

THE FRENCH-AMERICAN SCHOOL

The French American School of Rhode Island's multilingual experience cultivates globally-minded, confident, creative learners.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

We are proud to provide you with this year's Annual Report. Each year, FASRI's annual report is a brief summary for our faculty, staff, parents, students, benefactors, and the community at large. Our annual report showcases the school's mission and the actions we take to implement, develop, and improve our approach to our mission and our goal to cultivate globally-minded, confident, creative learners.

This report is also proof of the fervent support we receive annually. We recognize that it would not be possible to complete our mission without the generosity and support of the FASRI community. We frequently acknowledge how fortunate we are to have a community of faculty, staff, families, and friends that engage themselves, so profoundly, in our school and its mission. We are grateful for your continued faith in FASRI and all that we do to prepare our students to be engaged, global citizens.

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As we look back on the 2020/2021 school year, we will most likely remember it as the "Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic", a year when schools had to adapt to a constantly changing and challenging environment. The pandemic dictated a constraining framework of safety and health protocols within which teaching and learning approaches had to be adjusted.

The FASRI community can be proud of its achievements. We can commend our students, faculty, and staff for the exceptional resilience they demonstrated day after day, week after week, and month after month. Everyone rolled up their sleeves and worked extremely hard to keep the in-person learning experience going. Due to our dedication, FASRI remained open for in-person learning almost the entire year, with minimal distance learning weeks during the Winter.

FASRI educators focused on developing students' social-emotional skills with a renewed attention to well-being and mental health at the individual and collective levels. We intentionally named the 2020/2021 school year "the Year of Resilience." We know that equipping our students with lifelong emotional intelligence skills will serve them well in their life journeys.

Teachers continued to cultivate enthusiasm and joy of learning through hands-on activities, articulated projects, and by taking classes outside for much appreciated outdoor learning. Learning growth continued at a steady pace. The very nature of bilingual education allows for conversations and reflections between two educational traditions. This way, students are constantly exposed to various perspectives and thinking strategies while acquiring cross-cultural content knowledge and understanding that genuinely opens their minds.

We want to express our gratitude to the entire FASRI community, students, parents, faculty, staff, and FASRI friends for the grit demonstrated throughout the school year, as we stayed true to delivering excellence through bilingualism.

With your support and thanks to your generosity, FASRI is committed, per its vision statement, to lead in international education, creating a multicultural community prepared to change the world. Our beliefs are clearly articulated, and we are confident we can go beyond making a difference individually: we believe that together we can be a force of transformation.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude on behalf of all students who have walked through FASRI's doors since its inception in 1994. Your steadfast generosity over the years, whether you support FASRI financially or you actively spread positive word of mouth about FASRI, are instrumental actions that help our faculty and staff in their everyday efforts to continue enhancing a meaningful, relevant, and engaging experience for your children. We kindly encourage you to stay engaged with our mission and continue your support.

We are now entering the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic with an added dedication to our vision and Academic Plan. As an international school, it is part of the fabric of who we are to celebrate a diverse array of cultures, languages, perspectives, traditions, and identities. Building on this rich soil, in 2021/2022, we are engaging in a collective Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work to make it a more explicit part of who we are at FASRI and how it is fundamental to our core values.

Let us remember daily, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr. "we may have all come on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now."

With my warmest regards,

Bénédicte Brouder, Head of School

2021 2022

STAFF

Bénédicte Brouder, *Head of School*
Gail Campbell, *Director of Finance and Administration*

Dana Copley, *Maintenance Manager*

Gina Flores, *Social Worker, SEL*

Virginie Gherardi, *Director of Extracurricular Activities and Afterschool Care*

Raissa Mensah, *Director of Enrollment and Communications & Marketing*

Ana Palumbo, *School Nurse*

Julien Terrier, *Executive Assistant*

Kristie Lynn Waite, *Administrative Assistant*



FACULTY

Doris Bayar, *Elementary Teacher & Coordinator*

Lamia Benadouda, *Teacher Assistant*

Julie Castadère, *Elementary Teacher*

Simon Castadère, *Maternelle Teacher*

Eléonore Ecorcheville, *Art Teacher*

May Gomez, *Maternelle Teacher*

James Harvey, *Student Services Provider, SEL*

Nadège Herin Curci, *Elementary Teacher*

Isabelle Jassigneux, *Maternelle Teacher & Coordinator*

Erin Kemper, *Middle School Teacher*

Thomas Keohane, *Music Teacher*

Lucia Kiley, *Elementary Teacher,*

English Program Coordinator,

Title IX, Section 504

Yuri Kondratiev, *Middle School Teacher*

Anick Kone, *Student Services Provider*

Sonnie Kpangbai, *Elementary Teacher*

Nastassia Larsen, *Teacher Assistant*

Daniel Lundin, *Elementary Teacher*

Audrey Michaels, *Maternelle Teacher*

Salma Nashawati, *Passport Teacher*

Sharon Pacheco, *Middle School Teacher*

Stephanie Paquette, *Middle School Teacher, & Coordinator*

Brian Pruvost, *Elementary Teacher*

Delphine Souma, *Teacher Assistant, SEL*

FASRI's Educator's Profile

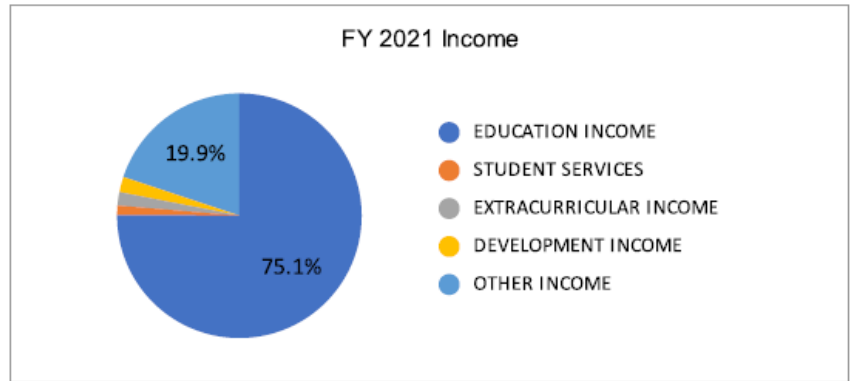
We consider all faculty and staff at the French American School of Rhode Island as a team of educators contributing to the learning experience of every student.

Our educators are compassionate, supportive, ready to listen, learn and change. They have a genuine belief in each child's potential and ability to succeed.

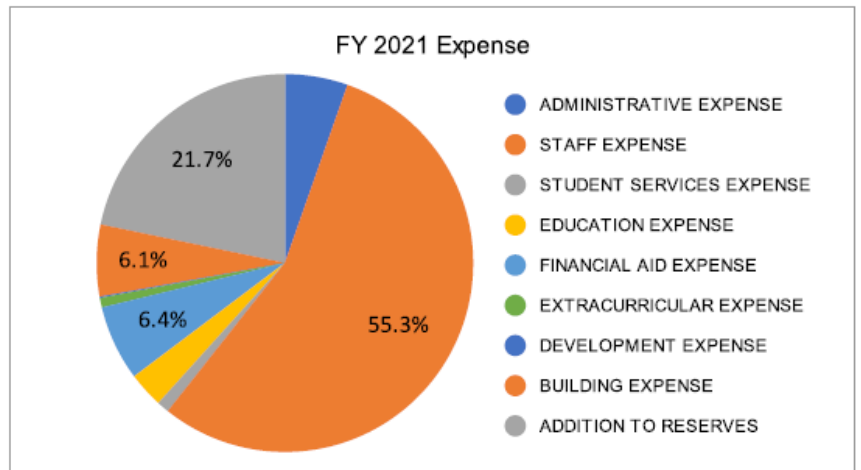
Our educators are highly skilled professionals in their chosen field, live the multilingual and multicultural mission of the school and its values, and understand that every interaction represents an opportunity to learn.

2021 FISCAL YEAR

INCOME	
EDUCATION INCOME	2,379,555
STUDENT SERVICES	40,199
EXTRACURRICULAR INCOME	55,804
DEVELOPMENT INCOME	64,944
OTHER INCOME	630,068
TOTAL INCOME	3,170,570



EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	171,279
STAFF EXPENSE	1,752,204
STUDENT SERVICES EXPENSE	33,080
EDUCATION EXPENSE	96,712
FINANCIAL AID EXPENSE	204,450
EXTRACURRICULAR EXPENSE	25,905
DEVELOPMENT EXPENSE	3,535
BUILDING EXPENSE	194,412
ADDITION TO RESERVES	688,993
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,170,570



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Several of our donors wish to remain anonymous and are therefore not listed.

AND WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

THE BRANDING COMMITTEE · CLASS PARENTS · THE DIVERSITY & EQUITY COMMITTEE · THE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE · THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE · PARENT AMBASSADORS · THE PARENT ASSOCIATION



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our community returned for the 2021-2022 school year eager to get back to a more normal routine after experiencing a year with so many great challenges. We came back wiser and better acclimated to the many protocols the pandemic has required us to follow. Social distancing, mask-wearing, and frequent hand washing have all become a part of the daily routine as the new normal has slowly set in. While it has not been easy to adjust to all of these new aspects of daily life, it is truly inspiring to see how our children have adapted as we remain vigilant in our ongoing efforts to protect our community and allow our children to continue with in-person learning.

FASRI enrollment has seen a significant increase from the previous year with many new families joining our small community, and we are very encouraged to have so many new students and parents who have put their trust in our school during a time of so much change and uncertainty. After school programs are once again bustling with activity and our PA was able to schedule a wonderful evening under the stars watching international short films and eating popcorn in the park.

On October 19th we hosted our first virtual community gathering to engage in an important conversation on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) bringing this important work to the forefront and increasing awareness within our community regarding the need for greater equity in our school and in our world. This conversation is taking place at all levels of the community, including our board of trustees, faculty, staff, and students as well. We are excited to continue these conversations with more workshops led by the guiding hand of our friend Roberta Wilmore, weaving this important work into all aspects of our school, and raising awareness, consciousness, and a call to action for our community.

Our Head of School, Bénédicte Brouder, continues to lead her team, focusing on collaboration and opportunities to enhance the multilingual education of our children. Preparing them for our ever-changing and multifaceted world is key to navigating the social, economic, and environmental changes that are ahead.

The financial state of the school remains strong, and we were fortunate enough to take advantage of much-needed federal aid to help us through some difficult months during the pandemic. This aid along with the careful management of the budget by school leadership has allowed us to emerge from this difficult time with confidence in the financial health of FASRI. However, like many small independent schools, tuition dollars do not cover the full cost of running the school and we, therefore, continue to rely on the generosity of our community. The pandemic has curtailed traditional fundraising opportunities for our small school, and we once again ask that you consider donating to FASRI if it is within your means to do so.

Ours is a small community, bound together by a shared vision for our children. We must now look to one another for support and encouragement as we step forward into a world with so many unknowns. The educational experience we provide our children enables them to tackle these unknowns with bravery, conviction, passion, and empathy, knowing that not only do they have agency in the world but that the world truly needs them to be change-makers.

Most of all we ask for your continued trust and support in our faculty and staff, who have demonstrated tremendous poise and skill in handling the enormous complexities of teaching during a pandemic, and who continue to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for all of our students. We also ask for your trust and support for our mission and its guiding principles, and we urge you to demonstrate this by whatever means you are able. We thank you for choosing FASRI and for believing in its vision to create a multi-cultural community prepared to change the world.

Respectfully,
The Board of Trustees

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FACHE,**

Board of Trustees, Past Chair



TEACHING AND LEARNING FOCUS

TEACHING AND LEARNING: FOSTERING VISIBLE THINKING

With the intention of fostering healthy and robust work habits, several faculty have started to implement Visible Thinking Routines throughout the 2020/2021 school year. At the core of Visible Thinking are practices that help make thinking more visible and tangible. Thinking Routines loosely guide learners' thought processes and encourage active thought processing. They are short, easy-to-learn mini-strategies that extend and deepen students' thinking, becoming part of the fabric of everyday teaching and learning. In 2020/2021, MLF pedagogical advisor Ellen Burdge guided our faculty through a training that allowed them to walk away with practical strategies (the Thinking Routines) that would build new brain patterns (habits of mind) for students. Thinking Routines have proven to be a powerful tool for collaboration and formative assessment in the new distance-learning environment paradigm and applicable to any age level!



TEACHING AND LEARNING: DEVELOPING STRONG WRITING ABILITIES



FASRI is part of the French Ministry of Education (www.aefe.fr) and the Mission Laïque Française (MLF) (www.mlfmonde.org) networks. We take an interest in supporting our faculty's growth with established professional development training and curated resources. With MLF's support, FASRI has started implementing the Lucy Calkins Writing Workshops Methodology for the last several years. By executing this powerful teaching and learning methodology this year, grades 1 through 5 will write in French and English. As your children flex their cognitive muscles, they will become athletes in the art of the writing process! We are confident that the transition in middle school with extensive writing skills will contribute to their future success in high school and college.

A SCHOOL IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR LEARNING AND GROWING

During the 2020/2021 school year, many dramatic events permeated school life. At FASRI, we believe that a school is meant to be a safe haven for learning and growing. Yet, we also recognize that certain current events of importance are educational opportunities. Remaining mindful, our teachers continue to be age-appropriate when discussing these important world events with our students. We prioritize the skills of critical thinking, discernment, and cultural empathy as we seek to cultivate the next generation of global multilingual citizens responsible for understanding and navigating an increasingly complex world.

We kept approaching difficult conversations such as social injustice, systemic racism, and violence with caution and according to the age of the students. FASRI educators used and will continue to use the three-step process for teachers called "Listen, Protect, Model," recommended by the organization Teaching Tolerance:

- Listen: Ask questions and listen to kids; try to understand their concerns.
- Protect: Work to make students feel safe and protected by establishing norms and guidelines for conversation.
- Model: Demonstrate a calm demeanor and reasoned approach to conversation. Encourage a sense of calm and respect.

