



GERMAN
HERITAGE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL

Annual Report 2021-2022

Message from the Chair

Adversity sometimes shows us our true colours and helps foster stronger bonds.

That certainly has been the case with the entire GHLS community through the pandemic. We managed to stay strong, close together, and nimble. That's a rare combination.

We also accomplished a lot, and much of what we have done will serve us well long into the future.

Stefan Eisebraun led the implementation of our Client Relationship Management system. This has resulted in a much better registration system and enables us to better stay in touch with our alumni and families.

The HR and Governance committee completed a refresh of our bylaws and updated our governance policies.

Our Curriculum Committee led the way in supporting our teachers create a great online experience for our students with new resources, updated materials, and an improved pedagogical approach.

The Engagement Committee held 6 events this year attended by many people. This social interaction has always been important to our school, but it has proved more so during the past two years. The leadership, resilience and creativity shown by this committee are exemplary. The photos, posts and information shared on our social media have helped keep us current and feel included.

While we are looking forward to returning to classes in-person in the fall, it's important to note that, unlike most similar organizations, we kept teaching and learning throughout the pandemic. We never skipped a beat. For this, our teachers, and Principal, Christine, will forever have our gratitude.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees over this challenging time. Having made such fast friends through this experience, I plan to continue on as a member of the Engagement Committee next year and look forward to seeing you and practicing my German with you at in-person events.

Paula Minnikin

Vorstandsvorsitzende, GHLS



GHLS at a Glance for 2021-2022

Education

5

Number of Kids and Youth Classes offered

NUMBER OF KIDS STUDENTS

37 
Kids/Youth Students (Fall Term)

40 
Kids/Youth Students (Winter Term)

17

Number of Youth Students who completed the DSD1 since 2015 at the GHLS

7

Number of Adult Classes offered

NUMBER OF ADULT STUDENTS

45 
Adult Students (Fall Term)

44 
Adult Students (Winter Term)

Community Engagement

5

Number of Community Events held

- Laternenfest
- Nikolausfest
- Walk and Talk
- Trivia Night
- Year-End Party

Financial Stewardship

82.6%

of total Expenditures were spent on Charitable Activities

DONATIONS & GRANTS

225 
Donations

3,582 
Grant (Sprachbeihilfe)

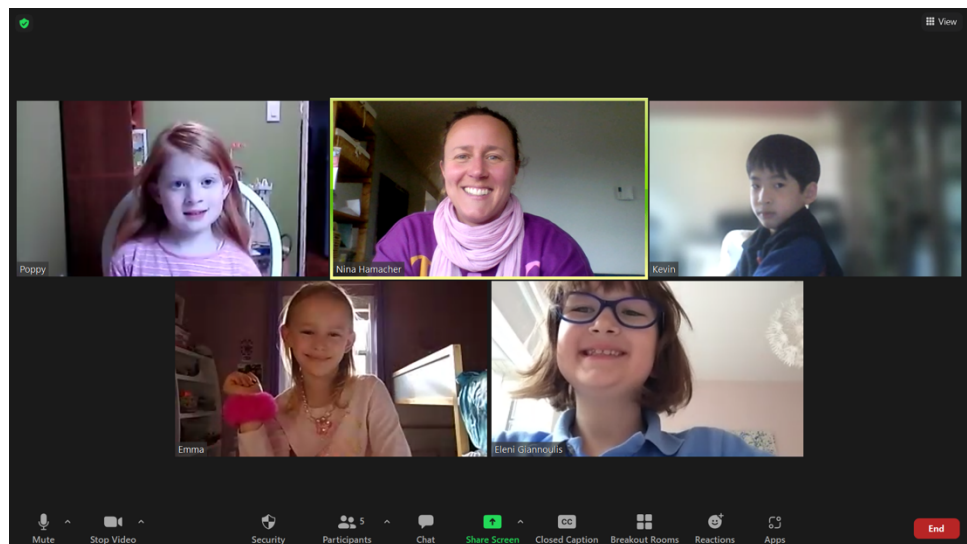
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School Year in Review

Children and Youth Classes

We offer classes for children and youth for various levels. Children start as young as age four and are encouraged to speak German through play and music. In the children 4 and 5 classes, students can prepare for the German Language Diploma (DSD = Deutsches Sprachdiplom). The curricula for our children classes are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). In addition to our regular classes, we began work on the course structure and format of a new Advanced Youth Conversation class. This course is intended for students who have completed the DSD 1 and who like reading about, discussing, and debating a variety of current topics. In the winter term, the group may have the opportunity to participate in the North American *Jugend debattiert*, a youth debating program sponsored by the German government. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, all classes were taught online during the 2021-2022 school year.



German Language Certificate (Deutsches Sprachdiplom – DSD)

The school has applied for a renewal of our DSD I licence with the Zentrale Ausschuss für das *Deutsche Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (ZFA)*. We can currently offer DSD I exams for two more years and will have to re-apply in 2024. Three students – Louisa Ensslin, Kai Retter, and Jacob Weise completed and passed the DSD I exams in 2022.



Adult Classes

For adult students we offer German courses at various levels, where students with no prior knowledge in German are just as welcome as advanced students who want to put their German knowledge into use in the conversational classes. The curricula for our adult classes are also based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Scholarships

Every year the GHLS awards a scholarship to one of the children and one scholarship to an adult student to recognize their commitment. Annina Kluge-Rodgers (Children 3) received the Josenhans Founders Memorial Scholarship and Emma Anne Kehoe (Adult 1) received the Eva-Huber Memorial Scholarship.

Teach the Teachers

We continue to put an emphasis on providing professional development opportunities to our teachers. The teachers continued to excel with online teaching this school year.

Various teacher development opportunities for online teaching were made available to the teachers. These were hosted by the ZfA, KVDS, Goethe Institute and book publishers. GHLS teachers attend these workshops or conferences on their own time and we appreciate the commitments and dedication our teachers have shown over the past years.

Last school year's professional development highlights included:

KVDS (Canadian Association of German Language Schools) Conference

Three teachers attended this online conference on August 29/29, 2021. One of our board members joined the KVDS board on behalf of the GHLS and shared material with our teachers.

ACTG (Atlantic Council of Teachers of German) Conference

Three teachers and two of our board members attended this online conference on October 16, 2021. The conference was titled „Post-Covid19 Impulse für Deutsch: Kooperatives, autonomes, inklusives Lernen“ and included presentations and a round table discussion about the post-Covid situations in the classrooms.

Workshop with Astrid Seidel: „Tipps und Tricks für den Deutschunterricht“

The workshop „Tipps und Tricks für den Deutschunterricht“ with a focus on internal differentiation within learner groups took place via zoom on January 22, 2022. The workshop was followed by Q&A and by a social tea time, where experiences, concerns, and wishes were shared.

Teachers' Resources

The Curriculum Committee supported teachers by providing resources for online teaching and organising the teacher development day.

Community Engagement

The 2021-2022 school year was again filled with many community outreach activities, which were well attended by students, parents and the larger community that we are fortunate to call home. During another year of online learning at our school, we pivoted between online and in-person events for our school community. Our school feels very fortunate that we were able to hold several events where students, teachers and parents could meet face-to-face and celebrate key events that have been staples in our schools history for three decades.

Our Administration

The 2021-2022 school year marked a new milestone as it was our first year with a salaried part-time administration. We would like to thank our new principal, Dr. Christine van der Stege and our new administrator, Caroline Dantz for their dedicated and tireless work during their first year with our school.

Our Board

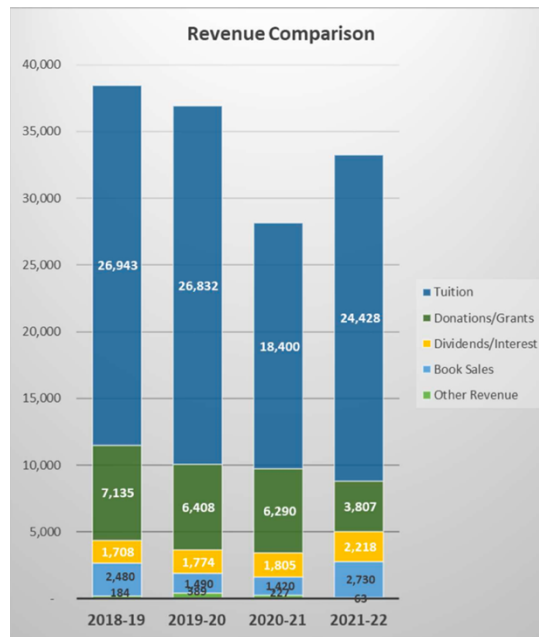
During the 2021-2022 school year, the following volunteer board members were pleased to serve our school community: Paula Minnikin (Chair), Stefan Eisebraun (Treasurer, Vice-Chair), Friedemann Brauer (Teacher Representative), Verena Eichhorn (Chair, Engagement Committee), Cornelia Lorenz (Chair, Curriculum Committee), Julia Pörtner (Chair, Governance Committee), Brigid Garvey (Chair, Library Committee), Steffen Käubler (IT), Johanna Campbell, Arne Martens and Daniela Roth (Members at Large)

We always welcome new members to our committees. If you are interested to join, please contact: admin@germanschool.ca.

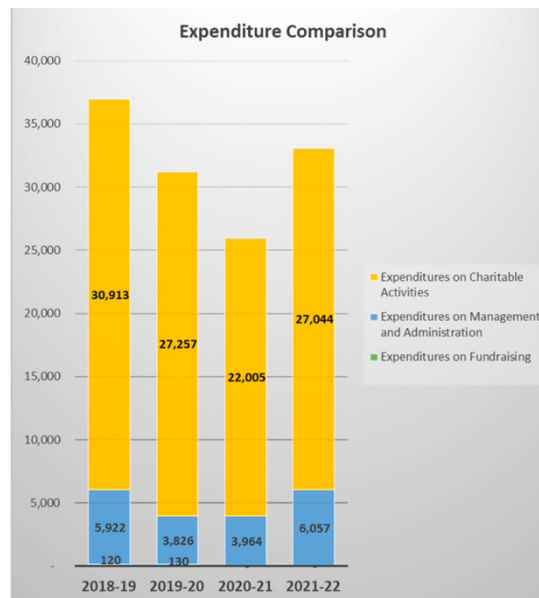
Financial Accountability

A summary of financial information for the year ended April 30, 2022 is provided below. Detailed Financial Statements are available on the school's website at www.germanschool.ca/reports.

2021-2022 Financial Summary



The GHLS generated a total of \$33,246 in revenue during 2021-2022 compared to \$28,142 in the prior year. Most revenue is generated through tuitions (73.5%) and donations/grants (11.5%).

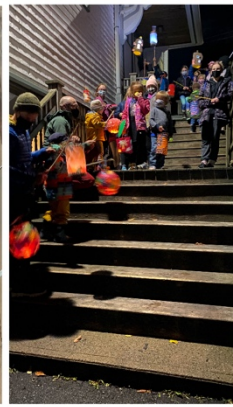


Total expenses of \$33,101 were higher than the prior year (\$25,970). The school pretty much broke even with a small net income of \$145 for the year.



Our School Year in Pictures







Wir freuen uns auf das nächste Schuljahr 2022-2023.