EMBERS
ACADEMY

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF

Faith, Knowledge, and Virtue



2026 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Dear Embers Community,

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, we celebrate a truly monumental milestone: Embers Academy's 30th Anniversary. We thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our parents, faculty, students, and friends over the past three decades.

Thanks to your dedication, as well as the sacrifices of past families and faculty, Embers is positioned for an exceptionally bright future. When the doors were opened for Embers' first school year thirty years ago, enrollment was fewer than 30 students. This year, our enrollment exceeded 250 students for the first time.

Your generosity continues to be a driving force behind this growth. A record number of Embers families contributed to the Annual Fund this year. Together, through the Annual Fund and the Extravaganza, our community again raised over $450,000.

Because tuition alone does not fully cover our operating costs, this support is vital. It directly bridges the gap, while also providing the financial aid necessary for more students to experience an Embers education. Furthermore, these funds empower us to make investments in our parent formation programs, faculty development, curriculum enhancements, and campus updates.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your generosity, partnership, and commitment to the Embers mission.

Sincerely,
George Holohan
President, Embers Board of Directors

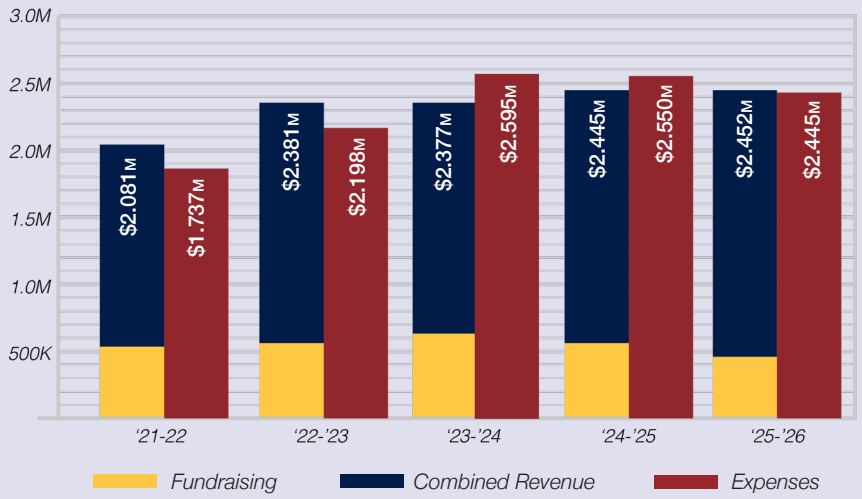
$923K Donation: In-Kind Gifts

$10K Grant: DuPage Foundation Beles Christian Education Grant

2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET

Revenue	
Tuition and Fees	$1,950,000
Fundraising	$478,000
Annual Fund ($202,000)	
Extravaganza ($276,000)	
Other	$24,000
Total Revenue	**$2,452,000**
Expenses	
Maintenance & Facilities	$526,000
General Operations	$1,903,000
Total Expenses	**$2,429,000**

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



ANNUAL FUND

The 2025-2026 Annual Fund Drive marked a historic milestone for Embers Acadmey. In total, **96% of our school families donated to the Fund, representing the highest family participation rate in school history**. This remarkable level of engagement reflects our community's shared commitment to the mission of Embers and to helping our students grow in faith, knowledge, and virtue. We were also grateful for a record number of grandparents who contributed to the Fund, highlighting the meaningful, multi-generational support that strengthens our school community. Our sincere gratitude goes out to every donor whose generosity helps sustain and advance the mission of Embers!

RECORD-BREAKING

96%

School family participation in the '25-'26 Annual Fund!

2025-2026 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

GIFTS $25,000+

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GIFTS $5,000+

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Our Sparks experience an array of enriching field trips that bring learning beyond the classroom: inspiring curiosity, deepening understanding, and creating lasting memories for our students.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

GIFTS UP TO $499

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BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Funding from the Annual Fund and Extravaganza has made possible a number of meaningful school improvements and enhancements, creating an even richer experience for our Sparks.



Our Sparks now enjoy a dedicated lunchroom designed to be a welcoming space to share meals and build community throughout the school day.



The addition of the Narnia Library has created a dedicated space for students to discover beloved stories and nurture a lifelong love of literature.



With additional assistance from the Beles Grant and hands-on support by Embers' Dads Club, our playground received key updates to swings, seating, and more.

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A record number of extracurricular offerings gave our Sparks opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and discover their talents. Highlights included Fire Choir's spirited production of Willy Wonka Kids, *the creative adventures of Mrs. Rivas' Architecture Club, and a historic milestone for Embers Soccer, which advanced to the playoffs for the first time in school history!*





EMBERS EXTRAVAGANZA

This year's Extravaganza celebrated the enduring vision that has shaped Embers Academy over the last 30 years. As our community gathered to mark this important milestone, we reflected on how far our school has come since welcoming its first class in 1995, and took this special opportunity to look back at the people and ideas that made Embers possible.

During the evening, founding Board members John Kurt and Beth & Jim Morgan shared the hopes and aspirations that inspired our early families to establish Embers. They spoke of their desire to create a school rooted in strong Catholic education, where children would be surrounded by families who shared their values, and with community committed to faith formation and character development.

That founding vision has been carried forward by generations of Embers families who have invested their time, talents, and resources in the life of our school. We were honored to hear from several long-standing families whose commitment to Embers has helped sustain and strengthen the school throughout its history.

"It was very clear to me that this was a special place. There was such a sense of unity... When you cultivate a community where people are united around the same mission, incredible things happen."
-Pascale Burns, Embers mom of six

We also heard from current teachers who once walked the halls of Embers as students themselves, demonstrating the lasting impact of an Embers education and the many ways our alumni continue to be an integral part of our school's story.

Three decades ago, the vision for a school built on faith, knowledge, and virtue began. Today, that vision continues to grow through the dedication of our faculty, the partnership of our families, the generosity of our supporters, and the joy of our Sparks. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped write the story of Embers over the past 30 years, and to all who are helping shape the next chapter!

Lights, Camera, EMBERS Extravaganza 2026

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