Washburn High School Foundation

Fall 2026

201 West 49th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588

Dear Friends of Washburn High School,

As another school year gets underway, there is a lot to be excited about at Washburn. This fall marks a new chapter as welcome Dr. Alisha Raabe as the 21st principal of Washburn High School. On behalf of the Washburn High School Foundation, we are excited to welcome Dr. Raabe and look forward to partnering with her to support our students, teachers, and staff.

The Foundation would also like to thank Jeremy Graff for more than a decade of service on the Washburn Foundation board, his contributions are as endless as our appreciation for him. Taking his place, we welcome Margaret Berg as our new treasurer! We are excited to have her on the team!

While leadership changes, our mission remains the same: providing resources and opportunities that make a difference for Washburn students. Your donations allow the Foundation to step in where traditional school funding falls short. Through our Mini Grant program and other Foundation support, teachers and staff can obtain classroom resources, equipment, educational experiences and other tools that otherwise may not be available with maximum impact on students.



MICHAEL WEDL, PRESIDENT ('89)
TREASURER MARGARET BERG ('74)

Over the years, your generosity has helped fund everything from classroom and science materials to music and arts programs, athletics, student activities, technology and resources. This support goes directly back into the school and benefits our diverse student population today.

As we begin the 2026-27 school year, we ask you to continue the tradition of Miller Pride. Whether you are an alum, parent, neighbor, former staff member or a friend of public schools, your contribution makes a direct impact. Please consider making a gift today by visiting WashburnConnections.org and clicking "Donate Now."

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment. We are excited for the year ahead, for this new chapter under Dr. Raabe's leadership and for another year of celebrating all things Orange and Blue. **Go Millers!**

Michael Wedl, President ('89)

FROM THE NEW TREASURER MARGARET BERG ('74)

I'm excited to join the Washburn Foundation as the new Treasurer. As a member of the community and a proud Washburn alum, this role feels especially meaningful to me.

My connection to Washburn began as a student, and it has continued to be important to me ever since. I graduated in 1974, later married a fellow Washburn alum and our family's ties to the school grew even stronger when our daughter graduated from Washburn in 2015. I have been involved with the Washburn Arts Council and other volunteer roles.

Washburn is also closely tied to my sense of home. After moving back to the neighborhood in 1994, I have continued to appreciate the school's role within the community.

I also bring a professional background that aligns well with this role. I recently retired after a 40-plus-year career in the accounting world, and I have also served on another nonprofit board. That combination of financial experience and board service gives me a strong foundation for serving as Treasurer of the Foundation.

I'm honored to take over from longtime Treasurer Jeremy Graff and to continue his commitment to the Foundation's mission of supporting the students and faculty of Washburn. I look forward to helping ensure that Washburn remains a vibrant place for students, families, alumni, and neighbors. I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to a school and community that have meant so much to my family and me.

Once a Miller, always a Miller!

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Dear Millers, As I write this, it is almost a month into the school year and showing up as the leader of Washburn High School every day has been truly amazing! The community has been so welcoming, the students have been incredible and the outpouring of support from everyone is inspiring. All of these things speak to how important Washburn High School is, and will continue to be, for this community.

I am especially grateful for the Washburn alumni and Washburn High School Foundation and your unwavering commitment to our school. I have been blown away by your dedication to supporting our students, staff and programs through your grants and willingness to give back. It truly signifies what a special, caring and passionate network of alumni and supporters we have!

Prior to being named Principal at Washburn, I spent my career in education with the Madison Metropolitan School District in Madison, WI. Most recently, I served as an Assistant Principal at La Follette High School where I was also the Athletic Director. Before transitioning into administration, I taught Biology, Chemistry, and science classes for multilingual learners. I truly love being a school administrator and thrive on getting to know our students, staff and families to ensure everyone's high school experience is a positive one.

Having recently relocated to Minneapolis, I have found a lot of joy in getting to know the area, especially trying new restaurants! If you have any recommendations, I would love to hear them. Outside of school, I have a husband and a two-year-old son. We have loved exploring all of the community events and parks in the area and we look forward to building many more memories together here in the future.

I deeply appreciate all of your support in keeping our traditions alive and ensuring Washburn continues to thrive for years to come. I look forward to partnering with the Foundation and meeting many more of our dedicated alumni and supporters throughout the year.

This is going to be a great school year, and I am beyond grateful to be a part of it. **Go Millers!**



Washburn At a Glance

Total Fall Enrollment 2026 = 1,606 Students

Academics

97.8% Graduation Rate

83% College Bound Track
(2 or 4 Year Colleges)

Top College Destinations

• U of M Twin Cities • Normandale Community College
• UW Madison • Loyola • Dunwoody

Student Body

50% White
22% Hispanic
17% Black
7% Mixed
3% Asian
1% American Indian
<1% Pacific Island

Mini Grants

In the 2025-2026 school year, your generosity enabled the Washburn High School Foundation to award **72 mini-grants totaling $62,000!**

These grants support creative ideas submitted by Washburn teachers, staff, and coaches that enrich student learning and engagement in ways that may not be covered by the standard school budget. From classroom technology and hands-on learning tools to arts, athletics, student organizations, and field trips, your donations help make meaningful opportunities accessible to students across the Washburn community.

Here is a glimpse of what your support made possible this year:

- Funding for the Black Student Union
- Microphones and headphones for students creating a history podcast
- Uniform T-shirts for the Math Team
- Field trips to view Oscar-nominated short documentaries
- Velocity training units and broad jump mats for strength and conditioning
- Participation in the Model United Nations Fall Conference
- Twelve-string guitars and replacement strings for music students
- Translator earbuds to facilitate communication with English language learners
- Replacement parts to maintain CPR mannequins used for hands-on instruction
- Tournament fees for the Ultimate Frisbee team
- A debate field trip to Iowa City
- Guest speakers who provide authentic learning experiences for world language students

Each mini-grant represents an educator, coach, or staff member identifying an opportunity to help students learn, participate, create, compete and connect. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, these thoughtful ideas can become experiences and resources that make a lasting difference for Washburn students.



IOWA CROSS CITY TOURNAMENT WHERE TWO OF WHS DEBATERS PLACED AS QUARTERFINALISTS



YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK WITH NEW RESOURCES FOR LEARNING ABOUT BIOLOGY



THROUGH MINI-GRANTS, OUR MILLER STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE MODEL UNITED NATIONS FALL CONFERENCE

Here is what some of our mini-grant recipients had to say about the difference these funds made:

"The books we purchased provided students with access to high-quality literature aligned with the AP Literature curriculum, contributing to an AP Literature exam pass rate exceeding 70%."

"The Guardian Caps we received are worn on the helmets of all football players daily at practice; every grant has made a positive impact on the football program and are greatly appreciated!"

"We used our mini-grant to purchase and pilot Caedence software; the grant was so successful that the software has now been adopted for use by the district to support student experiences through differentiation, allowing each student to start the lesson at different entry points."

Thank you for continuing to invest in the creativity of Washburn educators and the potential of every student.

Arts

Performing Arts offers theatre and music opportunities through Black Box theater, many ensembles, orchestra and bands. A fall musical, spring play, and one-act competition are co-curricular offerings. Audiences were amazed by the 2025 fall musical, Chicago, and charmed by the 2026 spring play, Clue. Stay tuned for this year's offerings.

Washburn's music concerts are a don't-miss opportunity! The Fall Orchestra and Band concert is scheduled for October 20, 2026 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, and the Fall Choir Concert will be from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on October 29,, 2026. The Music Department Holiday concert will be happening on December 16, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Washburn's Visual Arts Department helps students develop their visual art skills in a supportive, rigorous environment. With a dedicated teaching staff and the support of the artistic community, students pursue areas of interest including drawing, painting, and ceramics. Washburn students graduate with a broad range of experience and the skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary studies.



WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL'S FALL 2025 PRODUCTION OF CHICAGO, THE MUSICAL DELIVERED A SPECTACULAR, HIGH-ENERGY PERFORMANCE FEATURING SHOW-STOPPING CHOREOGRAPHY, JAZZ-AGE SATIRE, AND STANDOUT VOCALS FROM THE TALENTED STUDENT CAST.

Calendar





THE 2026 SPRING PLAY, CLUE!, A FAST-PACED "WHODUNIT" COMEDY, RAN APRIL 30-MAY 3.



WONDERFUL "BRIDGING" CONCERT WITH JUSTICE PAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT WASHBURN FEATURING ORCHESTRAS, WIND ENSEMBLES AND JAZZ BANDS FROM BOTH SCHOOLS.


Girls Volleyball City Champions


Boys Soccer City Champions


Girls Tennis City Champions


Girls Soccer City Champions

Fall 2025


Girls Swimming & Diving Team


Fall Cheer


Boys Football State Quarterfinalist


Girls and Boys Cross Country
Boys 4th in State


Girls Basketball City Champions


Boys Basketball City Champions


Girls and Boys Alpine Ski Teams
Boys 4th in State


Boys Nordic Ski Team 4th in state


Wrestling


Girls Nordic Ski Team 7th in state


Gymnastics


Winter Cheer Squad

Winter 2025-2026


MPS Dance Team


MPS Girls Hockey


Tigers-Millers-Teddies Boys Swim
Tri-Metro Conference Champions


MPS Boys Hockey Section Finalist


Boys Ultimate 5th at Nationals


Girls Ultimate
State and National Champions

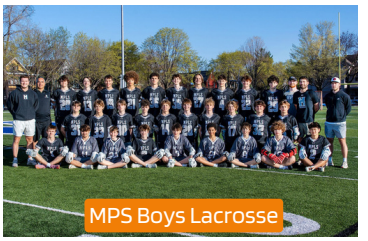

Boys Tennis


Girls Golf City Champions


Boys Volleyball

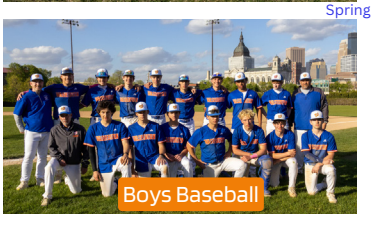

Girls Softball City Champs

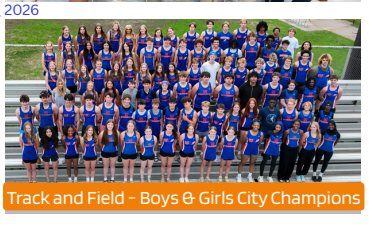

Boys Golf


MPS Boys Lacrosse

Spring 2026


Girls Flag Football - State Quarterfinalist


Boys Baseball


Track and Field - Boys & Girls City Champions


MPS Girls Lacrosse

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, 2025 and June 30, 2026. This allows us to use more of our funds to support the students and staff of WHS!

MILLER PRIDE $500 - $999

John R. Aamodt
Ameriprise Financial
David & Linda Andell
Anonymous
Ruth & Dale Bachman
Brad Baron & Beverly Hauschild Baron
Alix Hagman Behm
Lynn Blewett
Shriley & Stanley Bormann
Jane & John Burton Jr.
Sally Ost Callahan
Dr. Barbara Capman DeHart
Julie & Ted Dyste
Henry A Feldman Jr.
Luella Gross Goldberg & Stanley Goldberg
Kate & Derek Gregoire
Thomas A. Gruber
Beth Gyllstrom & Dan Anderson
Nancy Irvin Hanson
Deirdre & Michael Headrick
Kori Hennessy
Steve Isaacson
Michael Kavoukjian
Wendy Klees Larsen
Frederick Langendorf & Megan Rubenfeld
Timothy McGinley & Katherine Wherly-McGinley
Nancy & James Moody
Randall O'Brien
Mary Jo Zelenovich Odegaard
Megan O'Neal
Jana & Bryan Ott
Richard Reuter
Laura Rotegard
Sarah Schnarr
John Spriggs
Matt Stratton
Jacquelyn Koukal Tennant
Mark R Thurner
Bill and Marla Tipping
Tysver-Stoos Family Charitable Trust
Rachel Ulfers
Washburn Soccer Boosters
Dave Wilson
Doris Wong
Gavin Wright

BRONZE $1,000 - $1,999

Roberta Harper Abdo & Robert Abdo
Lee W. Bachman
Mark & Carrie Bachman
Kari & Leon Ball
Philip B. Bell
Mary T. Benson
Vicki Bunker
Amanda Schmidt Docter
Elizabeth Fisher
Karl Frykman
Robert Goodale
Greiling Family Scholarship
Karin Johnson Grossman
Jean Christianson -Grussing & Bruce Grussing
Jim Hale
Tina Ham Peterson & Ric Peterson
Arthur Stuart Hanson
Health Partners/Tria
Mary Hertogs
Dale Jensen
Bonnie & Thomas Johnson
Richard Kinyon
Deb & John Lilly
Britt Lundgren
Cindy & John McCreary
Judy McQuade & Mark Ransom
Judith Remington
Craig Ruhsam
Cheryl Borger Skalbeck & Bruce Skalbeck
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

SILVER $2,000 - $3,999

Paula Bodger Ario & Kevin Ario
Merry & Steven Beck
Janet & Robert J. Christianson Jr
Elizabeth Friedman Feldman
Kopp Family Foundation
Harry Orr
Douglas Roome

GOLD $4,000 - $7,999

Harvey Allen Feldman Charitable Trust
Char & Jack Mueller

PLATINUM $8,000 - $15,999

John W. Mooty Foundation
Plourde Team Giving Fund

HONORARIUM/ MEMORIAL

In Honor Of:

Of All of my classmates living & passed January '47
Ann Samuelson Smith '81
Arslan Aziz
Cam Tipping
Harold Strobel '51
Jean Bodenman Ferguson '66
Jim Babcock '63
Jim Buffington '57
JoAnne Berkman '66
John Stratton '88
Kevin and Paula Ario
Robert J Christianson Jr
Vicki Bunker '66

In Memory Of:

Antonia Stoll Orfield '63
Bert Meine '57
Bonnie Balcom '60
Bruce Kath '64
Carl Rundquist '63
Christine Frommelt Nelson '65
Claudia Barstow Sellner '68
Dale Hamernick '51
Dale Moe '66
Dan Ling '64
Dorothy Aamodt Weirtz '57
Douglass Addison '62
Dr. Don Eckhoff '67
Elaine Engelhard, Counseling Office
Ford William Crouch '57
Gail Taylor Hanson '55
Janice O'Brien Getten '54
Jeanne Tennier Martin
Jeff Bowers '88
Jerome (Jerry) Lasley
Jerrold Bergfalk '53
Jery Lucas '59
Jim Rustad '59
John A. Anderson '77
John Halpern '59
John T. Osander '53 - Grist Editor-in-Chief
Jon Hirschoff '59
Karen Holmquist Reed '59
Kristin Wright Louden '59
Margaret Meyer
Mark Greenberg '67
Mary Pollard '53
Mary Sue Hanson Taylor '65
Mike Bentzen '55
Mike Grossman '59
Mr. Krause - 1960's drama teacher
Mr. Strobel, Science
Richard Iverson '53
Richard Nolander '65
Robert Pearson '69
Ronald Rogers, Speech Teacher/Debate Coach
Sandra Pagal '59
Steve Luers '62
Steve Schneider '67
Sue Gutteridge '59
Sue Reid '76
Susan Arey Metsala '55
Susan Laybourn '65, Class Secretary
Taunee Beekman '65
Thomas Egeberg '68

Washburn High School Foundation