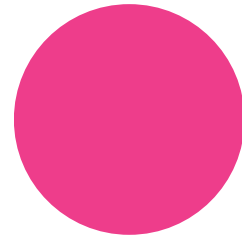


Willowwind School
2023-2024



ANNUAL REPORT



Willowwind School Community

01

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.

ENGLISH TURKISH KOREAN
BENGALI URDU FRENCH
SPANISH

WE SPEAK 7 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AT HOME.

K-6 INCOME DIVERSITY

**based on reported tuition tiers*

Tier 1 \$200,000 <

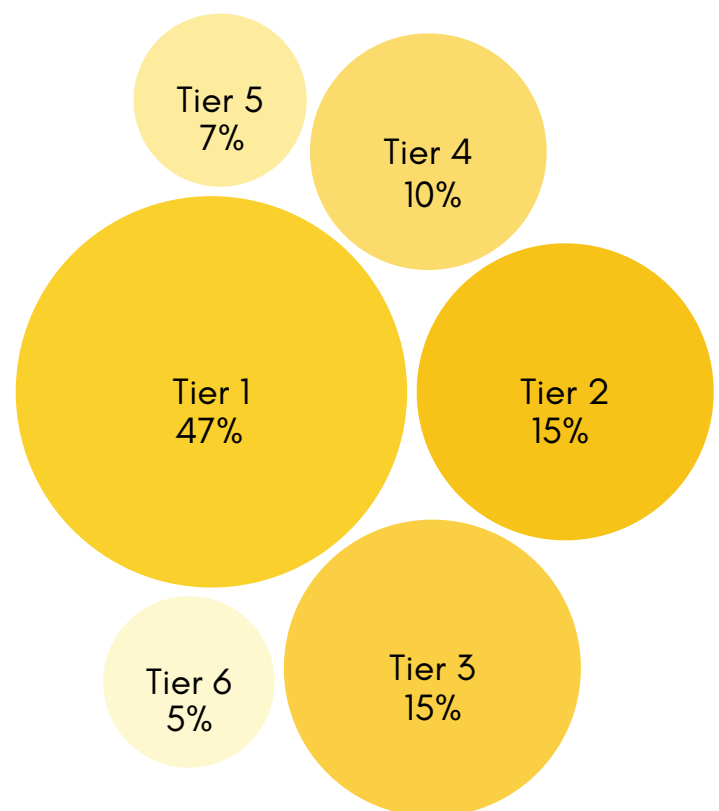
Tier 2 \$150,000–199,999

Tier 3 \$100,000–\$149,999

Tier 4 \$75,000 – \$99,999

Tier 5 \$50,000 – \$74,999

Tier 6 \$49,000 >





Faculty & Staff

03

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Mike Nolan

Vice President

Dawn Lyons

Secretary

Dave Shriver

Treasurer

Sally Holland

Ex-Officio

Stacy Stoyanoff

Members

Jennifer Horn-Fraiser

Shannon Perteit

Vance Van Daele

Our Mission

Willowwind School is a joyful learning community where children develop their unique potential through child-led inquiry.

Head of School

Stacy Stoyanoff
Strategic Planning Committee

Office Manager & Admissions Coordinator

Rachel Butler

Business Manager

Anne Ehlinger
Finance Committee

Director of Marketing & Engagement

Emily Hill
Strategic Planning Committee

Director of BASP & Programs

Brett Burr

Summer Program Director

Laura Townsend

Preschool Lead Teachers

Kaye Lindsley
Policy; Nominating Committees

Veronica Armstrong

Preschool Assistant Teachers

Aneesa Housel
Jenna Allen
Hwida Awadalla

Kindergarten

Erin Traicoff
Nominating Committee

First & Second Grade

Madison Kaiz

Third & Fourth Grade

Christine Sobocinski

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Ann Creasey
Nominating Committee

Curriculum Coordinator

Lisa Kavanaugh
Board Representative

Math and Interventionist Teacher

Darla Burr
Strategic Planning Committee

Integrated Art & Visual Art

Megan Bishop

Music & Physical Education

Alec Cassatt



Letter from the Head of School

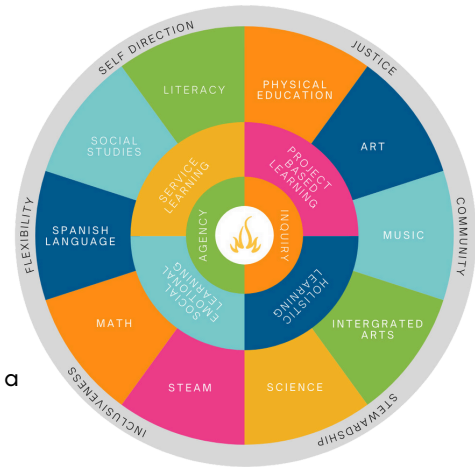
04



Stacy Stoyanoff

Dear Willowwind School Community,

It is my privilege to serve as the Willowwind Head of School. Our school is redefining progressive education. We are part of the Progressive Education Network (PEN) and have developed our own education model. Our eight to one student to teacher ratio allows us to personalize learning for every student academically, socially, and emotionally. Our pre-K through grade 6 campus is made up of a diverse community of globally-minded students, parents, and teachers focused on educating the whole child.



Our teachers create educational experiences that meet the needs of every child, while focusing on the joy of learning. They are preparing life-long learners who are creative problem solvers. Our students think critically, communicate effectively, and promote equity. They are able to explore their individual learning and reflect upon how they can help others and serve their communities. Our inclusive, collaborative, and inquiry-based culture is keenly focused on honoring and valuing all aspects of diversity in the world today.

This last year Willowwind School received two large grants. We received the SLRF Safety Grant for \$50,000 to improve our safety protocols on campus. In addition, we received a \$100,000 Yass Award for Educational Freedom to increase enrollment on our campus. These awards have allowed us to expand our programming, increase enrollment, and improve campus safety. In addition, Willowwind School has been preparing for various facilities enhancements. We are moving ahead with restoring our building siding, replacing our playground equipment, and developing outdoor education facilities.

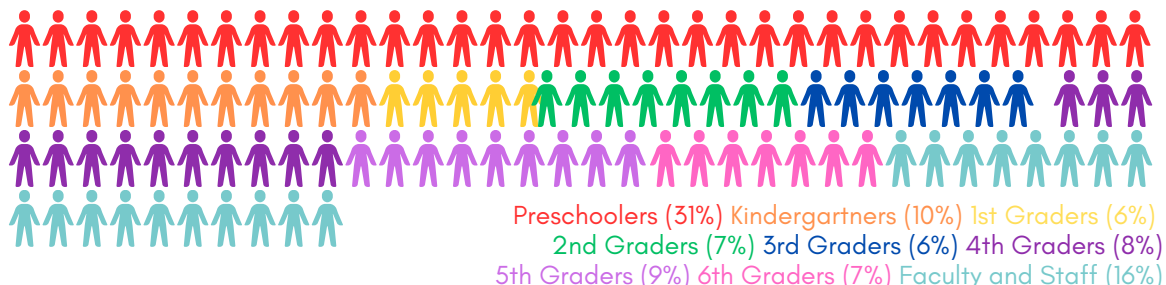
In addition, our enrichment, spring break, and summer programs have all been highly successful this last year. We will continue to offer exciting educational opportunities in these programs throughout the year. All of these programs will be offered to our Willowwind community and the greater Iowa City community at large. We have introduced a diverse array of activities that enhance health and wellness, as well as those focused on art, performance, science, and engineering.

Looking forward, we have redefined some positions to enhance our organizational structure. Anne Ehlinger is our Director of Finance and Business Operations, Rachel Butler is our Director of Admissions and Campus Operations, and Emily Hill is our Director of Marketing and Engagement. Lisa Kavanaugh is now back to full time as our Assistant Head of School. She will continue to support and mentor teachers through curriculum mapping, instructional resources, and professional development. I look forward to partnering with you in meeting the academic, emotional, and social needs of your children. My door is always open. Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,


Stacy Stoyanoff
Head of School

Willowwind School Enrollment



Core Values

05



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Willowwind School is located on the homelands of the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe (Chippewa), Báxoe (Iowa), Kikapú (Kickapoo), Omāēqnomenēwak (Menominee), Myaamiaki (Miami), Nutachi (Missouri), Umoho (Omaha), Wahzhazhe (Osage), Jiwere (Otoe), Odawaa (Ottawa), Páka (Ponca), Bodéwadmi /Neshnabé (Potawatomi), Meskwaki/Nemahahaki/Sakiwaki (Sac and Fox), Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda (Sioux), Sahnish/Nuxbaaga/Nuweta (Three Affiliated Tribes) and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Nations. The following tribal nations, Umoho (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa), Páka (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), Meskwaki (Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa), and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) Nations continue to thrive in the state of Iowa and we continue to acknowledge them. Willowwind School recognizes that it is our responsibility to acknowledge the sovereignty and the traditional territories of these tribal nations, the treaties that were used to remove these tribal nations, and the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of Iowa City, Iowa state, and the United States.

(prepared by the University of Iowa Native American Council)

SELF-DIRECTION:

We each develop our own unique potential by applying curiosity, goal-setting, and persistence to learning.

COMMUNITY:

Understanding that we are stronger together, we foster healthy connections among members of the Willowwind community as well as between Willowwind and the broader community.

FLEXIBILITY:

We respond with creativity to the needs of our people and educational programs and to opportunities that arise.

INCLUSIVENESS:

We welcome all with kindness and with appreciation for diverse perspectives, circumstances, experiences, abilities, and potential.

STEWARDSHIP:

We practice and promote responsible planning and care for the resources of our community and for the natural world around us.

These core values guide how we behave as we live out Willowwind's mission and consider future opportunities and areas of potential growth.

From the Board of Trustees

06

Dear Willowwind Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we are excited to share with you the progress made in developing a new strategic plan for Willowwind. A committee consisting of board members, faculty and parents worked together to identify four major areas of focus; Financial Stability, Creative Academic Programming, Community Building and Facilities. This collective effort ensured that our strategic initiatives are aligned with the Willowwind mission and core values, reinforcing our commitment to excellence in education and community engagement. We are confident this plan will allow us to build on our past successes, grow our community and guide our school over the next four years.

We welcomed Stacy Stoyanoff last year and he hit the ground running. From the outset, Stacy has brought a fresh perspective and dynamic leadership to our school. Stacy has navigated significant updates to the building and grounds, helped Willowwind achieve grants to update the security of the building, worked with the staff on professional development, brought back a foreign language to the classrooms and implemented the enrichment program. We are excited about the future and the continued positive impact of Stacy's leadership.

We need your help! As we prepare for another enriching school year, we invite you to become active participants in our vibrant community by volunteering your time and talents. Your involvement plays a crucial role in Willowwind's continued success and makes a significant difference in creating engaging and memorable experiences for our students. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are looking to make a more significant commitment, there are various opportunities to contribute. Willowwind relies on dedicated volunteers to address key areas. Your involvement as a volunteer not only supports Willowwind's mission, but also provides valuable opportunities for you to connect with other parents, staff, and students. Together we can create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Thank you to everyone for another successful year! Your support and engagement are critical to Willowwind's success. We look forward to working with you in the coming year and shaping a future where every student can thrive and excel!

Imagine that by 2028, Willowwind School shines brightly in the larger community for providing valued opportunities not available elsewhere in the educational ecosystem to a diverse group of students.

What does this look like?

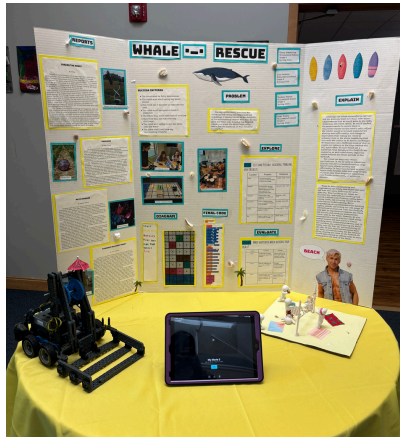
Sincerely,

Willowwind Board of Trustees

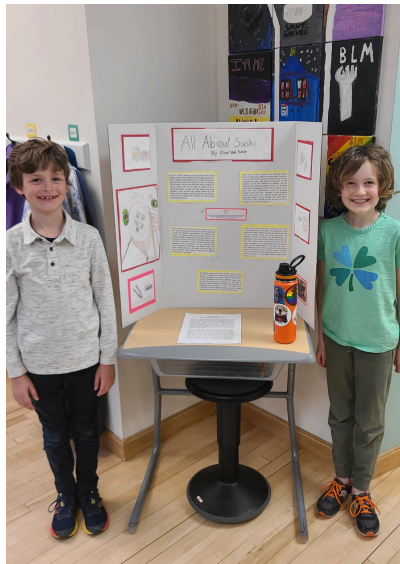
Spring Learning Showcase

07

In March, our students were eager to show off their latest projects and successes. Our preschoolers displayed their knowledge of continents with colorful and creative works that showcased their learning. Kindergartners dove into the engineering design process, creating structures and inventions that impressed everyone in attendance. The 1st and 2nd graders wowed the crowd with designs inspired by nature, incorporating elements found in the great outdoors into their artwork and presentations.



The 3rd and 4th graders explored culinary history, creating delicious dishes from different time periods and cultures.



The 5th and 6th grade students showcased their robotics projects. These students spent weeks coding, building, and fine-tuning robots, and their hard work paid off as they navigated obstacles and completed tasks with precision.



As the showcase came to a close, it was clear that our students had not only learned valuable skills and knowledge in their respective projects, but they also developed a sense of teamwork, creativity, and perseverance that will serve them well into the future.

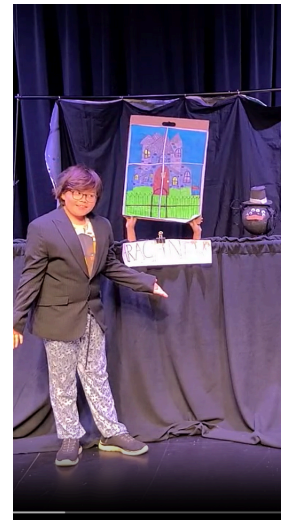


Integrated Arts Showcase

08



Despite weather challenges in May, 1st-6th grade were able to make their way to The James Theatre, where they showcased their hard work and talents for peers in a authentic theater setting. The performances were recorded and shared with the entire Willowwind community. We are grateful for the dedication and perseverance of our students, teachers, and parents, who worked together to bring this special event to life. Our students thrilled the audience with a diverse range of performance- based projects, showcasing the powerful impact of Integrated Arts on their learning experience.



We were mesmerized by preschool's Continent Song, featuring American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, which delighted with its unique blend of music and language. Kindergarten's Glow Art and Movement Experience was a captivating display of art and choreography.



The 3rd and 4th grade Owls puppet shows charmed with their storytelling and puppetry skills. Folktales from Around the World were brought to life through reader's theatre performances by our 1st and 2nd grade Racrunner and 5th and 6th grade Fox classes.

Student Achievements

09

ONE BOOK TWO BOOK

Willowwind School is proud to celebrate its outstanding young writers. Students from grades 1-8 in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area were invited to participate in the 2024 One Book Two Book festival, sponsored by the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature. Congratulations to Edie S., 4th Grade (Write Stuff category). Jasper H., 4th Grade (From the Heart category), Vance V., 3rd Grade (From the Heart category), Emma Y., 6th Grade (From the Heart category), and Iris G., 4th Grade (Honorable Mention category).



HAWKEYE HAIKU CONTEST WINNERS

399 University of Iowa alumni and friends from around the world participated in this annual haiku contest. This year's theme was "Together". The judges worked diligently over several weeks to read submissions from 34 states and as far away as Poland and Spain. Congratulations to Elise S., 4th Grade (Winner), Kendall W., 6th Grade (Honorable Mention), Kaila C., 4th Grade (Honorable Mention), and Eli J., 4th Grade (Honorable Mention).



GINGERNEERING CONTEST

In a thrilling display of creativity and ingenuity, students from Willowwind School placed in the Explore Learning Gingerneering Contest. Schools from across the country showcased their engineering prowess in this highly anticipated competition. Willowwind students' gingerbread creations stood tall, capturing the attention of judges. This was a remarkable achievement for Willowwind School, but also showcased the limitless potential of passionate young engineers.



Congrats winners!

The Magical Greenhouse - Best Non-Edible Winner (above)

Oliver R., 3rd Grade, Cora H., 3rd Grade, and Iris G., 4th Grade

Mushroom Mania! - Best Nod to STEM Winner (to the left)

Edie S., 4th Grade, Ben A., 4th Grade, and Justice L., 4th Grade

Student Achievements

10

Write Now Flash Writing Contest



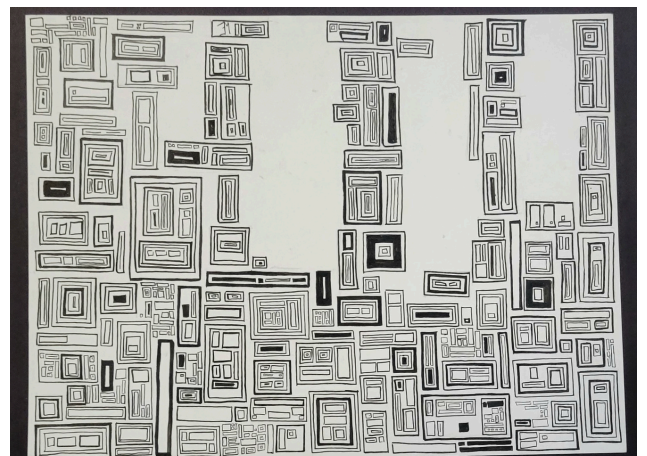
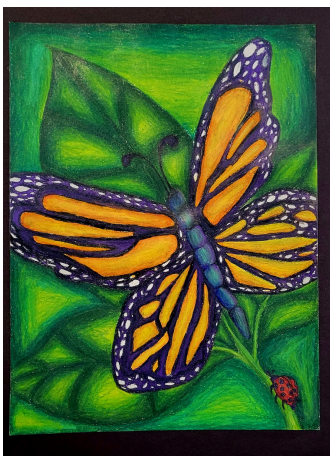
Harriet B-G, was awarded the top prize in the 5th/6th grade category for her outstanding story, "Yellow Balloon." During January's writing contest sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, Harriet's entry stood out among submissions from UI alumni and friends around the world. The contest challenged participants to create a story of 1,000 words or less using one of two provided prompts.

The story begins with a young boy who finds a yellow balloon and is overjoyed, only to watch it float away and disappear. The story jumps forward to the boy's young adulthood, where he is now in high school and his father is dying from cancer. The boy is struggling to cope with his father's impending death and wishes he could go back to the simple times when he was a child, playing with balloons.

In his grief, the boy somehow finds himself transported to a fantastical world where he is reunited with his father, who has been given a second chance at life. The two of them explore this magical world together, but eventually, the boy realizes that this world is not real and that he must return to his own life. He awakens from his fantasy to find himself back in his own bed, his father having passed away. The story jumps forward again to the man's adulthood, where he has found a new sense of purpose working at an elevator company. However, he is still grappling with the loss of his father and the impermanence of life, as represented by the yellow balloon that floats away in the distance.

MidWestOne Art Show

We would like to extend our congratulations to Harriet B-G. and Will E., who showcased their artistic talents in a stunning display that left viewers in awe. Their unique perspectives and innovative techniques set them apart, earning them well-deserved recognition and praise. On April 4th, they joined MidWest One at the 2024 Kids' Art Open House to celebrate their achievements, marking a memorable milestone in their artistic journey. Congratulations to these talented young artists who have demonstrated great promise in the world of art!



Student Performance Metrics

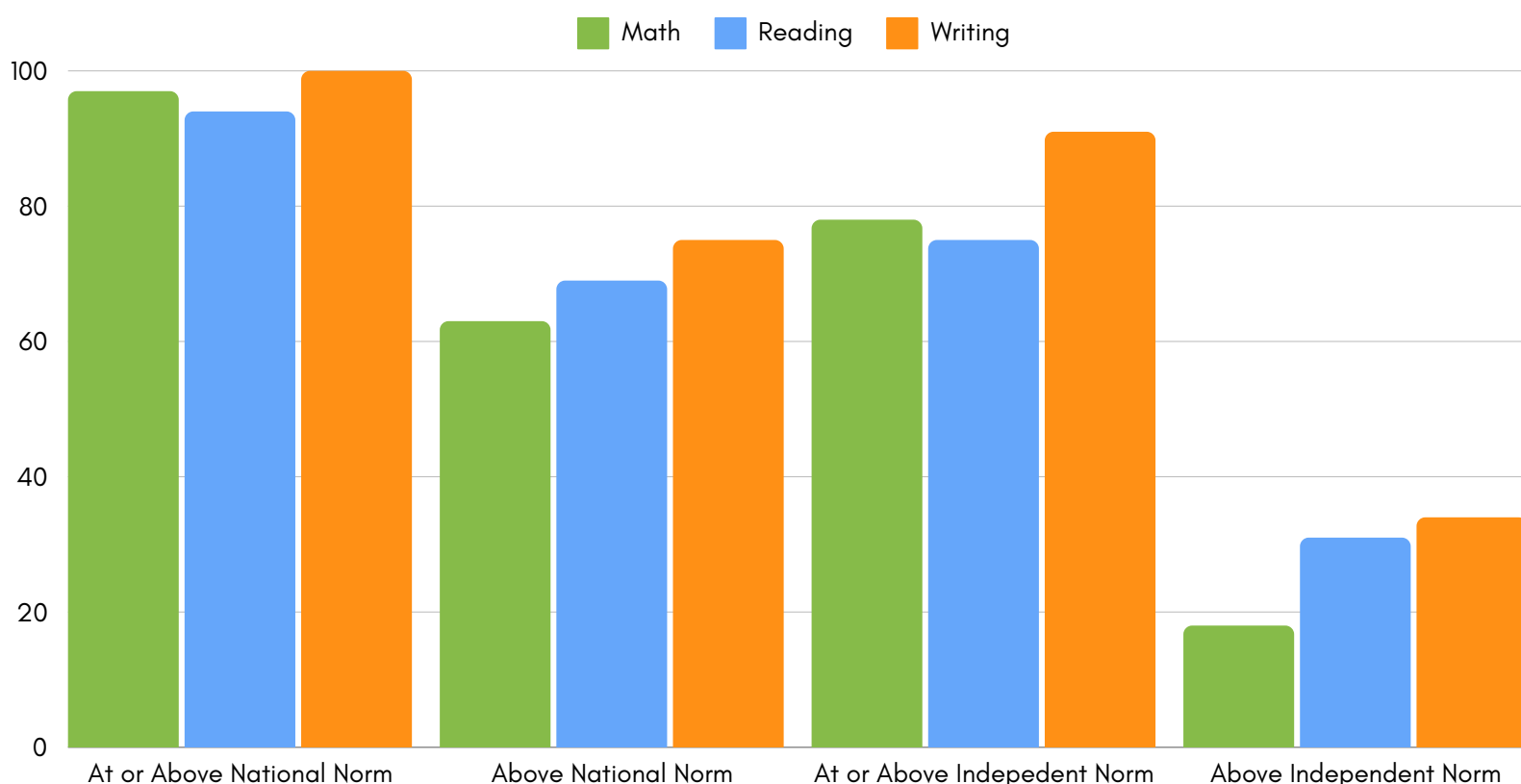
11

As we reflect on the spring of 2024, our Willowwind students in grades 3 to 6 demonstrated remarkable dedication and resilience during their testing period. They engaged with the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) and the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) assessments, both designed to align with educational standards and evaluate their growth and proficiency. Throughout this testing experience, our students showcased their knowledge and skills, giving us valuable insights into their academic performance. We are proud of their hard work and commitment, which undoubtedly sets the foundation for their continued learning and success.

The ERB Assessment, or Educational Records Bureau Testing, is a comprehensive-standardized assessment designed to evaluate the academic readiness of students. At Willowwind, our 3rd to 6th graders participate in this assessment to gauge their achievement in key areas such as reading, listening, vocabulary, writing, and mathematics. Additionally, the ERB Test measures essential skills in verbal and quantitative reasoning, providing valuable insights into each student's academic strengths and areas for growth. This assessment not only helps our educators tailor instruction to meet individual needs, but also supports our commitment to fostering the overall development of well-rounded learners.

ERB Statistics Spring 2024

3rd - 6th grade



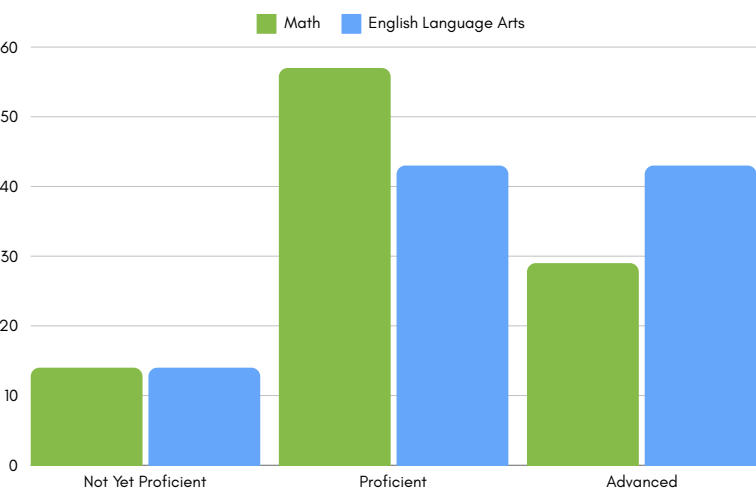
Student Performance Metrics

12

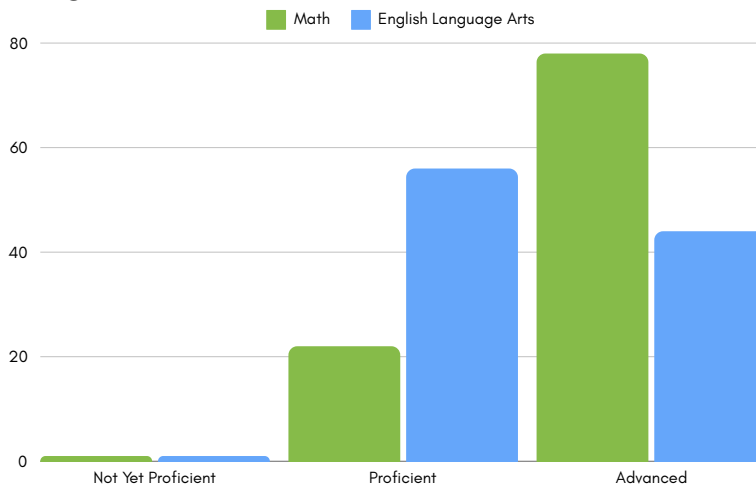
At Willowwind, we proudly nurture our 3rd to 6th grade students as they engage with the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). This assessment, designed by the esteemed Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa, align seamlessly with the Iowa Core Standards, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of our students' academic growth and learning outcomes. Our dedicated teachers work collaboratively with students to prepare them for this important assessment, which not only measures proficiency, but also highlights individual growth and readiness indicators. At Willowwind, we foster a supportive and enriching environment where every student is empowered to excel and showcase their knowledge and skills.

ISASP Statistics Spring 2024

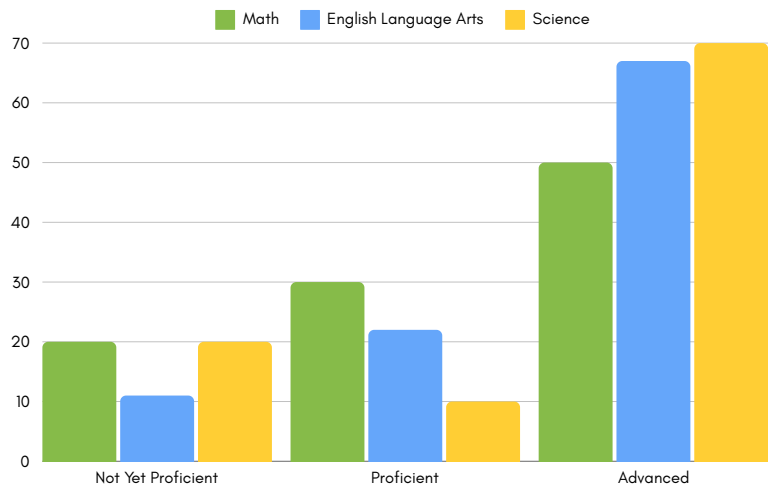
3rd grade



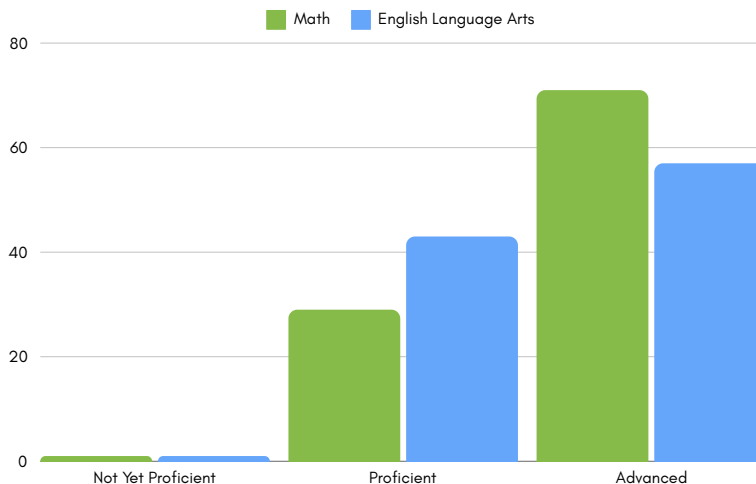
4th grade



5th grade



6th grade



Faculty Achievements

13

Innovation in Education Awards

We are thrilled to acknowledge the exceptional achievements of our dedicated and talented teachers and staff, who have been recognized for their outstanding teaching skills and unwavering commitment to their students' success. These prestigious awards are a well-deserved testament to the tireless efforts and dedication of our educators, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work and passion. Congratulations to all the award recipients and our entire school community for this remarkable achievement, which embodies the values of excellence, compassion, and dedication that define our school.

Ann Creasey

The Innovator Award is given to a teacher (or group of teachers) that creates learning opportunities for students to be innovative, inventive, and entrepreneurial.

Brett and Darla Burr

The Impact Award is given to a school group that embraces three core goals: to inspire, innovate, and achieve. Their pursuit of these first three goals culminate to realize a fourth: IMPACT on teachers, students, and their community. This program exceeds all others in its ability to impact students and teachers through inspiring, innovative, exceptional, unprecedented and/or extraordinary program components.

Rachel Butler

The Administrative/Support Staff Excellence Award recognizes the exemplary service of a dedicated administrative assistant or employee who fosters a positive learning and supportive environment at his/her school.



Pictured above: Rachel Butler (Office Manager and Admission Coordinator), Darla Burr (Math and Interventionist Teacher), Brett Burr (Director of BASP and Programs), and Ann Creasey (5th and 6th grade Teacher.)



Robert E. Yager Active Learning Award

Ann Creasey

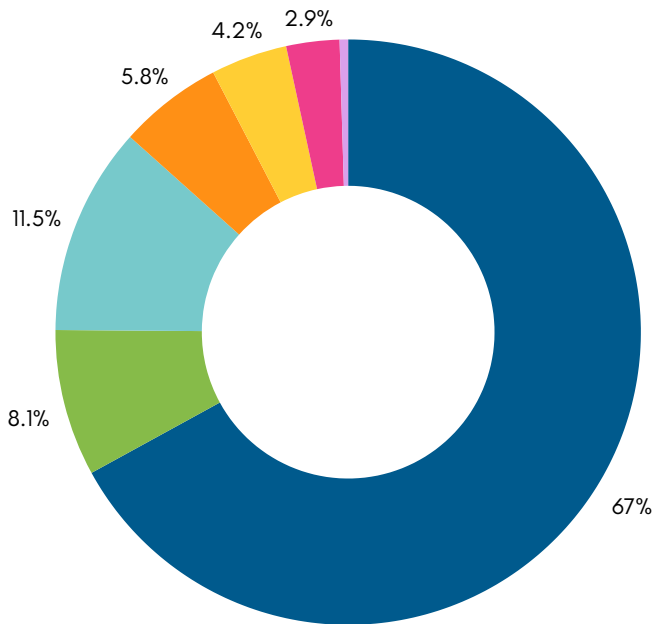
Willowwind's 5th and 6th grade teacher, Ann Creasey, was recognized for providing our students with exceptional active learning opportunities. We are so proud to share that Ms. Ann is a recipient of The Iowa Children's Museum Robert E. Yager Active Learning Award.

The Robert E. Yager Active Learning Award honors outstanding educators who foster an active learning environment in their classroom and create opportunities for students to imagine, create, discover and explore.



Financials

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OPERATING INCOME

Total Operating Income \$1,789,190

K-6 Tuition	\$879,327
Preschool Tuition	\$323,768
Summer Program	\$242,807
Other Programs, Enrichment, Fees	\$179,423
Donations & Grants	\$142,339
Other Operating Income	\$14,676
Scholarships	\$6,850

“

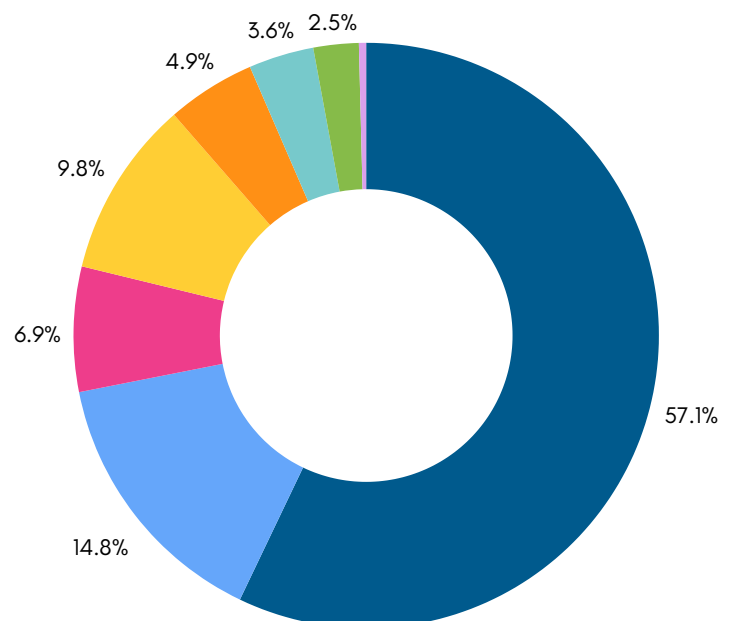
53% of Willowwind families benefit from our sliding scale tuition model and 10% receive additional scholarship funds

”

OPERATING EXPENSE

Total Operating Expense \$1,754,884

Salaries, Payroll taxes, Benefits	\$1,002,728
Long-term Debt	\$259,272
Tuition Discounts & Sliding Scale	\$121,144
Building & Utilities	\$172,607
Other Operating Expense	\$85,436
Supplies & Technology	\$62,687
Programs & Enrichment	\$44,160
Scholarships	\$6,850



Your giving fuels their learning.

16

Aside from tuition, donations are Willowwind's biggest source of income. Without the generosity of our donor community, we would not be able to provide students with the unique and enriching education they deserve or enhance their experience through a creative and engaging learning environment. There are a variety of ways you can support Willowwind and help fuel our passion for education and our students' passion for learning.

Annual Fund

Our annual fund covers a wide range of costs--from programming to facility needs--making it one of the most fruitful ways to give to the school. The flexibility of the annual fund allows us to make the best decisions for our students year-round. As we consistently strive to provide a top tier education in a joyful learning environment, we look to our annual fund and community of donors for support with everything from day to day needs to larger scale projects and initiatives.

Give & Grow

The Give & Grow campaign is held annually in April in partnership with GreenState Credit Union. This campaign gives donors who are GreenState Credit Union members the opportunity to have their donations matched with the potential to raise \$15,000 for Willowwind. Unlike our annual fund, the Give & Grow campaign is restricted and allocated for specific needs that have been identified at the school.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in-kind are another way to support Willowwind's mission. In-kind donations refer to donors donating their services or goods to the school. From telescopes to iPads and pottery wheels, our families have continuously advanced our students' learning environments by providing essential resources and opportunities to expand our curriculum.

Volunteer

Willowwind is grateful to have such an incredible community of parents and friends. We lean into our volunteers to support Willowwind's events, outreach initiatives, committee work, and so much more. If you're interested in volunteering at Willowwind, please sign up through weekly news communications or contact Willowwind's office manager, Rachel Butler. Email Rachel at rachelb@willowwind.org.

Employer Match

A great way to enhance the impact of your donation is by turning to your employer for a match. Many employers will match both monetary donations and volunteer hours for current and retired employees. Talk with your employer about doubling the impact of your gift and involving more of the community in Willowwind's mission.

Hills Bank Classroom Cash

Hills Bank Classroom Cash is a way for you to donate to the school without deviating from your regular spending. You can select a public or private school district of your choice and Hills Bank will make a small donation with every Hills Bank debit or credit card purchase. You can visit hillsbank.com/classroom-cash to learn more.

Ways to Give



ONLINE

Give through Venmo
@Willowwind-School
Give through PayPal at
willowwind.org/giving



CALL US!

Want to chat before you make a gift?
Want to **give by credit card**?
Give us a call at (319) 338-6061.



BY CHECK

We love getting mail, so if you would like to give by check please send it to:
Willowwind School
950 Dover St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

We thank you for embodying Willowwind's goal of creating a compassionate community of Willowwind supporters.

We couldn't do it without you.

17

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our donors during this past school year. Thanks to their contributions, we were able to enhance our educational programs, provide valuable resources to our students and staff, and make a positive impact in our community. Our school can integrate better technology, improve facilities, buy educational materials, and hire highly-qualified teachers. We also provide support to families facing financial difficulties and collaborate with community partners to improve our students' health and wellness. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for their unwavering commitment to our mission and vision. Your generosity has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our students and their futures! We thank you for being a part of our Willowwind community and taking this vital role in bringing our mission to life.

BLAZE \$2,500 +

Alan Driggs & Catherina Pinnaro
GreenState Credit Union
Horizon Architecture (Michael Nolan)

FLAME \$1,000-2,499

Evelyn Ross-Shapiro & Ian Shapiro
Hills Bank
Kay & William Creasey
Robin & Jonathan Russell
Sally Holland
Sarah & Luke Leonard
Timothy Dwight

FLICKER \$500-999

Chenchen Liu & Amir Shaban
Jenny Gordy & Joe Gillespie
Mandy Southard
Michael & Sarah Nolan
Stacy & Corey Crouse

SPARK \$250-499

Brad Brewer & Kelly Ledbetter
Dawn & Tim Lyons
Erin Lane & Michael Watson
Jennifer Horn-Frasier
Jon Sallade & Demaris Mills
Kai Hwang & Li-Chun Lin
Kelu & Sean Sullivan
Lindsey & Adam Kudej
Meindert Niemeijer & Alina Dumitrescu
Miriam Gardner
Trent Yoder

EMBER \$1-249

Adam & Andrea Havlin
Adrien Wing
Alecia & Ryan Burns
Andrea Cramer & Michael Zielstorf
Anne & Matthew Harding
Anne & Michelle Ehlinger
Ashley Kerst
Carol Watson
Catherine Tran & Ryan Laudick
Claire & William Trettin
Daniel & Anne-Marie Lathrop
Diana Brace & Jeffrey Block
Emily Hill & Andy Eggers
Erin & David Shriver
Ethan Kuperman & Kristin Plichta
Fatima Toor & Umar Farooq
Helene Hembreiker
Holli & Thomas Striegel
Jane & Bob Harding
Jeydith Gutierrez & Chris Traeger
Jill & Todd Tomkins
Joun Lee & Syed Mubeen
Larisa Bowman & Chris Sales
Lauren Ross & David Ernst
Mark Quee
Marra & John Pienta
Maryam Davodi-Far
Matt Harding
Megan Bishop
Noah Stein & Susanna Rodriguez
Patricia Hamilton
Peter Kaboli

Rachel Butler & Jim Mills
Rachel Yoder & Seth Michel
Sandra Schwartz
Sara Castlebury
Sierra & Adam Martensen
Sze Sze & Joe Yockey
Thomas & Wanda Martin

Thank You Volunteers

18



Akkaya/Baran
Brace/Block
Burns/Harkness
Curto/Dilley
Diefenderfer
Driggs/Pinnaro
Dumitrescu/Niemeijer
Gordy/Gillespie
Gumusoglu/Marincovich
Harding
Hemingway/Siebels
Jahangir

Lathrop
Laudick/Tran
Lyons
Mills/Konczyk
Nolan
Plichta/Kuperman
Ross / Ernst
Sands
Schmerbach
Southard
Stein/Rodriguez
Smith

Tomkins
Torner
Torres/Gilster
Traeger/Gutierrez
Trettin
Vaughan/Cole
Watson/Lane
Yockey
Zielstorf/Cramer

325

VOLUNTEER HOURS
LOGGED



**WILLOWWIND
FAMILIES
CONTRIBUTE IN
SO MANY
WAYS!!!**



thank
you 😊😊



950 Dover St., Iowa City, IA 52245

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