



STATE OF THE SCHOOL

2023

[THESCHOOLHOUSE.ORG](https://theschoolhouse.org)

Dear Members of Our School House Community:

As in year's past, we offer The State of School around the time of the President's State of the Union to share our accomplishments, reflections and future plans.

Having had the opportunity to interview several Parents late in 2022, three things stood out: their sense of connection to the TSH Community; their appreciation of our collective effort to give children only the very best environment in which to learn; and their insightful grasp of how this all impacts our greater society.

This is our 4th year. In four years, we are proud to share that The School House:

- **Successfully combined all four pillar pedagogies into one operating curriculum giving Learners the very best access to proven methodologies.**
- **Successfully implemented the most child-centric curriculum in the U.S. benefitting the whole of the child not just a single lane.**
- **Built a Team of Educators who hold master's degrees, NYS teaching certifications and the largest number of AMI trained Educators under one roof in the U.S.**
- **Managed COVID with a balanced, child-first approach.**
- **Created our first TSH Alumni Group from graduated Learners who are now thriving on President's Lists and Honor Rolls.**
- **Successfully built and continue to operate one of 9 AMI Primary Training Programs in the World and the only one in New York.**
- **We continue to be at capacity at 140 Learners with nearly 120 on our waitlist.**

- Successfully held to our commitment of the 1-hour recess leading New York in the most time outdoors.
- Expanded Reggio-Emilia into each classroom providing availability of art throughout each day - a key factor in childhood development.
- We continue to curate an extraordinary 3,000-book Library that is also home to our Going Out Program – where Learners master visiting and participating in their community.
- Created the only known operating Food on Mars elementary program in the U.S.
- Built a wholly unique Seed-to-Market primary and elementary program fostering a direct understanding of growing and selling produce.
- Modified and built the La Sierra Movement Program to enhance the fitness level of elementary Learners.
- Embedded Socratic Seminar beginning in primary and extending through elementary to educate our future members of society on how to discuss topics with grace and courtesy.
- Opened The Little House Toddler Program (expanding Summer 2023) to capacity giving our littlest Learners access to our child-centric curriculum.
- Crafted a weekly Elementary Experiment Workshop led by a molecular biologist where Learners get to see and discuss scientific discoveries.
- Built one of the only operating School Care programs in the U.S. encouraging Learners to care for and operate key school functions.
- Proudly built a health care and 401(k) plan for our Educators with the help from our Capital Campaign.

Dear Members of Our School House Community...

- Unique to elementary schools in the U.S., The School House engages a weekly Gardening Educator.
- Built a multi-year partnership with Helping Hands for community service where weekly lunches and Thanksgiving boxes are created and packaged by Learners.
- Developed a 6th grade Student Council that interfaces with all classrooms fostering leadership across grade-levels.
- Launched our 1st Annual Invention Fair.
- Launched multi-year Project-Based Learning with salable products.
- Successfully implemented our Coding Program, Soccer Program and JAM Program encouraging Learners to participate in a variety of specialties that connect to their path of learning.
- Produced two concerts each year that reflect the curriculum, instrumentation and set building.
- Present dozens of Parent events each year including weekly Farmstand, Monthly Workshops, Evening Events, Garden Planting and this year our Parent Palooza 6-month Community Calendar.
- Puzzles (testing) implemented in ELL with respect and dignity for the child.

And then there is the Team... a connected, brilliant, seamless Educator Culture that thrives on optimism, goodwill and in the service of the Child.

Is there a metric to create lifelong Learners? Children who run up steps, whose hands shoot in the air, who hug their Educators multiple times a day, who feel safe, respected and challenged? I wish there was... we'd score well. But some things, well, you simply must just see to believe.

YOU did this. John and our boys did this. Bill and Sara Haugland did this. Our skilled Educators did this. A highly efficient HQ did this. Ms. Meg did this. St. Paul's did this. It is an unreal list of accomplishments for 4 years. Or for 10 years. And I can't even imagine what we'll be able to do in the next 1 or 2.

I am incredibly grateful to hold your child's hand each day. To laugh with Educators. And to stand on our steps together. And there is not a day that goes by that I don't feel we are making our country and our world a better place.

Warmly,

Mimosa Jones Tunney
Founder & President





Ignatius Rose and Ashton Muniz piece together the United States.

THE 2022-23 AMERICAN EMERGENT CURRICULUM

The curriculum is always available for Parents. In fact, the more you know, the more you'll see the magic of the AEC.

A successful curriculum (and there are very few) should integrate all areas of study, incorporate enough freedom for the child to love learning and enough structure to foster personal responsibility. At the elementary level, it should be positive, show the wonder of humanity and give children the time to go deep into their curiosity. Science should be cutting-edge and outdoor time plentiful; cursive should be present – for printing curtails the child's ability to get their ideas on paper. Math – abstract by nature – should be accompanied by materials that range from basic counting to the beautiful Pythagorean and Euclidian theorems to algebraic word problems. It should be peppered with moments children remember: Mr. John wearing all red to symbolize the verb; Ms. Kaitlyn sending Pumpkin on a hot air balloon ride to show how warm air rises; Ms. Stefanie removing all the clocks in the room (and watches) to understand time – a very human invention.

We cover a great deal in the AEC. But there's covering a lot so you can test on it and there's covering a lot so children have a deep understanding of the world around them and how it interconnects. This year, for instance, we are studying Europe and Africa. Within Europe we connect the geography to the culture. This is vital. The relationship of the sun and earth

THE 2022-23 AMERICAN EMERGENT CURRICULUM...

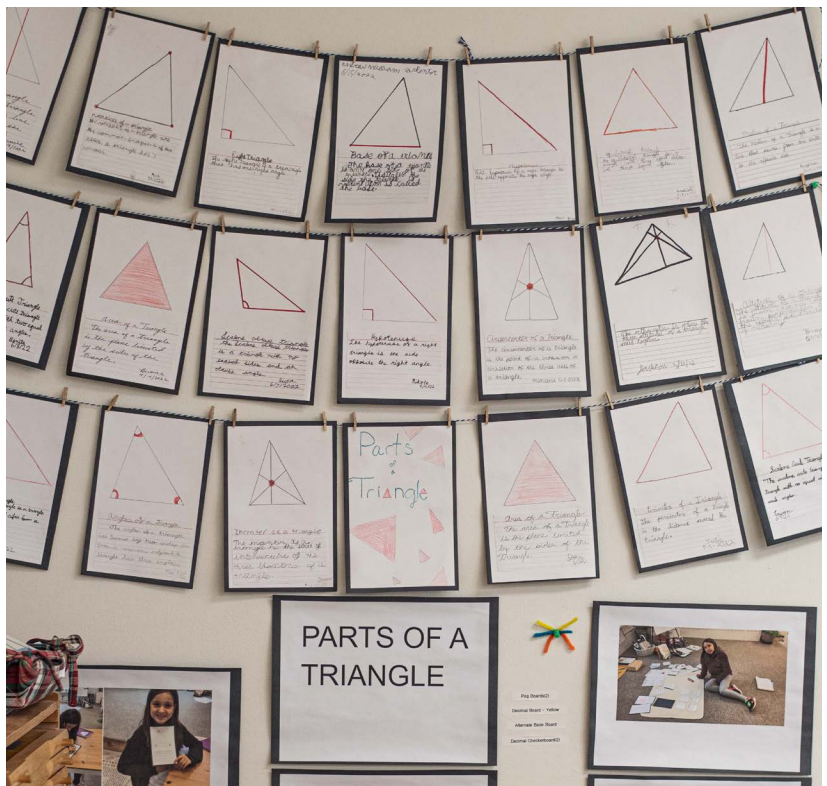
and water forms is the starting point for all cultures. We then examine the art, music, innovators and bigger economic ideas of the area. Wind, currents and rainfall are a vital part of how the earth builds its ecosystem; and then we'll want to help the Learners make predictions: is the summer a good time to fish in Great Britain or would more fish be present off the coast of Oregon? They will dissect fish (or squid), understand longitude and latitude, the ecology of the area and how trade and the history of the country (monarchs vs. democracies) have impacted the vitality of the people. How did great poets emerge from Great Britain? How have the geometric patterns of the fisheye evolved to allow that species to adapt? We do the same for birds, insects, mammals and people. In chemistry, we move on from skin and teeth to the brain – both in motor operations and in social and emotional responses.

And this is in the span of just a few weeks.

You can imagine the volume of math, writing, research, science and art that goes into just this little bit. When we move onto Africa in March, we connect to the cradle of humanity in Ethiopia – the Timeline of Humans, a further History of Writing from an African perspective. Finger pianos from Africa, songs, art and the ecology of one of the most biodiverse continents. Colonization and land ownership; needs vs. wants. Civics comes in the form of painting message rocks for East Northport – a notion that not all civics needs to be "seen". Sometimes we simply give, to give. Kindness manifests

in our winter letter writing focus for both our in-house mail system and beyond. And Project-Based Learning starts out each calendar year with building a new product or service.

In the now and in the future, we need to know how to think, make predictions, see the whole. No Learner is dumbed down – they use real glass, real microscopes, take real charge of their day. They are given all they can and want to learn and more. That is the measure of a great curriculum.



Learners use their knowledge of geometry to label parts of a triangle.



Parts of a River, Equilateral Triangles and Multiplication in Primary 3.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR LEARNER IN 2023

With so much happening at The School House, there are still so many ways to augment what we do here. When Families experience these things together, you can really see the depth of knowledge and thinking that is fulfilling each Learner.

DOCUMENTARIES:

Documentaries are everywhere! Some better than others, but David Attenborough is a sure bet. With topics such as Austria, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Water and Air Pressure, Chemistry, the Universe, the Brain, Skin, Teeth, Organs, Physics, Time, the Constitution, Industrial Revolution and many others, find a documentary you can watch together.

It is best to start documentaries young. Once a week for age 5 and up. As they will come to love them even when more stimulating fictional programming is introduced.

NEW YORK CITY:

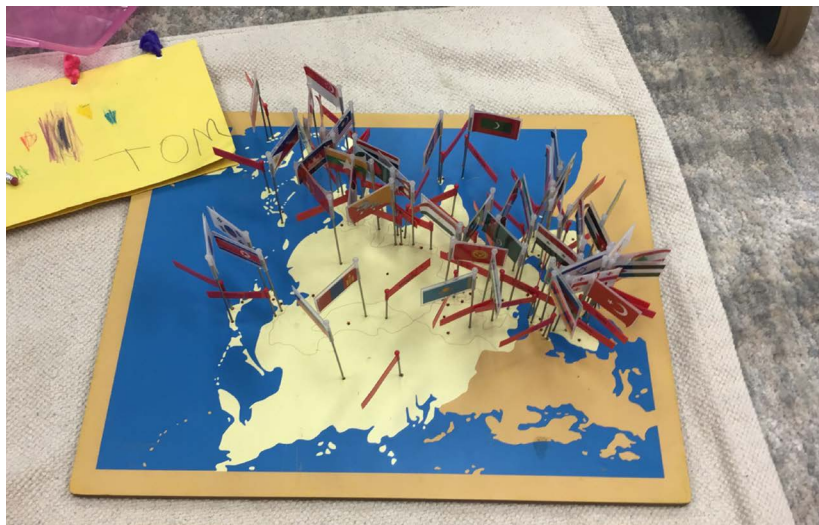
The Museum of Natural History has a few new exhibitions that are mind-blowing. We spend a great deal of time at TSH on Botany – for it is the root (!) of all things. The MNH new Botany exhibit is unreal and well worth the visit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR LEARNER IN 2023...

The Arcadia Earth Art Installation in NYC creates 18 world biomes out of reusable material. It is awe-inspiring.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has plenty to see that interconnects what our Learners are delving into this year. Did you know that there is a private dining area at the Met? If you sign up for a membership, you can access this secret room that is quiet, has great food and is a nice respite from the crowds.

The Explorers Club in NYC is set aside for worldwide explorers to dine among their peers. But you can take your kiddos there too. You will see the finds of great explorers of the last 200 years.



Thomas Long explores countries, flags and capitals of Asia.

HELPING HANDS

This is one of our favorite organizations. Run by Ms. Kim, the Helping Hands Organization is located in Huntington Station. You can call her to say you're a School House family and they will set you up to donate, help and connect with a community that is just a few miles away from our own.

READ

Reading every day is essential. Having a library in your home – even a small one – is critical. And reading books yourself to model this behavior is key. Whether it's the *Life of Fred* for math or *Great Short Works* by Mark Twain, having books around makes a huge difference. Give them at every birthday, take them to the library frequently (love that smell!), head to bookstores on the weekend.

Make sure to vet your books... many of them (even for Pre-K) have become political in these past few years... and let older Learners return to picture books where some of the great moral messages of the world await you. Review books to make sure they are age appropriate; while *Harry Potter I* and *II* are good for Elementary – the others in the series contain mature sections as Harry grew up!



Nicholas Gomez labels sandwiches for the Helping Hands Organization.

NEW PROGRAMS

THE SCHOOL HOUSE ANYWHERE

Nearly 1 million children dropped out of public-school last year, joining the nearly 6 million homeschoolers who no longer wish to attend.

To that end, The School House Anywhere (TSHA) officially launches in March 2023. Under the direction of Parent and attorney Ms. Tara who operates out of New York and Vero Beach, FL, TSHA allows Homeschool Pods, Parents and Families who Travel to become a part of The School House wherever they may live. Subscribers to TSHA receive:

- **Nearly 400 films featuring TSH Educators who hold master's degrees and AMI/AMS training in addition to teacher certification. These are Direct-to-Grown Up Films.**
- **Monthly Access to the TSH curriculum which provides Purpose, Content, Standards and Lesson in an extremely user-friendly format.**
- **Packages for Materials and Books.**
- **Weekly Storytime with Learners.**
- **Weekly Live Zoom Instruction for Grown Ups.**
- **Progress software for state mandates.**

The cost of the Program is \$1,000 per year per Learner or \$100 per month. We do not recommend this program as an addendum to TSH if your child is already enrolled – unscripted family time is paramount.



The School House Anywhere Vero Beach, FL

NEW PROGRAMS...

AMI PRIMARY TRAINING

Are you an Educator, Parent or would you simply like to know more about how humans develop and learn?

The School House/AMI Primary Training program is one of only 9 in the world. And one of the blessings of COVID is that it is blended. Study at The School House Training Center for the month of July 2023, participate in online work, reconvene in the winter of 2024 and graduate with your certification in July 2024.

Graduates uniformly agree that the AMI Training is life changing. Insights into childhood development, materials, how to approach and learn from children and the ability to work in and around pedagogically advanced schools are all reasons that drive Educators and Parents to participate.

Visit Our Website TheSchoolHouse.org/AMI-Montessori-Training or Call us anytime at 631-261-9000 to register by March 1st.



The School House AMI Training Center East Northport, NY

NEW PROGRAMS...

ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

With our Soccer Program in full force on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, The School House is proud to offer two additional programs scheduled at the conclusion of our school day.

After School Academic Workshops are directed by our Elementary II Team. Each Monday, Learners who need extra care and support in specific areas of academic learning may join us from 3:30 pm until 4:30 pm. Areas may include spelling, math and reading.

Participants in this workshop will be recommended by Lead Educators.

After School Drama is a great way for kiddos who aren't that keen on sports to participate in the many facets of performance, practice their talents and perform at our Summer Concert. Drama is scheduled for Wednesdays from 3:30 pm until 5 pm.

NEW PROGRAMS...

PARENT PALOOZA

Beginning in January 2023 and running through June 2023, we invite you to participate in Parent Palooza!

Consisting of dozens of events, our 6-month celebration of a return to normalcy includes:

- **Monthly Parent Workshops** that will feature **Learner Stories, Learner Language Work and Parent Anonymous** – a hat tip to gathering and letting it all go!
- **Our March 2023 One Night Film Festival.** Come for cocktails and snacks and see the 3 best films on childhood, schools and learning.
- **Candlelit Yoga** every Thursday evening in our Gym Barn. A takeaway from Los Angeles, we practice in a circle, in dim lighting and stretch and move the week away.
- **Our Garden Planting and Cocktail Party.**
- **Winter Event** – a community gathering off campus.
- **Social Media posts** that provide an insight into childhood learning. Find us and our Founder Mimosa Jones Tunney on LinkedIn and Instagram.
- **Learner-led Conferences.**
- **Summer Concert.**
- **And Farmstand...** come for Southdown Coffee and kiddos, stay for good friends and even better conversation.



Mr. DeSimone and Mr. Chin volunteering at Farmstand.

COFFEE WITH MS. MIMOSA & MS. MEG

Three times each year – with our February session coming up – join us in the Gym Barn for Southdown Coffee and frank and funny conversations with Ms. Mimosa and Ms. Meg. Ask any question, share stories on parenting, enjoy knowing other Families in our Community.

This open-ended gathering simply allows for us to further connect, say hello and start our day off by talking about children.

Bring questions, smiles and optimism.

CLOSING BY STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHN TUNNEY IV (UNEDITED)

This year I think our classroom has come very far and I'm sure the other classrooms have to, if not farther. Many of the Learners in my classroom know so much more than they did in the beginning of this productive year. The 6th graders have annotated more than 10 poems this year; in my opinion annotating was one of the most fun projects we have completed. The 6th graders also focused on coding; although we had many focuses in coding, my favorite thing we did was Lists.

The 5th graders also explored coding, but they were more focused-on classroom work such as Biography's and Math

Whereas the 4th years have not done coding yet, they are very anxious to start next year. My favorite pieces I've seen done by the fourth years are Line Art and Pop-Up Landmarks. Two perfect examples of avid students are Liora Gettleman and Julian DiLeo they are always the first 4th graders done with the priorities.

The priorities this year have been amazing thanks to our incredible teachers Ms. Olivia, Ms. Amelia and Mr. John. They are the best teachers in the world. A few of the outstanding priorities they have given us this year are Heraldry, Happy and Anger, Line Art, Biographies and many more!

Warmly,

John Tunney, Student Council President



Learners showcase their artwork based on the Coming of the Universe.



Sailor Sorice, Lily Love Manfredi, and Emerson Persico take care of our chickens.

COST OF ATTENDING THE SCHOOL HOUSE

As costs have increased across the United States over the last few years, the cost of operating The School House has risen significantly as well. Added to these increases is our deep commitment to providing the very best to our children. For instance:

- The complexity of the AEC requires advanced training in childhood development.
- Our Trained Educator ratio has increased. There are two AMI certified teachers in almost every room. This has doubled our labor costs, yet we do not want to change this incredibly effective dynamic.
- Outstanding programs – some offered nowhere else in the country – are costly to create and staff with exceptional Educators.
- The Tunney and the Haugland Families have continued to donate millions of dollars to The School House to cover the gap which is unsustainable.
- The tuition gap remains open and until now was funded by the Tunneys and the Hauglands. This gap moving forward will be funded by tuition.
- The rising costs of everything has impacted the school. Materials have doubled or tripled in cost in just one year.
- Our budgets are already lean without sacrificing The School House high quality of education.

How this will impact The School House Community:

Our Community will reach sustainability through tuition increases for 2023-24. Tuition will increase by approximately \$300-\$400 per month for all Learners depending on grade level. For the first time, 90% of the cost of operating the school will be covered by tuition. Enrollment and Tuition will be available on February 1, 2023.

The Tunney and Haugland Families will continue to collectively donate scholarship funds for those who need financial assistance.

Thank you for your love, commitment and vision as members of our TSH community.





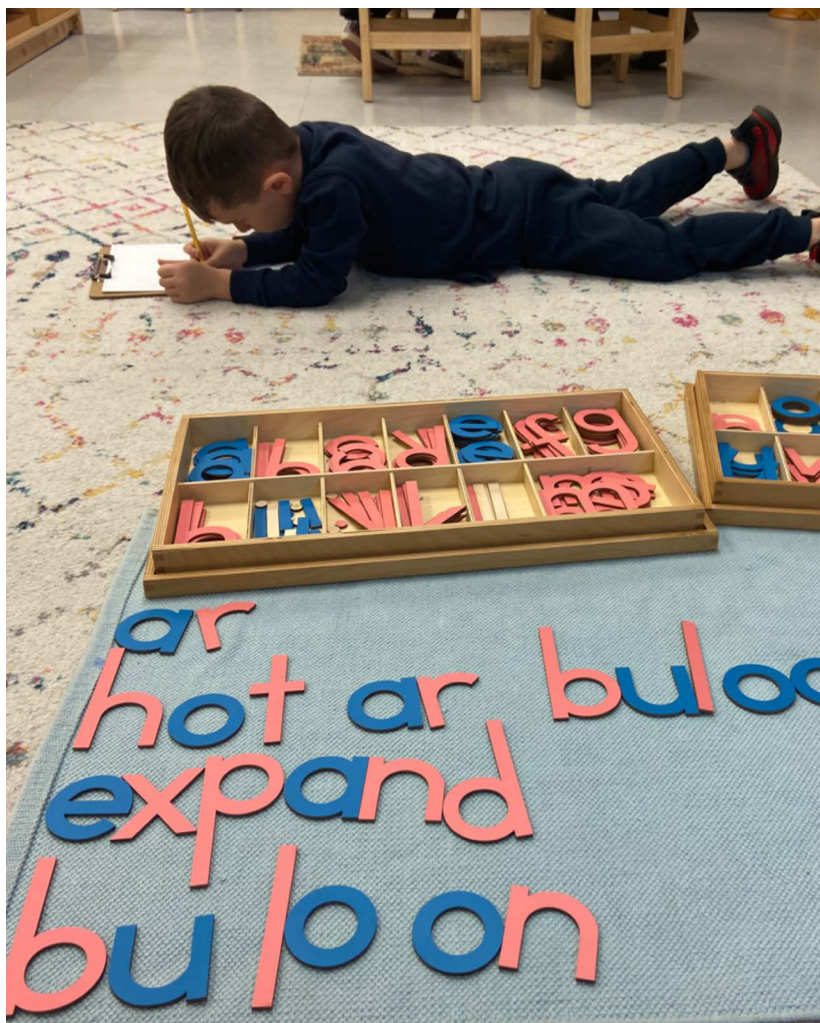
Learners prepare to sell a variety of goods at Farmstand.



Valentina Gomez practices food preparation by juicing an orange.



Cristian Guercio builds the Alps.



Preston Barrera practices handwriting extensions with the moveable alphabet.



Rafael Bonomo spoons lentils from one bowl to another. This spooning work strengthens the pincer grip and hand for simultaneously learning to properly hold a pencil.



Ms. Lori and Ms. Amelia bond over Southdown Coffee at Farmstand.

be kind.

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