

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



DVMS
2023
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REPORT

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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 Parents and Friends of Diablo Valley Montessori School,

I am delighted to share some highlights of the 2022-2023 school year with you in this Annual Report. For over 50 years, DVMS has served our community by providing exceptional early childhood education in an authentic Montessori setting. Our mission statement says it best: we are a partnership of its teaching staff, parents, and administration. Collaborating together to serve each child and to foster a strong sense of community within DVMS drives our efforts.

Our goal is to place the children at the center of all we do, for we truly believe that we are raising global citizens who hold the key to a better world. Preparing children for this task is an ambitious undertaking, one which our loving, trained teaching teams are tirelessly dedicated to achieve. Through continuous observation and professional development opportunities, they prepare a rich environment where children love to learn, inspiring them to reach their full potential.

We are truly grateful for the support of our families and staff whose collective efforts make DVMS a special place. In particular, the partnership between the DVMS Board of Directors, Parents' Club, Room Parents, our DVMS Administration Team, and our INCREDIBLE teachers creates this community of love and learning.

I welcome you to schedule a time to observe the classrooms and see first hand the wonderful work that takes place each day.

With deep gratitude,

Jayne

"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind". - Dr. Maria Montessori

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 helping children become capable, accountable, knowledgeable, and develop a strong sense of self. Principles we know our parents value deeply.

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.

"Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world" - Maria Montessori



BOARD MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that another year is already more than halfway over. As always, the Board works in partnership with the head of school, the staff and teachers, and the parent community to build a strong foundation for our school, and ensure DVMS is positioned for success in the future. This year, we set out to reshape our board structure to better support the school and place focus on what is most important: the happiness and growth of the children.

DVMS Community

The board is staffed by the very community it serves. We are all volunteer parents of students at DVMS, and our goal is to assist the head of school with operations, fundraising, community events, and teacher recognition. This year, we have had a robust calendar of events including parent's nights out, teacher appreciation luncheons, the ever-popular Butterfly Fun Run, Fantasy Football, and many other exciting opportunities to connect the community and the staff. We continue to build on those successes and drive parent engagement within the school community and look forward to continuing to bring us all together for fun activities.

School Operations

The DVMS administration has been hard at work this year modernizing the school and bringing about long overdue changes. Be it the way in which children are checked in and out, how paperwork is completed, or even modernizing the physical infrastructure the school sits on, many positive changes have been made with many more to come. Together, we are building a long-term strategy to modernize the facilities and classrooms, and building a plan that positions DVMS for long lasting success and ensures that needed upgrades and improvements are implemented on a timely schedule.



Staff Professional Development

The most important factor of our children's education is the teachers! This year has brought about some exciting developmental opportunities for the staff, including a year long DEI training and journey led by Dr. Luz Casquejo-Johnston, funding sending the majority of the staff to a Montessori workshop in Livermore, and connecting the teachers with parents so they can show us the value of the Montessori philosophy through a variety of parent education events.

In closing, we at the board are exceptionally proud of the work that is being done to continue enhancing the experience at DVMS. We look forward to seeing the school continue to grow and shine as a bright pillar in our community.

Bryan Morgan
President, Board of Directors



DVMS BOARD MEMBERS

- President: Bryan Morgan
- Vice President: Sarah Peterson
- Secretary: Amy Wood
- Finance Committee: Roger Tanaka & Patrick Larsen
- 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 & Erin Ebe
- Members at Large: Alessandra Pegnim and Anthony Davies
- Head of School: Jayne Martin

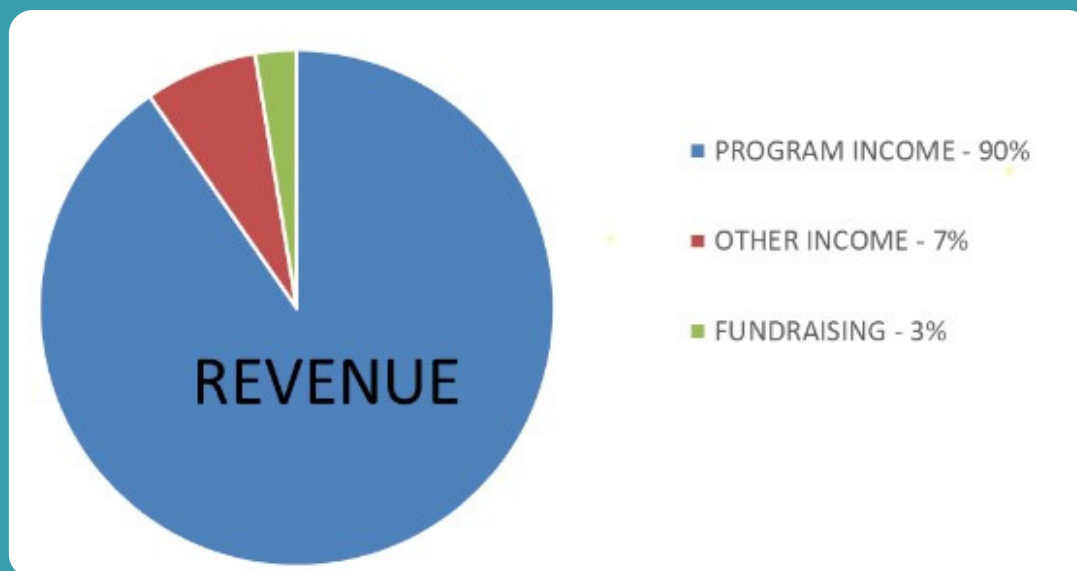


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

A review of the 2022-2023 fiscal year showed that DVMS remains on a solid financial footing and in line with our expectations. Student enrollment headcount slightly exceeded expectations resulting in a higher top line revenue achievement. However, the severe wet winter resulted in some unexpected repairs that resulted in higher operating expenses. These repairs were unavoidable and necessary to keep the school open and safe. Careful expense management helped to navigate this unexpected cost.

Additionally, our amazing parent community rallied to provide a strong fundraising contribution and ensured DVMS landed in a solid financial position for the fiscal year.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, our \$3.0 million revenue was comprised primarily of Program Tuition Revenue (90%). Other income included fees and one-off items accounted for 7% of revenue. Fundraising accounted for the balance (3%). On the expense side, teacher and staff compensation accounted for the majority of our expenses (86%). Building and grounds, administrative, and classroom materials comprised the remaining expense categories.



The balance sheet remains in strong health. 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.



- Salaries, Benefits, & Professional Development - 86%
- Building and Grounds - 6%
- Administrative (Supplies, Services, Mktg & Ins) - 4%
- Classroom Materials - 4%

FUNDRAISING DOLLARS AT WORK

Recognizing Sharon Tye

In June of 2021, Sharon Tye, beloved teacher, retired after a 33-year career at DVMS. Throughout her years as a Preschool/Kindergarten teacher, Sharon infused a love of celebration, dancing, music, and so much fun into every moment with the children.

The Taylor Family donated funds to purchase a gathering place to honor Sharon's legacy at DVMS which now sits in front of the Jasmin classroom.



Infrastructure Improvements

Plumbing

This year the original plumbing in East House, (Daisy, Lavender, and Buttercup) and the Infant Toddler House required a significant investment with the replacement of the sewer lateral lines. Additionally, all original pipes under East House were upgraded.



Infrastructure Improvements



Foundations and Drainage

The exceptionally wet winter of 2023 resulted in shifts in the buildings' foundations and minor flooding in various areas across campus. An engineering firm was tasked with the installation of several french drains, trenching, and rerouting drainage from the sump pump. Work on the foundations, repairing cracks and adjusting the jack-support system was required to stabilize each house.

Windows

In the fall of 2022, we embarked on a campus-wide window replacement project. Over several months, ninety-four windows were installed, replacing the original single pane glass sheets from the late 1950's. The classrooms are now quieter, the HVAC systems are more efficient, and when outdoor air quality is poor due to smoke, our air purifiers are more effective thanks to the insulation provided by the new double-paned, properly fitting, windows.

IT Firewall

This year we began a partnership with Knowing Technologies to support our IT needs. First on the agenda was upgrading our firewall to enhance network and server security. This work will continue into this year.

Classroom Renovations and Repairs



Buttercup Yard

The Buttercups are delighted to spend time in their updated backyard playground! The old, cracked and uneven cement slab was replaced with a smooth, even surface with proper drainage. Now there is lots of room to run, ride bikes, and play.

Auction Fund a Need

Thanks to the 2023 Auction, classrooms received much needed supplies to refresh and rejuvenate their environments.



New cabinets in Wildflower



New balance beam in Wildflower



New bikes in Wildflower

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 around the world.

In March 2023, six staff members attended the annual AMS Montessori Event, the largest Montessori conference, in Boston. Participants attended workshops and events over a three-day period learning and meeting other Montessori professionals from around the world.



The 2023 Montessori Event

BOSTON, MA.
MARCH 16-19



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT DONATED!



FUTURE PLANNING AND GOALS

As our local and state education systems undergo continuous evolution and change, exemplified by initiatives such as Universal TK and Universal Preschool, DVMS remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing its authentic Montessori curriculum, programs, and environment. Our mission is to not only adapt to these changes but to proactively lead in the realm of early childhood education. Anticipating the diverse needs of our community, we are thrilled to announce the development of an innovative five-day afternoon program specifically designed for the Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten child. These programs will not only enrich their academic experiences but strengthen independence, nurture autonomy and ignite the genuine love of learning, instrumental lifelong skills. Furthermore, recognizing the growing interest in language immersion programs, DVMS is actively working towards offering an immersive Spanish language afternoon program for families seeking a multicultural educational experience. By embracing new initiatives like these, DVMS is actively dedicated to becoming a center of excellence for young learners, focusing on cultivating foundational skills and values that equip them to envision a future where they can make a positive impact and actively contribute to changing the world.

Simultaneously, with an unwavering dedication to the enduring well-being of our educational community, we are actively involved in strategic planning to ensure a secure and nurturing learning environment for the future. Recognizing the pivotal role of physical surroundings in shaping students' educational experiences, we are exploring initiatives such as an endowment or capital campaign to strengthen our financial foundation. These endeavors will facilitate investments in sustainable infrastructure, modernized facilities, and safety measures. Through these measures, DVMS aspires to create a lasting legacy, ensuring our institution remains a beacon of excellence for generations, providing a secure and enriching space for students to thrive and reach their fullest potential just like it set out to do in 1965.

DVMS COMMUNITY



DVMS COMMUNITY



Annual Report
Design &
Photographic Edits
by Melissa Bippart