

annual report 2024



the
dewey
school





A Year of Growth and Gratitude

Dear Friends of The Dewey School,

It is always surprising to realize that another year has passed. It is equally delightful to celebrate another very successful year at The Dewey School and to rest assured that our school is in a strong position to continue offering our wonderful outdoor-based programs. We continue to benefit from our amazing staff of teachers, and we are in great hands with our Executive Director, Alexis Matthews-Cheney. The dedication and above-and-beyond efforts of our director, teachers, parents, and community are truly humbling.

While challenges are bound to arise from time to time, post-COVID, The Dewey School has flourished. We continue to operate at full enrollment levels and, year after year, maintain a long waiting list. Our philosophy and programs are highly coveted, and as our history grows, we continue to refine and expand the student and family experience.

It is remarkable to think that some of the students who attended The Dewey School during its inaugural year are now in fifth grade! My son, Finn, who attended Dewey that year, still remembers fondly his days of hiking, playing outside, and learning from our accomplished staff of teachers.

Our financial position is solid, and we have managed to avoid major setbacks over the past few years. That said, the future always brings some level of uncertainty. We are confident in our direction, but fundraising will continue to be both our focus and our greatest challenge. Many thanks to our Board and to all our donors for their generosity and commitment.

I would also like to extend special thanks to Erin Hammersted, Executive Director at Shaker Village, who has been a great supporter of our school and has helped strengthen our partnership—a relationship I look forward to growing in the years ahead.

It is an honor to continue serving The Dewey School and to provide whatever support I can to our Executive Director, teachers, families, and community.

Sincerely,

James Marino

Board Chair, The Dewey School

Executive summary

Alexis Matthews-Cheney

The year 2024-2025 was marked by growth, innovation, and community engagement at The Dewey School. Recognizing the integral role families play in early childhood education, the preschool worked to foster stronger, more collaborative relationships with parents and guardians, creating a supportive community for children's growth. With an increase in capacity to accommodate more children the focus was to maintain the quality of education and care that The Dewey School is known for. By investing in innovative teaching methods and enriching learning environments, the intention to not only grow in size but also in the depth of its educational impact in nature-based, child-led play fostering children's development, connecting them with nature while promoting holistic growth. Overall, cultivating environmentally conscious individuals ready for lifelong learning and adaptation. Emphasizing open communication and engagement with families and aligning needs and expectations of the community, ultimately enhancing the educational journey for every child enrolled.

"I love the teachers and how easy they are to talk to. The Dewey School is the best preschool/preK option out there. Thanks for existing when we desperately needed it!!"

-Lemay Family



Revenue & Expenditures

Tuition is 75% of the annual revenue with grants and fundraising at 20%. Grants and fundraising provide financial resources strengthening programming, building relationships and credibility with the goal to create long term credibility. With the long-term goal is to increase the grant and fundraising revenue by a minimum of 10%.

For the 2024 the largest portion of spending was operational expenditures, including salaries and payroll taxes 69% of the annual expenses. We also had variable costs related to building repairs in the amount of \$15,299. Overall expenses increased 15% of the projected budget due to specific grant expenses.

The Dewey School, Inc.
As of June 30, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	AS OF JUNE 30, 2025	AS OF JUNE 30, 2024 (CUSTOM)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Cash & Equivalents		
1120 Operating Checking	145,088.65	134,760.82
1130 Petty Cash	58.62	58.62
1140 Restricted Grants Account	24,423.76	5,189.55
Total for Cash & Equivalents	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99
Total for Bank Accounts	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99
Accounts Receivable		
Other Current Assets		
Total for Current Assets	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99
Fixed Assets		
Other Assets		
Total for Assets	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Equity		
3200 With Donor Restrictions - Net Assets	40,744.44	40,744.44
32000 Unrestricted Net Equity	99,264.55	82,410.51
Net Income	29,562.04	16,854.04
Total for Equity	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$169,571.03	\$140,008.99

MY EXPENSES

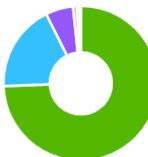
Total
\$252,097



- 6110 Salaries and Wages Teachers
- 6102 Salaries & Wages - ED
- 6410 Facilities Rent
- 6450 Building Repairs
- 6120 Payroll Taxes

MY INCOME

Total
\$281,659



- 4101 Tuition
- 4400 Grants
- 4300 Summer Camp
- 4525 Fundraisers #5 Fairy Festival
- 4540 Fundraiser #3 - NH Gives



Thank you

On behalf of the Board of Directors at The Dewey School, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation and the invaluable time you have dedicated to supporting our mission. Your commitment to our cause is truly inspiring and has a profound impact on the work we do every day.

Your contributions not only help us achieve our goals, but they also inspire others in our community to get involved and make a difference. We are incredibly fortunate to have supporters like you who believe in our vision and are willing to invest in a brighter future for all.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We look forward to continuing this journey together and making a difference in early childhood education.

“Give with confidence. The Dewey School is a registered 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.”

<https://donorbox.org/contribute-to-dewey>

Board of Directors

James Marino, chairman

William Tappan, treasurer

Cheryl Newcombe, development committee

Susan Holden Martin, development committee

Carol Stone, development committee



As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all donations are tax-deductible, ensuring your support directly benefits the children we serve while also providing potential tax savings for you. Our EIN is 83-0703154.

Looking Ahead: rooted in nature, Growing together

As we look toward 2025, The Dewey School remains guided by the same belief that has shaped us since our founding. Children thrive when they learn through curiosity, movement, and connection with the natural world. We are excited to continue strengthening our programs, deepening community partnerships, and creating more opportunities for joyful discoveries.

Three focus areas of 2025



We plan to enhance our garden spaces incorporating hands-on environmental stewardship, enhancing children's understanding of sustainability, and fostering a love for nature. By planting gardens, composting, and discussing food origins, teaching healthy eating and environmental responsibility.



Our collaboration with Shaker Village continues to flourish. In 2025, we'll share more field experiences and community events to connect families and local community members through nature-based learning.



Developing a volunteer and mentorship program will significantly enhance knowledge through hands-on learning, benefiting mentors, teachers, and children. The program will create a dynamic learning environment that encourages curiosity and innovation. Collaborative projects will foster continuous improvement, growth, and reinforce the value of experiential learning.

Your Support Makes It Possible

Every donation-large or small-helps us provide outdoor learning experiences that shape confident, curious, and compassionate learners.

