

# The Montessori School of Raleigh Guide to Philanthropy



# From the Head of School



The Montessori School of Raleigh's (MSR) growing tradition of philanthropy has been built through a collective spirit of giving, enhancing the educational experience. Each year, MSR thoughtfully builds its operating budget with your philanthropic support in mind, providing for our students' and teachers' greatest needs.

MSR, along with the majority of both local and national independent schools, builds their financial model around accessibility and belonging. Along with our commitment to providing an excellent education rooted in the Montessori philosophy, we are also committed to continuous growth as a diverse community. Because of this, our tuition model is set competitively and does not cover the entire cost of a MSR education.

In fact, several revenue streams are needed to ensure the financial stability of the institution including tuition, auxiliary programs, endowment funds, and individual gifts from those in our community and beyond.

It is my hope that this guide will serve as a tool for us to share a common language about the important role of The MSR Annual Fund, the philanthropic culture of our community, and the impact your gifts have on the daily lives of our teachers and students.

As we embark on the next school year, I want to thank you for choosing MSR. As a community, we honor the unique characteristics that each person brings to the school and take pride in what we can accomplish when we are together.

Thank you for choosing us,

Monica Rodriguez  
Head of School



A collective belief in MSR's mission and philosophy is required to secure transformational funding from sources beyond our campus.

## Healthy Annual Fund, Healthy School

A healthy annual fund signals a healthy school. Strong giving participation to The MSR Annual Fund translates to greater funding opportunities beyond MSR parents.

Prior to awarding grant funding, corporate and foundation grantmakers first want to see that MSR's own community and leaders believe us to be an organization worthy of their transformational gifts. This is shown through the reporting of our annual giving participation percentages and totals.

Strong independent school annual fund participation looks like\*:

- 100% board of trustees
- 100% employees
- 68% parents
- 17% grandparents

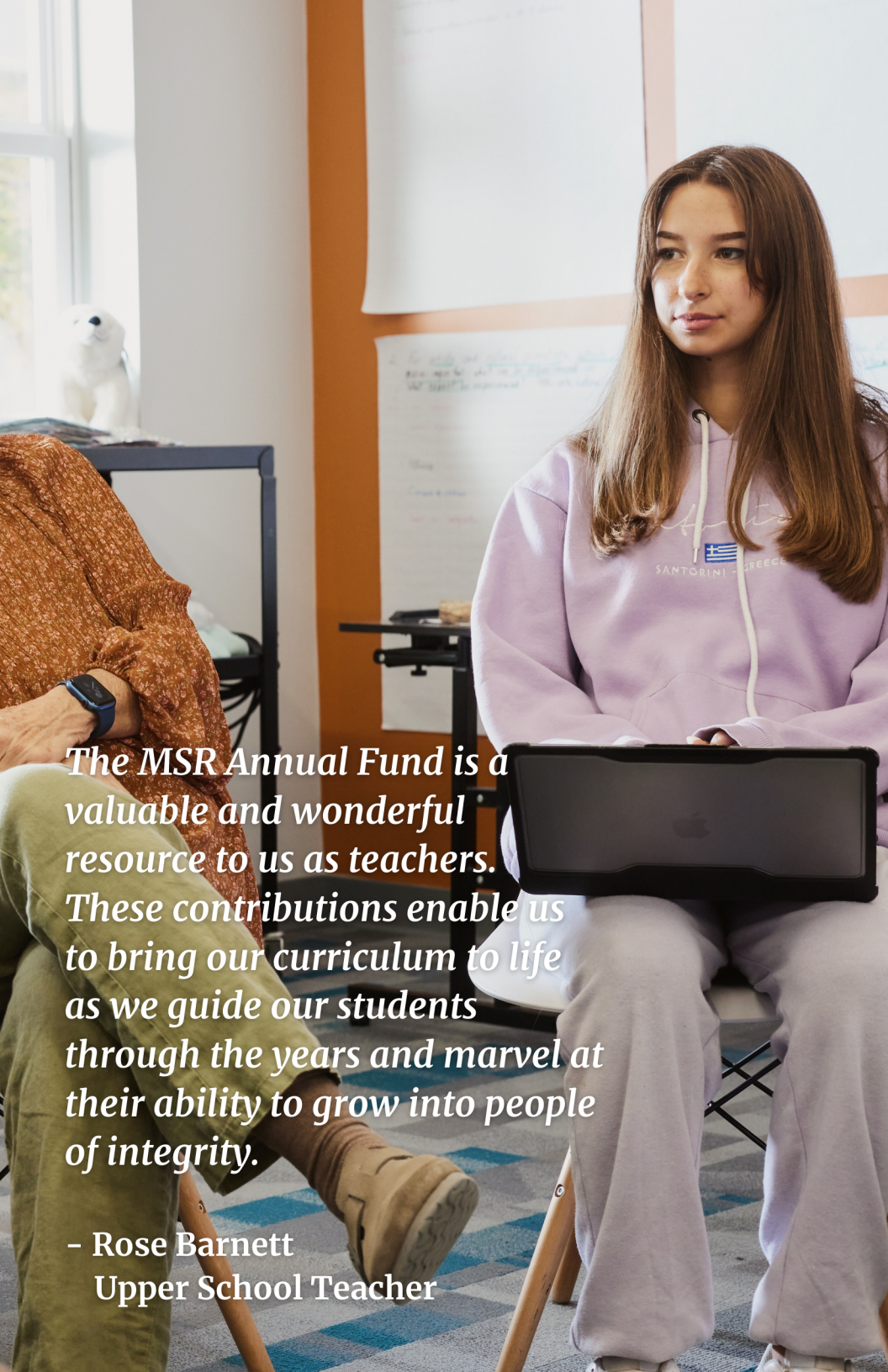
A collective belief in MSR's mission and philosophy is required to secure transformational funding from sources beyond our campus.

*\*Benchmarks based on NAIS Facts at a Glance.*









*The MSR Annual Fund is a valuable and wonderful resource to us as teachers. These contributions enable us to bring our curriculum to life as we guide our students through the years and marvel at their ability to grow into people of integrity.*

**- Rose Barnett  
Upper School Teacher**

Because tuition provides your child access to more than what your tuition covers, gifts to The MSR Annual Fund are extremely important.

*More access.*

*More independence.*

*More opportunity.*

Through The MSR Annual Fund, we can achieve more together.

## Educating Beyond Tuition Rates

Like our peer schools, our tuition rates do not cover the full cost of a MSR education. Informally known as "the gap," independent schools rely on additional revenue streams to cover the full annual operating budget needs that remain after tuition.

Due to this business model, your tuition provides your child access to more than what tuition covers.

Your gifts close the gap, make it possible to create a diverse community, attract and retain talented faculty, and provide a relevant and rigorous curriculum that aligns with our educational philosophy.

## Doing More Together

Each year, as we consider the best way to steward your philanthropic commitment to the school, we plan strategically for enhancements and improvements that will set your child apart to prepare them for life as a global student and citizen.

The MSR Annual Fund not only ensures a safe, rigorous, and relevant educational experience, but provides your child with more—more access, more independence, and more opportunity—becoming architects of their own authentic and fulfilling lives.

Through The MSR Annual Fund, we can do more together.





## Leadership through Generosity

*Leveraging Microsoft's matching gift and volunteer match programs has allowed us to double our giving to MSR, join MSR's Leadership Giving Circle, and to turn my parent chaperoning hours into funding for the school – a win for our family and MSR!*

Dale and Kristina Brunelle  
Parents of Evie '29, Middle School

## Taking "the gap" to Heart

*As a family dedicated to independent school education, we have taken the notion of "filling the gap" to heart when we consider our annual fund gift each year. Understanding that tuition doesn't cover the entire cost of our children's education, we appreciate being able to make up for the difference of the actual cost of a MSR education through a tax deductible gift rather than through highly increased tuition and fees.*

PC and Jenni Romano  
Parents of Luca & Leo '35,  
Lower Elementary



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## Let's Connect!

MSR's development office is here to partner with our community to make MSR the best it can be. To learn more about how you can become involved at MSR, visit [msr.org/MPSA](https://msr.org/MPSA).



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