



2020-2021 Report



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Faculty Chair

Jennifer Page

Advancement

Alia Goodyear
Director of Communications
and Marketing

Lezlie Lawson
Director of Enrollment

Caitlin MacKenzie
Director of Development

Maria Monteverde-Jackson
Director of Events and Community
Relations

Jennifer Page
Faculty Chair

Trustees Council

Eric Holdsworth, Chair

Vanessa Beckman

Tove Elfstrom

Kati Gingold, Treasurer

Tom Holmberg

Bonnie McClelland

Jennifer Rabinowitz

Jennifer Page (ex officio)

Taisto Saloma

Diversity Statement

The Washington Waldorf School is committed to educating children in a welcoming school community that reflects the rich diversity of the greater Washington metropolitan area. WWS is an inclusive community of students, families, faculty, and staff that strives to maintain a diversity of race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status or responsibilities, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, and genetic information. We educate our students to respect the dignity of all people.

College of Teachers

Jennifer Page, Chair

Clare Andre

Laurent Andre

Lisa Bechmann

Neven Bender

Barbara Buchman

Jane Christenson

Laura Cox

Judith Graff

Wendy Jackson

Linc Kinnicutt

Kate Knuth

Lezlie Lawson

Valerie LeBlanc

Gabriele Schilz

Allysun Sokolowski

Lelia True



Our Mission

Washington Waldorf cultivates each student's capacity to think clearly, feel compassionately, and act purposefully in the world. We are committed to the education movement inspired by the pioneering work of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner and advanced by Waldorf teachers worldwide.



Thank you



Jennifer Page

Jennifer Page led Washington Waldorf School as Faculty Chair and Head of School for eight years, and served as a class teacher for many years prior to stepping into the Faculty Chair position. She worked alongside the Trustees Council, College of Teachers, faculty, parents, and other community members to move our school forward in many ways. During her time as Faculty Chair, the school's successful \$7.2 million capital campaign enabled us to renovate the infrastructure of our building, create a new entryway, and upgrade the external building design. We installed solar panels on the roof of the school, expanded our Children's Garden programming by adding a Waldorf in the Woods outdoor program, and built onto the yurt to accommodate 5-day Seedlings and Nursery classes. We also increased the musical offerings for middle and high school students, and added to our sports offerings. Jennifer was an early champion of our school's continued work around diversity, equity and social justice. During her time as Faculty Chair, Washington Waldorf School sponsored events such as a community potluck celebrating our diverse family heritages, a eight-week summer series on anti-racism, weekend and evening workshops, movie screenings and discussion forums. Jennifer was a steadfast and capable leader for our faculty and community as we navigated the unknowns and challenges of the pandemic. We are grateful to her for her leadership and steadfast commitment to Waldorf Education.

Eric Holdsworth



Eric Holdsworth chaired the Trustees Council between 2017-2021 and was a member from 2016. During his tenure as Chair, and before he officially joined the Trustees Council, he served on a number of committees. He was a member and Chair of the Development Committee, ensuring that our school reached its annual fund goals. Eric was also instrumental in the installation of solar panels on the roof of our school. He was an integral part of the project from its inception through its completion. The installation enables us to offset our use of electricity and also give back to the grid. Eric was part of the nominating committee which identifies the appropriate skill sets and interviews candidates to become Trustees of our school. He and his wife Susan are now alum parents of Washington Waldorf School, as their daughter Sonja graduated in 2020. Thank you to Eric, for the many years of volunteer leadership that he provided, and continued commitment to our school.

Departing Trustees Council Members

Thank you to the following Trustees Council members whose terms completed at the end of the 2020-2021 school year:

- Kati Gingold
- Bonnie McClelland
- Jennifer Rabinowitz

Thank you to the many parents, grandparents, and community volunteers who gave their time and talents towards Washington Waldorf School last year. While we were unable to have volunteers in the classrooms or school last year due to pandemic restrictions, countless members of our community worked virtually to support the school's initiatives. Volunteers included members of the Development Committee, Gala Committee, Leadership Council for Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice, and Parent Organization and Class Representatives. Thank you to all of you for your support.



Dear Friends,

The 2020–2021 school year and the Covid-19 global pandemic brought many new challenges to our Washington Waldorf School community. The dedication

and flexibility of our faculty, the support of our parents, and the resiliency of our students allowed us to persevere through that difficult time.

Our initial goal was two-fold—ensure that our school continued to provide a high-quality Waldorf education and enable a safe return to campus. We reopened in September 2020 with a staged, hybrid approach, combining remote and on-campus learning. Our on-campus classes were held in the mornings in outdoor classrooms and in pods by grade. Our youngest students (PreK–G3) started on campus in September, and in early October we expanded our on-campus mornings to include Grades 4 and 5. In November we welcomed all students back to campus on a rotating basis. When not on campus, whether for a full day or afternoon, students participated in synchronous virtual learning sessions, as well as asynchronous learning activities. Between Thanksgiving and early January, Lower School and High School students shifted completely to virtual learning, as requested of all independent schools by the Montgomery County Department of Health. In January, all students returned to a rotating schedule of four full days on campus and one virtual day at home per week.

Community events were repurposed for a virtual environment throughout most of the year. In November, we hosted a virtual Fall Bazaar and in April, a virtual gala raised over \$100,000 for the One Fund. Senior projects, school plays, and our assemblies were all hosted online, bringing our community together in a new way. In June, we were thrilled to host an outdoor ribbon

cutting ceremony with Montgomery County officials to celebrate the installation of solar panels on our roof. This was the culmination of many months of hard work by staff, parents, and community volunteers to reduce energy costs and our school’s carbon footprint.

While navigating the logistics of in person school and virtual activities last year, our community was inspired by national events and previous conversations to take up more intentional diversity, equity, and social justice work. Cultivating the seeds sown over many years, this work took place in the faculty, guided by the College of Teachers, the faculty’s Anti-Racism Curriculum Group (ARCG), and the Leadership Council for Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice (LC4DESJ), a joint administrative, faculty, and parent committee. In the summer of 2020, the LC4DESJ hosted a community wide 8-week series on various aspects of Anti-Racism. Guest speakers, committee presentations, and discussions served to begin to build a common understanding of anti-racist principles and how these principles inform our school practices and community engagement. These efforts continued into the school year in monthly faculty meetings, curriculum reviews and modifications, and community conversations.

In the fall of 2020 with Jennifer Page’s retirement announcement, the Washington Waldorf School began to search for a new Head of School for the 2021–2022 school year. In April 2021, Lelia True, Operations Manager at the time, was named Interim Head of School, effective July 2021. A smooth leadership transition ensued over the next three months.

The 2020–2021 school year was a challenging and uncertain time. But the efforts of our devoted faculty on behalf of our dear students made each day fruitful. We hope this letter summarizing the year’s events, along with the

enclosed timeline and financial statement, provide both specific information and a composite picture of the 2020-2021 school year. Please take some time to review the information, and be sure to contact Lelia if you have any questions.

Thank you for being part of our community and for your support and contributions during a year of immense change. We are buoyed up by your positive spirit, volunteerism, and support as we work together on behalf of our school.

Recited as part of many of our school meetings, Rudolf Steiner's "Social Motto" inspires us to our collective purpose:

*The healthy social life is found, when,
in the mirror of each human soul, the whole
community finds its reflection, and when, in the
community, the virtue of each one is living.*

With Gratitude,



Jennifer Page

Faculty Chair and Head of School
(2013-2021)



Lelia True

Director of Operations (2017-2021)
Interim Head of School (2021-present)





Dear Friends of Washington Waldorf School,

On behalf of the Trustees Council, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Washington Waldorf School. After several years on the Trustees Council, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the enthusiasm, generosity and dedication of our students, faculty, parents, alumni and donors that has enabled our school to continue to grow and thrive. I am deeply honored to serve as the Chair of the Trustees Council, and I am pleased to report that our school is financially sound and on solid footing.

The 2020–2021 school year started with many unknowns, and yet our community never wavered from our mission of providing our students with an education that promotes independent thinking, cultivates creativity, builds confidence, and develops practical skills. The pandemic confirmed that most students learn best in person—with a teacher at the helm and opportunities to engage with classmates. Supported with technology, our community wove together a responsive plan to accommodate as many needs as possible while providing as much in person engagement as feasible. We brought the children back to campus by constructing outdoor classrooms and instituting strict safety protocols. These unique learning spaces exemplified the Washington Waldorf School pedagogy and enabled teachers to offer students distinctive learning opportunities that can only be found in the great outdoors.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, WWS had a financially successful year. Once again, we achieved success in our annual fund by raising over \$325,000. We also applied for two PPP loans which have since been forgiven. Interest in our school has increased tremendously this past year and our

enrollment continues to grow, especially in the younger grades. These financial highlights reflect the health and well-being of our school and community as we continue to grow.

I am in awe of the commitment, resourcefulness, and kindness of our school community. The time and energy spent to ensure that our students received a remarkable education during an unprecedented time is overwhelming. I am proud of how our community has come together to overcome the obstacles the past two years have presented to create the healthiest school year possible in unprecedented circumstances.

A huge thank you to the Trustees Council and faculty for their dedication, especially throughout the past two years, which required increased meetings, intense discussions, and courageous decisions while facing the many unknowns of COVID-19.

As a parent and longtime community member, I am grateful for your steadfast support of Washington Waldorf School and our shared commitment to inspiring a lifelong love of learning in every student.

Blessings on our school.



Vanessa Beckman

Trustees Council Chair 2021–2022

Trustees Council Member 2020–2021



September

- G4 & G5 on campus
- Virtual Michaelmas celebration
- Unveiling of 9th grade mural of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Lewis
- 1st & 12th Grade pumpkin exchange

November

- #GivingTuesday
- CG Evergreen Spiral
- Virtual 8th Grade Play
- Online seasonal sing-along
- Virtual Winter Assembly
- Grades 1-12 virtual

January

Record number of applications for the next fall

March

- PreK-G5 on campus 5 days a week
- Virtual Gala
- Virtual senior project presentation
- PO creates WWS Gear Shop
- Lelia True announced as Interim Head of School

May

- In person Spring Rose ceremony for Grades 1 & 12
- Hybrid High School graduation
- 8th Grade commencement
- Solar panel ribbon cutting
- In person Leaving Verse gathering for Grade 12



September

October

- PreK-G3 on campus
- Fall rose ceremony in person



- All classes on campus at least part time
- Homecoming Zoom-union for Alums & HS Faculty
- Pocket Wizards visited campus
- Virtual Fall Bazaar
- Thanksgiving Food Drive

December

- All classes back on campus with 1 rotating day at home for G1-12 by the end of the month
- Virtual MLK Assembly



February

- Parent Organization honors faculty
- Grade 8-12 Day of the Languages shared with Grades 7 and older

April

- Virtual Senior Play
- The cicadas emerge
- Grade 12 outing to Calvert Cliffs

June



"It's strange that we are all wearing masks but you can still see the joy in [the students'] eyes. They are taking in everything and loving learning."

– WWS Faculty Member



Your Gifts Make a Difference

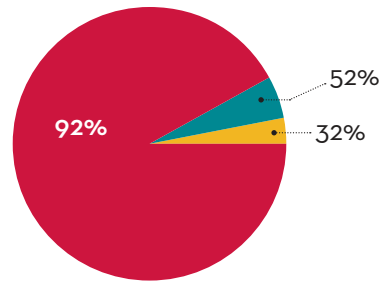
Washington Waldorf School is pleased to share with you the audited financials from the 2020-2021 school year. It was a year that our community continued to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, balancing in person, outdoor education with remote schooling. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and community, we were able to continue providing a generous amount of Financial Aid, and still end the year with a small surplus.

Fundraising income accounts for 5% of the operating budget, and augments tuition revenues, helping support all that goes into providing a Waldorf Education. We offer this report to provide transparency, and as just one way to thank you for your gifts to the Washington Waldorf School community.

Revenue

Tuition	\$6,895,524.
Fundraising	\$345,388.
Other Income	\$193,242.

TOTAL REVENUE \$7,434,154.

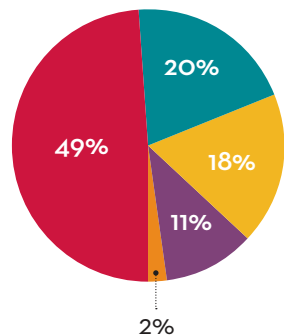


Expense

Faculty	\$3,662,599.
Financial Aid	\$1,496,074.
Admin	\$1,314,071.
Facilities	\$811,864.
Programs	\$131,130.

TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,415,740.

NET \$18,414.



ONE FUND

Annual Fund & Financial Aid **Together**

UNITY IN GIVING: THE ONE FUND

Your support of the One Fund allows us to continue to bring our expanding community together in meaningful ways, improve our campus, and provide a robust Waldorf education to as many families as possible. Washington Waldorf School is a diverse community with deep passions and broad participation. We ask you to continue your support by donating at a level that is meaningful for you and your family.

The financial strength of our school depends upon the participation of the entire community. When we all give, others give as well—it's that simple. Your gift is one of the most important statements of support our school can receive.



WASHINGTON
Waldorf School

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