



Annual Report

2024-2025

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Our Mission:

At Epoch, it is our mission to create nurturing relationships that empower, mentor, and encourage students in the areas of academics, character development, and social-emotional wellness.

Our Core Values:

Epoch envisions a community in which all students have the support, resources, and opportunities to reach their greatest potential as thriving, compassionate individuals.



A Note from our Executive Director

That's a wrap! The 2024-2025 programming year was one for the books. We welcomed lots of new faces, implemented a new wellness curriculum, and hosted some new and successful fundraisers, all while maintaining our standard to love, nurture, empower, and encourage our students.

Sarah Tyler joined our summer team as academic support specialist. She worked one-on-one with our students daily to prevent loss of academic knowledge and learning skills over the summer break. Continued academic intervention is invaluable to our kids, and Sarah executed it beautifully. Earlier in the year, we also welcomed Mackenzie Disbennett as a data-collection and curriculum-organization consultant. She, alongside Social & Emotional Director Marcy Disbennett, reconstructed our mental wellness program by centering it around social emotional learning. Our new approach teaches our students self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Alongside this new curriculum, Mackenzie helped us implement new data-collecting techniques to better evaluate our students' growth. Countless demonstrations of social emotional literacy have proven its effectiveness.

In September of 2024, we hosted our annual cocktail party at Green Hill Country Club. The turn out was amazing and the donations generous! In October of 2024, we initiated our new annual fundraiser: Sweet Potato Days. Over the course of four days, we made, packaged, and sold 1,500 dozens of ready-to-bake sweet potato biscuits, bringing in \$14,900. This year we plan to double our production! A few months later, in June of 2025, we hosted the first annual Epoch Pickleball Tournament. Over 65 members of the community showed up to compete in bracket-style women's, men's, and mixed doubles. We hope for an even bigger turn out next year!

As always, none of this amazing, worth-while work is possible without your support. We thank you for supporting us year after year, for partnering with us in beginning better stories, and for making our students' dreams a reality. See you next year!

JoAnn Blackmon

JoAnn Blackmon
Executive Director, Epoch Dream Center

Year in Review

14,190 family-style meals



290 counseling sessions

25 mentors



85 volunteers

6,626 academic instruction hours

57 social emotional learning lessons

Words from our Social & Emotional Director

This year has been both exciting and pivotal for our Mental Wellness Program. Epoch enlisted an external consultant to conduct a comprehensive analysis to help elevate the program. I collaborated with Mackensie Disbennett, a research specialist in implementation science at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. She provided us with a practice profile that included a literature review, outlined our approach to addressing social-emotional learning at Epoch, reinforced our goals, and offered recommendations for moving forward to grow and improve the Social and Emotional Wellness Program.

After an extensive literature review and many meetings, Mackensie recommended changing the program name from "Mental Wellness" to "Social and Emotional Wellness" to better reflect our current efforts. A significant outcome of this consultation was the creation of age-appropriate Social and Emotional Surveys. These surveys will be administered at the beginning and the end of each school year, allowing us to track students' social-emotional intelligence effectively and identify areas where students may benefit from more focused lessons. The surveys will provide us with valuable information about different age groups and individual students, enabling us to better meet the needs of our students.

We completed a six-month pilot of the surveys during the 2024-2025 school year and have already gained valuable insight. We are optimistic that the data gathered from these surveys will prove beneficial over time, helping us report on the success of our social-emotional wellness program and see areas where more intentional focus is needed.



Marcy Disbennett

Marcy Disbennett
Social & Emotional Director

Learning Outcomes



55
Students
Enrolled



50%
Improved
GPA



75%
Increased School
Attendance



98%
Demonstrated Social
Emotional Literacy



Check Out Our New Wheels!



A huge thank you to the Richard A Henson Foundation, the Donny Williams Foundation, the Hazel family, and Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation for their generous donations towards two new vans for Epoch!

The Dream Team



Marcy Disbennett
Social & Emotional
Wellness Director



JoAnn Blackmon
Executive Director



Allison Acree
Community Liaison &
Summer Director



Jon Blackmon
Community Partnerships
Coordinator



Natalie Ward
Grant Coordinator



Katie Dukes
Finance Director



Courtney Baker
Administrative Assistant



Emma Bush
School Liaison &
5th Grade Leader



Lauren Livesay
Middle School Leader



Ashley Hare
Kindergarten & 1st
Grade Leader



Lauren Kellam
2nd Grade Leader



Dylan Warwick
3rd & 4th Grade
Boys Leader



Joselynn Rivera
3rd & 4th Grade
Girls Leader



Board of Directors

Officers:

William Pettitt
Chair

Ginger Jenkins
Treasurer

Angie Orbino
Secretary

Members:

Ashley Celevenger

Hanna Tilghman

Kutresa Lankford-Purnell

Patricia Riley

Ryan Johnson

Vivian Shannon-Ramsy

2025 Financial Partners

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Eastern Shore
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Foundation
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Foundation
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Foundation
Qlarant Foundation
Urban Grid
Maryland Food Bank
Hebron Savings Bank
Campbell Foundation
Maryland Emergency Food
Program
CCBCC Operations
Jack P and Anne R Smith
Foundation

Your continued support helps us begin
better stories and make dreams come
true. Thank you!

**Thank you
for another
amazing year!**

