



Washburn High School Foundation

SPRING 2017

201 West 49th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,

It's been a rainy spring here in Minneapolis with many gray, dreary days. But we all know that rain makes the sunshine and warmth all the sweeter.

Not too long ago, Washburn experienced a similar bleak period with low enrollment and other challenges. It was then that Tom Swain of the class of 1938 helped launch the Washburn High School Foundation. You can read a bit about Tom on page seven. He's played a remarkable role in our community.

Since the Foundation's founding, supporters like you helped bring about a new stage of growth at the school, and Washburn is now flourishing. We're having tremendous growth in the number of student athletes and choir participants, requiring more uniforms and risers. The math and debate teams are experiencing new success. Our teachers are providing creative and engaging strategies for students of all abilities and interests.

Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation was able to award nearly \$50,000 to teachers and staff to support their innovative teaching and programs. They are always extremely grateful for this support - as am I.

This fall, 465 new 9th grade students will join the Miller family, and I'm proud that my daughter will be one of them! We anticipate that 1,680 students will return to a school with renovated locker rooms, a new weight room, updated fitness teachers' offices and updates to science rooms. We rely on you to help maintain Washburn as a high quality, inclusive school for students from a wide range of communities. With your generosity, teachers can meet the needs of students who need extra academic or social support or more challenging curriculum. As a part of the Miller community, you continue the legacy of excellence for which Washburn is known.

On behalf of the Washburn faculty and administration and the current students and families, thank you for your generosity and support.

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91 • President, WHS Foundation



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ACADEMICS

MINI-GRANTS: Your donation makes a difference. Thank you!

The Washburn High School Foundation mini-grants continue! We awarded \$16,700 in funds this spring to various staff members for very creative projects. We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to assist in making unique and creative experiences a reality. Your contributions enrich our Miller students' education...in the classroom, on the field and on the courts. Thank you!



Thanks to the support of the WHS Foundation, the World Language Department will be able to expose its I.B. Spanish students to authentic works of Latin American literature. We look forward to engaging students with the texts and in conversation with each other as we explore global perspectives together.

With much gratitude,

Meghan Bot-Miller, Spanish Instructor

The Washburn Foundation is instrumental in helping the WHS tennis program reach its highest potential. The generous support has allowed the program to expand to three full teams, provided opportunities for indoor court time as well as lower uniform costs. We have also been able to use their financial support to allow for an out of state spring break to warmer weather. We are so grateful for their help!

Washburn HS Tennis Team

Ryan Hoag, Tennis Coach, Washburn Alum



Thank you! This is really exciting. Fitness for Life is a super successful class mostly because of all the up- to-date fitness equipment. Our Tuesday class is better than any class at any of the big health clubs!

Wendy Glenna, Physical Education Instructor

ACADEMICS: Class of 2017

Washburn High School enjoys a fairly unique and diverse demographic. As an urban high school, the class of 2017 enrollment has been fairly fluid the past four years.

Actual numbers from the class of 2016 help illustrate this:

- 365 = Class size at the end of the 1st Semester 9th grade
- 303 = Class size Graduation day, 2016
- 236 = Number of students continuously enrolled from 9th - 12th Grade

When graduation rates are reported in the media, no credit is given for students leaving Washburn “on track” for graduation. Nor is any allowance given for students who transfer to Washburn who are not on track for graduation.

The graduation rates calculated for Washburn include special education students who choose not to graduate in order to enroll in transitional post-12th grade programs and students in the WRAP program who are not eligible for a diploma. Special education students represent 32% of the class of 2016. These students participate fully in the life of the school including the ACT test.

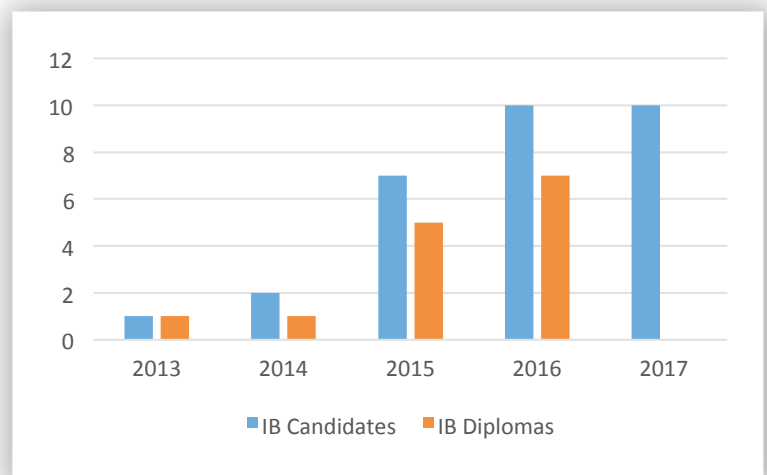
Here’s what we know about the class of 2017:

- ACT Scores continue to trend up AND above State and National averages.
- Two students are recognized as National Merit Scholars.
- 10 students are International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidates (trends illustrated below).
- Students are submitting more college applications:
 - o The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities continues to be the top choice for the largest number of applicants, with the University of Wisconsin-Madison also running among the top 10.
 - o There’s continued interest in liberal arts colleges with Augsburg, St. Thomas, Hamline, and Gustavus among the top 10 schools to which Washburn seniors applied.
 - o Outside of the five-state area, the top school receiving applications from Washburn students is the University of Colorado-Boulder.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Trends

With the introduction of IB in 2010, the number of diploma candidates and winners at Washburn has continued to climb. Actual diplomas for 2017 are not yet available.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our new Washburn Alumni!



ARTS

Spotlight Musical: Into The Woods

Washburn's Spotlight Musical, "Into The Woods", was a fabulous production of Stephen Sondheim's musically-sophisticated, dark comedy. Eight performances were well attended by students, families, and community members. New Tech Director, Madeline Achen, joined Washburn for the spring semester and added her theater experience to the production. "It was a beautiful show and an amazing collaboration between all of the arts departments," said Director of Vocal Music and Fine Arts Coordinator Nancy Lee. The Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Awards features performances from many talented theater programs will be held June 12 and 13 at the State Theatre. Washburn will perform an excerpt from Into the Woods on June 12.



Choir Program Grows

While at the fall choir concert for their granddaughter, Kathy and Wayne Urbaniak heard Ms. Nancy Lee talk about the need for risers and were moved to donate. With their generosity, Washburn purchased seven new risers that will hold 225 more choir students.



The Washburn Miller Voices, our 86 voice select choir, received a Division 1 Superior Rating at the State Large Group Choir Contest in March, which is the highest division and the highest score possible.



Washburn Band Tours Kansas City

The Washburn wind ensemble and jazz band students toured Kansas City, Missouri this spring. They played a few concerts, and worked with internationally known clinicians at the Conservatory at the University of Missouri Kansas City and Lee's Summit High School. The students also saw a jazz orchestra performance, toured an instrument shop to see how brass instruments are made and visited the Vine Jazz District. In 2018, the orchestra program will tour to Chicago.

ATHLETICS

Participation in WHS athletics continues to grow along with the rapid growth of enrollment.

Wrestling – The wrestling program had record numbers with 31 student-athletes. Sophomore Patrick Lockwood recorded his 100th win, finished the season 31-3 in his matches and made his third State appearance. Junior Sedrique Ametor made his second appearance at State; Senior Ethan Kiehm received the Minneapolis City Conference Wrestler of the Year Award and made his first appearance at State.

Nordic Skiing – The program grew to 66 skiers this year. Senior Austyn Kimbrell qualified for the State tournament.

Alpine Skiing – The Girls Alpine team had a solid season while the Boys team qualified for State for the first time in 41 years.

Boys Basketball – The Millers were led by Junior Terrell and Senior Cortez Adams who both received All-City Honors for the second straight year.



Girls Basketball – It was the first season under new head coach Mike Contreras. With only two seniors the future looks bright. Senior Jacqueline Boarman led the way receiving All-City Honors. She was also selected to play in the Inner City All Star Classic that will take place in May.

Track & Field – Nearly 170 students are participating this season, with an additional 30 in the Middle School program. Students are excited about the new pole vault pit which has been missing from the program for over 10 years. The team will be competing for its fifth straight boys and girls Conference Championship.

Baseball – With nearly 60 players, Washburn is fielding four teams for the third year in a row. The Varsity team hopes to make a strong bid for the City and Sectional Titles.

Boys Tennis – The boys tennis team has nearly 50 players on three teams. They are attempting to be the first ever Minneapolis city school to win six consecutive outright Conference and Twin City Championships.

Girls Softball – The team came back to beat Southwest 11-10 in an exciting game on April 28.



Catch the Miller athletes in action! Visit www.gowbmillers.com for schedule information.

DEBATE NEWS

The Washburn Debate Team had an outstanding season this year on both the local and national circuits. Novice debaters consistently placed in the top handful of teams at each of the local tournaments. To end the season, Washburn had two teams (four students) qualify for the state tournament. Lily Endo and Luke Peichel took fourth place overall, and Grace Klage and Alex Dresdner placed second. Alex Dresdner and Lily Endo will be competing in the National Urban Debate League Finals in April.



MATH TEAM UPDATE

The Washburn Math Team made its first State Tournament appearance in the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League. Mr. Olson and Mr. Selvaag brought seven Washburn students and one Barton 8th grader to the tournament, competing against the top individuals/teams in the state. Senior Max Lindeman finished first in the individual scoring and received an invitation to compete at the State Tournament for individuals in April.



NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

On February 1, seven Washburn Student-Athletes signed National Letters of Intent to play college athletics. Washburn athletes represented nearly half of the 16 Minneapolis Public School students who signed letters of intent.

Soccer: Taylor Cottew - MSU-Mankato; Austyn Kimbrell - Simmons College (Boston); Juan Louis - Drake University; Kaitlyn Villars - UW-La Crosse

Football: Savion Johnson - Ellsworth Community College; D'Angelo Moore - Ellsworth Community College; William Sanders - Augsburg College

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

This spring the locker rooms are being remodeled with updated lockers and shower stalls and making the fitness teachers' offices accessible outside of the locker rooms. During the process, some old graffiti from the 1960s and 70s was discovered. Visit our Facebook page to see if you recognize any names.



TOM SWAIN: A FAITHFUL MILLER

Generations of Washburn students have climbed the 50th Street hill to attend Washburn. Tom Swain was part of that first generation. A graduate of the class of 1938 - just ten years after the school opened - Tom walked or biked up the hill from his home at 52nd Street and Clinton Avenue South to walk the halls of Washburn.

Archibald A. McQuarrie was the principal at the time, and he was known for setting high expectations for the school and students. "He was imposing," said Tom. "A real taskmaster." Tom experienced Principal McQuarrie's firm hand following a golf match. The Millers were tied for the city championship with West High School, and the deciding match was at the Meadowbrook Golf Course. With the first six players all golfing even, it was up to Tom to win the championship. But on the 18th hole, Tom lost the round and championship for his team. Disappointed and frustrated, he let go with a few coarse words. When a teacher reported it to Principal McQuarrie, Tom was suspended from school for three days for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Following his graduation, Tom had a full career working in the corporate sector, as well as serving as chief of staff to former Minnesota Governor Elmer L. Andersen, in various roles at the University of Minnesota and as mayor of Lilydale. He remains committed to making Minnesota a better place for its citizens.

Fifty years after his graduation, Tom helped found the Washburn High School Foundation. "I was privileged to have a great education, and there were some who couldn't have the same education," he said. The Foundation was created to ensure that the school has the resources to provide upcoming generations of students with the same quality of education he experienced. Tom remains devoted to the organization and the school. He keeps his class annual accessible and has lunch regularly with another classmate. Last fall, Tom joined other Foundation donors in tailgating before the football homecoming game. He remains a faithful Miller and countless students have benefitted from his devotion and leadership.





CONGRATULATIONS REGGIE PERKINS!

Washburn's Athletic Director, Reggie Perkins (right), was named the 2017 Athletic Director of the Year for Region 6AA by the Minnesota Athletics Administrators Association. Trent Tucker (left) is the Minneapolis Public Schools Director of Athletics.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The 3rd Annual Ramsey-Washburn Battle of the Bands was held April 23 at The Junction. This fundraising event for both schools features Washburn and Ramsey Middle School student and staff bands competing for a traveling guitar trophy. The top three bands were all from Washburn.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that dates sometimes change.

To confirm dates and learn about other events visit www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar_of_events.

June 7 -- Graduation

August 4 -- Miller Open Golf Tournament www.MillerOpen.com

September 16 -- Super Soccer Saturday

October 13 -- Homecoming

November 18 -- Arts Gala



The Washburn arts teachers embraced the Roaring Twenties theme at the Fall Arts Gala 2016. The Washburn Arts Council raised over \$30,000 for the arts at the gala. Join us for the 2017 gala on November 18!

Around 70 Birthday Bash

The high school class of 1965 will be hosting an "AROUND 70 BIRTHDAY BASH" on September 16, 2017 at the Knights of Columbus, Marion Hall. Alumni from Holy Angels, DeLaSalle, Regina, St.Thomas, Benilde/St. Margaret's, Washburn, Southwest, St. Louis Park, Edina and Visitation are invited. Watch for additional information in your school newsletter, foundation updates and Facebook or contact John Lilly at jlilly2@comcast.net. Visit www.around70.com for more information.