



2024-2025 financial & operational summary

annual report

a message from our founder...

In 2001, it began as a simple conversation—just a spark of an idea shared between people who believed that children deserved something different. By **2004**, that dream had a home, and with the help of a small but passionate group, Northeast Iowa Montessori School opened its doors.

Over the past 20 years, we've grown together—through challenges and successes—always keeping focused on what matters most: **the child**. Every day we ask ourselves, *How can we best guide this child toward their fullest potential?* That question has shaped who we are and how we teach.

Now, as we step into our 21st year, we feel both grateful and proud to serve as an alternative educational choice for families in Winneshiek County and the surrounding area. This is more than a school—it's a **community**, and we're honored to be a part of your **child's journey**.



Jane Busch

FOUNDER & ELEMENTARY LEAD GUIDE

our mission

Northeast Iowa Montessori's mission is to nurture the development of the whole child by providing a supportive environment grounded in the philosophy, principles, and methods of Dr. Maria Montessori – cultivating each child's intellect, creativity, empathy, and confidence, while fostering a sense of individual and global responsibility.

'24/'25 highlights

SECOND school in Iowa accredited by the American Montessori Society

1,469 volunteer hours clocked

\$31,100 in grants awarded

\$14,960 raised during our Annual Fund Drive

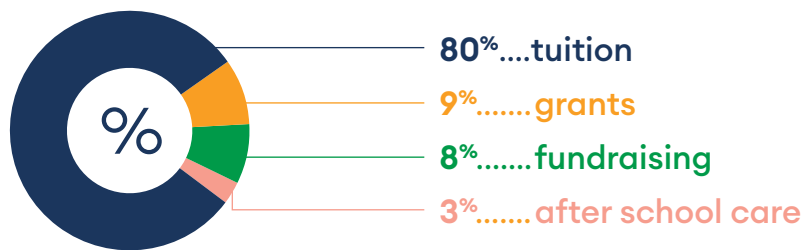
EDUCATED 700+ students over the past two decades

Financial Summary

Strong financial stewardship is central to NEIM’s mission of providing exceptional Montessori education while remaining accessible to as many families as possible. In the last fiscal year, **80.8%** of NEIM’s expenses supported staff through payroll, professional development, and memberships – reflecting our belief that investing in our guides is investing in our children. Another **13.3%** was dedicated to essential facility and operational costs, including mortgage payments, insurance, utilities, and classroom materials. Together, these core categories account for **94.1%** of all spending – demonstrating our commitment to directing resources where they matter most: the learning environment and those who bring it to life.

EXPENSES	
Payroll	\$265,189.01
Mortgage Interest	\$11,249.55
Insurance	\$11,245.57
Capital Expense	\$9,596.04
Class Materials	\$8,239.54
Utilities.....	\$7,642.88
Property Tax	\$5,732.00
Office Expenses.....	\$5,016.40
Professional Fees	\$4,129.76
Professional Dev.	\$2,258.30
Repairs/Maintenance	\$1,640.16
Total	\$331,939.21

School Funding



NEIM operates with great care and a deep sense of responsibility for the resources that sustain our mission. About **80%** of our income currently comes from tuition, with grants providing nearly **9%** and fundraising efforts contributing **8%**. As we look ahead, we see meaningful opportunities to grow community-based support, helping ensure that a **high-quality Montessori education remains accessible to more families for years to come.**

REVENUE	
Tuition	\$284,313.95
Grants	\$31,100.00
Fundraising	\$28,460.90
After School Care.....	\$11,577.00
Total	\$355,451.85

2025-26 TUITION RATES**	
Age 3.....	\$7,110
Age 4*	\$4,410
Kindergarten.....	\$7,830
Elementary	\$7,830
After School Care.....	\$15-18/day

* Tuition subsidized by the Iowa Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

** According to [trustedcare.com](https://www.trustedcare.com) the average annual Montessori tuition in the U.S. ranges roughly from \$12,000 to \$18,000

by the numbers

45
STUDENTS

9
STAFF MEMBERS

89
CUMULATIVE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

7
BOARD MEMBERS

Grant Funding

Last year, NEIM secured **\$31,100** in external funding through a Community Grant from the **Depot Outlet** and a government-issued **ARPA stipend**, allowing us to replace aging HVAC units and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lighting that supports a bright and focused learning environment. These improvements significantly bolstered the health and safety of our school and enabled us to continue directing the majority of our operating funds toward supporting our dedicated guides.

GRANT AWARDS

Depot Outlet	\$3,000
for LED lighting	
ARPA stipend	\$28,000
for new HVAC units	

Fundraising Work

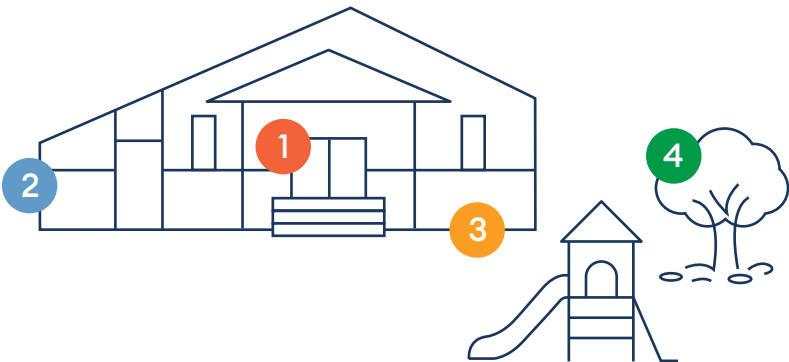
NEIM relies on fundraising to support larger projects that enhance our school environment, such as curriculum expansion and facility improvements. For the 2024–2025 school year, our **Annual Fund campaign aimed to raise \$20,000** to improve our school bathrooms. While we raised \$14,960, we’re grateful to apply proceeds from this summer’s Nordic Fest and a portion of the upcoming 2025–2026 Annual Fund to help close the gap—with the goal of carrying out the bathroom improvement project over winter break this school year.

FUNDRAISING

Annual Fund Drive	\$14,960
Crater Trail Run	\$6,350
Nordic Fest ‘24 Booth	\$4,406

FUTURE FACILITIES INITIATIVES

- 1. bathroom install
- 2. outdoor classroom expansion
- 3. basement accessibility
- 4. playground upgrade



2

ONE OF TWO
ACCREDITED MONTESSORI
SCHOOLS IN IOWA

1469

VOLUNTEER HOURS

80%

PERCENTAGE
OF REVENUE GOING
TO PAYROLL

512

VAFFELS SOLD
AT NORDIC FEST



Celebrated 20th Anniversary

This past school year, NEIM proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary of providing families in Northeast Iowa with the opportunity to experience authentic Montessori education. Over two decades, NEIM has guided more than **700 students** and is fortunate to have four dedicated guides who have been with the school for **12 years or more**. We are excited to build on this strong foundation as we continue to grow, evolve, and share the lasting impact of Montessori learning with future generations.



AMS Accreditation Achieved

This year, NEIM proudly became an accredited member of the American Montessori Society—**one of only two schools in Iowa** to receive this distinction. This affirms our status as a state-recognized private school and validates the deep commitment of our staff, families, and broader community to delivering exceptional Montessori education.

91%

Preschool Standards of Excellence

NEIM continues to show that while the benefits of a Montessori education extend far beyond standard academic benchmarks, our students excel by those measures as well. **Last year, 91% of NEIM's four-year-olds met Preschool English Language Proficiency standards—well above the state's target range of 65–70%.**

Looking Forward to the Future

We enter the year ahead with optimism, as NEIM works to strengthen its current programs and expand access to Montessori education for more families. Interest in Montessori has continued to grow, and NEIM is actively **exploring the expansion of Children's House to better serve 3–5 year olds**—an age group where demand is high and community need is well recognized. In addition, the school is beginning to **assess the feasibility of extending the Elementary program through Secondary I (equivalent to 8th grade)**, allowing Montessori students the opportunity to complete Middle School at NEIM. The Board of Directors and school leadership are committed to carefully evaluating these possibilities in alignment with our mission and community values.

