome and a moment of silent worship after which he reflected on what an Installation Celebration is all about.



After David spoke, he introduced a flute performance by Keegan and T. Kate. After this performance, FSMH Director of Philanthropy and Volunteerism, Allison Kostiuk, spoke about the student artwork on the tables and about the blank postcards available for guests to share well wishes with T. Erica. **(This same postcard is included in this magazine as an insert, feel free to send it back to T. Erica!)** Allison then introduced our alumna speaker, Shelby Whetstone '15, who reflected on her time spent in T. Erica's English classroom. Shelby then introduced Dr. Beth Reaves P'15, our former Head of School.

T. Beth spoke about her time working with Erica at FSMH and about being her mentor. Beth then had the great honor of introducing our 10th Head of School, T. Erica.

T. Erica reflected on her long-standing relationship with FSMH as well as her passion for Quaker education. T. Erica used international soccer as an analogy to illustrate her path to becoming our 10th Head of School. She also made space to thank her family, her sister, her children, and her team of compassionate mentors, many of whom were in attendance.

The morning ended with lively conversation and the opportunity to go outside and join our annual Fall Festival. It was a fitting and lovely formal celebration of T. Erica stepping into leadership at FSMH.

Thank you to the following donors and services provided at the event:

- Apples** - Seashore Produce, Garry and Lori Rowe P'14 & P'16
- Breakfast** - Rastelli Market Fresh
- Friends Sign** - Brandi Cromley P'25, P'27 & P'29, Workshop 31
- Photography** - Dee Giordano Photography
- Water** - Wawa Foundation
- Installation Speakers** - David Calamaro, Allison Kostiuk, Dr. Beth Reaves P'15 & Shelby Whetstone '15

And to the following FSMH Faculty/Staff & Students

- Rainbow Centerpieces** - Diane Driessen P'12, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades
 - Luminary Jars** - Meg Lamont, Pre-K & Kindergarten
 - Music** - Kate Hayden P'26 & P'28, Keegan Reed '27, & Cambria Cromley '27
- and the Entire Faculty/Staff for their event support.



ALUMNI UPDATES



Benjamin Berman '17

Ben graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Miami School of Business in May 2025. He currently lives in New York City and is working as a Broker specializing in Treasury Bonds at TP ICAP in the Financial District of Manhattan — a leading liquidity and data solutions specialist company. Ben noted that by recently passing his FINRA exams, this allows him to become a fully licensed stockbroker, selling bonds to banks and hedge funds.



James Blakey '82

James is the publisher and co-editor of *Shenandoah Fantastic: Mystic Whispers from the Valley's Vales* which is an anthology of 24 short stories set in the Shenandoah Valley. The anthology is set for publication in February 2026. James is also currently working on the sequel to his debut novel, *Superstition (The Secrets of Van Buren University)*. To learn more about James and his books, visit JamesBlakeyWrites.com

Madison Bougges '17

Maddie graduated from Vassar College in May 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience. While at Vassar, she played soccer for all four years and played lacrosse for two years. Maddie is now in England at the University of Sunderland to earn her Master's in Sports and Exercise Science. She will also be playing soccer for South Shields F.C. International Academy football team.



Lauren (Buck) Bradley '13 (pictured above)

Lauren married James Bradley in July 2025. The couple honeymooned in Italy, Croatia, and France. Lauren is a runner and recently completed the Chicago Marathon in October 2025. Lauren is our grade 2 teacher here at Friends School Mullica Hill and resides in Plymouth Meeting, PA.



Nicolas Cipollone '17

Nick graduated in May from Temple University's Business School. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Risk Management with a minor in Finance. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and was honored for academic distinction in Risk Management and Insurance. Nick is working at Mercer in Center City Philadelphia as a Health Consulting Analyst.



Sophie Cometz '17

Sophie recently graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Arts in Writing and Rhetoric and a Bachelor of Science in Communications and Rhetorical Studies.

Grace Hamburg '17

Grace graduated from the College of New Jersey with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Grace currently works at Rothman Orthopedics in a year-long prosthetics internship program. After the internship ends, Grace is headed for her Master's degree at Salus University (Drexel) in PA for an MS in Orthotics and Prosthetics in Fall 2026.



Emily Karpowicz '17

Emily graduated Cum Laude from American University in May 2025. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Film & Media Studies with a minor in Special Education. Her senior project was a short film that she wrote and directed called *Nightstands*. She spent time traveling in Europe this summer and working in Poland at a summer camp as an English teacher as a part of a Polish Heritage cultural exchange program. Emily currently resides in Washington, D.C. where she is putting the finishing edits to her short film *Nightstands*, freelances as an art director on indie film sets and is deciding on her next steps.



Kyle Leahy '17

In May, Kyle graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. He is currently in his first year at the Moritz School of Law at The Ohio State University. Kyle continues to maintain contact with his friends from FSMH, Tower Hill & U of SC on a regular basis, often traveling to meet each other across the country. This summer, Kyle enjoyed spending time traveling with friends to Ibiza for a couple EDM shows as well as traveling and spending time with family.

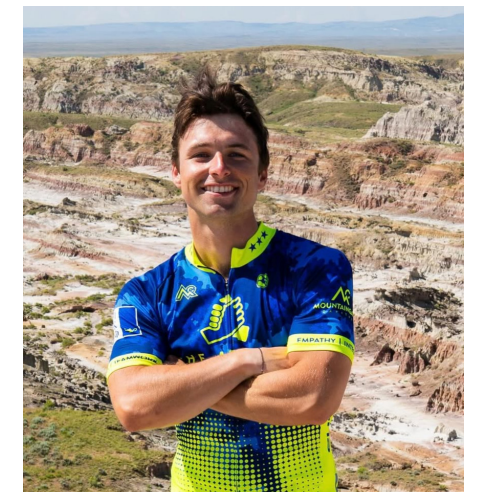


Brummel Peery '17

Brummel graduated in August 2025 from Rutgers University's Business School. He has a degree in marketing. Currently, Bru lives in North Jersey. He is actively pursuing full-time employment in sales and marketing while completing a marketing internship. He is also still pursuing his interest in modeling and has recently completed a photoshoot for a NY soccer team.

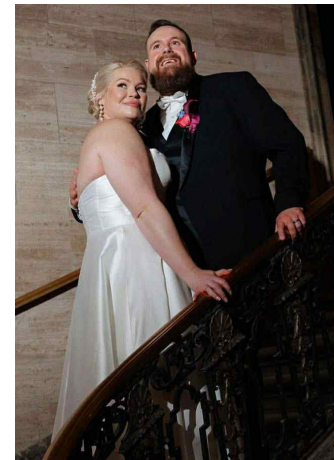
Luke Salmon '17

Luke graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri (Mizzou) in May 2025 with a degree in Business/Marketing. After graduation, Luke participated in the Ability Experience's Journey of Hope, a summer-long, coast-to-coast bike ride totaling 4,500 miles. Luke and the other cyclists raised money and awareness for organizations that support people with disabilities. Luke now works for the Ability Experience and travels the country to recruit college students to participate in the Journey of Hope.



Piper Salmon '18

Piper graduated with distinction from the University of Minnesota in December 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing. During her two and a half years of college, Piper spent a semester studying and interning abroad in Sydney, Australia. She also spent a summer in Madrid, Spain, nannying for a lively family of five children, an experience that deepened her love of language and culture. In spring 2025, Piper returned to FSMH to cover a maternity leave as the Middle School Spanish teacher and is back this fall teaching Spanish to Pre-K through grade 3. This past summer, Piper traveled extensively throughout Europe and took part in a cultural exchange program teaching English to children in Poland. Piper is set to travel to South America and Africa in 2026 to continue exploring her passions for education, language and travel.



Natalie Slaughter Kancy '08

Natalie married Matthew Kancy on March 29, 2025, at the DuPont Hotel in Wilmington, DE. Natalie is a Mental Health Counselor at Clayton Middle School in Clayton, NJ. The couple reside in Pitman, NJ.



Alumni Ben Berman '17, Nick Cipollone '17, Luke Salmon '17 and other friends including former FSMH Extended Day and Summer Camp Counselor, Evan Hahn, gather together in friendship.



Shelby Whetstone '15

Shelby attended Friends Select in Philadelphia for her freshman year of High School and then transferred to Lenape High School in New Jersey. She ran track there and graduated as a school record holder in both the 400m and 800m. Shelby then went to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she was also a member of the women's track and field team, where she was a multiple school record holder. Shelby graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in health disparities and used her last two years of college eligibility to earn two graduate certificates in Health Policy and Urban Public Health from the Rutgers School of Public Health. In October, Shelby spoke at T. Erica Salmon's Installation Celebration and plans to pursue a master's degree next fall. She currently works with the Rowan University women's cross country and track team as an assistant coach.

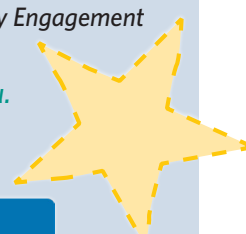
Dylan Zallie '17

Dylan graduated with a Bachelor's in Public Health from Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT in May 2025. She is currently enrolled in an accelerated nursing program at Bridge Valley Community and Technical College in West Virginia and has already received her white coat. Dylan plans to return to CT and work as a nurse once she has completed her nursing program.

To be featured in our Alumni Notes — please email Judy Corona-Karpowicz, Director of Community Engagement at jcorona@friendsmh.org.

We are always happy to hear from you.

Please be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Allison Kostiuk - Director of Philanthropy & Volunteerism

Allison brings more than 30 years of experience in non-profits and in raising vital funds for various organizations. Allison earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from West Chester University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Nonprofit Leadership through the University of Lynchburg's online program. She is passionate about helping meaningful causes and is the proud parent of four.



Cindy Rodwell-Simon Grade 3 Assistant Teacher

T. Cindy joined us this Fall as an Assistant Third Grade Teacher. Cindy is a seasoned teacher who holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education as well as a Master's degree in Literacy, both from New York University (NYU). Cindy has experience in teaching Pre-K through grade 3, with most of her time spent teaching 2nd and 3rd grades. Two of Cindy's four children attended FSMH. Cindy has a solid understanding of elementary education, Quaker education, and a firm yet loving demeanor.



Allison Steuber Grade 4 Teacher

T. Allison joined us this Fall as our new Grade 4 Teacher. Allison earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Towson University and is pursuing a Master's degree in Teaching and Learning from Wilmington University. A Mullica Hill native, Allison spent the past three years teaching 4th grade at an independent school in Maryland. She is thrilled to be back home.



Friends School Mullica Hill is saddened to learn of the passing of the following individuals connected to our community:

Ameline Pappas
former FSMH Board member and alumni parent

Jean Smith
former long-time FSMH school staff member and alumni parent

We are holding Ameline's and Jean's families in the Light.



WWW.FRIENDSMH.ORG

**THANK YOU 2024-2025
Home and School Association!**
(formerly the Friends Family Collaborative)

Under the leadership of Co-Clerks Lauren DeMarco and Stephanie Bambrick, the HSA hosted an amazing Fall Festival in October 2024. The group also supported the Middle School Drama Program, hosted the first ever Glow Party, and honored our faculty & staff with an amazing celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week.

We thank them and the families who volunteer their time and effort to support the school and its mission.



2025 Middle School Winter Drama — Alice in Wonderland



CONGRATULATIONS
to the FSMH Class of 2025!



In June 2025, we proudly awarded diplomas to 10 members of our Class of 2025. During a beautiful outdoor ceremony, our students offered humor, insights and treasured memories from their time at FSMH. Their reflections were thoughtful, candid and funny.

Our 2025 graduates are now attending the following high schools: *Allentown (NJ), Bishop Eustace Prep, Clearview Regional, Gateway, Gloucester County Institute of Technology, Kingsway Regional, Paul VI High School, Salesianum, Tatnall and Wilmington Friends School.*

CLASS OF 2021

We are pleased to report where some of our 2021 graduates are now attending college and other technical schools. We wish them and all of our alumni much success in the coming year.

