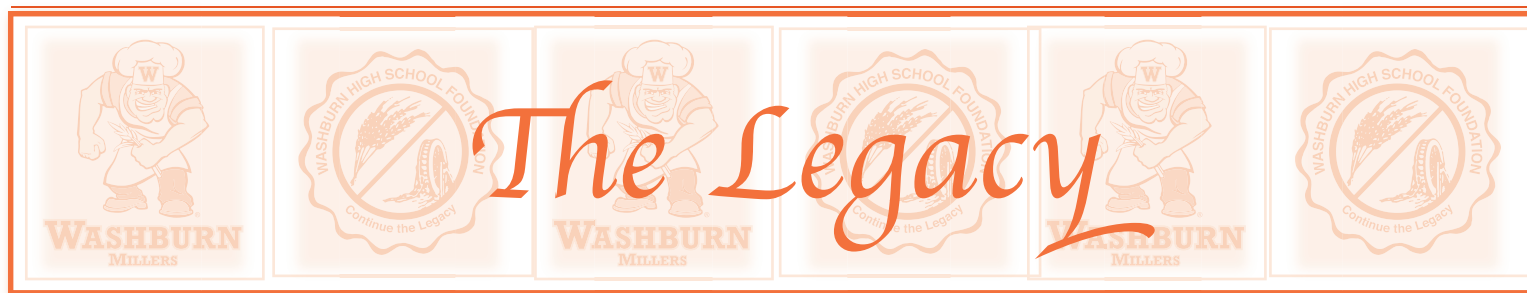




# Washburn High School Foundation

FALL 2019

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,

As I look back on another wonderful Washburn Homecoming weekend filled with rekindling connections with old friends, making new friends and memories, and celebrating our students and student-athletes in competition, I'm reminded of why I love Washburn. At Washburn, we have a strong, stable, community high school with a rich heritage of success in academics, arts, and athletics; and a great tradition of being interwoven into the community that makes the school and the surrounding neighborhoods better.

The Homecoming football game was a great autumn night filled with multiple pre-game parent and alumni-hosted tailgate events, some of which were fundraisers for Washburn High School athletics or Foundation. The stands were packed with current and former Washburn students and families, neighbors and community members. It was a similar vibe for the Homecoming dance on Saturday, with students and parents spreading out across our community for pre-dance pictures and the students celebrating their "Millerdom" at the Homecoming dance held at Washburn.

Washburn's success story continues with many athletic teams experiencing success this fall. The arts continue to shine with the production of "Hair" this fall and new ceramics and choir teachers. Enrollment is holding steady at a very solid 1,640 students. The ever-challenging budget scenario has been met with equity and balance by the Principal Dr. Emily Palmer and the administrative team. There have been additions in key areas, including two new social workers, many experienced teachers and two new deans, one Spanish-speaking and one Somali-speaking, to maximize engagement with and support of Washburn's wonderfully diverse student body.

The hugely impactful Foundation mini-grant program continues to bring unique and valuable experiences and classroom additions to Washburn students, student-artists, and student-athletes. Grants requested by the administrative team help to bring value-added amenities and beautification to Washburn's facilities and campus.

Numerous scholarships administered by the WHS Foundation continue to increase opportunities for Washburn students. In 2019, Washburn graduates once again showed their true "orange and blue" in an impressive list of post-secondary collegiate academic, athletic, and artistic pursuits as well as trade and apprenticeship opportunities.

Most importantly, all of this success doesn't happen in a vacuum. Your support and advocacy has always been paramount to ensuring Washburn's continued success. Please go to [WashburnConnections.org](http://WashburnConnections.org) or use the enclosed envelope to make a meaningful contribution to the Washburn High School Foundation. Thank you for your continued support!

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91  
President, Washburn High School Foundation



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# ACADEMICS

## Principal's Update

We are off to a great start at Washburn this fall! Our enrollment is steady, as of Oct. 1, our official count was 1640 students. We appreciate that Washburn continues to be a destination school for so many families.

We are in year two of a 3-year school improvement plan (SIP). Our goals focus on improving graduation rates and differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners, especially our advanced learners and learners who need more support.

We were thrilled to see our 2018 graduation rates rose in all categories. Our overall graduation rate tied Southwest High School for best in the city at 87%. The state will not release 2019 data until February, but we are confident that our efforts are continuing to bear fruit.

This year, we added some fantastic people to our faculty and staff. We have two great new social workers and eight new, but mostly very experienced, teachers. We also added two new deans, one Spanish-speaking and one Somali-speaking, which was an important goal for our families.

Unfortunately, our budget is tight this year. We no longer qualify for Title 1 funds because only 36% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch. This means less compensatory revenue as well, leaving us with less funding for non-teaching staff and supplies. We prioritize personnel over supplies, especially the five counselors and four deans who help keep our school stable.

Support from the Washburn High School (WHS) Foundation is more important than ever. Foundation grants allow us to buy things we couldn't otherwise afford, like logo welcome mats, logo athletic tents, new tables and dollies, and the beautiful aquarium in the new science wing.

The mini-grants from the Foundation also help our teachers - \$650 per teacher makes a difference, and they really appreciate it. So a big THANK YOU to all our alumni and donors who so generously support our WHS Foundation. You make a difference!



Dr. Emily Palmer, Principal

## MINI-GRANT - Nearly \$40,000 given to Washburn High School teachers, coaches and staff.

"These grants have helped generate some of the most meaningful learning experiences our students encounter throughout their time at Washburn," said Jim Schmit, a Washburn High School (WHS) English teacher.

More than 50 grant requests from WHS educators, coaches, and staff were submitted this fall, and a total of \$39,000 was awarded to enrich all WHS students' educational experiences. We are extremely pleased with the diverse ways our funds impact student's learning and their high school experiences.

One came from four teachers representing different departments: social studies, English, theatre arts and federal setting 3. These teachers will bring more than 200 students to Penumbra Theatre's well-regarded and thought-provoking play "Pipeline."

"This play focuses on the experiences of many black students in the education system. We would like to bring students to this play to open up a dialogue around race, academia and the prison pipeline system and then get curious about how this impacts students of color at Washburn," said Drama/Theater Teacher Crystal Spring.



Front row: Delane Woods (student dean), Crystal Spring (black box theatre teacher), Jim Schmit (Instructional Specialist)  
Back row: Kevin Zonnefeld (social studies teacher, Ana Arevalo (ELL teacher), Lately Mazzitello (student dean)"

We also received the first request from the girls' tennis team. Under new coach, Ryan Hoag, the program has doubled in size this season and the Millers won the conference title for the first time since 1992. Your funds provided a ball machine for this growing program. Go Millers!

## International Baccalaureate diploma recipients find rewards

Washburn High School (WHS) is proud of the 11 students who earned the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma in 2019. This is our second year in a row with a double-digit number of students earning this diploma, which is the most rigorous course of study available at the high school level.

The Class of 2020 has 17 IB diploma candidates this year. IB courses offer not only a strong curriculum, but instructional strategies focused on critical and creative thinking with a global perspective.

To earn this diploma, students must take IB-level classes their junior and senior years, and achieve a certain score on all of the IB exams. They also need to complete an extended essay on a topic of their choice as well as document hours of extracurricular activities and service to the community.

In 2019, senior Evalyn "Evie" Bair was accepted to University of Wisconsin-Madison, and because of her IB diploma was awarded credit for her entire freshman year. She started in the fall as a sophomore. Her mom, Karen, said, "When she started the IB journey this "win" was not part of our knowledge, and although I advocate that IB candidates should do it because they want to, this financial upside will afford her additional opportunities during her college years that we did not expect." Evie credits her teachers throughout her four years at WHS for preparing her well for college. Congratulations Evie!

Other 2019 IB diploma students are now attending top colleges including West Point Military Academy and Wesleyan University.

# ARTS

## ”Hair,” other plays allow for more student participation

The fall musical “Hair” took a trip back in time to the tumultuous late 1960s. Director, John Lynn, chose the rock musical because: “It seems more relevant today than it has been in years -- students protesting etc. The other reason I love ‘Hair’ is that it is truly an ensemble show. The entire cast rarely leaves the stage which is pretty rare for most musicals.”

Approximately 60 students were involved in “Hair.” This year, the timing of the plays has changed. The shows will no longer overlap, allowing more students to be involved throughout the year. During the 2019-20 school year, there will be a fall musical, one-act play, winter play and a spring musical.

The spring musical will be crowd-favorite Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Phantom of the Opera.” In January, for the first time, Washburn will host the Minnesota State High School League One-Act Play Competition. Join us in the Washburn High School auditorium for all of the shows.



Dates:

- Jan. 22 & 23: MSHSL One Act Competition
- Feb. 27-29, Mar. 1: Winter Play
- Apr. 30, May 1-3, May 7-10: Phantom of the Opera



## Meet the new Choir Director, Tim Buzza

Choir director Tim Buzza may be new to Washburn High School (WHS), but he is no stranger to the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). He has been teaching in the MPS for 23 years. He started at Franklin Middle School, taught at Patrick Henry High School, then at Thomas Edison High School. He also taught at Augsburg University and the University of Minnesota, where he is now finishing his PhD in music education. We are so lucky to have him take on the WHS program after Nancy Lee’s retirement in June.

When asked about why he likes to teach high schoolers, Buzza said: “Joy. Making music with others should be a euphoric experience. I want them to LOVE choir - because of the positive emotional bond that is created - and because of the challenge and resulting growth that happens for them vocally and musically. I want them to love it because they further understand the powerful impact that their beautiful singing can have on others in their community. And I want them to love choir because singing with others should be fun. Very fun.”

When Buzza is not at school, he loves to listen to classical and jazz music, and he loves to sing along to “folky-country” in the car. When not parenting their two teenagers, he and his wife are part of a local band “Potluck and the Hot Dishes.”

Buzza said he wants to bring the students a sense of empowerment; “THEY can do this ... I am just here to help.”





# ATHLETICS

## Sports roundup

**Cheerleading** The Miller cheerleading program acquired new head coach, Michelle Nelson, in 2016 and the program has been getting stronger every year. This year there are 21 dedicated student athletes who are part of the fall team, representing grades 9-12. The team worked hard over the summer to learn new and challenging stunts. They attended cheer camp before school started to ensure they were ready to cheer on the Millers all season long! This team is sure to bring a new level of excitement and energy to Miller athletic events.

**Soccer – Girls** The Washburn girls' soccer program has four teams that play competitive schedules while challenging themselves to improve each day, individually, as a team and as a program. They had an exciting 2-0 win over Holy Angels at Super Soccer Saturday, and they celebrated 15 seniors and their families during the senior night game. The picture is of the entire soccer program from their annual Miller Cup, where teams and grades are combined to compete and have fun together. They are proud to represent Washburn.

**Volleyball** Washburn volleyball welcomed an entire new coaching staff this year, starting with head coach Jasmine Draper, who also works in the special education department at Washburn. Draper brought on junior varsity coach, Jenn Christenson, sophomore coach, Ashley Green, and B-squad coach, Ruby Torres. Approximately 50 girls are participating on the four teams this year, and Draper is hoping to add a fifth team next year to accommodate the high interest in volleyball at Washburn. Varsity has played some tough teams this season, but despite a 6-5 record (3-0 in conference), is on a positive trajectory now - working hard, playing well, playing like a team and giving the crowds a lot to cheer about. Beating Southwest High School in their gym in four sets was the season highlight!

**Swim Team – Girls** The Tigers-Millers-Teddies (TMT) swim team combines Washburn, South and Roosevelt swimmers into one team. We have three captains, seniors Anika Johnson and Naomi Walthour from Washburn, and Katie Wight from Roosevelt. Our team's dedication to the sport includes eight practices a week at our home pool, Phillips Community Center, in addition to weekly swim meets.



## Soccer – Boys

Washburn High School (WHS) boys' soccer had more than 90 players on five teams this fall and played one of the most competitive schedules in the state. The program's culture is focused on getting better every day--both on and off the field. The varsity team reloaded with top talent again and was ranked in the Top Ten all season. The program's best day came on Saturday, September 14th, when two buses full of players volunteered at Feed My Starving Children. In two hours, the five teams packaged enough rice to feed 203 children for one year in Malawi, a country still recovering from a massive natural disaster this past spring. Well done Millers!

## Tennis – Girls

Washburn High School (WHS) Girls' Tennis welcomed a conference record 60 players out for the team. Led by first year head coach, Ryan Hoag, and senior captains Matilda Prentice and Eliana Pierotti, the team played over 30 matches this year to prepare themselves to take down perennial champion Southwest High School (SWHS). Mission accomplished! In the final match of the regular season WHS beat SWHS 5-2 to win the city championship for only the second time since 1992. They followed this up by beating St. Paul Harding 5-2 to win their first Twin Cities Championship since 1992 as well. The future is very bright for WHS girls' tennis!

## Virginia Mae Nelson Mooty Scholarship – Class of 1940 co-valedictorian

Virginia “Ginny” Mae Nelson graduated co-valedictorian from Washburn High School (WHS) in 1940, two months after her sixteenth birthday. At WHS, she was a member of the Glee Club, National Honor Society, G.A.A., Girls “W” Club, City Wide Wearer, Magnets Girl Reserves, U.C. Club - the service organization for WSS, and the Class Play Properties Committee. One of her co-valedictorians, Clark MacGregor, who went on to become a United States Congressman wrote in her yearbook, “Poise+perseverance+brains = success - you’ve got them all.” Her other co-valedictorian, the brilliant and kind Mary Adeline Halvorson, remained one of Ginny Mae’s best lifelong friends.



Ginny Mae was also active at St. John’s Lutheran Church, located at 49th and Nicollet, across the street from WHS. Ginny Mae went on to the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1943 at age 19 with a Bachelor of Science with high distinction. While active in many college activities, politics became her primary passion. She was a moderate and became the chairwoman of the Young Republicans. She ultimately married the chairman of the Young Republicans, lawyer John Mooty. After getting married, Ginny Mae quit her business career in the publishing industry to raise their three sons. She remained very active in Minnesota politics and served as the State Chairwoman of the Republican Party and a delegate to state and national conventions.

She was often called upon to speak at conventions and was routinely asked to introduce senators, governors, a vice president who became president and other national politicians who were speaking at events in Minnesota. Unfortunately, her brilliance ended prematurely when she tragically died at age 40. Her annual scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate academic excellence with the hope that recipients will follow in Ginny Mae’s footsteps to further their education and use their excellent gifts and talents to have a positive and significant impact in their communities.

## Leave a legacy for Washburn High School

The Washburn High School (WHS) Foundation’s endowment fund grows each year due to legacy gifts from generous donors. When our endowment grows, the WHS Foundation’s annual support to the faculty and students of WHS also grows.

If you are considering an estate gift to the WHS Foundation here are some steps to follow:

1. Review the “Specific Gifts/Bequests” section of your will to confirm if previously named people or institutions are still valid.
2. Review your beneficiary designations on all retirement accounts, such as life insurance policies, workplace retirement assets and annuities, to confirm if previously named people or institutions are still valid.
3. If the WHS Foundation is not currently listed, please consider adding the WHS Foundation as a partial beneficiary to your Will and/or retirement accounts.
4. If you decide to add the WHS Foundation as a benefactor to any part of your estate plan, we strongly recommend you contact your estate planning attorney to help you do this.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call WHS Foundation Treasurer, Jeremy Graff, at (612) 668-3483 or email him at [info@washburnconnections.org](mailto:info@washburnconnections.org).

# Thank you, donors!

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following people who made donations between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Because of you, we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School the top high school in Minneapolis with the best teachers, the best resources and the best-prepared students for the future. Thank you for your continuous support and donations!

## Scholar \$10,000+

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 Laurie Olson Wells '90';  
 Cooper Wells, 2018;  
 Ellie Wells, 2021  
 In honor of Bill and  
 Judy McGoldrick  
 In honor of Class of 1956  
 In honor of Class of 1978  
 In honor of class of '56

members turning 80 in 2018  
 In honor of grandchildren  
 Augie Bent and Lewie Bent  
 In honor of Sylvester Cup  
 Scholarship Fund/John  
 Sylvester  
 In honor of The Beck/  
 Bergstrom Family  
 In honor of Vicki Bunker  
 In memory of 1954 deceased  
 members of basketball team  
 In memory of Alex Light Jacobs  
 In memory of Anne Barber Dunlap  
 In memory of Arlene Swain  
 In memory of Bill Feidt '59  
 In memory of Bill Shinn ('53)  
 In memory of Bruce Temte  
 and Mike Myers  
 In memory of Chris Hinerman  
 In memory of deceased members  
 of 1954 basketball team  
 In memory of Dennis Longren,  
 Dick Anderson, Alan Peterson  
 In memory of Dorothy  
 Hesper Stevenson  
 In memory of Douglass Addison  
 and Steve Luers  
 In memory of EA Kimball  
 In memory of Elizabeth June Sieff  
 In memory of  
 Ethan J. Monson-Dupries  
 In memory of Frank and  
 Georgette Ario  
 In memory of  
 Helen Hughes Winters and  
 Wm. Clarence Winters  
 In memory of Holly Willis '55

In memory of Janet L. Benson,  
 former WHS teacher  
 In memory of Jim Erickson ('64)  
 In memory of John Bud and  
 Jeanne Carroll Class of '42  
 In memory of John Simus and  
 Larry Hendrickson  
 In memory of  
 Judy Nylin Strand ('58)  
 In memory of Kris Erickson  
 In memory of Louise Everett King  
 and Bill Everett  
 In memory of  
 Marie Spong Mellgren ('48)  
 In memory of  
 Mary Ann Sackett Bracket  
 In memory of  
 Mary Sue Hanson Taylor  
 In memory of Matt Greenberg ('55)  
 In memory of Nick Devit  
 In memory of  
 Ora McLaughlin, English Teacher  
 In memory of Parker Cramer,  
 Class of 1955  
 In memory of Pat Stubbs ('61)  
 In memory of Peter Sovell '69  
 In memory of Peter Stitt '58  
 In memory of Taunee and  
 Mary Sue  
 In memory of Toni Stoll Orfield  
 In memory of Warren Gustafson  
 and Alan Nebelthau  
 In honor of William Lydell,  
 former music teacher

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 13:** Jazz Band Winter Concert

**December 16 - 17:** Music Department Holiday  
 Concerts

**December 18-19:** Blackbox Theater Showcase

**February 27-29 and March 1:** Winter Play

**April 30, May 1-3, May 7-10:** Phantom of the Opera

Please note that dates sometimes change. To  
 confirm dates and learn about other events visit  
[www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar_of_events).

