

MARIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

GUIDE TO GIVING AND ENGAGEMENT



Marin Montessori School began more than sixty years ago with a simple but powerful idea: that parents and educators, working together, could create something truly meaningful for children. This founding spirit of partnership continues to guide us today.

As we look to the future, our community is helping shape a new chapter: one that deepens

our commitment to equity, cultivates curiosity and connection, and ensures that the MMS experience remains vibrant for generations to come.

With the support of our parent volunteers and contributors, we're not only preserving what makes MMS unique; we're gently and purposefully growing into what comes next. We invite you to join us as we grow together.



VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At Marin Montessori School, our community is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in the power of collaboration to create an enriching and nurturing environment for our students. That's why we're inviting you to become an essential part of our mission by volunteering with us. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are looking for more extensive involvement, there's a place for you in our volunteer community.

ADMISSIONS

Our Admissions volunteers are vital ambassadors for Marin Montessori School. They support prospective families as they learn about MMS through the admissions process. Volunteers provide invaluable insights and address prospective parents' questions by drawing upon their own MMS experiences. They also partner with new MMS families to welcome them and support their transition to our community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees' objective is to safeguard and advance the mission of Marin Montessori School. The Board consists of current and alumni parents, alumni, grandparents, and key community representatives, all of whom share a deep commitment to MMS. Adjunct Board Committees invite parents to share their expertise in a variety of areas and act as an introduction to board-level engagement.

CLASSROOM/CAMPUS

There are many hands-on ways to support our classrooms. Whether serving as a Room Parent or Junior High Parent Liaison, offering a cultural presentation, tending plants and animals, or painting sets for a school play, volunteers provide an essential service in supporting the work of our teachers and campus life.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FUNDRAISING

Volunteering your time and talents to advance fundraising and community-building is a meaningful way to connect with other families while contributing to the strength and vitality of MMS. Whether you help bring our Gather for Good event to life, organize an intimate Party Book gathering, or serve as an Annual Fund Class Captain, your involvement plays an important role in fostering connections and supporting our shared mission.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Every parent at MMS is a member of the Parents' Association. Run by a dedicated group of volunteers, the PA enhances our school community by organizing beloved campus-wide events such as Fall Fest and Spring Fling, coordinating activities to honor our educators, and facilitating community service opportunities.

THE CALENDAR OF GIVING

FALL

THE ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

The Annual Fund is a donation-based campaign that supports Marin Montessori School’s operating budget each year. These tax-deductible gifts play a vital role in sustaining every aspect of our school. They underwrite our tuition assistance program, maintain inspiring learning environments, and ensure the highest standard of AMI Montessori education in every classroom.

Like most independent schools, MMS relies on fundraising to bridge the gap between tuition revenue and the full cost of delivering an exceptional education. Rather than raising tuition to close this gap, we intentionally plan for it, allowing us to keep tuition more accessible and welcome a wider range of students and families.

While every Annual Fund gift directly supports our operations, donors may choose to direct their gift to one of the areas outlined below:

- **Extend Access & Affordability:** Imagine the curious child who can join our community because tuition assistance opened the door to their full potential.
- **Enrich Academic Programs:** Imagine the student whose eyes light up because deep, uninterrupted exploration and specialized materials spark a lifelong passion for learning.
- **Beautify & Expand Campuses & Classrooms:** Imagine the joy of a child exploring a campus thoughtfully designed for their independence, where pristine indoor environments and rich outdoor learning spaces invite daily wonder.
- **Retain & Elevate World-Class Faculty:** Imagine the child who feels truly known and nurtured because their master AMI guide has made MMS their professional home.

We invite each member of our community to give as generously as they are able. Your gift helps provide the resources that make a truly exceptional student experience possible.

ANNUAL FUND GIVING LEVELS

\$50,000 - \$150,000	Century Circle
\$25,000 - \$49,999	Visionaries
\$15,000 - \$24,999	Innovators
\$10,000 - \$14,999	Explorers
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Scholars
\$2,500 - \$4,999	Builders
\$1,000 - \$2,499	Mentors
Up to \$999	Friends

ALL YEAR

CAPITAL GIVING

Gifts that support significant improvements to the school’s programs and campus can be discussed at any time throughout the year. We welcome parent engagement and vision for developing mission-aligned projects that support our short- and long-term strategic plan, as outlined by the campus planning committee.

ENDOWMENT GIVING

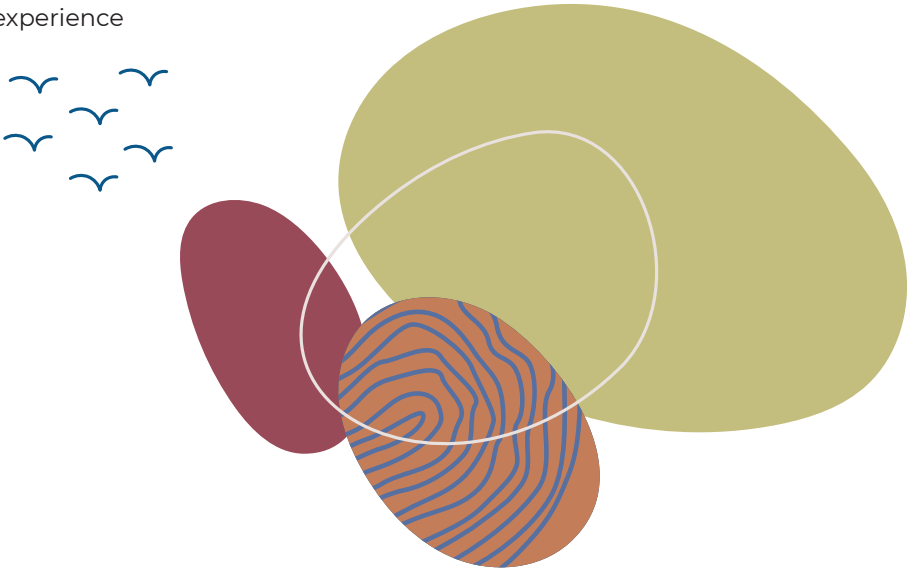
Following the historic success of our initial three-year launch phase, which raised over \$6.3 million to build an unshakable foundation for Marin Montessori School, we are stepping into the next chapter of our endowment’s growth. As a permanent savings account, the principal remains untouched while investment income provides lasting stability during uncertain times, empowering MMS to innovate, support our educators, and protect our mission forever.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts are a way to meet your philanthropic and financial goals while leaving a lasting legacy that supports a Marin Montessori School education for future generations of children. Planned giving can be as simple as including a bequest to MMS in your will or making a gift that secures lifetime income through a remainder trust.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match your charitable contributions, sometimes up to 200 percent. Don’t miss the chance to double (or even triple) your support! Check with your company to see if it offers a matching gift program, or reach out if we can help you navigate the process. Note that gifts from spouses and retirees may also qualify.



THE CALENDAR OF GIVING

SPRING

Our signature spring fundraiser, The Gather for Good, is the pinnacle of the Marin Montessori school year. It is an unforgettable evening of connection and celebration that pairs exceptional food, drink, and music with inspiring conversations featuring world-class thought leaders.

Each year, the focus and location of The Gather for Good change. We tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time in some of the most spectacular Bay Area settings, yet it always remains a pure expression of our community's values.

Past speakers have included:

Former Vice President Al Gore on climate action

Alice Waters (Chef & Activist) on edible education

Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO) in conversation about the future of education

Dr. Ed Catmull (Pixar Co-Founder) on creativity

True to the spirit of MMS, every detail of the evening is intentionally crafted by our students, teachers, and families. It is the singular moment that brings our entire community together to spark meaningful conversations and secure our school's future through fundraising for the MMS endowment.

This event shines brightest when every family is represented. We would love your partnership in bringing it to life. Whether you wish to join our planning team, support the evening, or simply mark your calendar to stand alongside your fellow parents, please reach out to Shree Starkman to get involved.



Shree Starkman
Senior Director of Community
Engagement & Philanthropy
ssarkman@marinmontessori.org

