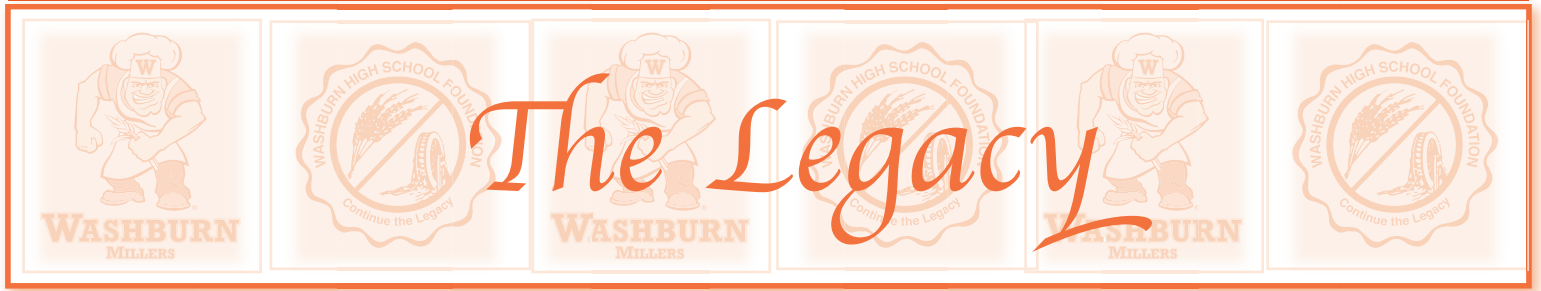




# Washburn High School Foundation

Spring 2020

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,  
Greetings from home!

As I write this, I'm guessing that there's a good chance that no one that will read this newsletter was around in 1918, the year of the "Spanish Flu" pandemic that most parallels our current global crisis surrounding COVID-19. That means that we all are collectively experiencing an unprecedented scenario in dealing with social distancing, distance learning, working from home (or, in many cases, not working at all), and trying our collective best to avoid the spread of this virus. Perhaps most importantly, we are all doing the best we can to support our front-line workers and high-risk friends and family members during these tough times.

Despite the challenges, Washburn students and staff have adapted and innovated as they continue to pursue excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics. Flexibility and adjustment are key tenets these days as everyone is getting used to new ways of communicating, distance learning, and managing their time. Everyone is and will continue to be effected by this. In this issue of the Legacy newsletter you will read about how Principal Dr. Emily Palmer and the talented Administrative Team, teachers, and staff at Washburn are facilitating the ongoing instructional and educational experience for Washburn students via distance learning. You'll see continued success stories of students overcoming adversity and achieving at a high level in the classroom, in leadership roles, in artistic pursuits, and in athletic competition. And you will learn how your contributions to the Washburn High School Foundation are positively impacting students in multiple ways.

While there may be some changes to Washburn's attendance area in the future due to the Comprehensive District Design plan, the excellent curricular and extra-curricular offerings at Washburn will remain, as will the School's uniquely diverse student body. The leadership team and talented teachers and staff at Washburn are well-positioned to continue to partner with students and families toward future success.

As always, thank you so much for your support of the Washburn High School Foundation. Your contributions allow us to bring value-added Mini-Grants, scholarships, materials, equipment, and experiences to Washburn students and teachers. To keep up the level of our past support, we have started a campaign "\$20,200 for 2020" to raise the money needed by June 30. Please join us in this campaign. Despite today's challenges, we will get through this... together.

Be safe and be well, and Go Millers!

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91  
President, Washburn High School Foundation



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Hello, Miller Alumni and Friends!

We are in a whole new world here at Washburn this spring. The building has been closed since March 17 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our whole staff (170 people!) has been at home planning how to continue educating our kids during a global crisis.

"Distance learning" started on Monday, April 6. Most of our students have their own computers at home and are able to participate remotely in both interactive classes and independent work. Our teachers and students have been using online tools like Google Classroom for years, so our students already have familiarity with them.

But about a third of our students do not have computer and internet access at home. The District has been organizing to deliver Chromebooks (the laptops we use in class) to those who have internet access, and paper packets of lessons to those who don't. MPS is also purchasing "hot spots" to help families access the internet, and when those arrive, more Chromebooks will be delivered to families. In the meantime, almost all of our students have smartphones, so many are connecting that way even without a computer.

Our teachers have been awesome about transitioning our lessons online. We are seeing a lot of creativity, intentionality, and persistence throughout this transition. 100% of our teachers made the leap in only three weeks and were ready to go on April 6. They deserve a lot of kudos for that! And almost 80% of our students had connected with their classes by Tuesday, the second day of distance learning. That's incredible.

Our support staff has been busy calling families of students who are not connecting online, to find out how to help get them connected. They are also doing a lot of social-emotional and practical support of families.

Washburn Connects has launched a gift card drive (see page 7) to help support families who are not working and may need help with groceries. If you follow WHS on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram you can also see a great video that we shot as part of #BeTheLightMN for our Class of 2020.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Washburn - we are so grateful to have our alumni always by our sides!

Emily

# Spring

## 2020 Mini-Grant Awards

Each semester the Washburn High School Foundation awards thousands of dollars to staff for special projects. Washburn staff is motivated to be extra creative and innovative to deliver programs, field trips, and special hands-on experiences made possible by the Mini-Grant Program. Listed below are a few of the staff awards:

- Forensic Science will receive crime scene super value kits.
- IB Visual Art will now have table-top easels.
- A yoga teacher will work with the African American Leadership Group through the Counseling Department.
- The Media Center will invest in new release books focusing on authors of color.
- The Latino Club students experienced ice skating - a first for many of these students.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) will be flying drones soon and enhancing their abilities to measure and cut accurately with new vises.
- Language teachers will have magazines in target languages.
- The AP Chemistry Princeton Review books will support students studying for the AP exam.
- The art photos were produced by IB Spanish students last fall. Great use of their award.



**The 2020 Spring  
Mini-Grant made this possible.**

**The Foundation is able to support the Washburn students and staff  
because of the continued generosity of its many donors.**

**A huge Miller thank you!!**

## Wrestler of the Year – Vincent Gladbach

Washburn senior wrestler Vincent Gladbach finished in 6th place at the State Wrestling Tournament. He was Washburn's first state place winner since 1986, and he was recognized as the Minneapolis Wrestler of the Year.



## Luke Conway came in 1st in the state in Alpine Skiing

## Boys Alpine Ski Team was section champions and came in 6th in the state

(Pictured in photo) Jack Moore, Owen Hemer, Emmet Sutton, Augie Bent, Willem Robertson, Luke Conway, Wilson Psootka, and Andreas Drekonja



## Washburn boys 200 freestyle relay qualified for the state meet

Alex Hawkins, Sam Isaacman, Aidan O'Neil and Anton Reuter (see photo)



**WE CELEBRATE OUR MILLER ATHLETES****All-Conference Nordic Skiers**

Gillian Bode  
 Etta Leugers  
 Elaina Griffiths  
 Johanna Perry  
 Phoebe Schwartz  
 Ella Endo  
 Grace Pereira  
 Isaac Lowenthal Walsh  
 Per Alexander  
 Zev Breen  
 Alex Bion

**Nordic Ski Boys Team State Qualifiers**

Nico Alexander  
 Isaac Lowenthal Walsh  
 Zev Breen  
 Per Alexander  
 Emerson Roy  
 Alex Bion  
 Sam Strickland  
 Boys Alternates  
 Graham Adleman  
 Zach Marquardt

**Nordic Ski Individual Girls State Qualifiers**

Etta Leugers  
 Gillian Bode

**All-Conference Basketball Players**

Kari Johnson  
 Kesha White  
 David Worman  
 Josh Rogers

**All-Conference Wrestlers**

Vincent Gladbach  
 Vinny Morton  
 Leo Farley  
 Luca Follega  
 Emerson Roy  
 Alex Bion  
 Sam Strickland  
 Boys Alternates  
 Graham Adleman  
 Zach Marquardt

**Nordic Ski Individual Girls State Qualifiers**

Etta Leugers  
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**All-Conference Basketball Players**

Kari Johnson  
 Kesha White  
 David Worman  
 Josh Rogers

**All-Conference Wrestlers**

Vincent Gladbach  
 Vinny Morton  
 Leo Farley  
 Luca Follega

**Girls hockey - All conference Honorable mention**

Celia Midtbo (Washburn)  
 Lizzie Hamel (Field 8th- Washburn)



# WASHBURN NORDIC TEAM

The Washburn Nordic ski team has seen incredible growth in size over the last few years. In 2019/2020 there were 80 skiers, while 11 years ago there were only four. The team has also grown in terms of the success on and off the ski trail.

This year's Mesabi East Invite (the largest Nordic ski race in North America) was the first time they've had a team place in the top 10 in over 15+ years. All four teams (boys' and girls' Varsity and JV) finished in the top 10 with over 60 teams racing. They also had top three finishes at the ABC Relays for both the boys' and girls' teams, as well as nine individuals on the podium.

For the season overall, they had 11 All-Conference skiers, seven girls and four boys. The girls' team won the Minneapolis Conference for the first time in over 15 years, beating Southwest in a tie-breaker. Both the boys' and girls' teams placed second at Sections. The girls lost the tie-breaker but the boys qualified for State. This was the first time a Washburn Nordic team (as opposed to individuals) qualified in 26 years. The boys' team was made up of: Nico Alexander, Per Alexander, Alex Bion, Zev Breen, Isaac Lowenthal Walsh, Emerson Roy, and Sam Strickland. In addition, we had two individual girls qualify for state, Etta Leugers (third year in a row) and Gillian Bode (first year). Etta finished 23rd at State and received All-State honors.

The teams have also been outstanding in the classroom. Both the boys' and girls' teams received the gold award for academics. This award is given to teams with a 3.75 or higher GPA, and is based on the average of the top five GPAs of the skiers on the Section race team. The boys' team had a 3.77 GPA and the girls' team had a 3.97 GPA!

With tremendous coaching and great support from the skiers' families, we have high hopes for the coming season(s). We hope to see you all at the races!

## Julius Caesar, One Act Plays Goes to State

In January, Washburn High School hosted the One Act Play preliminaries for the 5AA Region. The Washburn play was an all-female version of Julius Caesar, set in a women's prison. The cast worked diligently with director John Lynn to understand the material and deliver a compelling version of Shakespeare's classic. The talented cast and crew received a 1st place ranking at preliminaries and sectionals and went on to perform at the state competition at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium on February 7. "Et tu, Brute?"



## Jay Mackbee Wins State Poetry Out Loud Competition

Sophomore Jay Mackbee won 1st place in the Minnesota Poetry Out Loud competition in February, after competing against hundreds of other high schoolers across the state. Jay won a \$500 check for books for Washburn, \$250 in cash, and an all-expenses paid trip for two to compete in nationals in Washington, DC, where she will represent Minnesota and perform in the White House for the White House press corps. This is only the third year that Washburn High has competed at Poetry Out Loud. So much Miller talent!

## Almost, Maine and Hair

The Theater Department delivered two thought-provoking shows in the 2019/2020 school year. The fall rock musical, Hair, with a cast of 60 students, explored the protests of the 1960s and a nation divided over war. The spring show, Almost, Maine, took place in a mystical town in the northern U.S. where everyone wears flannel and knows each other. The series of 2-3 person scenes all explored different kinds of love, heartache and discovery. The cast delivered heartfelt performances and showed us the power of human connections.



# Washburn Cares

Washburn Cares has launched a gift card drive. Anyone wondering how they can support the school during these unprecedented times may be interested in this project. Social Workers are reporting that many families are reaching out because they are experiencing financial hardships. We are collecting gift cards that can be mailed to families who are struggling. There are 3 options:

- Donate online: <https://bit.ly/WHSgives> (case sensitive)
- Mail a gift card or check to: 5217 Portland, MPLS 55417 [attn: Tina Ham Peterson/Washburn Cares]
- Drop off a gift card or check to: 5217 Portland, MPLS 55417 [attn: Tina Ham Peterson/Washburn Cares]
- \$25 cards preferred: Target, Cub, Walmart, Aldi, Walgreens & Holiday Gas



The National Honor Society held a blood drive on Feb. 7, 2020. They collected 99 units of blood, potentially saving 297 lives. It was the most successful Washburn High School Memorial Blood Drive ever! Thank you to senior Hailey LaSalle who led the blood drive.

# NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

- Kesha White - Florida Southwestern State College - Women's Basketball Team
- Anika Johnson - Colorado State University - Women's Swim & Dive Team
- Gwen Nelson - Cleveland State University - Women's Fencing Team
- Helena Gutzmer - University of Tulsa - Women's Rowing Team
- Jameson Charles - University of North Carolina - Men's Soccer Team
- Sam Isaacman - Carleton College - Men's Soccer Team & Men's Swim & Dive Team





## \$20,200 for 2020 - We Need Your Support! Help us Meet This Goal!

With gifts from alumni and friends like you, the Washburn High School Foundation supports the school so that teachers and students have the resources they need to be successful.

We need to raise \$20,200 by June 30 in order to maintain that level of support to the school again when school starts again in the fall. Please help with a gift as generous as you are able. Thank you so much for being our partner!

With gratitude, The Washburn High School Foundation



## Why We Give and Volunteer

What makes a great community is its members and their knowledge that giving back is not as much about doing the rest of us a favor as much as it is about doing our part to maintain our greatness. Giving back can take many forms. Whether it's volunteering as a mentor, coach, or by doing chores for a neighbor in need, to writing a check, or purchasing goods for a cause, the options to give back are endless. I know that the money raised by Washburn Foundation helps so many kids in so many ways and that the money I give will get to those who need it in ways I could not accomplish on my own. I give as a way to do my part in maintaining the great community I live in and raise my kids in.

Michael Wedl, WHS Foundation Board Member

I have always loved being part of a successful team, and aspire to make a positive contribution to those teams. Washburn is one of my most favorite teams, and I am proud and thankful to be a Miller!

Kevin Ario, WHS Foundation Volunteer