



# dream bigger achieve more

## Winnetka Public Schools Foundation Annual Report 2019-2020

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 nearly \$5 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 2019-2020, WPSF provided \$53,156 in grants to our District. This past year looked different for WPSF. At the onset of the pandemic we pivoted quickly, working in close partnership with the District to provide valuable Family Engagement programs to our community. We have since launched our Micro Grants program to support our educators as they implement a new way of teaching this year. Thank you to our donors — your generosity helps District 36 lead in educational excellence. *We appreciate your continued support of WPSF!*



Sibling groupings from left to right:  
The Vender Family, The Harris Family, and the Farrell Family

## Pursuing Educational Excellence with WPSF Grants

### WPSF awards four categories of grants.

In 2019-2020 WPSF awarded the following grants:

- **Teacher Initiative Grants:**  
\$2,906 to support teacher-initiated grants. Given the timing of the school closure and remote learning, many teachers were, unfortunately, unable to apply for grants, which significantly decreased the typical amount of funding for this category.
- **Artist in Residence:**  
\$25,000 to promote a greater understanding of the arts at all five schools.
- **Summer Institute:**  
\$10,000 to further professional development. This year was focused on best practices for engaging remote learning experiences for teachers and staff in the District.
- **Core Plus:**
  - \$7,500 to support the District's mission to educate teachers on the implementation of social-emotional learning (SEL) in our schools.
  - \$7,750 to fund virtual Family Engagement activities during remote learning.



The back of this Annual Report highlights grants that we have since launched and approved to support and provide resources to our educators and families:

- **Micro Grants:** Range of \$5,000-\$10,000 to provide a responsive means for teachers to request resources tied directly to classroom learning.
- **Core Plus:** Range of \$7,500-\$10,000 for additional Family Engagement, building on the spring 2020 events by continuing to provide SEL and fun outlets for District families.

### 2019-2020 | WPSF Financial Highlights (unaudited)

	July 2019- June 2020	July 2018- June 2019
Donations Received	\$126,442	\$120,913
Fundraising and Administrative Expenses	\$ 14,005	\$ 21,235
Disbursements to District 36		
Spring of school year	\$ 53,516	\$105,000
Fall of school year	\$ 12,500-20,000	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 66,016-73,516</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

## Donors

July 2019-June 2020

### \$10,000 and Above

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Winnetka Central PTO

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**Graphic Design**

Anne Bahan Design



*"At a time when innovation is needed more than ever, the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation answers the call. In 2020, the strategic funding of social emotional learning, STEAM, and literacy grants strengthened our impact in the classroom for all students. We are so grateful for the tremendous ways in which the Foundation partners with the District on key goals and initiatives."*

*Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent  
 Winnetka School District 36*

**Thank  
 You  
 Donors!**



## Pivoting in a Pandemic

### WPSF Responds to the Changing Needs of D36

During this historic pandemic, WPSF realized the need to enhance our approach to best serve teachers, students, and families. We started implementing these initiatives last spring by partnering with D36 to host several popular **Family Engagement events**. We continued this fall by offering a **new type of grant** to support a new learning model, and we are supporting additional District Family Engagement events throughout this school year. Like almost every other organization, WPSF needed to creatively respond to shifting needs of our D36 community while maintaining our mission of being a catalyst for innovation.

*“As we made the unimaginable pivot to remote learning last spring, the Foundation was pleased to be able to partner with the District to support a wide variety of Family Engagement events. Our goal was to fund innovative and inspirational events and to create a feeling of connectedness in our learning community at a time when we were unable to be together in person.”*

— Laura Glick and Kim Ronan, WPSF Co-Chairs 2019-20

### Spring Family Engagement Events

We all remember last spring - life was quite stressful! Research shows that taking a break to learn something new or having family fun together can be an effective stress reliever. WPSF and D36 partnered to help the social-emotional health of our school community by providing a series of ten virtual events. Some events were pure fun, like **Family Trivia Night** and **Comedy Sportz**. Others were intended to educate families about dealing with life during a pandemic. For example, former Hubbard Woods School psychologist **Molly Pope** presented “Lost Experiences: Coping with the Loss of Covid-19” and educator **Dr. Matt Dewar** presented “Transform Stress into Strength During These Challenging Times.” In addition, we held two virtual assemblies, one of which was an entertaining presentation from **Mandy Harvey**, America’s Got Talent 2017 “Golden Buzzer” winner. Mandy is a singer and songwriter who lost her residual hearing at the age of 19 and tells an inspirational story to encourage all of us to never give up. It was a perfect way for students and staff to wrap up a unique school year feeling empowered!

### Micro Grants

WPSF serves as a catalyst for innovation in the classroom — and this unique year, **TEACHERS are the innovators in the classroom!** WPSF realizes that teachers’ needs are different this year. As a result, WPSF created a new grant type, and is now offering teachers the opportunity to apply for smaller Micro Grants to help cover the cost of any classroom and teaching needs that may arise in this new learning environment. Requests can be anything that directly impacts the learning experience, from classroom supplies and high-interest books to virtual reality experiences. This is in addition to our traditional, larger Teacher Initiative Grants that we continue to offer every year.

*“As always, WPSF is dedicated to being a catalyst for innovation in the classroom. This year, with completely reimagined classrooms, we want to support our teachers as the true innovators! These Micro Grants help to fund the evolving needs of our teachers as they build our students into resilient learners.”*

— Emily MacEntee and Katie Smith, WPSF Co-Chairs 2020-21



Educator, Dr. Matt Dewar



Molly Pope, Ed. S.



Entertainer Mandy Harvey, D36 Administrator Maureen Chertow Miller, and Hubbard Woods Music Teacher Gary Wendt

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