2025 ▶ 2026

Good Shepherd Montessori School

Annual Report

South Bend, Indiana

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



During Good Shepherd Montessori School's inaugural Festival of the Arts in May 2026, a parent said to me, "This event feels so Good Shepherd." What a fitting comment. Since becoming head of school in 2022, I have always sensed an almost undefinable quality that draws people to the school. It has to do with the thoughtful, unpretentious approach we take with others. It has to do with the space we create for curiosity, creativity, and joyful learning. It has to do with the welcome and sense of belonging we offer to those who enter our doors, cherishing the beauty of diversity we experience each day.

In the report that follows, I hope you gain a helpful snapshot of our school's life and financial health. But my greater hope is that you can experience (or continue to experience) the essence of who we are in person, either as a parent, grandparent, friend of the school, or member of the community. We have built a strong legacy already, and as we enter our 25th anniversary year (2026–2027), the future is bright.

Joshua A. Kaiser, Ph.D.

THE MISSION

Good Shepherd Montessori School is a diverse, cooperative learning community, governed by an independent Board of Directors, that uses the Montessori Method to nurture the character and uniqueness of the child and to inspire wonder and a joy of learning. It fosters spiritual growth in the Christian tradition and cultivates compassionate relationships with all people and just stewardship of the world's resources.

THE VISION (2024–2027)

EXCELLENT EDUCATION	Continue delivering a holistic, high-fidelity Montessori education
CONNECTION-CENTERED CULTURE	Expand and deepen our practice of empathy and radical hospitality
DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION	Build a forward-thinking, resilient organization to guarantee long-term success

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Highlights 2025–2026

ATRIUM MURAL INSTALLATION



Junior High students worked with Art Specialist Laurie Rousseau to paint a mural of the Scripture passage John 15:5 in the Atrium: *I am the vine; you are the branches.*

EGG DROP CHALLENGE

First through eighth graders were invited to put their engineering skills to the test in a schoolwide egg drop challenge, designing contraptions to protect raw eggs through a series of increasingly higher drops—culminating in a plunge from the portico roof!





INAUGURAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

By the Numbers

7	Classroom Art Galleries
8	Mainstage Musical Performances
37	Student Vendors in the Maker's Marketplace
26	Individual and Student-led Small Group Performances
6	Generous Sponsors
16	Curated Auction Items
250	Printed Festival Programs
360+	Raffle Tickets Sold







FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



During my time on the board, I have seen the school grow while remaining deeply committed to every individual child and to fostering wonder and a joy of learning. None of this would be possible without the support of our broader community through donations, volunteer hours, and in-kind gifts. I am so grateful to all of you and feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful, thriving, and sustainable school community.

Gratefully,

Amy Langenkamp, Ph.D.

Financial Information

One important task within the Montessori Method is to create space for children to flourish. We do this by carefully preparing each learning environment according to several principles: order and structure, so that children feel safe and secure; beauty and simplicity, to spark creativity and encourage joyful learning; and accessibility for the child, so each environment remains child-centric and conducive to independent exploration.

This work of preparing the environment also extends to our administrative structures, including our financial systems. Our sustainable financial model includes logic and structure, which keeps us feeling financially secure; it includes simplicity, that engenders transparency; and it stays focused on the child, which helps shape our financial priorities and keep us fiscally responsible.

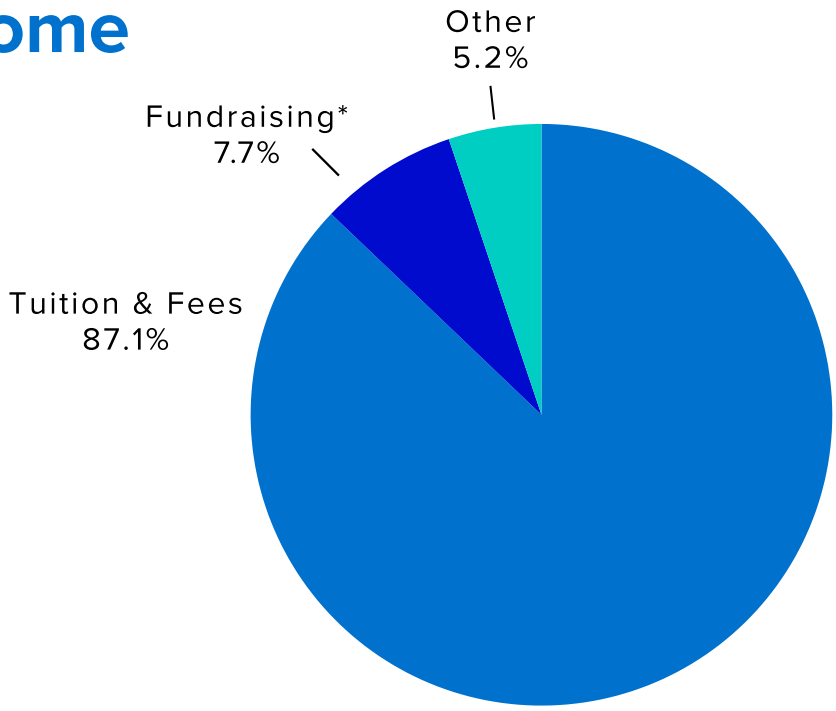
Through the generosity of many thoughtful donors throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, we raised over $205K through our annual campaign and other fundraising initiatives and just over $99K from money given specifically through our SGO and one of our endowed scholarship funds. This total amount – just shy of $305K – combined with careful financial management allowed the school to finish the year with a small surplus. With the help of additional money set aside for building maintenance from the previous fiscal year, the success of our 2025–2026 fiscal year also allowed us to undertake a significant project to ensure the safety and longevity of our bell tower by drastically reducing its height and to complete the final phase of construction for one of our primary level classrooms. Expenses for these projects began in June 2026 and continued into the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The ability to undertake both projects is a strong endorsement of the school's financial approach over the last several years and a meaningful testament to the many individuals and families whose tuition payments and charitable gifts support the school's operations.

Income		Expenses	
Tuition and Fees	$2,327,019	Personnel	$1,915,302
Fundraising*	$205,734**	Facilities and Grounds	$392,416
Other	$137,837	Educational Programs	$200,172
		General Operations	$94,636
		Debt Service	$54,678
		Fundraising	$4,904
TOTAL	$2,670,590	TOTAL	$2,662,108

**This includes annual fund giving, fundraising events, grants, and other fundraising initiatives.*

***The school raised an additional amount of $99,263 through direct giving to our SGO at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and an endowed scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. This money becomes recognized in our financial statements as we incrementally make withdrawals from these funds in order to support student scholarships.*

Income



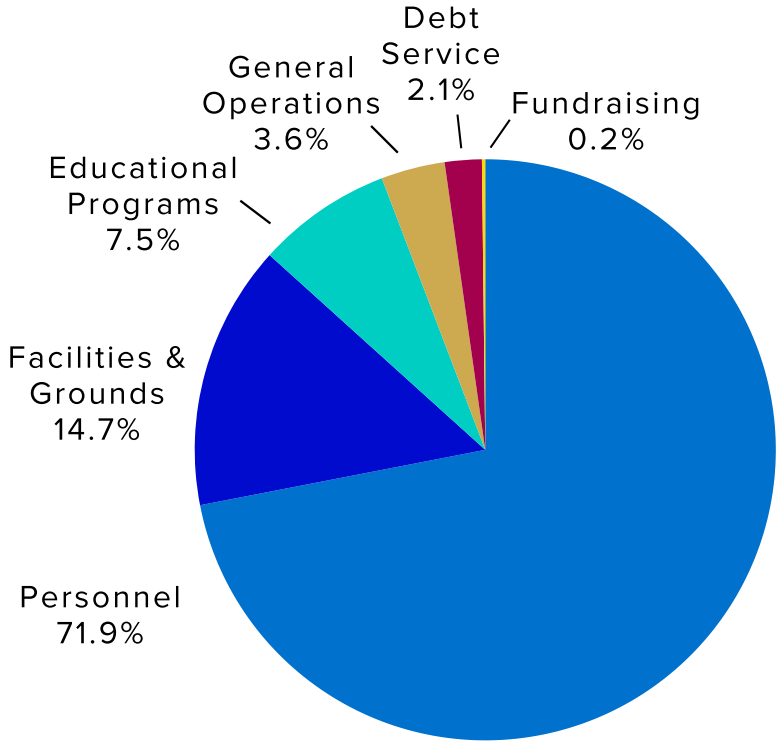
This includes annual fund giving, fundraising events, grants, and other fundraising initiatives.







Expenses



Please note that these figures are our unaudited financials for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, sourced from the school's internal financial reports. Each year, an external auditor reviews the school's financials, performing a full-opinion audit every three years and a financial review the other two years.

With Gratitude

We extend our gratitude to those listed here who made tax-deductible charitable gifts during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. We also thank the numerous donors who made in-kind contributions, purchased trivia tickets, bid on auction items, and more. You have a direct hand in the success of our mission to nurture the character and uniqueness of each child who comes our way.

The Shining Light Circle
$5,000+

Brian and Tori Andrew
Anonymous
Santiago Coffey and Maria Holland
Daniel and Elizabeth Flowers
Hayes Dowd Family
Michael Jhin
Randy Matthys
Norma Frank Family
John and Barb Phair
Paul Phair and Kirstin Baum
Brian and Bridget Ritz
Joseph Statz and Patricia Osmolak
The Walt Disney Company

The Peace Circle
$1,000–$2,499

Khaled and Meredith Anatolios
Gail Burnett
Ryan and Laura Callahan
Lindsay Chadderton and Jennifer Tank
Ronda Connaway
Carrie Doyle
Patricia G. Fitzpatrick
Josh Kaiser and Becky Artinian-Kaiser
Ann and Rick Kucinski
Vida Langenkamp
Gerald and Ruth Miller
Diana Rakoczy
Matthew and Therese Veldman
Byron and Connie Warkentin
Martyn and Kathleen Wills

The Circle of Friends
$1–$499

Pedro Aguilera-Mellado and Katelyn Uitti
Matthew and Angelica Anderson
Anonymous
Alex Arroyo and Lucy Macfarlane
Brett and Anne Beasley
Eric Berg and Ashley Oliver
Dan and Emily Bremer
Peter and Jennifer Bui
Ian and Barb Carmichael
Judy Chase

The Maria Montessori Circle
$2,500–$4,999

Randall and Allison Becker
Douglas and Kala Matthys
Paul and Rosie McDowell
Mark and Maria McKenna

The Golden Bead Circle
$500–$999

Roland W. Chamblee, Jr.
Matthew and Patricia Champion
Christopher Cobb and Catherine Pellegrino
John and Jodi DeMott
Patrick and Inge Deneen
Sarah Dozier
Nancy Gunn
Martin Haenggi and Roxana Smarandache
Bill Jackson and Amy Langenkamp
Toby Li and Julia Qian
Marco and Eileen Mariani
Collin and Rose Meissner
Rachel Otwinowski
Alfonso Pedraza-Martinez and Orla Stapleton
Ken and Cathy Ritz
Steve and Kate Sollmann
Kara Turner
Paul Zakas





The Circle of Friends $1–$499

Continued

Kirk and Joy Clark
Pam Conrad
Brooke Strayer and Misael Cortez
Dan Czarnecki and Elizabeth Schleicher
Myrnetta Rachelle Daniel
Diane Daum
Aad de Lange
Annie DeMott
Aladean DeRose
Matthew Doppke and Christina Wolbrecht
Douglas and Donna Dunham
Lisa J. Dvorak
Nathan and Katie Elliot
Jack and Maureen Elliot
Mathew and Beth Ernsberger
Laureen E. Fagan
Heidi Ferris and Tucker Curtis
Barbara Garland
Andrew and Laura Garvey
Larry and Ann Greer
Chris Howk and Amy Crosson
Jason and Kristina Jansen
Kyle Jaros and Tarryn Chun
Andy and Deb Johnson
Rodney and Joan Kaiser
Gregory Kil
Rick Klee
Komodo Health Inc
John Kopko and Maggie Karcher
Pat and Sarah Kulwicki
Scott Leonard
James M. Lewis and Greta Roemer Lewis
John Lindblom and Audrey Seah Lindblom
Steve and Peg Luecke
Patrick Luecke
Andrew and Erin Lynch
Paul and Mary Manuszak
Jeremy and Emily McClements
Terence McDonnell and Erin Metz McDonnell
Judd McNally
Tom and Marilyn O'Sullivan
Kathryn Oyer
Timothy and Quinn Pillari
Seth Ponder and Sarah Andrews
Randy Raciti
Patrick Russell and Heather Rakoczy Russell
Jack and Katie Rutledge
Andrew and Lauren Scalf
Geoff and Christine Schleicher
Scott Smithburn
Mary Essay Statz
Paul and Laurie Strayer
Michael and Sandra Taradash
Michael and Cynthia L. Trunzo
Andrew and Rebekah Tucker
Stephen Veldman and Alyce Wengelewski
Jon Werbianskyj
Joe and Anne Zakas
Richard Zetter

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

SPONSORS

Gold Artistic Partner – $5,000
Anonymous
Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

Bronze Art Advocate – $1,000
Healy Financial

Blue Creative Contributor – $500
DeLange CFO and Accounting Services LLC
Scooter's Coffee & The Oliver Berg Family

Rico Suave Food Truck
The Gonzáles Calero Family donated a portion of festival sales to Good Shepherd.

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

ArtDabbler Designs Studio
Jessica Clark Bayer
The Bugyis Family
Gayle Carloss
The Jaros-Chun Family
Fernwood Botanical Garden
Laura Garvey
The Lynch Family
MAKE SOUTH BEND
The Pigeon and The Hen Pottery
Potawatomi Zoo
Raclin Murphy Museum of Art
Diana Rakoczy
Laurie Rousseau
The Rutledge Family
Shakespeare at Notre Dame
South Bend Civic Theater
South Bend Symphony Orchestra
Valentino's Photographics

GSMS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We're so proud of our alums!

In May, Good Shepherd alumnus **Dylan Whitlow** graduated from Purdue University's Sustainable Food and Farm Systems program. He was honored with the faculty-chosen Outstanding Senior award as well as being chosen as Student Farmer of the Year. Congratulations, Dylan!

Have an update about your GSMS grad? Want to register as a GSMS alum?

Complete the form using this QR code. We'd love to hear from you!

GSMS Alumni in the High School Graduating Class of 2025–2026

POST-SECONDARY DESTINATIONS

Among the places our alumni are headed...

Bethel University
Duke University
Georgetown University
Hope College
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University of South Bend
Kent State
Macalaster College
Oberlin College
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Notre Dame
Villanova University





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Langenkamp
BOARD PRESIDENT
GSMS Parent

Heather Bokon
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT
GSMS Alumni Parent

Robert Shane
BOARD TREASURER
GSMS Parent

Carrie Doyle
BOARD SECRETARY

Josh Kaiser, *ex officio*
HEAD OF SCHOOL
GSMS Parent

Lindsay Chadderton
BOARD MEMBER
GSMS Alumni Parent

Rosa Hiestand
BOARD MEMBER

Doug Matthys
BOARD MEMBER
GSMS Parent

Rachel Otwinowski
BOARD MEMBER

Heather Rakoczy Russell
BOARD MEMBER
GSMS Parent

Steve Sollmann
BOARD MEMBER
GSMS Alumni Parent

Blake Zoller
BOARD MEMBER
GSMS Parent

SUPPORT JOY-FILLED LEARNING TODAY

www.gsms.org

Learn more about our school community on our website!