



Free thinking since 1966

2018-2019 • Annual Report

Letter to the Community

FALL 2019

According to Rudolf Steiner, the three components of a Waldorf education are a **need for imagination**, a **sense of truth**, and a **feeling of responsibility**. For 54 years, Detroit Waldorf School has nurtured these pillars of learning in thousands of students, who have entered society as creative, voracious, and responsible citizens of the world.

It is our community that sustains DWS. Our parents, grandparents, alumni, teachers, and staff breathe life into our school day after day. We endured periods of uncertainty, and now we are navigating a period of unprecedented growth and demand. This next year is critical for our school to determine how we might increase our capacity and open our doors to more children.

It is our challenge to ride this wave of interest in Waldorf education while also addressing the need for more Waldorf educators. In order to thrive, DWS requires more teachers and these teachers deserve fair compensation.

DWS has endured because we have remained true to our mission and committed to the children who pass through our gate. As we celebrate 100 years of Waldorf education, I invite you to join me in committing anew to supporting our wonderful community. The fellowship and friendship Detroit Waldorf School has provided my family—and families like yours—is invaluable. Please consider giving in honor of all we have accomplished in the past five decades, and all we will achieve in the future.

Sincerely,

Dante King, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES





Our Students

DWS ended the 2018-19 academic year with 254 enrolled students. Our 8th graders competed in an annual *University of Michigan "German Day"* organized by the *Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures*. Seventh graders participated in *Religious Diversity Journeys (RDJ)*, an interfaith immersion that connected students with peers across three counties, learning about different faiths and cultures. DWS's musical program drew acclaim as 25 band and orchestra students won 35 First Division medals at the *Michigan School Band & Orchestra District XV Solo & Ensemble Festival*.

Students from the class of 2019 are enrolled at the Roeper School, Cass Technical High School, Liggett High School, University of Detroit Jesuit High School, Grosse Pointe South High School, Mercy High School, Stevenson Livonia High School, Highland Hall High School, and Rudolf Steiner High School.



Our Community

This year, Detroit Waldorf School worked on strengthening relationships with our school and neighborhood community as well as with greater Detroit. DWS welcomed the public for a series of grant-sponsored, place-based lectures, featuring two guest speakers: *Jamon Jordan* and *Matt Siegfried*. Their talks focused on Detroit's African American and Native American histories and the ever changing natural landscape of our city and state.

Our *2018 Winter Faire*, made possible by the hard work of our dedicated Parent Group, offered the greater community a taste of the magic that is Waldorf education, while supporting local food, craft, and art vendors. Participants enjoyed silk dyeing, jump rope making, puppet shows and student performances. Our Fathers Group sold holiday trees to support the purchase of a new riding lawn mower.

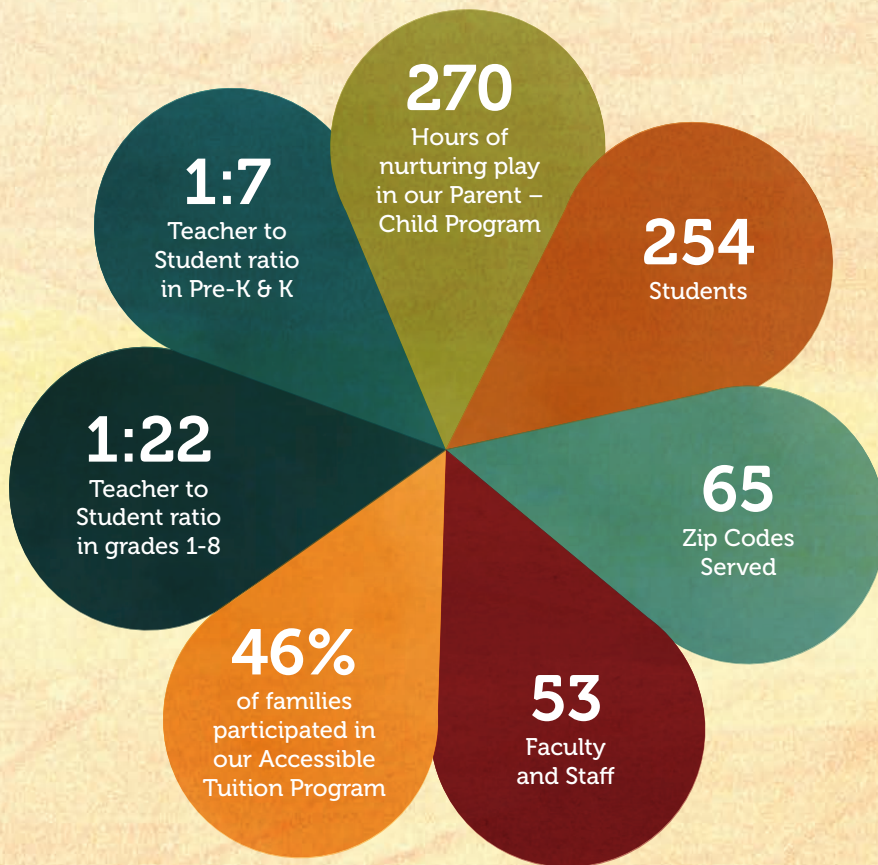
Our Alumni

"Work, effort, practice, achievement—this is what Detroit Waldorf School gave me. I learned to assimilate information as opposed to memorizing facts," says James Rose Jr., who attended the first set of DWS grades classes.

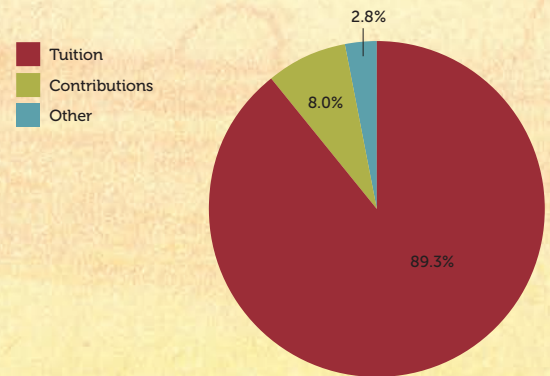
We launched an alumni survey that helped DWS to create a snapshot of what our alumni value about the school and where they are today. In our monthly online magazine we love heralding the accomplishments of our alumni in the *Alumni Corner*.



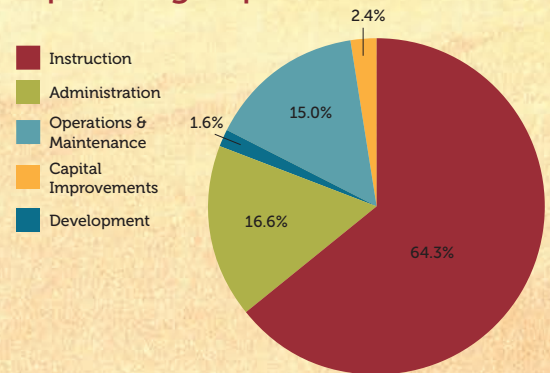
Detroit Waldorf School At A Glance



Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



Disclaimer: Figures are based on un-audited statements.

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Detroit Waldorf School works to build a strong community within its walls and in partnership with its neighbors. Your generosity ensures that DWS—the last independent school in the city of Detroit—continues to offer a rich and dynamic education to a geographically, racially, and socio-economically diverse student body. **Please know how deeply grateful we are for your support.**

All donations to Detroit Waldorf School are tax deductible.
 Waldorf School Association of Michigan, dba Detroit Waldorf School, is a 501(c)(3) organization designated by the IRS.

The Impact of Your Support

When you donate to DWS, your generosity impacts our school at every level. The quality of our programming, the professional development of our teachers, and the overall experience of each of our students is made possible by contributions like yours.

254 students

from 65 zip codes

380 main lesson books

2,730
beautiful
paintings
in our Early
Childhood
Center

\$30,600

donated

from 127 donors

103%

increase
in number
of students
served in
Educational
Support

13% increase in fundraising

200+ Eurythmy Slippers

4416

sticks

of wax

crayons

77,000 minutes

700 cups
of oatmeal

245 sticks
of butter

340,000 collective
minutes of recess

of free play

2 fun & successful
parent-led events

\$240
average gift

1:7 Teacher to Student Ratio
in Pre-K & Kindergarten

1:22 Teacher to Student Ratio
in our 1st-8th Grades

630 handwork classes

Save the Dates!

Winter Faire

Saturday

December 7, 2019

Spring Concert

Friday

April 3, 2020

May Day

Friday

May 1, 2020

with Grandparents
& Special Friends

Check our website for upcoming events:

www.detroitwaldorf.org