2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT



OUR VALUES SUPPORT
OUR LEARNERS



Individualized Learning
We recognize and celebrate the unique learning styles of our students, tailoring our approach to meet their specific needs and foster their growth.

Confidence Building
We are dedicated to nurturing self-esteem and resilience in our students, helping them to become confident, independent learners who believe in their abilities.

Proven Success
We are committed to implementing evidence-based practices and programs with a track record of success, ensuring our students receive the highest quality education and support.

STUDENT SUPERPOWERS

BIG PICTURE THINKERS	IMAGINATIVE & VISIONARY	STRONG VERBAL SKILLS & LONG-TERM MEMORY
STRONG VISUAL & SPATIAL SKILLS	RESILIENT	EMPATHETIC & INTUITIVE
ENGAGING STORYTELLERS	CURIOUS & INQUISITIVE	NATURAL COLLABORATORS

"My son has done something every day during the first weeks of school he has never done. He has gotten into the car to come home with a big smile.

He says he loves going to Hill because 'they GET me!' And he actually reads to us at night... he has never done that.

We are so grateful to this program and the way it has made our son come to life!"

EXPLORING

THE HILL DIFFERENCE

The Hill School of Wilmington is an independent, nonprofit, non-sectarian school serving students in grades 1–8 with language-based learning differences. Through our specialized half-day program, students receive targeted instruction in reading, written language, math, and executive function, while remaining connected to their base schools.

This unique model allows Hill to work in partnership with public, independent, and private schools throughout our community to support each student's success. Hill also serves homeschool families from across our region, extending the reach of our specialized instruction to an even broader community of learners.

4:1 Student-to-Teacher Ratio

16 Years serving students & families throughout the Cape Fear region

16 2025-26 Partner Schools: representing public, independent, and private schools

29 Number of homeschool families Hill served in 2025-26

HILL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY THE #'S

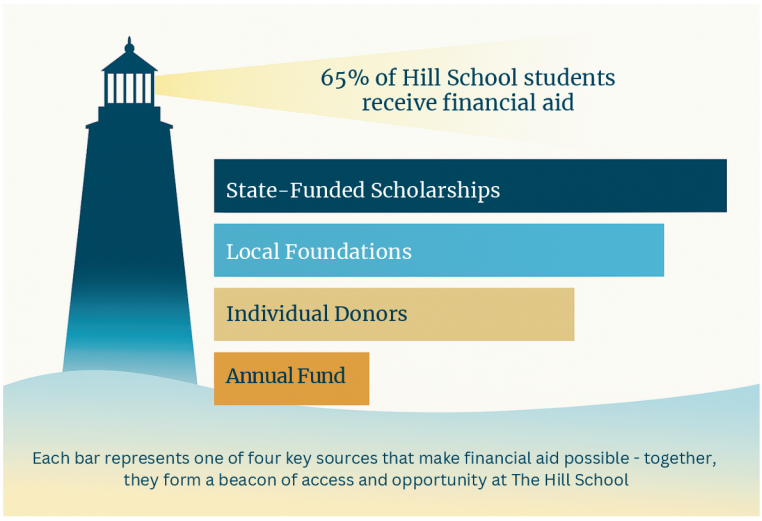
ACADEMIC	SUMMER	TUTORING
64 STUDENTS	32 STUDENTS	30+ STUDENTS

HOW HILL STUDENTS COMPARE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

Students who scored AT or ABOVE a year's progress in the below subtests

READING	MATH	WRITING
86%	83%	82%

The Hill School equipped me as a learner by teaching me different strategies to help me figure out how I learn best. Through this process, I have learned I am capable and have become much more confident in my reading, writing, and math skills. I learn better with individualized instruction and in a smaller class setting. I have become a much more patient and confident learner.



850+ Students served since 2010

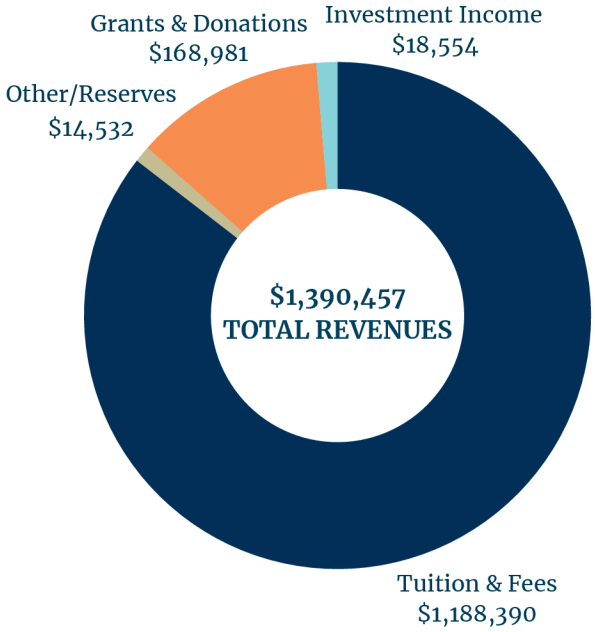
13 Number of teaching staff at two campuses in 2025-26

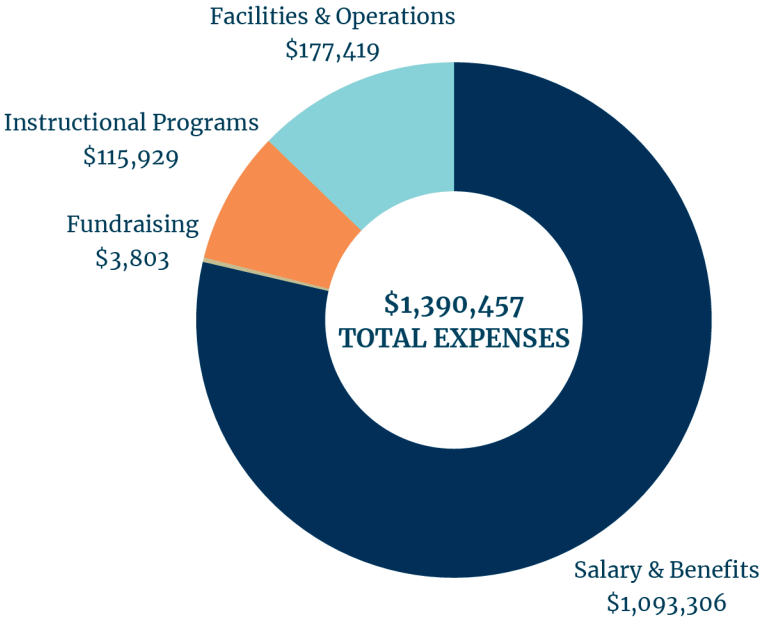
100 % of teachers with Orton-Gillingham and/or 95RAP certification

300+ Collective years of teaching experience

INVESTING IN POSSIBILITY

OUR 2025-2026 REVENUES & EXPENSES





Hill's 2025-2026 **Annual Revenues** reflects a shared investment in both educational excellence and access.

Tuition and Fees (86%) sustain our highly trained Orton-Gillingham educators and a resource-intensive 1:4 teacher-student model, making individualized instruction possible.

Grants and Donations (12%) help bridge the gap between what families can pay and the true cost of a Hill education, expanding access to our transformative education and reaching more under-served students.

Investment Income (1%) reflects careful stewardship of our invested assets, helping ensure that today's generosity continues to strengthen Hill for years to come.

Other Sources and Reserves (1%) reflect a planned, Board-approved use of previously set-aside funds to support current-year operations and strategic priorities.

Hill's 2025–2026 **Annual Expenses** reflect a deliberate investment in the people, programs, and learning environment that make a Hill education possible.

Salaries and Benefits (79%) represent our greatest investment - supporting the highly trained educators and staff who deliver Hill's program of proven success. Our strongest resource is our people, and investing in them means investing directly in student growth.

Facilities and Operations (13%) provide the safe, welcoming, and well-equipped environment our students need to learn with confidence.

Instructional Programs (8%) provide the specialized tools, materials, and resources that strengthen teaching and learning each day.

Fundraising (<1%) represents a modest investment in the relationships and development efforts that generate philanthropic support for Hill's mission and long-term growth.

Please note that these financials are preliminary. The final audited financials will be available on our website upon completion of the audit.

PURPOSEFUL STEWARDSHIP

WHY THE NUMBERS MATTER



At The Hill School of Wilmington, our purpose has always been clear: to empower students with language-based learning disabilities, including dyslexia and dysgraphia, as well as ADHD and executive-function challenges, to achieve academic success and build lifelong confidence.

Through the ***Building Hill's Future*** campaign, we are working to extend that impact to more children and families. Launched in 2025, our **$10–$12 million expansion campaign** will create the space and resources to serve more students, broaden tutoring and academic programming, and share Hill's professional-development expertise with educators throughout New Hanover County and the surrounding region.

Central to this vision is **expanding access**. By growing our financial-aid resources, we aim to ensure that more children, across a broader range of family income levels, can benefit from Hill's specialized instruction and its power to change the trajectory of their lives.

As of the close of **FY 2025–2026**, the Campaign had received more than **$1.5 million in cash gifts** along with over **$13,000 in investment income**. In less than two years, total gifts and pledges reached more than **$4.2 million.** This early momentum reflects a remarkable breadth of support from community members, current and alumni families, Hill's Board of Directors, corporate partners, and local family foundations who share in Hill's vision.

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP DONORS

The Hill School of Wilmington gratefully recognizes the families, foundations, and friends whose early generosity is building the foundation for Hill's next chapter. Their commitment to ***Building Hill's Future*** is helping turn an ambitious vision of a new home and expanded services into reality for students with learning differences.

Together, these donors are investing not simply in a building, but in the students, families, and educators who will benefit from Hill for generations to come:

DR. CATHY BARLOW

BRUCE B. CAMERON FAMILY FOUNDATION

DUANE & REBECCA HIXON

DR. ALBERT & JANE MARR

JOHN & PEGGY MEEHL

KATHY PURVIS

DAVID & WESIE SPRUNT

THE TRUE NORTH FOUNDATION - CLINT & AMY BROWN NORTH

There's a place for <u>you</u> in Hill's next chapter - to learn more, contact:

Susan Harrell, Executive Director, *director@hillschoolofwilmington.org*
Erin Payne, Director of Development, *development@hillschoolofwilmington.org*

BEACONS OF TRANSFORMATION
2025-2026 HILL SUPPORTERS

Community Donors:

Anonymous (3)
Maggie Ashburn
Kit & Debbie Austin
Brooke Bailey
Dr. Cathy Barlow
James & Kathryn Barmore
Marilyn Barmore
Rob Bowen
Lauren Bystrom
Brett & April Caines
Bill & Lynn Calder
Judy Canady - Canady & Son Exterminating
Steve & Jan Capps
Danielle Carlstedt
Wayne & Sheila Carlstedt
George & Beth Chadwick
Amy Crittenberger
Mimi Cunningham
David & Kay Dougherty
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Wendy Fingerhut
Foundation for the Carolinas
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Zachary & Dallas Garrett
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Paul & Rebecca Griffin
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Ann Jenkins
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Bob & Harriett Loweth
Dr. Al & Jane Marr
Jane Martin
Dr. Megan Wydick Martin - Bryce Martin Foundation
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Tim Matt
Darcy McCurry
Francina McGriff
Allan McKenna
Herb & Gina McKim
Hugh & Karen McManus
Dr. William & Frances McMillan
John & Peggy Meehl
Elizabeth Meske
Paige Miller
Harmon & Rainelle Mishoe
Reid & Linda Murchison
Mort & Judy Neblett
Clint & Amy Brown North
Ernie Olds - Becker Morgan Group
Ernie & Dawn Olds
Dr. Joseph & Erin Payne
Howard Penton III
Felicia Prease
Dr. Lindsey Prochaska
Will & Jenny Purvis - Liberty Senior Living
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Marvin & Margaret Robison
Jeremy Matney & Colleen Rozier
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Ben & Brittany Salmon
Sam & Kathryn Schey
Jonathan Schulz
Vicki Scott
Donna Shiro
Mildred Skidmore
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Deborah Smith
Steve & Linda Smits
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David & Wesie Sprunt
Lillian Smith Teer
Michael & Lillian Teer
Henry & Peggy Temple
Al & Gail Terry
Yasmin Shah Tomkinson
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Jim Wallace
Kay Warren
John & Jan Wessell
Ron & Ginny Woodruff
Jessica Yackel
Vance Young - Intracoastal Realty
Vance & Porter Young
Cindy Zickefoose

Gifts in Honor:

In Honor of Dr. Cathy Barlow:
Linda Lowe

In Honor of Calder Barmore:
Marilyn Barmore

In Honor of Beth Chadwick:
Henry & Myra Herring
Harry & Lynn Kraly
Cal & Jackie Lewis

In Honor of Kay Dougherty:
Anonymous
Jeffrey & Margaret Hamilton

In Honor of Julia Garner:
Tom & Cathy Garner

In Honor of Wiiliam Garrett:
David Garrett
Cindy Zickefoose

In Honor of Violet LeRoy:
Al & Gail Terry

In Honor of John & Peggy Meehl's Birthdays:
Sally Jones

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. John Meehl for Christmas:
Sally Jones

In Honor of Amy Brown North:
Herb & Gina McKim

I*n Honor of Erin Payne:*
Tom & Pam Diener

In Honor of Jude Salmon:
Ben & Brittany Salmon

In Honor of Harrison Smith:
Will & Katie Smith

In Honor of the Staff of The Hill School:
Susan Harrell

Gifts in Memory:

In Memory of Mary Frances McAbee:
Harmon & Rainelle Mishoe

In Memory of General Ira C. Owens
Harmon & Rainelle Mishoe

In Memory of Dick Rosemeier:
Harmon & Rainelle Mishoe

In Memory of Bobbie White:
Harmon & Rainelle Mishoe

In-Kind Donations:

Dr. Karen Kirk
Jackie Lewis, Lewis Nursery & Farms, Inc.
Dr. Joseph & Erin Payne
Ben & Brittany Salmon, Chick-fil-A Market Street

Grant Awards & Foundation Gifts:

Bruce B. Cameron Family Foundation
Carlstedt Family Fund
Clannad Foundation
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
Eshelman Foundation
Rudisill Family Foundation
The Ministering Circle
The True North Foundation

"Building Hill's Future" School Expansion Campaign:

Dr. Cathy Barlow
Bruce B. Cameron Family Foundation
Duane & Rebecca Hixon
Dr. Albert & Jane Marr
John & Peggy Meehl
Kathy Purvis
The True North Foundation

SHARING THE STORIES OF
OUR IMPACT

From a proud graduate:
Hill has changed me as a learner. It has taught me to accept my learning differences and use [them] to my advantage. I have learned that I can take concepts in like a sponge. I am exceptionally good at math and social studies!

The teachers at Hill are so practical, honest, and encouraging; you never sugarcoat things, and that means a great deal to a mom just trying to help her child. I truly appreciate everything you and the Hill School's team do every day for children with challenges. This program has been wonderful for [my son] and his confidence has grown so much in just half a year. He absolutely loves his time there, and I'm deeply grateful for the positive impact you've all had on him.



I would like to share two things noted from the start of the school year. One, we have a happy boy again who comes home from school and is willing to talk about his day. And when it is time to do homework, he gets out his binder and sits at his desk and does his work on his own, no complaints. It's lovely, and I think it is a direct result of having clear expectations and organization that is established by the teachers.

There is beauty in being in an environment where people think differently than you do. It creates opportunities to recognize strengths and identify challenges in ways others have not - while also providing a sense of understanding, comfort, and belonging. We believe Michelle found that at Hill!

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Meehl
President

Kay Dougherty
Vice President

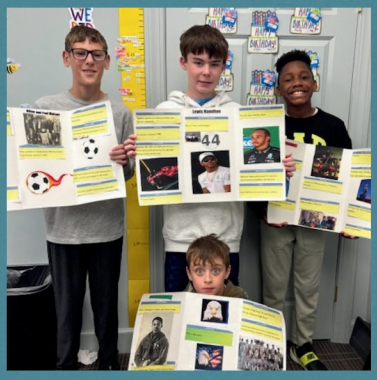
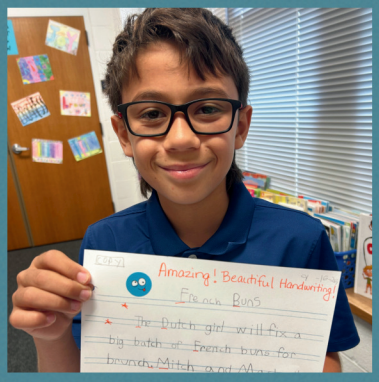
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We are deeply grateful for our Board of Directors, whose members give generously of their time, expertise, and resources - achieving 100% participation in 2025-26 annual giving to support the Hill School's mission.

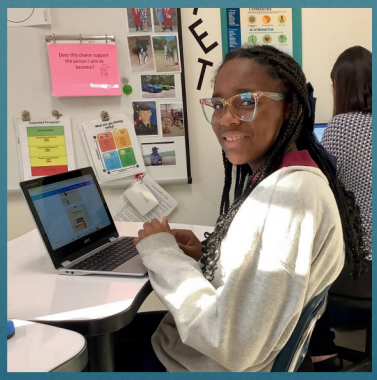















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