



The Montessori School of Raleigh

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

## Our Mission

The Montessori School of Raleigh is the Triangle's modern embodiment and mindful practice of the time-proven Montessori philosophy, developing agile thinkers, poised communicators, and gracious collaborators—engineers of authentic and fulfilling lives.

## Our Vision

In the year 2023, The Montessori School of Raleigh will be a thriving, well respected, and diverse day school community, recognized for its expertise in empowering students to be confident and competent life-long learners and respectful global citizens, distinct in the Triangle for delivering the authentic Montessori program and the International Baccalaureate program with unified purpose and integrity, competitive in attracting and retaining exemplary faculty and staff, and robustly funded by an ever-expanding circle of support.\*

\*Created and endorsed by MSR's faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees, November 2018

## Accreditation



## Memberships



LOWER SCHOOL  
Lead Mine Campus  
7005 Lead Mine Rd. | Raleigh, NC 27615

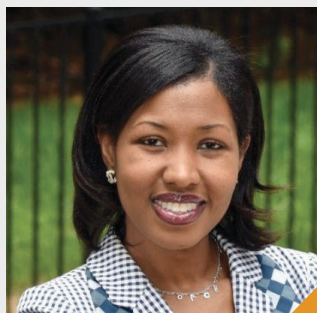
MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL  
Brier Creek Campus  
408 Andrews Chapel Rd. | Durham, NC 27703

919-848-1545 tel | 919-848-9611 fax  
msr.org | communications@msr.org



Follow us on...





## From the Interim Board President and the Head of School

Dear MSR Community,

The purpose of MSR's Annual Report is to provide our community with an intimate look back into our accomplishments of the previous school year. Like most nonprofits in recent years, we have learned to think creatively about how we diversify and strengthen our various streams of income in order to deliver on mission and strengthen both the student and faculty experience. With the weight of the pandemic largely behind us, and an enrollment increase of 62% over the last three years, MSR is capable of leveraging the solid and stable financial foundation your support has provided in order to move toward an even brighter future.

Your philanthropy allows us to provide both essential support and programmatic enhancements for our students, faculty, and staff, including professional and career development for employees, expansions in our arts programs, improvements to our safety and security infrastructure and protocols, and improved teacher and administrative compensation packages, among others. As stewards of your generous financial contributions, our hope is that you know and feel that MSR is constantly working for the betterment of the student experience in everything that we do, and we hope this year's annual report conveys that commitment.

With the current school year well underway, we are pleased to share a few highlights from the 2023-2024 academic school year:

- Launch of *Transparent Classroom*, providing feedback to and insight for parents into our Montessori academic program and curriculum
- Expanding Infant classroom to the community
- Additional Toddler and Children's House classrooms, allowing more children to have a Montessori experience
- Expansion of Suzuki Violin program into Grade 2, broadening the reach of our arts programs
- 11 cameras added to the Lead Mine Campus, improving coverage of our grounds and campus perimeter

As we look ahead to MSR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, we feel immensely grateful for the past and present support you have provided. We are excited to share new opportunities that continue to elevate the MSR experience and imbue new generations of students with the grace, kindness, courtesy, and love for learning that all of us, as stewards of this school and philosophy, value and model in our daily lives.

With gratitude,

Lisa Lowe-Hall  
Interim Board President

Monica Rodriguez  
Head of School



*Dr. Montessori deeply understood the value of the individual within the larger society—a sentiment that MSR has taken to heart and adopted beyond the walls of the classroom, becoming more than just a differentiating factor, it's part of our institutional DNA.*

*Every individual, past and present, who has invested in MSR has shaped the enriching, diverse, and welcoming environment that is at the core of who we pride ourselves to be—those committed to giving students in the Triangle the gift of a Montessori and IB education.*

*Put simply, we are stronger together.*

*Thank you to every individual who has given the gift of their time and talents to strengthen who we are as a collective, and making MSR an exceptional school and a vibrant community.*

## 2022 – 2023 Volunteer Leadership

### Board of Trustees

Matt Baldwin	Debbie Gordon
Charles Bayless	Erin Grant
Dustin Bermudez	James T. Ham
Patricia Bradley	Peter Kamarchik
Julie Brooks	Lisa Lowe-Hall
Abdel Darensburg	Brian McNeil
Viraj Doshi '08	Tim Meigs
Patty Eggerding	Meghan Pyle
Tamara Franklin	Candace Waters '03
Jane Gagliardi	

### MPSA Executive Committee

President – Amy Parris
Vice President – Julie Seigmund
Secretary/Treasurer – Nishi Patel
Room Parent Chair – Tracy Pagnozzi
Lead Mine Campus Life Chair – Claire Dineen
Brier Creek Campus Life Chair – Melissa Dunford-Lujan
Event Chair – Megan Baldwin



## 2022–2023 Financial Overview

### Revenue

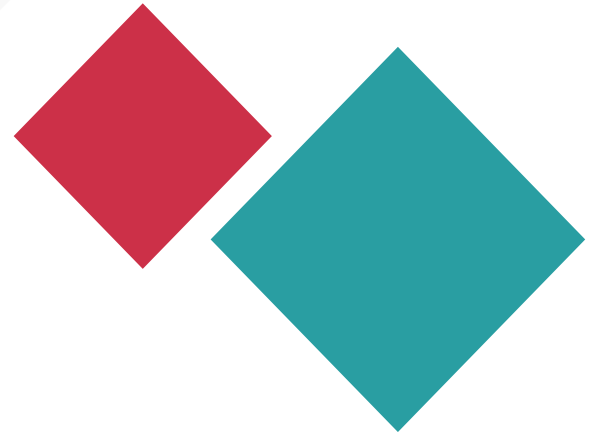
Gross Tuition & Fees	\$8,796,732
Auxiliary Programs	\$893,227
Contributions & Gifts	\$252,706
Unrealized Gain on Bond Derivative	\$82,326
Other Revenue	\$21,971
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,046,961</b>

### Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$6,700,066
Tuition Assistance	\$483,082
Depreciation & Amortization	\$456,348
Facilities	\$411,910
Educational & Instructional	\$402,082
Technology	\$284,768
Administrative Operations	\$252,729
Bond Interest & Servicing Fees	\$233,809
Professional Services	\$224,228
Advertising & Marketing	\$106,679
Liability Insurance	\$143,903
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,699,603</b>

### The MSR Annual Fund

Other Restricted	\$570
Facilities	\$1,550
Visual and Performing Art	\$3,325
Safety and Security Enhancements	\$28,276
Greatest Needs/Unrestricted	\$189,313
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$233,034</b>





# 50 Years Strong

*Join us as we celebrate who we were, who we are, and who we dream of becoming.*

Over the last 50 years, nurtured by the dedication of passionate families and educators, MSR has grown from humble beginnings, operating out of an apartment-building basement, to what is now the Triangle's leading Montessori institution.

The 2024 - 2025 school year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Montessori School of Raleigh. In honor of this tremendous milestone, MSR is laying the groundwork for a year of celebrations as well as its most ambitious annual fund campaign. This campaign signals an affirmation of our commitment to excellence as an educational institution and a bold reinvestment in MSR's most important assets: our people, our places, our purpose, and our potential.

50 YEARS

Steadfast commitment to The Montessori School of Raleigh has prepared generations of children for futures of purpose and meaning for the last half century. As we look toward this milestone year, MSR honors the legacy and vision of its founding families and, with renewed energy, dreams big about what's possible for MSR for the next 50 years.

The shared impact of financial stability through generous gifts to The MSR Annual Fund means MSR can remain true to its heritage and further cultivate its mission to provide holistic and relevant education for MSR students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

## 1974

A small group of parents dreamed of bringing the Montessori educational philosophy to families in Raleigh and established The Montessori School of Raleigh with 17 students in the basement of the Glenwood Village Apartments.

## 1981

MSR officially establishes the Lead Mine Campus, offering Toddler through Elementary curriculum.



# THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF RALEIGH

EST. 1974

1987

Parents, students, employees, and friends of MSR gather for the groundbreaking of the Mason Long Williams building on the Lead Mine Campus, establishing a space to expand MSR's Elementary program.



1999

MSR becomes the first school in the state to be recommended for dual accreditation with the American Montessori Society and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



In conjunction with MSR's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, parents, students, employees, and friends of MSR gather for the groundbreaking of the Middle School building on the new Brier Creek Campus.

2020

MSR graduates its first senior class in a virtual ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



2023

MSR expands to offer a Nido (Infant) program to its Early Childhood program, welcoming students as young as six weeks to its Lead Mine Campus. The school undergoes a year-long strategic planning process, led by the Board of Trustees, to cast a vision for the future of the The Montessori School of Raleigh as it prepares to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## Honor Roll of Donors | The MSR Annual Fund

*The MSR Annual Fund defines the reach and depth of a MSR education. The generosity of donors to The MSR Annual Fund sustains the unique learning tools, environments, and experiences that are the hallmarks of a Montessori and IB education, rooted in real-life learning, and cultivated through fostering transformative mindsets and the pursuit of success not bound by the traditional classroom.*

### Leadership Giving Circle

*The Montessori School of Raleigh is grateful for the members of MSR's Leadership Giving Circle, who are among the school's most transformative donors. Through a three-year pledge commitment, this group of donors boldly contribute to realizing the school's vision.*

Olivier Arraou and Macy Hamm

Matthew and Megan Baldwin

Dustin and Christine Bermudez

Colin Blair and Christine Etschmaier

Russ and Cathy Bocklage

Tim and Sharon Bray

Miles and Elizabeth Bruder

Dale and Kristina Brunelle / Microsoft

Richard and Tammy Cook

Penn Clark and Sherri Lawson Clark

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Eric Dill and Abby O'Leary

Blake and Shelley Edwards

Scott and Tammy Franklin

Joe and Debbie Gordon

Christian and Erin Grant

Carmelo Gullotto and Jane Gagliardi

Michael Hall and Lisa Lowe-Hall

James Ham

Betsy Hood

David and Lauren Hood

Peter and Lisa Kamarchik

Brendan and Autumn Kiel

Rob and Krystin Knox

Brian McNeil

Tim and Julie Meigs

Pavlo Netrebko and Nataliya Yatsenko

Mark and Amy Parris / Nvidia

Greg and Wendy Peele

Jeremy and Meghan Pyle

Carlos and Monica Rodriguez

Derek and Kim Rohde

PC and Jenni Romano

Keith Shepherd and Natalia Luckyanova

Shannon Snow

Andrew and Ashley Techet

Tom and Marie Thomas

Randal and Candace '03 Waters

Dana White

Mason and Catherine Williams





## Honor Roll of Donors | The MSR Annual Fund

### Maria's Circle

\$5,000-\$9,999

Olivier Arraou and Macy Hamm  
Charles and Joan Bayless  
Dustin and Christine Bermudez  
Abdel Darensburg and Tori Spaugh  
Joe and Debbie Gordon  
Christian and Erin Grant  
Brendan and Autumn Kiel  
Tim and Julie Meigs  
Sean Patel and Leah McCann Patel  
Jeremy and Meghan Pyle  
PC and Jenni Romano  
Keith Shepherd and Natalia Luckyanova  
Mason and Catherine Williams

### The Head of School Circle

\$1,974 - \$4,999

Anonymous (2)  
Brian Baker / Lenovo  
Matthew and Megan Baldwin  
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Dale and Kristina Brunelle / Microsoft  
Blake and Shelley Edwards  
Betsy Hood  
Peter and Lisa Kamarchik  
Rob and Krystin Knox  
Brian McNeil / American Urological Association  
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Greg and Wendy Peele  
Dana White  
Carlos and Monica Rodriguez  
Shannon Snow  
W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation

### The Founder's Circle

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Robert and Donna Boyd

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HJ Brody  
Miles and Elizabeth Bruder  
Heather Anderson  
Melissa Conner and Sunanda Nair  
Eric Dill and Abby O'Leary  
Meredith Dixon  
James Ham  
Jeff and Perin Marcus  
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Arnold and Julie Siegmund  
Drew and Missy Steffens  
Andrew and Ashley Techet  
Tom and Marie Thomas  
Kevin and Kate Thompson  
Joseph Toussaint and Marimi Brutus-Toussaint  
Randal and Candace '03 Waters

### The Faculty Club

\$500-\$999

Fouad Abd-El-Khalick and Lama BouFajreldin  
Amazon Smile  
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James and Rachael Kelly  
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Barb Kunz  
Brian and Jennifer Loftin / Stash Financial  
Timothy Losk and Heidi Suke / EPIC  
Ivan Lujan and Melissa Dunford-Lujan

## Honor Roll of Donors | The MSR Annual Fund

Mark and Tonya Magrath  
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Nicola and Sherry-Ann Serra  
Aydin Taghizadeh and Grannaz Amirjamshidi  
Zane and Allison Tharakan / VMware  
Joshua Vick and Sam Hirte

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\$100-\$249

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Patricia Bradley  
Julie Brooks  
Mike and Marie Brown  
Redmond Helen Burke  
Caitlin Clinard  
Ronte Coles and Laura Morrison '03  
Andy and Sharon Cooke

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Griff and Christie Garner  
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Isobel and Carl Marcus  
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Enzo Verdino and Rachel Masucci  
Ruthie Walker  
Steven and Justine Walters  
Carole Watts  
Sean and Terri Witty

## Honor Roll of Donors | The MSR Annual Fund

### Sustainer Club Up to \$99

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Clifford and Pamela Bagnall  
Sara Bagramian  
Scott Berka and Colleen Briggs  
Benjamin Betts  
Magdalene Bloom  
Blake Brown  
Brandon Brown and Amanda Sasieta  
Rose Byer  
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Darius Hackney and Deidra Martinez  
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Andrew Harris and YuanChen Lee  
Jody Helm and Jesse Flibotte  
Chuck '89 and Laura Hensey  
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Jim and Bev Kilpatrick  
David and Lyn Kirby  
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Garner Overton  
Abby Pardue  
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Karen Richards  
Iris Roberts  
Leslie Rouse  
Kevin and Kelly Shoaff  
Joanne Siegmund  
Keith Strombotne  
Sara Sved  
Devon and Christina Vanecek  
Joe and Amanda Villari  
Nelson Vinueza and  
Vanessa Gallardo  
Gene White  
Michelle Williamson  
Amaris Wright-Bey

### Beyond the MSR Annual Fund: Transformational Gifts to The Montessori School of Raleigh

*Many thanks to the  
visionary donors who are  
propelling The Montessori  
School of Raleigh into  
the future with their  
transformational capital  
gifts to the school  
above and beyond their  
commitment to The MSR  
Annual Fund.*

Peter and Lisa Kamarchik  
Jeremy and Meghan Pyle







The Montessori School *of* Raleigh



**LEARN MORE OR  
GIVE TODAY**

**[msr.org/giving](https://msr.org/giving)**

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Ellie Cooke, Director of Development  
[ecooke@msr.org](mailto:ecooke@msr.org) (919) 848-1545 x 287

## Expanding What is Possible

The MSR Annual Fund provides critical resources that enable MSR to expand what is possible and realize our vision to equip students with an education that engages their minds, encourages exploration, inspires new passions, and builds confidence.

It is never too late to support MSR students on their journey to becoming thoughtful, purposeful, and contributing citizens in our world through your generosity to The MSR Annual Fund. Thank you for considering how you can support our time-proven Montessori learning philosophy, our deeply dedicated MSR faculty, and the values we share as a community.