



# Washburn High School Foundation

Spring 2022

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,

"We're all in this together." This statement has been used a lot over the past two years as the world has faced a pandemic, civil unrest, economic uncertainty, war, and other untold challenges. In the past we've talked here about Washburn students and team members dealing with and overcoming these and other unprecedented adversities to the best of their abilities. I feel like now, more than ever, there is a real opportunity for ALL of us to help each other in our daily challenges and to keep putting one foot in front of the other.



Once again in these pages you'll read about wonderful stories of success of Washburn students, teachers, and staff, despite the various challenges affecting all of us both globally and locally. Continued staffing and budget issues make managing the human resources that help make Washburn great a challenge, but the dedicated teachers and staff at Washburn are there because they love the school and the students, and have never deserved our appreciation more. If you can, reach out to a teacher, coach, or staff member and let them know how much they mean to us and our community, and how impactful their role in our children's education and life foundation really is.

Financially, the WHS Foundation has been able to continue our past level of support to the School despite a significant decrease in donations over the past two years due to the ability to dip into our "emergency reserves." This is unsustainable, however, and we will be relying on you, our donors, to help us get back to pre-pandemic levels of giving and support to Washburn.

Programmatically, the WHSF Mini-grant program, Admin. Team grants, and Scholarships continue to provide huge value-added opportunities and experiences to Washburn students. Students continued to demonstrate excellence in academics, arts, and athletics again this school year. Specific examples include a stellar musical performance of Grease (which won a record 21 Spotlight Awards!), another dominant showing at the Poetry Out Loud competition, and a historic resurgence in both Alpine and Nordic skiing, with both Boys' and Girls' Nordic teams advancing to state for the first time in over 30 years! Washburn had both boys' and girls' state-participating skiers in both Alpine and Nordic this year! Our Millers love the snowy trails and slopes! One of the highlights of the year was the performance of the combined Minneapolis Boys' Hockey team, which advanced to the state tournament and took home the Consolation Championship. Washburn students were key contributors and helped power the run to State.

Washburn has seen its share of ups and downs over its nearly 100-year history. We will continue to face challenges, but we all want to continue to see Washburn succeed and be the pillar of our community that it has been for all these years. After all, "we're all in this together!"

We appreciate your continued and generous support. Please consider a contribution to the WHS Foundation today. You can donate securely online via our website at [WashburnConnections.org](http://WashburnConnections.org). Thanks for all you do to help contribute to the rising tide of Miller Pride!

Go Millers,

Mark Bachman, '91  
President, WHS Foundation

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From Your Principal Dr. Emily Palmer

As we head into Quarter 4 this spring, it's amazing to reflect on the extreme highs and lows we have experienced this year. In addition to the pandemic, the crime wave, and all the personal pressures our students face, we added a war and a strike to the list! But we have also had some spectacular wins, including students going to state in many of our sports, and our fall play winning a record 21 Spotlight awards! It is unbelievable what our kids are shouldering right now, and it's so impressive to see what they are accomplishing in spite of it all. Our Millers are so awesome!



Principal Dr. Emily Palmer

The strike lasted 3 weeks in March/April and we are now making up those days through a combination of extra minutes on the school day and extra days in June. While no one is thrilled about that, I am grateful that our students have every opportunity for learning, especially those in college-credit courses. We have over 20 different courses through which our students can earn college credit right here at WHS! Their timelines got complicated, but we're working through it.

The staffing challenges that we are seeing all across the country have certainly impacted us here at WHS this year. For the first time in my 15 years as a P/AP, we've had two positions open all year long that we have been unable to fill. We have also turned over more positions than usual this year. I am grateful that our teaching staff has remained intact - that is not true in many other schools - but it's been tough for our non-licensed staff.

The support we receive from our families, alumni and community has been incredible, and we couldn't be as successful as we have been without you. Certainly, your donations help us meet the increased needs our Millers bring to school every day. Beyond that, your words of support and presence at games and plays and other events mean a lot too!

I invite all WHS community members to go to our website, look over our staff directory, and send a nice note to someone who has been important for you or your student. The personal notes to let folks know they make a difference are everything to teachers and staff who are doing some of the hardest work there is right now. Any way that we can lift them up is appreciated.

Thank you again for all your support. We can't do it without you.

## Entrepreneurship

**The next generation of business leaders may be walking the halls of Washburn at this very moment.**

Is tomorrow's next globally impactful organization the brainchild of a focused young Miller walking through Washburn's halls right now?

Well.... It may be more plausible than ever before!

Students at Washburn will soon have an opportunity to test their entrepreneurial muscle, and participate in workshops developed to foster the spirit of a business owner, start-up team and innovator. Underway, for the 2022-2023 school year, is a new partnership between WHS, Community Education, local business leaders and advisors.

It is clear that becoming an entrepreneur is fast becoming the number one choice for "Generation Next". Many young people want to break away from salaried jobs. It's not just established businesses that help society get through a crisis like COVID-19.

It's a new generation of up-and-coming entrepreneurs who will be creating innovation, ensuring future sustainability, and building safe, equitable, strong economies that benefit everyone.

In addition, consumer expectations have changed, and people are much more at ease with using new technology. Barriers to entrepreneurship have lowered greatly, particularly in digital. These facts favor the young and agile minds of our students, both now and in the future.

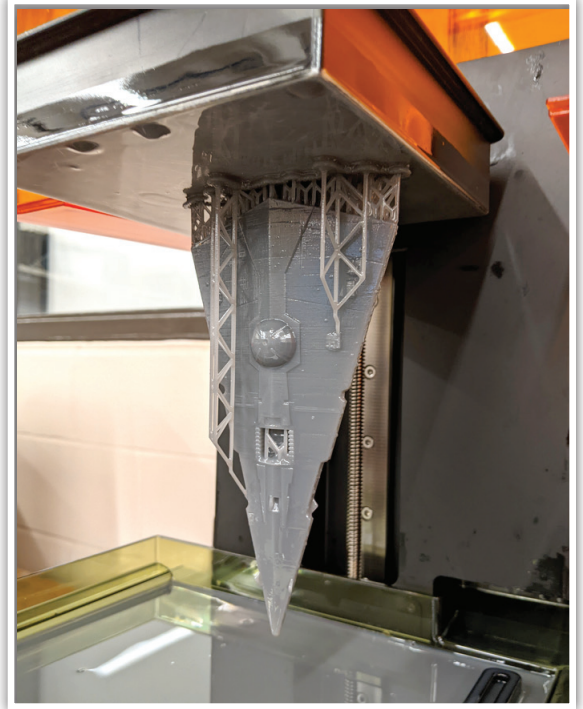
That is why tech founders in the Twin Cities start-up community, locally-founded business leaders and advisors to young aspiring entrepreneurs are partnering with WHS and Community Education to provide monthly curated workshops, where business leaders will discuss the journeys, successes, failures, and life lessons from "doing it from the ground up". Workshops will include activities to spark the creativity and business acumen within the students, and advise them in the world of manifesting their bold ideas and innovations.



# Mini-grants in action



A Mini-grant allowed the Alpine ski team to purchase new drills in order to be able to drill about 8 and a half inches into the ice to secure the slalom gates for races.



A Mini-grant was used by the Engineering Department to purchase a 3-D printer used to create this Star Wars Imperial Star Destroyer.

## Teachers express gratitude for Mini-grants.

“What Mini-grants mean for the Washburn Blackbox is bringing Black artists from the rich Twin Cities theatre community in to work with our students. To bring joy and hope into our classrooms is what artists do. I am so grateful the Washburn High School Foundation has nurtured and supported the maintenance of these community relationships which are vital to the Washburn Blackbox Acting Program. Thank you!”

Teacher Crystal Spring

## From the World Language Department Teachers:

“The investment of online learning resources and mini novels made possible through funding from the Foundation have been instrumental in enhancing student learning and increasing overall student engagement and participation. These resources have allowed us to incorporate additional interactive instructional strategies that have been conducive in supporting language acquisition. Thank you to the Foundation for your ongoing support and investment in resources that have a positive impact on our students.”



# Athletic Highlights



Girls Nordic Ski Team



Boys Nordic Ski Team

## Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Team Both Go to State for the first time in 30+ years

The Washburn's boys and girls Nordic ski teams both made it to the Minnesota State Nordic Ski Championships for the first time in 30+ years. The meet was held at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, MN on Feb. 16, 2022.

### State results

Boys Relay (24 teams), Graham Adleman and Sam Strickland - 4th

Girls Relay (24 teams), Zoe Wagner and Ciara Thatcher - 6th

### Boys Pursuit (112 skiers)

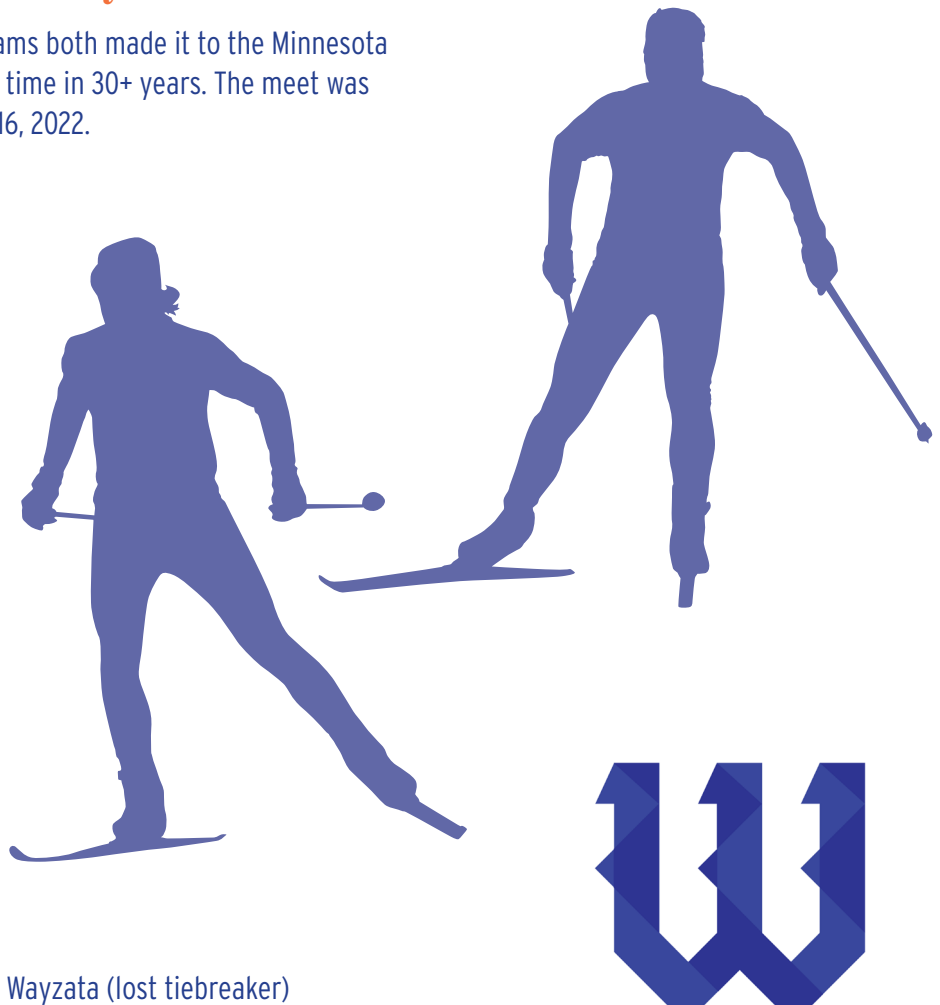
- Nico Alexander - 16th
- Derek Waddick - 25th
- Alexandre Cholat - 39th
- Zach Marquardt - 48th
- Ethan Collis - 76th

### Girls Pursuit (111 skiers)

- Elaina Griffiths - 30th
- Chloe Angerman - 42nd
- Johanna Perry - 47th
- Nora Bartlett - 49th
- Poppy Lowenthal Walsh - 71st

Boys Team (16 teams) - 4th, tied for 3rd with Wayzata (lost tiebreaker)

Girls Team (16 teams) - 8th place





## Hockey

The Minneapolis High School hockey team not only made it to the State Hockey Tournament this season, but they took home the Consolation Championship trophy. Washburn (nor any other Mpls public high school) no longer fields their own hockey team. Rather, hockey is now a cooperative sport between all Minneapolis high schools. This year's State Tourney-bound team was made up of about 40% Washburn students. It was the first time a Minneapolis high school made the State Hockey Tournament since 1994 (Edison). The last Washburn appearance was in 1979. The team was led by two WHS seniors Jack Hanson (27 goals and 31 assists) and Evan Grimm (17 goals, 12 assists). Way to go boys!



## Three Alpine Skiers Qualify for State

Alpine skiers Andreas Dredkonja, Gabby Harritt, and Kate Moore made it to state and represented Washburn in the Minnesota State Alpine Ski Championships at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, MN on Feb. 16, 2022.



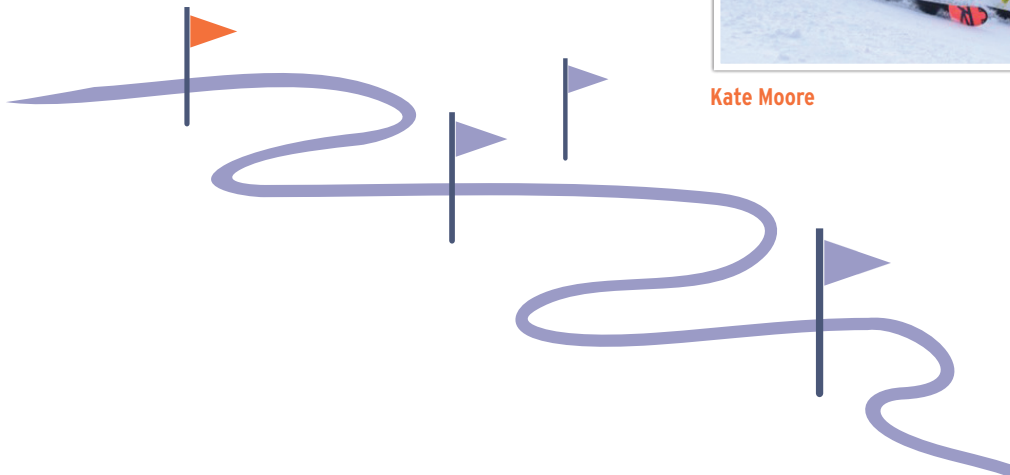
Andreas Dredkonja



Gabby Harritt



Kate Moore



# Arts



Ari Kimball and Chiara Brown

## Poetry Out Loud!

Washburn Sophomores Ari Kimball and Chiara Brown swept the conference Poetry Out Loud competition taking 1st place and 2nd place respectively in the conference finals. They will advance to the 2022 state Poetry Out Loud competition at the end of February. Ben Rice and Maureen Mulvaney's students have done well in previous years:

- 2021 Ebba Nordstrom - 2nd place at state
- 2020 Yahanna Macbee - 1st place at state
- 2019 Grace Ulferts - 3rd place at state

## Grease is the Word!

The fall musical, "Grease" was a big hit with audiences and with the Spotlight program through Hennepin Theatre Trust. "Grease" won a record 21 Spotlight awards and was selected as one of ten schools out of 125 across the state to perform at the Orpheum Theatre in June for the Spotlight Awards Showcase. The performers, as well as the technical crew, were recognized for their excellence. Kudos to Director John Lynn and the entire Washburn High School theatre community.



Three Washburn students won Technical Leadership Awards for their role in the fall musical, "Grease." Maddie Barnhill won Outstanding Stage Manager, Lillian Richman won Outstanding Lighting Designer, and Ryan Rowell won Outstanding Sound Designer.

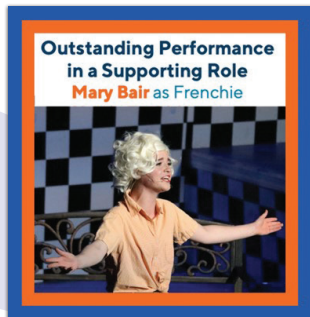


## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES



Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role  
Madeline Huiting as RIZZO

Madeline Huiting won the Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role Award as Rizzo in the fall musical, "Grease."



Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role  
Mary Bair as Frenchie

Mary Bair, WHS class of 2022, won a Spotlight award for her role as Frenchie in Grease last fall. Mary's mom, Karen Samuelson Bair, WHS class of 1987, played the role of Rizzo in Washburn's 1986 production of Grease.



Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role  
Hattie Tschida as Jan

Hattie Tschida won the Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role Award as Jan in Grease last fall.

# WHS Student Joins Minneapolis Public Schools Board

WHS Sophomore Jake Wesson will be serving on the MPS School Board for 2022. He is joined by Junior Kennedy Rance from Patrick Henry HS, pictured with Henry principal Yusuf Abdullah.



# Billy McLaughlin, WHS '80, wins award

Billy McLaughlin will be receiving the Washburn Arts Council Annual Award on May 18, 2022 which was last awarded to Sha Cage (WHS c/o 1991) in 2019 before the pandemic hit. The award is given to an alumnus or faculty member who has made significant arts contributions to our community and world. Other past award winners include Jeff Arundel (WHS c/o 1975), Tom Lieberman (WHS c/o 1975), and choir teacher from the 1970s, William Lydell.

# Your WHSF Board



Washburn High School Foundation Board of Directors clockwise from top left: Danielle Vanderhoef, Lisa Quist, Kevin Yellick, Tina Ham Peterson, Aaron Cherveney, John McCreary, Principal Dr. Emily Palmer, Jared Brewington, Mark Bachman (President), Jeremy Graff and Linda Conley. Not pictured: Mike Wedl, Laura Stokes and C.C. Ström



## Your WHSF Board cont.

### **Mark Bachman, president**

Mark (WHS class of '91) is a proud Washburn alumnus, lives in the neighborhood, and is the parent of three Miller students. Mark joined the Board in January 2009 and has served as President since that time. He believes that having a thriving, vibrant, public high school is a true cornerstone of a successful community and is excited to be working with such a committed, talented, and fun group of Miller supporters to help ensure Washburn's continued success!

### **Jeremy Graff, treasurer**

Jeremy is what some would call a "Triple Threat" for the Foundation. Not only did he graduate from Washburn (WHS class of '93), he also lives in Tangletown, and has two current Millers and a recent Miller graduate. He bleeds orange and blue. Jeremy joined the Board and has served as Treasurer since 2009. His reason for joining the Board was, and is, to help make WHS a great community high school.

### **John McCreary, secretary**

John (WHS class of '80) is the current Librarian at Washburn, and he has worked at Washburn for 12 years. He joined the Washburn Foundation in 2015 and manages the foundation website. He has two uncles and one aunt, and three siblings who graduated from Washburn. He and his wife have raised three children who attended the Minneapolis Public Schools, one of whom attended Washburn. Being on the board is one small way to say thank you to the many Washburn teachers and coaches that helped him along the way.

### **Lisa Swanson Quist, board manager**

Lisa (WHS class of '80) comes to the Washburn Foundation Board as an alumni, co-chair of the Washburn Parent Council from 2013-2016, former member of the Washburn Site Council and active school and community volunteer. Lisa joined the board in 2015 and serves as the board manager. Her two adult children are both graduates of Washburn.

### **Tina Ham Peterson, accountant**

Tina is a parent of 3 graduates (2017, 2020 and 2022) of Washburn. When her eldest started at Washburn, she started volunteering in many things Washburn from proctoring IB exams to giving tours to prospective students to sorting donations for our homeless and highly mobile students because she believes we all need to support the communities where we belong.

### **Jared Brewington, board member**

Jared (WHS class of '96) has an extensive food-service, business and philanthropic history. He is the founder of food brands Funky Grits, Thigh Times Birdhouse, Cologne House Cafe, and Official Fried Chicken. In addition to years in the restaurant industry, Jared is a commercial property investor, community leader and youth mentor. Born and raised in South Minneapolis in a 4 generation home, Jared

is a part of the rich legacy of African American entrepreneurs from South Minneapolis. His great-grandfather was one of the first black realtors in MN and his father is a serial entrepreneur and business leader. Jared has focused his support toward young adults in their efforts to find their place in the world of business ownership and entrepreneurship.

### **Aaron Cherveney**

Aaron is a Washburn parent.

### **Linda Conley, board member**

Linda Conley retired from the Minneapolis Public Schools as Assistant Principal at Washburn in 2016. She was a French teacher at South High, a school counselor at South, and finally an administrator at Washburn High School for the last eight years of her career. Linda has two children who are '86 and '88 graduates of Washburn and she proudly refers to herself as a Miller. Linda joined the Foundation in the fall of 2016 and is passionate about maintaining connections with the Washburn community and co-administering the mini-grant program.

### **C.C. Ström, board member**

C.C. joined the Washburn Foundation board of directors in 2015. In her professional life, she's a communications manager for a nonprofit organization. She has a daughter and a son who graduated from Washburn. The daughter of a former Washburn chemistry teacher, she also worked in the Community Education office more years ago than she'd like to admit.

### **Danielle Vanderhoef**

Danielle is the board representative from the Washburn Arts Council (WAC) and is the mother of a Washburn graduate. As the daughter of two teachers from Des Moines, IA, she understands how important parent and community support is in education.

### **Mike Wedl, board member**

Mike Wedl (Class of '89) is a Miller through and through. As a WHS student Mike was the editorial columnist on the Grist, and the VP of the Student Council. Mike's brother, three children, two cousins, and an uncle are Millers, he serves on the Washburn Site Council (2014 - 2021), his mother's maiden name is Miller and his initials are even MW. He truly loves our school and the community and believes that volunteering and giving back is not just a good deed, but a responsibility. Mike joined the Foundation Board in 2019.

### **Kevin Yellick, board member**

Originally a cheese head, Kevin and his wife Deanna have called the Hale-Field neighborhood home for over 25 years. His oldest son Parker began his WHS career in 2016 which thrilled his grandfather who grew up block from Kevin and Deanna's current home and graduated WHS in 1948! Kevin owns Meritor Technology, a computer and networking firm on Chicago Ave. He and his staff use their experience and tech savvy to maintain the back-end technology that runs the foundation.