



Washburn High School Foundation

Spring 2016

201 West 49th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588

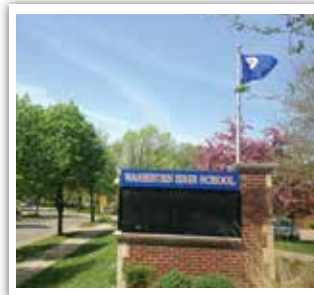


Dear Friends,

As I write this, spring is making its appearance here in Minneapolis. The crabapple trees are beginning to bloom as the Washburn students walk the halls in shorts and sit outside for lunch. It's a reminder of how we have seen the school flourish over the past few years.

Thanks to your support, Washburn is thriving. In this Newsletter, you'll read about the creative approaches our teachers use in the classroom, the success of the Arts program, and several Clubs that have had a resurgence in recent years. We've seen an incredible growth in the International Baccalaureate program as well. This is a school of rigorous academics, community engagement, and hard work to provide opportunities for students of all abilities and motivation levels to be successful. It makes me proud to be a Miller!

During the past school year, your generosity allowed the Foundation to give \$52,000 to the school. About \$10,000 was directed to administrative projects, including improved campus signs and banners, and flags for the auditorium. Additionally, \$42,000 was given in the form of mini-grants directly to teachers and staff to support their innovative teaching and programs. They are extremely grateful for this support you give, so be sure to read their thoughts on page two.



This fall, the staff will welcome 430 new 9th grade students to the school. To maintain the level of support that we have been able to generate in the past, we're looking to raise \$25,000 by June 30th (the end of our fiscal year and budgeting process for the 2016-2017 school year). This level of support will allow teachers to bring in special guest speakers, provide classroom equipment and curriculum, and support the level of teaching for which Washburn is now known and respected.

In addition, we are partnering with the school to raise \$7,000 for a new speaker system for the cafeteria. This space is used not just during lunchtime, but for sports banquets, community meetings and countless events in the evenings. As a part of the Miller community, you can continue the legacy of excellence for which Washburn is known by supporting the speaker system or funding a mini-grant for just \$300.

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

P.S. Mark your calendar! The Miller Open is Friday, August 5. Enjoy a round of golf, connect with other alumni, and support the Washburn Athletics programs. And be sure to join us on Saturday, September 24 for Super Soccer Saturday and Friday, September 30 for Homecoming!

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MINI-GRANTS: Washburn Teachers Thank YOU for Giving

Your contributions are being put to good use in Washburn classrooms. This spring the Foundation gave \$26,500 directly to teachers, staff and the administration team to enhance our students' learning environments. Your contributions make a difference for teachers and students.

My classes used the Foundation money to do a screen printing workshop. We designed shirts that used imagery to address issues of homelessness in our MPS community. We printed t-shirts with Elpis Enterprises (a company that employs formerly homeless youth). Our beautiful shirts were then sold to Washburn staff and were on display at the Davis Center where they were also available for sale. All proceeds from the sale of these shirts went to homeless and highly mobile Minneapolis Public School students. - Nancy Hinz, Visual Arts



My group of students from the WRAP program asked for 3 sewing machines! We are so excited to begin a new chapter of our lives! - Cathy Hardy-Lemon, WRAP Special Education

Thanks so much for the mini-grant! Prior to the grant, we were unable to work together and we had to switch back and forth with the solo graphing calculator. - Angela Oleszko, Geometry

Wow! This year we received money to purchase a set of heart rate monitors. Students can see their effort and it motivates them to do better...The grant money from the foundation allows our department to grow beyond just the basics. It keeps us excited about teaching because we can continue to teach in different and always energetic ways! Thank you for all you have done. - Wendy Glenna, Physical Education

Thanks to the generosity of the WHS Foundation, the school Media Center was able to purchase...magazine and newspaper subscriptions, DVDs for

English teachers to use in collaboration with classroom reading lessons, and books emphasizing equity and diversity. We are overjoyed to get these new materials into the hands of students and staff at Washburn. - John McCreary, Marci Sanchez, and Alex Conover, Media Center Team

This spring, I used my Washburn mini-grant to fund workshops with local photographer, Wing Young Huie. Wing's photography explores questions related to race, culture, and identity... After learning about Wing's photography techniques and evolution as an artist, my students applied their new insights as they created their own photography and digital media projects. - Molly Vasich, IB Language and Literature



ACADEMICS: Class of 2016 Continued Academic Achievement

As in past years, we want to share the achievements and continued aspirations of the class of 2016 here at Washburn High School. The class of 2016 is continuing the trend of high achievement for Millers.

International Baccalaureate

Each year since the introduction of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in 2010, more students have been pursuing and earning the IB diploma. This rigorous college-prep program helps students gain a global perspective. In addition to challenging classes, students must write a 4,000-word essay and complete 150 hours of creativity, action and service.

Class of 2013	1 IB Diploma Candidate	1 Winner
Class of 2014	2 IB Diploma Candidates	1 Winner
Class of 2015	7 IB Diploma Candidates	5 Winners
Class of 2016	10 IB Diploma Candidates	(to be determined)

Lake Wobegon

Yes, our students at Washburn High School are above average! ACT scores for the class of 2016 were 22.3 . . . above the national average again this year.

College Bound Graduates

88% of the Class of 2016 applied for college, with almost 1,450 applications to over 300 different schools, colleges and universities. Most of the applications were focused in Minnesota, with eight of the top 10 schools applied for in our state. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus continues to be the top choice for applications.

Final decisions were due May 1 for these graduating seniors. We congratulate them on their achievements and send our best wishes to all our new Washburn alumni.

Congrats **Class Of** *2016!*

ARTS SpotLight Awards

This year's spring musical, Legally Blonde, received rave reviews from the community, as well as recognition from the Hennepin Theatre Trust through the SpotLight program. The accolades include:

- Outstanding Overall Performance Award to the entire cast, crew and pit
- Outstanding Individual Performance: Carolie Nelson-Bonneville for her role as Elle Woods; Kate Cosgrove for Paulette; Ehnyla Gregory for Vivienne
- Honorable Mention: Isabel McLaughlin for Brooke; Julio Martinez Huerta for Nikos
- Technical Leadership Nomination: Nathan Goldman



Photo Credit For Above © Kevin Healy

The individual students along with the whole cast will be featured at the SpotLight Awards Showcase on Monday, June 13 at 7:00. Tickets are available at HennepinTheatreTrust.org.

Miller Voices Earns Top Honors

Congratulations to Miller Voices, Washburn's top select choir for receiving a Division 1 Superior Rating at the 6AA State Choir Competition held at Robbinsdale-Armstrong High School on Monday, March 14. Three college choir directors rank each choir on a set of standards. Miller Voices received the highest rating in the most difficult division.



The Washburn Jazz Band participated in the First Annual Augsburg JazzFest on February 26.



ATHLETICS

The student athletes at Washburn continue to have success both on and off the field. The average GPA for all student athletes participating in fall and winter sports this current academic year was 3.17. Below is the list of seniors who have been awarded college scholarships for athletics or will be continuing their athletic careers in college:

Hamza Ali
 Rachel Anderson
 Alex Batt
 Kathryn Claeys
 Martin Donovan
 Ziyad Fares
 Ed Fulton
 Claire Garduno
 Greta Goetz
 Drew Hilliard
 Charlie Irmiger
 Taylor Jackson
 Fortay Johnson
 Mohammed Mahamud
 Sydney Miller
 Hannah Oscarson
 Sonja Odegard
 Jazinae Patterson
 Maya Rajacich
 Ian Smith
 Rachel Stark
 Skylar Tupper

St. Olaf
 University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 Beloit College
 Dakota County Technical College
 Luther College
 Yavapai College, AZ
 Black Hawk Community College
 South Dakota State University
 George Washington University
 Bemidji State
 Winona State University
 Augustana College
 Ridgewater Community College
 Gustavus Adolphus
 Northern State University, SD
 University of North Dakota
 Dakota County Technical College
 University of Northwestern - St. Paul
 University of Minnesota
 University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 Kansas State University
 Colby College, ME

Cross Country
 Swimming
 Soccer
 Soccer
 Cross Country
 Soccer
 Baseball
 Equestrian
 Track & Field
 Football
 Basketball
 Tennis
 Basketball
 Football
 Volleyball
 Cross Country/Track & Field
 Volleyball
 Basketball
 Soccer
 Soccer
 Volleyball
 Nordic Skiing



STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Robotics, Debate, Math Team

Debate Teams Qualify for State and National Championships



With a roster of more than 20 debaters, the Washburn debate team had an unprecedented level of success this year. Debaters Never Huber (senior), Grace Klage (sophomore), Alex Dresdner (sophomore) and Lily Endo (sophomore) closed out the final round of the qualifying tournament for the Urban Debate National Championship. Never and Grace also qualified as the 2nd seed in their district to the National Speech & Debate Association national championship.

For only the second time, two Washburn teams qualified for the Minnesota State High School League state championship. Debaters Never and Grace won their section, qualifying as their section's top seed. Alex and Lily qualified as the 5th seed. At the actual state tournament, Grace and Never reached the final round, placing 2nd in the state. Alex and Lily finished 6th in the state. We look forward to this continued success next year.

Math Team Sees Strength and Growth

The Washburn math team had a great season. The team ended the year with second place in the Minneapolis Division, narrowly missing out on the state tournament.

Sophomore Luke Peichel was the team MVP for the season, finishing third in the Minneapolis Division individual standings. Junior Max Lindemann came in right behind him tied for fourth in the division.

Meeting weekly, members can compete or just be part of the team. The group supports students who have unusual math abilities and recognizes and supports their talent beyond the standard high school curriculum. While the team is losing a few seniors, a strong group of sophomores and juniors will keep the momentum going into next year.

Robotics Teacher Honored

Robotics teacher and coach, Mark LeFeber, was recognized as a top teacher by Fox 9 television. Mr. LeFeber is known as a teacher who works countless hours beyond his contracted day, is a huge advocate for STEM programming at Washburn, has many community connections that benefit the Millers, and builds strong relationships with students and their families.



Washburn Graduation is Thursday, June 2

Read the thoughts of a few of the graduates:

Defying the odds and breaking records of never losing myself in a whirlwind of captivated struggles and challenges - fear me not, I am a Washburn graduate. - Kavon Wilborn

Sleep outside, fly a kite, go bowling or something. Make sure to not forget that it's okay to be a kid sometimes even though you're "technically an adult." And have fun. - Hunter Nystrom

Life is too short to sit around doing the same thing every day, so take a risk; do something you might not have done a year ago...you never know what you are capable of doing until you try. - Garrett Lieb

To the class of 2016 we made it this far, but not alone. We had school counselors, parents, and teachers, but most of all we had each other. We all have the ability to make a difference in this world and I challenge our class to be the next change makers in our society. Be involved. Have a voice. Make our world better. - Jazinae Patterson

Many people, when they look up at the stars, they feel small because they're small and the world is big. But I feel big. Because we have been given the building blocks to successfully live in this world, to be part of this world. - Leah Harman

Judy Yung Profile: Educator, Board Member, Donor

Judy Yung has a long, dedicated history with Washburn High School. After starting her teaching career in Virginia, Minnesota, she joined the staff at Washburn in 1963 and stayed there until her retirement in 1993.

But because of her allegiance to the school, she continued to support the teachers and students as a board member and President of the Washburn High School Foundation for 15 years. Judy has been a consistent and committed donor - with financial contributions and time.

Since 1998, Judy has strongly advocated for and managed the mini-grant process twice each year, working directly with classroom teachers. Through the mini-grants, teachers can supplement their classroom teaching with special guests, new equipment, books, field trips and other resources.

In response to the mini-grants and Judy's work, teachers shared their gratitude, saying, "I can't tell you how much these mini-grants are helping me as a teacher to provide enriched learning activities for my students." Another teacher said, "I want to thank you for your support now, in the past, and in the future. Your grants have a great impact on the work we are doing here at Washburn."

When asked why she continues her support, Judy said, "I know how the money is used and that it is deeply appreciated."



"Please stand strong. Your foundation grants are often the only local budget our department has."
--Washburn Teacher

Washburn's Historic Auditorium Renovated

Last fall, Washburn High School revealed the auditorium renovations after months of dedicated workmanship. Built in 1925, the Washburn Auditorium is one of the oldest theaters in Minneapolis.

The renovation included new lighting and sound systems, stage floor, carpet, sound boards and restoration of art-deco plaster. These improvements bring the theater back to its original glory with seating for 1,100.

Our historic space has housed operas, plays, musicals, glee clubs, bands, and orchestras. Alumni and community members are always welcome at school events. Visit washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us for a full schedule of events to help you plan a visit.



Congratulations to Assistant Principal Linda Conley

In 1982, Linda Conley, a vibrant young woman, joined Minneapolis Public Schools as a French teacher at North High School. Her exemplary work led to a split teaching assignment in 1984 at South High and Washburn to grow the French program in both schools.

Linda has successfully woven her personal and professional beliefs, philosophy and practices into a tapestry that exemplifies her deep faith in humanity. In the mid-1980s, Linda participated in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program with an assignment on the island of Martinique, deepening her understanding and insight into teaching and the value of literacy and fluency in a second language.

To reach and impact more students, Linda transitioned to a position as a school counselor where she demonstrated her commitment to students and guided them in their life and educational choices. To have an even greater impact on education, Linda pursued a career in school administration and became an Assistant Principal at Anwatin Middle School in 2001.

Linda Nelson, retired Principal of South High, said, "Linda's caring temperament combined with her steady and thoughtful consideration of situations has made her an enormous asset to students, staff and schools. She has been able to see clearly the needs of all the players and balance those needs to the benefit of all."

In 2005, Linda assumed the Lead Counselor role for the district. After two years in this role, she returned to Washburn as an Assistant Principal. At Washburn, she also served as Interim Principal and then again as an Assistant Principal with the appointment of Washburn's new principal—Rhonda Dean—in 2014.

Working with Assistant Principal Nilo Guanzon, they helped create the culture that has defined Washburn's identity the past four years. They drafted Admin Teacher on Special Assignment, Michelle Terpening, to join the team, bringing her counseling and logistical skills to the mix. Their shared teamwork and commitment paved the way to make Washburn a school that would make any principal proud—to which Principal Rhonda Dean would attest.

Linda Conley begins her retirement at the end of this school year, knowing that, in the course of her professional tenure in Minneapolis and, more specifically, in Washburn, she has made a difference in the lives of many students and staff.



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