Washburn High School Foundation

May 2026

Dear Friends of WHSF

When your high school has been graduating students for over 100 years, alumni and Miller memories stretch back generations. As Washburn High School marks its 100th anniversary, we're honored to spotlight a remarkable alumna who embodies the school's enduring spirit. Meet Julia (Judy) Kennon McGoldrick, a 1944 graduate who turned 100 last year. I'm excited to share her recollections of attending Washburn and the difference it made in her life.

To sustain our 100 years of academic excellence that prepares students to become future business owners, accountants, engineers and NASA astronauts, we need your donation.

Our Mini Grants to teachers make a difference. Last year your support made these and dozens of other grants possible:

- Hands-on molecular mechanics models for Biology
- New wall mats in main gym
- Funding students to attend major debate/speech tournament in Iowa City
- Weekly guest artists providing hands-on instruction in Theater classes
- Translator earbuds to enable counselors to communicate efficiently with English Language Learners

The Washburn High School Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1987 by a group of parents, teachers, alumni, and community members to provide financial and volunteer support to Washburn High School

We are dedicated to sustaining excellence at Washburn High School by cultivating a support network with alumni and the broader community.

If you believe in public education and that supporting Washburn students is important, please donate today. The Washburn High School Foundation is a volunteer non-profit organization; your donation will make a direct impact on the lives of students.

Michael Wedl
Class of '89
President, WHS Foundation

P.S. A century of memories started right here in Washburn's halls. **Your gift today** supports the families and futures of tomorrow.

100 Years of Building Families and Futures. Your Gift Keeps the Legacy Alive

Judy's memories offer a vivid window into Washburn's earliest decades.

Growing up on Gladstone Avenue, she walked to school and remembers the school's first principal, **A.E. MacQuarrie**, who led Washburn from 1925 to 1944.

The photos below highlight the continuity from Washburn in the 1940's to today. Arts, academics and athletics have always been the backbone of the school.

Traditions looked a bit different in Judy's day. Homerooms and auditorium programs were separated by gender, and a dress code required girls to wear skirts or dresses except in gym class. Classes themselves, however, were co-ed.

Athletics were central to student life. Minneapolis had eleven high schools at the time—including now-closed West, Marshall, Vocational, and Central—and football games were played on each school's own field. Students could participate in basketball, baseball, hockey, golf, and tennis.

In the 1940's, clubs were plentiful, from NHS and Hi-Y to language, science, and athletic groups. Judy was active in the **Wahian Business Group, Blue Tri, Upper Class Club, and French Club.**

Judy recalls the excitement of the era—dancing to Big Band music and neighborhood hangouts like the Arctic Maid (near the current Malt Shop).

Judy's whole life has been rooted in Washburn values. After graduating, Judy married Bill McGoldrick (Class of 1942), earned her degree from the University of Minnesota, and built a career as an accountant. She raised six children—five proud Millers themselves.

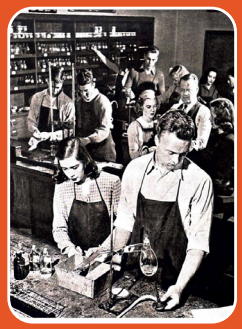
Her advice to today's students is simple and timeless:

"Do the best you possibly can academically, because education can take you anywhere."

A Century of Miller Pride - *Then & Now*

LUNCH TABLE THEN:
Walking home for lunch was a common practice in Minneapolis through the 1970's. Students from further away would bring bagged lunches from home but could buy milk to drink, served in glass bottles.

LUNCH TABLE NOW:
While the lunchroom location hasn't changed, the lunches have! Today, students above freshman year can leave campus for lunch and the cafeteria serves two different hot options each day with fresh fruit and a salad bar.



SCIENCE LAB THEN:
In the 1940's, high school science curriculum began to shift toward a B-C-P sequence (Biology Chemistry Physics) while after 1945 there was a surge in "atomic science education"

SCIENCE LAB NOW:
B-C-P is still a strong science foundation for Millers who can also take classes like Anatomy and Physiology, Zoology and even Forensic Science.

A Century of Stories, A Future of Excellence—Help Us Continue the Tradition