

WILLOWWIND SCHOOL

2019-20
Annual Report

Miss you miss you
miss you miss you!
Miss you miss you
miss you miss you!

hi hi hi hi hello hi hi
hi hi hi everyone!

HI HI HI HI HI
HI! HI HI!

Mission

Our mission at Willowwind School is to develop in our students:

- Curiosity and a love for learning
- Self-esteem and self-discipline, combined with social consciousness
- Emotional sensitivity and respect for others
- The ability to think flexibly and critically, to problem solve and to express themselves clearly and constructively
- The acquisition of academic skills and creative pursuits
- And an appreciation and respect for other cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds, and for the natural world



2019-20 Faculty & Staff

Head of School

Michelle Beninga
Development (Chair); Finance; Marketing & Enrollment; Strategic Planning Committees

Business Manager

Anne Ehlinger
Finance Committee

Communications Coordinator

Dana Smith
Marketing & Enrollment (Co-Chair); Strategic Planning Committees

Development Director

Laurel Hibbard
Development Committee

Office Manager & Admissions Coordinator

Rachel Butler
ISACS Steering (Chair); Marketing & Enrollment (Co-Chair) Committees

Programs Coordinator

Mary Iverson

Preschool Lead Teachers

Shayne Lanning
Kaye Lindsley
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice; ISACS Steering; Nominating Committees

Preschool Assistant Teachers

Alec Cassatt
Katelyn Warmka

Kindergarten

Erin Traicoff
ISACS Steering Committee

First & Second Grade

Lisa Kavanaugh

Third & Fourth Grade

Christine Sobocinski
ISACS Steering; Nominating; Strategic Planning Committees

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Ann Creasey
Nominating; Strategic Planning Committees

Art

Ryan Bentzinger
Board Employee Representative

Music

Sam Raiche

Physical Education

Susan Toth

Social Emotional Learning

Rachel Berger

From **Evan** to **Everyone**:
its clap time

From **Neshi** to **Everyone**:
👏

From **Linda Greyser** to **Everyone**:
Bravo to the teachers!

Above: Screenshot of comments during our virtual 2020 6th Grade Graduation Ceremony.



“Thank you, and all of the teachers for pivoting in this difficult time, and keeping our children happy and growing!”

-Willowwind Parent

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Michelle Beninga

Head of School

2019-2020 will go down as an academic year to be remembered. As Willowwind School navigated the impact of COVID-19 and shifted the last quarter of the school year to an unprecedented distance learning model; worry, fear, and excitement were experienced by all, sometimes simultaneously, and often in the course of the same day. I am proud of our school community's caring support as we worked together during this transition. Willowwind School values the partnerships built with families and our extended community. A heartfelt thank you goes out for your understanding, flexibility, and patience while we navigated the uncharted waters presented by this persistent pandemic.

When the possibility of a long-term closure quickly emerged at the beginning of March 2020, Willowwind faculty and staff engaged in thoughtful research and preparation with the goal of implementing continuous learning regardless of instructional platform. We said farewell to our students at the onset of Spring Break unsure if it would be our final in-person goodbye of the year. Through the strength and agility of our community, it wasn't goodbye, but instead, we'll see you in a different way until we meet again. Through virtual connections, our students' learning remained continuous as faculty provided high-quality instruction and learning every step of the way.

The last several months have been trying for everyone, everywhere. I have been inspired by the Willowwind community that embraced the challenge of being together while apart. We have a lot to celebrate. The 2019-20 Annual Report showcases the agility and perseverance that made this year a success.

I hope you and yours remain healthy and well during these times. While school will look different as we move into the new academic year, Willowwind's unwavering commitment to its students will always remain.

Sincerely,



Michelle Beninga
Head of School



Congratulations to our 2020 graduates!

This year's graduating class was small in size but mighty in agility, perseverance, and wisdom. They continued to be leaders and mentors in our school community even from a distance. During graduation they shared advice for younger students.

"School is what you make of it. Have fun learning, it will be so much easier." -Mira C.

"Always enjoy every moment at Willowwind because it passes very quickly." -Flora L.

"Things do get tough, but you just need to keep pushing through." -Morgan W.

"Stay on Task." -Julian W.

From [Erin](#) to [Everyone](#):
Thank you ANN

From [molly&ellie](#) to [Everyone](#):



From [Bea](#) to [Everyone](#):
YAY MIRA, FLORA, MORGAN **and** JULIAN!

From [Ann Creasey](#) to [Everyone](#):
My pleasure!

From [Erin](#) to [Everyone](#):
Congrats!

From [Sam Raiche](#) to [Everyone](#):
Beautiful!! Congrats Julian, Mira, Flora, and Morgan!!!

From [Christine Sobocinski](#) to [Everyone](#):
Gonna miss you guys like crazy. Please come back for hugs after hugs are allowed again.

Michael Watson

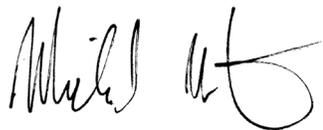
President, Board of Trustees

To all Willowwind Community members,

Much of the last year has forced many of us into a constant state of passive reaction, stumbling along from one crisis to the next with little in the way of useful experience to guide us. Whether professionally or personally, 2020 will go down as the year the world and its people dealt with the constant worry of the unknown.

As such, much of what Willowwind has endured over the course of the last six months has mirrored the challenges many have faced when confronting the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we continue to strive to serve all that pass within our walls, whether physically or virtually, with the same focus and intent as before, no matter the outside distractions. Therefore, we present to everyone the Annual Report for the 2019-20 school year in hopes of connecting all of you with the work that faculty, staff, and the wider school community have undertaken on your behalf. It will always remain our goal to serve the interests of this extended family to the best of our abilities and to preserve this special place for all those that came before, those who live and learn here today, and those yet to discover our unique educational environment. In that regard, we hope you find our recent efforts supportive of that mission. We will always welcome input aimed at making our process cleaner and more beneficial to all. Meaningful and sustained progress only occurs when we accomplish it as one.

With kindest regards on behalf of the Willowwind Board of Trustees,



Michael Watson
President, Board of Trustees



18 Faculty
& Staff

81 Total
Students

Board of Trustees

President

Dawn Harbor
Executive (Chair); Nominating; Finance; Policy Committees; Willowwind School Foundation

Michael Watson, MS (20-21)

Vice President

Michael Watson, MS
Executive; Nominating; Policy Committees; Willowwind School Foundation

Secretary

Jake Beal, Ph.D.
Executive; Policy (Chair) Committees

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Jonah Parker, CFA
Finance Committee (Chair)

Members

Jesse Bulman, B.Arch, AIA LEED AP
Facilities Committee

Lucie Laurian, Ph.D.
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (Co-Chair); Strategic Planning Committees; Willowwind School Foundation

Lisa Lopic, MBA
Development; Finance Committees; Willowwind School Foundation (Chair)

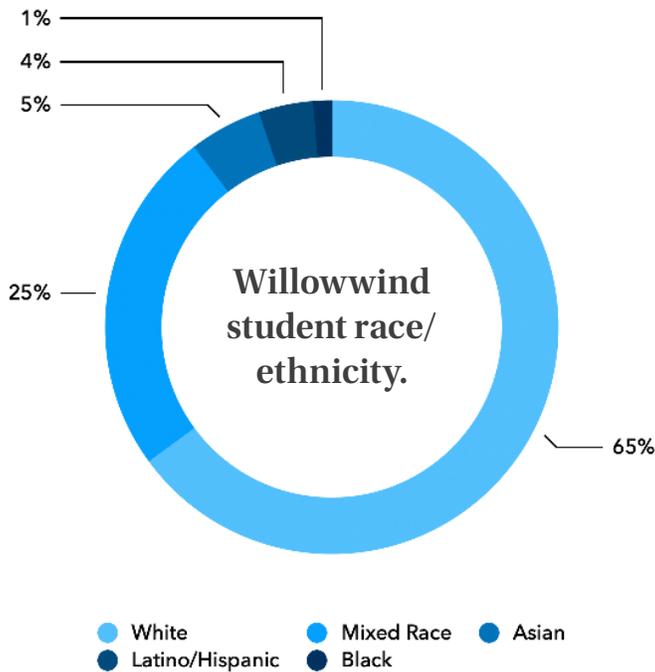
Jennie Schmidt, Ph.D.
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (Co-Chair); Financial Aid; Nominating (Chair) Committees

Kelu Sullivan, J.D.
Finance; Marketing & Enrollment; Strategic Planning Committees

Willowwinders are...

Families from a variety of backgrounds regionally, nationally, and internationally join the Willowwind community each year representing diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Every family has a "Why Willowwind" story. Some choose Willowwind because of the Montessori philosophy in preschool or the progressive, project-based learning in our K-6 program. Many are drawn to Willowwind's creative and inspiring learning environment. No matter the reason, Willowwind families come together each year to support the growth of their children both as individuals and as members of Willowwind's incredible learning community.



- BENGALI**
- PORTUGUESE**
- RUSSIAN**
- HINDI**
- SPANISH**
- FRENCH**
- ENGLISH**
- CHINESE**
- TELUGU**
- ARABIC**

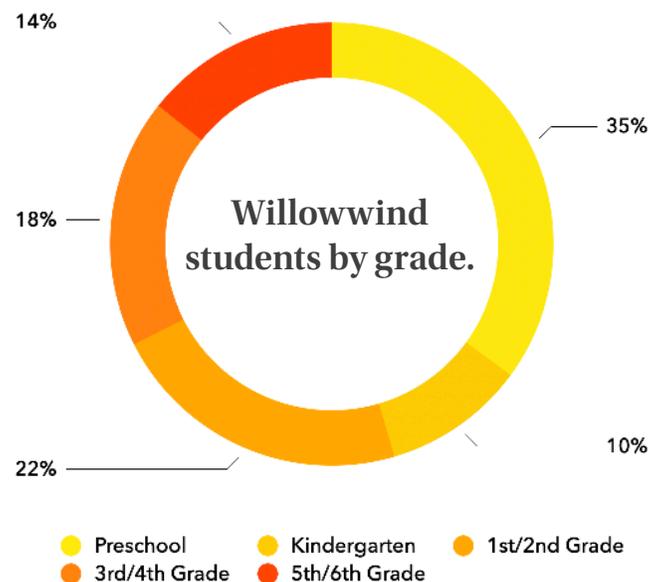
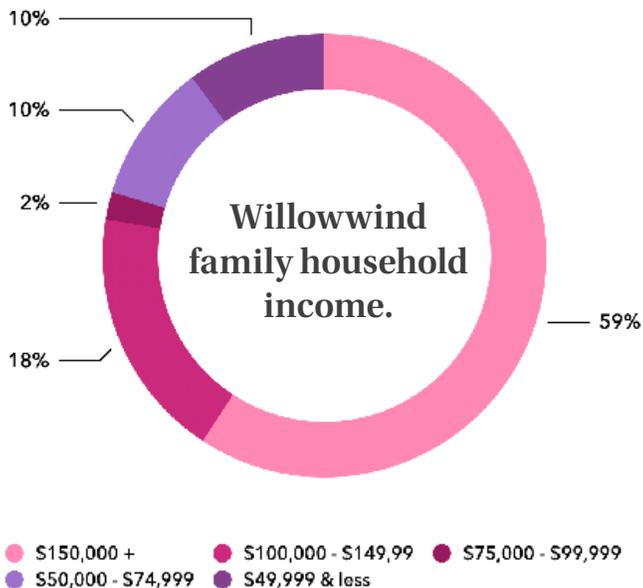
We speak 10 different languages at home.

51
K-6th Graders

30
Montessori Preschoolers

26
New Students

55
Returning Students



Agility and Learning During COVID-19

TRANSITION TO ONLINE

On March 15th, 2020 Iowa's Governor, Kim Reynolds recommended that schools close for four weeks in response to the confirmed community spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our state. Willowwind made the difficult decision to close campus at that time and move to distance learning with plans to return on April 13th. However, on April 2nd the Governor recommended continued closure through the month of April and a week later that schools remain closed for the duration of the 2019-20 school year.

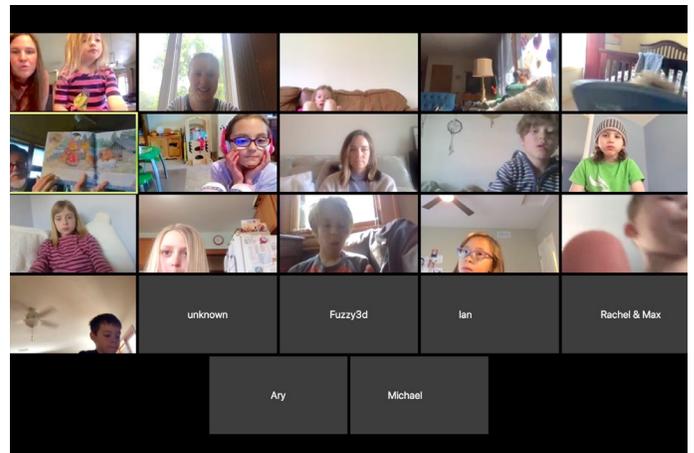
Through all of this uncertainty, Willowwind's goal was to provide a distance learning program that would minimize disruption to learning and continue to support the development of all students until we could be on-site again. Faculty and staff worked tirelessly for weeks ahead of the inevitable school closure announcement to ensure that Willowwind's transition to online learning would be as near to seamless as possible. Ahead of Spring Break, in anticipation of a closure, teachers sent home materials to aid in distance learning and provided support to families on how to navigate at-home learning with their student.

"One thing I like about online learning is that I can stay in my pajamas when I get up in the morning. One thing I am worried about is when we will be able to come back to school."

-Willowwind Student

Similar to on-site learning, distance learning varied between age groups and individual students. The amount of screen time was considered and age-appropriate activities were developed to best meet the curricular standards and objectives of the class. Willowwind faculty continued to encourage hands-on, cross-curricular projects, outdoor exploration, and maintained connections between grade groups through STEAM challenges, Group Discussion, and partner projects.

Together with parents, students, faculty, and staff, Willowwind was able to successfully provide continuous and purposeful learning opportunities for our students. We can now look back on this transition and know that we responded with agility, tenacity, perseverance, patience, and love.



Above: Papa Craig's weekly read aloud sessions are a longstanding Willowwind tradition that continued via Zoom during distance learning.

"I can't say enough about how happy we've been with Willowwind's online transition. My student is loving the process so far, and I have to admit, I'm blown away by what she's been able to learn through their guidance."

- Willowwind Parent

MAR
12



The annual Spring Learning Showcase was the last on-site academic event of Willowwind's 2019-20 school year.

MAR
16

Spring Break Camp runs as scheduled from March 16-20. Willowwind welcomed 30 PreK-6th grade registrants, compared to 19 from the previous year. However, as community spread increased, camp attendance decreased towards week's end.

From *Harriet* to *Everyone*:

10:10 AM

My mom said this is going to be a famous time

As recommended by Governor Reynolds, Willowwind announces a four week school closure with plans to begin PreK-6 distance learning after Spring Break.

Willowwind faculty and staff prepare to welcome PreK-6 students back from break through distance learning.

MAR
17

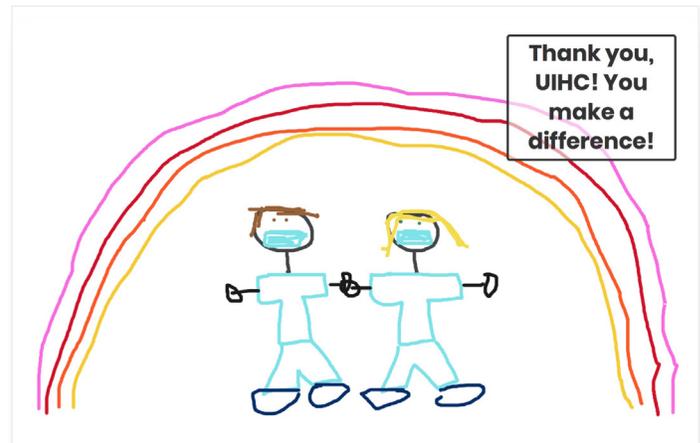
MAINTAINING A COMMUNITY FOCUS

Through the annual Prairie Cafe, an entrepreneurial learning project by 5th/6th graders, Willowwind partners with local restaurants like Estela's Fresh Mex, The Wedge, and Jimmy Jack's to raise money for a 4-day class trip to YMCA Camp Edwards in Wisconsin. When Willowwind closed in the spring, the last few weeks of Prairie Cafe and the trip in April were canceled. Understanding the impact this pandemic would have on small businesses in our area, Willowwind's 5th/6th grade class donated over \$600 of their proceeds from Prairie Cafe back to these local restaurant partners in keeping with the school's mission of community-focused learning and stewardship.

When Estella's owner, Jerry Vasquez, told Willowwind that this donation would help offset their cost to provide 200 lunches for UIHC healthcare workers, a collaboration was born. PreK-6 students took to their tablets to write and draw thank you notes that would accompany every meal.

HEARTS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Willowwind's Teaching Artist Ryan Bentzinger did an amazing job keeping students engaged in weekly art assignments. In early April, Ryan encouraged students to participate in the Hearts for Healthcare Workers movement. As a result, students created some awesome window art to show support for healthcare workers in their neighborhoods and wider community. Everyone had a chance to post their photos for classmates and other Willowwind families to see and enjoy. It was such fun to share in this project and feel that sense of community and support from home.



MAR
24



Almost without missing a beat
PreK-6 distance learning begins.

Following Gov. Reynolds' recommendation, Willowwind announces it will continue distance learning through April 30th.

APR
5



APR
20



Willowwind announces it will follow Gov. Reynolds' guidance to remain closed for the duration of the school year.

KEEPING HEADS AND HEARTS STRONG

Rachel Berger joined Willowwind in the 2019-20 school year to further build and formalize the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program. The main focus of Willowwind's SEL program is to teach students the tools they need to understand and control their emotions and reactions to different situations, in particular, moments where they may experience anger, anxiety, or stress. This begins with studying the mindful parts of the brain and how they work. During weekly SEL time, Willowwind's K-6 students learn about the amygdala, prefrontal cortex, and hippocampus. Students discover how strategies, such as mindful breathing can help bring the brain back into control. This learning is hugely important to students' emotional growth and wellbeing.

These learned skills were particularly important in the early days of the pandemic. Students felt comfortable to express, through remote teaching, their anxieties and their stress at being in a very different, confusing and sometimes scary situation. By using skills such as mindfulness they were able to take a step back, assess the situation, and think about what they could and couldn't control. Students established meditation spaces and places of relaxation away from their work space. Activities such as meditation and growth mindset allowed students to rethink how they approached and navigated this unusual time.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Willowwind spends the school year intentionally building community, fostering relationships across grade groups, and embracing each individual for who they are. As a result, end of year events are really celebrations of how far students have come both as individuals and as community members. The talent show provides students an opportunity to share their many skills in spoken word, art, dance, music, etc. They share favorite memories from the year during the final Group Discussion and get all their pent up sillies out with challenge courses and variations of group tag.

Needless to say, this year's celebrations were a bit different via Zoom, but the community spirit was in no way diminished. Students logged in and cheered their friends on during the talent show, recalled and laughed at the great memories they made, and showed our departing 6th graders just how much their leadership and friendship meant. We could not be more proud of how students, families, faculty, and staff demonstrated agility and perseverance through such a strange time.



Above: Charlie H. (5th) playing accordion during the end of year talent show which, along with other traditions, took place over Zoom.

From Zariah to **Everyone:** 5:55 PM
congratulations Morgan!

From Christine Sobocinski to **Everyone:** 5:56 PM

I'm loving the speeches, but missing the hugs. Proud of you Morgan!!

Above: Chat during graduate speeches. Traditionally graduates have the opportunity to hug or high five teachers after receiving their diplomas.

MAY
8



Willowwind cancels the first three weeks of Summer Program and announces Camp Kits, an at-home camp alternative.

MAY
21

Together while apart. End of year activities like the talent show, final Group Discussion, and 6th grade graduation ceremony take place this week via Zoom.



JUN
22



Willowwind cancels an additional three weeks of Summer Program, equating to approximately 60% of the previously scheduled and planned camp classes.

IMPACT ON SUMMER PROGRAM

By June 22nd, 2020 Willowwind had canceled the first six weeks of its Summer Program to help flatten the COVID-19 curve in our community. Willowwind typically serves about 240 children in Iowa City and surrounding communities each summer. Tuition from the Summer Program is a significant portion of Willowwind's operating budget each year. The necessary cancellations took a toll as Summer Program revenue dipped by about 82% from the year prior.

Though Willowwind was not able to serve the Iowa City community in the same way it does each summer, staff continued to think of ways to engage students over the summer months. Willowwind announced the pilot of Camp Kits, a new at-home addition to Willowwind's Summer Program. This opportunity provided families with weekly kits full of themed, age-appropriate activities for PreK-6th grade students. More than 150 Camp Kits were purchased over seven weeks in June and July.

After many weeks of research and planning and with safety measures in place, Willowwind opened to 28 PreK-6th grade campers from July 12th to August 7th. Students explored STEAM themes like chemistry, physics, fine arts, and more. This was also a great opportunity for Willowwind to refine new safety procedures before the start of the school year.



RECRUITMENT DURING A PANDEMIC

There is no question that the best way to experience the learning environment at Willowwind is to interact with it and see it in action. Sadly, the pandemic forced school closure and put a halt to campus events and visits. The inevitable cancellation of many local festivals, events, and other opportunities also impacted Willowwind's ability to engage with the community.

Willowwind adapted and developed new ways to connect with prospective families when in person visits and tours were not possible. Posts on social media outlets highlighted how Willowwind's small size and independence allowed the school to adapt quickly in order to provide a stellar online experience for all students. Several spots in newspapers and television drew considerable attention from the community at large and sparked new admissions inquiries for the 2020-21 school year.

Without the option of walking families through the school, Willowwind developed a virtual tour of the building and grounds. This tool introduced new families to the school in place of the in-person tour. In addition, Willowwind hosted two virtual open house events in place of the traditional on-site format usually held in the spring.

Another key step in the enrollment process is the classroom visit. Prior to the pandemic all prospective students would visit the classroom for an hour or more to allow further interaction with teachers, peers, and staff. During the closure, classroom visits were replaced with a Zoom visit between teachers, prospective student, and parents.

Pivoting in this way allowed families to interact with Willowwind in a meaningful way and make informed decisions about their child's education.

JUN
30



Willowwind announces it will reopen to a small group for the last four weeks of Summer Program from July 12-August 10.

Willowwind announces it will reopen on August 24 as previously scheduled for on-site PreK-6.

JUL
3

COMMUNITY
CARING
HOPE
STRENGTH
PERSISTENCE
TOGETHER
LEARNING

AUG
24



Willowwind hosts a drive-thru icecream social prior to opening as scheduled on August 24 with safety measures in place.

Johnson County Climate Change Grant

Thanks to an application submitted by parents, Willowwind was the recent recipient of the Iowa City Community Partnership Climate Action Grant. An award of \$4,200 will be given to support a “Children-to-Children Climate Actions” project at Willowwind. The project will focus on composting and waste reduction; gardening, local food, and healthy plant-based diets; and storm water management through green infrastructure. In addition to funding student-created communication and outreach materials, the grant will provide partial support, in conjunction with Give & Grow funds, for the construction of raised beds for the school garden, and contribute to rehabilitating and showcasing the existing Willowwind prairie and bioswale areas.

These focus areas were strategically selected because they are mutually supportive and build on Willowwind’s existing assets. The grant will support setting up a school-wide composting program, which will in turn support Willowwind’s waste reduction goals and gardening efforts. The students will participate in the composting program, document it, and communicate the benefits through outreach projects. Grant funds will provide support for the construction of raised beds for the garden, which will increase on-site food production. Students will document and communicate their experience with planting, growing and eating from the garden. Finally, the grant will contribute to updating and showcasing the existing Willowwind prairie and bioswale which mitigate neighborhood storm water runoff.

PHASE 1: WEED AND HIGH MOW

Sustainable Landscape Solutions (SLS), a local small business, worked with Willowwind’s Facilities Committee to determine the best course of action for this project. The first order of business was for SLS to identify and remove non-native species and volunteer saplings, in both the prairie and bioswale starting early summer. Next, the prairie received a high mow, cutting grasses back to further clear debris and encourage growth. Finally, Willowwind’s two green roofs were tended and weeded.

PHASE 2: CONTROLLED BURN

Prairies are fire-dependent ecosystems so controlled burns will be a vital part of maintaining our prairie. Burning discourages growth of invasive species, encourages germination of natives, and releases nutrients that rejuvenate the soil. We can expect to burn every five years.

Willowwind had hoped to complete its second prairie burn this past spring, but was unable to obtain a burn permit due to COVID-19. Willowwind now hopes that a burn will be possible in spring 2021.

Give & Grow

2019 - 2020

Each year during the month of April, GreenState Community Credit Union matches donations to schools through its Give and Grow campaign. This year, Willowwind's campaign focused on the 21st century classroom. Willowwind’s classroom vision provides flexibility in its physical space and seating options; purposeful technology for optimal project-based, inclusive learning; and functional, flexible learning environments that inspire and invite exploration. This campaign raised \$14,525 which will allow the school to further enhance classrooms. Willowwind has purchased several flexible seating options, furniture, and classroom technology. These upgrades have been particularly beneficial going into the 2020-21 school year as learning spaces were expanded to allow for social distancing.



Above: The Gathering Space was transformed into Ms. Lisa’s 2nd/3rd grade classroom to better accommodate for social distancing needs.



Above: Individuals from Sustainable Landscape Solutions work to clear invasive and woody species from our prairie in late spring 2020.



Above: Bunches of Virginia Spiderwort dot the prairie in early summer. We also spied Echinacea and Rudbeckia sprinkled throughout.

PHASE 3: PLANT AND SEED

Happily, Willowwind's bioswale is already bursting with a wide variety of native plants so most of our focus for planting and seeding will be on the two swaths of prairie on campus. We've used these past several months to observe the prairie's growth and the plant species currently present. Once the burn is completed work can begin to plant and/or seed additional species to further diversify these important native habitats and feeding grounds for pollinators and other ecologically beneficial creatures.

PHASE 4: MAINTAIN. LEARN. ENJOY.

A primary goal of this grant is to educate students and visitors about Willowwind's native spaces. To this end, informational signage will be created to accompany the bioswale, prairie, and other key areas on campus. Visitors will be able to enjoy self-guided tours of Willowwind's grounds to learn more about the importance of native spaces and discover some of the plant and animal species thriving on campus. These areas will enhance environmental education and serve as a living testament to Willowwind's commitment to stewardship and sustainability.

2018 - 2019

Willowwind sought to enhance its outdoor spaces through environmental education opportunities. Our students and faculty have always worked to demonstrate the importance of the human-land connection through academics, enrichment, volunteerism, and in practice. The 2018-19 initiative raised \$8,546, to further our mission of respecting and caring for the environment.

COMPLETED

- K-6 playground enhancements
- Raised garden beds for outdoor classroom

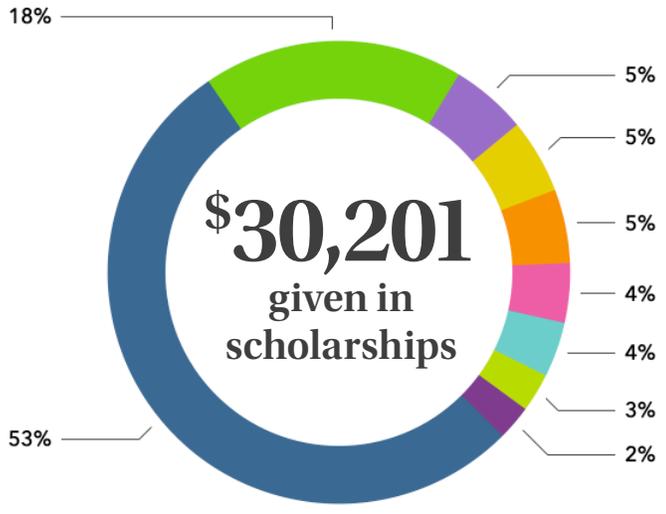
MORE TO COME

- PreK Butterfly Garden
- Native plants to replace current landscaping
- Additional playground enhancements



Above: Willowwind's bioswale pictured summer 2020.

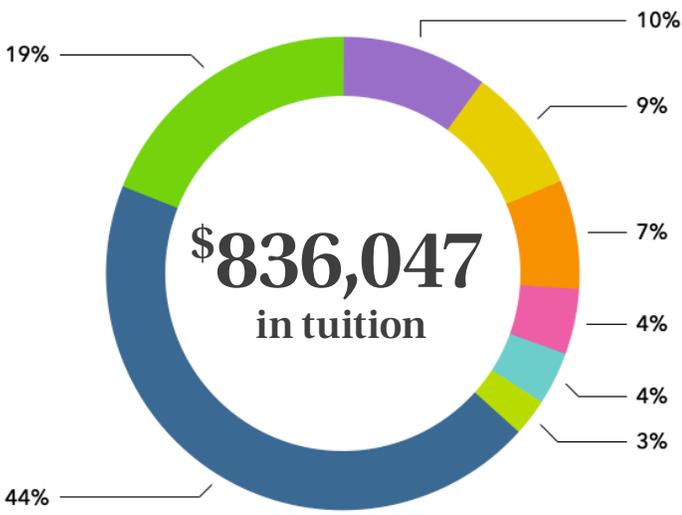
Financials



OPERATING EXPENSES

● Salaries, PR Taxes, Benefits.....	\$655,116
● Long-term Debt / Liabilities.....	\$225,501
● Building & Utilities.....	\$65,610
● Summer Program.....	\$64,466
● Other Operating Expense.....	\$63,872
● Tuition Discounts & Sliding Scale.....	\$51,246
● Programs & Enrichment.....	\$47,637
● Scholarships.....	\$33,392
● Technology & Supplies.....	\$30,201
Total Operating Expense.....	\$1,237,041

In 2019-20, 52% of families benefited from sliding scale tiered tuition. Additionally, 24% of families benefited from further financial aid awards. These additional funds are often the deciding factor for families who would not otherwise be able to give their children the exceptional education Willowwind offers. Increasing our scholarship funding would enable Willowwind to broaden its reach even further, impacting many more families and students in our community.



OPERATING INCOME

● K-6 Tuition.....	\$584,690
● Preschool Tuition.....	\$251,357
● Paycheck Protection Program.....	\$131,200
● Summer Program.....	\$113,362
● Programs & Enrichment.....	\$98,138
● Other Operating Income.....	\$58,798
● Donations.....	\$47,747
● Scholarships.....	\$33,392
Total Operating Income.....	\$1,318,684

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan from the Small Business Administration designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on payroll. Willowwind was granted a (forgivable) loan to minimize economic impacts to employees due to COVID-19.

Cancellation of previously scheduled 2020 Summer Program classes decreased summer revenue by 82% compared to Summer Program 2019. Willowwind pivoted and launched Camp Kits which provided 6 weeks of at-home summer activities; and ran a 4-week reboot of Summer Program with a small group of campers. These two fantastic replacement programs helped recoup 25% of that lost revenue.

Your passion for giving helps us ignite their passion for learning.

Through your support and generosity, Willowwind students benefit from countless hours of engaging project-based learning, amazing field trips, and many outdoor learning experiences. They are inspired by visits from artists and scientists, and their education is enriched through new microscopes, musical instruments, and play spaces made possible by donors like you. Your passion for giving inspires and sustains us. Thank you.

WILLOWWIND ANNUAL FUND

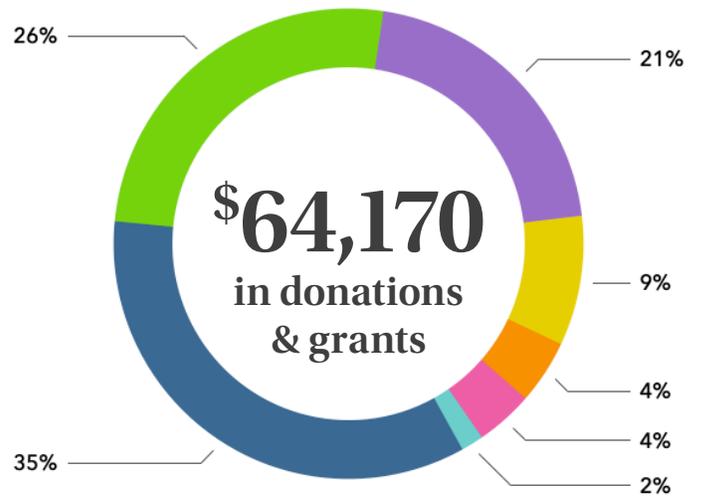
The Annual Fund is Willowwind’s most essential fundraising effort, involving members of our school community and beyond. It provides a vital charge that can transform a great Willowwind experience into an exceptional one. The Annual Fund enhances the Arts programming, expands outdoor learning experiences, and energizes scientific discovery from preschool through sixth grade. Your donations ensure that inspired ideas become real experiences that support learning and enrich the lives of our students.

We ask each member of the school community to consider Willowwind a priority when planning charitable gifts. Donations are imperative to maintain and further enhance the Willowwind experience.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor programs and will match charitable contributions or volunteer hours made by their employees and retirees. Check with your employer to learn what matching options may be available to extend the impact of your gift.

These partnerships have a significant impact on Willowwind’s ability to remain agile and responsive to our student’s needs and changes in the education landscape.



● Annual Fund.....	\$22,192
● Grants.....	\$16,585
● Give & Grow.....	\$13,295
● Prairie Café.....	\$5,728
● Special & Misc. Contributions.....	\$2,550
● Events.....	\$2,825
● Directed Donations.....	\$995
Total Received.....	\$64,170

2019-20 Grant Awards

STEM SCALE-UP PROGRAM (PreK, \$6,280)

Light & Shadow curriculum engages students in the processing of engineering design and the constraints of physics while casting different kinds of light to develop shadows. Grant funding supported curriculum, materials, professional development, and an educator stipend.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (1st/2nd, \$5,100)

The 1st/2nd grade class utilized PLTW to encourage students to become collaborators and hands-on problem solvers. Grant funding supported teacher training and access to PLTW curriculum.

IC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (Community, \$4,200)

Ongoing projects have utilized \$1,548.37 thus far with work to continue spring 2021.

STEM SCALE-UP PROGRAM (K-2nd, \$705)

Differentiated Math Centers serve as supplemental resources to support classroom learning. Included three levels of resources and manipulatives to support personalized learning.

FARM TO EARLY CARE EDUCATION (PreK, \$300)

We are currently on the last year of a 3 year cycle for this grant which supports environmental education.

Once a Willowwinder, Always a Willowwinder.

DEMETRIOUS LITTLEMOON (RAMIREZ) '14

Demetrious has had quite the time at City High School. It has been such a joy to see his accomplishments and also those of his former Willowwind classmate, Mira! They ran against each other for class president which I thought was just a hoot. His class voted him "best hair," "most likely to survive the apocalypse," and "most spirit." Demetrious was offered a full-ride to the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa to study biomedical engineering in the fall and we couldn't be more proud.

CLIVE POWER '14

Clive skipped high school and will be graduating from the University of Iowa in December 2020 with a major in physics. After that he plans to attend graduate school in physics.

Clive's year at Willowwind was a very positive experience, perhaps his favorite year of his student career. The knowledge and skills he gained at Willowwind, combined with his previous years in home school, prepared him for future academic excellence. Clive really appreciated Rachel Demaris' dedication to teaching and care for her students.

LILA TERRY '14

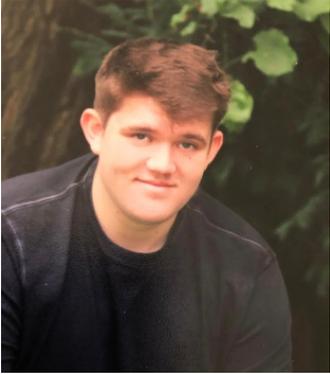
Lila (at left) and her sister, Rosie ('18) visited Willowwind this past summer to say hello to faculty and staff. Lila reports that she is attending the University of Iowa online this year and is looking forward to being heavily involved in the University's annual Dance Marathon fundraiser.



From [Morgan](#) to [Everyone](#): Great, this is going to be the thing that makes me cry :(

JOSH POE '14

Josh transferred to Iowa City High School at the end of sophomore year and made great friends. He started on the offensive line for the Little Hawks football team and was active in the Best Buddies program at City High as well as Drama and Football at Regina. Josh is attending Iowa State this fall. Attending Willowwind gave him confidence as a learner and leader, and promoted his love of history.



MIRA KUMAR '14

Mira started at Wellesley College this fall. She was shaped by the excellent education and nurturing environment at Willowwind. Mira has great memories of her teachers and staff at school and the open and stimulating educational experience she was fortunate to have early in her life and career. Willowwind prepared her very well for junior high and high school and her transition to public schools was quite easy. She will always remember her time at Willowwind with great fondness.



SAM ANDERSON '14

Sam went to the University of Iowa one year early as part of the Bucksbaum Academy. He is majoring in mechanical engineering. Willowwind helped give Sam a sense of identity and self-worth, and encouraged creative thinking.

* Students Colin Vercera, and Lane Wonders also graduated from Willowwind in 2014. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Thanks to all of you, from all of us!

\$10,000 +

Anonymous
Anonymous Corporate Match

\$1000- 7,5000

Apex Construction Company
Michael & Nicole Bartholomew
Michelle & Brian Beninga
Vern & Metta Beninga
GreenState Community Credit Union
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Erin Lane & Michael Watson
Sarah & Michael Nolan
David & Erin Shriver
Kelu & Sean Sullivan
Charles & Nancy Yockey

\$500-999

Jacob Beal & Ananya Sen Gupta
William & Kay Creasey
Alina Dumitrescu & Meindert Niemeijer
Dina & Richard Sucher
Chris & Michelle Weckmann
Sze Sze & Joseph Yockey

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Guenter Albrecht-Buehler
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Charles Lewis & Mandy Southard
Jean & Mike Matlock
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Matching Program
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Pope & Darcie Yamada

\$100-249

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Megan Bishop
Box Tops for Education
Roger & Roberta Dotson
Anne Ehlinger & Michelle Staron-
Ehlinger
Riley & Michal Eynon-Lynch
Karl Gebhardt & Alison Guernsey
Linda & Stephen Greyser
Brian Gryzlak & Teja Huntley
Leanne Hemingway-Siebels
& Bryan Siebels
Danniele Holanda & Nuno Solano
de Almeida
Lindsey & Thomas Hoyt
Iowa City Ready Mix
Jeremy Jackson & Kelly Smith
Lucie Laurian
Lisa Lopic
Sara Beth & Tyson Meierotto
Nancy Moore
John & Sandy Moreland
Bethany & Mark Niciu
Jonah & Abby Parker
Mark Quee & Jennie Schmidt
Carol & Doug Watson

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Jesse & Angela Bulman
Diane & Kevin Cassatt
Community Foundation of
Johnson County

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Dave Daynunn
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Louise & David Ehlinger
Eric & Amy Engelmenn
Janet Freeman
Kathie & Sam Gonzales
Dawn Harbor
Jane Harding
Sailesh & Kunjal Harwani
Sandra & Matthew Helmke
Helene Hembreiker
Laurel Hibbard
Jennifer Horn-Frasier
Jim & Katherine House
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Melissa Moreland
Aaron Mosely
Charlie Nusser
Ariane Parkes-Perret
Todd Pettys & Caroline Sheerin
Bao Pham
Scattergood Friends School
Jonathan Sims & Chelsea Yates Sims
Julie Staub
Susan Toth
Adrien Wing
Richard Wyciskalla

From [The dude in the background.](#) to [Everyone:](#)
My hands are hurting from all the clapping!

Bartholomew Scholarship

Nicole and Michael Bartholomew sought a different kind of educational environment for their children—one in which they could explore their interests and pace their learning to best suit each child's individual needs. They joined the Willowwind community in 2007 when they enrolled their two eldest children, Ryan and Hannah. At the time, Willowwind was able to provide scholarship funds that helped relieve some of the financial burden of tuition costs during the Bartholomew's three years here.

While the Bartholomew family moved out of state in 2010, they have always had fond memories of their time at Willowwind and Ryan and Hannah have thrived. Both are on track to complete their

AA degrees through AP classes while still in high school and they are active and invested in their local community.

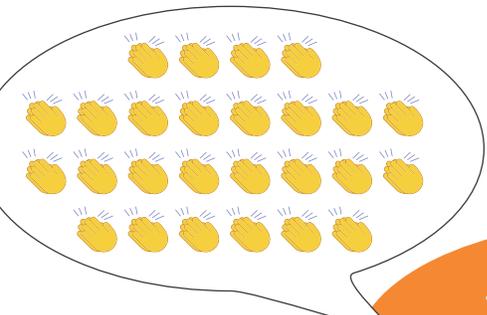
Nicole and Michael recently reached out to Willowwind with a generous offer to pay forward the gift they were given more than a decade ago. The Bartholomew Scholarship will assist families in making the Willowwind experience a reality for their child. The Bartholomews have graciously committed to giving over the next three years. Our hearts could not be more full of gratitude and joy. This gift, like the one that inspired it, will have a ripple effect for years to come.

Thank you.



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P: 319-338-6061 E: info@willowwind.org



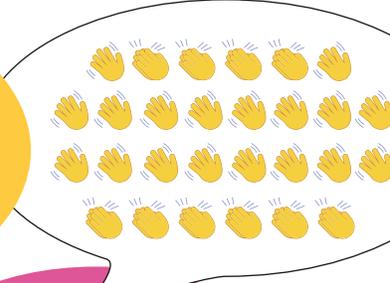
This will go down in history.



AWW MAN I HATE TO SEE THE 6TH GRADERS GOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ggggggGoooooooooooo
ooooo d d d d d d d d d d D D D D D D D D D D
b b b b b b b b b b B B B B B B Y Y Y Y Y Y
y y y y y y y y y y e e e e e e E E E E E E !!!

Thanks for making this WEIRD YEAR an awesome one!



This was great. Thanks Willowwind!

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W: willowwind.org IG & FB: @WillowwindSchool