



RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL



## **Our Mission**

Within a collaborative and respectful community, Riverbend School develops curious, self-confident, and independent lifelong learners by using Montessori principles to help each child flourish socially and thrive academically.

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement**

Riverbend School believes in the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in our community. By embracing differences, valuing multiple perspectives, and developing a profound appreciation for our humanity, we hope to ensure that our campus spaces are safe and respectful for all children, families, and employees.

### **Riverbend School strives to:**

- Create and sustain a diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and families
- Root our Montessori curriculum in developing the whole child, through practicing grace and courtesy, peace education, and multiculturalism
- Develop our awareness of implicit bias by rejecting stereotypes and prejudice
- Promote anti-bias educational practices
- Appreciate difference and interconnection
- Guide children to become global citizens who stand up for social justice

This report acknowledges gifts received during Riverbend's fiscal year from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. We have made every effort to correctly list our donors and volunteers. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Katelyn Lincoln, Director of Development at 508-655-7333 or [klincoln@rvbs.org](mailto:klincoln@rvbs.org).

# From our Head of School



*Dear Riverbend Community,*

**T**he 2020–2021 school year marked both Riverbend’s ten-year anniversary and our first full academic year living with COVID.

At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, we had to adapt quickly, and that’s exactly what we did; Riverbend invested in new teaching tools and shifted to remote learning. As COVID cases increased, we remained remote and finished the school year online.

Then in June 2020, we opened two new buildings on campus: the Lower Elementary Schoolhouse and the Gymnasium. A significant part of this project was funded by generous donors in our community who contributed a combined total of \$865,000 to make these buildings and our new campus a reality. The role and significance of physical space is a tenet of Montessori philosophy and these spaces allow us to create the ideal prepared environment and address the unique needs of a Montessori school. With the completion of these buildings and an outdoor quad space, our campus now embodies the spirit of its students. It is a constant, a comfort; a place for discovery, for learning, and for growth.

Despite reaching this significant milestone, more changes needed to be made in preparation for the 2020–2021 academic year. To ensure a safe and healthy campus for all, we reduced enrollment in our programs and opened an additional preschool classroom to comply with social distancing requirements; we

improved ventilation and filtration systems in campus buildings; and we shifted a lot of class time outdoors while spending significant resources on outdoor education tools. Making these changes helped to restore what was lost and allowed us to return to a dynamic learning community where students are excited to come to school each day. This testament to Riverbend’s resilience is something I am thankful for every day.

We have come far in the last ten years, and the 2020–2021 school year came with its own unique set of challenges. Despite these challenges, I am confident that Riverbend will meet whatever challenges await us in the next ten years and beyond. We have work in front of us, but that work is joyful and important; these children are our future. I look forward to seeing how Riverbend continues to grow and evolve. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Whitney Slade'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Whitney Slade



# Riverbend 2020–2021 Board of Directors

The Riverbend Board of Directors, in partnership with the Head of School, guides the overall direction of the School in accordance with both the mission and strategic plan. In addition, the Directors act as fiduciaries for the School and ensure the current and long-term fiscal health of Riverbend. Composed of current parents, alumni parents and independent community members, these exceptional volunteers represent an abundance of talent and provide significant financial support and guidance while dedicating countless hours in support of the School. We are deeply grateful for their passion and commitment for Riverbend.



Shana Salzano  
*Chair*



Jessica Baur  
*Vice Chair*



Melissa Fletcher  
*Treasurer*



Caitlyn Siebenmorgen  
*Secretary*



Michael Tauer  
*Governance Chair*



Miguel Carmago  
*Plant Chair*



Emeka Iffih  
*Advancement  
Committee Co-Chair*



Elizabeth Milewski  
*Advancement  
Committee Co-Chair*



Maram Abdel-Azim



Sarah Spence Adams



Diana Baruni



Katie Fink



Jim Hartman



Dena Patterson



John Rowe



Smith Utubor  
*not pictured*



Jane Ventrone



Karin Riggs Barton



Catherine Zhang

# From our Board Chair



*Dear Riverbend community and friends,*

**T**he 2020–2021 school year was a tremendous year for Riverbend, and not just because of COVID. Throughout these pages you will see a lot worth celebrating and a lot of progress being made, despite the unprecedented challenges we came across.

In the face of school closures, we continued to adapt and pivot, all while keeping an eye on the future and accomplishing a major strategic goal with the completion of two new buildings: the Lower Elementary Schoolhouse featuring three classrooms and an Art and Design space, and a Gymnasium serving all members of the student body.

These new facilities played an especially important role this year. While we could not possibly have predicted a global pandemic when planning this project, large classroom sizes and best-in-class ventilation helped us to remain open and in person. Best of all, our students and faculty are thriving in these new learning spaces.

This year has only reinforced how important our work is, and how much we rely on our community to make it a reality. By uniting together for Riverbend, we are able to create far more impact than we ever could individually. The Board is excited to identify new priorities for the School as we look to what's next for Riverbend and how we can best serve our students.

With heartfelt gratitude for every one of you: donors, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, Board members, and the many volunteers who put endless time and energy into supporting our school, I personally thank you for your generosity and hard work. Your impact is felt everyday and helps make a lasting difference for students.

I am more confident now than ever that Riverbend is well prepared for whatever the future has in store.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shana Salzano', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Shana Salzano  
*Chair, Riverbend Board of Directors*

# Thank you Riverbend Volunteers

At Riverbend, volunteers contribute greatly to our success. We are grateful to the many parents, alumni, grandparents, and community members who give of their time and talent to make Riverbend an exceptional place for students and families. From contributions large and small every volunteer at Riverbend matters and is appreciated! While we extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, we would like to give special thanks to the following:

## ROOM PARENT COORDINATORS

**Upper School:** Sarah Tauer

**Children's House:** Kate Hartman

## ROOM PARENTS

**Upper School:** Laura Carney, Lisa Hack, Kim Leiva, Elisabet Levy, Christa DelCamp Bruso, Katie Meyer, Deborah Kris, and Vivian Scherer.

**Children's House:** Brian Patterson, Audra Friend, Sarah Kasper, Sarah Hahn, Azuri Shah, Jeff Perrott, Shara Gollo, Lauren Foley, and Sarah Larson.

## ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Jimmy Chow, Maggie Fang, Dana Finn, Sarah Kasper, Jennifer Schaeffer, and Claudina Stevenson.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT ORGANIZERS

Sarah Tauer, Kate Hartman, and Jim Hartman

## MIDDLESCHOOL FARM HELPERS

Tom DiCesare and Jim Hartman

## PLANT COMMITTEE

Andrew Gallinaro



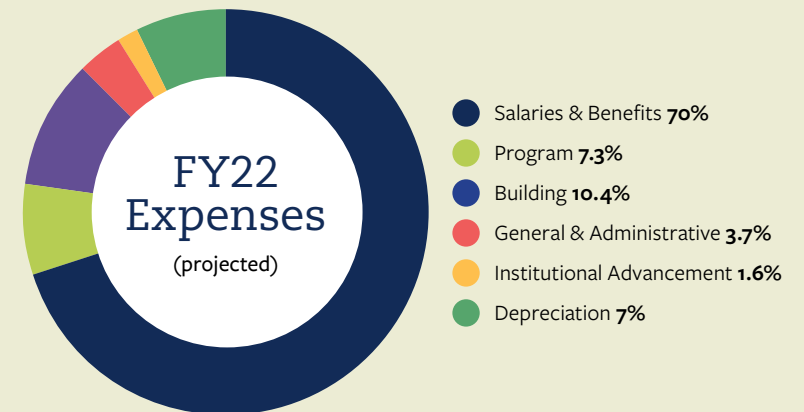
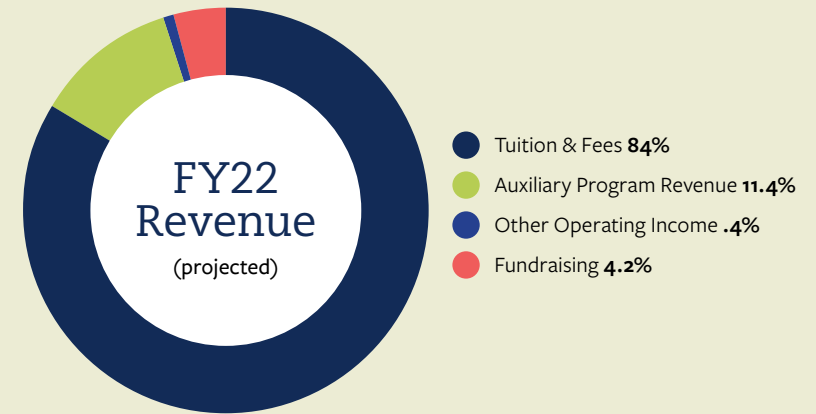


# Financial Highlights

## OPERATING BUDGET CASH BASIS (AUDITED RESULTS)

	ACTUAL		PROJECTED
	FY2020 (audited)	FY2021 (audited)	FY2022
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Gross Tuition	4,799,110	4,974,633	5,670,981
Less Assistance	752,943	689,156	724,980
Net Tuition	<b>4,046,167</b>	<b>4,285,477</b>	<b>4,946,001</b>
Auxiliary Program Revenue	451,277	164,796	670,643
Other Operating Income	89,254	665,384	21,907
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,586,698</b>	<b>5,115,657</b>	<b>5,638,551</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	3,367,716	3,088,547	3,877,826
Program	324,198	272,355	406,339
Building	476,395	638,755	574,331
General & Administrative	168,173	211,537	206,036
Institutional Advancement	55,119	70,052	90,000
Depreciation	218,428	352,127	388,567
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,610,029</b>	<b>4,633,373</b>	<b>5,543,099</b>
<b>NET REVENUE / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(23,331)</b>	<b>482,284</b>	<b>95,452</b>
Enrollment	201	192	206
<b>DONATION INCOME</b>			
Annual Fund	159,374	144,039	160,000
Gala	16,424	0	0
Misc. Fundraising	13,693	5,558	1,500
Restricted Donations*	406,263	248,235	88,492
<b>Total</b>	<b>595,754</b>	<b>397,832</b>	<b>249,992</b>
<b>NET REVENUE WITH DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>572,423</b>	<b>880,116</b>	<b>345,444</b>

\*Restricted donations include capital campaign funds raised for our building project



# Gifts to Riverbend

Riverbend relies on contributions from our community to support the operating budget and allow us to fund special projects. Dollars raised impact every area of our school including teacher salaries and professional development, classroom supplies and materials, financial aid, field trips, enrichment programs, and so much more.

We are exceedingly grateful for the generous support from our community, and especially proud of our Faculty and Staff and Board of Directors for reaching 100% giving participation. We would like to extend a special thanks to our donors who are part of the Raven's Circle and have supported our Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years, and an additional special thanks to donors who contributed to our restricted giving opportunities, such as Classroom Wish Lists and the Ravens Relief Fund for financial aid.



## RIVERBEND STARS (\$10,000+)

Daniel and Dana Finn  
Guillermo and Kimberly Leiva  
Michael and Sarah Tauer  
Jim and Shana Salzano  
David Young and Michelle Mayer



## INVENTORS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Jeffrey and Daria Cho  
Stephen and Kathy Guillard  
James Hartman and Karen Flathers  
David Hutchins and Natalie Logan  
Emeka and Allian Iffih  
Allison and Brad Kates  
Jeetu and Leena Mahtani  
Chris and Laura Suraci  
Rui Tang and Liyun (Catherine) Zhang  
Wayne Vetrone and Denise Tarbox



- A** Alumni
- AP** Alumni Parent
- FS** Faculty / Staff
- G** Grandparent
- AG** Alumni Grandparent
- RC** Ravens Circle  
(3+ consecutive years  
of Annual Fund giving)







## PIONEERS (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Gerret and Jessica Baur RC  
 Franklin and Bonnie Blackstone RC  
 Phillip and Christa Bruso RC  
 Luiz and Evelyn Camargo RC  
 Changjian (Jimmy) Chow and Jin Zheng RC  
 Steven and Renee Finn RC G  
 Jordan and Deborah Hall RC FS  
 William and Christine Kendall RC  
 Karen Kim and Phillip Song RC  
 Michael Kris RC  
 Sarah and Peter Laybourn RC  
 CM Macgowan III and Erin Macgowan RC  
 Allison Malm RC  
 Matthew and Elizabeth Milewski RC  
 Sridhar and Rama Ramaswamy RC  
 Andy and Melinda Rothstein RC  
 John and Jennifer Schaeffer RC  
 Steven and Caitlyn Siebenmorgen RC  
 Michael and Claudina Stevenson RC  
 Fer Vasquez and Maggie Fang RC  
 Stephanie and Richard Walsh RC  
 Zhen Wang and Yili Pan RC  
 Stephen and Jennie Wilkinson RC

## INNOVATORS (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Elisabeth Ashforth RC FS  
 Karin Riggs Barton RC FS  
 Giacomo Chiesi and Shara Gallo AG  
 Katie and Andrew Creedon AG  
 Richard and Joan DiChiaro AG  
 Walter and Alicia Downey AG  
 Michael and Kerry Earley AG  
 Katie Fink AG  
 Bob Foley AG  
 Frederick and Katherine Hartman RC FS  
 Julie and Patrick Keating RC FS  
 Anton Kris G  
 Scott and Sarah Lemke G  
 Riyao Lin and Jing Deng G  
 Patrick and Kristin Loranger G  
 Matthew and Patricia Lurvey G  
 Carol Osler and Peter Tordo G  
 Demetrios and Christina Papageorgiou RC  
 Stefanos and Frances Parpos RC  
 Vipul and Sonali Patel RC  
 Brian Patterson RC  
 Dena Marie Patterson RC  
 Robert and Elizabeth Perrott RC  
 Karl and Elin Proppe RC G  
 Christine Price RC  
 John Rowe and Julia DiChiaro-Rowe RC  
 Tahsin Shamma and Maram Abdel-Azim RC  
 Whitney and Ellen Slade RC FS  
 Jennifer and James Stucchi RC FS



## EXPLORERS (\$500–\$999)

Shannon and George Blair RC  
 Monica A. Caldas and Jonathan M. Benton RC  
 Andrew Elliott Clarkson and Laura Anne Carney RC  
 Tom James DiCesare and Sarah Howard Watkins RC  
 Melissa and Colin Fletcher RC  
 Ricardo and Lindsey Galvao RC  
 Paul and Oclo Mason RC  
 Shamit and Neeti Mehta RC  
 Julian and Vivian Scherer RC  
 Abdel Soufiane and Anica Zaoui RC  
 James and Donna Strouse RC FS



## FRIENDS (\$100–\$499)

Craig and Sarah Adams	RC
Gary and Henriette Arenson	RC G
Diana Baruni	
Molly Batchelder	G
Tim Batchelder	
Erik and Sara Bates	
Bethany and Mark Bayer	
Larry and Diana Bolick	
George Buchholz and Paula Loskamp	G
John Buchholz	
Edward and Molly Carney	RC
Shaohua Cheng and Echo Chen	
Himani and Omkar Dandekar	
Brian and Helena Delgado	
Doug and Shannon Drenik	RC
Charles and Shannon Field	
Daniel Fink	RC
Alice Fisher	RC G
Michael and Suzanne Fisher	RC
Daniel and Lauren Foley	RC
Frank and Terry Foster	G
Jackie Fremont-Rahl	
Ahmed Gayed and Dina Sorour	RC
Sergio and Susan Gomez	RC
Chris Gomsak	
Daniel and Sarah Hahn	
Steve Han	
Amy Harbeck	
Amy Harris and Jim Merullo	AP
Patrick and Susan Hurley	RC
Annika Karlsson	
James and Candace Kasser	G
Woosung Kim and Soomyung Kim Cho	RC FS
Francois Kosie	
Christine Konyas	G
Suruchi Lal	RC FS
Phillip and Sarah Larson	RC
Aaron and Elisabet Levy	RC
Nancy Levy	G

Susan Logan	G
Anthony and Christine Lucas	
Laurel Lyle	
Kathy and Jay Mace	RC G
Robert and Kara Macleod	
Robert and Margaret Macleod	G
Christian McPherson	RC FS
Evelyn and Ronald Milette	RC
Greg and Tanya Milette	RC
Steve and Catherine Milewski	
Lauren and Eddie Miretsky	
Robert Murray and Holly Malin-Murray	
Sherif Nahas	
Kevin and Ildi Neilsen	AP
Daniel and Jennifer Nissi	RC
Thomas Peacock	
Catherine and Pedro Lopez-Baldrich	RC
Pasquale and Consiglia Puleo	RC AG
Michael Radin and Debra Daniels	
Scott and Dale Rahl	
Ashley Reichheld and Marijke de Roo	
Rachel Roy	
Rutvij Sharma and Megha Trivedi	RC
Kerry Tubbs and Bindy Fleischman	
Mehmet and Irem Sen	
Lynn and Robert Shevory	RC FS
Joanne Smith-Farrell	
Alex Stephen	G
Amrit and Larry Stephen	
Steve and Louise Suraci	
Weslie Surman	
Smith Utubor	
Jane Ventrone	RC
Chandresh and Mausami Vora	RC
Mark E. Warren and Irawaty Liputra	RC
Miriam and Evan Waldheter	RC
Christian and Michelle Wilson	
Andrea M. Winterer	RC
Amy Darling Wood	
Wen Xue and Xingyue He	RC
Grace Yannakakis and David Matthew Howland	RC FS
Hao Zhu	



## DONORS (UP TO \$100)

Anonymous	
Ravi and Kalpana Acharya	G
Salimata Bangoura and Abraham Jaffe	
Thomas Barone	FS
Julia Blake	
Sarah Bourque	FS
Fadia Brangwynne	RC FS
Kathryn Brown	FS
Sarah Buchholz	
Kim Burk	FS
Caroline Carreras	FS
Lene Castro	RC
Alan Cohen	RC FS
Tim Dalia	RC FS
Melissa Ennulat	FS
Lauren Barbara Faberman	A
Dorinda and Ralph Ferguson	G
Giovanna Foley	RC G
Audra Friend	
Janey Fryer	RC FS
Cidalia and Mario Galvao	RC G
Varun Gandhi and Aarti Ramani	
Janet Gelcich and John Peter Gelcich III	RC FS
Neal Glick and Lisa Hack	RC
Amparo Gordian	
Sarah and Christopher Grillo	
Dawn Gunn-Brown	RC FS
Steve and Susannah Hann	RC
Amy Hille	RC FS
Michele Howell	RC FS
Gary and Kristine Imbrie	G
Evan S. Jacob	RC FS

Robert Kirsch  
 Alexander A. Klinoff  
 Charles Kreiman and Heather Vinci  
 Danielle Leary-Jakes  
 Charlee Manigat  
 Tina McCarthy  
 Anna McCormick  
 Adriana and Tom McLaughlin  
 Seth Meicht and Cameron Anderson  
 Herica Paixao  
 Antonio Pasquale Puleo  
 Jay Pauley and Linda Lu Pauley  
 Jeffrey and Alexandra Perrott  
 Sara Reagan  
 Dianne Reid  
 Jami Riley  
 Kirsten Renee Root  
 Joe and Brenda Salzano  
 Carol and Mark Sennott  
 Daniel and Leah Schwartz  
 Lisa Slotnick  
 Lelia Tenreiro-Viano  
 Laura Torredeflot Codina  
 Deanna Tubbs  
 Winter Celeste Vetrone  
 Antonio Viana  
 Olivia Whitman  
 Dave Wilkins  
 Ashley Nicole Woods  
 Bayao Zheng and Lin Bo  
 Wei Zhou  
 Shawnee Lane Zimmerman



## TRIBUTE GIFTS

Elisabeth Ashforth	<i>Given in honor of Leo</i>
Brian and Helena Delgado	<i>Given in honor of Frantiska Pastorova</i>
Tom DiCesare and Sarah Watkins	<i>Given in honor of Liz Lapon</i>
Doug and Shannon Drenik	<i>Given in honor of Canyon Drenik</i>
Daniel and Dana Finn	<i>Given in honor of Lindi Finn</i>
Ahmed Gayed and Dina Sorour	<i>Given in honor of Abraham Sorour</i>
Amy Harbeck	<i>Given in honor of Rui Tang and Catherine Zhang</i>
Christine Konys	<i>Given in honor of Gilbert Nolan</i>
Michael and Deborah Kris	<i>Given in honor of Dr. Anton O. Kris</i>
Michael and Deborah Kris	<i>Given in honor of James Farmer</i>
Sarah and Peter Laybourn	<i>Given in honor of Janet Gelcich and Dawn Gunn-Brown</i>
Riyao Lin	<i>Given in honor of Nicole and Rachel Lin</i>
Susan Logan	<i>Given in honor of Logan McGathy</i>
Shamit and Neeti Mehta	<i>Given in honor of The Maple Room</i>
Steve and Catherine Milewski	<i>Given in honor of Elle and Emmy Milewski</i>
Antonio Pasquale Puleo	<i>Given in honor of Grazia Puleo</i>
Pasquale and Consiglia Puleo	<i>Given in honor of Grazia Puleo</i>
Andy and Melissa Rothstein	<i>Given in honor of Leo Rothstein</i>
Alex Stephen	<i>Given in honor of Raveena Stephen</i>
Steve and Louise Suraci	<i>Given in honor of Nolan Suraci</i>
Weslie Surman	<i>Given in honor of Suruchi Lal</i>
Michael and Sarah Tauer	<i>Given in honor of Sam Tauer</i>
Deanna Tubbs	<i>Given in honor of Ian Tubbs</i>
Wen Xue and Xingyue He	<i>Given in honor of Alyssa Xue</i>
Grace Yannakakis and David Howland	<i>Given in honor of Delilah Howland</i>

## CORPORATE DONORS & MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

Abbvie  
 Amazon Smile  
 Citizens Bank

Ford Foundation  
 Network for Good  
 Stop & Shop





# \* CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CLOSE OUT

## 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the generous support of lead donors, Riverbend was able to complete our Phase 2B building project in time for the start of the 20–21 school year. To celebrate this milestone, we offered naming opportunities on campus in the form of benches, trees, pavers, and bricks. This unique opportunity allowed more members of the community to participate in the campaign and leave their own legacy in the physical spaces on campus. We are grateful for these amazing community members for helping us continue to fulfill our vision for a purpose-built, unified campus.









# \* CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Though on-campus events and activities came with considerable challenges this year, we were still able to hold commencement exercises for our newest graduates. Congratulations to the Riverbend Class of 2021!

Alumni are forever a part of our school family and we cannot wait to see who you become. Know you are always welcome back to Riverbend.







RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Eliziana**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Isabella**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Katie**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Canyon**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Linda**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Samuel**  
2021

RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL  
Congratulates  
**Matthew**  
2021



39 Eliot Street  
Natick, MA 01760

[development@rvbs.org](mailto:development@rvbs.org)  
508-655-7333

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