



Washburn High School Foundation

Spring 2015

201 West 49th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Letter from the WHS Foundation President

Letter from the President:

Greetings fellow Millers and supporters of Washburn High School! It is my pleasure to once again introduce another issue of the Legacy Newsletter showcasing the latest and greatest of the goings on at Washburn. While the individual stories contained herein (and indeed the many other success stories happening every day at Washburn that we don't have the space to share) will provide illustration of the continued momentum of success at the School, perhaps the most telling is the rapid and significant year-over-year increase in enrollment.

Washburn has gone from a 2010 enrollment of 811 students to 1415 this year, with a projection of 1515 students enrolling next school year (see figure below). This represents an average increase of 14.47% per year over the last six years... growth that any enterprise would call resounding success!

This growth provides wonderful opportunity, as evidenced by the School District's commitment to renovate the WHS Auditorium and commit over \$8M toward expansion/renovation to add up to eight more classrooms by August of this year! This work has the potential to involve some "growing pains" as students and staff deal with changes to the status quo, but the work will be focused on building toward a more unified learning community design, while maintaining the unique architectural aspects of the building that make Washburn... Washburn.

Thanks again for your continued support. With increasing enrollment and opportunity comes increasing demand for funding. The District's commitment to the physical plant of the School is wonderful and encouraging, but many programs and needs have the potential to be deprioritized, underutilized, or uninitiated due to budgetary constraints. With your contribution to the Washburn High School Foundation, you can help us work with the School's Administrative Team to fill in the gaps and provide value-added amenities, experiences, scholarships, technology, equipment, and supplies that help enrich the environment of the School and the experience of the students.

We invite you to keep in touch with everything Orange and Blue by way of the School's website and by following us on Facebook at "Washburn High School Foundation" and "Washburn Connections."

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91
President, WHS Foundation

www.WashburnConnections.org

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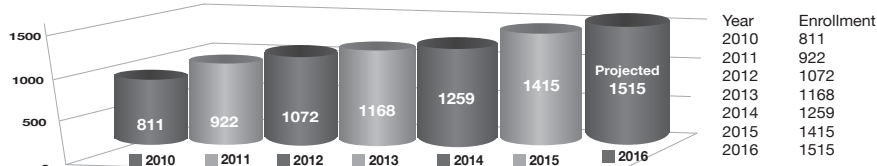
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Washburn High School
Enrollment



Enrollment Climbs: Re-imagining Space

With Washburn's enrollment continuing to climb (projections are for a 75 student increase in 2015-16, bringing total enrollment up to around 1515 total students in 9th-12th grades) the School is in immediate need of 6-8 classrooms by this fall. The District acted and reallocated \$8 million from

a current project that was delayed to WHS for the purpose of re-envisioning our current space to accommodate the capacity change. Here, Principal Rhonda Dean discusses the process and the plan for creating new "space" within the current space.



WHS Foundation (WHSF): It is our understanding that these funds cannot be used to build out and create new space. Why is that?

RD: That is true, \$8 million sounds like a lot of money and it is, but in the scope of building, it's not. We get a much bigger bang for our buck when we build within the structural walls, once we start building exterior walls, the cost goes up exponentially. Therefore, we are trying to be thoughtful within the space we currently have. We are finding many nooks and crannies that are not being utilized well.

WHSF: Who is involved in the redesign?

RD: This past fall we created a Facility Visioning Committee comprised of administrators, teachers, WHS site council members, parents, and community representatives to work with the District's Buildings and Grounds department. The Buildings and Grounds folks have facilitated monthly meetings and walked us through the visioning process. We started out with broad ideas and now are drilling down to specific details.

WHSF: Describe the facilities' changes we can expect.

RD: It is still a work in progress. Right now we are focused on finding the additional classrooms, while being mindful about the need for more storage and office space.

WHSF: How will these changes impact student learning?

RD: These changes will allow our students to have better learning spaces. We are not retrofitting; we are trying to create modern learning environments.

WHSF: Which programs or groups of students are most affected by these changes?

RD: We are not sure yet, because we don't know which teachers will be teaching in the new space. However, all students will be impacted, because we are creating spaces to serve all students.

WHSF: What is the staff feedback on this project?

RD: Whenever there is a change or some uncertainty you have both excitement and anxiety. The biggest question for the staff is to ensure that the work is completed by August 1. That is a priority.

WHSF: With growing enrollment, is there a true expansion or Phase II in the works?

RD: I hope so! The District projections have us at 1800 students in just 2-3 years.

WHSF: That being said, what is on your wish list for facility improvements?

RD: I would like a more robust Career and Tech Ed Department, with 21st century technology classes. We need a language lab so we can offer a variety of languages using a technology medium. Our athletic facilities need to be expanded, which may or may not include doming our athletic field so we can use the turf year round. We need another gym. And, I also see a need for additional parking so our student/staff parking doesn't adversely affect the neighborhood. We want to be good stewards.

Note: Construction is scheduled to commence immediately following the completion of the school year. The classroom remodel project will occur in conjunction with the Auditorium renovation, scheduled to be complete mid-October. Fall music and theatre productions will utilize the new Ramsey auditorium.

Battle of the Bands



Washburn Principal **Rhonda Dean** and Ramsey Principal **Paul Marietta** hosting the first annual "Battle of the Bands" event at "The Junction" this past April. This rockin' community event was a fundraiser for both schools.

Class of 2015 Continued Academic Achievement

As in past years, we want to share the achievements and continued aspirations of the class of 2015 here at Washburn High School. The class of 2015 is continuing a trend of higher and higher achievement that has been taking place over the past several years. In addition to Washburn's increase in graduation rate which was published by the MPS district in March, we can use several other measurements to support our statement:

National Merit Scholars

The class of 2015 includes 4 National Merit Scholars. This is the highest number experienced by academic counselor Herb Crowell in his 12 years at Washburn.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

With the introduction of IB in 2010, we have gradually seen IB diploma candidates and winners at Washburn:

2013	1 Candidate	1 Winner
2014	2 Candidates	1 Winner
2015	7 Candidates	(to be determined)

College Bound Graduates

College applications are up the class of 2015. With decision due after we have gone to press (on May 1st), we can't share final numbers. However, the trends include:

- The percentage of Public School and Private School applications is 53% and 47% respectively
- The top school is the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) with 143 applications
- Number 2 is the University of Wisconsin at Madison (60 applications)
- Students are also applying further away with applications going to Hawaii, Fairbanks (Alaska), British Columbia (Canada), and Glasgow (Scotland)!

Miller Pride is spreading across the continent AND the globe . . . Go Millers!!



Spring Sports Wrap-Up

WHS Athletics continues to be on the rise. Check out how we did this winter and how things are progressing this spring:

Nordic Skiing - This growing program had over 50 skiers participate between the boys and girls teams. Both teams finished 2nd in the Conference and advanced to the State Tournament.

Wrestling - This is another program on rapid ascent! A young team filled with underclassman, including 2 wrestlers that qualified for the State Tournament. Coach Clifford Winn was voted the conference's Coach of the Year.

Boys Basketball - They finished 20-9 and lost a very close game in the Section Finals to come up just short of advancing to the State Tournament. Senior Kevin Gleason was named to the MN Basketball Coaches Association All-Academic Team for his 3.8 GPA.

Girls Basketball - They won their 3rd straight Conference Title being ranked as high as #10 in State Class AAA. They played in the Section Finals and came up just short of their 4th State Tournament appearance in a row. Track & Field - Both boys and girls teams look to be in good shape (no pun intended!) to defend both of their Conference Titles from last season.

Boys Tennis - Coach Ryan Hoag's phenomenal turnaround of this program continues. They have been consistently ranked in the Top 10 in the State the last few years. They spent Spring Break in San Diego playing some of the best teams in the country. They are currently ranked #7 in State and are a serious threat to dethrone Wayzata as State Champion this spring.

Girls Soccer - This past March WHS Girls' Soccer Coach Cheryl Urbaniak-Peterson was awarded the 2015 Double-Goal Coach® Award Presented by TeamSnap (one of only 25 Awards nationwide!). Coach Urbaniak-Peterson also coaches at Richfield Soccer Association and Minneapolis United Soccer Club.

Teamwork is at the heart of Urbaniak-Peterson's message to her players. "I believe strongly in girls playing on a team together and feeling that sense of camaraderie and working together to accomplish goals," she said. "We work hard to have the girls connect. We understand the importance of strong chemistry on a team and holding girls accountable to high expectations in terms of their character. We push them to work on their individual skills and team skills, knowing that we can only go as far as the team goes together."

One key to how she conveys her ideas on teamwork is by speaking with each player as an individual. "I like to get to know my players well and figure out how it's best to communicate with them," Urbaniak-Peterson said. "Some players need to be pushed and can take a lot of constructive criticism. My tendency is to talk with the girls in a more positive, encouraging way. I'm not a yeller."

Congratulations, Cheryl! Keep up the hard work both on and off the field, Millers. You continue to make the Orange and Blue Nation proud!





Mark your calendars now for the 4th annual Washburn Fall Arts Gala!

Saturday, November 21st, 2015

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Enjoy delicious food and drink, great music, and take advantage of all of the wonderful ways you can help support the arts at Washburn High School.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.
Want to get involved? Email washburnfallartsgala@gmail.com