



# dream bigger achieve more

## Winnetka Public Schools Foundation Annual Report 2018–2019

The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation (**WPSF**) raises funds to allow Winnetka's public schools to go above and beyond what is possible with tax dollars. WPSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer organization that has given over \$4.7 million to our schools since 1995.

The mission of the Foundation is to raise funds to pilot innovative, incubator-type grants tied to experiential teaching and learning. These grants enable teachers to foster growth and creativity in the classroom, making the Foundation a catalyst for innovation.

In 2018-2019, WPSF provided \$105,000 in grants to Crow Island, Greeley, Hubbard Woods, Skokie and Washburne as a result of your donations. Your contributions fund initiatives that are not included in the District 36 or PTO budgets. Thank you to our donors! Your generosity helps District 36 lead in educational excellence. Please support WPSF this year and donate today!



## Pursuing Educational Excellence with WPSF Grants

### WPSF awards four categories of grants.

In 2018-2019 WPSF awarded the following:

- **Core Plus Grants** – \$37,630 for Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) resources for students. AR/VR allows students to "experience" the world without leaving the classroom, such as seeing the inside of a volcano or feeling like they are holding a beating heart in their own hands.
- **Creativity and Innovation Grants** – \$32,370 to support teacher initiated programs.
- **Artists in Residence Grants** – \$25,000 to promote a greater understanding of the arts at all five schools.
- **Summer Institute Grant** – \$10,000 for professional development for teachers and staff in the District .

Take a look at the back of this Annual Report to learn about one of this year's exciting grants, which funded professional development for our District educators in the important area of Social-Emotional Learning.

### 2018–2019 | WPSF Financial Highlights (unaudited)

	July 2018-June 2019	July 2017-June 2018
Donations Received	\$120,913	\$116,754
Fundraising and Administrative Expenses	\$ 21,235	\$ 15,165
Disbursements to District 36	\$105,000	\$105,000

Support  
innovation  
in our schools,  
donate now!  
[wpsf.org](http://wpsf.org)

Keep an eye out for WPSF emails throughout the year highlighting additional innovative grants!

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*"The District sincerely appreciates our community donors who give to the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation. The Foundation has impacted our schools beyond measure, from providing innovative resources for our students, to funding dynamic professional learning opportunities for our educators. This partnership allows all learners to flourish."*

**Trisha Kocanda,  
 Superintendent  
 Winnetka School District 36**



## D36 2019 Summer Institute

### Being Well and Well-Being: Pursuing Meaning, Purpose and Coherence

The WPSF is committed to elevating the teaching and learning that happens in D36. A key component of this is the Foundation's support of the biennial Summer Institute. This innovative professional development opportunity enables D36 teachers, administrators, and School Board members to evolve the way they understand and work with students. This year's two-day seminar focused on **social-emotional learning (SEL)** and served as a kickoff to the priority District goal of SEL.

Wendy Turner, 2017 Delaware State Teacher of the Year, was the keynote speaker. Deeply committed to social-emotional learning, Turner works to guide her students in embodying respect, empathy, citizenship, and growth mindset through dynamic classroom experiences. Attendees were immediately energized by her enthusiasm for the SEL topics. Turner emphasized the **importance of**

### SEL is...

the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

participants dug deeply into the topics and came away with practical skills to take back to their classrooms and interactions with students. Summer Institute attendee, Faith Laux, a Spanish teacher at Carleton Washburne School, commented, "SEL is woven into everything we do. It's the curriculum behind the curriculum. It's an **investment in optimal learning.**"

Winnetka School District Superintendent Trisha Kocanda attended the Institute and shared, "Thanks to the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation for helping us advance teaching and learning in our schools. Our 2019 Summer Institute received the highest satisfaction ratings from our teachers and will have a positive impact on our work to **build resilient learners.**"

### SEL Works: Compelling National Evidence

2011 meta-analysis of 213 studies, including over 270,000 students in K-12, revealed that science links SEL to higher academic achievement.

#### Student Gains:

- 11 percentile-point gain on standardized achievement tests
- Improved attitudes about self, others, and school
- Positive classroom behavior
- Better social-emotional skills

#### Student Reduced Risks:

- Fewer conduct problems
- Less emotional stress

Source: Durlak, J.A., Weissberg, R.P., A.B. Taylor, R.D., & Schellinger, K. (2011) *The impact of enhancing students' social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions.* *Child Development: 82 (1), 405-432*



**actionable strategies** – those that teachers could learn on the weekend and then try something new on Monday in class.

Hands-on breakout sessions emphasized **research-based approaches** for building the mindset and strategies to best support our students.

Over the two days, participants dug deeply into

### What Does SEL Look Like in a Classroom, School, Community?



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