



Rudolf Steiner School Annual Report 2022-2023

Enduring Grace and Kindness

The beloved Dahlia represents the cycle of growth and opening of the bloom which is a reminder of how we all can open our heads, hearts, and hands in giving back to our community in all possible ways.

Mission Statement

At Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, we nurture children in their growth from Early Childhood through Grade 12. Our curriculum engages the head, heart and hands, inspiring curiosity, thinking, empathy and initiative. Our graduates enter adulthood with confidence and self-knowledge, a deep interest in other people, and an understanding of the world; prepared to thrive in higher education and their adult lives.

From Our Board President

Dear Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the resilience and dedication of our students, families, faculty, and staff. We emerged from the pandemic during the 2022-2023 school year and charted a more familiar path forward. As an alumni and parent, it was good to see a return to a more normal school experience, and to be together for community gatherings again.

Staying true to our mission, we continued to provide a rich and meaningful education to our students. We made significant progress in our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in which many employees participated. We are grateful to our incredible faculty and staff who offer a strong Waldorf education. We are proud of our students and their good, hard work- from early childhood through high school. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Sincerely,
Knut R. Hill, Esq. President, Board of Trustees



Highlights



Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition Gift

The SEMIS program continues to make an impact on students and faculty focusing on the power of place-based education, which invites students to venture out of their classrooms and take part in hands-on, real-world inquiry and problem solving related to local stewardship needs. Educators from around southeast Michigan gather to work on how to develop their curriculum from students by asking questions, engaging, and having meaningful impact through action in their community.



25th Anniversary of Our High School

2022 marked the 25th anniversary of our high school and we could not wait to celebrate! With the help of sponsorships from local businesses, or anniversary celebrations brought our alum and current families together in wonderful ways. We offered our first-ever Mosaic Walk, touring the 18 class-gift mosaics that adorn our high school. The Alum Art Show at Chris Nordin Studios Gallery in Kerrytown featured the work of 12 Steiner alums. Our annual golf outing was as fun as ever and raised \$4,500. The Golden Gnome was taken home by the alum team in our Alum-Student basketball game, an exciting return to the game after four years! It was a year of new and renewed celebrations in honor of 25 years of the Rudolf Steiner High School and we're excited for the next 25!



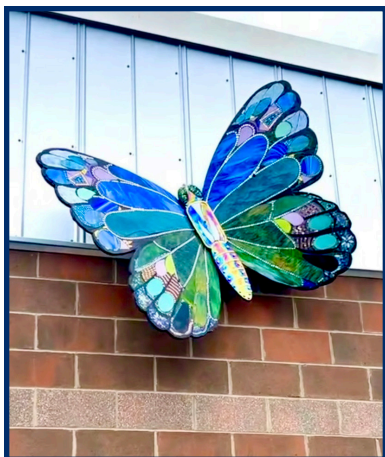
Return to In-Person Winter Festival

We had kept our beloved annual Winter Festival alive with fun and engaging online events throughout the pandemic but were beyond thrilled to be able to host our 2022 Winter Festival in person once again! It was an exclusively-outdoor event offering singing, crafting, games, food, and fun along with a large bonfire to keep everyone toasty warm. The great turnout reaffirmed our belief that ***our school families cherish these opportunities to build community.***



Grandparents & Special Friends Day

After a four-year break from our annual Grandparents & Special Friends Day, we were able to offer this much-loved event once again! Over 100 grandparents and friends attended events at the Lower School and High School, excited to once again be welcomed into the classrooms and able to get a first-hand glimpse into the day-to-day experiences of the children in their lives who attend our school.



Molly Salsitz Endowment Established

The Molly Salsitz Grounds Endowment Fund was started with donations of \$8,935. The fund was established by the Salsitz family to honor Molly (2006-2022) and her love of the outdoors and of our school. In addition, a tree was planted, marking a special place on the Lower School campus as a reminder of the positive impact Molly's life had on our community.



High School Book Nook Made Even Cozier

Furthering the dream of Steiner student Meagan Margerum-Leys, our December 2021 Miles for Meagan run raised the funds needed to update the cozy Book Nook in our high school commons. Along with new seating and shelving built by a Steiner grandparent, 88 new books were donated by our community to fill the shelves and the beautiful new Book Nook was dedicated on May 10, 2022.

"It has been wonderful to see the beautiful new shelving in the "Book Nook" be filled with books both old and new. Thank you to all who donated to the book drive. The comfy chairs make the space a truly cozy "nook" for the high school. I hope we get students to use the Stone House library as well. Our daughter, Meagan would be happy to see anyone reading in either space!"

Julie Mergerum-Leys



DEI Training at RSSAA

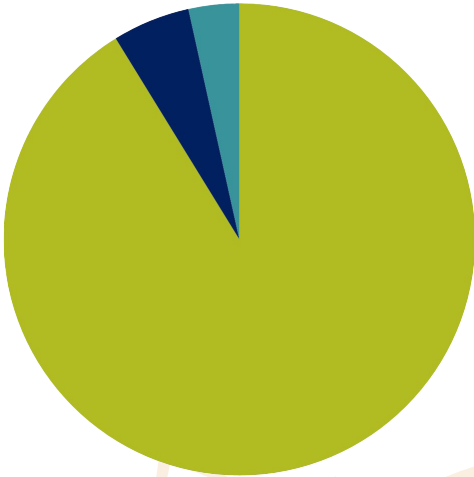
DEI training facilitates conversation and engagement around topics of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. A DEI-designated donation of \$5000 for ALMA Partners DEI training was received from two alumni grandparents. As a school, we gained a lot of insight and were able to reflect on our practices, school culture, and curriculum to see how we can continue to grow.

RSSAA Alum Vrinda Girdhar (2022) and her family bring a special performance to the school to celebrate Diwali. Diwali is one of the many diverse celebrations that our school invites our community to share.

Our Budget Reflects a Commitment to Faculty and Programs that Support Our Community

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor provides a robust Waldorf education for students, PreK–12. *Through a consciously designed, age-specific curriculum, we strive to cultivate curiosity, analytic thinking, empathy and initiative.* We prepare our graduates to pursue higher education and to enter adult life with *confidence, self-knowledge and a deep understanding of the world.*

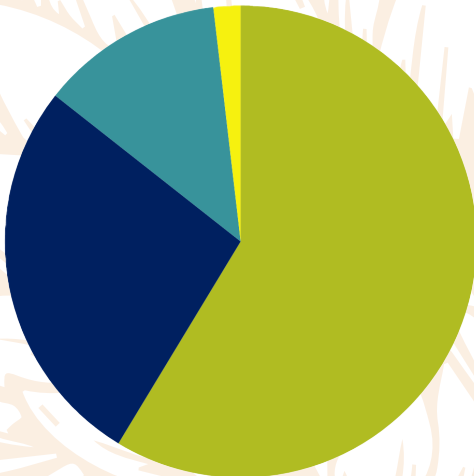
2022-23 Revenue



91%
5%
3%

Tuition	4,199,570
Fundraising and Events	244,899
Fees and Services	159,863
Total Revenue	4,604,332

2022-23 Expenses



59%
27%
13%
2%

Instructional Expenses	2,497,339
Administrative and Operations	1,146,684
Building and Grounds	533,800
Services	78,790
Total	4,256,613

In Your Words



*"I am deeply grateful for the **holistic approach of Waldorf Education**. Building a supportive team spirit as a Varsity Athlete, and **forming sustaining relationships with students and teachers** are among my lasting memories of RSSAA. As a college student, I consistently draw on principles that I learned during those formative highschool years.*

Andrew Bell, Class of 2022

Wooster College, Andrew, (right) pictured with classmates in Florence during the Annual Senior Italy Trip



*"Our **athletic program is unique** as we allow all athletes to **play at the varsity level**, no matter their experience or skill level."*

Tavyn Likosky, Class of 2023
Baldwin Wallace University, Sport Management and Economics



*"My **education at Rudolf Steiner** created the space for me to ask **questions about education** and how we learn. It **encouraged me** to follow my **curiosity** and to believe that our **imagination**s can create new possibilities through education and beyond."*

Dr. Kim Vachon, PhD, Class of 2004
Kim, pictured with her son while receiving her Doctorate Diploma from University of California, Santa Cruz

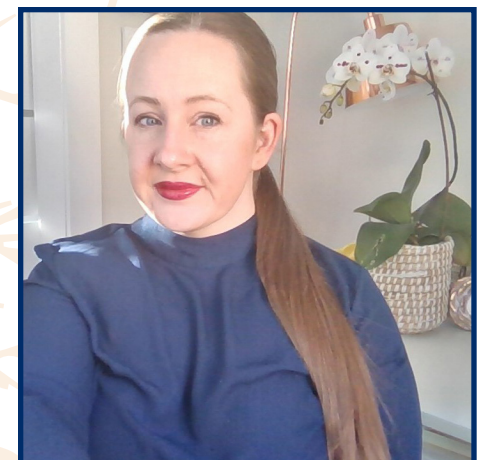
*"The **Winter Festival was one of my favorite events**. When the weather cooled, I would start to look forward to it. **I remember the way the school would smell** of pine and hot apple cider with cinnamon. I enjoyed performing in the gym for my family and my friends' parents. I was lucky in middle school and always won an item in the raffle. **Even to this day I can still smell the beeswax in the children's room**, where we could buy or make affordable holiday gifts for our families. **Community is what made Rudolf Steiner School so special to me**. My school was an extension of my family, **I felt safe, and the environment was always welcoming and magical.**"*

Crystal Baker-Burr, Class of 2006
Director of Education and Advocacy at the Bronx Defenders

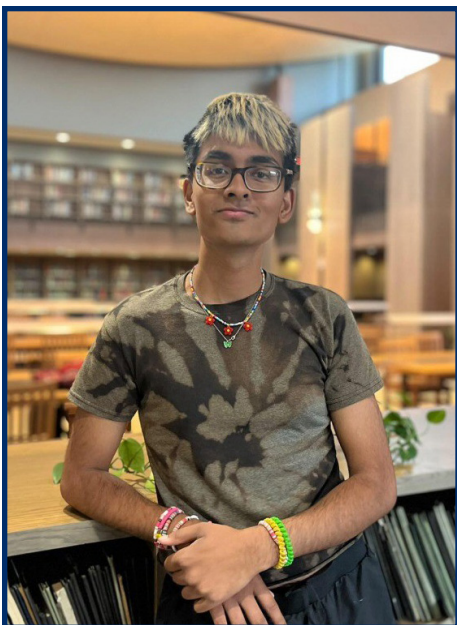


*I was fortunate to **attend the annual international conference for German teachers** at Waldorf schools in the fall of 2022 and again in 2023. Attending these conferences has been very valuable for my growth as a Waldorf teacher. Practical workshops focused on topics such as speech work, songs, games, and how to integrate movement into language learning, applications which I was able to use immediately once I was back in the classroom! **I am grateful for the generous support by the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor** which has made it possible for me to attend these conferences.*

Ava Ackerman, RSSAA German Teacher



In Your Words



There are **so many fields that I want to study**. Neuroscience, English, Film, Economics, and Psychology. Coming to Steiner has exposed me to learning a lot of new, different subjects. **It has resulted in me having a lot of different interests and passions and areas of study.**

Rhiju Chakraborty, Class of 2023
Trinity College, Biology/English, Pre-med Track,
Author




We joined RSSAA during the height of the pandemic, seeking an alternative to online schooling through our local public school. **We were fortunate to have heard glowing recommendations from an RSSAA alum**, and it became clear that this was the ideal place for our children to thrive – and they have! **RSSAA has not only provided our family with a wonderful community but also an opportunity to engage through the parent council, allowing us to connect with other parents and gain a deeper understanding of Waldorf education.** We are truly grateful for the thoughtfulness that goes into the curriculum and its seamless integration. RSSAA has been a beacon of light and we are thankful to be part of this incredible community. Jessica Grove, Parent



We relocated to Michigan in 2022 and considered public school. However, **one tour of RSSAA changed our minds!** We received a warm welcome from faculty, students and parents. **We wanted this community and their partnership to help our children develop into kind, creative and resourceful individuals.** We became involved in parent council to meet more people and to give back to the community. Our kids, and we, greatly appreciate all the support and friendship we've received. It has made us feel at home. Leslie O'Donnell, Parent

Upcoming Events



11/28/23
12/9/23
3/15/24
4/25/24
5/30/24

Day of Giving
Winter Festival
Seyhan Symposium
Grandparents & Special Friends Day
Annual Golf Outing

