

The Foundation Files



THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

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Dr. Brian Zeller

**Executive Committee*

***Ex-Officio; Voting*

****Ex-Officio; Non-Voting*

Jenny Baertsch, *Executive Director*

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

FOUNDATION
for Winona Area Public Schools

ABOUT THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Merchlewitz Completes Interim Year, Baertsch Fills Permanent Role



Jenny Baertsch
Executive Director,
Foundation for Winona
Area Public Schools

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools board of directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny Baertsch as Executive Director. Jenny began her role July 1.

Jenny brings over 20 years of leadership and experience to the Foundation, most recently as Marketing Manager at WNB Financial. Her commitment to education runs deep in the Winona community. Jenny has spent the past two years as a board member for the Foundation for WAPS, 15 years as a Junior Achievement classroom volunteer, and six years as an executive board member for Ready Set School. She and her husband, Jim, live in Winona with their two children, who attend Winona Middle School.

"Jenny is passionate, experienced, and will no doubt lead and grow the Foundation and our mission," said Kris Lynch, Foundation for WAPS Board President. "We were lucky to experience Jenny's dedication as a board member, and now as Executive Director. She's the definition of Winhawk Proud!"



*The Foundation is on
Facebook & Instagram!*



VISIT US ONLINE!

Information on the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, our mission, Board of Directors, grants, and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.FoundationWAPS.org

Also, a **LINK FOR ONLINE DONATIONS** is available 24/7 for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program, or event.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The 2023-2024 school year was very active and eventful for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. Some of the highlights included:

51
classroom and
school grants

"Dare to Dream"
\$5,000 grant
for WSHS School Store

\$103,000 was raised
for new generation
SMART Boards at our
first Donut Dash and
Annual Event Fundraiser
"Come Together"

2023 **Leighton Media**
Gratitude on Repeat
recipient

(2) \$250
Staff Grants
to use for educational materials

Pinhawk Club grant
to restore one pinball
machine per year

**WSHS Florida
Band grant**
to represent Winona Area
Public Schools at Disney

**104 Donor
Advised Funds**
and management
of them

10 prize awards from
the **Haake Poetry Fund**
for winning poetry

95 WAPS staff Payroll
Deduction donors
contributed over
\$14,000 this year

Over a quarter million dollars has been directed
this year through the Foundation for WAPS to projects
that enrich and enhance public education in Winona

36
Scholarships
from funds held at the
Foundation for WAPS

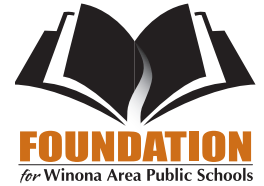


The Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and kind support. The help has made all of the special programs, projects, and field trips listed in this newsletter possible.

FOUNDATION FOR WAPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS...arriving and departing

The Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors is a group of 18 volunteers from all walks of life. They include a high school student to a retired educator, and from a parent to a community member. All provide valuable support, direction, time, and resources to ensure the mission of the Foundation, enhancing and enriching educational experiences for all learners in Winona Area Public Schools.

Although it is always hard to see a Board of Director, friend, and contributor complete their terms, we are thrilled to welcome new Board of Directors and look forward to the enthusiasm, ideas, and energy they add to our many working projects.



Thank you Robin Trombetta!



Robin Trombetta

One Board of Director, who we have had the privilege of working with for six years, is Robin Trombetta. Robin completed two terms as a Board of Director, as well as being a member of the Executive Committee serving as Co-Treasurer and Investments Chair. She has been a stellar leader in monitoring all our financial activities of the corporation, recommending policies, and communicating all financial matters to the full Board. Thanks for offering your vast background in Finance and Accounting. Also, Robin played a very valuable role during all Event fundraising projects, serving as a check out and cashier and providing detail to this important role.

Welcome Kat Marquez!



Kat Marquez

While we're saddened to lose the talents of Robin Trombetta, we're excited and eager to welcome Kat Marquez and her expertise to the Board. Kat moved to Winona from New Mexico in 2010 and serves as a loan officer at Altra Federal Credit Union in Winona. Her oldest son is a 2020 graduate of Winona Senior High School who served as a student ambassador to Misato, Japan. Kat currently has two children in the RIOS program. Welcome, Kat!

TEACHER & STAFF PAYROLL DEDUCTION PARTICIPANTS 2023-2024

Our WAPS teachers and staff once again spent the 2023-24 year working hard for our students. Not only do they meet the student's educational, social, and emotional needs, they also continue to keep the students in mind by **personally donating to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools** through our payroll deduction program. Please take note of the staff members who participated. Their support provided over \$14,000 for our student's education. We remain humbled by these gifts and grand support. **Thank you to:**

Alatorre, Gloria	Conway, Kristi	Halverson, Scott	Johnson, Trisha	O'Brien, Kristie	Smeby, Tina
Allington, Kelly	Cottrell, Stacy	Hancock, Kimberly	Jordan, Jessica	Penrod, Kim	Solheid, Emily
Alseth, Danielle	Coudron, Kristin	Hanratty, Jaime	Kovala, Ladawn	Peterson, Gregory	Spartz, Terri
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Beckman, Patricia	Diggins, Russell	Helgeson, Shannon	Mann, Kenneth	Rasmussen, Stacy	Svendsen, Brenda
Benedict, Jerry	Eastep, Tamara	Hemker, Karen	Marish, Jessica	Reisetter, Jed	Thomes, Marie
Braaten, Paula	Eddy, Lisa	Hemker, Karla	Martinache, Sydnie	Riebel, Ann	Van Etten, Denise
Braun, William	Feuerhelm, Heidi	Hofer, Carley	Menton, Sundra	Sanvik, Judy	Voegeli, Dwayne
Bridwell, Janet	Flesch, Amanda	Hogenson, Jon	Mercier, Audrey	Schank, Barrie	Wang, Dheadra
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Casper, John	Gile, Taylor	Indra, Amanda	Mooney, Abigail	Schultz, Mary	Welch, Kara
Cassellius, Emily	Gleason, Timothy	Indra, Casey	Moran, Kimberly	Seeley, Julie	Welch, Kathleen
Cassellius, John	Glick, Katrina	Jacobs, William	Morgan, Jeffrey	Sheridan, Melanie	Whitney-Throne, Karen
Chapman, David	Hall, Elizabeth	Johns-Derbyshire, Gretchen	Mullen, Lisa	Shields, Melissa	Witt, Allison
Conley, Alicia	Halverson, Amy	Johnson, Gina	Nelson, Brenda	Simon-Debroux, Anne	

PAYROLL DEDUCTION AWARDS

Each year the Foundation awards two \$250 grants from the pool of staff candidates who provided payroll deductions to the Foundation. **This year's grant winners were Audrey Mercier and Jed Reisetter.** The grant money must be used to purchase items that will enhance and enrich education for WAPS students. Audrey purchased supplies to foster creativity in the classroom, while Jed purchased a complete classroom set of calculators. **Congrats and thank you for your donation to our payroll deduction program.**

Audrey Mercier and Jed Reisetter





Donut Dash and "Come Together" RAISE OVER \$103,000 IN ONE DAY FOR WAPS!

Next year's event date will be May 10, 2025

May 11 was a busy day for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools and its supporters. After two fundraising events in one day, a total of over \$103,000 was raised to help purchase new generation SMART Boards in all Winona Area Public Schools classrooms.

The **\$103,000** was a record in the Foundation's 12 years of hosting dinner fundraisers. However, this year included a new addition: a morning run/walk fundraiser. The day began with the first-ever Donut Dash 4K Run/Walk and Mini Donut 1K Kids Run at Winona Senior High School. **Nearly 400 individuals registered to participate.**

The day concluded with a Beatles themed "Come Together" Dinner at Winona State University's Kryzsko Commons Ballroom & Solarium. Guests enjoyed Beatles music and trivia, dinner, as well as live and silent auctions.

A special thank you to the lead sponsors of both events: **Merchants Bank** and **WNB Financial**. Additional accolades go to **Bloedow Bakery**, **Excel Images**, and the following **15 corporate sponsors**:

Altra Federal Credit Union
Chrysler Winona & Sugar Loaf Ford
Coca-Cola Bottling of Winona
Dahl Automotive
Edward Jones
Farmers Insurance, Dave Jensen
Fastenal
Kickass Beef Jerky

Miller Ingenuity
Miller Scrap & Disposal
RTP
Russell & Associates
Syensqo
WinCraft by Fanatics
Winona Education Association



July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

We make every effort to ensure donors are listed. If we missed you, we apologize and will put your name in the next newsletter!

GENERAL FUND DONORS

Anonymous
Heather & Shawn Beier
Rebecca Benson
Joel Bruels
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Corey & Kimberly Hancock
Alec Henderson
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Maggie Lambert
Susan Larsen

William McNeil
LaVerne & Jolene Olson
Michelle Paffrath
Victoria Trouten
John Urness (Class of 1958)
Matt Wagner
Greg & Pam Wing

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FUNDS

ECFE

Jennifer Baechle

Jefferson Elementary School

Marcy Faircloth & Caylan Larson

Girls Basketball

Val & Mary Jo Stiever

Miller Mentoring

Brennan Ashton

FOE No 1243 Gambling Fund

Jerry & Patricia Papenfuss Family Fund of the

Winona Community Foundation

Knights of Columbus Winona Council #639

Merchants Bank

Hugh Miller & RTP Company

Miller Mentoring Summer Program

WM. Miller Scrap Iron & Metal Co.

Raffle Fall 2023 Sponsors

Jana Brinkman

Farmers Insurance-Dave Jensen Agency

Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

John & Shelley Milek

SLIPA

CMP Foods Inc (Qdoba in Winona)

Coca-Cola of Winona

El Patron Mexican Grill of Winona

Eric & Janet Heukeshoven

Fastenal

FOE No 1243 General Fund

Goodview Activity Group

SLIPA (cont'd)

Kickass Beef Jerky

Marcy Faircloth & Caylan Larson

Merchants Bank

Muddy Waters Yoga

Two Fathoms LLC

VFW Post 1287 Gambling Account

WNB Financial

Special Athletic Competition

Alliant Castings

Excel Images

First Student

Jim's Truck & Trailer Coachwerks

Kimo's Portable Toilets

Kiwanis Sunrises of Winona

Lora Sturm & Richard Thorn

Kidz Physical Therapy

Pro Cal Services

Saint Mary's University of MN

Team Maroushek – REAL

Winona Area Public Schools

WK Bob Hogenson Fund

Ursula Hogenson

Heather Prodzinski in celebration of Jodi Hunter

WSHS Business/Economics Dept.

Helen Imm Trust

WSHS Touchdown Club

Winona Touchdown Club

WSHS Trap Team

Stockton Area Promotional Group, Inc.

EVENT 2024 AUCTION DONORS

Acoustic Café
Adventure Cycle & Ski
Ajia's Pet Sitting Service
Altra Federal Credit Union
Angela Thompson / Coldwell
Banker River Valley Realtor
Ann Renk
Arvid & Gay Mortensen
Ashley Furniture
Avient
Backwater Tackle
Bell Museum & Planetarium
Biesanz Stone Company
Bill & Jill Schmidt
Blooming Grounds
Blue Moon Restaurant
Bonnie Rae's Café
Bremer Bank
Brad Berzinski
Brenda & Bryan Scott
Brenda & Luke Merchlewitz
Brent Kimberle –
Real Brokers LLC
Bridges Golf Course
Bruce Bechly
Cedar Valley Golf & Dining
Chrysler Corner
Coca-Cola of Winona
Coffee Camper
Commonweal Theatre
Computer Dock
Cone Chiropractic
Coron Family Chiropractic
Cottage House Inn / Lanesboro
Dahl Auto Winona
Dale's Cleaning Service
Dawn Lueck
Deb Hegland
Elmaro Vineyard
El Patron

Farmers Insurance
Fifth Street Liquor
Flowers on Broadway
Foundation for WAPS
Gabby's Bar & Lounge
Gilmore Avenue Car Wash & Lube
HBC
Hoff Celebration of Life Center
Holtan's Jewelry
Hy-Vee Food Stores
Iron Bridge Art & Clay
Janelle Kieffer Photography /
Green Thumb Artistry
Jay & Dee's Special T's
Jenny Baertsch / Baertsch Books
Jolene Danca
Julie Boelter
Justin & Ashton Lingerfelt
Kathy & Bob Calvey
Kendell True Value Lumber
Kevin Stevens
Kris Lynch
Kwik Trip
La Boutique LLC
LaCrosse Loggers
Lark Toys
Lisa & Matt Hawkinson /
Stacey Matthees
Mangos
Midtown Foods
Mike & Sarah Roemer
Miller Scrap & Disposal
Milwaukee Burger Company
Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Vikings
Minnesota Wild
MN Zoo
Modern Ready Mix
Morgan's Jewelers

Motor Parts & Equipment
Mueller Photography
Nancy Denzer
Nate & Ally's Frozen Treat Creation
Orno Gift & Home
Pizza Ranch
Penguin Zesto
Renae & Glenn Vinton
Robin Trombetta
Rose Colored Glass
RTP Company
Shawn Beier – Real Brokers LLC
Shelley & John Milek
Sky Nails
Steak Shop Catering Services
Steve & Nancy Bachler
Sullivan's Supper Club
Target Winona
Taylor Sanchez & Dawson Wardwell
Realtors
Terri & Ralph Roemer
The Loos Team
The Refinery
The Spa at Winona Health
Thrivent
Tom & Judy Maroushek – Real Brokers LLC
Total Wine & More
Vintage & Glam House Décor & Gifts
Watkins Products
Westgate Bowl
Winona Area Public Schools
Winona County Historical Society
Winona Nursery
Winona Park & Recreation
Winona State University
Winona Tour Boat
WKM Properties
WSHS Career Tech Ed
WSU Football
WSU Outdoor Education Recreation Center

EVENT 2024 SPONSORS

\$6,000 Lead Sponsor

Merchants Bank
WNB Financial

Special Event Grant Sponsor

Elizabeth Callendar King
Foundation
FOE No.1243 Gambling Fund
(Eagles Club)
Mayo Clinic Health System

In Kind Sponsor

Bloedow Bakery
Excel Images
Kwik Trip
WinCraft by Fanatics
Winona Sign & Design

\$1,500 Corporate Sponsor

Altra Federal Credit Union
Chrysler Winona & Sugar Loaf Ford
Coca-Cola of Winona
Dahl Automotive

\$1,500 Corporate Sponsor (cont'd)

Edward Jones
Farmers Insurance
Fastenal
Kickass Beef Jerky
Miller Ingenuity
Miller Scrap & Disposal
RTP Company
Russell & Associates
Synesqo
WinCraft by Fanatics
Winona Education Association

EVENT 2024 COMMITTEE

Donut Dash

Jenny Baertsch, Chair
Jim Baertsch
Brad Berzinski
Stacy Cottrell
Karen Hemker

Kathy Hovell

Dave Jensen
Luke Merchlewitz
Graci Palubicki
Jed Reisetter

Come Together

Katrina Scoville, Chair
Julie Boelter
Lisa Hawkinson
Ashton Lingerfelt
Stacey Matthees

Brenda Merchlewitz
Luke Merchlewitz
Shelley Milek
Betsy Olson
Graci Palubicki

Terri Roemer
Brenda Scott
Chris Thrune
Robin Trombetta
Renea Vinton

EVENT 2024 SPONSORS

Auctioneers

Tim Gleason
Amblyn Reisetter
Jed Reisetter

Photographer

Grace Miller

Venue Sponsor

Winona Area Public Schools
Winona State University

Signage Sponsor

Saint Croix, Inc.

Graphic Design & Print

Stephanie Dasbach
Graci Palubicki

Support to Both Events

Drew & Brittany Krings
Jerry Benedict
Jeremy Graves
WSHS Art Department
WSHS Career Tech Ed.
WSHS National Honors Society
WSHS Tech Nest

EVENT 2024 SUPPORTERS

Donut Dash Friends

Bill Baker
Bloedow Bakery
Donald & Sandra Curtin
Excel Images
Kimo's
Don & Joan Klaggie
Kwik Trip
Options Plus Home Care (Jen Zimmerman)
Winona Sign & Design

Come Together Friends

Up to \$100 Friend

Barbara Beeman
Michael & Denise Bernatz
Fran Edstrom
Ursula Hogenson
Martha Langowski
Jerry & Mary Lowery

Come Together Friends Up to \$100 Friend (cont'd)

John & Mary Merchlewitz
Dave & Judy Mertes
Arvid & Gay Mortensen
Nancy O'Reilly
Barb & Lance Rygmyr
Patte Peterson
Jim & Christa Schul
Travis & Brittney Steine
Kari Wantock

\$150 Friend

Gregg & Linda Folgers

\$250 Friend

Bruce Bechly
Kathy Hovell
Scott & Lori Jackels
Winona Nursery

\$500 Friend

Avient
John & Shelley Milek

\$1000 Friend

Tim & Susan Hatfield
Kohner Materials, Inc.
Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

\$1,000-\$1,999 Donors

RTP Company

\$5000 and up Donors

Dr. Charles & Judy Shepard
Judy Davis
Elizabeth Callendar King Foundation

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Harland and Pauline Knight Trust
Jeanine Aspen

Leave A Legacy...

THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S LOWELL NELSON SOCIETY

In 1997, the Foundation Board of Directors established the Lowell Nelson Society in honor of former District 861 Superintendent Lowell Nelson. Membership in the Society is accorded to those who help build the Foundation's endowment by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills, qualified pension plans (including IRAs, 401ks, Keoghs, etc.), insurance policies, trusts, or other types of planned gifts.

Please consider the Foundation when you are updating your will or developing your estate and retirement plans. Our office is here to help you make a difference in the lives that follow.

SOCIETY MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Judy Bodway	Neva King*	Herbert Polachek
Susan & John Eddy	Pauline* & Harland* Knight	Nancy & Jim Reynolds
Gayle Goetzman-Stolpa	Ruth Kottschade*	Russ & Wanda Rattunde
Mark Godsey	Leone & Tom Mausycki	Judy & Chuck Shepard
Norma Jane Grausnick*	Brenda & Luke Merchlewitz	Barbara Schilling*
Harriet Green	Ramona & Roger* Metz	Sharon Suchla*
Carmen & Scott Hannon	Shelley & John Milek	Rita Sullivan*
Shannon* & Jim Hanzel	Arvid & Gay Mortensen	Linda A. Wood
Dr. Donna Helble*	Joliene & LaVerne Olson	Joyce & Pete* Woodworth
Susan Hoffe*	Linda & Don Olson	

(*deceased)

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Scott Halverson Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz John & Shelley Milek Matt & Katy Smith		Dr. Charles Shepard Michael & Jane Voelker
Jim Hanzel Donald & Sandra Curtin		Terrie Spartz Scott & Janet Macon
Mitzi Henderson James Henderson & Ray O'Laughlin		Karl Sonneman's Birthday Keith & Marie Holmquist
		Karen Whitney-Throne Jon & Ruthanne Weispenning

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Judith Foster Ben & Sharon Baratto	Doris Jensen Robert & Susan Edel Dick & Maureen Gaffron Larry & Sharyl Haagenson Scott & Amy Halverson Sonia Hanson Mary Heise Char Juare Susan Larsen Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz Tom & Jan Mosher Larry & Katherine Nuttal William & Catherine Pahnke Ray & Diane Radatz Brian & Dory Sather Kevin & Alexandra Wohler	Tom Thompson Connie Anderson Barbara Bambenek Kim & Kathy Bartelson Neil & Margaret Claus Roland Corey Holly Egge Dr. Emilie Falc Front Porch Management, Anne Conway Gilia Gialquinto James & Joan Gromek Lizz Hall Dragana Jurkovic Thomas & Lisa Kowaleski Michael Mantell Thomas & Theresa McLaughlin Steve & Bernadette McNallan Daniel & Sharon Neitzke Robert & Desiree Olson Raunaque & Amber Oshan Lynn Rabuse & Paul Kohner Mark & Nancy Reinhard Christine Robinson Jami Severson Charles & Judy Shepard Christine Streukens Angela Thompson Daniel & Bonnie Thompson Patrick & Janet Thompson Dwayne Voegeli Scott & Judy Yess George & Mary Wenzel Wesley & Brenda Whetstone
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Walt Gilbertson Ben & Sharon Baratto	Jim Klinger Paulette Klinger (Band)	Shirley Yackel Jim & Marleen Miller
Audrey Gorny Ben & Sharon Baratto Mike & Julie Biggerstaff Mary Heise Ursula Hogenson Eric & Kari Johnsrud Robert & Diane Larson Marleen Miller Patricia Schad Gayle Goetzman-Stolpa Geraldine Taylor Kathy Palmquist Patricia Peterson Jim & Nancy Reynolds Nora Rogers Janis Vose Nona Weinmann Jon & Ruthanne Weispenning James & Mary Yahnke	Pauline Knight Horace & Rose Andersen	
Lt. Col. Gary R. Goetzman Gayle Goetzman-Stolpa	Lori Krumholz Dan Krumholz Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz Matt & Katy Smith	
Mary Hagan Michael & Denise Bernatz Nathan & Samara Eisner Paul & Mitzi Girtler Corey & Kimberly Hancock Keith & Marie Holmquist Michael & Trisha Johnson Dave & Joyce Herman Keller Margaret Lambert Merchants Bank Greg & April Olson Jerry & Pat Papenfuss Curtis & Jill Peters Joanne Riska Susan Smith Thomas & Terry Tweedy Scott & Nicole Tober Roger & Margery Weichers Jon & Ruthanne Weispenning	Dave Mahlke (Choir, Orchestra & Theater) Mary Lou Baylon Judith Miller	
	Joyce Marg David & Lynn Theurer	
	Tom Mason Geraldine Taylor	
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	James Stanislawski Ben & Sharon Baratto	

SCHOLARSHIPS

Erik Floan Memorial Scholarship Fund Einar Floan	Sophia Allena Moe College Scholarship Fund Troy & Jessica Armbruster David & Theresa Bauer Bluffview Estates Chad Brink John & Jane Brinkman Brian & Dana Cierzan Dennis & Karen Cleveland Rolf & Livia Dahl Derek & Cathryn Espy Walt & Dorothy Gilbertson Goodview Winona Area Youth Hockey Assoc. Gambling Fund Steve Groth Thomas Hennessy Douglas & Patricia Hubbard Jay & Dee's Special-T's Rik Johnson Paul Kenny Bob & Marlene Kohnen	Sophia Allena Moe (cont'd) Tim & Summer Kohnen Kurt & Joni Lossen Doug & Cherie MacLennan Steve Maliszewski Market Street Tap, LLC Maggie Modjeski Patricia Moe Traci Morken Bill Ortiz Todd & Liz Paulson Randy & Mary Pfaff Port 507 Bar RTP Company Greg & Leslie Scarborough Brett Schmit Mike & Sue Schroeder Rodney Sines Macaulay & Abby Smith Anthony & Rebecca Speltz	Sophia Allena Moe (cont'd) Larry & Christine Stoltman Roger & Theresa Thompson Edward Urbick, Jr. Hope West Lance Westby Terry Westby Winona Bar Owners Group LLC ZC Plumbing LLC	Xcel Energy Scholarship Xcel Energy
Fly Like an Eagle WSHS AVID Graduation Scholarship FOE No 1243 Gambling Fund			Tom Blacklock Memorial Scholarship Fund Jerry & Judy Lawson	Youth Alliance & Community Merit Scholarship Fund Garrett Heath Jon Lica Pam & Greg Lica Eugene Thiele
Logan Monk Scholarship Fund WAV Nutrition & Fitness			Winona Fair Scholarship of the Winona Community Foundation World Fair Fund of the Winona Community Foundation	
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Mark Deter Memorial Fund of the Winona Community Foundation Anonymous				
Rollingstone Scholarship Fund Dick & Sharon Flatten (in honor of Grandchildren) Corey & Kimberly Hancock				
Tim Speltz Light the Lamp Scholarship Fund Tim Speltz Light the Lamp Foundation				



GRANT DOLLARS AT WORK...

2023-24 APPROVED GRANT AWARDS

Every year, the Foundation is in awe of the generosity of its donors. Our Winona Area Public Schools staff works hard to enrich and expand your gifts into opportunities, experiences, and equipment through grant applications. This year, more than \$38,000 was approved by the Foundation Board to help support the shortened gap of budget shortfalls. We couldn't have done it without YOU!

2nd Grade Field Trips on the Mississippi
Graduation Walkthroughs at Elementary Schools
Math Tools
Sensory Tools for the Classroom
WSHS Senior Art Show
Library Creative Cart
5th Grade Field Trip – MN ZOO
6th Grade Field Trip – Niagara Cave / Forestville
6th Grade Last Day Happiness Activities
Corsages & Boutonnieres
Celebr8 - Three Bears Water Park
K-2 SPED Social Skills Field Trip
AP Biology Field Experience at Whitewater
WSHS Work Experience
WALC Whitewater
Science in Action Field Trip to Lake Winona Park
Science in Action Field Trip to Whitewater
State FFA Convention 2024
Physics Day at Valley Fair
WSU Stem Day
Engaging Learners w/ Interesting Science Articles
Marvelous, Mindful, Motivating, Mood
Enhancing Music
GREEN Reading Awards
Sketchbooks
WSHS Band Trip - Florida
AVID 12: Subside Summer Slide
WALC Gives Back
Super Sensational Stimulating Spelling Stations
WALC Mindfulness Project
5th Grade Math WIN Resources
Spanish 4 Children's Book
WAPS Japan Ambassadors
2023 Dare to Dream - WSHS School Store
Graphic Novels
WSHS Student Support Services Supplies
Pinhawk Club
7th Grade Field Trip to the Guthrie Theater
Winona Historical Society Cemetery Walk
W-K Buffet
WMS Sensory Room
Elementary Fine Motor Groups
Sixth Grade Brain Breaks
Science in Action - Winona State University
National FFA Convention 2023
Payroll Deduction - Audrey Mercier
Payroll Deduction - Jed Reisetter
Jefferson 4th Grade WIN Time
Bowling Tuesdays - WALC
First Grade Phonics



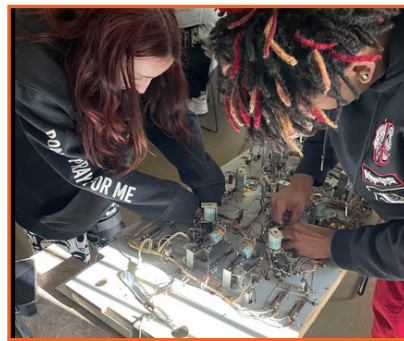
AVID Summer Slide

Students in the AVID 12 class designed and fundraised for a service project that sought to combat the summer slide in a group of Jefferson Elementary students.

The class mentored and engaged with the students during the spring, then designed a self-directed learning box for them to take home over the summer.

AVID is all about taking control of your learning. Not only are these Winhawks doing that, they are modeling it for the next generation.

The service project was assisted by AVID teacher Maeve Peterson.



Pinhawks Club

The newest club in Winona Area Public Schools is certainly making quite a bit of noise.

The Winona Pinhawk Club is housed at the Winona Area Learning Center and led by Matthew Wagner, an art and work-based learning teacher. The club focuses on the restoration of pinball machines and making them work again.

There are schools that may have pinball clubs where students play pinball. The Pinhawk Club is believed to be the only one that focuses on fixing up old pinball machines.

"Pinball machines are the perfect example of hands-on learning, as they combine art, science, and engineering in one interactive product," Wagner said. "Students use problem-solving skills to determine why something is not working and what needs to be done to fix it."

W-K Buffet

Watch out! Snack cart coming through! Mackenzie Carter's students get to deliver treats to staff each week on the W-K Buffet Cart. Staff put in their orders via a Google Form. Mackenzie and her students deliver the items and collect the money. It's a treat for all!



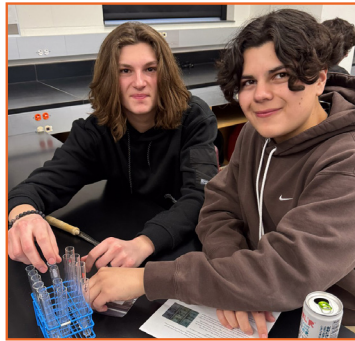
STEM Day

Juniors taking Chemistry or Physics had an opportunity to attend STEM Day at Winona State University on March 1.

Professors and current WSU students showcased the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through various demonstrations and workshops to show students how STEM can be applied in the real world.

Some of the sessions WSHS students attended included:

- Determining the fluorescence of wood to help the US Treasury Department determine what could be a more sustainable alternative for markings on paper bills
- Calculating how fast they can run and comparing it to the speed of a dinosaur
- Learning what processes are used to stabilize riverbanks to protect people and infrastructure from flooding by exploring water flow on stream tables



Dare to Dream 2023-2024

Jerry Benedict wants his students to have the machines and tools needed to create items for a school store. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools wants to help make it happen.



Jerry Benedict

Benedict, an Industrial Technology instructor at Winona Senior High School, was awarded the Foundation's Dare to Dream grant for his idea to help students learn real-life business skills while taking pride in the school and community.

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools started the Dare to Dream project as a way to encourage and support the creative spirit within the district. The goal is to provide an opportunity for any staff person to apply for a grant for up to \$5,000 to fund a completely new innovative program that will support ideas to enhance learning and provide new opportunities for the students

of Winona Area Public Schools.

Under Benedict's supervision, students design and build various hand-crafted items for sale. Students use the design software program Fusion 360, classroom equipment such as a laser engraver, CNC plasma table, and a vinyl cutter along with a variety of materials including wood, metal, and plexiglass. The goal of the grant is to give students real-world work experience in high school.

"Students will assist in the creation of a catalog of products that will be offered to students, the Winona school district, parents, and the community," Benedict wrote. Students will learn how to fulfill orders and requests, cost analysis, and make calls to place and fill orders with real customers. "The ultimate goal of the school store is the ability to fund all projects and expand the catalog without additional funding assistance from the district."

Students are in need of Dare to Dream moments and the Foundation is proud to support them.

**Congratulations Jerry Benedict
for Daring to Dream.**



Graduation Walkthroughs at Elementary Schools



The Foundation for WAPS is Winhawk Proud to support all our students. However, this second-year grant once again paid for the buses to take seniors to each elementary school for a walk-through. This event not only solidifies a sense of Winhawk Pride but is a celebration into our schools. The seniors wear their caps and gowns so our youngest Winhawks can dream about their own graduation day. The seniors reflect on where their K-12 journey began and all they have accomplished. **Congratulations, Class of 2024!**

State FFA Convention



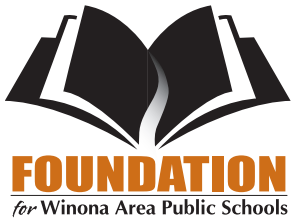
Each year, FFA members in Minnesota gather together at the State FFA Convention to celebrate individual, chapter, and state accomplishments from the past year. 14 Winona FFA students attended the event in the Twin Cities thanks to the Foundation. Several WAPS students were recognized and also competed in the categories of: Nursery & Landscape, Animal Companion, and Extemporaneous Leadership Development Event. Winona has a proud tradition of a strong FFA program, and this year proved to be another exceptional one thanks to the leadership from Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Amanda Langley.

Physics Day at Valleyfair



Physics students in Bill Braun's class applied and related real life physics at an amusement park. These students also participated in the milk jug races before the park opened. The Winhawk team designed, built, and raced their own boat completely made from milk jugs. This grant provided the opportunity for our students to experience motion, force, and energy in a real-life setting.

Investing in today's students for tomorrow's future.



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SINCERE THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to the many generous and caring Foundation donors! You have made it possible to enhance funding for many great educational projects and programs in Winona Area Public Schools.

www.FoundationWAPS.org

**next year's event:
May 10, 2025**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations can be made online at www.FoundationWAPS.org, in person at our office at Winona Middle School, or by mail to: 1570 Homer Road, Winona MN 55987. Gifts are frequently made in honor or in memory of a special person or event and can also be provided via a will, pension plan, or other types of planned giving. For more information, please call the Foundation at 507-494-1004 or email Support@FoundationWAPS.org

OUR MISSION

The single purpose of the Foundation is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools.



COMMUNITY ALUMNI & SUPPORT

Community and alumni support has been invaluable to the many projects that have benefited our students. Using the emails collected from the Alumni Directory update, the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has started to reach out to alumni to share what is new at school and the work of the Foundation to enrich and enhance learning for students and teaching for our faculty.

If you or a family member are a **WSHS alumni** and are not receiving periodic email information from the Foundation, please use the online form found at: www.FoundationWAPS.org/alumni to update your contact information.