

2022 Annual Report



Serving Sacramento County since 1999



GOLDEN VALLEY
CHARTER SCHOOLS

TK-8 Tuition-Free Public Waldorf Schools



OUR VISION

Expanding access for children and families to a community of public Waldorf Schools.



OUR MISSION

We nurture a passion for learning through head, heart and hands experiences which prepare students to engage in a dynamic world.

Golden Valley Charter Schools is a Charter Management Organization and is a 501(c)(3). We have implemented a new Strategic Plan to honor the values and intent of our community and the Waldorf educational philosophy. We are a vibrant learning community of forward thinkers, open and enthusiastically moving toward a better future for public charter schools.

Our vision paints a clear and compelling future we are excited to create together. It illustrates what we will look like when we arrive in 2030. We recognize our role as a leader, among a growing number of others who are courageously pioneering innovative educational choices. We strive to create broader community access to public Waldorf education through leadership of charter schools, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to our core identity as public Waldorf charter schools.



First graders form a circle for Day of Courage

A Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This annual report reflects our accountability to our community in exchange for all of your support of our schools. We receive generous donations from the Golden Valley Educational Foundation and public funds from California. This year we entered the Title 1 program and increased the amount of federal funds that support our students. After a pandemic that closed our schools temporarily, our goal for this past year was to offer a full program for 175 days, which we accomplished. By the end of the year we had many transitions with new board members joining us, some employee retirements, and a new set of state mandates. In March, we made the difficult decision to close the Golden Valley Tahoe School due to lack of teacher, parent, and local planning support.

At the River and Orchard Schools, with your generous support, today we offer fully funded Waldorf Teacher Training for all interested teachers. We also offer no cost before and after school care for all students. Most significantly, we now have no cost meals for breakfast and lunch for all students. For the first time, in 2022-23, we will offer a no cost summer enrichment program for all enrolled students. This is only possible because of all the hard work you see in this annual report and because those of you who are reading this report have chosen to make Golden Valley the recipient of your donations and volunteerism.

Thank you for making 2021-22 the successful foundation that will elevate our children in the coming year. At the end of this report, you will also see a summary of our new Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Caleb J. Buckley, EdD
Executive Director, Golden Valley Charter Schools

Our 21-22 LEADERSHIP TEAM



Devin Lombardi
Director of Education Support



Becky Page
Orchard School Principal



Barbara Ames
River School Principal



Jennifer Hoover
Accountability & Compliance Manager



Barbara Linares
Tahoe School Principal





The Board started their work early in August with a Special Meeting

to address the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and approve an updated safety plan, with our goal to provide full in-person instruction to all of our students. A week later, our Sacramento campuses opened, and we joyfully began to reinstitute sustaining rhythms in our community.

We celebrated being back together as a community while navigating the additional concerns that came with it, including education losses, social and emotional challenges, staff shortages, and funding gaps. The Board spent the year navigating severe challenges to the academic landscape that had dramatic effects on enrollment, attendance, and subsequent funding. We leaned heavily on training, support, and creating structures to sustain our students and staff. Out of these crises, new and innovative education plans and funding sources were explored and established, including Federal and State programs.

Toward the end of the school year, the Board also made the decision to reinstate our business management relationship with Charter School Management Corporation (CSMC). We revisited and developed an updated Strategic Plan for Golden Valley that addresses some of the vulnerabilities of our institutions, compounded by the pandemic. As we closed out the year, the fiscal picture for the remaining Golden Valley Schools was uncertain, as the State Legislature attempted to support and fund public schools and address the many issues left in the wake of the pandemic. The year ended with updated budget plans for sustaining the fiscal health of the remaining schools, regardless of the legislative funding outcomes.

After 4 years as Board Chair, Heather Fraser Hurtt ended her term with gratitude and handed the gavel to the Vice Chair, Jennifer Huetter.

2021-22 BOARD MEMBERS

- Heather Fraser Hurtt
Board Chair, River School
- Jennifer Huetter
Vice Chair, Orchard School
- Brittany Kilby
Secretary, River School
- Stephen Quadro
Board Member, Orchard School
- Ekaterina Khmelniker
Board Member, River School
- Suzanne Dick
Board Member, Orchard School
- Tim Madams
Board Member, River School
- Katie Gerski-Keller
Board Member, River School



2nd Grade art for MLK day



Chalkboard art by Ryan Sutton

THANK YOU

to our outgoing
River School Principal,
Barbara Ames



WELCOME

to our incoming
River School Principal,
Ryan Sutton



GOLDEN VALLEY RIVER SCHOOL

It was a year of
continued transition,
perseverance, and
gratitude for our
River community.

We were so thankful to start our year in-person. Although we were all in masks, we learned how to see smiling eyes, and were so grateful to be face-to-face once again. Slowly, we began to re-engage with our greater community and revive traditions that had been lost to the pandemic. Friday Gatherings, Day of Courage, class plays, Eagle

Chase, Holiday Sing-Along, and May Day all made a joyous return, even if in a modified capacity. It was also a big transition in leadership at River, as we bade farewell to Barbara Ames, our beloved principal of the past five years and announced Ryan Sutton as the River School principal for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Sutton has been a class teacher at Golden Valley for the past 14 years and greatly looks forward to the new challenge ahead.



GOLDEN VALLEY TAHOE SCHOOL

The Tahoe School
was not immune
to many of the
challenges presented
in the 2021-22
school year.

Concerns regarding funding, site, enrollment, staffing, and community support reached a crucial point in March. After months of working with the community, including stakeholder meetings, two town halls, and several board meetings addressing funding, the Board held a Public Hearing regarding the status and future of the Golden Valley Tahoe School, to determine the fiscal viability of this school. It was

sadly determined that in light of the bleak fiscal deficits, the Board had to uphold their fiduciary duty and close the school.



GOLDEN VALLEY
ORCHARD SCHOOL

The school year began with joy and delight as we returned to school in person after a year of distance and hybrid learning.

Orchard adapted to the new normal of cohorts and masking while keeping our Waldorf traditions alive. With diligence, we resumed our weekly, yearly, and seasonal events using creativity to gather as a school whenever possible. We embraced our time outdoors, where masks were not needed, utilizing the

beautiful outdoor spaces for eating, assemblies, nature walks, and outdoor educational experiences. Events such as Courage Day, Eagle Chase, Lantern Walk, class plays, and Friday Gatherings were held in-house, and while we deeply missed the greater community, we were simply thrilled to be able to be together for our normal day and events. As restrictions were slowly lifted, we gratefully welcomed volunteers and prepared for when we could all be together. The day finally came and we celebrated our May Festival with reverence and unity with the entire community able to attend. While this year presented challenges left over from the previous two years, we used our perseverance, diligence, and fortitude to persevere and grow stronger.

DEI

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee comprises faculty, staff and families working collaboratively to advocate, educate and support inclusiveness in our community.

We encourage opportunities for students, staff, and faculty to grow in their own understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion. We actively promote equality of representation in the school and curriculum. We take a stand against discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice. We offer opportunities and safety for all.

2021/22 school year
DEI Committee projects

- Created a team mission statement, and developed and obtained Board approval of a Golden Valley Charter Schools Resolution in Support of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for all
- Engaged with school newsletters, adding content and a Cultural Calendar from Seramount, and fostering cultural sharings from community members
- Completed the first GVCS DEI Community Survey and shared analysis of the results with our school communities
- Initiated a group Journey Mapping exercise to identify opportunities and needs as we work to grow diversity in our communities.



8th grade German Language Competition participants



ChalkItUp! Sacramento Festival art by Alumnus, Harrison Holt

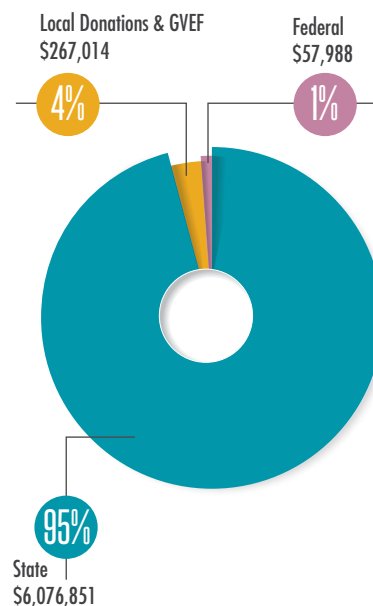


GOLDEN VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Golden Valley ended the fiscal year with just over a million dollars in reserve.

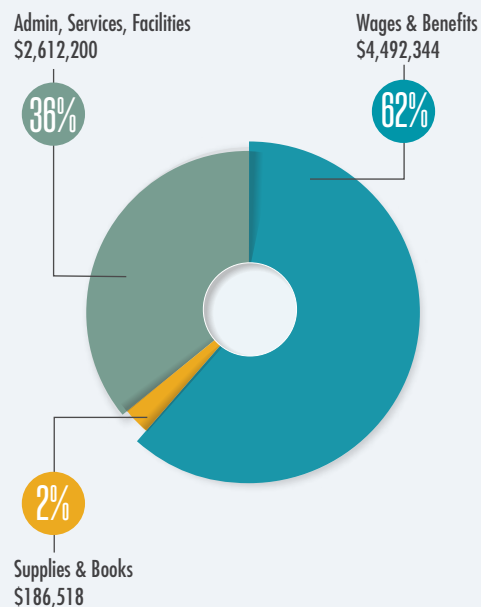
While our operating deficit was over \$800,000, the fiscal health of the organization withstood everything the pandemic could throw at it. 36% of our expenses were on "costs of doing business" such as facility rentals (over \$600,000) and the expenses of the charter management administration. Our highest expenditure is our teachers and aides along with their benefits which comprises \$4.5 million. Students received \$186,000 in books and supplies during the year. Overall attendance and enrollment was lower in 2021-22. The fiscal year closed with a very large surplus in California revenues, including some funding to offset the dip in state revenues from 2021-22. Federal Revenues were under \$60,000 but GVCS joined the Title 1 program and initiated more federal dollars for future programs. With generous donations from the Golden Valley Educational Foundation, and support through the Annual Giving Campaign, GVCS had a strong program and maintained the stability in resources needed.

Revenue	
State	\$6,076,851
Local Donations & GVEF	\$267,014
Federal	\$57,988
Total	\$6,401,853



Net Income \$6,401,853 | Total Reserves \$1,025,080

Expenses	
Wages & Benefits	\$4,492,344
Supplies & Books	\$186,518
Admin, Services, Facilities	\$2,612,200
Total	\$7,291,062





Alumnus, Israel Gephart, created this art piece in Eighth Grade

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Annual Giving Campaign

The Annual Giving Campaign is a way for families of enrolled students to financially support high-quality school supplies, excellence of educational programming—such as music, art, and practical arts— and Waldorf training for our teachers and staff. State funding is lower than our operational cost and this campaign helps supplement our budget. Unlike district public schools, we pay rent for our facilities. Monthly and annual contributions from our families raised \$125,655 for Orchard and River Schools and \$61,000 for the Tahoe school in 2021-2022. Thank you to everyone who supported and continues to support our Annual Giving Campaign. Your contributions assist in our vision of expanding access for children and families to a community of Waldorf schools.

Net Funds Raised \$125,655

Donate Today 



GOLDEN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Fireworks Booth

The annual fireworks booth continued to be a stellar fundraiser for the Golden Valley Educational Foundation (GVEF). For seven days leading up to Independence Day, we are given unparalleled public outreach to raise funds beyond our close-knit community and to promote public Waldorf education in the process. By implementing key cost-saving measures, we raised a phenomenal \$46,927 for our schools, mirroring last year's solid performance.

Finances

Eagle Chase	\$39,887
Fireworks	\$46,927
Art Auction	\$5,867
Scrip & Amazon Smile	\$1,989
Direct Contributions	\$9,103

Total \$103,776

Grant to GVCS \$80,000

Eagle Chase

The Eagle Chase returned to campus after the COVID-mandated hiatus. This student-led fundraiser— and community favorite—raised a record \$39,887 for our schools. Students and classes won prizes for most laps run and most funds raised. The parent volunteers that make this event run smoothly, the teachers' leadership, and especially the students' enthusiasm made the annual event a hit once more. We look forward to expanding this event in the years ahead.



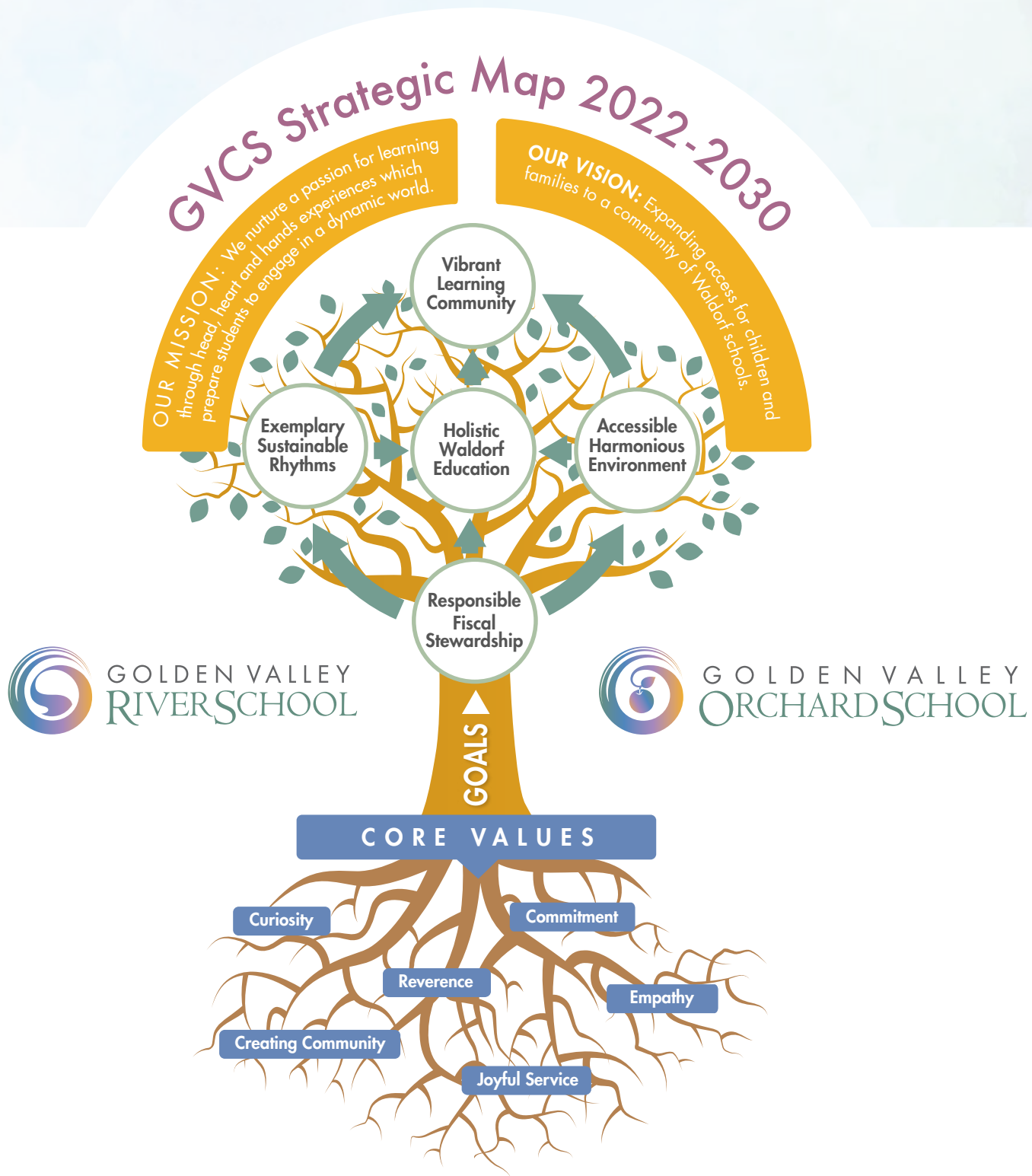
Darryl Cragun, GVEF chair, with fireworks volunteers



Michelle Campbell, Eagle Chase Coordinator, and mascot

STRATEGIC PLAN

Golden Valley Charter Schools' future is illustrated with a summary Strategic Map with our Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals, and their relationship to one another. Our Core Values define how we interact with each other as we work through our rhythms and projects to optimize our Strategic Goals in achieving our Vision in service to our Mission.



OUR GOALS

Our Strategic Goals describe the five long-term, ongoing outcomes we commit to creating with our community.

We begin with people first. All the other goals contribute to creating a **Vibrant Learning Community**. All our diverse members—from students and families, employees, and volunteers—work together as a unified team in alignment with our shared passion for preparing students to engage in a dynamic world.

As a Charter Management Organization our primary purpose is education. For us, we emphasize delivering a **Holistic Waldorf Education** as our preferred method for developing the whole child through head, heart, and hands experiences.

Creating and **Sustaining Exemplary Rhythms** ensures that our administration, special events, and natural

daily and seasonal processes flow smoothly and efficiently. This allows us to focus on delivering a great Waldorf education and helps our community to maintain morale and sustain their level of engagement.

We want to inspire learning through all the senses in **Accessible Harmonious Environments**. This includes safe, beautiful, and nurturing classrooms, campuses, facilities, gardens, and surrounding natural spaces.

Being **Responsible Fiscal Stewards** is a foundational goal. As stewards, we wisely invest the public money from the State and our donors in a transparent and accountable fashion. This enables us to deliver a Holistic Waldorf Education, operate with Exemplary Sustainable Rhythms, and learn in Accessible Harmonious Environments.



OUR CORE VALUES

How will we interact with each other? The foundation of our Strategic Plan and the very fabric of our community is our set of shared Core Values.

A value is a commitment to a behavioral standard or social norm for how we will interact with each other. There are a few values that are prerequisites for being a member of our community. By choosing to be a member of our community, in ANY role, we commit to holding ourselves and each other to striving for these values in every interaction. None of us is perfect. We will fall short of these values at times. When we do, we gently remind each other and get back on track.

Curiosity

We live with enthusiasm and are open to the wonders that each day holds.

Commitment

We endeavor to act in integrity with our values and commitments, be accountable and take responsibility for our choices with grace.

Reverence

As lifelong learners we give our best to all we do and compassionately build honest relationships and appreciation of diversity.

Empathy

We reflect on how our actions affect others and create spaces of safety and well-being.

Creating Community

We see ourselves as part of the larger world, honor the value and diversity of each individual and invest in a community where we have compassion for and trust one another, are inclusive, build strong relationships, appreciate differences, seek common ground, and resolve conflict peacefully.

Joyful Service

Teachers, students, staff, and volunteers willingly share our time, our talents, and our donations to serve our students and our community.

CELEBRATING OUR NEW 2030 VISION

Snip out this star and let it add a little **GVCS** to your holiday trimmings!

We would love to see our community embrace our core values and have them shine in the home. Please enjoy this ornament and take a photo and share it. Tag Golden Valley Charter Schools and #gvforpublicwaldorfstar22.



[gvforpublicwaldorfstar22](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 26–Jan 6 Winter Break
Jan 13 Teacher Work Day, No School
Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
Jan 26 Parent Enrichment Evening
Feb 4 Journey Around the World Festival
Feb 20-24 Presidents' Week, No School

Mar 30 Parent Enrichment Evening
Apr 3–10 Spring Break
Apr 29 River School May Day
May 6 Orchard School May Day
May 26* Last Day of School
May 29 Memorial Day

*Due to unforeseen events, this date could vary



916 597-1478

www.goldenvalleycharter.org

