



DAYTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



2012

Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT

Mission & Activities:

Dayton International School (DIS) prepares students with the academic, social and language skills needed to be successful in our multicultural, multilingual world. DIS provides a bilingual education that fosters intercultural understanding and a global perspective.

Dayton International School is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was incorporated in January 2010. The school's goal is to create and operate a preschool-to-grade 12 school that would teach all school subjects in Spanish. These plans began to be realized in January 2012, when Dayton International School assumed the operations, resources and facilities of Lingua Language Academy, LLC, a foreign language academy for young children that was closing.

Since January 2012, Dayton International School staff and students have participated in multiple community events to raise awareness of our mission. The school hosted a Barnes & Noble Book Fair featuring stories, crafts, and songs in Spanish. Students performed a short program of songs in Spanish at the Dayton Hispanic Chamber Expo in May 2012. The learning continued in the summer months; a Spanish Art Camp and "Under the Sea" Spanish Immersion Summer Camp were held to help continuing students practice their Spanish and to introduce new students to Spanish through language immersion.

Rationale:

Dayton International School builds on a child's innate ability to acquire language and strengthens the Dayton region by helping to attract and retain multinational corporations.

Benefits Students

Systematic immersion in Spanish allows our students to become bilingual with a native-like fluency in both languages. Studies show that bilingualism aids overall cognitive development, fosters creativity, and increases problem-solving skills. Our students will continue to reap those cognitive benefits as adults, and they will also be ready to step into global employment because of the cultural awareness, global perspective, and foreign language skills gained at Dayton International School.

Benefits the Community

Dayton International School is an important feature of the region, and it conveys many benefits to the local, state and national communities and to the regional economy. Dayton International School will help attract and retain corporate headquarters operations and foreign-born professionals in the Dayton region.

In 2011, Chiquita Brands relocated its corporate headquarters to North Carolina and cited Cincinnati's lack of a bilingual talent pool with international experience as one factor. In contrast, Sidney Taurel, CEO of Eli Lilly and Co. in Indiana, praised the International School of Indianapolis for having "helped globalize Eli Lilly" by attracting mid- and late-career foreign-born executives with families. Multinational corporations see the value in international schools in both the near- and longer-term. In the near-term, Dayton International School will help recruit employees with children. In the longer-term, Dayton International School will build a local, multilingual talent pool that is prepared to build relationships and negotiate contracts in other countries and cultures. The school will prove itself an asset to the region.

Facilities:

Dayton International School is located at 7811 Mad River Rd. in Dayton, Ohio, where it occupies rented space.

Premises

Research shows that architecture and design influence all aspects of a person's well being. Less plastic, less bright colors, and more natural materials encourage exploration without overwhelming the children or the teachers. The floor is carpeted to provide better traction and to reduce distracting noise. Natural light is abundant and artificial lighting is adaptable to specific tasks such as painting and crafts (bright lights) or story telling (subdued, comforting light).

Equally important is easy access to the outside play and learning area, which takes advantage of the trees and gently sloping nature. The outdoor area has room for group games and individual play and offers opportunities to learn about ecology and the natural world.

The playground was designed with young children in mind and takes advantage of the natural features of the property to create safe and age-appropriate play and learning opportunities. This type of playground contributes to children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development by stimulating creativity and offering a wide range of activities.

Acoustics

Noise and clatter affect one's ability to concentrate and even lowers children's desire to help others and be considerate. The school uses sound-absorbing paint for the walls.

Colors

It is important to take into account that children wear colorful outfits, toys are brightly colored, and art projects are typically quite vivid, when designing new facilities. Dayton International School focuses on the children and the artwork they produce rather than overwhelm the interior with bold colors or busy, permanent designs on walls and floors.

Governance & Staff

Dayton International School is overseen by a Board of Directors that included the following members in 2011/2012:

- Laura Skidmore - President & DIS Executive Director
- Susanne Jacobsen - Treasurer
- Holly Lebamoff - Secretary
- Alison Allport - DIS Enrollment & Community Relations, Licensed Professional Counselor
- Lisa Azarte – Realtor & Associate Partner at Coldwell Banker Heritage Realtors
- Yvette Bravo - Retired School Principal
- Marisol Pina - DIS Head of School
- Kathy Roberts - Certified Public Accountant
- Jeff Senney - Attorney and Shareholder at Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling
- Yvonne Wathen - Executive Director of the Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Dayton International School employs two full-time teachers and two part-time administrators for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mia Maroto, Teacher

Mia is our new preschool teacher for 2012-2013. Mia was born in beautiful Long Beach, California but grew up in Dayton, Ohio. She graduated from Meadowdale High School where she studied International Baccalaureate Spanish for four years. Mia then went on to study Spanish and Communications at Wright State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. She loves languages and traveling and has been to Japan, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. Ecuador, where she taught English to K-8th grade students, was her residence for four years before coming to Dayton International School. She previously also taught Spanish to K-8 students in Dayton. Mia enjoys the Arts in her spare time. She loves classical and gospel choirs and has been a part of both. She loves languages and holds great confidence that immersion is a terrific way for small children to become fluent in and develop a lifelong love of languages.

Sylvia Phillips, Teacher

Sylvia teaches our school-age group of kindergarteners and first graders. Sylvia was born in Monterrey, N. L. Mexico. Always interested in other languages, she decided to study Applied Linguistics at the University of Nuevo Leon in Mexico. Sylvia also studied English and Italian, and had the opportunity to go study in Italy in 2006 and 2007. Sylvia worked as a teacher in Monterrey, Mexico from 2006 to 2010 and taught Italian at the college level. In 2007 Sylvia met her husband, Mike, and got married in 2010. She moved to Ohio the same year and had the opportunity to work with children through Lingua Language Academy. It was a new experience for her and she says they are teaching her just as she teaches them. Sylvia likes to work with children because they have so much energy, and she enjoys their reactions to learning something new. She calls them my “little kids,” or “mis niños”.

This is Sylvia’s second year at Dayton International School. Last year was very interesting and productive, and she is so excited to start this new school year with the children.

Marisol Piña, Head of School

After graduating from Mexico's Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora with a degree in Psychology. Marisol taught classes on psychology, child development, and the humanities. She has also worked as a teacher and academic coordinator for secondary schools in Mexico. She and her husband moved to Ohio in 2006 and she obtained her USA Psychology accreditation.

Marisol led Lingua Language Academy's Spanish Immersion Program and is currently working at the Dayton International School as Head of School. She and her husband David are raising their children, Monica (4) and David (1), to be bilingual. She feels blessed to be part of DIS and to share her experience and passion for children.

Laura Skidmore, Executive Director

Laura came to the Dayton International School in 2010. She volunteered to join the Board of Directors and served as President of the board while the school was being planned.

She began her career in education in Spain, and her love for teaching was sparked while teaching English as a foreign language there. After leaving Madrid, she returned to Ohio and taught Spanish at a Dayton-area high school.

Laura received her master's degree in Spanish (Hispanic Linguistics) from the Ohio State University and specialized in language acquisition. Laura later founded Primary Languages, a language school for young children, and found that she enjoyed teaching preschoolers more than any other age group. She developed curriculum, managed the school, and taught Spanish there before joining the Dayton International School.

She is an active member of the Ohio Foreign Language Association and the National Network for Early Language Learning, and she has spoken on language education at professional events. Her presentation "Language in Context" was chosen as an *All-Star Presentation* at OFLA's 2012 conference, and more recently her presentation "Effective Use of Authentic Videos" was chosen for the 2013 Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

In addition to her duties as Executive Director, she also is teaching art to the school age children in 2012-2013.

Student Body

As of October 2012, Dayton International School student body includes:

Preschool-age: Fourteen students (eight girls, six boys)

Kindergarten: Three students (one girl, two boys)

First grade: Three students (one girl, two boys)

Curriculum

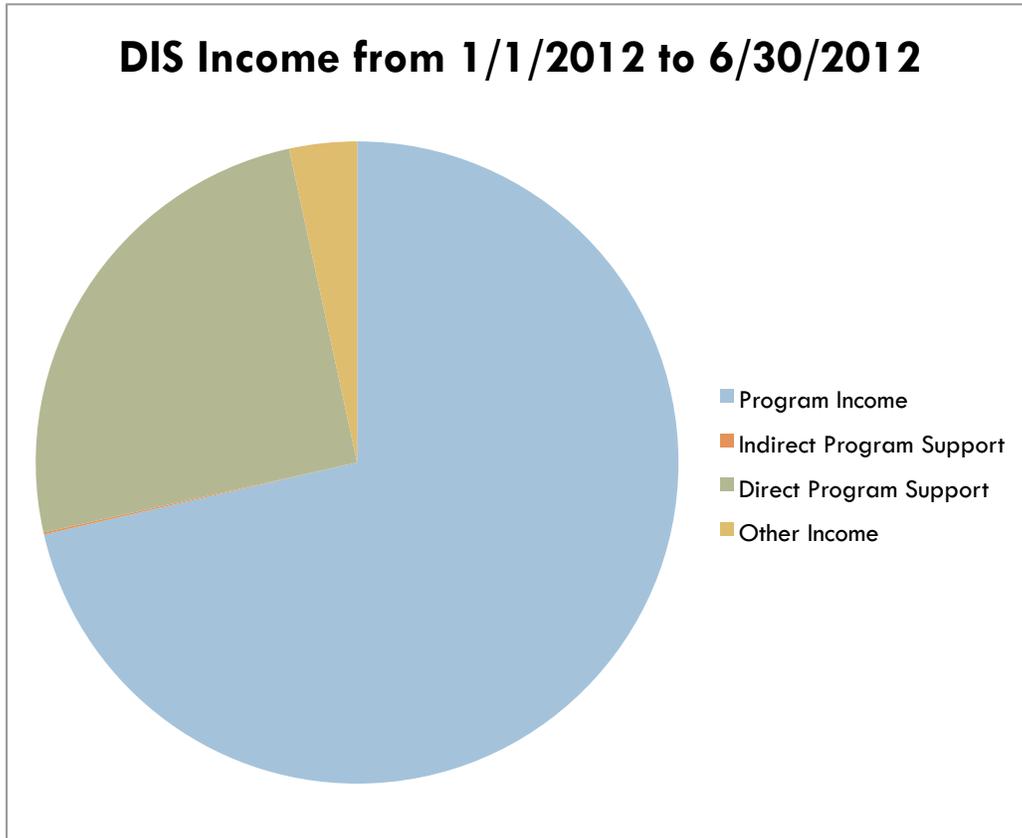
Dayton International School curricula are aligned with state and/or national standards and the school uses skills-based assessments (can-do statements) to assess student progress twice per year. In both the preschool enrichment program and the school-age programs, the curriculum uses a monthly theme as a context to guide learning in all subject areas. The school has created its own curriculum for the preschool enrichment program, while the school-age program uses a combination of school-produced curriculum and national textbooks. The school-age students use the *Math in Focus* series of textbooks published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and the *Lenguaje* Spanish language & literature series of textbooks published by Santillana USA. The remaining academic curriculum for school-age students is developed by the school to coordinate with state and/or national standards and the school's monthly theme.

Financial Information

Dayton International School is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and has been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Ohio. The fiscal year for Dayton International School runs from July 1 to June 30th. The following fiscal information is based on the period from January 2012 to June 2012, since January 1st, 2012 was the date the school began operation.

As shown on the chart below, DIS relies on 3 primary sources of income: tuition, individual pledges through the Combined Federal Campaign, and fundraisers. Our fundraisers in 2012 included the Elder Beerman Community Days Coupon Book Sale, the Barnes & Noble Book Fair, Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, and a DIS Garage Sale. The percentage of income from each of these areas is seen in the chart below:

For the time period of January 1, 2012 to June 30th, 2012, DIS gained income in 4 ways: 1) direct public support (individual pledges, corporate contributions, and fundraisers); 2) indirect public support (gifts of goods or services); 3) Other Income (From partnerships with Elder Beerman Coupon Book Sales and Barnes & Noble Book Fair), and 4) program income, which includes tuition and membership dues. The total income for this time period was \$30,484.23, and the chart below demonstrates the percentage of income generated in each category.



Expenses for the time period 1/1/2012 to 6/30/2012 were divided into six categories: 1) Business Expenses (i.e., marketing), 2) Contract Services (bank charges, payroll expenses, snow removal/mowing), 3) Facilities and Equipment (rent, telephone, supplies, etc.), 4) Fundraising, 5) Operations (classroom supplies, payroll, postage, recruiting, etc), and 6) Other (improvements and miscellaneous). The following chart shows the expense breakdown for this time period.

