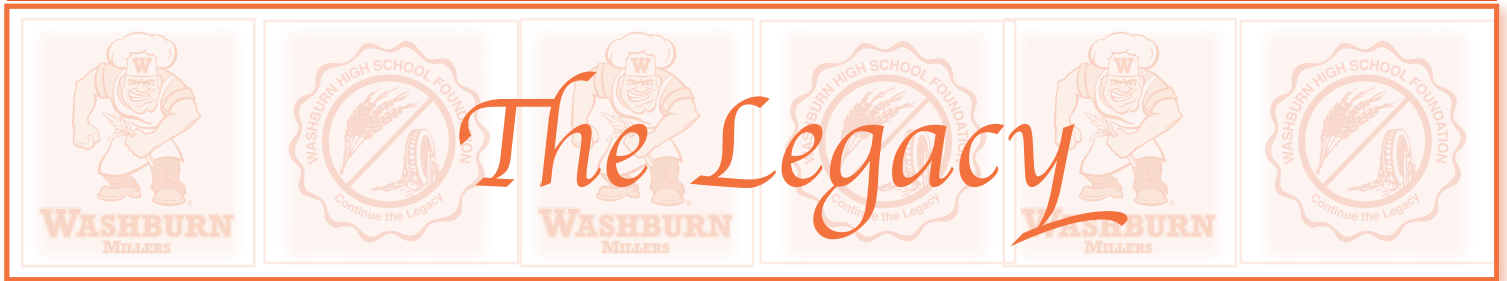




# Washburn High School Foundation

Fall 2023

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,

Once again, the Fall edition of this Legacy Newsletter comes to you just after Minnesota's 15th annual "Give to the Max Day" (GTMD), a unique event calling on Minnesotans far and wide to support worthy organizations and causes here in our state. While statewide giving through GTMD appears at this time to be up over 2022, giving to the combined WHS and WHS Foundation campaign is down over 17% from last year. Our donations from newsletters and our website are also down from past years.

We clearly need YOUR help to get back to our "pre-pandemic" levels of financial support to Washburn. We simply cannot continue our previous level of support to Washburn without replenishing the coffers.

We realize that most of you reading this are receiving it because you've contributed to the WHS Foundation in the past, and we thank you immensely for your support. That is why we are asking for your help in re-invigorating our fundraising mechanisms. We want to hear from YOU, our donors, with WHY you choose to contribute your time, talents, and/or treasures to the Washburn High School Foundation. Please take a moment to consider WHY YOU GIVE to the WHS Foundation and send us an email with your testimonial to [info@WashburnConnections.org](mailto:info@WashburnConnections.org). We will look to publish your stories in future communications to help others understand what we do, that a thriving public high school is an integral part of a successful urban community.

In the meantime, please enjoy the content within these pages as we continue to celebrate all things Orange and Blue, and thank you for continuing to support the rising tide of Miller Pride!

Go Millers!

  
Mark Bachman, '91  
President, WHS Foundation



Foundation President Mark Bachman and friends in the rain at Homecoming Game - Mike Wedl ('89), Mark ('91), Chris Moertel (parent), Charlie Graff (WHS '23), Jeremy Graff ('93), Joe Daugherty, ('88).



A great homecoming win for the Millers 29-0 against St Paul Highland Park



Despite the rain, a great turnout of Miller students who are participating in the new tradition of "Flour Power"

**INSIDE:** 2 Letter from the Principal & Washburn 100    3 Mini-grants    4-5 Athletics    6 Arts    7 Scholarships & Alumni    8 Donors

## Letter from The Principal

We've had a great start to the school year at Washburn so far! It feels good to be past the big crises (we hope!) and into a comfortable rhythm.

After strong growth over the last decade, we are now the largest high school in the city. While the CDD (district redesign) boundary changes in 2020 made a big impact on some other schools, Washburn was less impacted. We once again exceeded projections at 1,587 students this fall.

A few highlights: We are back to having pep fests inside in the gym and enjoyed a big 29-0 win at the Homecoming football game in October! Our fall production of Twelfth Night is happening as this goes to press and our Millers are excited.

Our graduation rates have continued to climb as well. At 92.5% last year, we showed the highest graduation in the district and are well over state and district averages. While we still have work to do, I am pleased that we are moving in the right direction!

This is my 6th year as principal at Washburn, and I remain so proud to be a part of this wonderful community. Thank you so much for your continued support of our Millers!

Dr. Emily Palmer, Principal



Our Principal, Dr. Emily Palmer, with our Miller Mascot

## WASHBURN 100

2025 is a big year for Washburn and our entire Miller community. Washburn will be 100 years old and we are planning to celebrate! Our plan is to have various events from January 2025 through Homecoming of 2025 with an all school/all class celebration in August of 2025.

We will be getting information out as soon as possible on specifics and as we get closer to the time, but keep August 16th, 2025 open!

Other events will likely include history exhibits, charitable events, various reunions, etc. We need volunteers who can help with planning and organizing the events, especially in the communications area, so please let us know if you are interested in helping [Mike Wedl ('89) [wedlx002@umn.edu](mailto:wedlx002@umn.edu)] and watch for specific asks soon! GO MILLERS!!!

#WASHBURN100 #WHS100





## Your Gifts in Action: Mini-Grants!

Thanks to your contributions, the Foundation funded over 61 proposals representing \$50,000 this fall to our WHS teachers, staff and coaches. The proposals covered a wide range of disciplines and will positively impact every Washburn student, whether it is in a classroom, on a field trip, or on the ski hill! Here are some examples of the mini-grants funded in 2023:

- College campus visits for AVID students to prepare for life post high school through exposure to viable and realistic options for continuing their education
- Medicine ball weights and foam rollers for the new Washburn Strength and Conditioning program to provide variation in training methods and enhance athlete recovery
- Scholarships for Washburn Model United Nations and Youth in Government programs
- Fees for American Mathematics Competition exams for the Washburn Math Team
- Round trip bus for students, staff and alumni to attend the Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics.
- Classroom sets of non-fiction books on Minnesota history for International Baccalaureate (IB) Language and Literature
- Sensory swing and toys for students with autism and sensory differences
- Wide variety of books written in Spanish by authors from Latin America to increase engagement and improve literacy learning in Spanish classes

The proposals funded this year represent activities or opportunities that may not otherwise be accessible to all students or covered by the standard high school budget. These grants from the WHS Foundation enable WHS staff and coaches to directly impact student experiences and are truly appreciated, as reflected in the following quotes from WHS staff members:

*"Thank you to the Washburn Foundation for giving us the opportunity to apply for grants that help us in the classroom. The Foundation has been incredible over the years and I am very thankful."*

*"Thank you and to the WHS Foundation Board! It is truly appreciated!"*

*"Awesome! This is so exciting! We are so lucky to have the WHS Foundation!"*

*"Thank you for your consideration! I very much appreciate all you do for the Washburn community; your mini-grants make a difference for our students!"*



**Students practicing Free Voluntary Reading (FVR) of books written Spanish in Prof Brener's Spanish class.**



**The Spanish literature library was supported by WHS Foundation mini-grants and offers diverse options in multiple genres so every student can select a book that matches their interest and increase their Spanish literacy.**



# Athletics

## CROSS COUNTRY



The boys team took first place and the girls team came in second place in the city championship. Three runners from the boys cross country team qualified for the state cross country meet:

Senior Will Just finished in 26th place, Junior Caleb Dickel finished in 38th and Sophomore Jameson Guertin finished in 48th.

## FOOTBALL

The Millers football team was able to field three teams (Varsity, JV, B-Squad) this year for the first time in nine years. The highlight of the season was beating Southwest for the second year in a row.



Nels Mortenson  
1st Team All State

## SOCCER

The boys soccer team had a 15-2 record, won the city conferences, and lost in the section finals to eventual state champion Wayzata.



Emmett Brown  
Mr. Soccer  
(best player in MN)

Charlie Gustafson  
2nd Team All State



# SWIM & DIVE



For the past couple of decades Washburn had combined swim and dive teams with South and Roosevelt. But this year each school has their own team. Sophomore Madeline Kohel broke the all-time state diving record Saturday and became the first diver from a Minneapolis high school to win the state championship since 1976.

**Madeline Kohel**  
State Diving Champion

# TENNIS

The Girls Tennis team finished the season 20-4, won the Minneapolis City Championship for the fifth year in a row and won Twin Cities Championship over St. Paul Highland Park.



# VOLLEYBALL



# SOCCER



**Izzy McEwan**  
2nd Team All State

Washburn Girls Soccer had a memorable season this fall with 23 amazing seniors leading our program. The team finished in second place in the city conference.



## Arts

# Twelfth Night

Our thespian Millers are amazing! This fall, Washburn Theater embraced and performed William Shakespeare's dramedy and masterpiece, *Twelfth Night*, on the Washburn stage. The cast and crew of 30+ artists successfully tackled and embraced the poetry of iambic pentameter, the type of poetic metric line used in traditional English verse. The play incorporated this verse with song and sword fights to tell the story of love, loss, joy and pain. *Twelfth Night* is drama with incredible comic moments that show what it means to be in love and misunderstood. This show further demonstrates the diverse talents of Washburn students!

Song!



Sword!

## Meet the New Director!

Washburn is happy to welcome Kristina Mitchell as our new Theater Director this year. The community was very nervous about John Lynn's retirement from the theater department because of his fabulous artistic vision and working relationship with the students, but students and families were thrilled that Kristina, who has been an assistant director for several productions, was interested in taking the helm! She has great relationships with students and a strong theater background, including degrees from St. Olaf, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and George Washington University. Kristina's passion for theatre and music is palpable as she shines her light on our young artistic Millers. Her first production for WHS was Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in November and she is planning to direct *RENT* for our spring musical. How lucky are we Millers to have these leaders love our collective children while providing a safe environment of creativity and collaboration!! Please watch the WHS website for dates and plan to attend. We would love to see you there!



Kristina Mitchell with John Lynn



# Alumni & Scholarships

## Foundation Scholarships

Each year, The Washburn High School Foundation administers many scholarships funded from donations by classes and families. Last spring, Dr. Palmer and the administrative team used some of their administrative allocation to award three \$1,000 scholarships to 3 seniors who showed meaningful leadership in their time at Washburn.

Seniors Abdibasisit Abdulkadir, Maggie McHugh and Karina Sadler-Sfikas earned the honors. Each one started or created something at Washburn: Abdi led the resurrection of the Somali Culture Night celebration; Maggie organized a group of students who procured donations and provided menstrual products in restrooms and helped start the WHS Pickleball Club; Karina led the way to Washburn joining the Unified movement through Special Olympics that creates opportunities for students with disabilities to spend time with their mainstream peers.

As Dr. Palmer shared at the Senior Awards Night ceremony, "You all have made a difference for Washburn in ways that will outlast your time here. You have made an imprint on the school in a positive way and I want to honor you for that. You are also terrific humans who represent the best of what we hope for in our Millers. I am so proud of you. Thank you for all you have given to your school."



## Hello Washburn Alums!

As the new Work Experience Coordinator at Washburn, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and ask for your assistance. A small group of us are presently working on arranging job shadow and internship experiences for upperclassmen. We are looking for people willing to donate their time to help students learn more about various career paths. If you own or work at a local business willing to host a shadow or intern in the future, please reach out to me. I am happy to meet and discuss how we can partner to provide an important learning experience for our students and foster meaningful partnerships with local businesses.

Kevin Hohn  
 kevin.hohn@mpls.k12.mn.us  
 612-437-9140



Kevin Hohn, Work Experience Coordinator

# Thank you, donors!

With increasing costs to publish newsletters, we appreciate ALL of our donors, but are only listing those \$500 and over between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. This allows us to use more of our funds to support the students and staff of WHS!

## MILLER PRIDE \$500 - \$999

Roberta Harper & Robert Abdo  
Philip Bell  
Vicki Bunker  
Class of 1962  
Tom Crouch  
Elizabeth Fisher  
Luella Gross Goldberg  
Susan Shark Goldenberg  
Derek Gregoire  
Karin Johnson Grossman  
Michael Headrick  
Sheila Hearn  
Kori Hennessy  
Anthony Kelley  
Richard Kinyon  
Frederick Langendorf  
John & Deb Lilly  
Dana Lonn  
Britt Lundgren  
Timothy McGinley  
Medtronic  
Katie Mortenson  
Robert Mortenson  
Mike Parrott  
David Peichel  
Mark Ransom  
Kathryn Thomas  
Doris Wong  
Gavin Wright

## BRONZE \$1,000 - \$1,999

Mark Andrew  
Ameriprise Financial  
Lee Bachman  
Mark & Carrie Bachman  
Kari & Leon Ball  
Gregory Bastian  
Steven Beck  
Mary Benson  
Stanley & Shirley Bormann  
Robert Christianson Jr  
Class of 1970  
Amanda Schmidt Docter  
Geoffrey Gould  
Thomas Gruber  
Arthur Stuart Hanson  
Deborah Harley Healey  
Bonnie Johnson  
Tina Ham Peterson  
Craig Ruhsam  
William Shepard  
Michael Wedl

## SILVER \$2,000 - \$3,999

Kevin and Paula Ario  
The Delta Airlines  
Foundation  
Robert Goodale  
Kopp Family Foundation  
Microsoft - Kristine Krsnik  
Harry Orr  
Carin Leiferman Simpson

## GOLD \$4,000 - \$7,999

Xcel Energy

## PLATINUM \$8,000 - \$15,999

John Mooty Foundation

## HONORARIUM/ MEMORIAL

### In Honor Of:

Arslan Aziz  
Jane Furber Becker '60  
and Jim Furber '58  
Augie Bent '20, Lewie Bent '22  
Vicki Bunker  
Class of 1965  
Jim Hanneman & Margaret  
Spriggs' Birthdays '80"  
Eva Hudalla  
Isabel Hoyt-Niemiec '20,  
Jessica Niemiec '92,  
Randy Niemiec '89,  
Winnie Hoyt-Niemiec '22  
Ann Marie Olson Riley '87,  
Laurie Olson Wells '90,  
Cooper Wells '18,  
Ellie Wells '21  
Ann (Samuelson) Smith '81  
George Wemier  
Yearbook Program  
Paul Zollar, WHS Counselor  
1988-1998

### In Memory Of:

John Andrus  
Frank Ario, teacher  
Mr. Ario  
Taunee Beekman '65  
Mike Bentzen '55  
Lee Chapman '55  
Parker D. Cramer  
FW (Bill) Crouch '57  
Marlys Akerson Chase '47  
Dan Clark '67, Tom Rissi '67  
Robert Grossman '62  
Lisa Gulbrandson '76,  
Sue Reid '76  
Harvey Hagman '57  
Marlene Nelson Halden '58  
Todd Harley '65  
Diane C. Winters Hitchcock '63

John Carter Holmes '68  
Lyle Hulsing  
Joan Eckberg Johnson '58  
Bruce Kath '64  
Jerry Larson '60,  
Peter Bissell '59  
Jerome Lasley '44  
Rosemary Cummings  
Lindquist '58  
Steve Luers '62 and  
Douglass Addison '62  
Marie Spong Mellgren '48  
Karen Jensen Moe '59  
My Good Friends from the  
Class of '62 who are  
no longer with us.  
Christine Frommelt Nelson '65,  
Mary Sue Hanson Taylor '65  
Marilyn Nelson '60;  
Pamela Leach '60;  
Ellen Heppman '60  
Sharon Reardon Nevins '59  
Martha Forsberg Nord '59  
Gretchen Oberhauser '55  
Bob Olson '58  
Chuck Standing '61  
Gary Stenerson - staff  
Peter Stitt '58  
Steve Stoll '61 and Toni Stoll '59  
Bob Strathy '47  
Pat Stubbs '61  
James F. Sutherland  
Donald Frederick Swanson  
John Sylvester  
John Sylvester - John was a  
few years older at WHS than  
US...WE loved him so much!  
Bob Romfo '58, Gary Stitz '58,  
Karen Larson-Nordstrom '58,  
Norman Anderson '58  
by Tom Gruber  
Carl Rundquist '63  
Carl Rundquist '63,  
Ron Swenson '63  
Judy Mueller Wehr '59



**Washburn High  
School Foundation**