The power of Community

Year In Review: 2021-2022
Our First Electronic Report

Why An Electronic Year In Review This Year?

It is with great respect for the natural world and intentional stewardship of the environment that we have transitioned to a printable digital Year in Review. Hershey Montessori School aims to align all its work with its mission, vision, and core values. Thank you for supporting this evolution as we take a small step toward a more sustainable way forward to protect our children’s future.

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2021-2022 was a year of continued change, mission-centered decisions, and growth. The pandemic created an abrupt shift in education that pushed equity, health, and communication to the forefront of all decision making. The Montessori approach, by nature, was primed to respond to the needs of the moment. The Montessori method centers on ideal learning environments and programs that respond to developmental needs. Carefully prepared environments, materials, and invitations to engage in purposeful work inspires self-guided learning and independence. Educators serve as guides and observers to further individualize the experience of each child and adolescent. While the student is challenged to increase independence, their learning is intentionally interwoven with their role and connection to the world around them.

In 2020, like most schools, Hershey Montessori School pivoted to connect with students virtually. In 2021-2022, the plan focused on contact tracing and mitigation measures that supported continued in-person learning with minimal community quarantine.

Here is look at how we adapted throughout the year:

• August 2021: Staff considered medical recommendations and convened with hopeful hearts to restore the Montessori environments and in-person groups that included vibrant community life and deepened interest-based learning, founded on expanded choice of study.

• September 2021: As the communicable Delta variant gained dominance, the staff reconvened to ascertain how much of community life restoration could be protected while managing the possibility of entire class quarantines.

• December 2021: With the Omicron strain, staff reconnected as a community and further designed health protocol with the primary aim of keeping students on campus and in-person for as long as possible.

• Spring 2022: Parents, friends, and prospective parents were invited back to campus to observe their children’s classes, engage in community events and activities, and learn about the Montessori approach to learning and development.

The strain of the pandemic on the whole community was palpable. And yet when staff, parents, and students met to talk about their needs, the refrain was that connection to community as a meaningful stabilizer for learning, and parenting was a lead value for all.

We ended the 2021-2022 school year with a deepened appreciation for science, in-person human connection, and Montessori education. We learned the value of being humble and vulnerable, the strength that comes with human interdependency around the globe, and equity that brings humanity together to solve problems that know no borders.

The Montessori approach demonstrates the wisdom of being rooted in human development. The recent, extraordinary circumstances proved the relevance of this approach. 2021-2022 proved that there is “Power in Community.” Because of you, our community, our family, we have come out even stronger on the other side, and we are better prepared for the future. For that and so much more, we thank you with the utmost grace and courtesy.

In service to the child and adolescent,

Paula Leigh-Doyle
Head of School
Concord Campus

Learn more about our Concord campus: hershey-montessori.org/about/concord-campus

2021-2022 was a transitional year that included both in-school and at-home learning. Overall, the Montessori method served the children well as they continued developing independent learning and social and emotional development. We learned across all program levels that 1. while necessary to protect one another, masks posed a hinderance for language and social development especially with our youngest children, 2. reinforcement of routines and skills helped with transitioning between home and school, 3. parents found virtual communication a convenient and acceptable way to stay connected, and 4. collaboration time amongst guides had to be scheduled (versus organic conversations).

Parent-Infant Program

• The program moved to group classes where parents and children gained emotional and social support by connecting with one another.
• Parents and children enjoyed the upgraded prepared outdoor spaces.
• The six-week summer program was brought back.

Young Child Community

• YCC Classes were full (with a wait list) and fostered independence and social development.
• A YCC Extension class was added, resulting in renovation work over the summer.
• 10 children moved up to Children’s House.
Concord Campus

Learn more about our Concord campus: hershey-montessori.org/about/concord-campus

Children’s House

• Children’s House received AMI/USA Certificate of Recognition for the 3-6 age group.
• Guide Johan van der Wee completed a Nature-based certification course from Eastern Region of Forest and Nature Schools.
• 10 children moved up to Elementary.

“...The child, a free human being, must teach us and teach society order, calm, discipline, and harmony.”
— MARIA MONTESSORI

Elementary Community

• The Elementary team completed their ISACS self-study chapter.
• An intervention support team was expanded to aid students with learning challenges.
• The Early Elementary team completed Wilson “Fundations” Reading Intervention program.
• Upper Elementary Guides underwent professional development in Speech & Language pathology.
• Visual arts were integrated into the curriculum.
Huntsburg Campus

Learn more about our Concord campus:
hershey-montessori.org/about/huntsburg-campus

The 2021-2022 school year was all about “contributing to the good of all—caring for the world in which we live” as the health and well-being of the individual, the family, and the community was top priority. It was a celebratory moment when students transitioned back to school from home and settled back into their classes and routines.

An Emerging Leaders program was piloted and assessed for continuation.
A pre-existing structure was deconstructed and transported to campus and then reconstructed by staff and students as a new microeconomy Maple House.
To the delight of the students, class trips were reinstated.
The Middle School team took a deep dive into mathematics pedagogy.

The addition of 9th grade to Upper School provided age diversity, peer mentoring, and development opportunities.
Creating two focused cohorts (grades 9-10 & 11-12) offered alignment to HS standards, expectations, and a sense of community.
Upper School team gelled into a strong unit with a shared sense of purpose and prepared for the next level in 2022-2023.
**2021-2022 Financials**

**Income Highlights:**
- $974,763 total financial assistance was awarded in 2021-2022

**Fundraising Highlights:**
- Received Hershey Foundation and L. Hershey Foundation awards for infrastructure/pandemic support
- Received an Ohio Arts Council award to create a mural at the Huntsburg Campus

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**Enrollment by Program 2021-2022**

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<th>Parent-Infant Program</th>
<th>Young Child Community</th>
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2021-2022 Impact By the Numbers

44
YEARS IN OPERATION

232
STUDENTS SERVED IN 2021-2022

100%
COLLEGE APPLICANTS ACCEPTED

9
BOARDING STUDENTS

38%
INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT

100%
OF STAFF PARTICIPATION IN DEIB PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

$13,525
RAISED BY MICROECONOMY FOR FARM SUPPLIES

44%
OF STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID

5 and 3
STUDENTS FROM THE U.S. AND ABROAD

STATES AND COUNTRIES
2021-2022 Fundraising Events

Community Drive-in
- Movies: Living on Planet Earth and National Parks Adventure
- 75 families participated
- Smiles & giggles = countless

Cosmic Run
- 152 runners/walkers and 20+ volunteers
- 382 total miles covered
- $6,100 raised
- Number of families together = priceless

Spring Gala
- 147 attendees
- 21 delectable desserts
- $98.7K raised
- 8 sponsors; 35+ volunteers
Hershey Montessori School Donors 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Every effort was made to include all donors. If your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please contact our office.

DISTINGUISHED LEADERS
(≥$25,000 and above)
The Hershey Foundation
Hershey Family Foundation

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS
(≥$10,000-$24,999)
Budnik Family Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation
John* and Laurie Cunningham
Federation of Cleveland
Ohio Arts Council
Debbie* and Peter Guren
Loren and Birgit Hershey
The K & D Group
LWH Family Foundation
Montessori Development Partnership
Jane and Doug Price III
William and Sharon Ruple

INNOVATORS
($2,500-$4,999)
Kerri and Morris Beverage III
Steven Christopher and Britt Newman
C. Fraser Elliott* and Line Montminy
Jennifer* and Chris Finan
Morgan and Anthony Fracci
Sara Guren* and Bowman Beeman
Victoria and Scott* Hackenberg
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Michael and Michelle Murray
Horner Networks
Lighthouse Advisers
Mansour Gavin LPA
David and Victoria Nadzam
The Parker Skin & Aesthetic Clinic
Samantha and Doug Price IV
Sugar Pines Farm

PATRONS
($500-$999)
Cheryl and Victor Noviski
Melissa and Rob Reigle
Lynette* and Jonathon Ruple
Aubrey and Michael Southworth
TCC Technology Solutions
Carole Walters
Kate and Gary Witosky

AMBASSADORS
($1,000-$2,499)
Anonymous
Gabe Arnold and Rachel Strong
Richard Beeman
Judith Cunningham
Daniel DeSantis and Candace Goffirth DeSantis
Paula Leigh-Doyle^Michael and Debbie George
Sam and Nancy Guren
Zachary and Lauren Guren
Holly and Rob Kline
Melanie and Jason Loveless
Jodi Latshaw
Amy and David Maki
Main Sequence Technologies
Evelyn Miguel

VISIONARIES
($5,000-$9,999)
Jeffrey* and Patti Embleton
Suzette and Shane Horner
Jane* and Fritz Neubauer
Daurine Noll
Jaeger Robertson
Cheryl and Victor Noviski
Melissa and Rob Reigle
Lynette* and Jonathon Ruple
Aubrey and Michael Southworth
TCC Technology Solutions
Carole Walters
Kate and Gary Witosky

ADVOCATES
($250-$499)
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Renee and Mark Alloy
Chris and Tim Blue
Jim and Linda Blue
Marie and Keith Bryant
Matt and Jamie Frank
Elizabeth Harwood
Anne Marie Kollander and Mark Teague
James and Jill^ Levin
Adam McKinney^Kate and Tony Murray
David and Lynn Pontius
Jordyn and Joel^ Rabe
Lisa Rome and David Macek
ServiceNow
Angela* Spalsbury
Sarah Tetzloff^ and Bart Hildebrant
Aaron Tweddell^ and Zaynab Olin-Tweddell^
Hershey Montessori School Donors 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (con’t)

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COMMUNITY FRIENDS
($100-$249)
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Effi Casey
Kathryn Christoph ^
Dylan ^ and David Crowell
Robyn Dill ^
Tierney Dewan-Saperstein ^ and Josh Saperstein
Renee and Mark Ergazos
Rosanne ^ and Roshen Fernando
Curtis Geary
Sandy Giallanza * and Edmund Evans
Sheila and John Grabnar
Tanya and Joseph Farinacci
Karen Hannan-DeWalt ^
Faith Heinen
Alex Hershey and Beatriz Meza-Valencia
Eileen Hull ^
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Harriet Weckbacher
Rick and Colleen ^ Welder
Donnah and Bill Whitaker
Stratina Wilcox
Wesley ^ and Karen Wilson

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($11-$99)
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Christian Hernandez
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Thrivent Financial Foundation
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Johan van der Wee ^
Jane and John Warren
Peggy Wise
Morgan and Jack Wolfe III
Larry Zanko

IN HONOR OF GIFTS

THOMAS BLACK, (Sidney Davis’s grandfather)
Darlene Stauffer
Harriet Weckbacher
JUDSON AND LIAM CONWAY
Kathryn Christoph
SIDNEY DAVIS
Tom and Dona Black
NATALIE DESANTIS
As we celebrate our youngest child’s graduation from Hershey Montessori School, we want to express our family’s gratitude for the life-changing education and experiences that have launched both of our children to bright futures.
Daniel DeSantis and Candace Goforth DeSantis

JENNIFER FINAN
Carole Cummings

DEBBIE GUREN
Charles Perrotti

MADRIGAN JOLLIF
Nancy and Doug Geuder

PETER, ASHLEY, KAILEY, JAMES AND OWEN JOYCE
Peter and Tina Joyce

REN AND DOROTHY MABEY
Sarah Mabey

IN MEMORY OF GIFTS

THOMAS BLACK, (Sidney Davis’s grandfather)
Martina Lindway
Evelyn Miguel
Marcia Price
Darlene Stauffer
Harriet Weckbacher

KATHLEEN BURICHIN
Michelle and Michael Murray

MILDRED “MILLIE” GOODEN
Tim and Deb Gooden

NATHAN HEINEN
Faith Heinen

REN AND DOROTHY MABEY
Sarah Mabey

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Visit hershey-montessori.org/contribute

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Congratulations to our Class of 2022 graduates for all their accomplishments. May you pursue your passions and achieve your dreams as you set out to make your mark in the world.

You, Our Donors, are Truly Appreciated

You did it! We did it! Every person counted and every single dollar added up as we, in unity, took a giant step toward changing the future of our children and adolescents through the Montessori Method of education. Because of you, our students absorbed, analyzed, experimented, researched, explored, tested, and came to their own conclusions, all of which helped to shape and transform their ways of thinking about the world in which they live. In Hershey’s beautifully prepared Montessori environments, with knowledgeable and highly trained guides, students were nurtured and given opportunity to safely grow and absorb the many skills needed to prepare them to step into their next level of development with confidence and self-assurance.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lakisha Wingard
Director of Admissions
lwingard@hershey-montessori.org
440-357-0918

Yvonne Delgado Thomas
Director of Development
ythomas@hershey-montessori.org
440-357-0918 ext. 64

We thank you and appreciate you—our CommUNITY! You may also view our full donor list at hershey-montessori.org/donors

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Share This File!

We hope you enjoyed this report and that it will serve as a commemorative review of a remarkable, transitional year. We invite you to share this file with family and friends or use it as a conversation topic for years to come. May the Hershey Montessori School 2021-2022 school year forever hold a special place in our heart and remind us of the invaluable power of community.