



Since its founding in 1963 by a small group of parents and educators, Marin Montessori School has treasured parent involvement. It is our partnership that has enabled MMS to grow from a small one-room classroom to a premier AMI Montessori School.

This year, more than ever, we welcome your ideas, questions, and support as we navigate uncharted waters. We hope that you will feel excited to join us as we provide an EDUCATION FOR LIFE.

# MARIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

## GUIDE TO GIVING & ENGAGEMENT



## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees' objective is to safeguard and advance the mission of Marin Montessori School. The board consists of current and alumni parents, alumni, grandparents, and key community representatives, all of whom share a deep commitment to MMS.

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association (PA) is run by a dedicated group of current parents who coordinate volunteer work, fundraising, and special events that promote a vibrant MMS community.

For more information on whom to contact and how to get involved with the PA, please go to [marinmontessori.org/community/parents-association](https://marinmontessori.org/community/parents-association).

### ADMISSIONS AMBASSADORS

Admissions Ambassadors support MMS by volunteering at admissions events and tours. Ambassadors provide support to prospective families by making themselves available for questions as families navigate the admissions process. Ambassadors also participate in our "Stewards" program that works to welcome new MMS families into our community.

### ANNUAL FUND LEVEL CAPTAINS

Level Captains support MMS through our annual fundraiser, the Annual Fund. Level Captains are available for questions and conversations regarding the impact of giving, and encourage 100% participation from their level.

### ROOM PARENTS/JUNIOR HIGH PARENT AMBASSADORS

Room parents and Junior High parent ambassadors play a key role in supporting their child's teacher and the Junior High Director in event planning, communications, and a range of other activities for the class.

# THE CALENDAR OF GIVING

## FALL

### THE MMS RELIEF & ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

The Annual Fund is a yearly donation-based drive to support the school's annual operating budget. These 100% tax-deductible contributions support all aspects of the school's operations, including the highest level of AMI Montessori education for students in every classroom, our beautiful indoor and outdoor learning environments, and our tuition assistance program.

As is the case at independent schools everywhere, tuition covers most of our operating expenses, but not all of them. While MMS could raise tuition to cover operational costs budgeting for a fundraising gap enables the school to keep tuition more affordable in order to include a diverse range of students and families.

In addition, this year the Annual Fund is being combined with our MMS Relief Fund. All donations to the MMS Relief & Annual Fund will support MMS' ability to meet the additional pressures COVID-19 has put on our school's financial resources as well as help meet our tuition gap per student.

The MMS Relief & Annual Fund supports:

- Short Term Tuition Relief Program
- Increased financial aid
- Complimentary summer camp
- Retrofitted classrooms for small cohort learning
- New outdoor learning spaces
- Upgrading our technology for distance learning
- Essential equipment, cleaning services and supplies, hygiene stations, personal protective equipment for our campus and crew's safety and health

We ask each member of our community to consider giving as generously as you are able to support the continued financial health and safety of our school.

### ANNUAL FUND GIVING LEVELS

\$25,000 and above	Visionaries
\$15,000 - \$24,999	Innovators
\$10,000 - \$14,999	Explorers
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Scholars
\$2,500 - \$4,999	Builders
\$1,000 - \$2,499	Mentors
up to \$999	Friends

## ALL YEAR

### CAPITAL GIVING

Gifts that support costly improvement to the school's programs and campus can be discussed at any time throughout the year. Projects must be mission-aligned and match the strategic direction as outlined by the campus planning committee.

### ENDOWMENT GIVING

Gifts to the endowment strengthen the financial health and flexibility of MMS. The principal of an endowment gift is invested, and the income generated becomes a source of revenue for general or targeted support. These funds enable MMS to weather changes in our economy and take advantage of timely opportunities to expand, strengthen, and innovate.

### PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts are a way to meet your philanthropic and financial goals while leaving a legacy that supports a Marin Montessori education for future children. Planned giving can be as simple as including a bequest to MMS in your will, or a gift that can secure income for life through a remainder trust.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Don't miss the opportunity to double your gift! Many employers offer to match employee gifts to charitable organizations up to 200%. Please check with your company to see if it offers matching gifts, or let us know if we can assist you with this process. Remember that gifts from spouses and retirees may also be eligible.

# THE CALENDAR OF GIVING

## SPRING

### THE GATHER FOR GOOD

Since its inception over 40 years ago, parents, faculty, and staff have been contributing their creative energies into designing an evening of fun and community building to raise money for tuition assistance. Money is raised through soliciting sponsorships from families and businesses, class projects, and a paddle raise for “Fund-the-Children.”

In 2019-2020 we reimagined our annual event and launched a new speaker series, “The Gather for Good.” “The Gather for Good” remains our primary method for raising funds for tuition assistance but also serves as an annual opportunity for our community to come together in celebration of our values, strengths, and passions — educating ourselves on the topics that matter most.

This past February we were honored to welcome former Vice President Al Gore to our stage. His leadership in combating the climate crisis is not only inspiring, but also reflects our mission to challenge our children to engage in meaningful, world-changing work.

It is only fitting that we, as a school committed to living and teaching environmental stewardship, continue this education. In follow up, we will explore the intersection of food, climate change, and sustainable agriculture. To do this, we are partnering with our own local expert who is the world’s leading advocate for what she has long coined, “Edible Education.”

The 2020-2021 annual MMS benefit for tuition assistance will be “The Gather for Good - An Edible Education with Alice Waters.”

We welcome your ideas and support as we prepare for another incredible event. Volunteer opportunities range from event planning, community partnerships, and night-of support. Please reach out to Carolyn Woolf for more details.



*Alice Waters is a chef, author, and food activist, and the founder and owner of Chez Panisse Restaurant in Berkeley, California (est. 1971). In 2015 she was awarded the National Humanities Medal by former President Obama, proving that eating is a political act, and that the table is a powerful means to social justice and positive change. Alice is the author of fifteen books, including New York Times bestsellers The Art of Simple Food I & II, and, a memoir, Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook.*

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