

Geschäftsbericht



2022-2023
Annual Report



Welcome from GISC Board Chairs

Jon Ebner & Kurt Gamauf

Dear GISC Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we take great delight in sharing this Annual Report with you. At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, we eagerly anticipated our 15th anniversary school year in 2023-2024. Our Board is composed of members who have been part of GISC for more than a decade as well as members those who have recently joined our community. This combination helps us remain grounded in the origins of the school while also looking toward a strategic future.

As such, we remain committed to our mission, focusing on student programs in the service of bilingualism, global citizenship, and international education. Thus, the Board authorized our school leadership to initiate the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Program (MYP) for Grades 5-8, complementing our long-standing commitment to the IB's Primary Years Program (PYP). This decision will result in a consistent pedagogical approach from Preschool through Grade 8.

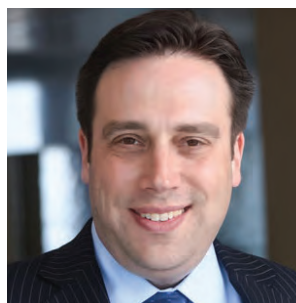
The Board also looked toward the future with its decision to apply for membership in the consortium of 140 German International Schools throughout the world. These schools are networked and enjoy the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, especially in terms of hiring personnel from Germany, international recognition, and financial support. We anticipate a final decision on this strategic initiative toward the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

Ever since our move to our current campus at 1726 W Berteau in 2018, we have also focused on our responsibility to steward the continued improvement of our facilities. We have agreed on a five-year building improvement plan that includes the installation of a new roof, replacement of HVAC systems on the second and third floors, and security upgrades such as an internal public address system. The Board also celebrates, applauds, and thanks the GISC community for its philanthropic support of capital improvements such as the renovation and transformation of the back parking lot into an outdoor recreational area. Additionally, the Board also thanks the GISC community for its continued support of the GISC Annual Fund that helps pay for operational expenses.

It is on this note of progress that we thank the faculty and staff, our parent volunteers, and our donors for their continued commitment toward our school.

Thank you,

Jon Ebner
Chair, GISC
Board of Trustees
2022-2023



Kurt Gamauf
Chair, GISC
Board of Trustees
2023-2024



A Message from Ben Hebebrand

Dear GISC Community,

The German International School Chicago completed another successful school year, highlighted by our 8th grade graduating class that included several students who have spent their entire preschool, elementary, and middle school years at GISC. These graduates are the embodiment of our educational mission in that they are bilingual, interculturally competent, and academically prepared for high school.

This year also continued the pattern of enrollment growth – from the first school year through this year, student enrollment has increased, reaffirming the demand for an international education with a shared community passion for the German language and culture.

I thank our faculty and staff for their tireless efforts to advance our mission. At the very center of our shared sense of community are the relationships between students and teachers. This is also an opportune time to thank our volunteers and donors who most certainly contribute toward the future success of GISC. The contributions by the GISC Parent Group (GPG) to create and organize social events are especially noteworthy as this school year marked a gradual change toward a post-pandemic world. Thank you!

I hope you take great delight in this Annual Report, and I look forward to serving GISC in its most meaningful endeavor to help shape future global citizens to advance a harmonious and thoughtful world.

Onward,

Benjamin Hebebrand
Director



Contents

- 2 Welcome from GISC Board Chairs
Jon Ebner & Kurt Gamauf
- 3 A Message from Ben Hebebrand
- 4 2022-2023 GISC Board of Trustees
- 5 Honorary Lifetime Trustees & Honorary
Board Listings
- 6-7 2022-2023 GISC Faculty & Staff
A Message from the Director of
Teaching & Learning
- 8-9 About GISC
- 10-11 Year in Review: Preschool
- 12-13 Year in Review: The Value
of a GISC Education
- 14-15 Year in Review: 2022-2023 Volunteers
- 16-17 2022-2023 Annual Fund
- 18-25 GISC 2023 Gala
- 26 2022-2023 Special Project Supporters
- 27 2022-2023 Financial Summary

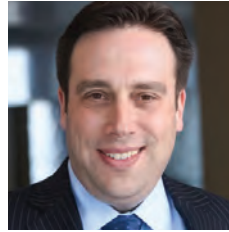
2022-2023 GISC Board of Trustees



Petra Blix, PhD
Trustee



Nicola Brocksiepe
Trustee



Jon Ebner
Chair



Andre Fiebig
Trustee



Michael Franke
Trustee



Kurt Gamauf
Vice Chair



Ben Hebebrand
School Director



Sabrina Karras
Trustee



Karin Karl
Trustee



Silvia Krehbiel
Trustee



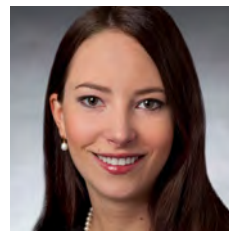
Denise Meuser
Secretary



Mariam Pahl
Trustee



Brian Pollina
Trustee



Julie Steffen
Trustee

Honorary Lifetime Trustees



Annegret Harnischfeger, PhD



Kirsten Greco



Rhonda Duffaut, PhD

Honorary Board

- Hon. Wolfgang Mössinger** | Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany & Honorary Board Chair
- Paul F. Donahue** | Honorary Consul for Liechtenstein in Chicago
- Reinhold F. Krammer** | Honorary Consul for Austria in Chicago
- Hans Peter Riehle** | Chairman of the Board, GACC Midwest
- Hon. Bruno Ryff** | Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Chicago
- Hans-Peter Schäfer** | CEO, Kalle Group
- Peter Sedlmayer** | Trade Commissioner, Advantage Austria
- Mark Tomkins** | President & CEO, GACC Midwest
- Christian von Reventlow** | Group Executive Products & Technologies, Telstra
- Thyra Zerhusen** | CEO, Fairpointe Capital

Thank You!

GISC would like to extend a thank you to **The Hon. Wolfgang Mössinger** who served as the Chair of our Honorary Board during his tenure as Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago. As Chair, Herr Mössinger was a steadfast and enthusiastic supporter of our school and went above and beyond to offer his assistance to us in promoting our school within Chicago's DACH community. He was also instrumental in assisting us with initiating conversations to pursue membership in the German Schools Abroad network. We congratulate Herr Mössinger on his retirement and wish him and Frau Mössinger many joyful days together.

We would also like to thank our resigning Honorary Board Member, **The Hon. Bruno Ryff**, Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago. We are grateful to Herr Ryff for his dedicated service as a member of our Honorary Board and his advocacy on behalf of GISC within Chicago's Swiss community.



2022-2023 GISC Faculty & Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Benjamin Hebebrand | School Director

Claudia Benabdallah

Andrew Humphrey

Inka Kirchenbüchler, PhD

Nathalie Kohlhaas

Sonja Manhart

Katharina Pohl

Danica Polanski

Jaclyn Stacy

Christiane Tacke

Karola Trockenbrodt

Stephen Waguespack

PRESCHOOL

Nathalie Kohlhaas | Head of Preschool

Claudia Benabdallah

Carlotta Bruch

Michaela Glusic

Carmen Jimenez

Mechthild (Mecki) Jordan

Alexandra O'Toole

Irene Schepperle



ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Inka Kirchenbüchler, PhD | Director of
Teaching & Learning

Julia Amplewski

Nicole Bernroitner

Megan Burke

Christa Callies

Clemens Dölle

Laura Edelbüttel

Nina Guhr

Grace Hayes

Ulf Hennig

Rebecca Jones

Stefan Karner

Katharina Koch Staley

Chantal Kranz

Marco Leonardi

Isabel Luengo Lopez

Annette Methfessel

Julia Rist

Edwin Rozic

Elisa Vasileiadou

Yvonne Wick

Jörn Witte

Justine Zimmerman



2022-2023 GISC Faculty & Staff

AFTERCARE TEAM

Christiane Tacke | Director of
Extracurricular Programs
Claudia Benabdallah
Grace Boitse
Claudia Feilmeyer
Julia Freidl
Olivia Goss
Emayli Holmes
Annika Kohrt
Roxanne Monaghan
Alicia Nesbitt
Edwin Rozic
Justine Zimmerman

INTERNS

Anna Magdalena Böhmer
Anna Celine Maerz
Katharina Sophie Brümmer
Paula Eggers
Julia Schlidt
Anna-Lena Blizil
Isabel Olges
Lea Corinna Jungmann
Susanna Bader
Olivia Weissgerber

A Message from Our Director of Teaching & Learning

Dear GISC Families and Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you a perspective from the faculty and staff at GISC as we reflect on another great school year. On behalf of my team, I would like to thank all our GISC parents, grandparents, leaders, donors, and volunteers who so generously invested their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that we stay such a unique international school, offering a student-centered teaching approach that is sending our 8th graders to the High Schools of their choice.

In the past year, new milestones to achieve were initiated. After several successful years of being an IB World School for the Primary Years Program (PYP), we applied for Middle Years Program (MYP) candidacy, a 3-year undertaking. We are also in the process of becoming an accredited ZfA School, joining an established and recognized network of German International Schools located around the globe. Eventually building our own High School offering a Gemischtsprachiges IB Diploma (Mixed-Language IB Diploma) will ensure that our international student community will go to any university or college of their choice.

Over the past year, the feeling that our community activities are back to pre-pandemic levels was evident, and it is great to see our community back in action. It was the year of our first GISC Flea Market, and I am looking forward to seeing more of those community events in the future.

Sincerely,

Inka Kirchenbühler, PhD
Director of Teaching & Learning



About **GISC**



The German International School Chicago (GISC) is an IB World School that prepares students to become well-rounded, creative, and responsible global citizens. We provide students with a rigorous German-English bilingual education in a supportive and individualized learning environment. GISC graduates will be prepared academically and socially to succeed in an increasingly global world.

At GISC, we embrace our 3+1 Core Values – we provide our students with a bilingual advantage, an international education, and global opportunity – in a welcoming and supportive community.

Bilingual Advantage

Students at GISC are both linguistically and culturally fluent. As a bilingual, international school, we encourage our young learners to engage meaningfully with a wide variety of cultures across Europe and throughout the world.

International Education

GISC's unique education is rooted in the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework. We foster a strong sense of agency in our students and provide them with a deep understanding of the world around them. Our students have the skills to engage successfully with a wide variety of academic and social environments in German-speaking countries and beyond.

Global Opportunity

GISC's unique education is rooted in the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework. We foster a strong sense of agency in our students and provide them with a deep understanding of the world around them. Our students have the skills to engage successfully with a wide variety of academic and social environments in German-speaking countries and beyond.

School Community

Both schoolwide and in each grade level, GISC fosters a strong sense of community. We believe that a supportive, nurturing community is the key to a learning environment in which each student knows they belong and matter. Each year in our community survey, respondents stress the value they place on being part of a warm-hearted and close-knit community where everyone feels welcome and known.



36

Nationalities represented



23

languages spoken by our families



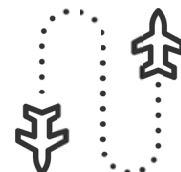
8%

families with parents from Germany, Austria, or Switzerland



20%

families with parents from the US

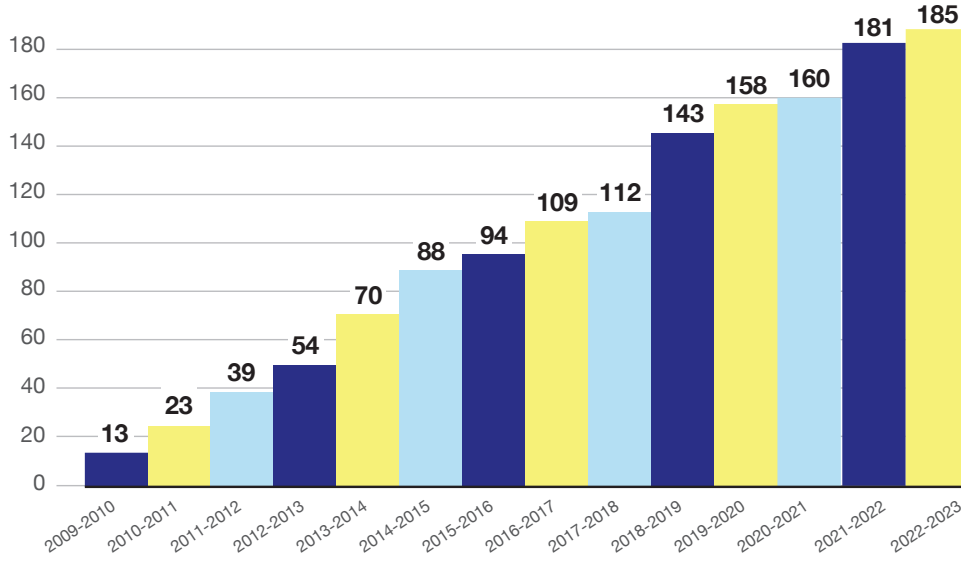


72%

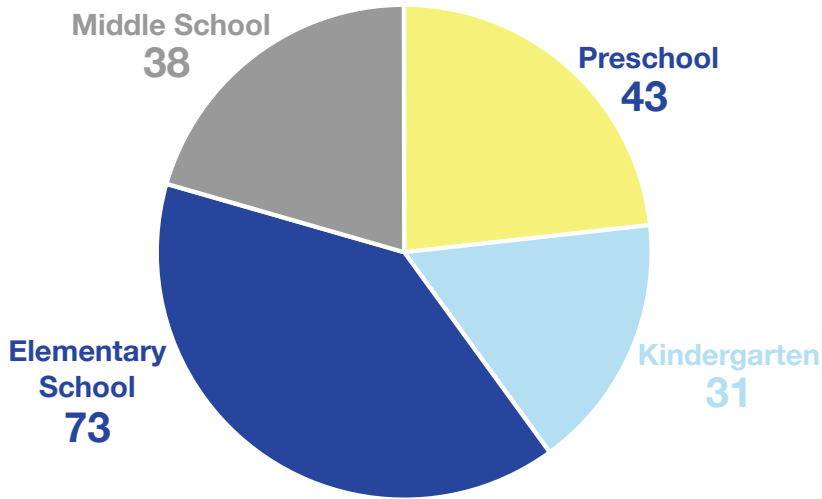
families with parents of mixed nationalities

GISC | OVERALL ENROLLMENT

GISC welcomed 185 students in the 2022-2023 school year.



GISC | 2022-2023 STUDENT BODY



Year-in-Review: **Preschool**



German Language Acquisition

Throughout the school year, we taught students with profound German language skills as well as students with little to no German language skills in our three preschool groups. Thanks to an individualized and nurturing environment, all of our students reached a solid basis of German language acquisition by the end of the school year. Those students advancing to Kindergarten the following school year developed strong German language skills, which serve as a strong foundation for a successful transition.

Through daily circle time activities, our students learned a multitude of social-emotional skills and academic skills such as numeracy and early literacy. By sharing stories, singing songs, playing instruments and games, as well as learning about our IB units, our students practiced and strengthened their German language skills. We witnessed and supported our students becoming confident and brave in sharing their thoughts with the group and performing in front of others.

Community

Year-round, we celebrated many national and international

events and holidays to foster open-mindedness and (inter)cultural awareness. We invited parents and guest speakers into our classrooms to enrich our curriculum and strengthen our sense of community and belonging. We had many celebrations: Halloween, Día de los Muertos, Laternenfest, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Valentine's Day, Fasching/Karneval, Lunar New Year, Grandparents & Special Friends Day as well as our End-of-Year Potluck.

Project-Based Learning

Over the course of the school year, all our students engaged in real-life, sensory-rich, and engaging activities. We allowed our students to discover and become curious about the world around them. During our unit about life cycles, our students found a caterpillar on the playground and decided to name it "Lisa," take it inside their classroom, and



watch it transform. After eight whole months of waiting, the caterpillar finally emerged as a magnificent moth. Our students witnessed first-hand the process of metamorphosis and a life cycle and made meaningful connections. Field Trips to Lincoln Park Zoo and nature preserves further supported our students' curiosity about animals and nature.



Year-in-Review: **Preschool**

Pre-Kindergarten “Maxi” Program

In preschool, our oldest students, the “Maxis,” worked hard to master the various skills that prepare them for entering Kindergarten. As part of their Kindergarten readiness journey, our Maxi students work with their teachers on two key units of study: “Zahlenland” (Land of Numbers) and “Wuppi’s Adventurous Journey through Phonological Awareness.” “Zahlenland” is a program for early childhood math education that offers a holistic approach to introducing mathematical concepts to children through fun activities.



and facilitates increased attention and concentration.

“Wuppi” is a puppet character our students engage with as they are learning. The materials encourage close listening in a playful way, sensitize our students to the structure of the German language, and prepare our students for written language acquisition that will begin in Kindergarten.

As part of celebrating their success and bidding farewell, our Maxis graduated at the end of the school year during

our beloved “Wuppi” graduation ceremony. A certificate and a small farewell gift were handed out to all Maxi students to celebrate this momentous occasion of their learning journey.



Our students enjoyed games in play-based programs such as “The House of Numbers,” which assisted them in learning about numbers and basic concepts of addition and subtraction. These games also provided our students with opportunities to work cooperatively and help each other.

“Wuppi’s Adventurous Journey through Phonological Awareness” takes children on a journey through phonological awareness



Year-in-Review: **The Value of a GISC Education**

Spotlight: GISC Learning in Action Outside the Classroom

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program empowers our students with the skills to be reflective and confident self-learners who proactively look for challenges within and



outside of our curriculum. A great example of their skills in action is the History Fair coordinated by our English Teacher Mr. Rozic. Three of our 7th graders presented the project “On the Frontier of Indigenous Rights” at the Chicago History Fair. They explained how Native American artifacts have been carelessly unearthed and unjustly distributed to educational and cultural institutions, which often present these artifacts in an incomplete or inaccurate historical context. Our students then went on to represent GISC at the Illinois History Day competition and became finalists – an incredible accomplishment!

This endeavor is an excellent example of our students applying the skills and frameworks they learn inside the classroom to an independent project. Leveraging the IB Learner Profile to guide their effort, these students demonstrated their aptitude for many of the 10 IB Attributes that make up this profile, including being risk-takers and principled inquirers who are open-minded thinkers as well as reflective and caring communicators.

Spotlight: Making the World a Better Place

Every year, our students in Grade 4 participate in our annual International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP) Exhibition, which is the final project that concludes their Elementary School journey at GISC. Students selected topics for in-depth study and took actions to support positive change in our community. Thanks to the efforts of one group of students, GISC established a composting program at the school in partnership with WasteNot, a local composting company. In the spirit of the IB, these students educated our community about composting, raised money to help fund the startup of this endeavor, and assumed responsibility for the ongoing success of this initiative at the school.



Spotlight: Opening the Door to New Opportunities

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, we graduated a class of eight students in Grade 8, our largest graduating class to date, and we are pleased to report that all of them were able to move forward on a High School path of their choosing. Five of our students opted to attend our partner school, the Lycée Français de Chicago, one of our students gained admission to the prestigious CPS High School Jones College Prep, one of our students enrolled at the Indiana Boarding School La Lumiere, and one of our students continued his education at the Alexander von Humboldt German School in Mexico City.

When asked about the value of their education at GISC, and what they would take with them as their academic journey continues, they had insightful things to share, in particular, about the value of a bilingual education:

“

I think that the bilingual curriculum has very much enriched my life and made me more comfortable in German-speaking places, and that is why I would consider living in a German-speaking place.

”

“

Bilingualism is very important to me. GISC has been a huge factor in maintaining my German over my seven years in America. I have family and friends in Germany that I stay in contact and speak German with. GISC has helped me develop my English, since I couldn't speak English when I first moved to the U.S. One day, I would like to live in Germany for a short period of time. I love Germany, it's where I'm from.

”

“

Learning both German and English has been a big privilege. At some point in my life, I definitely want to live in Germany, and I actually want to go to Germany for college.

”



Year-in-Review: 2022-2023 Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our school efforts to foster a warm-hearted community where everyone feels welcome. Thanks to their efforts, we can do more and offer more to our families and students, inside and outside of the classroom. We wish to thank all our volunteers for their supportive and outstanding commitment to our school during the 2022-2023 school year.

2022-2023 GISC PARENT GROUP (GPG) LEADERSHIP TEAM

Danielle Anson | Co-Chair

Daniel Sabel | Co-Chair

Katharina Gassmann | Communications Coordinator

2022-2023 ROOM PARENTS

Preschool Eichhörnchen | Vanessa Little and Shameka Mattox

Preschool Igel | Rachel Julis and Elizabeth Kelly

Preschool Schmetterlinge | Sara Baghikar and Fabian Ernemann

Kindergarten Eulen | Sabine Brink and Julie Steffen

Kindergarten Pinguine | Elisa Burcheri and Annkathrin Murray

Grade 1 Adler | Katja Coffey and Sara Parang

Grade 2 | Danielle Anson and Gudrun Kern

Grade 3 | Silke Asendorf and Nathan Chamberlain

Grade 4 | Gretchen Camenzind and Astrid Hesse

Grade 5 | Erica Nathan-Gamauf and Daniel Sabel

Grade 6 | Christine Amberg and Sara Mahon

Grade 7 | Andrea Edeler

Grade 8 | Gilma de Klauss and Halla Wissner



If you would like to learn more about becoming a parent volunteer at GISC, please contact the GISC Parent Group at gpg@germanschoolchicago.com.



Year-in-Review: **2022-2023 Volunteers**

2022-2023 GISC VOLUNTEERS

Christine Amberg

Julia Amplewski

Danielle Anson

Silke Asendorf

Sara Baghikar

Kai Blum

Sabine Brink

Nicola Brocksiepe

Elisa Burcheri

Gretchen Camenzind

Brittany Carroll

Nathan Chamberlain

George Chao

Rae Chhabria

Katja Coffey

Katie Danakis

Gilma de Klauss

Ying Deng

Andrea Edeler

Henrik Eraneva

Fabian Ernemann

Michael Franke

Kurt Gamauf

Katharina Gassmann

Shannon Hajverov

Astrid Hesse

Erika Hutz

Karen Irvine

Rachel Julis

Karin Karl

Sabrina Karras

Antje Kastner-Panya

Elizabeth Kelly

Gudrun Kern

David Kirchenbüchler

Johanna Kraft

Silvia Krehbiel

Liz Lassiter

Vanessa Little

Corinne Louw

Esther Lueck

Sara Mahon

Shameka Mattox

Mike Medsker

Elizabeth Meissner

Katja Müller

Annkathrin Murray

Marsha Nathan

Erica Nathan-Gamauf

Kelsie Ozamiz

Mariam Pahl

Sara Parang

Heather Penzkofer

Jackie Maropoulos

Diana Reyes

Daniel Sabel

Corie Scarpaci-Tutaj

Julie Steffen

Karin Straehl

Jana Thompson

Anke Tucker

Paula Udani

Elisa Vasileiadou

Halla Wissner

Fabienne Zbinden



The Return of the Yearbook!

We would like to extend a special thank you to our newly formed Yearbook Committee, which came together this year to produce a wonderful retrospective of our school year. The 2022-2023 Yearbook was very well received by our entire community, and we are very grateful to the team for all their hard work in producing this special keepsake!

GISC would like to extend a special thank you to **Peter and Kathleen Danakis** for generously underwriting the 2022-2023 GISC Yearbook Project.

2022-2023 Annual Fund: Supporting a Future of Global Opportunities



GISC is grateful to all donors to our 2022-2023 Annual Fund campaign. Funds raised via the Annual Fund campaign support the ongoing financial and operational stability of our school by filling the budget gap that tuition does not cover.

In 2022-2023, our Annual Fund campaign was **Supporting a Future of Global Opportunities**, and showcased the many ways our efforts help us fulfill our mission of providing our students with an education that embraces our 3+1 Core Values of Bilingual Advantage, International Education, Global Opportunity, plus Community.

At GISC, we take pride in offering an academic experience to our students that challenges them to become critical thinkers and embrace a global world view. Our Annual Fund helps pay teacher salaries and secure materials and technological resources to use in the classroom, all of which contribute to our student-centered approach to learning that makes individualized learning and small-group instruction possible. Without these key investments, we would not be able to offer the same quality of our students' educational experience.

By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, our Annual Fund campaign had raised \$111,250 to support our school. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each donor who contributed to this vital effort over the course of the 2022-2023 school year and is making a difference for our students.

“

GISC was the top choice for us because we wanted our children to be able to communicate with their Opa (grandpa) and cousins in Luxembourg. We love that our children are bilingual and the doors that this will open for them in the future. Additionally, the supportive and fun learning environment at GISC means that our children look forward to going to school every day.

—The Dixon Family

”



Thank You to Our 2022-2023 Annual Fund Donors!

GISC LEADERSHIP GUILD

GISC is grateful to all Leadership Guild donors making contributions of \$1,000+

\$10,000+

Jay and Silvia Krehbiel
River City Foundation

\$2,500 - \$9,999

Erica and Matthias Berning
Michael and Jean Franke
Kurt Gamauf and Erica Nathan-Gamauf
Blake Layda and Julie Steffen
Daniel Sabel and Nicola Brocksiepe

\$1,500 - \$2,499

Petra Blix and Benjamin Gruber
George Chao
Daniel Dreger and Isabel Luengo-Lopez
Mike and Sabrina Karras
Joel and Marsha Nathan
Luke Praxmarer
Paul and Anke Tucker

\$1,000 - \$1,499

Anonymous
Heidi Betz Thornton
Thomas and Judy Buck
Peter and Kathleen Danakis
Jerry Darko and Maria Loy
Henrik and Sarka Eraneva
Benjamin Hebebrand and Joy Dawson Hebebrand
Tim and Karin Karl
Marco and Geetha Knauf
Stefan and Denise Meuser
Michael and Mariam Pahl
Timothy and Holly Thompson
Johan Tromp and Jeanne Thibadeau Tromp
Monika Tyrichtrova

FRIENDS OF GISG

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Alliant Credit Union
Martin Bodewig and Diana Reyes
Alejandro Canete and Gudrun Kern
Jon and Amanda Ebner
Andre Fiebig and Tricia Van Eck
James and Kirsten Greco
Dominik and Shannon Hajverov
Annegret Harnischfeger
Ulf Hennig and Randall Hopkins
Jan Henrich and Pam Supanwanid Henrich
Jones Lang LaSalle
Pfizer Foundation
Bryan Rahning
SAP
Jim and Darlene Schweitzer
William and Jana Thompson
Anthony Tutaj and Corinne Scarpaci-Tutaj
Ankur and Paula Udani
Anja Weissgerber

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Abel Family Fund
James and Jean Bindenagel
Julian and Tatiana Dixon
Matthias Doepke and Marisa Ross-Doepke
Mathis Klauss and Gilma de Klauss
Lloyd and Suanne Lassiter
Brett and Sara Mahon
Paul and Jane Park
Peter and Rosemary Prommer
Stephan Schuele and Adriana Bermeo Ovalle
Ute Tegtmeyer and Jorge Barron
Tanya Valencia and Denis Halilovic
Moritz and Saskia von Gemmingen

\$1 - \$249

Anonymous
Matthias and Christine Amberg
Steven and Danielle Anson

Joseph Arabasz, MD
Karl and Silke Asendorf
Carola E. Behringer
Abdelmoutaleb and Claudia Benabdallah
Gisela Blumeneau
Reik and Stefanie Boerger
Tobias and Haidee Brühl
Patrick Buck and Gwendolyn Simoy
Alois and Gretchen Camenzind
Siddharth and Rachael Chhabria
Michael Collart and Rachel Julis
Ingeborg Davis
Leonard Dedo
Sanjay Dharmapuri and Astrid Hesse
Matthieu Ebert and Verena Schlubach
Laura Eddebüttel
Stephan and Christiane Eirich
Michael Fassnacht and Rhonda Duffaut
Christine Fotteler
Evan Giannoulis and Matina Pilati
Adam Herndon and Megan Burke
Greg and Laura Horn
JPMorgan Chase
Stefan Karner
David and Inka Kirchenbüchler
Darin and Elke Knupp
Birgit Kobayashi
Stephen Koernig
Florian and Johanna Kraft
Martin Linck and Phoebe Ezidinma
Rafael and Ia Lubera
Sonja Manhart
Mike Medsker and Katharina Gassmann
Daniel Mehalek
Mattias Moser and Ying Deng
Omid and Judy Nohadani
Kerilyn O'Donnell and Cornelia Louw
Farzin and Sara Parang
Danica Polanski
Brian and Vera Pollina
Philipp and Julia Roth
Marvin Schaffer and Karolin Gorais
Nils Schneider and Monica Garces-Schneider
Joachim Schuessler and Karen Irvine
David Signer and Katja Müller
Gaitri Singh
Starr Snead
Thomas Stringer and Angela Ewald
UBS
Charles Wintersteen
Erik and Halla Wissner

GISC 2023 Gala

It Was the GISC Gala Guests at the Stan Mansion with the Hearts of Gold!

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, suspects and supporters of all sorts convened at the Stan Mansion for the 2023 GISC Gala: **Whodunit? An Evening of Campy Mystery**, our celebration of all things related to the popular board game (and 80s cult movie classic) *Clue*.

Guests enjoyed dressing up as their favorite *Clue* characters and taking fun photos together during the opening reception while sipping Colonel Mustard Sours and Professor Plum & Tonics before heading upstairs to the ballroom for a seated dinner program and a dance party hosted by DJ Don. Thanks to the excitement built by our Auctioneer Greg G-Man Dellinger and the generosity of our guests, we hosted our most successful Gala to date, raising over \$290,000 to support our school.



GISC 2023 Gala

Our Presenting Sponsor HARIBO of America even got in on the fun, featuring a mystery-solving Goldbear in their program ad and providing complimentary bags of always-popular Gummibären for our guests as well as a popular basket of HARIBO goodies for our Silent Auction. GISC is very grateful to HARIBO for its generous support of our 2023 Gala, which elevated our evening and made it extra fun for everyone attending.

Our school thrives because of the generosity and enthusiasm of our entire community. Whether you served on the 2023 Gala Committee, attended the Gala, sponsored the evening, supported the paddle raise project, bid on an auction item, or donated in lieu of participating, we thank you for your kind and thoughtful investment in our school and our students.



GISC 2023 Gala Sponsors



We would like to thank all our 2023 Gala sponsors for their generous support of our evening!

2023 GALA PRESENTING SPONSOR



2023 GALA AUCTION SPONSOR

HINDMAN

2023 MYSTERY MASTER SPONSORS



2023 SUPER SLEUTH SPONSORS

Michael and Jean Frank



Quarles

Rödl & Partner

2023 INVESTIGATOR SPONSORS



GISC 2023 Gala

Gala Silent Auction Item Donors



We would like to thank all the companies and individuals who generously donated to our Silent Auction and helped to make it the most successful one yet!

Abt Electronics	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Jerry Darko and Maria Loy	RAYGUN
ABUS	Chicago Wolves	John and Damir Donlon	Sackcloth & Ashes
Access Contemporary Music	City Mini Golf	JoJo's ShakeBAR	Santa's Village Amusement Park
Alabama Sawyer	ClimbZone Chicago	Judson & Moore	Scott and Jamie Carpenter
Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee	Columbia Yacht Club	Karin and Tim Karl	Skydeck Chicago
American Youth Soccer Organization	Dagne Dover	Katie and Pete Danakis	Solidcore Boystown
Ankur and Paula Udani	David and Yanyue Marden	Kelly Lusson and Martin Piplits	SOUNDOFF
Arthur Murray Lakeview Dance Center	Diana Reyes	Kneipp	Steve and Danielle Anson
Augusta Food & Wine	Elisa and Joachim Burcheri	Koval Distillery	Storck USA, L.P.
Aveda Institute	Field Museum	Laudi Vidni	Tennis on the Lake
Bark Box	First Ascent Climbing & Fitness	Lo & Sons	The Bunny Hutch
Barratt Riley & Co	Fissler America Inc.	Lock Chicago Escape Rooms	The Driskill
Barton Spring Mills	Float Sixty Infrared Sauna/ Cryotherapy	Love, Charlie	The Globe Pub
Beam Suntory	FS Objects by Fort Standard	LYRIQ Music School	The Little Gym of Chicago
Begyle Brewing	Gather	m.henry	Thousand Waves Martial Arts & Self Defense Center
Blake Layda and Julie Steffen	Gearhead Outfitters	Marco Leonardi	Tom and Katja Coffey
„OKA Restaurant Group	Gethsemane Garden Center	Mariam and Michael Pahl	Uchi Restaurant
Borussia Dortmund	Goldfish Swim School Wicker Park	Matina Pilati and Evan Giannoulis	Vase & Vessel
Building Blocks Toy Store	Gus Original Gus Giordano Dance School	Mattias Moser and Ying Deng	Wherewithal Restaurant
Cafe Katja	Hand & Stone Lakeview LLC	Milwaukee Art Museum	Wildwood Photography
Chicago Architecture Center	Happy Days Resort	Modernist Pantry, LLC	William and Vicki Johnson
Chicago Athletic Clubs	HARIBO of America	Namaskar Yoga	Zanies Comedy Club
Chicago Fire Football Club	Heidi Betz Thornton	Nemat International	
Chicago Red Stars	Jacoby Martial Arts	Orangetheory Fitness - Lincoln Square	
Chicago River Canoe & Kayak	Jane Park	Play Toys & Games	
	Janie's Mill	Pure Barre Lakeview	



2023 Gala Paddle Raise Project: A Campus Transformation



Thanks to the generosity of our donors during the 2023 Gala Paddle Raise, over the summer of 2023 we were able to transform an under-utilized area of our campus into a fully functional Outdoor Recreation Area. For years, our back parking lot area was both a neighborhood eyesore and a space that couldn't be fully leveraged by the school to benefit our community. With our community's support, we were able to fully renovate this area into a functional space with improved curb appeal by installing a sports court area for our students to use both for recreation and physical education classes; creating a permanent outdoor dining space allowing for flexible bike and off-street parking; and sprucing up the lot with a new fence and landscaping.

This project happened in phases between June and September 2023, and started with removing the chain-link fencing and the cracked asphalt. Once the asphalt was removed, we were able to make the subterranean plumbing repairs necessary to address before repaving the area. After these tasks were taken care of, we were able to install the new fencing to surround the outdoor space and proceed with putting down the new asphalt.





Once the asphalt went down, it needed a few weeks to weather before we could proceed with the next step of painting the sports court area and installing the all-weather outdoor picnic tables. We finished up by putting in new landscaping along the street fence to add a more environmentally friendly element to the campus and installing newer storage units that provide much-needed additional storage space for our school. In addition to these improvements, we were also able to provide ample bike parking, an amenity we are pleased to offer to better serve our community.

We would like to extend a thank you to our Director of Building Operations Stephen Waguespack, who led this project from start to finish and ensured

all deliverables were in place in time for the start of our 2023-2024 school year. And once again, we extend a sincere thank you to the generous donors who were instrumental in bringing this project to life.



GISC 2023 Gala Donors

GISC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the individual donors supporting the 2023 Gala:

Anonymous	David Ferdman and Sara Baghikar	Stefan and Verena Maurer	Martin and Vijaya Schnatterbeck
Matthias and Christine Amberg	Andre Fiebig and Tricia Van Eck	Mike Medsker and Katharina Gassmann	Nils Schneider and Monica Garces-Schneider
Steven and Danielle Anson	Gilead Fishel and Jen Nuestro	Daniel Mehalek	Sven Schoeller and Isabel Cristina Fuga-Schoeller
Karl and Silke Asendorf	Michael and Jean Franke	Marius Meissner and Elizabeth Alves Meissner	Joachim Schuessler and Karen Irvine
Hildegard Baxpehler	Kurt Gamauf and Erica Nathan-Gamauf	Damir and Vesna Mitrovic	Joe Schulte
Adrian Bennett and Janet Myers	Adelheid Gamauf	Claudio and Marta Montoya	David Signer and Katja Müller
Heidi Betz Thornton	Evan Giannoulis and Matina Pilati	Mattias Moser and Ying Deng	Jaclyn Stacy
Wolfgang Bientzle and Christian Ochsner	Garrett and Louise Glaser	Alfred Mueller	Andrew Staley and Katharina Koch Staley
Petra Blix and Benjamin Gruber	Erika and Dietrich Gross	Michaela Muresan	Veronika Steingraber
Martin Bodewig and Diana Reyes	Ernst and Ute Häberli	Joel and Marsha Nathan	Kathleen Stevens
Reik and Stefanie Boerger	Dominik and Shannon Hajverov	Lenz and Eva Neuhauser	Philip and Karin Straehl
Dan Brant	Annegret Harnischfeger	Jeffrey Nyman	Thomas Stringer and Angela Ewald
Patrick Buck and Gwendolyn Simoy	Benjamin Hebebrand and Joy Dawson Hebebrand	Brigitte and Josef Oberholzer	Ute Tegtmeyer and Jorge Barron
Joachim and Elisa Burcheri	Ulf Hennig and Randall Hopkins	Petra and Gerald Obritzberger	William and Jana Thompson
Alois and Gretchen Camenzind	John-Charles and Maria Hesser	Tess Okura	Timothy and Holly Thompson
Alejandro Canete and Gudrun Kern	Greg and Laura Horn	Edward and Alexandra O'Toole	Mark and Jennifer Tomkins
Scott and Jamie Carpenter	Illinois Tool Works	Chris Bono and Virginie Ott-Bono	Aaron Toussaint and Sabine Brink
Todd and Brittany Carroll	Tim and Karin Karl	Kelsie Ozamiz and Christian Kunz	Jason Tremblay
Grant and Emily Cavanaugh	Mike and Sabrina Karras	Michael and Mariam Pahl	Karola Trockenbrodt
Nathan and Leslie Chamberlain	Julie Katz	Amavong Panya and Antje Kastner-Panya	Paul and Anke Tucker
George Chao	Cristian and Elizabeth Kelly	Farzin and Sara Parang	Anthony Tutaj and Corinne Scarpaci-Tutaj
Siddharth and Rachael Chhabria	Dave and Annemarie Kinahan	Paul and Jane Park	Monika Tyrichtrova
Andrea Christen and Fabienne Zbinden	David and Inka Kirchenbüchler	Florian and Heather Penzkofer	Ankur and Paula Udani
Richard Clark	Wiley Kite and Tim Kendrick	Pfizer Foundation	Tanya Valencia and Denis Halilovic
Tom and Andrea Coffey	Mathis Klaus and Gilma de Klaus	Martin Piplits and Kelly Lusson	Eric Veteau
Computer Drive	Marco and Geetha Knauf	Brian and Vera Pollina	Philipp and Anna Von Dreusche
Peter and Kathleen Danakis	Florian and Johanna Kraft	Kyle and Elizabeth Porter	Moritz and Saskia von Gemmingen
Jerry Darko and Maria Loy	Jay and Silvia Krehbiel	Luke Praxmarer	Dustin Warner and Erika Hutz
Ingeborg Davis	Blake Layda and Julie Steffen	Bryan Rahning	Beatrice Weiss
Sanjay Dharmapuri and Astrid Hesse	Martin Linck and Phoebe Ezidinma	Stephane and Maria Regnier	Matthew and Molly Winter
Julian and Tatiana Dixon	Doug Lindsay and Andrea Stanek	Iris Reissenberger	Charles Wintersteen
Meghan Dolan	Richard and Vanessa Little	Alex Rifman and Jennifer Tveiten Rifman	Erik and Halla Wissner
Damir and John Donlon	Rafael and Ia Lubera	Philipp and Julia Roth	Sara Wohlleb
Laura Eddebüttel	Wolfgang and Esther Lueck	Daniel Sabel and Nicola Brocksiepe	Anita and Isshi Yamada
Stephan and Christiane Eirich	Brett and Sara Mahon	Karl and Christel Schmidt	
Henrik and Sarka Eraneva	Sonja Manhart	Brent Schmitt and Lorena Guzman Schmitt	
Fabian Ernemann and Elizabeth Clark	Jacob and Shameka Mattox		

GISC 2023 Gala

A Final Note of Thanks

The Gala does not come together without the hard work of many people. Every year, we are able to put on a fun and successful event thanks to the engagement of a volunteer team led by our Development office. We wish to thank all our volunteers who turned up on Saturday morning to help decorate, as well as the GISC faculty and staff who joined us that evening and helped at the event, and we would like to extend an extra special thank you to the 2023 Gala Steering Committee, which worked tirelessly to ensure our evening was extra special, extra fun, and extra successful!



Mariam Pahl | Development Committee Co-Chair, GISC Board of Trustees

Karin Karl | GISC Board of Trustees, GISC Parent

Julia Amplewski | GISC Teacher, Grades 5+6, Head of STEM Department

Gretchen Camenzind | GISC Parent

Rae Chhabria | GISC Parent

Ying Deng | GISC Parent

Gilma de Klauss | GISC Parent

Vanessa Little | GISC Parent

Sara Mahon | GISC Parent

Jackie Maropoulos | GISC Parent

Kelsie Ozamiz | Volunteer, DemoDuck.com

Heather Penzkofer | GISC Parent

Jaelyn Stacy | GISC Director of Development

Elisa Vasileiadou | GISC Teacher, Grade 4

Halla Wissner | GISC Parent



2022-2023 Special Project Supporters

GISC would like to thank the following donors for their special contributions during the 2022-2023 school year:

German Language Instruction Project

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago

Corporate Charitable Giving Programs

Amazon Smile

Box Tops for Education

2022 Laternenfest & St. Martin's Parade

GISC would like to thank the following sponsors and donors for their support of our 2022 Laternenfest & St. Martin's Parade:

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago

Gene's Sausage Shop & Delicatessen

2022 Oktoberfest

GISC would like to thank the following sponsors and donors for their support of our 2022 Oktoberfest festivities:

Begyle Brewery

The Gamauf Family

Mrs. Mariam Pahl

Stiglmeier Sausages

GISC Matching Gift Companies

GISC would like to thank the following companies for matching the donations made by their employees to GISC during the 2022-2023 school year:

AbbVie Laboratories

Alliant Credit Union

Archer Daniels Midland

Illinois Tool Works

Jones Lang LaSalle

JPMorgan Chase

Lenovo

Pfizer Foundation

Salesforce.com, Inc.

SAP

UBS

In-Kind Donations

GISC wishes to extend a special thank you to donors of in-kind services and items over the course of the 2022-2023 school year:

The Anson Family

Karl and Silke Asendorf

Jorge Barron and Ute Tegtmeyer

Carola Behringer

Sabine Brink

Sabine Brink

Nicola Brocksiepe and Daniel Sabel

The Buck Family

Elizabeth Clark

Ying Deng and Mattias Moser

Damir and John Donlon

Rebecca Jones

Karin Karl

Stefan Karner

The Kement family

Katharina Koch

Mark Loewen and Family

Sonja Manhart

Jaclyn Maropoulos

Patrick McNulty

Victoria and Alex Morbe

Mariam Pahl

Stefanie Piechulla

Danica Polanski

Mia Struck

Kim Tranchita

Saskia Von Gemmingen

The Walton Family

The Warner Family

Tech Support



64 Chromebooks



82 iPads



15 Promethean Boards

We purchased many of these new devices with grants that were administered through the Illinois State Board of Education. These grants were provided to non-public schools like GISC due to the COVID-19 pandemic and used to support social-emotional and academic recovery. They helped with the purchase of equipment and materials such as desks and furniture, upgrading educational technology and other materials, and supplies or equipment recommended by the CDC for reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain health and safety. GISC is very grateful for this additional support to navigate a challenging time.

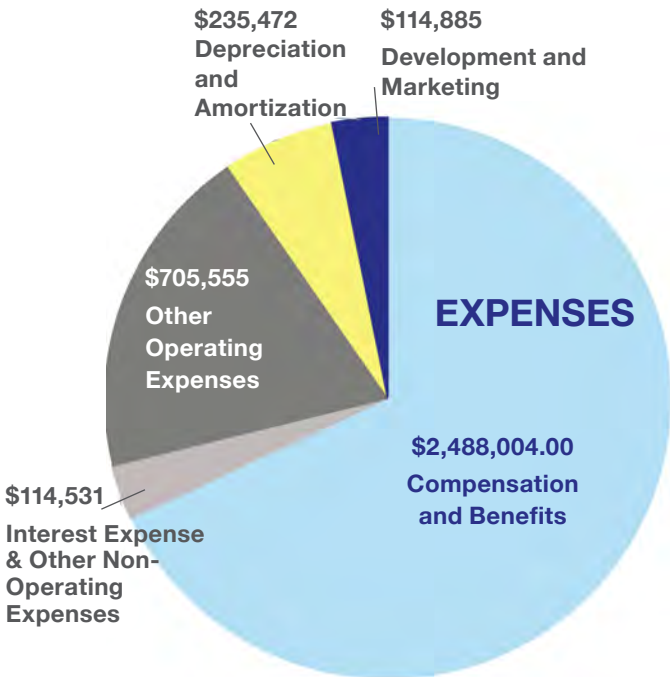
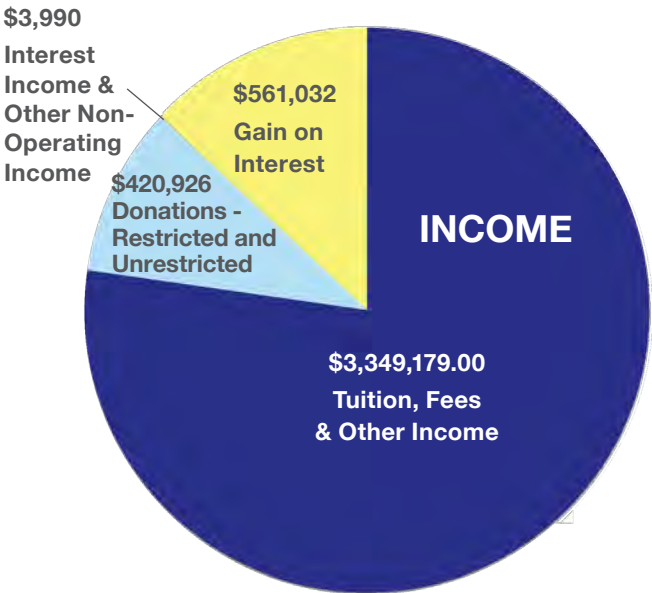
2022-2023 Financial Summary

US \$	
INCOME	
Tuition, Fees & Other Income	\$3,349,179
Donations – Restricted & Unrestricted	\$420,926
Interest Income & Other Non-Operating Income	\$3,990
Gain on Interest Rate Swap Market Adjustment*	\$561,032
Total Income	\$4,335,127
EXPENSES	
Compensation and Benefits	\$2,488,004
Development and Marketing	\$114,885
Other Operating Expenses	\$705,555
Depreciation and Amortization	\$235,472
Interest Expense & Other Non-Operating Expenses	\$114,531
Total Expenses	\$3,658,447
Increase in Net Assets	\$6776,680
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$5,037,855
Net Assets, End of Year	\$5,714,535

Financials audited by J.S. Richter, Ltd.

*Auditing (paper entry) adjustment, based on favorable interest rate in high-interest environment. Will not be realized as cash revenue.

The complete, audited Financial Report is available upon request.





German International School Chicago

1726 W Berteau Ave
Chicago, IL 60613
773-857-3000
www.germanschoolchicago.com

Follow Us Online!

 Facebook:
[@GISChicago](https://www.facebook.com/GISChicago)

 Twitter:
[@GISChicago](https://twitter.com/GISChicago)

 Instagram
[@germanintlschoolchicago](https://www.instagram.com/germanintlschoolchicago)

 LinkedIn
[@German International School Chicago](https://www.linkedin.com/company/German%20International%20School%20Chicago)