

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



DVMS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

- 1 DVMS Mission & Values
- 2 Welcome Letter From the Head of School
- 4 Authentic Montessori Education
- 6 Message from DVMS Board of Directors
- 8 DVMS Board Members
- 9 Financial Overview
- 11 Suzette's Musical Playground
- 12 Montessori Materials for all Preschool Classrooms
- 13 Infant Toddler House Improvements
- 14 American Montessori Experience for Teachers
- 15 Safety
- 16 Thank you to our Supporters
- 17 DVMS Community



DVMS MISSION & VALUES

DVMS Mission Statement:

- DVMS is a partnership of its teaching staff, parents and administration
- Providing the highest quality Montessori education for all children enrolled
- Supporting the development of a professional, skilled and nurturing staff
- Encouraging the involvement and participation of its families

DVMS Purpose:

- Provide high quality Montessori education through the early childhood years

Vision Statement:

- To provide exceptional Montessori education, nurture community, and offer diverse academic, social and cultural programs that help build the foundation for lifelong learning



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Family and Friends of Diablo Valley Montessori School,

Since its founding in 1965, Diablo Valley Montessori School has been committed to providing the highest quality of care in an authentic Montessori environment and has served generations of families.

Over the years, DVMS has grown into so much more than a preschool. DVMS is a strong community of teachers, parents, staff, and children, all connected with the goal to raise confident, life long learners who will make the world a better place. In our first Diablo Valley Montessori School Annual Report, I am delighted to share with you the many ways our incredible community has grown over this past year and our vision for the future.

A prepared environment is the foundation of Montessori education. At the center of this environment are our teachers and investing in them is a top priority. At DVMS we know our teachers are truly exceptional. Their love and respect shines through as they skillfully guide the children in all aspects of their learning. Through professional development opportunities, assistance for training, and team building events we continue to support and retain our long-tenured staff.

Our buildings, grounds, and classrooms all play an important role in educating our children as well. This year we have embarked on many projects, and even more are planned, to ensure that our campus and classrooms are here to serve our community for decades to come.

At DVMS we are so lucky to have such a strong partnership with our families and we are so grateful to our parent community. This year, parents stepped up to support the classroom teams, providing meals, snacks, treats, and encouraging messages along the way. Families, current and alumni, gave generously of their time and resources. Thank you!

Of course our children are at the heart of our school and their smiles, curiosity, and endless possibilities inspire us in our work. We understand how much trust parents place in DVMS to care for their children, a responsibility that we are grateful for daily.

Looking ahead, there is tremendous hope and excitement as DVMS' next chapter unfolds. Gathering together as a community is possible again and we are thrilled at the opportunities for social events, parent education evenings, and family fun! The saying goes that "It takes a village" to raise our children. DVMS is that village, a place where respect, kindness and a love of learning connect us in honoring the light in every child. We are so glad you are part of the DVMS community.

With deep gratitude,

Jayne Martin



AUTHENTIC MONTESSORI EDUCATION

DVMS is a member of the American Montessori Society. We implement core components of the Montessori philosophy and method in our classrooms to support children as they learn in thoughtfully prepared environments that nurture their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development from infancy through the Kindergarten year.

The early childhood years, (birth through age 6), are a critical period to set the foundation for life. The effectiveness of the Montessori method for a child's development and learning is continually validated by contemporary research. Montessori education focuses on the elements and principles parents hope to instill in their children: capable, accountable, knowledgeable, sense of self.



Our trained Montessori teachers hold not just early childhood education certifications, but also Montessori teaching credentials to provide a high-fidelity Montessori environment. With observation and guidance, the teachers present challenging and developmentally appropriate lessons and materials as each individual child shows readiness. Well versed in Montessori theory and philosophy, the teachers guide the children with skill and respect.

Our classrooms are prepared to ignite a child's curiosity, setting the foundation for joyful lifelong learning. Authentic Montessori materials are precisely designed to teach specific concepts and skills at each level of a child's development. In giving children the agency to select their jobs, children actively participate in their work of self-construction leading to intrinsic motivation and sustained attention. The mixed-age classroom for preschool children, (ages 3-6), enables younger children to learn from their peers, while older children reinforce their own learning and leadership skills through serving as role models.

Above all, it is the immense respect for the child that sets the Montessori classroom apart. We guide each child as a unique individual, recognizing the person they are today, and setting the foundation for the person they will become.



BOARD MESSAGE

After a challenging couple of years, the 2022-2023 school year is off to an exceptional start. Like many in our community, my children started at DVMS during the pandemic, and I know we are all so grateful to our teachers and administrative staff for successfully navigating the school through such a unique time.

Building off the strong foundation that has been maintained, this year the DVMS Board is focused on four main areas: teacher and staff recognition, transparency, capital projects and the return of in-person events.



We began the new year by examining our post-pandemic finances, which I am happy to report are much stronger than expected. As such, the new Board's first action item was to approve a one-time bonus for our outstanding teachers and staff. The teachers and staff are the secret sauce that makes DVMS great. Recognizing, compensating, and retaining our teachers and staff will remain a top priority for the Board throughout this year.

The Board is also committed to improving financial transparency and communication with the parent community. Taking into account the suggestions in the end-of-year survey, we decided to release the first ever DVMS annual report. This report includes a detailed financial section which provides more insight in to how parent tuition and donated funds

are being deployed. We will also be focused on continuing and strengthening communication through streamlining room parent communication, weekly schoolwide newsletters from Jayne, monthly parents club newsletters, and monthly classroom update emails. Additionally, we are lucky that Jayne, our Head of School, has an open-door policy and is always extremely open to engaging with parents.

We are also thrilled that after some pandemic related delays we are now able to actively use our capital funds towards needed capital improvement projects. Major window and deck replacement projects are slated to start this fall and will be completed by early spring 2023. Additionally, a much needed replacement of the sewer lines was just completed and pest/bug prevention projects are ongoing. Our well-loved campus has been around for several decades, and constant upkeep and repair are needed. In seen and unseen ways your capital fees are being put to good use to keep our campus safe.

The Board is also excited that this year we will see the return of in-person events. Coming together as a community is a major part of what makes DVMS so special and we are so happy to see you all at the Halloween parade, field trips, and Annual Auction!

In closing, I'm pleased to see that DVMS is well positioned for the future and I look forward to seeing you around DVMS and welcome any suggestions or comments.

Roger Tanaka,
DVMS Board of Directors President



DVMS BOARD MEMBERS

- President: Roger Tanaka
- Vice President: Bryan Morgan
- Secretary: Amy Wood
- Treasurer: Anthony Davies
- Long Term Planning: Joe Cloyes
- Policies and Procedures: Caitlin Niedermeyer
- Fundraising: Albert Liu
- Auction: Jessie Dudum
- Marketing and Communications: Howli Pfeiffer
- Parents' Club: Jesse Abhyankar
- Member at Large: Alessandra Pegnim
- Head of School: Jayne Martin



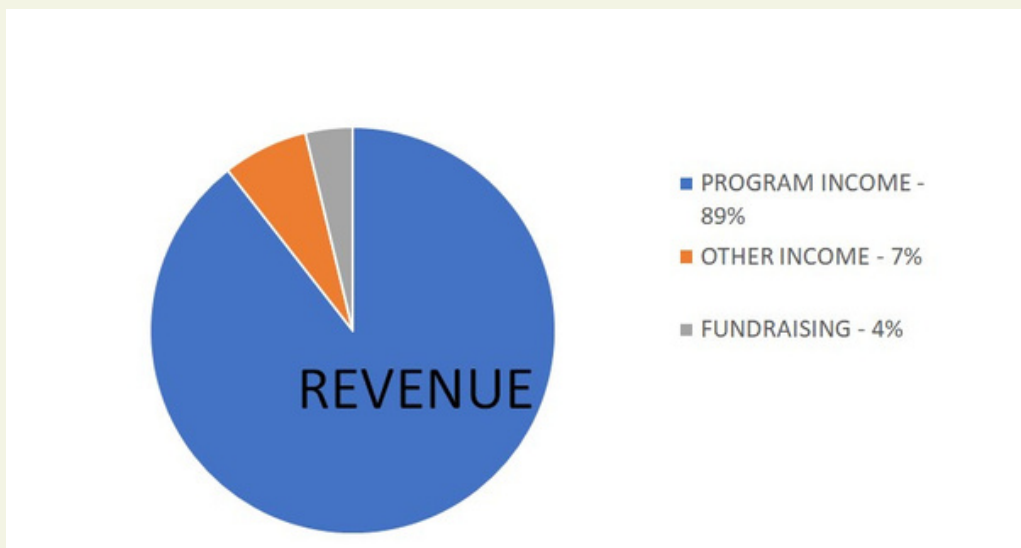
"We shall walk together on this path of life for all things are part of the universe and connected with each other to form one whole unity"
- Maria Montessori

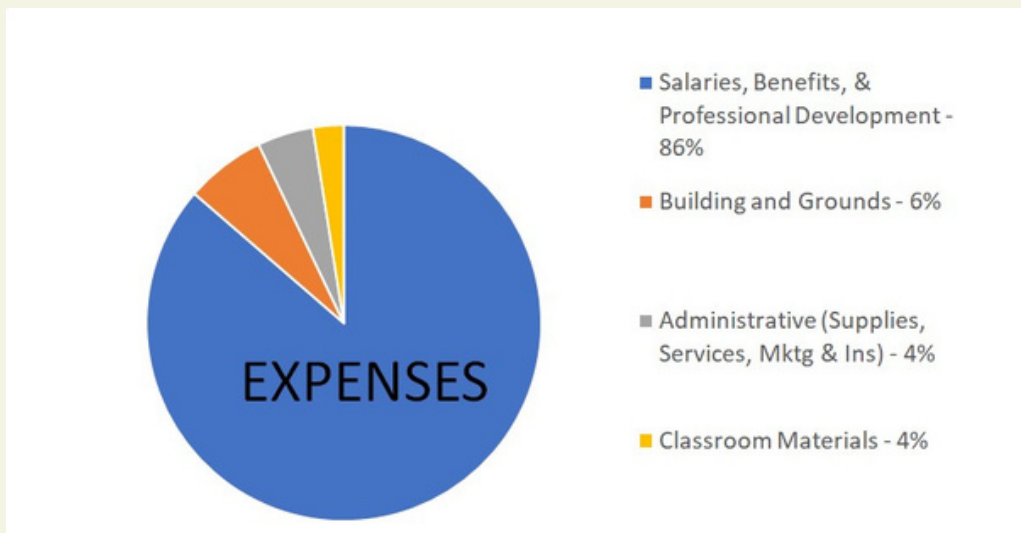
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Coming out of the pandemic, DVMS is on a solid financial footing. The results of the 2021-2022 fiscal year were significantly better than expected. The main driver was higher than expected revenue coming from our student enrollment headcount. The gradual easing of Covid restrictions, coupled with the high demand for our quality programs, allowed for more students than we expected. We carefully managed expenses, despite some additional Covid cleaning and testing requirements. Topping things off, our amazing parent community rallied this year and greatly exceeded our fundraising expectations. All in, we finished the 2021-2022 fiscal year in a strong financial position.

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, our revenue was \$3.0 million with 89 percent coming from program tuition revenue. Other income included fees and one-off items accounting for seven percent of revenue. Fundraising accounted for the balance of four percent. On the expense side, teacher and staff compensation accounted for 86 percent of our expenses. Building and grounds, administrative, and classroom materials comprised the remaining expense categories.

The balance sheet remains strong. The school has ample reserves to weather unforeseen financial challenges, manage the ongoing maintenance issues, and address the immediate operational needs of the school.





Looking forward, the Finance Committee and the Board will continue to adhere to our long-term financial plans when making decisions related to the school's financial future. Our goal for the Finance Committee and the Board is to work in tandem with the DVMS administration to ensure the financial longevity of the school. We would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support of our amazing school.

Anthony Davies, Bryan Morgan, Roger Tanaka, Deborah Donnelly
DVMS Finance Committee

Fundraising Dollars at Work: Campus & Classroom Improvements

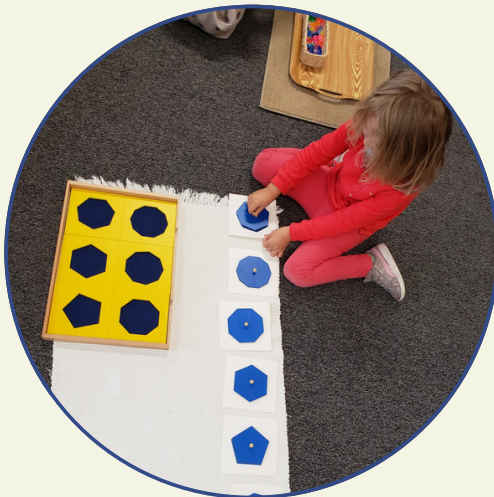
Suzette's Musical Playground

In 2021 Suzette Smith retired after 43 years of serving DVMS as a teacher and most recently as Head of School for 12 years. To honor Suzette's legacy, DVMS held "Suzette's Giving Challenge" during the summer of 2021. The proceeds were used to rebuild one of her favorite spots on the DVMS campus and enhance the playground with musical flowers to reflect her two passions: children and music.



Montessori Materials for all Preschool Classrooms

These specially designed materials engage the children at each level of their learning. Ensuring all five of our preschool classrooms are fully outfitted with these materials is key to delivering an authentic Montessori learning environment. A thorough inventory was completed to update and complete the full complement of materials for every classroom. In total, we invested \$20,000 to purchase these high quality materials.



Infant Toddler House Improvements

Throughout the year, many projects to improve the Infant Toddler house were completed. The Poppy classroom was repainted and their outdoor patio area was redesigned to provide both cubby storage and classroom space for the children. Custom cabinets were built for outdoor storage and the accessibility ramp behind Sunflower was rebuilt. To keep everyone comfortable, new air conditioning units were installed along with essential repairs to the HVAC system. Additionally, the Fund A Need wish list from the Auction allowed Poppy and Sunflower to purchase new indoor movement structures for the children.



American Montessori Experience for Teachers

DVMS provides AMS memberships for all teachers and assistant teachers. Membership gives our staff access to hours of professional development webinars, publications, and networking opportunities with Montessorians worldwide.

In March 2022, six staff members attended the annual AMS Montessori Event, the largest Montessori conference. Participants attended workshops and events over a three-day period learning and meeting other Montessori professionals from around the world.



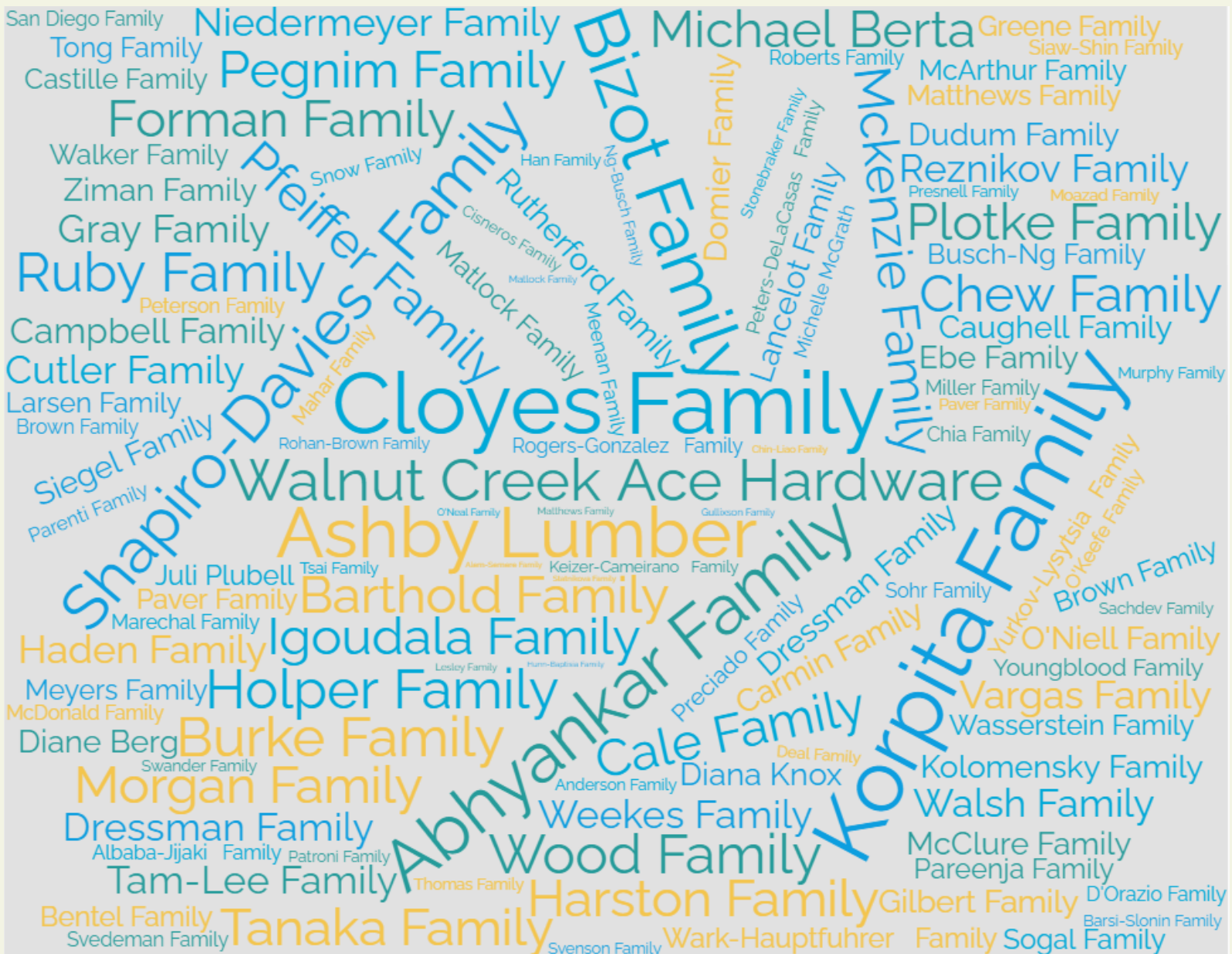
Safety

Safety is always a top priority and we've improved campus security by upgrading cameras around the perimeter of the school and adding additional lighting. The DVMS Emergency Preparedness Policy was updated and we have implemented a comprehensive Injury and Illness Prevention Policy for our staff. Additionally, all staff received Pediatric First Aid and CPR training.

Air quality is always important to monitor, especially as we provide many hours of outdoor time for the children. DVMS now has its own Purple Air sensor (see below).



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



DVMS COMMUNITY

