

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT



Daufuskie Island
Independent School

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



DR. TENNILLE SCHERIFF

Principal

KIMBERLY LUNDGREN

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Through its first year of operation, DIIS has been transforming the lives of its students. We have witnessed remarkable progress in the children we teach. One student, initially hesitant to speak, now confidently presents to the community. Another, seemingly incapable of writing more than a few sentences, surprised everyone by crafting a 27-page short story as a year-end project. A third student with a passion for reading developed a newfound love for science and exploration. Through these experiences, all students have deepened their connection and appreciation for their surroundings and community. Together, we have cultivated a unique environment that is reshaping the future for our young learners.

Come join our work by donating, volunteering, or sharing our programs with others. The first year of Daufuskie Island Independent School has been extraordinary!

Through the combined efforts of founders, families, and the community, DIIS has shaped its mission and vision, establishing a community school where everyone plays a vital role. We cater uniquely to our students' needs, embrace the island's culture and resources, and integrate the best of global education into our rural location. In this inaugural year, DIIS has gained recognition for:

- empowering students academically
- fostering connections with the community
- nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards on Daufuskie Island

YEAR ONE: QUICK GLANCE

100%

Family retention rate

\$124,259

Raised

30+

Community volunteers

Year One Programmatic Highlights

Advisory Program - Dedicated time focused on helping students develop positive habits, covering topics such as:

- developing effective study techniques
- respect
- resilience
- social media and technology usage
- gratitude
- stress management

Community Education - DIIS aims to increase educational opportunities for our entire community. This year we:

- hosted **3 educational presenters**
- collaborated with **7 academic institutions**
- organized **2 community events**: Kite Day (below) & Valentine's Luncheon
- started **2 extracurricular activities** for island upper elementary and middle schoolers
- conducted and presented **research on Daufuskie's erosion rate**



Looking Forward: 2024-25 School Year

We are more than doubling our student numbers!

We are welcoming a part-time student from Hilton Head as well.

New Program Additions

- **Extracurricular** - cross country, tennis, and archery (open to ALL island upper elementary, middle, and high schoolers)
- **Instrumental Music Program** - three hours/week of in-class instruction for DIIS students, **plus studio hours after school for any interested community members.**

The future is bright at Daufuskie Island Independent School! We are grateful for the integral role the community is playing in helping us bring academic, artistic, and athletic programs to DI's youth. **Thank you for being the change!**

-Tennille and Kimberly





OUR PURPOSE

VISION

We believe every child, in every community, deserves access to a rich, rigorous, and well-rounded education. By partnering with communities, we instill a love of learning, foster a culture of creativity, create an atmosphere of belonging, and encourage all learners to recognize and reach their potential.

MISSION

Daufuskie Island is an unrivaled experience, and its school should be equally so. Daufuskie Island is known for its Gullah heritage, tight-knit community, and connection to nature. We believe our unique environment is the perfect place for students to:

- cultivate a love of the natural world,
- develop a strong sense of self,
- witness and participate in the great outpouring of community-based service,
- foster and exercise stewardship for the historical, cultural, and environmental legacy that is Daufuskie Island,
- be inquisitive and stretch themselves in the discovery and pursuit of their untapped passions.

We envision a school that is accessible to all students on the island, providing the opportunity for secondary education aged children to remain on the island to fully participate in the unique opportunities and culture that are Daufuskie.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2023-2024 Actuals

REVENUES

General Donations	\$26,522
Sponsorships	\$45,250
Fundraising Events	\$52,486
Tuition & Fees	\$17,809

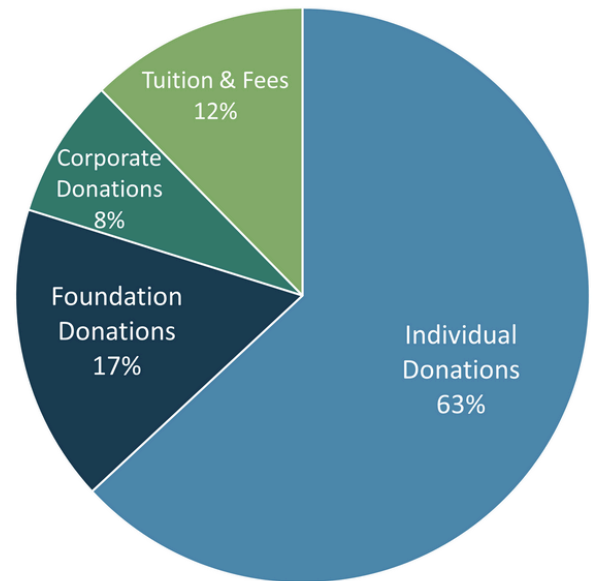
TOTAL REVENUE **\$142,067**

EXPENSES

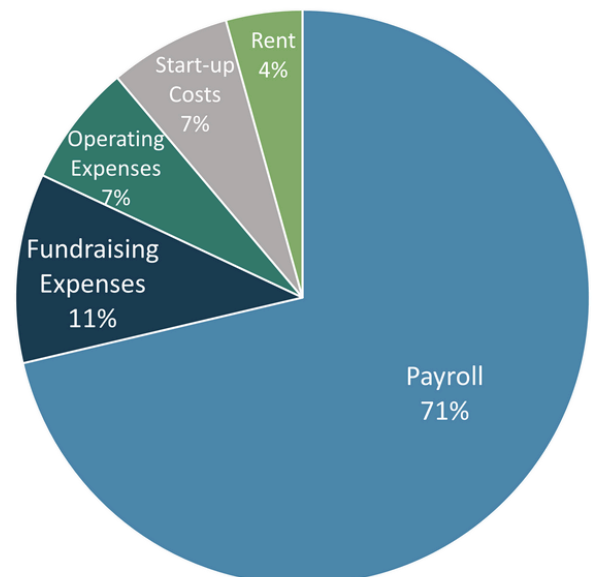
Start-Up Costs	\$8,764
Payroll & Benefits	\$90,650
Operating Expenses	\$8,758
Fundraising Expenses	\$13,612
Rent	\$5,498

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$127,282**

REVENUES



EXPENSES



CHANGEMAKERS

>\$7,500

Haig Point Foundation

Emily & Seth Johnson

The Nolfi Family

\$5,000 - \$7,500

Cathy & Howard Bos

Janus Coastal

Kimberly & Ben Lundgren

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Daufuskie Island Conservatory

Paulette & John Hinchey

Shannon & Todd Neel

Erin & Jeremy Quinn

Bonnie Schroeder

Kathleen Simmons

Nicole & Stephen Yarlborough

\$500 - \$1,000

Kristin & Mark Blinson

Vanessa Bramlett

Sara Deitch

Kelly & Carl Easterling

Marla & Steve Lundgren

Kimberly Medley

Kelly & Mike Perriccio

Kathy & Rick Wagoner

\$100 - \$500

Marsha Blackburn

Karla Clark

Leigh Anne De Chainé

Elaine Donohoe

Frye's Corner

Annena & Lou Hampton

Steve Hill

Tammy & Kris Kelley

Holly & Rob Lesan

Nancy Ludtke

Cassidy & Grant Lundgren

Carol & Richard Monahan

Lillian Mortensen Willis

Glend Mikulak

Deborah Smith

Vicky & TJ Wasser

**Major Fundraiser
Event Donors
(>\$1,000)**

Kelly & Frederick Waite

Karen Thomas

Mary & Wade Keisler

The Frosty Frog Cafe

Outside Hilton Head

Richard Schutte

Ross Meyers

Tammy Jones

Jackie Reynecke & Mark Anders

Barbara & William Farrar

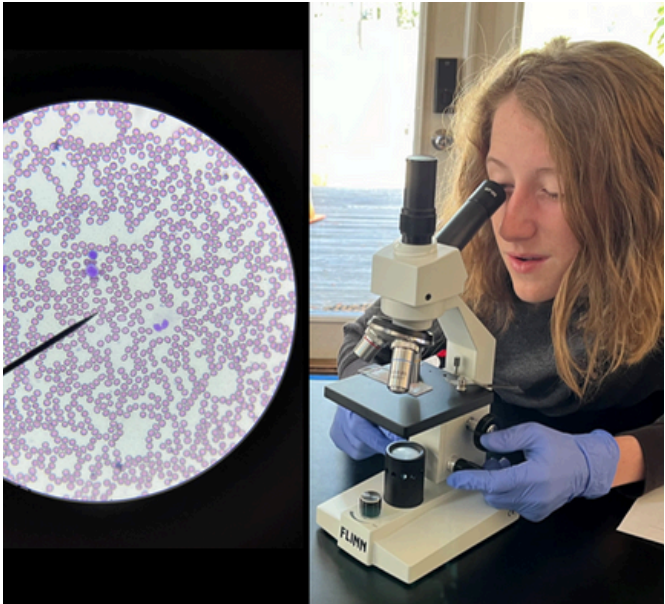
Rodney Rossman

Jennifer Huston & Joe Rowland

We are deeply grateful to all those who have generously donated, in any amount, to be the change in the lives of Daufuskie's youth.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

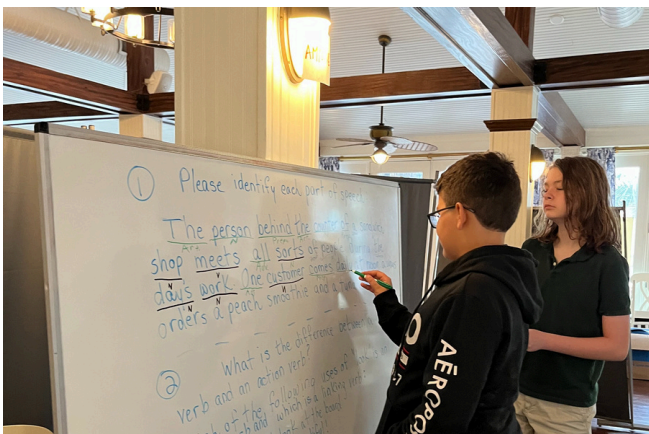
With Daufuskie as our classroom, we created a unique, transformational educational experience. Small class sizes and dedicated teachers bridged gaps in learning semester one to capitalize on student strengths during semester two. A focus on interdisciplinary skills and application of knowledge led students to engage in hands-on learning and analysis of information.



The Nolfi Family's generous sponsorship of our science classroom facilitated lab-based learning in STEM classes. Students utilized high-resolution microscopes to study ocean water, organisms, and even their own blood samples. Digital scales and thermometers were used to precisely measure distillation rates. With dissection kits, students were able to compare the anatomy and function of the marine dogfish shark and the mammal heart. These laboratory activities aimed to teach students how to inquire, form hypotheses, and synthesize results in detailed lab reports.

\$15,000 RAISED FOR SCIENCE LAB

Students diagramming sentences in Ms. Price's class



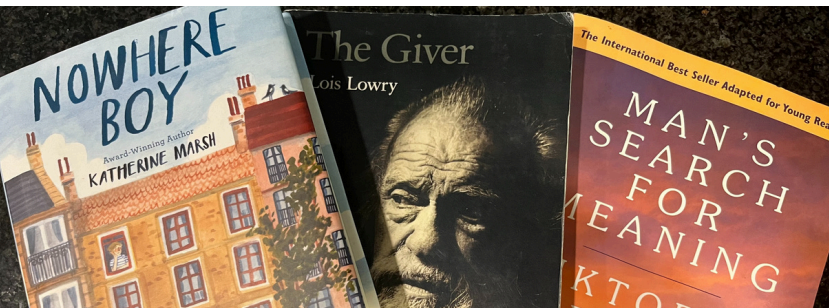
Humanities courses led to thoughtful discussions, creative projects, and essays. Students learned to be discerning in their research, examining multiple primary and secondary sources. Ms. Victoria Price taught a creative writing course, culminating in each student publishing a short work of fiction. Students showcased their projects as well as practiced their presentation skills in open houses at the end of each semester.

**AVERAGE
STUDENT
GROWTH BY
MAP SCORES**



Math
4 percentage
points

Reading
8 percentage
points



CONNECTING COMMUNITY



CAROLE KIHM



VICTORIA PRICE



JAN ROSS



MARK ANDERS



JANE BASFORD



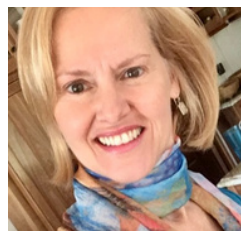
JENNIFER NULL



KATHLEEN CARMODY



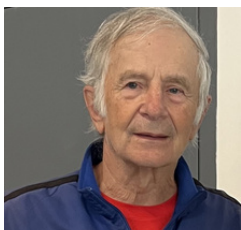
TODD NEEL



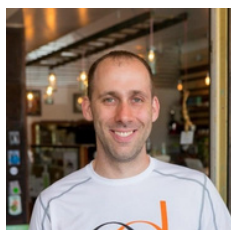
NANCY HUNTER



LORI CUMMING



ALEX RADACANU



JEREMY QUINN

At DIIS, elective courses are conducted by community volunteers who generously offer their extensive knowledge and expertise to our students. These instructors lead four to six-week units on a variety of subjects including pickleball, tennis, ping pong, swimming, personal fitness, yoga, introduction to art, vocal music, printmaking, and marketing.

12

community teachers

14

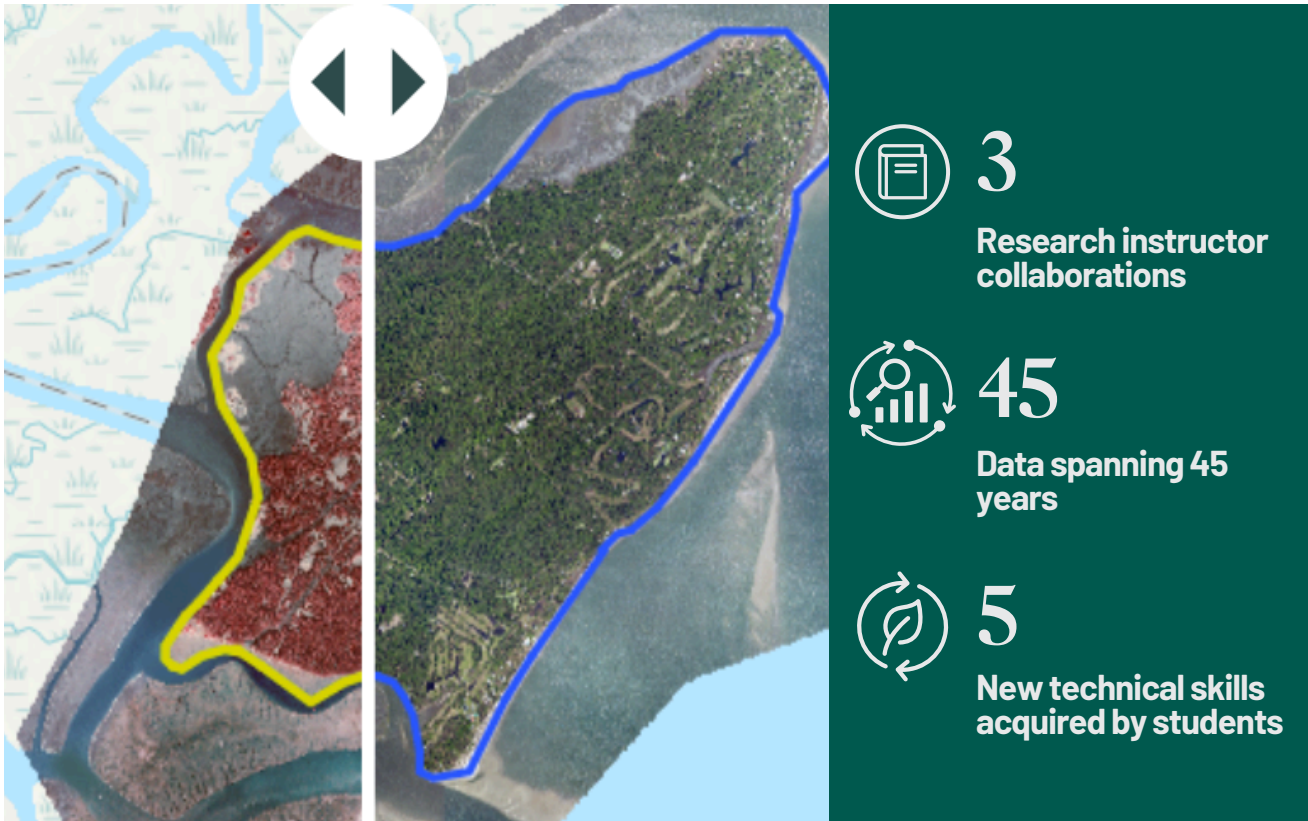
units taught

Community educators play a crucial role in helping students develop a sense of belonging in the community. Serving as trusted mentors and friends to the youth they interact with, these teachers facilitate meaningful connections that bridge generational gaps and create shared purpose in our community, positively influencing the development of this next generation.

"The students were an absolute joy to teach. Although dance was new to most, they embraced it and added their own personality and style to each step. At the showcase performance, they danced their hearts out, leaving a smile on the hearts of the audience... especially mine."

-Nancy Hunter

CULTIVATING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



DIIS STUDENTS RESEARCHED AND PUBLISHED DATA TRACKING DAUFUSKIE'S EROSION

[Daufuskie Shoreline GIS Story Map](#) is a webpage built by Daufuskie Island Independent School students to share their research on Daufuskie's shoreline. DIIS collaborated with SC Sea Grant, College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University, and Daufuskie Island Conservancy to teach students how to use GIS technology to track Daufuskie's shoreline over the last 45 years. They also studied sea level rise and erosion and their impact on the island.

Through work on this project, students learned many new technical skills ranging from making maps in ARC GIS, to digitizing and measuring changes in wet-dry lines, to presenting data in graphs and charts, and presenting their findings in a digestible format. DI community leaders have used the interactive project to understand the island's recent physical history and areas of concern to be addressed. We are so grateful our students are having opportunities to lead research about issues important to our island.

Explore the students' work yourself. Click [here](#) to access [Daufuskie Shoreline GIS Map](#).

WHAT'S NEXT!

ENROLLMENT

100% increase in student population



80% capture rate of students graduating from Beaufort County's Daufuskie Island Elementary School

100% increase in students from off-island

NEW PROGRAMS



From Seeds to Shoreline Project
a collaboration with SC Sea Grant



Instrumental Music

Mock Trial



Cross Country Team



Archery Team



Tennis Team

FACILITIES

Move into a semi-permanent structure

Begin design phase of building planning

Explore land tracts for future school campus



MAKE AN IMPACT AT DIIS

Your generous donations of money, time, and resources are what keep us creating more robust educational opportunities on DI. Through supporting our work, you give students access to a holistic education and a community of mentors. **Reach out to us today to see how you can change lives!**



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Dean Nicholas, Ph.D.
Sallie Ann Robinson
Michael Perriccio

Give Now!

We appreciate your continued support and dedication to our mission.

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