

BMS Annual Report 2023

CONTENTS

- 2023 Highlights
- Financial Snapshot
- Community Impact
- Strategic Plan Update
- School Gratitude

As the pandemic winds down, we have turned our attention from immediate safety to helping children make up lost time academically and socially and rebuilding our sense of community. We increased our academic intervention and support resources, partnered with a local therapist for social-emotional wellness curricula, and created a new post-Covid strategic plan that allowed us to broaden our vision and goals for the school.

Thank you for continuing to stay connected to the BMS community! The 2023-2024 school year will mark our 55th anniversary, so stay tuned for announcements about events and celebrations! —Quinn McAvoy, Head of School

2023 Highlights to Celebrate

- After a relatively smooth and safe year, the Pandemic Emergency Operations Plan was lifted in May. We have welcomed families back into the building and returned to normal school operations.
- We received a \$10,000 SEEL grant to help create a more sustainable campus by converting lighting to LED.
- We partnered with Sycamore Land Trust and Bloomington Parks and Rec to teach children about ecosystems and native and invasive species. Students then removed invasives and planted natives on campus, as well as helping to remove invasives from Winslow Woods. Students also planted over 200 native plants on campus in honor of BMS donors!
- We continued our whole-staff Anti-Bias Anti-Racism professional development with Crossroads Organization. Crossroads has also been guiding our ABAR Leadership Committee of Board, Staff, and Parents committed to help BMS continue this important and challenging work.

BMS is truly in my blood. I attended this school for six years as a child and I have now been a teacher here for 17 years. Both of my children attended for 9 years. I couldn't be more thrilled with the benefits my entire family has reaped through Montessori education and knowing other Montessori families. Seeing the benefits it brings to my own students each day, and over the course of three years, is the greatest reward!"

—Eve Cusack, Alumna and Lower Elementary Lead Teacher



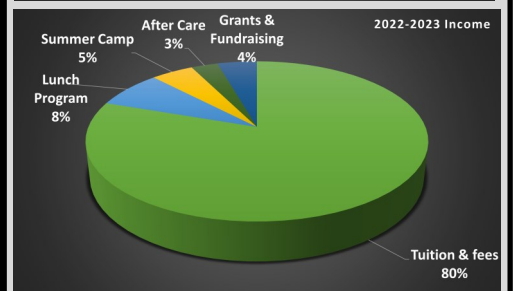
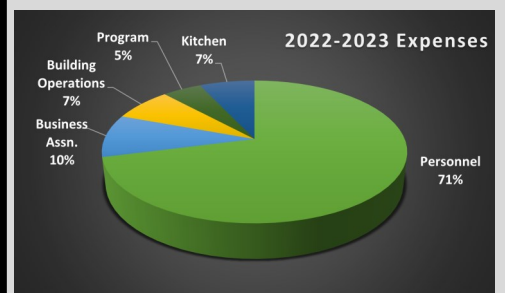
"I loved that BMS allowed me freedom to manage my own time. It really helped me in middle school and high school to have such a solid foundation in time management skills...[and] how to learn in the most effective way, and it can be applied anywhere."

—Teagan Hanna, 2018 Alumna



BMS was able to maintain a stable budget and weather the additional cost of the needs that arose throughout the year with the continued support of our families and donors. We look forward to 2023-2024 as we return to normal operations.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



GRATITUDE

With deep gratitude, we would like to thank the following community members for their efforts that created happy, engaged children, a strong BMS family, and a positive community impact.

So many parents and friends “pitched in” in innumerable ways this year, and we thank each and every one. We would especially like to recognize:

- ◇ Terri Chase, Jeanne Hollinger, Gray Estabrook, and Whitney Rutz (MCCSC Partners) for their student support
- ◇ Parent Michiko Owaki for creating the 2022-2023 yearbook
- ◇ Our Board of Directors for their tireless service in so many ways
- ◇ Sadie Glass for lovely photography
- ◇ The PAC for their development of community events
- ◇ Our event sponsors
- ◇ Community Member Dr. Gloria Howell, Director of the Neal-Marshall Center for Black Culture, for serving on our ABAR Leadership Committee
- ◇ Sky Adams, LMHCA, for facilitating our emotional health curriculum during the 2022-2023 school year
- ◇ Grandmothers Barbara Richards and Phyllis Starr for volunteering their expertise for extra reading support for lower elementary students
- ◇ Parent Megan Eells for her above-and-beyond chaperoning help
- ◇ Parent Jodie Isles for sharing her love of gardening with the Lower Elementary

Our annual campaign, which raises money for scholarships, additional professional development, and campus improvements, and other fundraising events raised over \$49,600! Thank you to our IMPACT Donors:

- ◇ Lori and Steve Terkhorh, grandparents of Octavian Terkhorh

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

We brought the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan to a close. We were able to meet most of our three-year goals, despite the pandemic, and have moved those that were not accomplished to our new 2023-2026 strategic plan.

- 1. COVID Emergency Operations (added 2020)**-The Pandemic Emergency Operations Plan was lifted in May and we are returning to normal operations.
- 2. Curriculum**-We implemented supplemental social-emotional and academic learning recovery efforts to support students post-pandemic.
- 3. External Revenue**- We diversified our revenue through grant funding including the SEEL, NSLP, Sycamore Land Trust and MCHD grants.
- 4. Communications**-We updated our progress report format based on parent feedback, streamlining communication from classrooms.
- 5. Environmental Stewardship**-Installed LED lighting throughout campus. Replaced invasive landscaping with native plants and habitat.

“As a parent, I cannot express enough gratitude for the incredible impact Bloomington Montessori School has had on my daughter's education and overall development. The school's unwavering commitment to providing a supportive and nurturing learning environment has truly transformed her educational journey.”

-Ge Yan



Samy, a parent volunteer, helps lower elementary students plant native flowers and grasses on campus as part of their study of ecosystems and native and invasive plants.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

We wanted to highlight a few of the organizations BMS Classrooms and Families partnered with this year:

- MCUM (all-school food drive for Family Food Baskets, Magnolia sock and glove drive, and Lower Elementary Winter Service Learning Project)
- Bloomington Community Orchard (Upper Elementary)
- Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (PAC Service Project)
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank (6th Grade Service Project)
- Sycamore Land Trust
- Bloomington Parks and Rec
- Indiana University (educational research partnerships)
- Harmony (student internship program)

You, our alumni and supporters, make everything possible! Please consider volunteering or donating at bloomingtonmontessori.org!