

Connections



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"I am honored to be leading such an amazing organization comprised of brilliant, caring colleagues who impact the learning and lives of children. I'm most excited about leaning in with the Leadership Team and our GLO colleagues to innovate teaching, inspire K-12 peers, lift up best practice and evidence, and convey the distinctive experiences we provide for children."

G. Bryan Fleming, President

Read more about Bryan at groveslearning.org/about-us/blog

Groves Academy is now Groves Learning Organization!

Groves Academy® was born in the fall of 1972 by four intrepid families seeking to create a school and educational environment that would best serve their children, and others in the community, who sought and required a different approach to teaching. Since then, Groves Academy established itself as the premier location in the Midwest for the education and support of struggling students. For decades, the Twin Cities knew Groves as that big red brick building right on Highway 100 in St. Louis Park—a school for kids who learn differently. Of course, that was and will always remain true, but we are that and so much more these days.

This all begins with our new name: Groves Learning Organization™, or GLO for short. GLO is an ecosystem of educational resources to build literacy for all students, including students who learn differently, and helps all students unleash their confidence to succeed. GLO promotes evidence-based literacy instruction and empowers every student to discover their brilliance.

The past nearly two years generated (forced) so much change in education. The need for an organization that can lead and partner in elevating how we teach human beings has never been more apparent. GLO strives to be that for the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and beyond. We believe that literacy is foundational to individual and collective success and prosperity. Literacy unlocks our potential, promotes agency, and is a vital channel for creativity and self-expression. Our mission is, and will remain, to build confidence, success, and purpose through transformative learning experiences.

We strive to make positive and lasting change on how human beings are educated through the three components of GLO.



GROVES ACADEMY

Our School

Groves Academy is a renowned place of learning where students are empowered to unleash their confidence and fuel their success in school and beyond. Groves Academy attracts students from across the region and the nation, giving them a welcoming and safe space to nurture their brilliance. Here, we ground everything we do in scientific research and decades of experience, from our curriculum to our class sizes. Groves Academy gets its name back! Moving forward, whenever we mention “Groves Academy,” it will only mean our school, and we will remain the Groves Academy Griffins.



GROVES LEARNING CENTER®

Diagnostics, Tutoring, Speech-Language Services, and Summer Programs

At Groves Learning Center, we share our proven methods with those who need them outside of Groves Academy—providing diagnostic assessments with our in-house team of expert psychologists, one-to-one tutoring, speech-language services, and summer programs. By reaching out to neurodiverse learners in their communities, we can work with each student to determine the cause of their struggles, create individualized solutions, and ultimately help spark greater confidence.

Groves Learning Organization (GLO) is a nonprofit educational ecosystem that empowers each and every unique learner to discover their brilliance. We have a rich history of supporting bright students who struggle with learning disabilities and attention disorders, as well as promoting evidence-based literacy instruction for all.



GROVES LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS®

Literacy Coaching and Curriculum

Groves Literacy Partnerships (GLP) shares our evidence-based literacy instruction with fellow educators in the community so that all students learn to read, illuminating the path to enhanced literacy. Working together, we help students of all reading abilities shine brightly by using the Groves Literacy Framework® developed at GLO, which is rooted in decades of literacy and brain research. Partner schools use the Groves Method™ Literacy Curriculum for All for grades K-3 to help ensure students learn to read by the third grade.



Our 501(c)(3) name/status will remain Groves Academy, while the organization will begin doing business as (DBA) Groves Learning Organization (GLO).

Alumni Spotlight

Elena Branca

How long did you attend Groves Academy®, and what were a few key things you learned?

I went to Groves Academy for grades five through seven to help with my reading and writing disabilities. Groves didn't just teach me how to learn despite my disabilities but instilled in me many important values. One of the most important is that I learned to be self-confident. The outstanding teachers at Groves pushed me to keep trying when I didn't think I could.

What did you do after Groves?

I graduated from Benilde St. Margaret's and received my degree from the College of Saint Benedict with a major in Global Business in the spring of 2021. After graduation, I went on to get my real estate license and am now a broker at a commercial real estate firm specializing in both landlord and tenant representation.

How did your time at Groves prepare you for your next steps?

Groves helped me understand what I needed to do to succeed, which in turn made it easier for me to advocate for myself and optimize how I learned. Throughout my time there, I was given tools that assisted me in my education and personal life. I have utilized these tools in college and will continue to for the rest of my life. Groves helped me not only to see the world differently but to see myself differently. When I first started, I thought that I was stupid and ill-equipped for school. However, when I left, I was a person who realized that I just learned differently and that there was nothing wrong with that.

What are some of your favorite memories of Groves?

My favorite memories of my time at Groves involved the biking field trips and guest speakers. I also made some of my best friends to this day at Groves. The teachers made learning enjoyable, and I knew they cared about me.



Why do you think Groves is an essential asset to the Twin Cities community?

Groves leads the way of how schools should be responding to learning disabilities. This school directly changes lives in the community; I would not be where I am today without it. Groves is a leader in shaping the future for kids with learning disabilities by hiring experienced teachers and utilizing custom study plans which have a huge value in education.

What would you tell a student who was new to Groves about the school?

This school will help support you to become the person you were meant to be. Your classmates are in the same situation as you, and it is okay to lean on each other throughout your time there. There is nothing wrong with having a learning disability.

Anything else you would like to share with the Groves community?

I use to be embarrassed by my learning disabilities. I highly recommend watching a Ted Talk called 'Why the best hire might not have the perfect resume.' It helped me realize that adversity isn't always the worst thing when it comes to personal growth. Many CEOs and entrepreneurs have learning disabilities, which makes them resilient and stand out.

Why I Give

Danny Berthoud

We interviewed Groves Academy senior Danny Berthoud about his new woodworking business and why he chooses to donate a portion of his profits back to Groves.

How long have you been attending Groves? Can you share a little bit about yourself?

I am a senior at Groves Academy and I have attended Groves since 4th grade when my family moved to Minnesota from Illinois. I enjoy playing sports, especially basketball on the Groves team and building things. I have an older brother and a younger sister.

How did you get into woodworking?

I always loved to help my Dad with his projects and started helping him when I was around 4 years old. I preferred to do things with my hands rather than reading/writing. This is why I really liked to build things with LEGOs at a young age. I made my first cutting board in 5th grade when my parents bid on an item at the gala that allowed my Dad and me to make one at Groves with Mr. Shutte. I've continued to make things since then and have really learned a lot as an Upper School student in Mr. Shutte's Project Based Learning (PBL) class. I still help my Dad with his projects and also focus on some of my own.

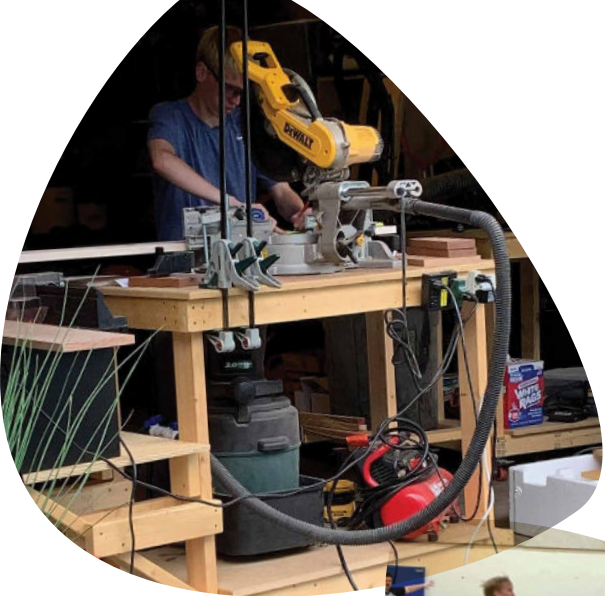
Why did you decide to start your business?

I thought it would help me later in life by learning skills of how to run a business. I also thought I could make some money by creating unique things that others could give as gifts. I started with really no tools and have been able to build out a complete woodshop at my house.

My Dad helped me with building the website and with the legal work of starting a new business.

Why did you decide to donate some of your proceeds back to Groves?

Groves helped me find success and helped me learn what I like to do.



“Danny knows his way around the woodshop and is very gifted at using his hands to create projects out of wood.”

Peter Shutte, Upper School Teacher,
Division Co-Director & Athletic Director

What are you looking for in your next steps?

I am planning to go to technical school and am currently considering either Dunwoody or Hennepin Tech. I'm interested in many things including – carpentry, electrical, and heating/cooling work.

Where can people find your work?

www.dbtimberworks.com



When a student is struggling in school, it's hard to know where to turn.

You see their potential and desire to succeed. Despite all their hard work and best efforts, nothing seems to come easy.

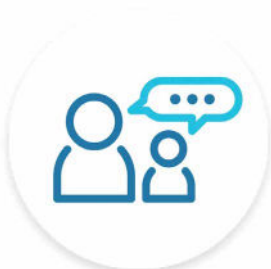
Groves Learning Center® is here to ignite their confidence.

We offer an array of specialized services for all students throughout the community who are struggling to learn or may be diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or attention disorders.

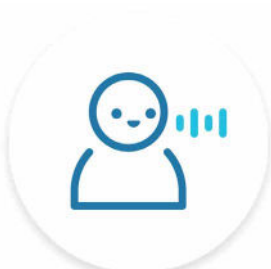
We partner with you to provide individualized solutions and to help students everywhere shine.



Diagnostic Services



Tutoring



Speech-Language Therapy



Summer Programs

Together We Shine.

learningcenter@groveslearning.org | 952-920-6377 | groveslearning.org

Psychoeducational Assessment for All™ (PAA)

PAA program continues to grow through new school partnerships

The Psychoeducational Assessment for All (PAA) program brings the expertise of the Groves Learning Center to underserved Groves Literacy Partnerships (GLP) schools. The PAA program provides diagnostic evaluations at no cost to children who are at risk for academic failure. These evaluations provide a comprehensive assessment of cognitive, academic, social-emotional, and behavioral functioning. From the evaluation, the Learning Center's psychologists can identify potential diagnoses that allow school professionals and parents to implement crucial accommodations and recommendations for individualized student support.

The PAA program is excited to continue to expand the schools they serve. This year they provided assessments to children at St. Peter Claver Catholic School, Hiawatha Leadership Academy, Prodeo Academy, and KIPP Academy. The program plans to expand to two additional schools this upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

Despite challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PAA team is determined to identify and evaluate as many students as possible. In year 3 of this pilot program, psychologists were able to complete 20 psychoeducational evaluations across the four GLP schools. The PAA program plans to increase to 31 evaluations across 6 GLP schools this upcoming 2022-2023 school year. There are plans to further increase the staffing and personnel of this program to allow GLO's Learning Center expertise to pervasively impact students and families across more GLP partner schools. We have hopes to begin offering PAA students a more holistic and deeper experience with other GLO services as well. This is an essential program that we are committed to expanding deeper into the community that addresses accessibility to GLO's services.



2022 Board of Trustees

Board Officers

- Meredith McGuirk, Chair
- Deborah Sundal, Vice Chair
- Dan Deikel, Treasurer
- Scott Lang, Secretary

Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| G. Bryan Fleming, President | Cindee McCarthy |
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| Travis Hansberger | Megan Prindiville |
| Dr. Kathryn Hecht | Ellen Stewart |
| David Iverson | Jennifer Weeks |
| Damon Johnson | |

Staff Feature

GLO IT Team

Interview with Tim Smith (Director of IT).
The IT team at Groves also includes Tim Beattie (IT Help Desk Technician) and Mardo Charuc (Database Administrator).

How long have you worked at Groves Learning Organization™ (GLO)?
I have been at Groves for 17 years, with the majority of my time in the IT department

As GLO has grown over the years, what types of systems have been put into place to keep up with the organization’s growth and support?

When I started at Groves in 2005 all we had was a computer lab, a teaching lab, one desktop in every classroom and a couple of laptop carts with wireless routers attached to them. For a class to use computers they either needed to schedule time in the lab or check out one of the laptop carts and plug in the router on top. Since then we have successfully launched and sustained a 1:1 laptop initiative for Groves Academy students. It has been very successful, especially during these last two years with distance learning due to Covid. A few years ago, we piloted interactive whiteboards in ten classrooms, and eventually grew to an interactive flat panel in every classroom, to support our fantastic faculty. More recently, we moved our file storage from local storage to Google Drive to support remote work, while upgrading our internet bandwidth and network infrastructure to accommodate those speeds and the ever increasing density of devices on our network. We also just completed the purchase of a new video surveillance system with secure 24/7 video streaming, which will help to keep our students and staff safe in and around our building.

The IT department is also responsible for software and systems, and a few years back we performed a complete organization-wide data audit. We took the key findings from that audit and determined that Salesforce.com would work well as our hub database. We then built processes and automations, for multiple departments, in Salesforce, including the Learning Center, Admissions team, and Groves

Literacy Partnerships® (GLP). These system build-outs and improvements allow us to impact more students every year. As we continue to build integrations between Salesforce and our other systems, we have become more streamlined with a better user experience for all GLO’s stakeholders.

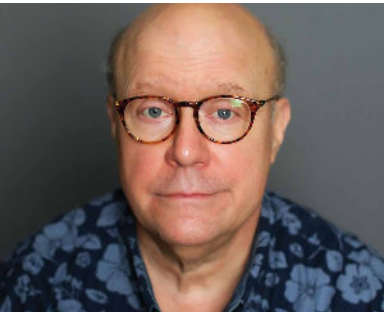
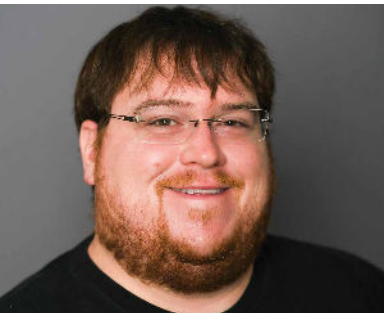
During these last two years, the IT team has been a critical component of keeping the entire organization moving from distance learning and remote work to being back in person. What all went into these transitions?

Our team and the rest of the world were forced to hit the ground running back in March of 2020. We are lucky to have such great colleagues where many people stepped up to help and support our team as we moved through these transitions. We already had Zoom in place, and it was a matter of pushing it out to all of the students and staff as well as training everyone on how to use it. Also, at the beginning of the pandemic we did not send laptops home with our lower school students, so we spent a lot of time troubleshooting IT issues on our student families’ home devices – which were often interesting puzzles to solve! Like everyone at GLO, we put our heads down and did whatever was necessary to make sure that our teachers could teach, our students could learn and the rest of our staff could continue to do the challenging and impactful work that they do every day, with the least amount of interruptions.

Would you like to share any silver linings that have come up over the past two years?

I think it was a gift in disguise as it forced everyone to look at education differently. It also helped move late adopters to embrace certain technologies that accelerate the ability for collaboration between students and teachers. GLO staff is now set up to work from anywhere, and we are only getting better at developing that environment as we go. For example, we now have employees who reside in different states and can now work from all over the world.

A few fun questions:
Describe some of your favorite moments while working at Groves.
Many memories come to mind, but one that was fun was duct taping former gym teacher, Casey Fregeau, to the gym wall as a reward the students had earned.



If you could describe Groves in one word, what would it be?
Home.

What makes Groves a special place?
The people who work here and their passion for what they do. You can always rely on someone being there to assist or step up if needed. Whether you’ve been here for 35 years or started 2 months ago, the culture in this building permeates through everyone. A culture that places students learning above all else. A culture of wisdom, grace and compassion for all.

Faculty Feature

Maggie Dykstra



We want to thank Maggie for her incredible contribution to Groves and wish her well in her retirement.

How long have you worked at Groves?
13 years and 5 months, it has flown by.

Positions at Groves over the years:
Substitute Teacher, Long term Substitute Teacher in all divisions, Lower School Response to Intervention Specialist

Share your favorite part of your role at Groves.
Spending one-on-one quality time with students for reading support. I love seeing their confidence grow.

What are some of your favorite Groves moments?
One of my favorite moments was when I explained to a third grade student that he no longer needed extra help for reading instruction because he had worked very hard and made great progress. He was a little worried about our lessons coming to an end, so I assured him that he was always welcome to come see me if he ever needed anything. It wasn’t too long and he came bursting into my room exclaiming “I can read!” With great pride he read his book aloud to me. I knew things were clicking and he was on his way to being a fluent reader, but the joy in his face was priceless!

In what ways have you seen Groves change over the years?
Since the beginning of my journey at Groves Academy, the growth has been tremendous. I have witnessed and been part of many research based decisions and changes at Groves Academy

which has allowed us to better serve our students. In the Groves Learning Organization (GLO), I have seen how the Groves Learning Center and the Groves Literacy Partnership have greatly impacted the greater community. GLO continues to perfect their method and the results are changing lives.

If you could describe Groves in one word what would it be?
Life-changing!

What makes Groves a special place?
The people! The teachers, the RTI teams, the counselors and all the faculty at Groves Academy, the practitioners in the Groves Learning Center, and the literacy coaches and staff in the Groves Literacy Partnership are some of the most dedicated and passionate individuals I know. Honestly, it has been a pleasure to be surrounded by so many selfless individuals.

What will you miss the most about Groves?
The students! It has been very rewarding to watch the students throughout their journeys. I have seen so many success stories, it is heartwarming.

What are you looking forward to in your retirement?
Spending more time with my family, especially my first granddaughter. There is nothing like it!



Groves Gala Celebration a Success

On Saturday, April 23, 2022 Groves Learning Organization held the 45th Groves Gala and our first in-person event in more than two years!

The Groves Gala is an annual celebration of our mission to build confidence, success, and purpose through transformative learning experiences. It is also our largest fundraising event of the year where we can connect with family, friends, and colleagues and hear the first-hand accounts of GLO’s impact on thousands of children in our community.

The 2022 Groves Lifetime Giving Award was presented to Groves Foundation President, Skip Groves. Skip, a student in the inaugural class at Groves Academy, graciously provided a \$150,000 matching challenge. The Groves Foundation has supported Groves Academy for 50 years.

We are thrilled to announce that together we raised \$768,000 to empower every student to discover their brilliance. We wish to share our deep gratitude to the Board of Trustees, Gala Committee, our fabulous sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who attended and donated.



Every dollar raised will:

- Allow us to provide a world-class education to our school’s unique learners.
- Increase access for children who may not be able to afford our services through scholarships for 30% of our students.
- Support our work to close the literacy achievement gap for the 8,000 students in the public and independent schools partnering with us in the Twin Cities metro area and beyond. Literacy matters!

Visit our website to watch the videos and Gala program:
groveslearning.org/gala-success-2022

Save the Date for the 46th Annual Groves Gala on April 22, 2023 at Quincy Hall.



First Annual Groves Literacy In-House Coaches Training

Groves Literacy Partnerships® (GLP) is busy preparing for the 2022-23 school year and its seventh year of operation, partnering with public district/charter and Catholic schools in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area and beyond. The goal of GLP is to advance K-3 literacy instruction in our partner schools and set them up for sustained success.

On May 17th, GLP took a big step toward partner school sustainability by hosting the first annual In-House Coach training and celebration. Over 30 educators from existing partner schools who have been designated as In-House Coaches attended the event on the GLO campus. These In-House Coaches will assume the day-to-day coaching and mentoring duties in their buildings next fall, with the support of GLP as needed.

“Today, we’ve taken a big step toward our vision of redefining the way our nation is taught, one student, one teacher, and one school at a time,” said Katharine Campbell, Director of Groves Literacy Partnerships. “We are excited to see the number of partner schools in sustainability grow, as we impact more than 8,000 students in the GLP program this school year,” Campbell said.



Groves Academy® Student Awards

Nash Avery Wicka Leadership through Service Award

This award honors the memory of longtime Groves Academy student Nash Wicka and furthers his legacy of compassion, empathy, and fun while acknowledging Groves students who lead others through service.

2022 RECIPIENTS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Wilder Stinson

UPPER SCHOOL



Noah Berger

B.E.N. (Be Extra Nice) Awards

To honor the memory of Groves Academy student Ben Ruedisili, each year lower, middle, and upper school students are recognized with the B.E.N. Award for demonstrating kindness and leadership throughout the school year.

2022 RECIPIENTS:

LOWER SCHOOL



Oliver Swanson

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Ali Mohamoud

UPPER SCHOOL



Justin Bruggeman



Silas Anderson

Groves Founder Awards

It has been said that the greatest good someone can do is to develop their powers so that they may be of greater service to others. The Groves Service Award, awarded to lower school students, and the MacFarlane Award, awarded to middle school students, are presented to those who exemplify sensitivity to the needs of other students, teachers, and the community—and who exhibit academic and behavioral strengths, being all-around positive members of the Groves community.

GROVES SERVICE
AWARD 2022 RECIPIENT:



Jemma Tober

MACFARLANE AWARD
2022 RECIPIENTS:



Caden Grossman



Gabby Gardner

Thomas S. Hartzell Leadership Award

Thomas Hartzell was one of Groves Academy’s founders. He had deep compassion for the needs of young people with learning challenges, and Groves benefited enormously from his leadership and financial support. In his memory we are honored to present the Thomas S. Hartzell Award each year to upper school students who distinguish themselves as leaders while attending Groves Academy.

2022 RECIPIENTS:



Olivia Dalby



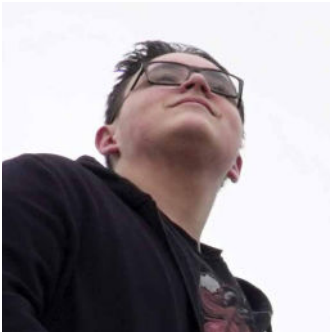
Luca Dalsin

Congratulations Seniors!

Groves Academy® Class of 2022



Maren Adix



Cade Anderson



Silas Anderson



Noah Berger



Daniel Berthoud



Nathan Bjeldanes



Theodore Brown



Alexander Chan



Olivia Dalby



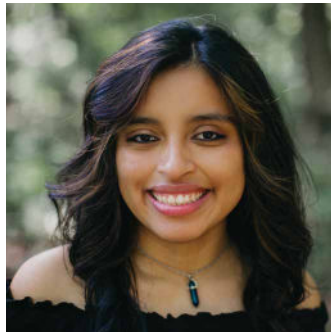
Luca Dalsin



Izabella Dixon



Paul Ellertson



Alexandra Hillstrom



Alivia Hulke



Teah Johansen



Samuel Johnson



Nicholas Lang



Tyson Lome



Zumaya Mahamud



David Meeter-Biggs



David Nicklawske



Benjamin Odeh



Lars Petersen



Rachel Reed,
Valedictorian



Abraham Rossinow



Laura Teynor



Alexander Uradnik



Katherine Woolley

#GrovesPride

2020–2021 Financials

Revenue

Groves Academy Tuition	\$ 8,639,106
Groves Learning Center	\$3,251,239
Groves Literacy Partnerships	\$1,357,478
Financial Aid Disbursement	(\$1,583,046)

Net Tuition and Fees **\$11,664,777**

Annual & Scholarship Gifts	\$2,084,322
Other Income	\$823,212

Net Revenue Total **\$14,572,311**

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$9,787,396
Operating Expenses	\$3,002,131
Fundraising Expenses	\$586,951

Net Expense Total **\$13,376,478**

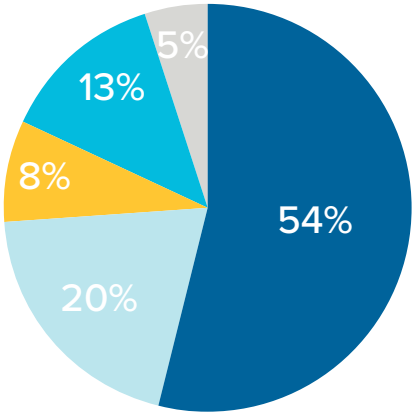
Net Gain **\$1,195,833**

Reinvested in the Groves mission



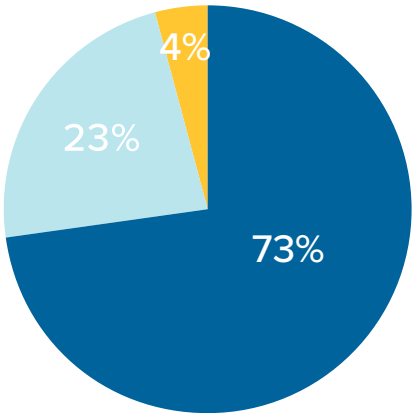
“The organization continues to build a very sound base for the future. With continued uncertainty into another year, we remain cautious but confident with our financial position.”

– Lawrence Graham,
Director of Finance



Revenue

- Tuition
- Other Income
- Annual & Scholarship Gifts
- Groves Literacy Partnerships
- Groves Learning Center



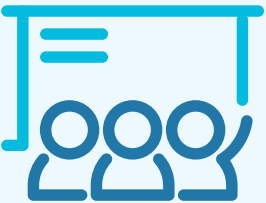
Expenses

- Program Expenses
- Fundraising
- Operating Expenses

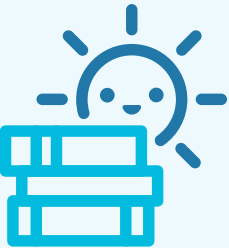
\$2.1 million in support helped us in 2020–2021 to:



Supply **88** students with financial aid



Serve **5,500** students through Groves Literacy Partnerships (GLP)



Provide **500** students with summer programming in **6** Minneapolis charter schools and **1** Minneapolis public school



GLP worked with **47** partner schools across the Twin Cities metro area



8 Groves Literacy Coaches supported **289** classroom teachers at partner schools



Deliver comprehensive assessments to **20** children from underserved populations

Interview with Groves Literacy Partnership® (GLP) Coach Lindsey McDermott

What does it look like to be a coach at a partner school?

A large portion of being a coach is to make sure the classroom educator is teaching the Groves Method™ curriculum with fidelity. In the first year with a partner school, I do a lot of modeling. During a lesson, I may stop and explain why the Groves Method curriculum is taught in a specific manner. An example of this is why we have our students tap out phonemes on their fingers. I explain that we do this because there are more nerve endings in their fingers and that helps build the pathways in the students' brains.

I model small groups in the classroom so the teacher can support struggling students with a targeted reteach of previously taught content. I also work with interventionists who target the most struggling readers in pull-out instruction.

I hold team meetings for each partner school I support and follow up with classroom teachers.

How many schools and teachers are you coaching?

I work with seven GLP partner schools and coach 36 teachers.

What kind of progress do you see with the students and teachers – tell examples of how you saw this program at work?

One big thing I see is that Kindergarten students who are using our curriculum are actually starting to read!

I also have a 2nd-grade classroom where almost every student in the class is working independently and understanding the material, and that is a success!

How do you see the GLP's work impacting the whole classroom (outside of children learning to read)? Specifically the teachers and the students?

Groves Literacy Partnerships starts with a focus on whole-class instruction as this allows us to reach the most students. We also provide coaching for small groups and interventionists, since we know some students will need more individualized help to master the necessary skills to be a competent reader.



Groves Method curriculum is rooted in the Science of Reading which in part identifies the good and bad habits of reading instruction. We are changing teachers' mindsets on how to teach reading, which in turn has students avoiding bad habits and leading them to start learning to read in the correct way.

Why is GLP important for MN and our country?

The State of Minnesota has one of the worst reading achievement gaps in the nation between children of color and white students, and high income students vs. low income students. This is not the fault of our educators, as often they are not provided with a reading curriculum based in the science of reading or effective teacher education preparation programs. The Groves Method curriculum is leveling the playing field by providing the teachers and the students the resources and training they need. We are working to close the literacy achievement gap. We have an engaging curriculum which keeps students excited to learn. Our curriculum holds students accountable and provides professional development to teachers about the science of reading.

What do you think is possible with good literacy instruction?

I truly believe that the achievement gap we have in Minnesota and our country between students of color vs. white students and students with a high income vs. low income would significantly decrease with good literacy instruction. We can close that gap so that all students can read at grade level by the end of 2nd grade!

What are your hopes and dreams for this program?

I hope we expand into even more public schools and expand our program nationally.

An Interview with Amanda Rogers

How long have you been a teacher?

I have been a teacher at Success Academy for five years.

Please describe the student population at your school.

The student body is mostly Somali and East African. The majority of the students speak another language in addition to English at home.

What's it like having a GLP coach in your classroom? How has it changed your classroom?

It is nice to have someone in my classroom that I can ask questions as soon as I have them instead of sending an email and waiting for a response. I learned so much being able to watch her work with the Groves Method™ Literacy Curriculum. It is so much easier to do it once you see someone else do it and this has allowed me to teach with fidelity. My students respond well to our coach in the classroom.

How is the Groves approach and curriculum expanding what you have learned as a teacher?

I have enjoyed learning all of the science behind the curriculum and knowing it is rooted in decades of literacy and brain research. In college I was not taught the "why" behind how to teach reading. For example, I have learned with the curriculum the reasons a "G" makes different sounds, and many more examples along these same lines. It has been fascinating to learn the ins and outs since this was not taught to me in college.

What do you think is possible with GLP?

I think GLP is opening up doors for kids who prior to this curriculum were struggling with reading. The curriculum is made easy for the teacher to teach it and in an effective way. It is great to have explicit instruction especially when it comes to spelling and writing.

What do you like about the Groves Method curriculum?

I like how scripted it is – the curriculum lays out what you have to do and how exactly to do it and takes out all the guesswork for the teacher.

Amanda Rogers is a teacher at Success Academy, a Groves Literacy Partnerships® (GLP) school

Describe a magic moment you've observed with your students?

I had one student who could not spell at the beginning of the year. I could not figure out what he was writing. Now after the Groves Method curriculum his writing has improved where I can read and understand his writing. He is using what he has learned and using the spelling patterns. He has come so far from the beginning of the year. At the start of the year he was getting a 0 or 1 on his spelling tests and has now improved to getting 5 or 6 correct. I can see the material is starting to click for him.

What do you wish others knew about the work Groves does in the community?

As a teacher, I understand that you do not want another thing added to your plate but this curriculum is planned out and made easy for you. The curriculum also makes an impact on the student. I am so passionate about this curriculum that I go home and tell my family the new things I have learned through teaching it.

My mother-in-law has been a kindergarten teacher for over 20 years and she has had to find out some of this research (that the curriculum is based on) on her own. I feel so lucky to have learned the Groves Method early in my teaching career and to have this impactful way to teach reading with the curriculum. Groves is making it easy to get the information needed to be effective in teaching reading.



Groves Highlights



It’s a Grand Day to Celebrate – Virtually!

On November 9th more than 400 grandparents and special friends of Groves students tuned in for the annual Grandparents & Special Friends day. The virtual program highlighted what makes Groves a special place for our students. The program included a Lower School sing-a-long, a Middle School special news broadcast, and Upper School students sharing essays about their grandparent/special friend.

Interested in Joining the Grandparents Club at Groves? The purpose of the Grandparents Club is to nurture the relationship between Groves students, their grandparents, and support the mission of Groves Learning Organization™. Benefits include an opportunity to write a personal note to your grandchild which will be delivered to their classroom. If interested please contact Ashley at gotreaau@groveslearning.org or 952.915.4258.



50th Anniversary Kick-Off

Save the Date – Groves is turning 50 and we need your help! We are in the planning stages of a wonderful 50th Anniversary celebration of Groves in 2022–2023. We’d love your help celebrating this big milestone. We want to hear your Groves memories and stories. Please reach out to Ashley Gotreau at gotreaau@groveslearning.org or 952.915.4258 to share your memories.



Groves Academy® Annual Food Drive

In November, Groves Academy Student Council members organized an annual food drive to support The Food Group. With the help of the Groves community 1,491 lbs of food was collected providing 951 meals for families in need!

Groves Student Tearing Up the Ice

Groves Academy student Aubrey Lang is a member of a unique hockey team in the Twin Cities metro. What makes this team special? It is made up entirely of girls of color.

The hockey team was started by Aubrey’s mom, Meredith, and women’s hockey veteran and Hamline University Assistant Coach, Tina Kampa. They were inspired to form the team after reading about other teams of color being formed across the country. Meredith knew she wanted her daughters to have an opportunity to play and bond with girls who look like them. The team is made up of girls from across the Twin Cities. We can’t wait to keep up with what the MN Unbounded does next!



Groves Academy Girls on the Run Club

Groves Academy welcomed a new after-school activity in Spring 2022, Girls on the Run. Girls on the Run is a national program that works with girls at a critical time in their development, 3rd – 5th grade. Six volunteer coaches (Abby Kirshbaum, Alexis Kessler, Dayna Lifson, Hayley Rosenfield, and Janelle Mellema) led the way throughout the season for the 16 girls that participated. Throughout the season, the girls learned life skills such as empathy, conflict resolution, expressing their emotions, and positive self-talk. They did this through discussion,

activities, and running laps. At each practice, the girls chose a lap goal and tried their best to accomplish their goal by the end of practice. But even if they didn’t complete their goal they were encouraged knowing that ‘forward is a pace!’ The final 5K celebration was on June 4. We celebrated with girls on the run throughout the state at Normandale Community College. Our girls had a blast showcasing their hard work and accomplishing something that seemed unattainable just months prior. We are looking forward to continuing to partner with Girls on the Run for future seasons.

5 Powerful Reasons Schools are Becoming Groves Literacy Partners

Groves Literacy Partnerships® (GLP) works to help all students shine brightly through evidence-based literacy instruction.

GLP shares the literacy instruction, developed from years of successfully teaching struggling readers attending Groves Academy, with general education teachers and schools in our community.

The Groves Literacy Framework® is based on the Science of Reading. This explicit, systematic, multi-modal approach to literacy instruction empowers all K-3 students to become stronger readers from the very beginning and can help them throughout their lives.



1. Literacy Coaches Offer Support and Develop Partnerships with Teachers

Unlike traditional professional development offerings, these partnerships are based on personal relationships and support for teachers from Groves Literacy Coaches who partner over the course of an entire school year. Research has found that teachers can successfully apply 85-90% of new teaching methods when supported by professional coaching versus 10% using traditional professional development alone.

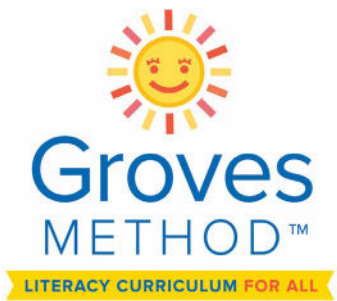
Teachers receive 30 minutes of weekly face-to-face classroom coaching, lesson modeling and co-teaching, assistance with assessments to track student progress and inform instructional decisions, and ongoing professional development. The coach-teacher relationship is designed to develop fidelity of instruction and support each teacher's personal development as a literacy instructor.

“If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society’s heroes.”
- Guy Kawasaki



2. GLP’s Proven Results

Groves Literacy Partner schools are closing the gap. A recent 2020-2021 Literacy Risk Assessment shows the program’s impact in helping partner school teachers close the literacy gap for their students. From fall 2020 to spring 2021 the percentage of students in GLP partner schools who were high-risk readers decreased from 31% to 22%. In addition, 49% of the students who tested at moderate risk for reading failure in the fall were reading at or above grade level by the end of the year.



3. GLP Framework and Curriculum Offer Teacher-Friendly Design

There are differing approaches to literacy instruction used today across the country. Unfortunately, some of these approaches have little or no data to support their effectiveness. GLP supports teachers in their classrooms to effectively teach their students how to read and spell.

The Groves Literacy Method™ curriculum and Groves Literacy Framework® are based on the Science of Reading and rooted in decades of literacy and brain research. Teachers working in schools that establish literacy partnerships with Groves are trained in proven, evidence-based methods for sparking reading and spelling skills.



4. Our Nation’s Literacy Crisis is Growing

As the pandemic continues to impose ever-changing obstacles on teachers, students, and families, particularly concerning teaching reading and developing literacy skills, the need for our GLP program continues to grow. The recent New York Times article It’s ‘Alarming’: Children Are Severely Behind in Reading calls out the pandemic’s impact on our nation’s literacy crisis, offering that the fallout from the pandemic is just being felt. “We’re in new territory,” educators say. Read more in the GLO blog post Groves Supports Twin Cities Area Teachers Amid Growing Literacy Crisis.



5. Local Expertise

Keep it local! After conducting a national search for expert literacy instruction, a local GLP partner organizations was pleasantly surprised to find Groves, and the expertise we provide, right here in Minnesota. GLP is part of Groves Learning Organization based in St. Louis Park, providing educational expertise to Twin Cities communities through Groves Academy for fifty years. GLP is now helping schools in Minnesota and beyond address the challenges of persistent achievement gaps and, more recently, Covid learning loss.

In response to the pandemic GLP also innovated and developed a robust distance-coaching model. Currently, teachers and schools in Greater Minnesota are accessing partnerships, and with this capability, schools anywhere can receive the coaching they need to support their students.

GLP is proudly partnering with 64 schools in the greater Twin Cities area, cutting across all demographics, and serving over 8,000 K-3rd grade students just this year, delivering powerful reading and literacy instruction.

Learn more about becoming a Groves Literacy Partner and request information about Pre-K-3rd-grade Literacy Partnerships at groveslearning.org/literacy-partnerships.

G.E.A.S.E. Student Leaders Working Towards a Greener Groves

G.E.A.S.E. is a group of student leaders at Groves Academy® that are committed to finding creative and sustainable ways to reduce our carbon footprint, reuse and repurpose our waste, and connect more with the outdoors. Some of their goals for the next five years are:

- Rolling out Recycling throughout the school
- Rolling out Compost for the whole school to use
- Installing a garden for the school to use
- Turning to Solar energy/Solar Panels (Green energy)
- Using Eco-friendly cleaning supplies throughout the school
- Using Eco-friendly office supplies
- Create a sustainability lunchroom (Healthier food and Dietary Inclusivity)

We met with these young leaders to get an update on their projects and see what their next steps might be. As most of this group is comprised of seniors, they realize the

importance of increased recruitment, so that has been the top of their agenda. Additionally, they understand that their initiatives will take money.

The GEASE student club was represented at the 2022 Groves Gala the students designed and created 14 items for the silent auction to raise money for their initiatives. They raised a total of \$2,271 and were a big hit with all of the Gala attendees. It was great to see our students passions highlighted!

As they look to the future, they are working on getting solar panels for the Groves building. They are exploring numerous options with different companies and continue to work with the leadership team. The G.E.A.S.E. students would also like to hold a parent education workshop to educate Groves families on similar and affordable ways to green up your home.

The mission of G.E.A.S.E.: through leadership, education, and collaboration, we can create a greener future for generations to come at Groves Learning Organization.



Make a Difference in the Life of a Student

Your generous support transforms the lives of thousands of students and their families. Groves Learning Organization™ (GLO) appreciates a variety of donation types.

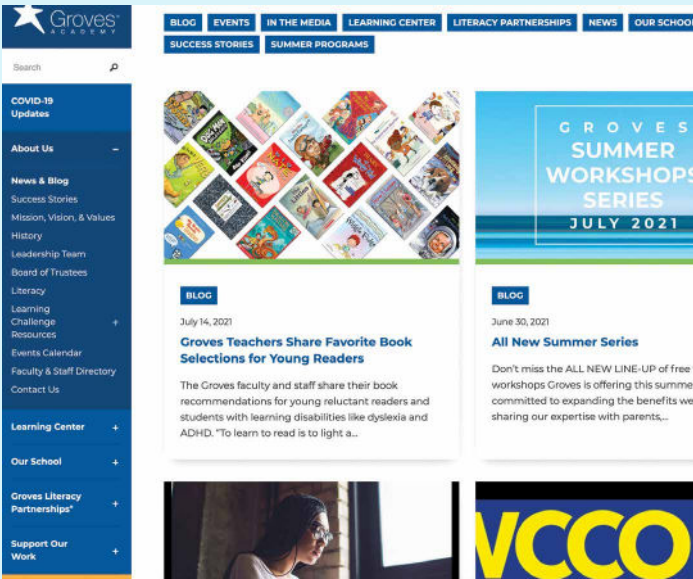
- Gifts of appreciated stock support students while providing tax benefits to donors.
- A donor-advised fund is a great way to support GLO and differs slightly from other giving mechanisms. You may make contributions into your donor-advised fund (DAF) account, and subsequently, recommend distributions to Groves from the fund. Please contact your sponsoring organization to advise on a donation.
- Planned Giving through estate planning continues your legacy of support into perpetuity.
- Tribute Gifts celebrate special events, people, or memorialize loved ones.
- Matching Gifts increase the impact of your gift. Corporate matching gifts are a great way for Groves to maximize personal contributions. By utilizing a company's matching gift benefit, you may be able to double or even triple your gift (depending on the program).
- Monthly giving allows for easy, ongoing planning and delivery of transformative learning experiences. Set it and forget it.
- Amazon Smile allows a portion of your eligible purchase price from Amazon to be donated to GLO.

Donate online at groveslearning.org/support/donate, call 952-915-4269, or send a check to: 3200 Highway 100 S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Questions?

Contact Becky Busselman at 952-915-4269 or busselmanb@groveslearning.org.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to transforming lives through education.



Groves News and Blog

Never miss an update.

Don't forget to sign up on the Groves website for news and blog updates- and follow us on social media for the most up-to-date information.

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

We want to hear from you!

Share your news, success story, or meaningful moment about Groves. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3orymeq> to tell us how you're doing.



**Groves Learning
Organization**

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OUR MISSION is to build confidence, success, and purpose through transformative learning experiences.

OUR VISION is to redefine the way our nation is taught, one student, one teacher, and one school at a time.

OUR CORE VALUES

Authenticity, Collaboration, Compassion, Discovery, Tenacity

**GLO empowers every student
to discover their brilliance.**



SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual

Groves Gala

on April 22, 2023 at Quincy Hall



**Groves Learning
Organization**

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