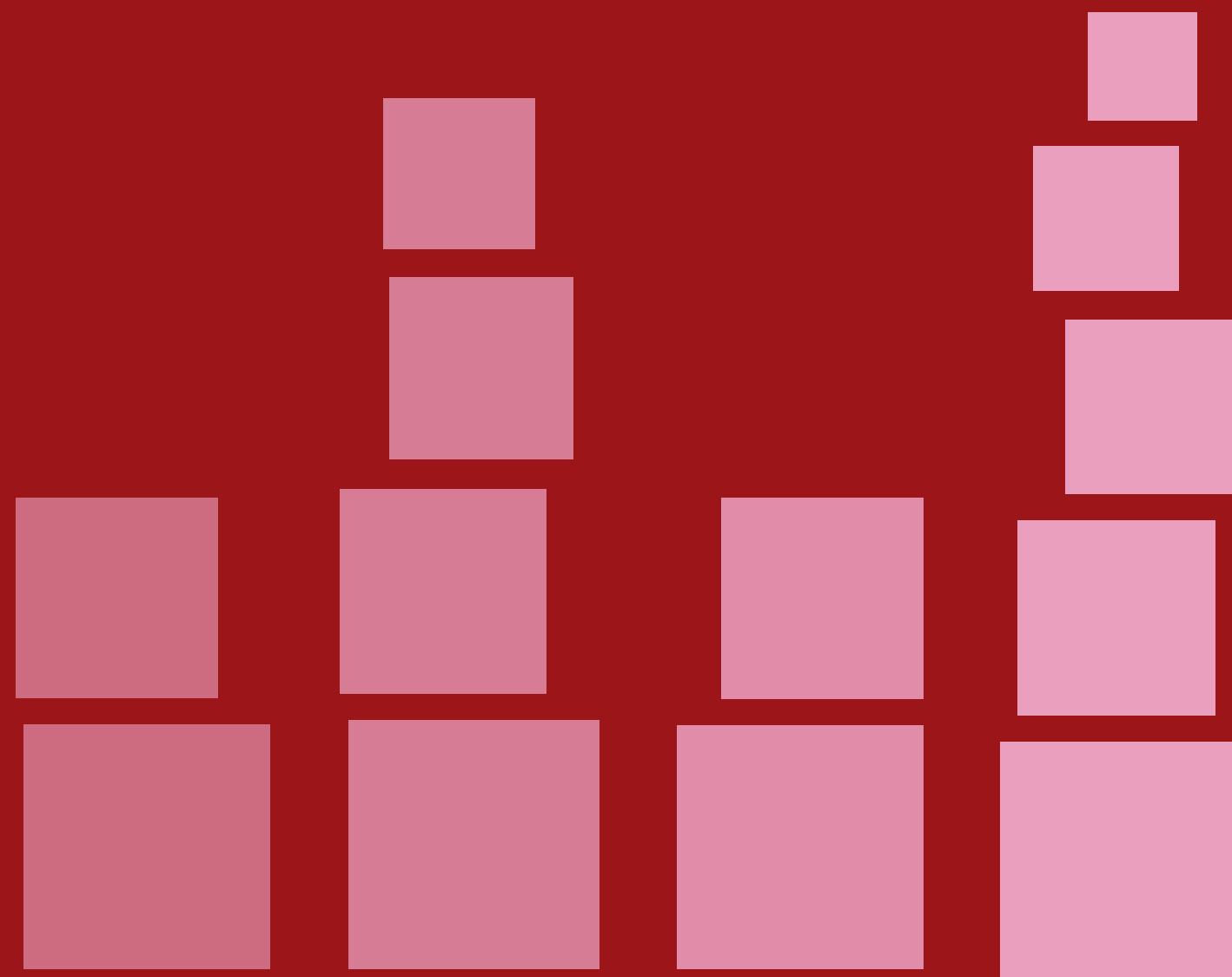


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HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# IMPACT REPORT



*Enrich, Empower, Inspire*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

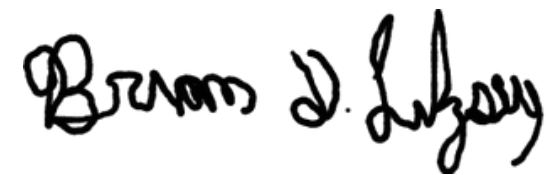
Dear Highland Community,

This year holds deep personal significance for me — being both my final year as Board President and as a current parent. These roles have deepened my appreciation for the Highland experience: a powerful Montessori education rooted in a strong, connected community.

The 2024-2025 school year brought exciting "firsts" like the inaugural Highland Hustle fundraiser, our first Black History and Latine Heritage celebrations, along with the successful renewal of our MPS charter contract for another five years. These milestones reflect not only our commitment to honoring Highland's legacy, but also our readiness to grow and adapt to meet the needs of today's families.

We remain steadfast in providing a holistic Montessori education that enriches, empowers, and inspires the whole child to reach their full potential, while embracing new opportunities to serve our students and community.

As you read this impact report, I invite you to celebrate our achievements, our progress, and the collective effort that makes Highland possible. Thank you for your trust, your involvement, and your belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to prepare our students not just for school, but for a life full of learning.



With gratitude,  
Brian D. Litzsey  
President, Board of Directors

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**2024-2025**

## **Parent Board of Directors**

### **Executive Officers**

Brian Litzsey, President

Amy Nelson Christenson, Vice President

Patrick Bader, Secretary

Brenda Simonis, Treasurer

### **Board Members**

derria byrd

Mikaya Clark

Latisha Franklin

Kia Green

Rashonda Jones

Ali Kopyt

Brittany Qualls

Kantara Souffrant

Tim Vargo

### **2024-2025 Executive Director**

Tracy Williams

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# HIGHLAND AT A GLANCE

463

Students,  
Toddler - 8th

96%

Student  
Retention Rate

36

Communities  
We Serve

28+

School-Wide  
Events

8,000+

Documented  
Volunteer Hours

8

Family-Led  
Committees

5

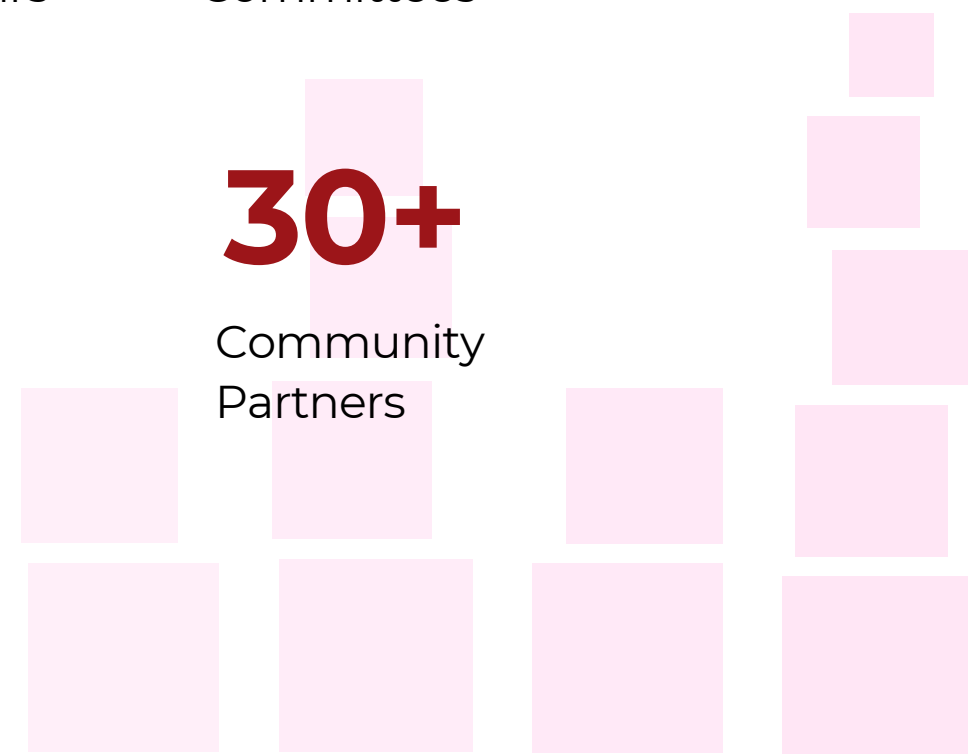
Ranking in  
the District -  
K-8 Schools

81

State Report  
Card Score

30+

Community  
Partners





# OUR MISSION AT WORK

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When parents shared in our annual family survey that they wanted more ways to support math learning at home, Highland listened. This spring, the school responded by launching its first **Math Family Fun Night** — an event made possible through generous grant support from the **Forest County Potawatomi Foundation**.

The evening transformed classrooms and hallways into lively game stations where students and families collaborated on activities that blended strategy, logic, and problem-solving. Through the event, families discovered how math naturally weaves into everyday play — and how it can be both fun and approachable.

With math proficiency identified as a key growth area, Math Family Fun Night reflects Highland's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of its families. By giving parents practical ways to engage with math outside the classroom, the event empowered families to reinforce learning in meaningful, low-pressure ways that fit naturally into their daily routines.

Through shared experiences like this, Highland continues to fulfill its mission of engaging the whole family in each child's education — and ensuring that learning remains a joyful, community-centered journey.





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## OUR VISION IN ACTION

From K3 through 8th grade, **alumna Sophia Westcott**'s time at Highland shaped the person and educator she would become. She fondly recalls planning her own field trips — mapping bus routes, organizing adults, and connecting each outing to classroom projects. "Looking back now, as a teacher, those experiences taught me leadership, collaboration, and how to take ownership of my learning," she reflects.

Today, Sophia is a preschool through high school special education teacher, inspired by the compassion Highland showed her brother, also a student. "I saw how they treated him — with care, respect, and a belief in his potential," she says. "That experience, and my family's work with the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, made me want to do the same for others." Highland's nurturing environment instilled confidence, independence, and empathy — qualities she now strives to foster in her own classroom.

Sophia's journey embodies Highland's vision of nurturing children and their families to be informed, compassionate, life-long learners who are a force for change. "Create opportunities to learn for yourself and others," she advises. "Advocate for what you want to know, explore what you haven't, and help others make those connections." Through her work, Sophia continues Highland's legacy — proving that the lessons learned here last a lifetime.





# OUR FUTURE IN FOCUS

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This year, Highland Community School completed a major upgrade for our youngest learners — the installation of air conditioning in all four classrooms of our early childhood wing.

Home to our Toddler Program and Children's House Extended Care for Kids program (CHECK), this wing is often a family's first introduction to Highland. It's where siblings can share the same school community, working parents find reliable support, and children begin their Montessori journey in a warm, welcoming environment.

The installation was made possible through a generous grant from the **Greater Milwaukee Foundation**, and represents an important phase in Highland's five-year comprehensive facilities project to modernize our mechanical systems and install air conditioning throughout the building. The result is more than cooler air —it's a space where children can focus, explore, and grow without distraction, and where families know their children are learning in the best possible environment.

This project reflects our ongoing commitment to providing every student with a safe, nurturing place to learn — and to ensuring families feel confident and connected from the very start.



# 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, 2025, is available upon request.

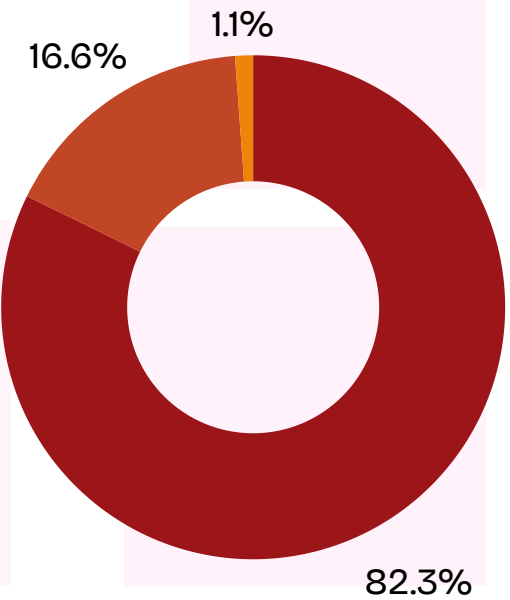
## NET ASSETS

Total Assets	\$8,398,997
Total Liabilities	\$4,424,576
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,734,900
Board Restricted Net Assets	\$1,045,454
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$194,067
Total Net Assets	\$3,974,421

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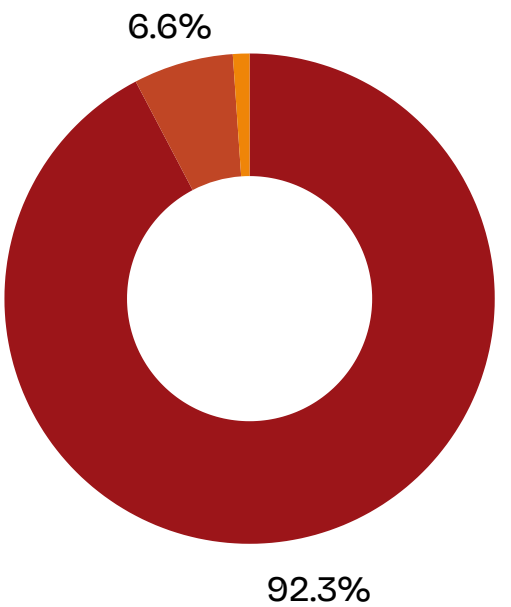
## INCOME

● Educational Revenue	\$5,694,649
● Childcare Revenue	\$1,147,729
● Other Income	\$79,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,921,954</b>



## EXPENSES

● Education & Programs	\$6,074,236
● General & Administrative	\$434,039
● Fundraising	\$72,022
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,580,297</b>





# THANK YOU, HIGHLAND!

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bernie's Book Bank  
Girls on the Run  
Girl Scouts of America  
Hope House  
Interchange Food Pantry  
Junior Achievement  
MADACC  
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  
Parenting Network  
PEARLS for Teen Girls  
Public Montessori in Action  
Rainbow Booksellers  
Rodgers Behavioral Health

Seal a Smile  
Simba Soccer Club  
TRUE Skool  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Urban Ecology Center  
UW – Extension  
Valentine Coffee  
4H

## CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

American Family Insurance  
Annette J. Roberts and Joan R. Robertson  
Fund for World Peace, World Law,  
and Peace Education  
ANON Charitable Trust  
Buckaroo LTD  
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Impacks Foundation  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Pledgeling Foundation  
WE Energies Foundation

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Anonymous (7)  
Jessica Andrejasich  
Laura and Michael  
Andrejasich  
Darlene Arnold ^  
Megan Arnold-Velazquez  
Larry and Sheila Ashley  
Jennifer Aumann  
Patrick Bader \*  
Dorena Banks  
Johanna Baumann  
Angela Becker Seale  
Amy Berger  
Joseph Brien  
Claire Buchholz ^  
derria byrd \*  
Kyla Calvert Mason  
Annie Carrell  
Mary Carian  
Mikaya Clark \*  
Alison Clark Efford  
Suzy Clarkson Holstein  
Patti Clements  
Kara Coleman  
Sapphira Conley  
Marcia Cunningham  
Carly Cusack

^ 2024-2025 Staff Member   \* 2024-2025 Board Member   + Highland Founding Family



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 Alison Damato  
 Carole Dede  
 Jean Dellemann-Engelbrecht ^  
 Kevin Driscoll  
 Aria Duax +  
 Jon Duris  
 Celinda Dyer  
 Dafi Dyer  
 Bill and Penny Elliott  
 Janet Emling  
 Lindsay and Jason Evans ^  
 Margaret and Richard Falsetti  
 Pam and Pat Fendt  
 Alexzandrea Fields  
 Ruth Fluker  
 Courtney J. Foster  
 Latisha Franklin \*  
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 Kaylan Gaines  
 Kyle Gast  
 Molly Gena  
 Katherine Gerhard  
 Elizabeth Gibes ^  
 Melissa Gibson  
 Kathryn Gilliat  
 Margaret Glowacki  
 Charles Graebner  
 Christopher and Lorraine Gramling  
 Kia Green \*

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 DeMarcus Groce  
 Michael Haley ^  
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 Ashley Hemmings  
 Diane Hodel  
 Frances Irish  
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 Chenoa James  
 Sharde Jennings  
 Brian Jensen  
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 Kimberly Jones  
 Emily Jonesberg  
 Crystal Jushka  
 Cathy and Howard Kainz  
 Rhonda Kelsey  
 Karen Kersting  
 Pat and David Kettenhofen  
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 Johnny and Phyllis Kimble  
 Jamison Klinkner  
 Michelle Kramer and  
 Goran Filipovic  
 Gretchen Kranz Irvine  
 Leigh Kunde  
 Daphne LaBua-Stenzel ^  
 Jacqueline Lalley  
 Susanna Leggio

Rosann Lewis  
 Carol Limbach  
 Karen Limbach  
 Margaret Limbach  
 Joan LoPresti  
 Erin Mandel  
 Elizabeth Mamerow  
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 Tricia Mathews  
 Katie Mathis  
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 Paula McKean  
 Laura Mierendorf  
 Sharlen Moore  
 Sameena Mulla  
 Trent Muller  
 Carla Muñoz  
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 Pauline Ngare  
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 Sara Northway  
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Tracy Williams ^  
Justin Williamsen  
Jill Wipfli  
Susan Wozny  
Andrew Yeager  
Corey Zetts  
Angela Zullo Souers +

**FAMILY FUND ^**

Sarah Alvarez  
Darlene Arnold

Amanda Bailey  
Ricardo Bravo  
Claire Buchholz  
Raven Bullis  
Christina Burton  
Julia Carian  
Serita Cheeks  
Tamara Conneely  
Jean Dellemann-Engelbrecht  
Brian DeWindt  
Latoya Dixon  
Teretha Durrah  
Lindsay Evans  
Hart Ford  
Berenice Fragoso-Ayala  
Megan Geddes  
Elizabeth Gibes  
Jonathan Glabere  
Michael Haley  
Ebony Harris  
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Daphne LaBua-Stenzel  
Donna Miller  
James Mills  
Jenny Nichols  
Blythe Nissen-Davis  
Jamie Lee Ohland  
Annie Prak-Primakow

Tomoko Quinn  
Jennifer Reed  
Wonderful Stamps  
Alicia Steiner  
Mike Steiner  
Amanda Taddey  
Susan Ward  
Barry Weber  
Christian Williams  
Tracy Williams

**HIGHLAND HUSTLE**

Amy B Realty  
Ansay and Associates  
BD Hayes Photography  
Boelter  
Chortek LLP  
Delta Dental of WI  
Foundation  
Foundation Chiropractic  
Gruber Law Offices  
JRS Financial  
Korb Architecture  
Landmark Credit Union  
Outpost Natural Foods  
Ritz Holman CPAs  
Royal Road Clinic  
Ryan Aubert Design  
Sable Law Group

Sendik's  
Shawn Nemitz,  
Realtor  
Ski Team Video  
Productions  
Trader Joe's  
Valentine Coffee  
Washington Park Friends

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Anonymous  
Jennifer Aumann  
Patrick Bader \*  
Daniel Bauman  
Erin Borgwordt  
Matthew Brien  
Rochelle Brien  
derria byrd \*  
Lori Chambers Northway  
Mikaya Clark \*  
Kyla Calvert Mason  
Kent Cory  
Antonette DAcquisto  
Christina Disterhaft  
Sarah Dollhausen-Clark  
Kevin Driscoll  
Dafi Dyer  
Kelly Dyer



*Thank you to the many individuals, families, and partners who make Highland's mission possible. Your support helps us nurture lifelong learners and empower students to be a force for positive change.*

Ross Freshwater  
Kyle Gast  
Elizabeth Gibes ^  
Melissa L. Gibson  
Erin Hoekstra  
Trina Irish  
Chenoa James  
Emily Jacobs  
Rodrigo Jaramillo-Obando  
Ramona Johnson  
Roslyn Johnson  
Rochelle Johnson-Bent  
Emily Jonesberg  
David and Sherry Klinkner  
Beth Krey  
Daphne LaBua-Stenzel ^  
Adam LaLuzerne  
James Law  
Richard and Catherine Marx  
Anthony McCoy  
Patrick McKean  
Samantha Mischker  
Tricia Morrisey

Carla Muñoz  
Pauline Ngare  
Jean Northway  
Amtul Nuruddin  
Brendan O’Naughton  
Quinn Olson  
Melvin Parr  
Devon Pittman  
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Briana Smith Luna  
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Katharine Toman  
Jason Vizelka  
Sarah Walczak  
Katherine Welsch  
Brook Worzella  
Andrew Yeager  
  
^ 2024-2025 Staff Member  
\* 2024-2025 Board Member  
+ Highland Founding Family



# HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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## 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.