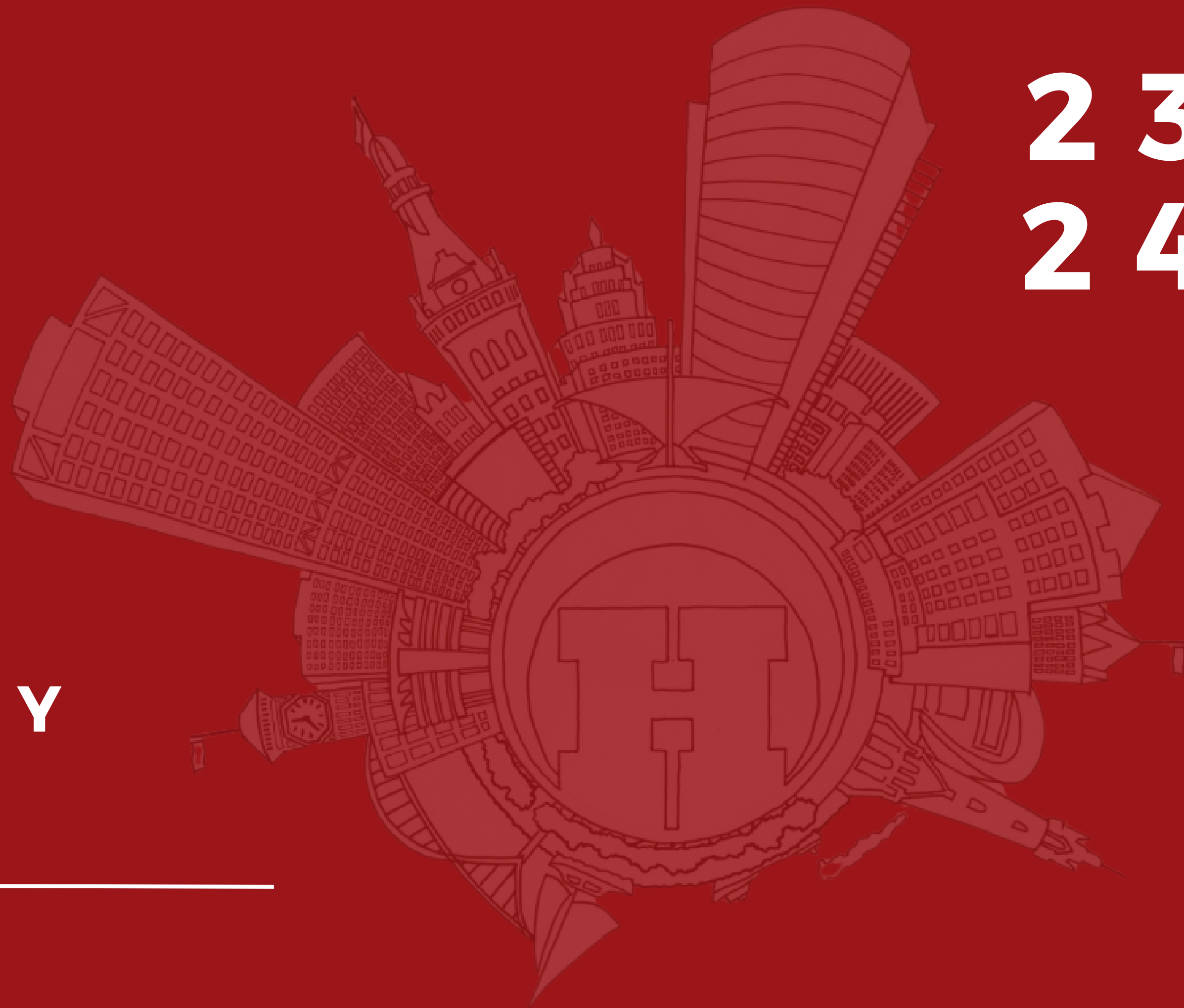


# HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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ANNUAL REPORT

23  
24



# A Message from our Board President

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Dear Highland Community,

As we reflect on another impactful year at Highland Community School, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering dedication of our families, staff, and students. Together, you bring our vision to life, making Highland much more than just a place of learning - it's a community rooted in a shared commitment to nurturing curiosity, independence, and a love of lifelong learning.

The Highland experience is centered on creating an environment where students not only receive a quality education, but also develop essential life skills and a strong sense of responsibility to

themselves and others. In this annual report, we celebrate our collective achievements, showcase the progress and growth of our students, and extend our heartfelt thanks to those who continually support our mission.

As we look back on 55 years since our founding, we are proud to carry forward the legacy of Highland as a parent-led school, where the dedication of each family contributes to the well-being of our entire student body. This spirit of shared responsibility and commitment defines us and strengthens the bonds within our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of Highland. Your involvement, passion, and support inspire us daily as we continue our mission to provide a holistic Montessori education that respects and nurtures the unique potential of every child.

With deep appreciation,  
Brian D. Litzsey

## 2023 - 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Officers

Brian Litzsey, President

Amy Nelson Christenson, Vice President

Patrick Bader, Secretary

Brenda Simonis, Treasurer/Finance Chair

### Board Members

derria byrd

Dolores Brown

Mikaya Clark

Latisha Franklin

Kia Green

Ali Kopyt

Kantara Souffrant

## 2023 - 2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tracy Williams

# Highland at a Glance

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**446**

Students,  
Toddler - 8th

**7,000**

Documented  
Volunteer Hours

**25**

School-Wide  
Events

**6**

Family-Led  
Committees

**14**

Ranking in  
the District

**75**

State Report  
Card Score

**100%**

Classroom  
Teacher Retention

**80%**

Of Students Participated in  
Afterschool Clubs and Sports



# Living our Mission

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## MONTESSORI SPOTLIGHT: THIRD GRADE CAPSTONE

This year, Lower Elementary Lead Guides led by Alicia Steiner, overhauled our Third Grade Capstone Project, centered on learning about Montessori's Fundamental Needs of Humans. With the aim of focusing on social justice issues in our community, they identified local organizations in Milwaukee that seek to address some of these fundamental needs, from food insecurity to public access to nature.

Students met with four local organizations and then selected one addressing a primary issue to further research and support. Projects included a food drive, cleaning supplies drive, and an opportunity to assemble basic care kits. The project culminated with personal essays about an aspect of a fundamental need and a group presentation on their partnerships with local nonprofits.

Thank you, Lower Elementary Team, for creating a project for our students that enriched, empowered, and inspired our students to reach their potential!



# Embracing our Vision

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: BRIAN DEWINDT

When Brian DeWindt walks through the halls of Highland, he does so not only as an AP Program Guide, but as a parent and alum. “After spending my early years at Highland, the feeling of belonging never left me,” Brian reflects. “Supporting the community that supported me was a priority.”

Brian is a living example of the vision we have for all of our students at Highland - of fostering lifelong learners who are a force for change in education, the community, and society. Though his degree in Marketing initially led him in a different direction, his passion for working with students brought him back to the classroom.

“My Highland community knew me before I could walk or talk, and almost 40 years later, I get to see the babies of my former students enter our same community,” Brian says. “Knowing that I have their trust gives them a better chance at learning from someone who has their best interest at heart, as well as supporting their desire to learn. I get to teach amazing students every day, giving them tools and strategies that will last a lifetime.”



# Honoring our History

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: AL AND ANNE NEPHEW

Highland Community School traces its origin to 1968, when Mike Cullen persuaded Anne Nephew to begin a weekly class at Highland Methodist Church. While Anne and her husband, Al, would relocate to Duluth, Minnesota, two years later, Anne's training as a Montessori educator and Al's tireless support of her work was fundamental to the beginnings of Highland. Three of their children, Beth, Julia, and John, were amongst Highland's first students.

This spring, we were honored to recognize the integral role that Al and Anne played in Highland's founding through the establishment of the Al and Anne Nephew Library at Highland. A resource designed to inspire young readers and support their research, the Nephew Library is a fitting tribute to one of Highland's founding families. We are deeply grateful to Al, Anne, and the Nephew Family for their countless contributions to our school.

(Pictured): Anne Nephew, Julia Nephew, and Albert Nephew visit Highland's 2004 West Highland Avenue location during our 50th Anniversary Celebration.



# Financial Summary

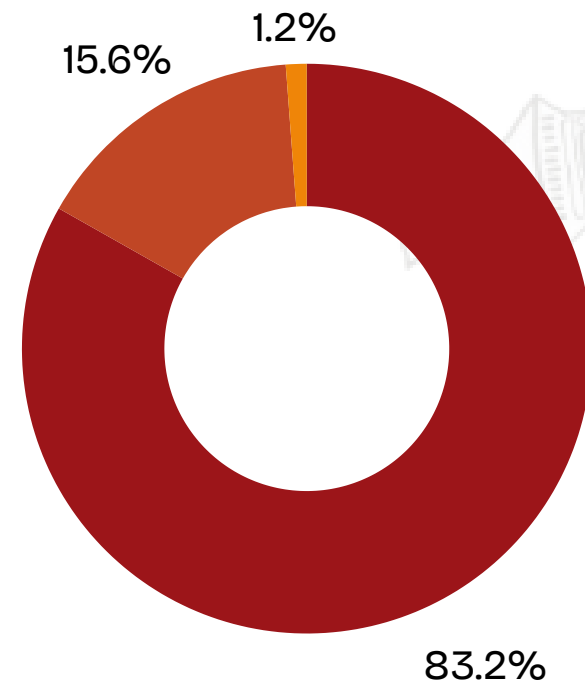
The Highland Community School Board of Directors and school administration report all of our financial requirements have been met and policies and procedures are in place, including an annual independent financial audit, to ensure the highest standards of financial oversight. A copy of our audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024, is available upon request.

## NET ASSETS

Total Assets	\$7,921,784
Total Liabilities	\$4,637,812
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,107,106
Board Restricted Net Assets	\$1,000,454
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$176,412
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,283,972</b>

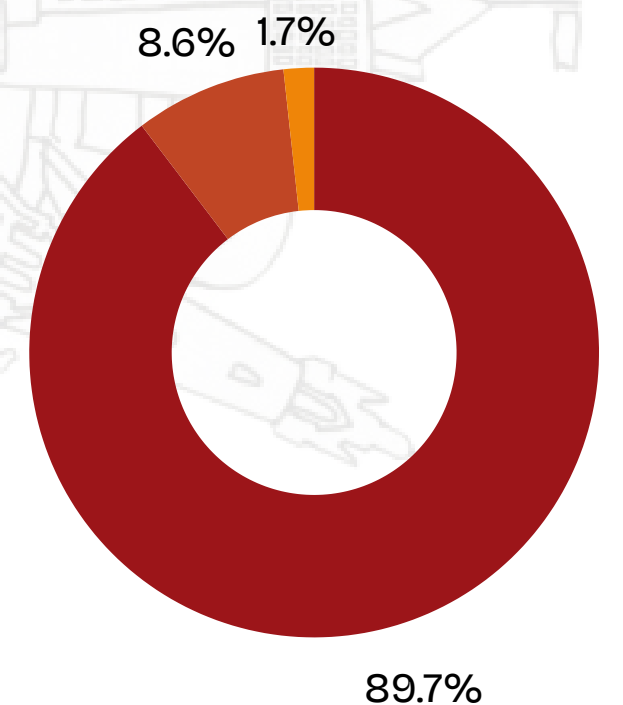
## INCOME

● Educational Revenue	\$5,680,853
● Childcare Revenue	\$1,067,390
● Other Income	\$80,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,828,955</b>



## EXPENSES

● Education & Programs	\$5,916,012
● General & Administrative	\$569,029
● Fundraising	\$113,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,598,645</b>



# Thank You, Highland!

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Buckaroo LTD  
Girl Scouts of America  
Hen's Deli  
Hope House  
Junior Achievement  
Kat Schleicher Photography  
King Community Center  
Kinship Community Food Center  
Marquette University  
Middle Level Forensics Association of WI  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Milwaukee Parks Foundation  
Milwaukee Kickers  
Milwaukee Recreation  
Milwaukee Ultimate Club  
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
Montessori Model United Nations

Neu-Life Community Development  
Operation Smile  
Parenting Network  
PEARLS for Teen Girls  
Public Montessori in Action  
Simba Soccer Club  
TRUE Skool  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
Urban Ecology Center  
UW - Extension  
Valentine Coffee  
Voyager Wine Bar  
Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation  
4H

## CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Forest County Potawatomi Foundation

Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation  
Green Bay Packers Foundation  
PPC Foundation  
PPG Foundation  
Whole Kids Foundation

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Anonymous (34)  
Paul Anders  
Tangela Anderson  
Laura and Michael Andrejasich  
Larry and Sheila Ashley  
Jennifer Aumann  
Patrick Bader \*  
Amanda Bailey ^  
Daniel Bauman  
Johanna Bauman  
Daniel Baxter ^  
Dave Bent  
Amy Berger  
Brian Berner  
Benjamin Biddle

Veronica Bohannon  
Matthew Brien  
Dolores Brown  
Emily Bussanich  
derria byrd \*  
Kyla Calvert  
Mary Carian  
Katryna Childs  
Mikaya Clark \*  
James Cope  
Benjamin Correia-Harker  
Patrick Correia-Harker  
Marcia Cunningham  
Antonette D'Acquisto  
Ben Derickson  
Christina Disterhaft  
Sarah Dollhausen-Clark  
Aria Duax and John Dye +  
Tim Duax +  
Jason Evans  
Margaret and Richard Falsetti  
Pam and Pat Fendt  
Goran Filipovic



• HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Enrich, Empower, Inspire

Natalie Fluker  
Latisha Franklin \*  
Elizabeth Gibes ^  
Clementine Gladney  
Abigail Goelzer  
Gerilynn Gonzalez  
Lorraine and Christopher Gramling  
Peter Graven  
Kia Green \*  
Amy Gutowski  
Melvin Guyton  
Michael Haley ^  
Tedford Haley  
Stephany Hamer  
Dionna Hayden  
Amanda Henderson  
Kevin Henderson  
Erin Hoekstra  
Ben Jacobs  
Joan and Jon Jacobs  
Chenoa James  
Ramona Johnson  
Roslyn Johnson

Pete Jonas  
Emily Jonesberg  
Crystal Juskha  
Rhonda Kelsey  
Jacklyn Kemp  
Ren Kersting  
Pat and David Kettenhofen  
Sherry and David Klinkner  
Jamison Klinkner  
Ali Kopyt \*  
Gretchen Kranz Irvine  
Leigh Kunde ^  
Daphne LaBua-Stenzel ^  
James Law  
Anne and Ronald Leggio  
Bridget and Ray Lewellyn  
Brian Litzsey \*  
Joan LoPresti  
Jill and Chris Maertz  
Catherine and Richard Marx  
Katie Mathis  
Emily Matthews  
Katherine McChrystal

Annie McQuarter  
Sonya Medina-Parr  
Sharlen Moore  
Sameena Mulla  
Trent Muller  
Carla Muñoz  
Leana Nakielski  
Justice Neal  
Al and Anne Nephew +  
Barbara and Byron Nichols  
Gail and Roger Northway  
Amtul Nuruddin  
Eileen O'Connor  
Quinn Olson  
Melvin Parr  
Jason Parry  
Devon Pittman  
Annie Prak-Primakow ^  
Amber Redemann  
Maleisha Reedy  
Heather Reilly  
Corbett Reinbold  
Maria Rubalcava

Jill Sebastian  
Brenda Simonis \*  
Jason Smith  
Tricia and Ed Stenzel  
Debra and Michael Timm  
Boima Tucker  
Sarah Walczak  
Brandon Walton  
Margaret Ward  
Michael Ward  
Lynette Welsch  
Erika White  
Lana Wiese  
Sarah Williamson  
Jill Wipfli  
Marilyn Wiseman  
Jolynn Woehrer  
Andrew Yeager  
**FAMILY FUND ^**  
Sarah Alvarez  
Darlene Arnold  
Amanda Bailey

• HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Enrich, Empower, Inspire

Ricardo Bravo  
 Raven Bullis  
 Julia Carian  
 Serita Cheeks  
 Tamara Conneely  
 Jean Dellemann-Engelbrecht  
 Brian DeWindt  
 Latoya Dixon  
 Teretha Durrah  
 Lindsay Evans  
 Hart Ford  
 Berenice Fragoso-Ayala  
 Zac Galan-Skinner  
 Megan Geddes  
 Elizabeth Gibes  
 Jonathan Glabere  
 Michael Haley  
 Ebony Harris  
 Qwandis Huggis  
 Alexis Kramschuster  
 Donna Miller  
 James Mills  
 Jenny Nichols

Blythe Nissen-Davis  
 Amy O'Neill  
 Jamie Lee Ohland  
 Annie Prak-Primakow  
 Tomo Quinn  
 Jennifer Reed  
 Wonderful Stamps  
 Alicia Steiner  
 Amanda Taddey  
 Susan Ward  
 Barry Weber  
 Christian Williams  
 Tracy Williams

**BRENDA'S ADVENTURE SCHOLARSHIP**

Leigh Kunde ^  
 Samantha Mischker

**BRENDA'S GARDEN**

Jason Evans  
 Leigh Kunde ^  
 Tomo Quinn ^

Melanie Vianes  
 Ellen Wagner

**BIKE WALK EAT SPONSORS**

Adventure Rock  
 Amaranth Bakery & Cafe  
 Art Bar  
 Bike Fed  
 Boelter  
 Delta Dental of WI  
 Foundation Chiropractic  
 Gruber Law Offices  
 Jamison Klinkner Family  
 JRS Financial  
 Keller Williams Whitefish Bay  
 Milwaukee Art Museum  
 Thief Wine  
 Trek  
 TRUE Skool

Ursa Minor Tree Care  
 Vulture Space  
 Wheel and Sprocket



^ 2023-2024 Staff Member \* 2023-2024 Board Member + Highland Founding Family

# HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

23  
24

## OUR MISSION


We are a community of diverse families and educators working together to offer quality Montessori education in a nurturing environment that enriches, empowers, and inspires the whole child to reach their potential. We encourage and support parents to be responsible for and involved with their children's education.

## OUR VISION

Changing the world by nurturing children and their families to be informed, compassionate, life-long learners who are a force for change in education, the community, and society.

 1706 West Highland Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233

 [www.highlandcommunityschool.org](http://www.highlandcommunityschool.org)

 414-342-1412