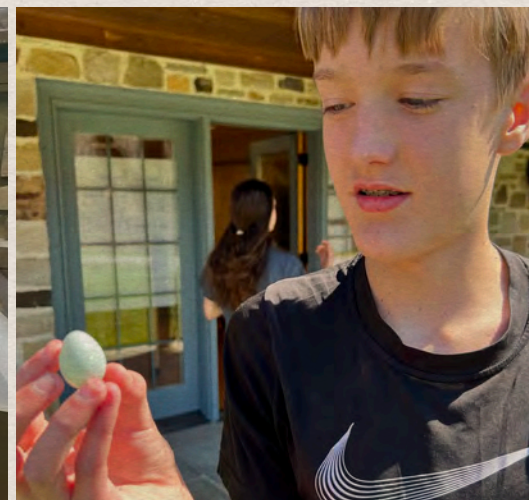




A year of
PROMISE

HERSHEY
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

2022-2023 Year-in-Review





In 2023, Hershey Montessori School proudly received full accreditation from Independent Schools Association of Central States (ISACS)! After years of work and preparation, the school achieved and was recognized for meeting the independent school best practices standards. ISACS accreditation demonstrates that Hershey Montessori School, as an educational organization, takes self-evaluation, peer evaluation, learning and growth seriously. We are grateful to elementary guide Saren Peetz for leading the project, to the members of the steering committee, to all who have and continue to contribute significant time and energy in meeting these high standards day-in and day-out. Your efforts are yet another reminder of the amazing strength and dedication of our beautiful Hershey Community.



Hershey Montessori School is proud to be supporting middle school guides in their International Montessori Training Institute (IMTI) sessions led by IMTI director Laurie Ewert-Krocker. The training was held on the farm school Huntsburg Campus over the summer and hosted forty teachers from around the USA and six other countries (see photos above). IMTI is committed to the training and support of teachers working with adolescents, ages 12-18, through a deep understanding of Montessori principles and practices. The training was funded in-part by a grant from Montessori Development Partnership. The full training continues over the course of two years ending with an IMTI diploma.



2023 is a celebratory year as Hershey Montessori School hits its 45th anniversary! HMS opened in 1978 as “Western Reserve Montessori” in Painesville, OH. In 1989, the Concord Campus was constructed. In 2000, the middle school program moved to the 97-acre campus in Huntsburg to serve day and boarding adolescents hailing from throughout the USA and other nations. In 2018, The Passive House designed Upper School building was completed, and HMS became one of the first in the world to have an adolescent program through high school that fully integrates a farm and boarding life as envisioned by Dr. Montessori. That year, Hershey Montessori School celebrated its first graduating class.

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A message from Paula, Head of School



In reflection, I see 2022-2023 as “A Year of Promise.” I look back through the pages of 2022-2023 and see so much hope and inspiration for the future. After years of deep reflection through the ISACS whole school 365

community survey, self-study, and peer-review feedback, we now celebrate our ISACS accreditation. Together we witness this benchmark as evidence that Hershey Montessori School is moving forward. While always deeply committed to the fullest implementation of the Montessori approach, we are continually and intentionally improving the way in which we communicate and deepen the experience for students, staff and families while being accountable to independent school best practices for governance and administration. This acceptance into full ISACS membership ensures our children and adolescents feel that they belong in community and are equipped to adapt and embrace the global community in which they live.

In 2022-2023, Hershey Montessori students engaged in many cultural activities and community experiences. It was touching to see our students volunteering and tutoring children at HOLA Ohio and Painesville City Schools’ bilingual math workshop. For more information about the students’ efforts, please visit hershey-montessori.org/hershey-montessori-spanish-students-volunteer-to-tutor-at-hola-math-workshop

Climate Change was another global topic addressed by the upper school guides and students. We were proud of those students who passionately delved into deep and enriching climate change topics, created artistic and technical displays, and presented their high-quality work at the Lake Erie College annual Climate Change Symposium. For more information about the Climate Change Symposium, visit hershey-montessori.org/climate-change-symposium

Our elementary students shared their knowledge of the world through, to name a few, their international fair, highlighting well-crafted and researched presentations of countries from around the world, a medical supplies drive for Ukraine, and a beautiful, touching international musical performance by the younger students.

It is those and many other quiescent moments that warm our hearts and ease our minds that we are indeed equipping our students to thrive in changing times and preparing them to contribute to the broader community as stewards of peace and humanity.

The 2022-2023 school year was truly A Year of Promise, a promise that the future is hopeful, bright, and full of opportunity for our young people, the school, our guides, and staff, for our families, and our community. ISACS, the Strategic Plan, our board of directors, and our community of staff, guides, families, alumni, and many others all help to ensure that we are continuing forward with our transformative approach to education.

Our mutual love for the Montessori approach to human development, gives us the opportunity to review and reflect on the days before and capture those important thoughts, lessons, and moments so that our graduates enter into young adulthood well equipped, socially, emotionally, and intellectually, to self-actualize in their independence and to contribute to their communities and to a more peaceful humanity.

In service to the child and adolescent,

Paula Leigh-Doyle
Head of School

“It is those and many other quiescent moments that warm our hearts and ease our minds that we are indeed equipping our students to thrive in changing times and preparing them to contribute to the broader community as stewards of peace and humanity.”

PAULA LEIGH-DOYLE



CONCORD CAMPUS

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

“Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart.”

RICHARD LOUV, *LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS*



Parent-Infant Program



Young Child Community



- Parents begin to guide infants in developing their own initial skills for independence.
- 2022-2023 was the return of the much beloved Parent-Infant summer program.
- The group was able to utilize the specially designed outdoor environment throughout the fall, spring, and summer months.
- With the addition of a Pikler Climbing Triangle, children one year and older were able to explore new ways of movement.



- A Young Child Community Extension was added for children ages 18 mos. to 3+ years old.
- Children learned to care for themselves (hand washing, grooming, dressing, toilet awareness, etc.).
- Children learned to care for their indoor and outdoor environments (washing dishes, sweeping, cleaning, raking, gardening, etc.).
- Children interacted daily with music, dance, singing, and different mediums of art.
- Children worked with developmental aids to strengthen fine motor skills, coordinate/refine movements, develop concentration, and to provide opportunities for exploration.
- Through a language-rich environment, children built expressive and receptive language skills.



CONCORD CAMPUS

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

Children's House



- Children ages 3-6 created a beautiful multi-medium art piece, a highly sought after woodworking table, and a gorgeous candle setting for the annual gala.
- Thanks to generous donations, each community received new flower beds beautifying the outdoor environment.
- Each Children's House classroom organized a unique holiday program; parents attended and were invited to share in the beautiful songs.

Classroom gardens were graciously supported by the Hackenberg, DeSantis, and Lee Families along with supplies of soil and seeds donated by Arms Trucking and Urban Growers.



Elementary Community

- 3rd year students visited the Huntsburg Campus to explore and hike the 97 acres of forest to find "their" tree identified on an earlier hike.
- They learned fun facts about trees and the environment with Upper School science guide, Matt Sorrick, and adolescent students.
- Upper Elementary students held donation drives for MedWish, The Cleveland Book Bank, and World Wildlife Fund.
- 6th year students organized and prepared the much-loved Pizza Lunch Friday's for early and upper elementary classrooms.



Huntsburg Campus

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

“The Montessori adolescent really exhibits a desire to be challenged, to cultivate habits of the mind that will lead her forward into an intelligent adulthood.”

PAT LUDICK, THE POSITIVE PERSONALITY OF THE MONTESSORI ADOLESCENT,
THE NAMTA JOURNAL (VOL 39, NO 1, WINTER 2014)



Middle School



Upper School



- AMI Adolescent Trainer Laurie Ewert-Krocker worked with faculty to renew and re-center Montessori fidelity.
- Students researched and designed to create an ethical and humane chicken coop funded by the Dominion Charitable Fund.
- The Sugarbush Occupation was revitalized through faculty, student leadership, and donations of equipment and labor from local syrup producers.
- Following student inspiration, the Huntsburg Campus Goat Barn was restored.
- Spanish students researched, prepared and served cultural foods at the 1st International Food Festival.

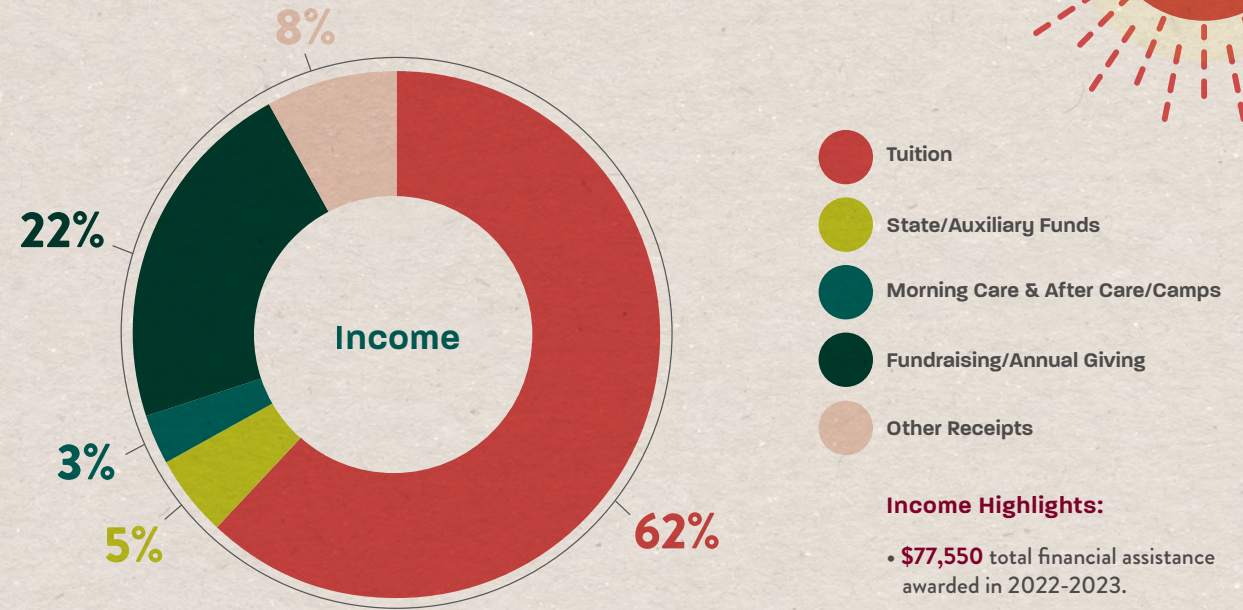


- Students researched, prepared, and presented in-depth reports on climate change at the Lake Erie College Climate Symposium.
- Hershey students volunteered at HOLA Ohio and Painesville City Schools' bilingual math workshop titled, “Counting on a Better Future” on Feb. 22, 2023
- The annual student led Pancake Breakfast and Microeconomy Market was very well attended by current families, alumni families, and community members.
- Every senior was admitted to college. Some seniors earned large merit scholarships of tens of thousands of dollars per year.





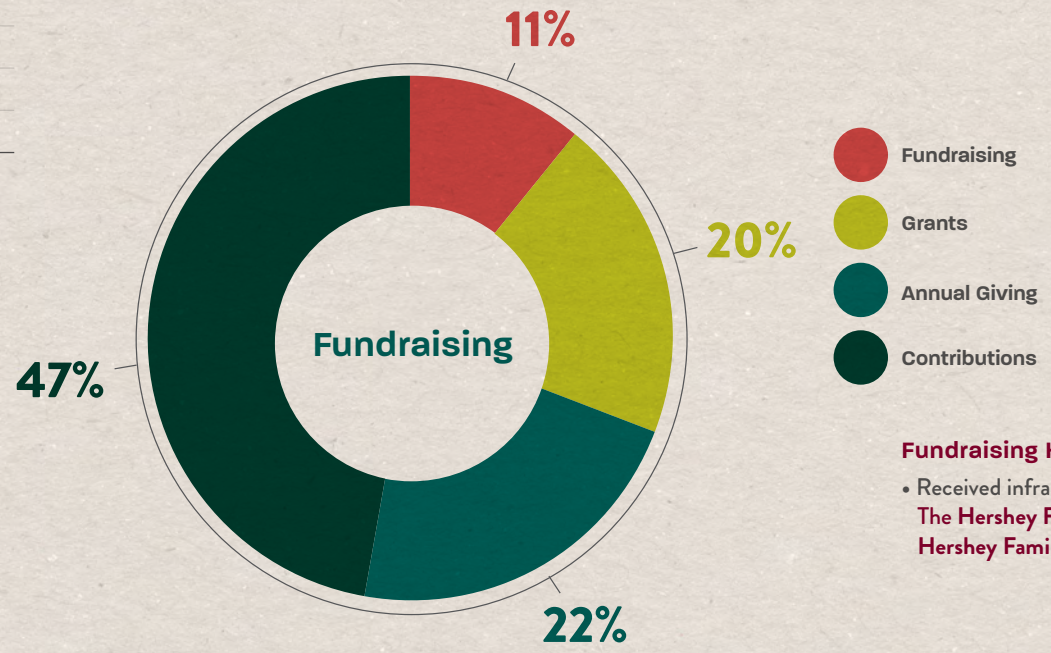
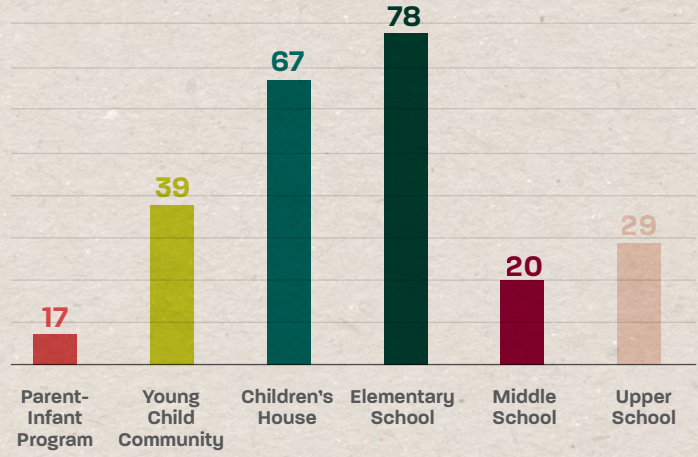
2022-2023 Financials



Income Highlights:

- \$77,550 total financial assistance awarded in 2022-2023.

Enrollment by Program 2022-2023



Fundraising Highlights:

- Received infrastructure support from **The Hershey Foundation** and the **Hershey Family Foundation**.



2022-2023 Impact By the Numbers

WE CELEBRATED OUR



45th

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

100%

OF STUDENTS GRADUATED AND
100% COLLEGE APPLICANTS ACCEPTED

42%



STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID

250

STUDENTS SERVED IN 2022-2023



150+

MAPLE STIRS SERVED DURING
2023 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8



BOARDING STUDENTS
FROM 4 COUNTRIES / 4 STATES

\$18,500

RAISED BY MICROECONOMY
FOR FARM SUPPLIES IN 2022-2023

Cotton Candy,

HERSHEY'S ADGA NIGERIAN
DWARF GOAT GAVE BIRTH
TO FOUR "CANDY" KIDS:



*Skittles, Snickers,
Butterscotch, + Milk Dud*

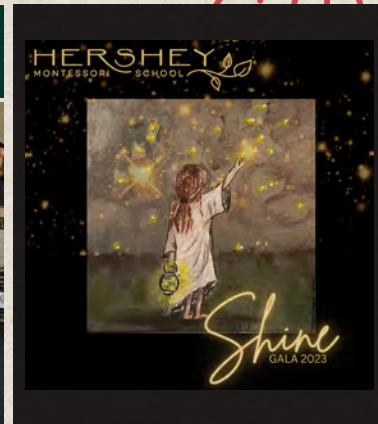
2022-2023 Fundraising Events

Community Drive-in



- 65 families celebrated the school year
- Movie: Disney's The Little Mermaid
- 1st-ever Event Sponsorship: Pfabe's Music & the Budnik Family
- The children's pre-movie fun included conquering the dirt hill!

Spring Gala



- 134 attendees; 286 online bidders
- 20 bakers baked 25 delectable desserts
- \$133,729 (net) raised
- 14 gracious sponsors and 28 awesome volunteers
- Students' video, "This Little Light of Mine" — heartwarming!

Cosmic Run



- 141 runners and walkers
- 15 volunteers
- 6 Sponsors
- \$5,066 raised
- Sunny morning in late October here in NEO — awesome!

Alumni Friend-raiser



- 1st new annual Alumni Event
- 17 attendees (recent and seasoned alumni)
- Sponsored by Westel's — and Molly & Jason Rice, alumni family
- Sweet baby, Paige Rice, days old & youngest attendee — priceless!

Hershey Montessori School Donors 2022-2023 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)

John* and Laurie Cunningham
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Hershey Family Foundation
The Hershey Foundation
The K & D Group

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS

(\$10,000-\$24,999)

Montessori Development Partnership
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(\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Carole Hershey Walters

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(\$2,500-\$4,999)

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The Budnik Family
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Candace Goforth DeSantis
Dominion Energy Charitable Fund
C. Fraser Elliott* and Line Montminy

* Indicates HMS '22-'23 Board Member

^ Indicates HMS '22-'23 Staff Member

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(UP TO \$249)

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Mathew Bailey and Jodi Latshaw
Andrew and Katherine Bednar
Kathy and Tim Beech
Tina Bergmann^ and Bryan Thomas
AJ^ and Tracy Bissell
Dona Black
Charles and Julia Bolton

Hershey Montessori School Donors 2022-2023 Fiscal Year (con't)

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

Tina Piccirillo-Boyd and Nigel Boyden
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 Sandy Maver

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BECOME A DONOR TODAY! Visit
hershey-montessori.org/contribute

Thank you!

Because of you, our donors — our children and adolescents look forward to a new and exciting year of growth and development. Your generous gifts came in all shapes and sizes. Some supported community gardens, an evaporator for the sugar house, a renovated goat barn, professional development for the guides, and so much more. Sponsors stepped forward graciously with leadership gifts paving the way to successful events. Students went to work sanding, staining, painting, hammering, sewing, and beading lovely gala auction items bringing in record amounts for the cause. Large matching challenges were offered and met including \$10K for annual giving from our Board of Directors and \$32.6K for gymnasium renovations from the K&D Group. Annual donations came in from across the wide Hershey community exceeding 2021-2022 numbers.

Be assured that your gifts provided innovative beautiful growth opportunities and experiences for children and young people to be inspired, explore, take risks, challenge themselves and otherwise celebrate and experience the joy of learning. 2022-2023 was a Year of Promise — a promise that 2023-2024 will inspire past donors to return, current donors to grow, new leadership gifts and more gifts from foundations and businesses. Your generosity helps to fill that gap between the beautiful work we do and the bigger challenge of keeping up with the world so that “children and adolescents are equipped to thrive in changing times and prepared to contribute to the community as stewards of peace and humanity.” We are humbly grateful to each and every one of you.

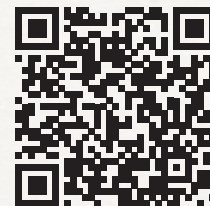
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440-357-0918 ext. 64

Diana LeSieur
Director of Admissions
dlesieur@hershey-montessori.org
440-357-0918 ext. 40



Congratulations to the eight graduates of the Class of 2023. Armed with your Montessori foundation, may you go bravely forth on your journey, continue to respect the earth, serve others, and become peaceful citizens helping to create a more harmonious world for future generations.



Give for the Children; Give for the Future;
Give Here: hershey-montessori.org/contribute

HERSHEY
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

