



**Welcome,
Prospective
Wildcats!**

School Preview 2025-2026

Welcome to Garrison!



We are grateful for your interest in Garrison, and excited to get to know you and your child. The information that follows shares a bit of our school story - where we've come from, where we are now, and where we're going. We hope you'll join our journey as we grow into the school community we all want for our children, where every Wildcat is known, loved, and thrives.

- Warmly, Principal Kip & AP Harris



Brigham Kiplinger

Principal & current
Wildcat Parent



Joherra Harris

Assistant Principal &
former parent

A Brief Garrison History (1860-2026)



We know where we're going
We know where we're from

– Bob Marley, *Exodus*

Where We've Come From



Camp Barker

Freedman's Village was home from 1862-1864 to thousands of African Americans "contrabands" who had liberated themselves. The Camp Barker site is now our campus on S St NW.

Our Abolitionist Namesake & Legacy



- William Lloyd Garrison was a leading abolitionist and published *The Liberator* newspaper from 1830-1865
- Garrison Elementary School was founded in the 1880s and the current building was built in the 1960s and partially modernized in 2017
- Last year's fifth graders created a museum-quality Garrison history exhibit with [Story of our Schools](#) - check it out in our lobby!



Our Shaw/Logan Circle/U St Community



Union Col. Robert
Gould **Shaw** of the
Mass 54th



Union Gen.
John A. **Logan**

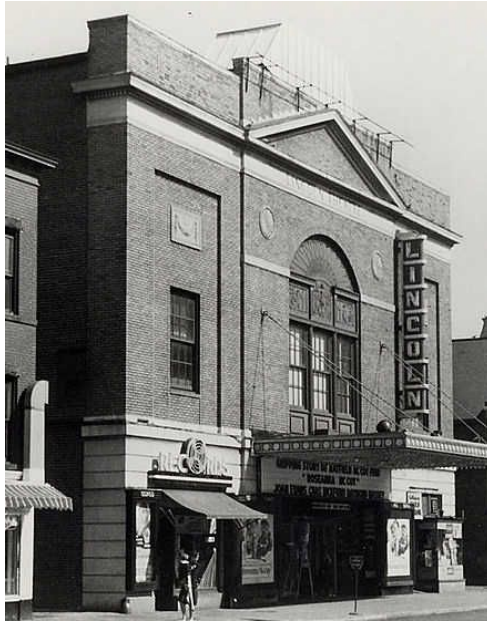


Pearl Bailey
coined **U St**
“Black Broadway”

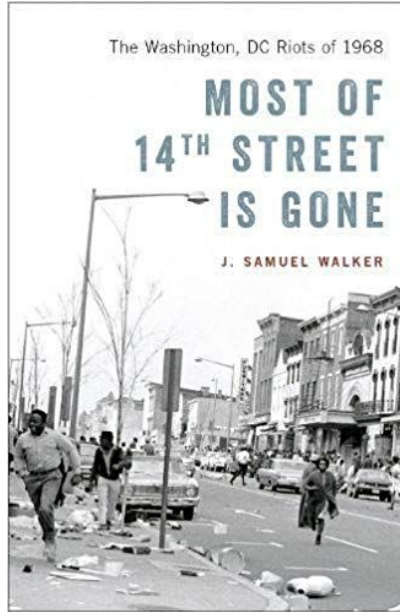


Duke Ellington
lived at 13th & T

Cycles of demographic change, with Gar as a community constant...



1920s: Black Broadway
on U St



1968: Uprising
follows MLK's
assassination



1980s: growth of Latin
American Community



2000s: Gentrification,
Don't Mute DC, &
FREE-DC!

Where We Are Now: Celebrations



- Garrison is among DC's fastest growing schools
 - Ranked among **Top 5 ES (& #1 Title I!) in all of DC** for **past 3 years** (on '23-'25 OSSE SRCs)!
 - >60% enrollment growth over the past 8 yrs
 - 4-time **Bold Performance School** award winner from EmpowerK12, including this year!
 - Early literacy & Whole Child inspiration site
 - Among DCPS' highest staff retention (>90%)

Where We Are Now: Challenges



- We work with joyful urgency to close any “opportunity gaps” and build kindred community across difference to ensure **every** Wildcat thrives. This urgency has only increased since the pandemic and as gentrification and federal administration policies adversely impact our families.

Where we're going: Our Vision



- *Every Garrison Wildcat feels loved, challenged, and prepared to thrive.*
- We strive to build an **intentionally-diverse, equitable, inclusive** community that knows and loves each other across difference, and cares for **every** Wildcat as their own.

How we'll reach our school vision



Our top 3 priorities at Garrison:

1. Wellbeing & connection



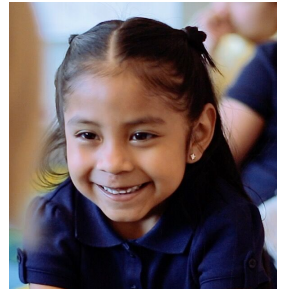
2. Abolitionist community so



all Wildcats can thrive



3. Joyful, rigorous learning! 🐾🐾



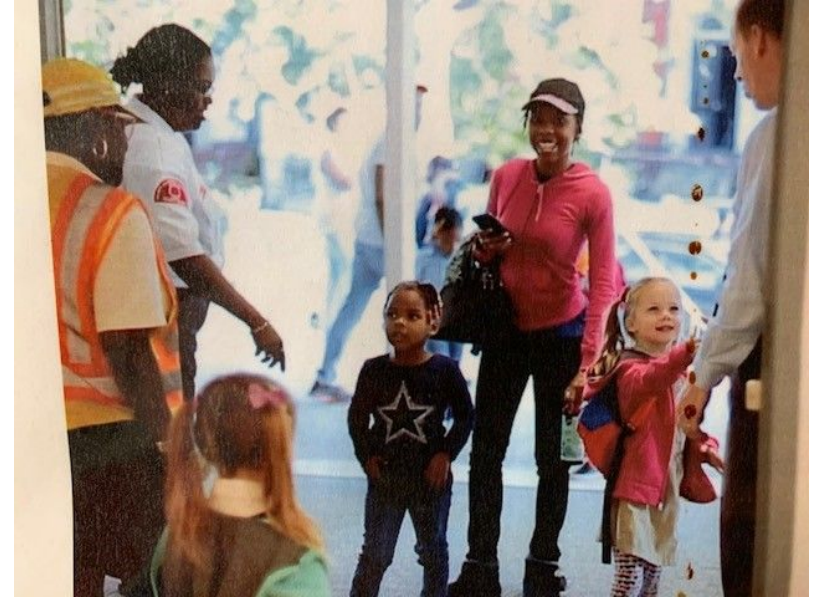
How you can help reach our vision



What we expect from our families:

1. **Attendance** - *every day, on time*
2. **Commitment** - *come and stay*
3. **Partnership** - *connect, learn, partner, and grow together*

A school day in the life of a PK Wildcat



Students arrive at 8:15 & are warmly greeted at the S St & Vermont Ave (PK) doors before walking to class.

Supporting Whole Child Wellbeing



Our classroom environment and curriculum support children's social-emotional learning and wellbeing

A peek inside a Garrison PK classroom

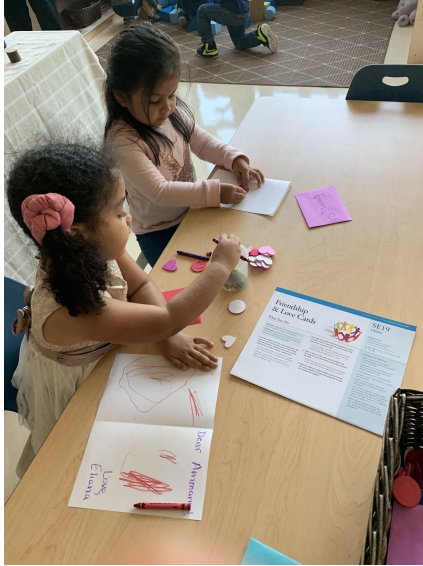


Our big, bright classrooms include a gathering place, tables, and centers for thematic play-based learning

Pre-K Wildcats spend their days reading...



...and writing (& play planning)



...and counting



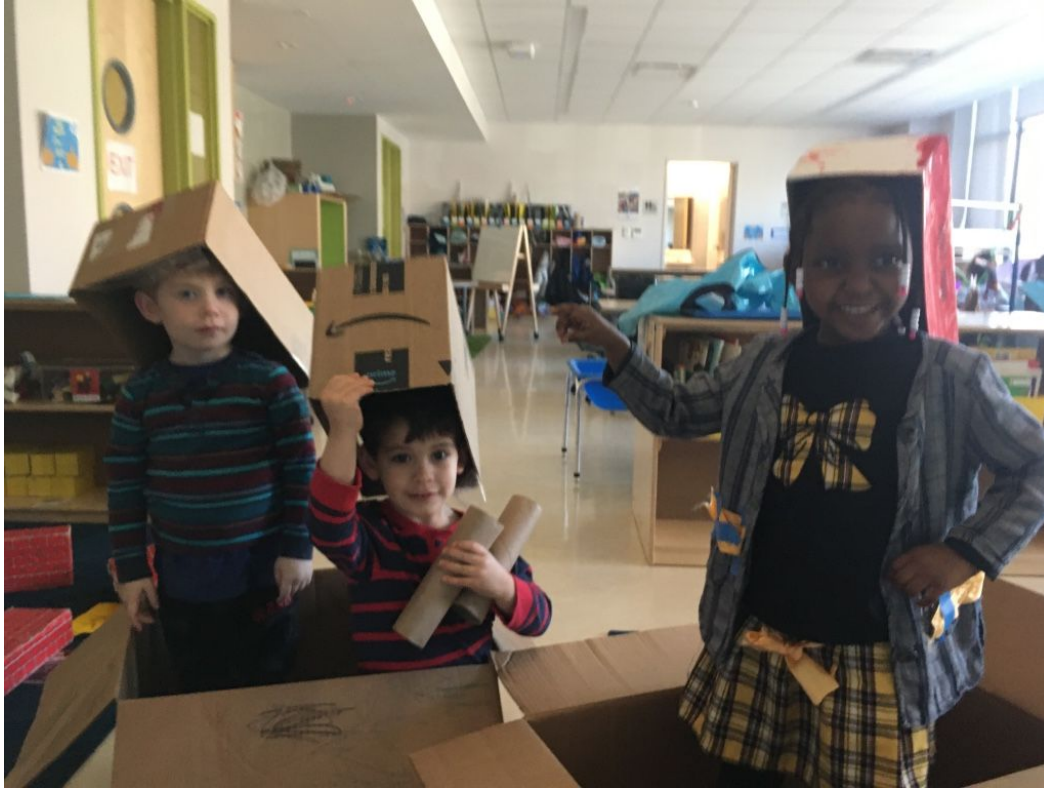
...and building



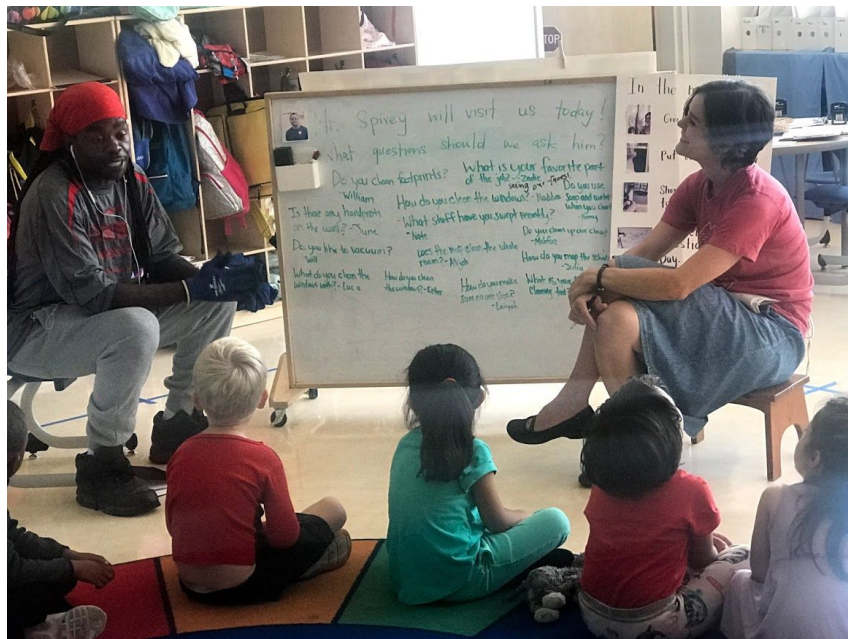
...and tinkering



...and imagining



...and exploring the world



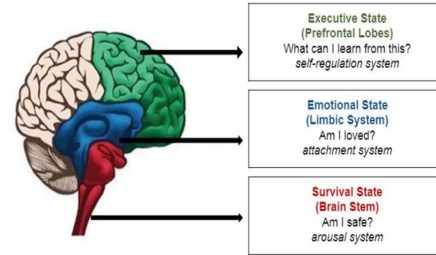
...and making friends.



Whole Child Wildcat Wellbeing



- Social-emotional learning in the context of safe, loving relationships (& family partnerships)
- (Mis)behavior is communication
 - Find & teach the missing skill/unmet need
 - Modeling, practice, logical consequences
- See & learn more at Wholechildmodel.org!
- What you'll see today: Strong Start, visual routines, classroom jobs, centering space, etc.
- Restorative practices: Structured Recess, R-ISS



We hope you'll join our school family!



FAQs: Frequently-Asked Questions



- **Lottery seats:** PK seats go to in-boundary students (siblings first)
- **Class sizes:** PK3/4: 16-20 students & 2 adults; K-5: 18-25 students
- **Curriculum:** Rigorous knowledge-building units by grade
- **Meals:** Eaten in the classroom (PK) & Commons (K-5), **free** breakfast & lunch, veggie options, healthy & tasty!
- **Recess:** twice a day, ~35 (K-5) to 60 (PK) minutes total
- **Rest time (ECE):** PK3 ~90 min, PK4 ~60 min (on cots)
- **Specials (daily):** Art, Music, & Library (PK), plus twice/wk PE (K-5)
- **Before-care:** 7:00-8:15am, run by Garrison staff for monthly fee
- **After-school** 3:15-6:00; Apollo After School (PK/K/1), Garrison (2), & Kid Power (Gr 3-5), plus various partners & enrichment/clubs

Opportunities to learn more



- Explore our website at garrisonelementary.org & check out our *Wildcat Wonder* newspaper & Greet the Week videos!
- Follow us on Instagram [@garrisonelementaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/garrisonelementaryschool)
- Upcoming **open houses** 8:30-9:15 on Jan 8, Feb 5, & April 2
- To chat with a current parent: PTO@garrisonelementary.org
- Enrollment questions: Elliott.Brown@k12.dc.gov or call Ms. Debbie Aviles in the Garrison office (*se habla español*)
- Special Education POC: Kristen.Brown@k12.dc.gov
- General questions: AP Harris (Joherra.Harris@k12.dc.gov) or Principal Kip (Brigham.Kiplinger@k12.dc.gov)
- Thanks for your interest in Garrison! Good lottery luck! 🙌 ❤️