



# The Legacy

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Washburn High School  
Foundation

210 W. 49th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-668-3483

[www.washburnconnections.org](http://www.washburnconnections.org)



## Letter from the President:

Dear Washburn Miller Alumni,  
Community, and Friends,

In the endearing words of my former soccer coach, Frank Ario, "It's a great day to be a Miller!" Our work at the Foundation over the past year has involved much advocacy and development, community engagement, and fundraising. **We are excited to see that Washburn's freshman class enrollment has increased by over 100% compared to three years ago!** There is a very real re-commitment of the Washburn community to the High School, and we're excited to be a part of it!

Our financial support of the School and its programs has continued to be a very positive influence in Washburn's goal of Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics. We have been able to provide support in the way of Grants to teachers, Scholarships to graduating seniors, Capital improvements, and logistical/enrollment avenues. **Since September 2010 the Foundation has been able to provide over \$100,000 of direct support to Washburn High School.** We've been able to do this because of generous donors like you, but the needs are ongoing.

**YOUR support makes all the difference in the world to these students and this school!** Please read through this newsletter to learn more about how your contributions to the WHS Foundation have been able to support WHS and its students, and how you can continue to help.

One recent change at the Foundation has been within our infrastructure. As we move forward with a more efficient leadership model, we rely on you now more than ever! With your help we can realize our mutual goals of maximizing financial support of the many unmet needs that are annually recurring at Washburn. The new reality in public education is that public funding alone will invariably end up being short of what is needed to achieve the goals of the School and the Foundation without further support from our alumni and community.

Please consider a contribution to the WHS Foundation that fits you and your priorities, recognizing that the needs of the School will continue. **Every dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly to supporting WHS and its students,** as we are now working more closely than ever with the Principal and Staff of the School to direct the available funds where they are needed most.

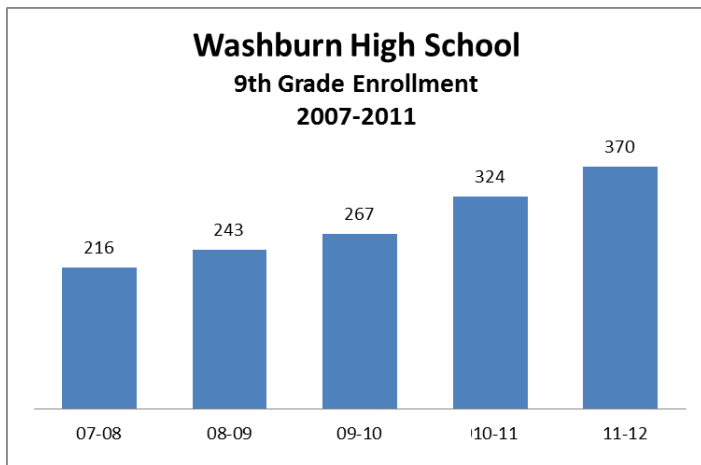
We, like you, want to see Washburn attain its greatest potential, and are very pleased to serve as the conduit to help achieve that result. Please consider a tax-free contribution to the Washburn High School Foundation. You may donate online at [washburnconnections.org](http://washburnconnections.org) and/or via the enclosed envelope and **THANK YOU and Go Millers!**

Mark Bachman, WHS'91  
Board President  
Washburn High School Foundation



## 9<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment growth shows positive changes at WHS

One of the strongest external measures of a school's health is its own enrollment trends. As a testament to the efforts of Washburn staff, parents, students and broader community, Washburn is healthier than ever, boasting steady increases in its entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade class for the past 5 years. The 2011 entering class is at nearly 400 students, the largest class in recent years.



As recently as 2008, only 25% of MPS students in Washburn's attendance chose to attend Washburn, and the majority opted for either Southwest or South. In 2010 that trend had shifted: 56% of MPS 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the Washburn attendance area chose Washburn, with an even higher percentage in 2011. (Exact 2011 figures are released by MPS in December). While some of that shift is due to the new 'stricter' high school attendance boundaries set by Minneapolis Public Schools, much of this is 'organic' growth by community families choosing Washburn because they want to be there.

Marla Tipping, parent of a 2011 9<sup>th</sup> grader and community resident, cited her family's reasons for choosing Washburn vs. other public and private options. *"We picked Washburn because our son was excited about going there and positive about all the changes at Washburn over the past couple of years. We have been happy so far and only surprised by the size of some classes. We assume this is just a growing pain that will work itself out, that Washburn*

*is trying to figure out how to deal with the success of its marketing efforts to prospective families. Go Millers!"*

While future enrollment is hard to predict, continued, steady growth at Washburn is almost certain as Minneapolis Public School officials are already witnessing an enrollment boom concentrated in southwest elementary schools and middle schools, including Washburn's 'feeder' schools.

Hale resident C.C. Strom has been closely watching Washburn's progress for the future of her two children, now a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. *"It's really encouraging to see how Washburn alumni and local businesses are supporting Washburn for things like the spring concert by Jeff Arundel, Tom Lieberman, and Billy McLaughlin. It makes us want to be a part of the school,"* Strom said. *"Every family I speak with who has a child currently attending Washburn is happy with the experience. It's reassuring to hear how the school is developing and providing a solid education to high school students."*

Besides more students, what does this mean for Washburn right now and in the near future? All this growth, while exciting, undoubtedly puts more pressure on existing resources and facilities. Where public monies will fulfill some areas, private donations are needed for capital improvements, advanced curriculum, leadership development tools, classroom speakers, and more. Your donation will help make this growth sustainable.



*More evidence of growing community support at WHS.*



# Why a Metro Transit Go-To Card means an opportunity for an education

Who would think that a Metro card would signify hope and a chance for an education? It does! With the various stressors and challenges that our families and students already face, ensuring that each student is able to get to school and return home safely is crucial. For example, one of the Washburn students must get up early in the morning at his relative's house, go to another house to make sure his siblings are ready, and then get himself to school. He is also in a number of extra-curricular activities that require him to be at school after hours. If it weren't for his Go-To card, he would not have the ability to take care of his family as well as be in school and participate in enriching after school programs.

This story, although unique in detail, is not uncommon in its need for many at Washburn. Unlike in days past, transportation from the school district is not always guaranteed. Many students must rely on public transportation to ensure that they not only get to school, but have the chance for enriching after-school activities and are able to return home safely in the evening. These activities allow them to not only have a well-rounded high school education, but be more competitive when pursuing their education after their time at Washburn.

The Washburn High School Foundation and Washburn High School recognize the need that students have to secure safe and reliable transportation. The impact that these cards have on a student's life is remarkable. Students who have been granted Go-To cards have been able to participate with tutoring services for their IB (International Baccalaureate) and regular classes, partake

in various educational clubs, be part of an athletic team, and be part of Washburn's student government. Without this Go-To card, many of these students would not only miss out on these extra-curricular activities, but some would also be challenged to get to school at all.

It is hard to believe that a small rectangular piece of paper could signify accessibility to an education that is so justly deserved, but it does. For \$350 a student is guaranteed to not have their education hindered by transportation. As an administrator from the school stated, "With students being able to not worry about transportation, they are able to focus on their education."

*September 26, 2011*

*I am a junior here at Washburn High School. I want to thank you for donating a metro bus card. This metro pass really helped me get to school early and stay late. My cheerleading practices are at 6:30am and I can't take a school bus at that time. Now that I have a (Go-To) Metro card, I also have a way to get home from games in the evening and to stay for Tuesday tutoring after school. Thank you very much again. It really means a lot to me and my family that you are so kind.*



## A letter from Spanish/French field trip teachers

Dear Washburn Foundation-

On behalf of Nancy Gustafson, Christina Oziewenski and all our Spanish & French levels 3-5, we wanted to send a huge thank you! Our Field Trip in May to learn about the French Settlers and Latino Immigrants was a huge success. The visit to the Minneapolis river sites was an eye opener for many of our student and they thoroughly enjoyed the mural tour in St. Paul! Thank you for your generosity!

*-Jenn Welbaum (teacher)*

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following donors who donated from March 1, 2010-June 30, 2011. Because of you we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School one of the top high schools in the city with the best teachers, the best resources, and the best-prepared students for the future.

### Thank you for your continuous support and donations!

#### Advocate (\$10,000-\$49,000)

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Healey, Deborah and Tom  
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(Kip & Suzanne Knelman)  
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Mellom, Sherwood  
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Moore, Steve & Wendy  
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Myhre, John  
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Ruhsam, Scott  
Rupp, Judith Durham  
Rustad, James  
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Voigt, Robert  
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Verbalowsky, Mary Popehn  
Werner, Jeffrey S.  
Werthe, Marian (Ensign) Allen & Sandr  
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Wilder, Stephen  
Witta, Nancy  
Yoder, Michael Henley & Randi  
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Ayala, Lucillia  
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Barker, John M.  
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Bergfalk, Jerrold F  
Berkwitz, Bob  
Blair, Gwili

Blake, Christy  
*In memory of Dick Henderson*  
 Blake-Lewis, Susan  
 Blewett, Lois  
 Blinde, Neal  
 Bloom, Susan  
 Bohn, Sue H.  
 Bragg, Ronald C  
*In memory of Carl Anderson*  
 Briggs, Marian  
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 Bryan, Jean  
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 Carlson, Dayton C  
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 Day, Patrick and Patricia  
 Dayhoff, David & Amy  
 De La Riva, Virginia  
 Decker, Curtis &  
 Anderson-Decker, Sonya  
 DeSanto, Sara  
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 Erickson, Susan E.  
 Farrell, Joan C  
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 Farrell, John P  
 Farrell, Wilmine  
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 Herrmann, Brigdet & Joel  
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 Husbands, Joe  
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 Jones, Virginia  
 Kaerwer, Barbara  
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 Loomis, Howard  
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 Newsome-Prochniak, Pamela  
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 O'Brien, Sheila  
*In memory of Patrick O'Brien*  
 Olson, Milton  
 Olson, Pam  
 Olson, Roy H.  
 Oram, Thomas E  
 Paschke, June  
*In memory of Carl Anderson*  
 Paskett, Karen A  
*In memory of Dick Henderson*  
 Patton, Janet  
*In memory of Janice Myren Mabley*  
 Paul, Jane  
 Peacock, Judith  
 Pedrazzini, Deron and Suzanne  
 Perraud, Pamela Brooks  
*In memory of Carl Anderson*  
 Petersen, Charles  
 Peterson, Ann  
 Peterson, Betty  
 Peterson, Cheryl Urbaniak  
 Peterson, Glen and Kathleen  
 Posten, Pamela  
*In memory of David J Poston*  
 Potter, Miriam  
 Prottas, Robert and Susan  
 Puente, Christina  
 Putnam, Laura  
 Quanbeck, Philip A  
 Quincy, John  
 Rawley, Barbara  
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 Reimann, Margaret  
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 Reinharz, Ethel M.  
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 Scott, Connie  
 Scott, Neil F  
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 Sisler, Marilyn R & Dr. Robert Drake  
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 Snyder, Wendell and Sandra  
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 Stocking, John H.  
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 Sullivan, Richard  
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 Thorp, Nancy & Ralph  
 Tisel, Elizabeth J.  
 Town, George  
 Troop, Joseph P  
 Vogel, Marjorie  
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 Wangenstein, William K.  
 Warner, Peter D.  
 Welsh, Jeanne Ann  
 Wething, David  
 Widen, John M  
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#### In-Kind Donations

Richard King-Flute

**Please consider making a donation to the Washburn High School Foundation. Donations can be made online or checks can be sent with the enclosed envelope. Your money is an investment in tomorrow's leaders, Washburn High School Leaders.**

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank **Jeffrey Prottas** for his work with the Washburn community. We wish him well with his future endeavors.



# WHSF supports tomorrow's leaders

The Washburn High School Foundation was pleased to support the 2011 Washburn Athletic Leadership Academy (WALA) summer program, becoming the lead sponsor for a program which is serving as a model throughout the



city. WALA is offered to all incoming freshman as well as current Washburn students to develop their athletic and leadership skills for the upcoming year. Students participate with daily physical training and exercises as well as small

discussion groups that are facilitated by a trained adult. Topics that are discussed vary and have ranged from dealing with the upcoming school year to coping with the emotions and stress associated with being a teen in an urban community.

According to Giovan Jenkins, one of the coordinators of the program, WHS football coach, and Dean of Students, the program grows in numbers and demand each year,

## Your support helps create opportunities that benefit students

Twice a year we offer mini grants for teachers and staff. The board also grants special funds for the school for items that are most in need. In the past we have sponsored the Leadership Academy, refurbished a piano, provided Go-To cards for students, and provided unique opportunities for students to apply their education in a real life learning environment.

The Washburn High School Foundation tries to meet all the needs, but we are limited due to resources. With your on-going support we can continue our mission, and grow the funds that are available to the school. We can do so much more. To the right are some of the mini-grants awarded for Fall 2011.

even though not much advertising has gone into promoting the program; the majority of students hear about it by word of mouth. This program has been offered at WHS for over 10 years.

By participating in this program students learn about being a leader. They are exposed to adult community leaders and business owners to learn their success stories, learn about being in a work force, and what it means to be successful in whatever they choose to do.

Dan Pratt, WHS Athletic Director, stated that students develop a real trust with each other. They share stories about their life outside school, and come to realize that no matter how diverse their backgrounds are, they can focus on how alike they are individually, having the same goals of being successful at Washburn and beyond.

If you would like to learn more about the Washburn Athletic Leadership Academy or would like to host some students for a day in the summer of 2012, please contact Pratt at [Dan.Pratt@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Dan.Pratt@mpls.k12.mn.us).

Area	Project
Spanish	Central American culture project
Student Government	Laptop
Health Office	Fax machine
ELL	Reading materials
Math	Geometry supplies
Honors Geography	Model United Nations Program
Media	Magazine subscriptions, books
Art	Art supplies, trip to High Point Printing, and MIA/EdoPop exhibit and classes
Support staff	Metro Go-To Cards
Connections	Latino Youth Peace Leadership Conference, supplies for various programs: knitting, yoga, Financial Literacy Summit
Chemistry	FedEx Days (24 hour project about chemistry topic)
WRAP	Subscription to Brain Pop, an interactive on-line learning site
IT	Technology supplies
English	Photography unit with artist
Theatre	Bring in artists from City Theatre



### Miller Music Fest

Nearly 500 alumni, community members and current Washburn High School students attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Miller Music Fest on May 6, 2011. Current Washburn students were joined again by world-renowned guitarist Billy McLaughlin '80, nationally-

acclaimed singer-songwriter Jeff Arundel '75, and Minnesota music legend Tom Lieberman '75.

The event was successful in raising almost \$6,000 for the Washburn High School Foundation.

### Annual Miller Golf Outing

One hundred-fifty (150) Miller alumni and supporters joined the 15th Annual Miller Open on August 5th at Theodore Wirth Golf Course. The annual event raised nearly \$7,000. Funds will be directed to a new state-of-the-art scoreboard at MacQuarrie Field and the Summer Leadership Academy.

## Washburn High School & community say goodbye to a beloved teacher and friend

Whether inspiring high school students to think independently or inspiring citizens (including the current mayor) to take on powerful interests, Frank Ario left a lasting impression.

He made a mark as a teacher in his social studies and philosophy classes at Washburn High School. He encouraged spirited debates on various topics and encouraged students to think "outside the box." He also started boys' and girls' soccer teams at the school, and led the

girls' team to the state high school soccer championship in 1981.

Frank retired in 1987 after teaching social studies for 30 years. Once quoted in the Star Tribune, "Frank Ario is a legend among students at Washburn High School."

Mr. Ario is survived by his wife, Georgette; sons, Joel, Bruce, David, and Kevin; a sister, Arlien, and six grandchildren.

**Thank you, Mr. Ario!**



**FRANK ARIO:  
1924-2011**



## WISH LIST:

Graphic designer to help with logo and brand  
Stamps  
24 lb Ivory-colored paper and envelopes  
Volunteers  
Web designer/webmasters  
Comfortable chairs for the library  
Magazine subscriptions for the library  
Gently used books  
Table tennis table and supplies  
for Table Tennis Club

*Please contact The Foundation at  
[info@washburnconnections.org](mailto:info@washburnconnections.org) if you  
would like to help*

## Because of you,

The Washburn High School Foundation has contributed over \$100,000 to Washburn High School since Fall of 2010 via mini-grants to teachers and staff, major grants to the school for specific projects, and scholarships to graduating students.

**Thank You!**

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