



# The Walden School

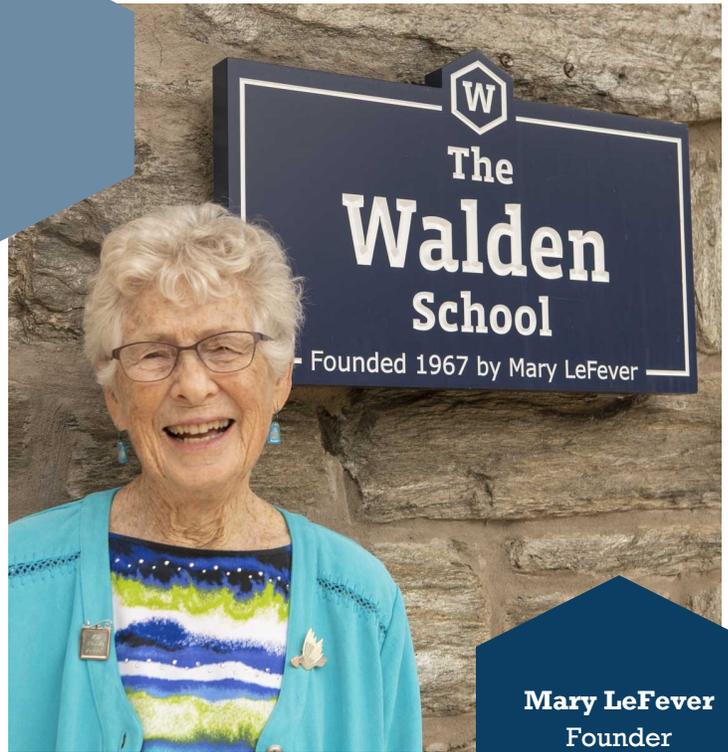
Annual Report 2019-20

**THE WALDEN SCHOOL**  
Montessori-based • Preschool-Grade 8

WE'RE ALWAYS  
OPEN  
FOR LEARNING!



901 N. Providence Road, Media PA 19063  
[thewaldenschool.org](http://thewaldenschool.org)  
610.892.8000



Mary LeFever  
Founder

“The secret in education lies in respecting the student.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



# Message from our Head of School

Dear Friends of Walden,

Learning continues to be an adventure at The Walden School! Whether it has taken place in the beautiful, bright classrooms or virtually because of COVID concerns, the Montessori lessons are hands-on and the students are engaged in their work. The 2020-2021 school year does look and feel a bit different than others; however, I continue to take very seriously the sacrifices that families make for their children to attend Walden. Your financial commitment this year, as we do our best to support our students during the pandemic, could not be more appreciated!

With a school community diligently following the protocols in Walden's Health and Safety Plan, we have been able to experience the joy of in person learning since August 31 with no COVID cases for students or faculty. The work each day continues to be helping children to love learning and to encourage students to be peacemakers creating a better future for all.

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank the many generous members of the Walden community who supported quality education during the past year; I am grateful for all of the individuals and businesses listed in this report. This year, however, your contribution has also made it possible to prepare for and maintain the ability to provide in person learning since August. COVID related expenses incurred in procuring the supplies and equipment to follow the necessary protocols to keep our community safe have increased and your donation has helped to offset those unexpected expenses.

Congratulations on making a difference in young lives! On behalf of The Walden School's administration, faculty and students who have been touched by your generosity, I thank you.

Warmest regards,  
Mary McKean, Head of School



**Mary McKean**  
Head of School



**Daniel Neubert**  
President of the Board of Trustees



# Our History

The Walden School, a non-profit, independent school, was founded in 1967 by Mary C. LeFever, who became interested in the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori first as a parent and then as a teacher. From the beginning, The Walden School has maintained a dedicated staff of teachers, many of whom were parents who joined the faculty after observing their child's happiness and development in a Montessori environment. While The Walden School originated as a preschool, in response to parental request, the elementary program was developed and has expanded into a middle school program.

In 1999, The Walden School moved to its permanent site in Media, PA. In 2002, Walden received accreditation from what is now Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). Every year The Walden School strives to improve, ensuring that your child gets the best possible academic and social experience.



"If ever there was a school that exemplified a commitment to education, evolution and excellence - Walden would be it. Our family recently moved from out of state and we were delighted to find a community that so effortlessly aligned with our desire to preserve our child's curiosity, creativity and love of learning. Walden teachers and staff are eager to share their tools with parents; prioritizing the whole child - not just the parts that show up in class. Walden has worked tirelessly during the Covid pandemic to ensure the safety of the staff and children and we have felt at ease sending our child to school during such uncertain times. We are so grateful to be a part of the Walden community!"

-Britt M., Walden parent

# Mission & Philosophy

Walden promotes a high standard of academics in a peaceful and caring learning environment. Walden nurtures the whole child, ignites intellectual curiosity, and fosters independence in a culture of deep and abiding respect.

Our preschool/kindergarten students learn using the Montessori Method. In our first through eighth grade classrooms, we use a Montessori-based philosophy to teach traditional academic subjects.



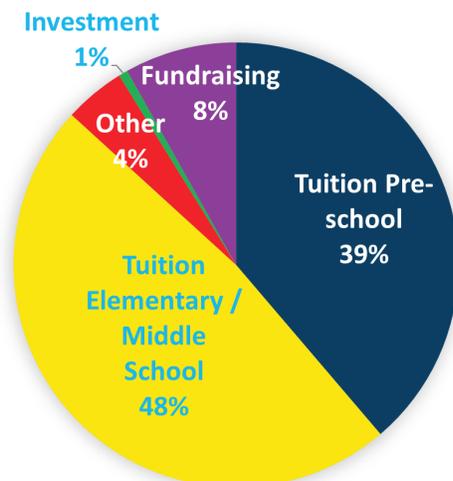
# Financial Report 2019-2020

Financial Year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

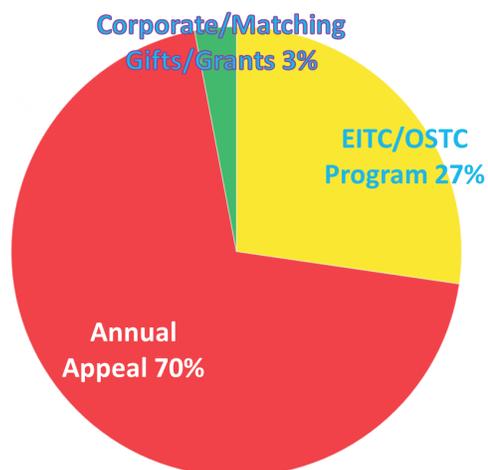
## Sources of Funds

	2019-20	2018-19
Tuition Pre-school	811k	892k
Tuition Elementary/Middle School	1,004k	872k
Other (Extended Day, Fees, Etc.)	93k	132k
Investment Income	14k	11k
Contributions and Fundraising	170k	203k
	<u>\$2,092k</u>	<u>\$2,314k</u>

## Sources of Funds



## Contributions and Fundraising



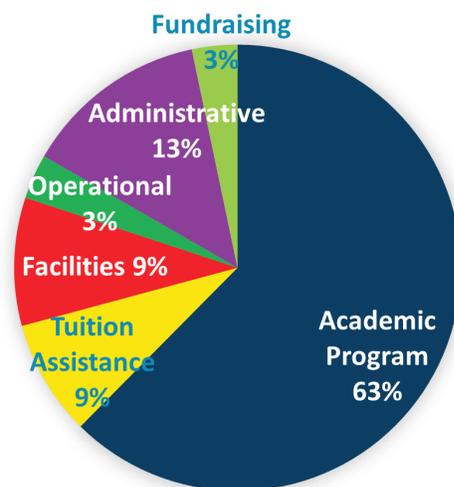
## Contributions and Fundraising

	2019-20	2018-19
Bid Sip Celebrate	-	48,808
EITC/OSTC program	46,500	41,276
Fall/Spring Appeal	118,726	111,757
Corporate/Matching Gifts/Grants	5,078	1,578

## Uses of Funds

	2019-20	2018-19
Academic Program	1,284k	1,342k
Tuition Assistance	173k	169k
Facilities	191k	201k
Operational	67k	76k
Administrative	275k	269k
Fundraising	68k	77k
	<u>\$2,058k</u>	<u>\$2,134k</u>

## Uses of Funds



# Ways to Give

The Walden School School's ongoing fundraising initiatives consist of the following programs:

**Annual Fund:** The annual fund makes a difference every year for every student by providing significant and immediate annual revenue to fund the school's highest priorities. As with all independent schools, the Annual Fund is a vital component of Walden's financial stability, since tuition alone does not cover the cost of operating the school. Each day, Walden students are challenged in the classroom, in the music room, in the art studio, and beyond—and the Annual Fund makes this possible.

**Endowment:** All great schools, including The Walden School, rely on endowment funds to provide funds, over and above tuition, for extraordinary educational programs, financial aid, and faculty professional development. Endowment funds provide ongoing income for the school with the option to create a lasting legacy for alumni, faculty members, loved ones, or family members.

**Planned Giving:** Planned gifts are placed in the endowment fund to create a lasting legacy, providing income in perpetuity for the school.

**Bid, Sip and Celebrate:** This event generates funds and fun each year for ongoing excellent educational programs. The Bid, Sip and Celebrate depends on the support of families, friends and faculty as volunteers, sponsors and attendees.

## **Pennsylvania Tax Credit Programs:**

The **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)** program provides tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to a scholarship organization, an educational improvement organization and/or a prekindergarten scholarship organization.

The **Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC)** is a similar program administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which provides tax credits to eligible businesses for distribution to scholarship organizations. The OSTC program focuses on qualified students residing in low performing school districts.

**BLOCS:** An individual or company who wishes to take advantage of these tax credit programs may become a member of a **BLOCS Scholarship LLC**. Donors can receive up to a 90% tax credit against their personal PA state tax liability, by making their EITC and OSTC gift through BLOCS. These special purpose entities, are the only financial vehicle available for individuals (or companies who do not have direct tax credit approval) to be able to realize tax credits in return for scholarship donations.



***Please visit [thewaldenschool.org/support](http://thewaldenschool.org/support) to learn more about ways you can give back to The Walden School.***



# We would like to thank our donors:

Elijah and Dale Adkhins

Sue and Dave Baker

Akel and Tom Blades

Alena Bortkiewicz

Stefanie and Ruly Carpenter

**Anne Marie and Darryl Cilli**

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Judith and Robert Ferrara

Chandi Freeman

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David Verrecchia

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Dr. Douglas Williamson

## **Corporate Donors**

DNB First NA

## **ICM America LLC**

Lincoln Investment Planning  
LLC

Republic Bank

The Foundation for  
Delaware County

## **Other Contributions**

AmazonSmile

## **Faculty**

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Pigeon and Doug Graham

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*Ninette Paffet-Lugassey*

Kathy and Jack Swierczek

Carly and Noah Tolson

**Eve and Scott Welden**

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Colette LeFever and  
David Orehowsky Jr.

**Toni McIntosh**

***Daniel Neubert***

*Jill Sweeney*

**Bold: LeFever Circle Donors**

*Italic: Alumnus*





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