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# Together We Grow

Nurturing Creativity, Resilience, and Leadership

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor (RSSAA) revolutionizes the educational experience of students by intentionally embracing their strengths, nurturing their potential, and encouraging a lifetime of curiosity, growth, and purpose.

Each year, students explore the sciences by planting and caring for the dahlia garden at the high school entrance. These beautiful flowers greet students, staff, and visitors with a bold tapestry of colors and sizes.

Dahlias symbolize inner-strength, resilience, patience, and grace through challenging times because of their impressive ability to thrive in harsh conditions.





We believe there is a seed of potential in each student and strive to provide an enriching environment for this potential to grow and thrive.

The mission of RSSAA is to nurture children in their growth from early childhood through graduation. Our curriculum engages the head, heart and hands- inspiring curiosity, thinking, empathy and initiative. Graduates enter adulthood with confidence and self-knowledge, a deep interest in other people, and an understanding of the world; prepared to thrive in their adult lives.

"Being part of RSSAA, I have found something that I didn't expect from my child's school... a truly supportive community...

The amount of support and respect my daughter has received is heartwarming, and the level of connection among the families has been so supportive. [At RSSAA], we have the opportunity to learn and help create meaningful experiences for our children, together."

-Heather Brumwell, Parent LS, Grade 2



## Investing in a Bright Future

A Message from our Board President

In her beautiful book, "How to do Nothing," Jenny Odell describes our modern age as "The Attention Economy," wherein our focus is fractured, commodified and sold. Our devices provide a ceaseless stream of misery and outrage, and every day, we are inundated with media that demands each of us engage in the latest controversy or participate in the newest viral trend. Though Rudolf Steiner could not have predicted this moment in history, his pedagogy is the answer to it.

Through storytelling and in nature, early childhood teachers preserve the magic and wonder of childhood for the youngest students. The curriculum of the grades is designed to meet the children at each stage of their development, teaching them necessary skills while also nurturing their blossoming personalities. In middle and high school, teachers implore the students to observe with their own eyes and find solutions rather than regurgitating answers found at the back of a textbook or in online memes.

We ask our students to explore their own humanity and that of their peers. We help students to contextualize history both on the grand scale and a local perspective. We teach commitment to the environment and service to the community. As a result of this remarkable education, our graduates leave RSSAA curious in a world full of cynicism, ready to meet challenges ahead with creativity and will.



"As the mother of a
RSSAA graduate and a
student graduating in
2025, I am grateful for
the extraordinary
community & education
we found here at RSSAA.
As Board President, I am
committed to ensuring
future generations may
benefit as my family
did."

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor is a very special place indeed! Please join me in celebrating our school as it continues growing and evolving to meet the needs of our students and community."

> With Gratitude, Elizabeth Head

President of the RSSAA Board of Directors, HS Parent

## Financial Statement

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor is committed to maintaining high standards of financial integrity and transparency.

### Strategic Growth

Our robust financial practices ensure that every dollar raised is used efficiently and effectively to support our mission and programs. With a strong foundation of trust and accountability to the community, RSSAA has the capacity to continue scaling its efforts and making a significant impact in the lives of students and families. we take a forward-thinking approach that includes comprehensive strategic planning and attention to the needs of students. Fundraising efforts align with school-wide goals and incorporate data-driven strategies to engage donors and expand our reach. We are dedicated to raising additional funds through diverse and strategic initiatives, ensuring long-term sustainability.

#### **EXPENSES 2017-2024**

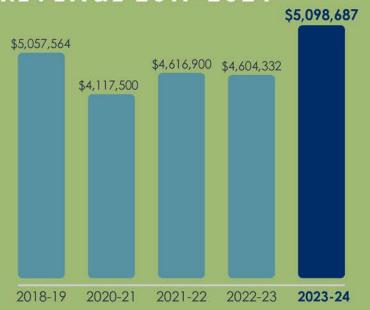


2018-19 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24



### 2023-24 Revenue

#### **REVENUE 2017-2024**



\$4,578,290

#### **TUITION**

(INCLUDES TUITION ASSISTANCE)

\$296,106

ANNUAL FUND & EVENTS

\$224,291

FEES & SERVICES

#### TOGETHER WE CAN GROW OUR

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund supports all areas of the school- enabling us to say "yes" to new opportunities and ensuring that children now and in the future can experience a Waldorf education.

#### What is the Annual Fund?

Gifts to Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor's Annual Fund support our operating budget, and we direct these contributions where there is the greatest need. We are committed to making Waldorf education accessible, so we keep our tuition as affordable as possible and provide tuition assistance. Because of this commitment, our tuition does not cover all of the costs to run our school.

Fundraising, and specifically the Annual Fund, is essential to bridge the gap between our income and our expenses. Donations—whether it's \$100, \$1000, or \$5000—means that Kindergarteners have cutting boards to chop apples on and middle school students have compasses and rulers. Every gift, no matter the size, is not only appreciated, but essential.

This year, the Annual Fund supports initiatives that directly enhance students' experiences, including:

- Tuition Assistance for Students K-12
- Expansion of in-school and after-school programs and events, creating more joyful opportunities for fun, teamwork, and growth
- Professional development and training to bring fresh energy and innovative ideas to the classroom

RSSAA depends on financial support from parents, alumni, faculty, staff, grandparents, and friends to sustain & build our programs and provide approximately 35% of students with need-based tuition assistance.

### 2023-24 Annual Fund

Thanks to your support, we continued to exceed fundraising goals.

#### TOGETHER WE RAISED \$250,000 FOR THE ANNUAL FUND

A special thank you to the RSSAA Alumni who give their time, support, and monetary donations to the school. We are proud of the nine RSSAA Alumni who participated in the annual commemorative Seyhan Symposium- including three out-of-state alumni.

136 Alumni Students and Parents gave back to the school – raising a total of \$37,034 during Alumni Day of Giving and the Giving Tuesday Campaign.

### At-A-Glance

# Nearly 400 individuals contributed to the Annual Fund

including donations from a record 99% of families & 100% of full-time faculty.

35% OF FAMILIES RECEIVED

\$857,000

in tuition assistance, providing their children the opportunity to engage in Waldorf education.

21

teachers participated in professional development coursework and inspired students with innovative approaches to the curriculum.

#### Donations to the 2023-24 Annual Fund supported

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT RSSAA

TEACHERS AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS

**TUITION ASSISTANCE** 

### Beyond the Numbers ...

We are committed to providing an enriching educational environment. This year, students flourished due to wraparound support including:



Emotional & Financial Support for Families with Additional Needs



Consistent Love and Care from Teachers Through Each Grade



Parents' Love for their Children Navigating New Experiences



New Enriching
Experiences
with Outdoor
Education Teacher

## Grandparent's Day 2024

In May, over 100 grandparents & friends attended Annual Grandparent's Day at the Lower School-spending time with faculty, exploring the classrooms and curriculum, connecting over a meal together, and attending a delightful program of music, singing and poetry.

"We have been grandparents of Steiner students for 13 years, with two grandchildren at the school (Grades 7 and 12). From the start of our experience at Steiner, the school has made us feel very welcome not only at events but in the classroom too.

One of my best memories was visiting Mrs. Harrington's first-grade class, when the children were learning to knit- an activity which stimulates the brain in many ways and which our granddaughters still enjoy. We are so impressed that all courses are taught with an immersion into interdisciplinary, handson learning and a recognition that we learn better if movement, vision, hearing, singing and handwork come together.

We have often wished that we had experienced Waldorf education, where values of the human spirit are cherished and celebrated in each child."

"Together with our children & grandchildren, we have supported the school in any way we could over the years. to show our gratitude for this vibrant, kind



-SALLY AND IAN BUND, RSSAA GRANDPARENTS

# Our Impact



### **Hear from RSSAA Faculty**

"This summer, I participated in a "Teaching Sensible Science" training held at our High School facilitated by our High School teachers and offered to other Waldorf Schools in the Midwest. Even though I teach humanities, this training gave me an appreciation for our science curriculum as well as new ideas about how to approach my own subjects. The approach helps students heighten their observation skills and asks that they develop theory out of observation and experience. In the Humanities, these skills can be developed by observing the text, primary source, artifact, or work of art. The process is the same – exploring what do you observe and what that observation means. In this way, we teach students how to think and develop theories on their own."

-Heather Lomason, HS Humanities Teacher

#### In The Classroom 2023-24

#### Storytelling with Second Grade

Donations made to RSSAA help fund our unique and transformative education. Students learn through a variety of teaching methods suited to their development. This year, through a retelling of the story, Jumping Mouse, second-grade students learned about history, geography, and literature through hands-on storytelling and creative expression.

Jumping Mouse is a story passed down by native tribes from the Great Plains, about a small mouse who goes on a journey to find a Great River and a Sacred Mountain. Along the way, the little mouse has to make great sacrifices to help others — but this ultimately leads to a stunning transformation.





#### Second Grade Teacher, Robert White, shared,

"I knew I would tell this story to the Second Graders as part of our exploration of Fables from around the world, but I did not intend to use the story as the basis for the class play.

However, I knew I had to change course after the students reacted so enthusiastically to the story, and were so mesmerized by the tale and the tough choices Jumping Mouse was compelled to make.

Second Graders rose to the challenge of the Jumping Mouse play — not only reciting many lines, but made the characters come to life using their bodies, gestures, and movements."

### Highlighting the Class of 2024

We are proud to celebrate the Class of 2024! This map showcases the diverse and inspiring paths our graduates have chosen, reflecting their hard work, determination, and the bright futures

ahead.



# Michigan College/University Acceptances Washtenaw Community College (Ann Arbor, MI) University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) Kalamazoo College (Kalamazoo, MI)

#### **Out-of-State Acceptances**

Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH)
California State University (Monterey Bay, CA)
University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)
Sarah Lawrence College (Yonkers, NY)
Brandeis University (Waltham, MA)
College of Charleston (Charleston, SC)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)
Montana State University (Bozeman, MT)

#### International

Goetheanum (Dornach, Switzerland)

We are also excited to see what the future holds for the graduates who are pursuing their career goals or exploring other avenues before achieving further education.

### Where Are They Now?

Lucy Nordin RSSAA Alumni, Class of 2018

I graduated from RSSAA in 2018 after attending the school from 5th grade on. After graduating, I decided to move to up-state New York for a 9-month gap-year program rooted in the same philosophy as Waldorf education. It was there, I found my people! I took classes that brought the foundation of my Waldorf education one step further, strengthening my relationship to the natural world, and fostering my questions of spirituality in the fast-paced, disconnected world I often find myself in.



Now I work on a small, family-owned livestock farm, I enjoy the joys of long days of hard work and am surrounded with other people who enjoy the same things.

Here in Columbia County, we also have a robust Anthroposophical community. I'm a part of the North American Youth Section, where I meet my Waldorf adjacent peers, study, and process the world together.

Alongside my agricultural interests, I'm slowly working toward a four-year Waldorf Handwork Teacher Training certification. I'm not exactly sure how that will fit into my life in the future, but I'm passionate about the activity now. Like other interests in my life, I'll pursue it, and fit it into the rest of my biography later on!

### Thank You to Our Supporters!

RSSAA is grateful to our generous donors, listed below. We depend on our partnership with the community to enable us to meet our goals. Gifts of all sizes directly impact the lives of students and promote their development. Thank you!

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"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." -Coretta Scott King

You will find your name if you contributed between July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. If we have made a mistake or your name is not listed, please contact the Development Office at 734-669-9394.



#### QUESTIONS ABOUT DONATING TO RSSAA?

Email Jane Ford, Development Director at jford@steinerschool.org or go to steinerschool.org







LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INNOVATIVE, CHILD-FOCUSED CURRICULUM AT www.steinerschool.org

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#### LOWER SCHOOL

2775 Newport Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734-995-4141

#### HIGH SCHOOL

2230 Pontiac Trail Ann Arbor, MI 48105

734-669-9394

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