



Steve Jacobi stands beside the partially finished pathway on the Donor Wall located in the lobby of the Hastings Senior High School Auditorium. Steve is a general contractor by trade and an artist at heart. In addition to his contracting business, he does vocals and keys for the band group *Brahms Howl*.

Pathways

A sense of excitement laced with apprehension radiates from a painter who faces a blank canvas or a muralist facing a blank wall—or a tile setter who faces a donor wall with a blank pathway waiting to be designed and tiled. The Foundation has long known that the copper pathway set into the Donor Wall would need to be reinforced with hard-surfacing that would endure the test of time.

In January, Steve Jacobi began serving as an “artist in residence” in the lobby of the Hastings High School Auditorium. He is resurfacing the pathway to create a more permanent and artistic rendering. As he has worked, the design has evolved.

The photograph above reveals rugged stepping stones going off into the distance. Education is a life-long process, resembling solid stepping stones, each one moving an individual closer to the full and enriched life that learning brings. Surrounding and supporting the stones along the pathway are crystal veins of copper, silver and gold, reflecting the many donor plaques representing contributions to the Foundation—contributions that support improvements in education in the Hastings Public Schools.

This substantive encouragement provided by our donors does not end with graduation. The Foundation’s scholarship program, supported by these same donors represented on the wall, awards scholarships that make funding available to graduates as they move on to colleges and universities throughout the country. Considering that the Hastings Public Schools encourages life-long learning,

Education is a life-long process resembling solid stepping stones, each one moving individuals closer to the full and enriched life that learning brings.

stepping stones on the Donor wall continue into the distance. Education is truly a life-long process.

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation is appreciative of Steve’s work. Steve has created an original design based on a strong, rhythmic composition with symbolic significance. He is donating the revised pathway as an in-kind service to the HPS Foundation.

As part of the remodeling of the lobby of the HHS Auditorium, decorative columns have been resurfaced in matching tile, and the west wall has been reinforced (courtesy of Carmichael Construction Co.), and tiled to complement the Donor Wall. Steve Jacobi has installed all of the recent tile work in the auditorium lobby. Special lighting will be installed to highlight the project.

The Foundation Board of Directors recently agreed to add the west wall as an additional space for recognition of new donors. In doing so, they indicated their support of the Foundation and trust in the work of the Foundation on into the future.

This commitment also represents a challenge to the Foundation, the community and our alumni to continue substantial support of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation in order to continue the important and worthy work of the Foundation. We are, in effect, “extending the horizon of opportunity” for students who have not yet walked through the doors of the Hastings Public Schools.

Winter Edition
Volume IV, 2015

HPSF: Extending the Horizon of Opportunity for
Students in the Hastings Public Schools!



Volume IV of the Hastings Public Schools Newsletter presents Foundation news and views and provides a 2015 year-end report to our readers.



HPS Board Member Jim Heyen awards scholarships to students at Honors Night in May of 2015. **Pages 16-21**



Cover: The Donor Wall gets a facelift. The West Wall is remodeled and ready to be useful.

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Chess anyone? **Page 11**



STAFF IDEA GRANT produces Brain Games, which provide for student cognitive and social development. **Pages 13-14**

Pigs Like Mud!
 2013 STAFF IDEA GRANT still drumming for success. **Page 13**



STAFF IDEA GRANT sustains D.R.U.M program for a second year. **Page 13**



One Hour of Code . . . and after that? What's next, Charlie? **Page 5**



Outgoing HPS Foundation president Rich Portwood thanks 2015 donors for their many contributions. **Page 3**

**Hastings Public Schools Foundation
 Newsletter
 Volume IV**

Published by the Hastings Public Schools Foundation twice yearly—early winter (Annual Report) and fall (Update)

General text and photography by Betty Kort. Select photographs by Katherine Hamilton and Ann Koozer.



Honoring Past Foundation Leaders: Four retiring HPS Foundation Board Members helped to transform the Foundation. **Pages 6**

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation at Work

In *Volume IV* of the *Hastings Public Schools Foundation Newsletter*, the Foundation again demonstrates progress in support of scholarships, special programs, and important Hastings Public Schools initiatives. Below are listed a sampling of projects completed by the Foundation in 2015.

Wrap Up 2015: the List

Pathways II:

Pathways II was held in March of 2015. This event provided an opportunity for the HPS Foundation to thank the many donors who have contributed to the Foundation. By that time, the Donor Wall in the Hastings Senior High Auditorium had been upgraded to acknowledge new donations provided over the past 12 months. The Foundation used the occasion to present the 2015 Hastings Educator of the Year and awarded several major scholarships to graduating seniors. In addition, teachers who had been awarded STAFF IDEA GRANTS were recognized. Special thanks to the many couples who helped host the event so that no Foundation funds were needed to carry out the celebration!

Pathways III:

Pathways III is being planned for March 31, 2016. Again the Foundation will have an opportunity to thank our major donors and recognize outstanding educators and students in the Hastings Public Schools.

Hastings Public Schools Expenditures in 2015:

47 scholarships were granted to Hastings High School graduating seniors from the Class of 2015: \$51,550 (See pages 16-21)

HPSF Endowment: \$1,000

So Sew Club coordinating with Adams County 4-H: \$1,000

HPS School-Community Liaison: \$1,006

HPS music program: \$11,224.92

In-Kind Donations—Musical instruments for the HPS music program: \$4,200

Skills USA: \$1,275

HMS Girls in Action: \$1,000

Computers: \$1,000

Hastings Middle School Garden Project: \$75

Mentoring and High Ability Learning: \$15,000

Hastings High School Girls Basketball team: \$1,000

Life Skills: \$2,000

Nine STAFF IDEA GRANTS were granted to teachers planning innovations to their classrooms. Major funding was provided by the Hastings Philanthropic Yoga Society, private donations and the Kinman-Oldfield Trust: \$10,020

The **Manufacturing Pathway Initiative** (in progress) raised \$127,250 in the year 2013. An additional \$65,200 was donated in 2014 for a total at the end of 2014 of \$192,450. In 2015, an additional \$58,733.60 was donated bringing the total to \$251,183.59, allowing for recent additional improvements to the Hastings High School Industrial Technology Lab.

Foreign Languages: Funds for Hastings High School foreign language students travel to Costa Rica in the spring of 2016: \$3,600

Give Hastings Day: Funds for 2015 are supporting the High Ability Student Enrichment Program (HASEP): \$15,685.80



Rich Portwood, 2015 Chair of the HPS Foundation Board of Directors

A Message from the 2015 Chair of the Foundation: *Our message remains constant through the years: we strive to make a difference in the lives of children within the District.* Contributions to the HPS Foundation provide *classroom enrichment* by making available resources that are beyond what the District may be able to offer. Staff Idea Grants support *teacher excellence* by giving teachers the ability to pursue creative methods that engage and inspire our students. Through *staff development*, the Foundation supports both individuals and groups in the effort to improve subject area knowledge and teaching skills. The *scholarship program* has grown significantly over the last four years. Students can apply for a multitude of scholarships to support their post-secondary educations. Matching funds from Hastings College, Central Community College, and the Kinman-Oldfield Trust add significant support to the scholarship program. All of this is possible because of you, our donors.

Thank you for your support.

Rich Portwood is the retiring Chair of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation. He remains a member of the HPS Foundation Board of Directors and continues to serve the organization.

Memorial Gifts Provide New Opportunities for Students

The 2015 Newsletter Update, published this past fall, emphasized the value of memorials given to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation. As memorials continue to come to the HPS Foundation, these gifts impact many students in lasting ways. Improved educational opportunities in the classroom and scholarship opportunities are gifts that grow with students and blossom in untold ways.

Robert L. Foote Memorial Scholarship Established

The Robert L. Foote Memorial Scholarship has been established by the Foote family as a result of generous memorials given in his memory. The scholarship, valued at \$1,000, will be awarded annually to a graduating senior at Hastings High School.

This scholarship will serve as a lasting tribute to Bob Foote, a 1948 alumnus of Hastings High School who went on to manage the Big G Store in downtown Hastings. As a prominent businessman, he promoted Hastings and became an invaluable asset to the community of Hastings through his service to and leadership of historic, educational, and philanthropic organizations in the community. His enthusiastic support of the Hastings community is legendary. The scholarship will be awarded to students who show promise in the areas of leadership, character, achievement and activities.

Bob was one of the founders of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, contributing time and resources to help establish numerous scholarships for HPS graduating seniors. It is most appropriate that his legacy is being carried forward through a scholarship given in his name.

Tonniges Memorial Gifts Support Three HPS Programs

This past fall, the Hastings Public Schools Foundation was the recipient of gifts in memory of Dr. Tomas F. Tonniges in the amount of \$2,400. The Tonniges family requested that \$650 be used by the Hastings Public Schools Music Department; \$750 went to the HPS School Liaison Project; and \$1,000 will be used in support of the Hawthorne Elementary School So Sew Project in conjunction with a special 4-H initiative.

Dr. Tonniges touched the Hastings community in so many ways. He was active in numerous community undertakings, including membership on the Hastings Public Schools Board of Education. As a pediatrician, Dr. Tonniges had a way of becoming, in a very real sense, part of so many growing families here in Hastings.

As should be the case, these memorial gifts will, like Dr. Tonniges himself, in quiet and not so quiet ways keep on giving because they will touch the lives of so many growing and developing children in the Hastings Public Schools who will carry forward his legacy of excellence and dedication to whatever tasks they undertake in their adult lives.

Where to? What's Next?

The Hastings Public Schools has had great success in raising student achievement levels. For example, recently Morton Elementary School has been added to the growing list of school buildings in the Hastings Public Schools system which have been nationally recognized as *Model Professional Learning Communities at Work*. Schools are recognized based on commitment to and implementation of PLC concepts for at least three years with clear evidence of improved student learning during the three-year period. Other HPS buildings that have received this award include the Hastings Middle School and the Lincoln and Alcott Elementary Schools.



Morton Elementary School is the fourth school building in the Hastings Public Schools to be nationally recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work.

In addition, for the second year, Hastings Middle School has been recognized by The Center for Secondary School Redesign and by the National Association of Secondary Principals. Principal Dave Essink and several staff members were invited to present their expertise on the national level in February.

All of these building awards come because of hard work on the part of teachers, principals and, most important, students.

So, What is on the Horizon? HPS successes in the classroom only spur the school system to move forward. Next on the agenda is the need to challenge high achieving students who easily

meet proficiency requirements. Right now the Hastings Public Schools is engaged in developing a new five-year plan that will include the challenges implicit in all four questions upon which the present curriculum is based, the 4th question being of major concern: **What do we do with students who already know the material in the curriculum to be studied in a particular classroom?** In other words, how can the school system move forward to further challenge students?

Through HASEP* funds accrued by the Foundation, Hastings High School teacher Jessica Packard and Hawthorne Elementary teacher Kim Remmers attended the National Association for Gifted Children in Phoenix this past fall. In February of 2016 a team of HPS educators attended the Nebraska Association for the Gifted conference in Omaha. The knowledge accrued concerning differentiation of instruction and mentoring will be invaluable as the school system moves forward to tackle Question 4.

In coordination with various institutions such as Hastings College and interested community members, we will establish mentoring opportunities in classrooms and after school programs. We will continue to update you, our donors, whose resources are fueling this important project.

* High Ability Student Enrichment Program



“In as little as ten years, we may all have web pages instead of email—we will need to know the language of coding!”

~Joyce Sadd

One Hour of Code

Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg have some advice for HPS students: Learn to code! Bill Gates was coding by the time he was in the eighth grade.

What does it mean to code? Coding has to do with writing a computer program in programming *language*. Once a student learns the *language*, the possibilities are limitless. Mark Zuckerberg says you can “do anything” if you can code.

Our phones, our computer programs, the games we play on the web—these all involve coding. In fact, the entire web has been created using coding.

Learning the language of coding is an important focus for students in Joyce Sadd’s classes at Hastings High School where she teaches the Multi-Media Web Design class. Joyce predicts that in as little as ten years, we may all have web pages instead of our present email systems—we will need to know the language of coding! Isaac Askey, a student in the class, comments that if you can “speak it [the language of coding], you have more power and control.” Students in these classes are convinced that coding is the wave of the future. If one wants to have a successful career or make a website or start a business or create a great app or even understand how a computer works, coding is essential.

Dr. Darci Karr, who teaches business classes at Hastings High School, is adding coding to her curriculum for the 2016-17 school year. “Right now I just include some coding as a short unit in most of my classes to give students exposure to coding. Coding is something we absolutely need to be adding at the High School as a class.”



Dr. Karr assists Dawson Jacobus as Dylan Langston (far right) works independently.

High School science teacher Jim Fielder started an Engineering Club with grant funds that came as a result of his Teacher of the Year experiences. The Engineering Club regularly works with coding. Among the tools Mr. Fielder has purchased is a *Raspberry Pi*



Sara Horstmann (front center) works with her daughter Elody on the *One Hour of Code* program in the multi-purpose room of the Hastings Middle School, while Camryn shares a computer with her father Brian.

which, according to student Dylan Langston, allows for an inexpensive way to create projects using coding. For example, recently they used this programing technique to launch bowling balls on to the Hastings High School lawn!

In short order, students will be expected to know how to code by the time they reach high school. On the elementary and middle school levels, coding is now being introduced. Terry Julian, presently a student at Hastings College as well as a tech assistant employed by the Hastings Public Schools, is spearheading the development of tech clubs that focus on coding in HPS elementary schools. Mrs. Julian initiated tech clubs first semester at Longfellow Elementary School and the Hastings Middle School. She is now in the process of growing an additional tech club at Alcott Elementary School.



Tom Ratzlaff and his sons, Peter, McKain and Charlie tackle *One Hour of Code*.

The first step is to introduce students and their parents to the process of coding. On January 13, 2016, Mrs. Julian provided an open invitation to HPS students and their parents to attend a meeting for *One Hour of Coding*. The multi-purpose room at Hastings Middle School was filled to capacity with students and parents. All were introduced to a program that helps individuals go step by step through a simple coding experience, with the hope that more students will take an interest in coding. In March a second session of *One Hour of Coding* will be held, again at the Hastings Middle School.



Terry Julian (center) works through an issue with Elira Bego-Cardosal, while Hannah Hafer (right) works steadily to learn *One Hour of Code*.

Students are quickly gaining access to the language of coding through class instruction and through tech clubs.

Do-it-yourself *Newsletter* readers can learn more about coding by Googling “One Hour of Coding” to find a step-by-step video introducing coding. The process takes just one hour!

Foundation Board Members Retire: The Hastings Public Schools Foundation is pleased to recognize four retiring HPS Foundation Board Members who helped transform the Hastings Public Schools Foundation while making significant contributions to enhance learning opportunities for students in the Hastings Public Schools. Two began serving when the HPS Foundation Board of Governors was created. All four are leaving the Board as a result of term limits.

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board Members Step Down



Janet Hibbs-Jones

Janet Hibbs-Jones

Janet Hibbs-Jones served 12 years on the HPS Foundation Board of Directors. As one of the original board members, she was instrumental in the development of the Foundation, investing time, resources, and wisdom, along with a delightful sense of humor, all of which has helped carry the Foundation forward. As a hard working, dedicated member of the Board, she

was instrumental first in the Foundation's inception and later in the decision to change paths and become an organization that not only provides scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors, but also provides resources to enhance the learning environment for classrooms throughout the Hastings Public Schools.

As chair of the Staff Idea Grant committee, she has overseen the distribution of STAFF IDEA GRANTS for the past five years, helping to make certain that the best applications for these grants were accepted and that the Staff Idea Grants were distributed fairly among the various school buildings. The long-term success of Staff Idea Grants is a reflection of Janet's leadership and hard work.



Dale Hamburger,
Class of 1968

Dale Hamburger

Coming from long years of experience as a successful Hastings businessman, Dale Hamburger provided a depth of wisdom to the HPS Foundation Board of Directors. As a member of the STAFF IDEA GRANT committee, Dale was a tireless advocate for support of teacher-inspired innovative learning. His emphasis and guidance was aimed at finding those approaches in the classroom that would best serve the needs

of students in the Hastings Public Schools and make the best use of precious dollars devoted to STAFF IDEA GRANTS.

Dale contributed both time and resources to the advancement of the HPS Foundation. The Carmichael Construction Company, under Dale's direction, was influential in the design and construction of the beautiful Hastings Public Schools Foundation Donor Wall and accompanying west wall, located in the Hastings High School Auditorium Lobby. The services of the company, along with materials, were donated to assure that the underling structure of both walls would be solid and secure for many years to come.



Jeff Kully, Class of 1994

Jeff Kully

Jeff Kully was one of the original members of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors. Later, as both vice president and president of the HPS Foundation Board of Directors and ongoing member of the Finance committee, Jeff Kully has played a major role in the success of the Foundation.

Jeff was president of the Board of Directors during the two critical years when the Foundation revised its mission to take on the responsibility of providing private funding for HPS projects that could not be undertaken with tax dollars. He also helped establish the funding resources that would make possible the development of the HPS Foundation Office and the hiring of an executive director.

Jeff's long-time commitment to the Foundation has been critical in creating the Hastings Public Schools Foundation as it functions today.



Connie Halloran
Class of 1961

Connie Halloran

Connie Halloran began serving on the Hastings Public Schools Board of Directors in January of 2010. She served for six years (2 terms) as Secretary of the Board of Directors, which entailed providing an accurate permanent record of board proceedings. This is no easy job and Connie handled her duties in a timely manner, expertly and efficiently. The HPS Foundation Board of Directors has

counted on her accuracy and ability to keep the Foundation on track.

In addition, she has taken on the role of hosting the Foundation reception for graduating seniors each spring after Honors Night at Hastings High School. The reception is always a highlight of the evening, offering a variety of refreshments and the opportunity for conversation among parents, grandparents, students and HPSF board members. It is always a great way to celebrate the achievements of graduating seniors. Connie personally sees to every detail. To the delight of the Board of Directors, she has agreed to continue serving in this capacity.

..... Finding the Means to Challenge All Students

We received many letters and notes of encouragement along with donations from Foundation members during the holidays. Your financial support is absolutely key to the continued work of the HPS Foundation. Our newsletters are always intended as a response to this generosity. We want to indicate not only how your donations have been used to improve the learning environment for HPS students, but also to suggest a future direction the Foundation will take in support of the Hastings Public Schools.

From the Editor's Desk . . .



Betty Kort, Editor
HPS Foundation Newsletter

Communication is the most important aspect of a non-profit foundation. Thus, letter writing is one of my primary tasks here at the Hastings Public Schools Foundation, and it is truly a joy to write to you, our contributors, whatever the reason. Just ask our office assistant, Marilyn. She thinks I go a little daffy when donations come in, whatever the size or type, but she is smiling and laughing in appreciation

too. We expend a ton of energy smiling in the office of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation because of you, our donors who care enough to share your good wishes and your resources for the sake of extending the horizon of opportunity for HPS students!

Letters: The next step is always a letter of thanks. I'm sometimes told that letter writing is a thing of the past. Email, Twitter, Facebook—all the quick and efficient technologies at hand have made letter writing obsolete; and, like most things obsolete, letter writing is time consuming. We are fine with this. Letter writing may be obsolete but it is full of old-fashioned pleasure too. We hope this pleasure comes through to our donors. Just like every other year, in 2015 every donor listed at the back of this newsletter has received a reply in the form of a letter. We know you keep the letters; after all, they are tax receipts! But we hope you remember that they are also little epistles of joy to be tucked away in your business files.

Year-End Reports: In addition to all those letters, for the past four years I've had the pleasure, as editor of the *Hastings Public Schools Newsletter*, to communicate with friends and donors on a much larger scale through our year-end report. My hope is that these newsletters come through as extended letters of joyful information about the workings of the Foundation. Starting in January we begin assembling information about the work of the Foundation during the preceding year. In the report to our readers, we review scholarships awarded and projects completed and/or underway. We also invite you into classrooms within the District so that you can witness for yourselves the educational process. You get a glimpse of great teachers and excited students and snippets of the positive impact of the work of the Foundation. The information is mostly positive in nature—joyful at times and hopeful—reflecting the hope that is always linked to the education of future generations.

Of course, we cannot relay everything happening in the Hastings Public Schools. Normally, we try to concentrate on major

undertakings with huge impact, such as the work done to enhance the Manufacturing Pathway initiative. But in *Volume IV*, we also showcase equally important smaller projects that can have a big impact on students. Readers will get a glimpse of what is happening in the cracks and crannies of the Hastings Public Schools—those activities that sometimes fall under the radar. I love visiting classrooms with camera in hand. I spend time in hallways talking to students and teachers. Sometimes my little red camera comes back to my office with a surprise here and there.



Nathaniel Mannarino sends a powerful message to my little red camera about attitudes toward learning in our schools.

The HPS pre-school program is one example of a program that quietly makes a huge difference in the success of students entering the K-12 system. We wish that more students could participate—and maybe someday a broadened enrollment will become a reality.

After-school clubs have gotten little attention; yet, they are now becoming important in the State Department of Education evaluation of the overall success of our school system, so much so that

as a start the Foundation is encouraging the development of chess and tech clubs. The result is that five elementary schools have joined with Longfellow Elementary School to form chess clubs! Tech clubs, concentrating on coding and innovative technologies, are also on the way to becoming realities in the elementary buildings. Students do not stop learning once outside of the classroom. After school clubs can offer quality experiences and clubs make learning fun. In fact, students have so much fun that they may well underestimate the amount they are learning academically and the benefit to them in improved social skills.

The *HPS Newsletter* has routinely focused on STAFF IDEA GRANTS and this issue is no exception. The addition of a few drums in the hands of a creative music instructor, for example, seems to have far reaching effects beyond rhythm and loud noises. Spending 20 to 30 minutes a week playing specially chosen games—Brain Games—is making a difference for students at Alcott Elementary School. And sending books home with students can make a difference for entire families! STAFF IDEA GRANTS get results!

I enjoy the flexibility of my job. Serving as Executive Director of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation gives me the opportunity to help guide the use of donated funds to facilitate positive change that can make a difference; serving as Editor of the *Hastings Public Schools Foundation Newsletter* gives me the opportunity to share the process and the results of the work of the Foundation.

In the end, it's all about communication! I hope you enjoy *Volume IV*—our 2015 Year-End Report!

There is Power in New Ideas.....

The Foundation's STAFF IDEA GRANTS Committee was faced with difficult decisions as all 25 grant applications received in the spring of 2015 were considered worthy of funding. The committee made its decisions based primarily on INNOVATION and the number of students impacted by particular grants. The number of grants selected was also governed by the amount budgeted by the HPS Foundation for STAFF IDEA GRANTS. In 2015 the Foundation funded grants totaling \$10,020. Eighteen applicants will be impacted by these grants.

STAFF IDEA GRANTS Impact Classrooms In the Hastings Public Schools



Jalaene Choquette
Senior High School



Scott Engberg
Senior High School



Pat Vogel
Senior High School



Patt McConnaughay
Senior High School

Navigating Through Your Future with Naviance, \$2,000

This grant has made possible the purchase of a web-based platform called *Naviance*. The platform integrates success planning, career planning, college planning, and family engagement tools in one easy-to-use solution that can be configured based on the needs of students and support staff. Since *Naviance* provides the

framework for every student to have an individual success plan, it is uniquely qualified to support school and District requirements and align with Nebraska State Department of Education mandates.



Becki Kulwicki
Lincoln Elementary School



Mary Mohlman
Lincoln Elementary School



Dana Odom
Lincoln Elementary School

The Baking Bunch, \$830

Students enrolled in this project (grades 3 through 5) now have the opportunity to attend a cooking class twice a month. Food prepared in the class is sent home with the students or donated to the Back Pack Program. Students learn to make lists of food items and supplies, budget and make wise shopping choices, prepare food, learn about nutrition, learn about food safety in the kitchen, and learn to clean up after cooking sessions—all valuable life skills.



Faye Friesen
Hastings High School

Flipped Classroom Package, \$730

Making classroom demonstrations, lectures and activities available to students outside of the traditional classroom expands learning into the homes of students in our District. This grant has provided a 32 gig iPod (used as a video camera) and a SWIVL robotic platform, which acts as a cameraman, which follows a teacher during classroom demonstrations or lectures. Faye Friesen is helping teachers at Hastings High School learn to set up this equipment, use it, and upload videos to their web pages. Students who are absent from class or who want to review can access the lectures and demonstrations from their school-provided laptops. This package is being used across disciplines to enhance the current curriculum.



Lauren Trimble
Hastings Middle School



Staci Stunkel
Longfellow and Alcott Elementary

NAEA National Convention, \$2,000

This grant provided funds for Lauren Trimble and Staci Stunkel to travel to the 2015 National Art Educator Association Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The convention offered over 1,000 art education based learning workshops and sessions. In addition, discounted instructional resources and materials were offered which are not

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation has provided STAFF IDEA GRANTS to teachers with innovative ideas for their classrooms for five years now. The Foundation wants readers to know about not only newly dispensed grants, but also the success of previously awarded grants. Please see STAFF IDEA GRANT related articles on pages 13, 14, and 15.



Dr. Susan Lindblad
Lincoln Elementary School



Tracia Furguson
Longfellow Elementary School

Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders, \$900

Symposium in Kansas City: This symposium provided research-based strategies and information that can directly benefit students who are struggling with behavioral concerns, as well as benefit classmates by decreasing the frequency and intensity of disrupted classroom time. The primary benefit to the participants is to learn to help identify, evaluate, and assess students with behavior disorders, decrease the frequency and intensity of the undesired behaviors, replace undesired behaviors with positive and proactive behaviors, and improve academic performance.



Connie Murray
Alcott, Longfellow and
Morton Elementary
Schools

Traveling Bags, \$1,000

This grant supports Alcott, Longfellow and Morton Elementary Schools, impacting 500 or more students in 2015. The grant enabled the purchase of Travel Bags to be loaned out to elementary teachers. Each bag contains items that pertain to a specific country outside of the United States. The items include books, posters, plays, crafts, passports, videos, bulletin boards, history lessons, maps, and games—supplies necessary for a classroom to engage in learning about a different country.



Cathy Callan
Alcott Elementary
School

Preschool Rocker Chairs, \$620

Grant Funds made possible the purchase of six specially designed Rocker Chairs for preschoolers. The Rocker Chairs are small enough that students can sit safely in them with their feet touching the floor. In addition, the chair bottoms allow for slight rocking motion, which is advantageous since young children often learn best through movement. (See page 10 and back cover photo.)



Minta Gregory
Hawthorne Elementary
School



Amber Schultz
Longfellow Elementary
School

Books for Behavior, \$1,000

The goal of this pilot project is to shift how teachers reinforce and reshape the behavior choices of students. Currently one of the most common means of motivating students to make positive behavior choices is to reward them with a “tangible”—in this case, the “tangible” is a book which the student may take home. “Books for Behavior” is a first step in helping students and families to build their home libraries with high interest reading material at levels that are accessible for BOTH students and parents who may have large vocabulary deficits due to generational poverty and a learned dislike of the difficult task of reading. Beyond the behavioral incentive, this highly innovative program may have the benefit of providing academic and vocabulary enrichment.



Erica Jenkins
Alcott Elementary School



Jodi Kauffman
Alcott Elementary School

Brain Games: A Winning Strategy for Cognitive and Social Development, \$940

Grant funds were used to purchase board games that build cognitive and social skills. As students use these game boards, teachers play a critical role as they coach students to use social and cognitive tactics and teach students to observe their peers using social and cognitive tactics. In the process, students learn cognitive skills and social competencies. Pre-tests and post-tests measure student growth. (See pages 14-15 for further information.)

Early Childhood Education

A Luxury or a Necessity?

We normally think of the Hastings Public Schools as a K-12 system. Our readers might be surprised to know that within the Hastings Public Schools, there are 16 early childhood education classrooms serving 211 children ages 3 and 4. These children are now located in classrooms in various HPS elementary school buildings and at Head Start.

Some pre-school students have access to many books at home, Sesame Street and a long list of other children’s educational programs provided by the media, and strong parent guidance to help them prepare for Kindergarten and beyond. However, over time educators have come to know that regardless of the home environment, the addition of quality pre-school experiences greatly enhance all children’s potential success in school. Many educators and politicians alike have come to realize that pre-school should be offered to all children in our country. Children who come to school without proper preparation often fall behind, and research suggests that the longer they stay in school, the further behind they fall. Society has determined that pre-school is now a necessity for later success, but our politicians and educational systems have not altogether caught up with this rationale.

Pre-School Objectives.

There are 38 objectives built into the HPS pre-school program. Generally, these include social-emotional growth; physical development; use of language and literacy; cognitive development; math, science, and technology; social studies; the arts; and, in some cases, acquisition of English language skills.

For example, under the category of *social-emotional growth*, children are expected to learn how to regulate their own emotions and behaviors, establish and sustain positive relationships, and participate cooperatively and constructively in groups.

Who Is Eligible for Pre-School Services in the HPS System?

At this time, children considered at-risk for learning, as established by Federal regulations, are allowed into these classes. Risk factors include low birth weight/pre-maturity, lower socio-economic status, teen-age parents, non-English speaking, medical health concerns, delayed skills in one or more areas of development, and disabilities that meet Federal requirements for children with special education needs.

Transportation, at District expense, is provided. In addition, teen parents at the High School are offered parenting classes and support programs through collaborative efforts with community agencies. These ECE programs are funded through combinations of federal and state funds, the SixPence grant, and local funding.

Currently there are 45 at-risk three- and four-year-olds on a waiting list. Donna Moss, Director of Student Services, adds that the school system would offer vacant slots to parents, utilizing an income sliding fee scale, if there were not a waiting list for at-risk children.

The Future of Pre-School Programs in the District. Clearly there is a strong need for pre-school programs in the Hastings Public Schools. On the state level, there has been talk for a number of years of requiring pre-school in public schools, but thus far, this has not been moved forward by the legislature. In the meantime, the Hastings Public Schools only offers pre-school services to at-risk children. All of this could change in the coming years.



Preschoolers show off their Rocker Chairs (purchased as a result of a Staff Idea Grant) in Cathy Callan’s class at Alcott Elementary School. Back, left to right: Mrs. Callan, Axel Gonzalez Estrada, Jason Gonzalez, and Kara Adams (Paraprofessional); Front: Austyn Beard, Kayarie Russell, Jady Kauffman, Ashlynn Frerichs, Pedro Gonzalez, and Andrew Socoy.

Due to the remodeling of five of the six elementary schools, Morton Elementary School will no longer be a functioning elementary building in the 2016-2017 school year. The Morton building, therefore, offers potential space and with it the opportunity to house the Hastings Public Schools pre-school programs. This would afford additional opportunities to provide a pre-school for those children who are not at-risk. Parents wanting their pre-school children

to receive a pre-school education with a quality curriculum, professional instruction, and assessment would be able to send their children to the HPS pre-school utilizing the income sliding fee scale mentioned above.

What is needed are initiatives that address needs of all pre-school children on both state and local levels. The Hastings Public Schools Foundation would no doubt support such initiatives. Is pre-school a luxury or a necessity? Educators in the Hastings Public Schools lean heavily toward the side of *necessity!*

Donna Moss, Director of Student Services, provided the basic information on pre-school services provided by the Hastings Public Schools.

Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Playing? Educators have known for a very long time that playtime is not a waste of time. Educators know that children learn through playing games. Educators know that playfulness is a good indicator of success in school. In this issue of the *HPS Foundation Newsletter*, our readers will find many examples of games that encourage creative and critical thinking skills—components that lead to success in school and success in the modern world.

Campbell Schukei Plays Chess!

Campbell Schukei plays chess. He now has around forty friends at Longfellow Elementary School who play chess with him. Why? Because Campbell started a chess club. The club meets weekly on Thursdays after school. Right now, it looks like the chess club will not be going away any time soon.

In fact, other HPS elementary schools are starting their own chess clubs. There's no doubt that Campbell's initiative has influenced this development. Elementary chess tournament playoffs cannot be far off!

It all started, according to Campbell, when his grandmother came for a two-month visit and taught him to play chess. He was in the 4th grade at Longfellow Elementary School. When Campbell's grandmother ended her visit, according to Campbell, "There weren't enough people to play, so I got the idea to start a chess club so everybody could play. My friend and I went around to teachers to see how we could start a chess club."

At the end of that busy day, Campbell went home and typed a letter, which was put in Longfellow students' Wednesday folders. Campbell's invitation had surprising results. Thirty students came to play chess.



Campbell was prepared. He had brought several chess sets from home and a book about chess. In the meantime, two of the teachers, whom Campbell had approached about chess, volunteered to sponsor the after school club, and they found more chess sets. As Campbell says, "They are the adults in the room."

Sponsors Julie Simmons and Andy Adams agree that they really are mostly just the "adults in the room." The students teach each other. The club has downloaded an app that helps them rank themselves so that they continue to find challenging partners. They are learning together and getting better and better.

"Sometimes we have pizza parties," Campbell adds with a twinkle in his eye. We're planning one for next week."

Campbell started a chess club last spring with 30 participants. This year, he is in the 5th grade and still plays chess. The Longfellow Elementary School Chess Club has grown to include 40 participants. Move over, Magnus Carlsen . . . Campbell Schukei is coming your way!

**Magnus Carlsen is the current World Chess Champion, as well as the #1-ranked player in the world.*

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation will provide assistance to HPS elementary school chess and tech clubs.

GIVE HASTINGS DAY

Thursday, April 28, 2015

Choose to give to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation on April 28th!

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation is to support the Hastings Public Schools by securing needed resources to expand what is possible for students, staff and the District.

GO TO www.hastingspublicschools.org ~ click on HPS Foundation and DONATE

When you give to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation, you give a gift that keeps on giving!

HPS Alumni Spotlight Recognizes Outstanding Accomplishments.

The HPS Foundation is always pleased and proud to feature Hastings Public Schools Alumni in the “Spotlight.” Shannon Salyards is in the midst of a remarkable career. Her on-line biography is astounding. And I might add that she is one of my former students. I could not be more proud! But the fact is that a number of our featured alumni once sat in my classroom over the 25 years I taught in the Hastings Public Schools. I am prejudiced, of course, but their careers speak for themselves. As you read about Shannon, I’m sure you’ll agree! ~Betty Kort, Editor

Alumni Spotlight: Shannon Salyards-Burton



On Sunday, October 25, 2015 the Hastings Symphony Orchestra presented a concert titled “A Soprano’s Magical Charm.” The title was highly representative of the performance—it was “Magical.” Shannon Salyards-Burton, the “Soprano” in this production, was educated in the Hastings Public Schools and has gone on to perform

Jim [Johnson] said on a number of occasions that I would one day sing with the Symphony.

in venues from Carnegie Hall in New York City to Severance Hall in Cleveland, the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Jordan Hall in Boston, the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City, and numerous major cathedrals.

Shannon Salyards-Burton’s performance with the Hastings Symphony was envisioned long ago. According to Shannon,

I started violin at age 3 with Mischa Johnson. She and her late husband, Jim (James), would come over to our house for a dinner and game night and I would be the entertainment—comedic mostly such as singing *The Star Spangled Banner* in a variety of styles (country, pop, “opera”). Jim said on a number of occasions that I would one day sing with the symphony. I played first violin under his baton for my years in high school.

Sadly, Jim passed away before that dream became reality. After I completed my Masters, Byron Jenson invited me to sing with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra and it was wonderful.

Actually, the performance this past fall was her second performance with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra. Since returning to the Midwest, she has continued to perform throughout the region. Following her performance in the *Abendmusik and Arts for the Soul* concert series in Lincoln, Nebraska, John Cutler of the *Lincoln Journal Star* praised her for “the purity and clarity of her vocal instrument,” and added, “Salyards has excellent diction and was able to vary her voice from strong and convincing . . . to soft and seductive.”

Graduating from Hastings Senior High School in 1997, Shannon then attended St. Olaf College where she received a B.M. in Voice Performance. She went on to obtain a M.M. in Voice Performance at Boston University and is presently a voice instructor at Briar Cliff University.

Shannon’s best memories in the Hastings Public Schools are of her teachers, particularly those she encountered while at Hastings Junior High School. “Those years can be awkward for many kids through struggles with self-esteem and peer acceptance. For me the encouragement of my music teachers at that time propelled me. . . . Ron Burke and Deanna Johnson at Hastings Junior High lit a fire in me and sparked a true passion for singing—and their music program was HUGE, so I know that wasn’t just me.”

She goes on to mention John Roebke and Joel Jank whom she praises for their amazing dedication and time—and for putting up with her pranks. “Darrell and Honey Lou Bonar shaped my mind and my heart in too many ways to recount and allowed my voice to be comfort in one of the most profoundly sad moments in their lives. Herr Vogel gave me the tools and encouragement to be successful in my craft (I have a love for German Lieder).”

Shannon adds, “I think about these things often because before I know it, my children will be in school. I hope they will have similar inspirations.”

Shannon Salyards-Burton is an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), including service as an officer in the local Lewis & Clark chapter, and holds adjunct faculty appointments at Briar Cliff University and Morningside College in addition to an extensive private voice studio. Her prior teaching experiences include the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Doane College, Hastings College, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Western Iowa Tech Community College.

Shannon and her husband Sean live in Sioux City, Iowa. They have two children, Samuel, age 3, and Lily, age 1. They also have two Siberian Huskies, Niko and Nadia. Shannon’s parents, Drs. Harry and Phyllis Salyards, are retired physicians who live in Hastings.

.....STAFF IDEA GRANT Boosts Music Program at Morton Elementary



Alcott music teacher Tom Michalek calls his after school program “D.R.U.M. for Discipline, Respect and Unity through Music.” The title is appropriate: *discipline, respect* and *unity* are key to the success of the *music*. The program was supported by a HPS Foundation STAFF IDEA GRANT awarded a year ago. The results are impressive!



Pigs Like Mud!

In December of 2015, Morton Elementary School held an all-school convocation in the school’s gymnasium to showcase the D.R.U.M. program, led by Morton Elementary music teacher Tom Michalek. This highly entertaining performance was all about drums and drumming, at least on the surface. But there is obviously much more going on beyond this very entertaining drum concert.

Mr. Michalek applied for a STAFF IDEA GRANT in 2013 to be implemented in the 2014-15 school year. His request was made for the purchase of five tunable “tubano” drums, which added to other drums available for his classroom, would allow for up to 24 students to learn intensive percussion ensembles. One year later, his innovative plan is harvesting rewards, the December concert being one of them.



Instead of drums matching up with music as we traditionally think of music, Tom’s 5th grade drummers are setting the tempo for rhyming verse, or perhaps a better label would be rhyming ditties! “Pigs Like Mud” (inserted above) is just one example.

Read it aloud and the rhythm comes through clearly. Students are delighted to repeat the verses as they beat their drums to the rhythm. Mr. Michalek “directs” the drummers with what looks like a large cowbell and the drummers pay attention. Mr. Michalek speeds up and drummers follow suit, faster and faster, then slower and slower as he reduces the pace. Different drums come into play for different sound effects. The drums are “talking” and “singing.” The drums mimic the verse.

*Pigs like mud, cows like squash!
I like you, I do, by gosh.*

*Charlie, Charlie in the tub.
Charlie, Charlie, pulled out the plug.
Oh my goodness, oh my soul,
There goes Charlie down the hole!*

*One, two, three, four, five.
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
And then I let him go again.*

*As I was sitting in my chair
I knew the bottom wasn’t there.
Nor legs, nor back, but I just sat,
ignoring little things like that.*

The audience is quickly into the performance. Everyone is working the rhythm. The gym reverberates with the rhythm of the drums and the stamping and clapping of the audience. The verses are outlandish and catching—similar to what one is likely to hear on a grade school playground. We all know those chanting verses that catch on so quickly. There are no odd noises between selections, no playing around, no interruptions, no discipline issues. The selections start precisely; the students are on target with the beat.

It all looks so easy. During the program, everyone is having a good time listening to great drummers; the drummers themselves are having a great time. But the preparation for this performance underscores the value of this program. This is a well disciplined group.

D.R.U.M. stands for Discipline, Respect and Unity through Music! In Mr. Michalek’s after school program discipline and respect are required. Success depends on teamwork (*unity*), *respect* and *discipline*. Social goals (rules) include the following:

1. Students must attend rehearsals regularly
2. Students must commit to the group while maintaining their classroom work
3. Students must learn to interact with their peers in appropriate ways

To stay in the group, students must comply with the above “rules.” It is evident that students want to be in this select group—it’s too much fun to miss! They comply with the “rules.”

In addition, the drums provide unlimited potential for experiencing rhythm, ensemble, movement, improvisation, meter, and timbre—all excellent goals of a music program.

Eventually, Principal Jason Cafferty and Superintendent Craig Kautz (a passionate drummer) get into the act.



Erica Jenkins and Jodi Kaufman, teachers at Alcott Elementary School, received a STAFF IDEA GRANT in the spring of 2015 to purchase *Brain Games*. (See page 9.) These 5th grade teachers wasted no time. Over the summer they purchased the games with grant funds and were set to go once school started in the fall of 2015.

Brain Games: A Strategy for Cognitive and Social Development

Cognitive Learning: Learning on a deeper level, accomplished by organizing and comprehending information, problem solving, recalling information and applying knowledge.

Have you played any board games or card games lately? Monopoly, Pitch, Bridge, Rack-o, Manacala? At one time, maybe before television, the Internet, computers, iPads and so forth, families spent evenings together around the kitchen table playing games. We didn't give much thought to what we might be learning, but we did use math computations, logic, reasoning, sequential processing, visual processing—all kinds of strategies to win, along with sustained attention to the process. We also learned to be good winners and losers—excellent social skills we would use throughout our lives.

Today families have less time to play games. In many instances, board games and cards are not to be found in students' homes. Both parents and children lead busy lives and their attention is often directed toward modern technology that often takes them away from family time spent playing games.

Erica Jenkins and Jodi Kauffman, teachers at Alcott Elementary School, received a STAFF IDEA GRANT for this school year that made possible the purchase of *Brain Games* for their fifth-grade classes. In explaining why *Brain Games* would be an appropriate addition to their classes, these teachers describe the many skills and strategies that playing games provides for students, not the least of which include *critical thinking skills*. They have come up with a list of 23 cognitive skills, which they measure.

A host of skills can be observed in the general setting. Students in the classroom stay focused and play quietly. The games are passed around the class with students shuffling from game to game, learning to cope with each new situation. It's fun to win, but one cannot win without self-control, self-respect, and respect for each other. As students play the games, peers, as well as the classroom teacher, expect them to follow the rules. In the process, they learn to be accountable to each other and to themselves.

One of the pitfalls of playing these games is becoming addicted to favorites and not wanting to play other games. Instructors counter this potential liability by setting timers. When the bell rings, students move on to new games, new opportunities, and new skills.

Although the students have only a few minutes to play twice a week, their skills are improving. This provides a "chance to use their brains outside of the normal curriculum," Mrs. Kauffman advised. It is obvious that these students are intent on learning the games and succeeding.

Alcott Principal Lawrence Tunks indicates that students are "less likely to have accessibility [to these game] in their personal lives." Alcott has a very high percentage of students on free or reduced lunches—over 80%. This is a strong indicator that many of these children come from disadvantaged homes where both books and board games are absent.

Can you play . . .

Racko?

Manacala?

Set Game?

Simon?

Connect 4?

Apples to Apples?

Battleship?

Blink Card Game?

Blokus?

Skip-Bo?

Squint Jr.?

Sudoku?

Cribbage?

..... Playfulness Creates Learning Opportunities

Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Kaufman team teach *Brain Games*, sharing materials provided by the STAFF IDEA GRANT. Half of the games were introduced to students during the first semester; the remainder are now being employed.

"You can see their faces light up as they figure out the strategies that help them win the game."

—Jodi Kaufman

In fact, one is quick to notice that many of these students are not familiar with most card games or board games. Simply shuffling cards is a challenge for nearly everyone in the class. Two students were delighted to be playing with a Lego set. One would assume they were familiar with Lego toys—this is not necessarily so. These youths are in the fifth grade and this is their first experience.

Mrs. Jenkins indicated that one student said "she was not good at the game of Simon, but she likes to play it anyway." Mrs. Jenkins explained to her that there is a free Simon game app that she can download. The student replied that she was going to do this that very night. It is interesting to note that this student is quite confident of her ability to download a game from the Internet using her computer skills. However, playing the simple game of Simon with another individual is outside of her experience.

Cognitive learning and social development are important aims in this highly innovative program, but social development is probably the more difficult aspect to evaluate objectively in a student. As students work into the *Brain Games* program, they are asked to complete a Competency Survey. Students rate themselves on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest level of agreement. How students rate themselves can give both students and teachers valuable insight into the kinds of behaviors that need to be fostered. (See statements below that help measure social development.)

As Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Kaufman work into this program, they are learning more and more about the value of Brain Games in the classroom, thanks in large part to an HPS Foundation STAFF IDEA GRANT.



Jodi Kaufman, 5th Grade teacher at Alcott Elementary School.



Social Development Inventory

1. I try to comfort my peers who are upset, not feeling well, or hurt in some way.
2. I often suggest activities to play with peers.
3. I am able to decode another peer's feelings, if he/she is happy, angry, or sad.
4. I watch more than participate.
5. I am good at preventing conflicts.
6. I'm shy around unfamiliar adults.
7. I interact with others.
8. I am a leader.
9. I help peers clean up, search for lost items, or fix something that is broken.
10. I invite others to play.

Recording of student progress is an important part of the project. Erica Jenkins, left, is either teaching games or busy entering student data on her computer.



*Or
Can you
play ...*

- Logic L*
- Mad Gab?*
- Perfection?*
- Rummikub?*
- Rook?*
- Tetris Jenga?*
- Uno?*
- Where's Waldo?*



Honors Night Recognizes and Rewards Student Achievement



Hastings Public Schools Foundation scholarships presented at Honors Night are the results of the generosity of many individuals and groups. HPSF board members, donors and/or representatives of those donating to the scholarship make presentations on Honors Night. Above, as Mike Karloff looks on, Tracy Stickels-Douglas hugs Elizabeth Franssen, who is being awarded a scholarship named in honor of Mrs. Douglas. Row 2, Josh Starkey awards the *Annie Starkey Memorial Scholarship* to Taylor Suminski, Janet Hibbs-Jones presents the *Charles and Margretha D. Uerling Family Memorial Scholarship* to Nolan Laux, and Dr. Jessica Meeske presents the *Meeske-Pancratz Opportunity Scholarship* to Marissa Najera. Row 3, Jim Heyen presents a *Johnson Family Scholarship* to Jack Foreman, Neal Grothen presents a *Class of 1958 Scholarship* to Neely Nuss, and Lonny Lipsack presents a *Class of 1961 Scholarship* to Huy Trong. Row 4, James Horsham presents the *Jack Horsham Memorial Scholarship* to Jeff Keele and Joel Jank presents the *Outstanding Music Award* to Katie Kingsley.

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation sponsored a reception following Honors Night in the lobby of the Auditorium. The reception was arranged by Board Member Connie Halloran.



..... And Award Precious Scholarships to Deserving Students

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation awarded 47 scholarships to graduating seniors in the spring of 2015. Two new scholarships were added in support of 2015 graduates: the Annie Starkey Memorial Scholarship and the Kelly Buck Memorial Scholarship. The Hastings Public Schools Foundation Scholarship Portfolio continues to broaden, allowing opportunities for more and more graduating seniors. In 2016, the Robert L. Foote Memorial Scholarship opportunity will be added.



Tasha Ashley

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



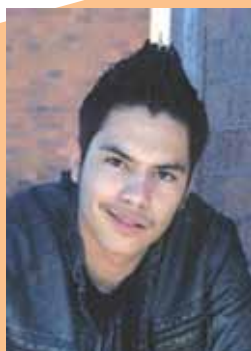
Chloe Ferrone

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,500



Travis Hartwig

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Gilberto Garcia

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$750



Adam Florian

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Jonathan Hemmer

Gene Hass Machine Technology Scholarship \$2,500



Nicole Dillin

Kelly Buck Memorial Scholarship \$4,000



Jack Foreman

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Brenda Hernandez

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Zach Evans

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Jordan Frink

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500
Matching funds: Central Community College \$500



Elizabeth Franssen

Tracy Stickels Douglas Scholarship \$1000

As Our Scholarship Program Grows Each Year.....

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation is now able to award three scholarships valued at \$4,000 each, including the Ardyce Bohlke Scholarship, a Johnson Family Scholarship, and the Kelly Buck Memorial Scholarship; One Johnson Family Scholarship is valued at \$2,500. The range in value of other scholarships is \$1,000 to \$250.

Four HHS Scholars Receive Top Scholar Awards



Travis Hartwig

Roy Basset
Scholarship \$1000



Sarah Johnson

Hastings Public
Schools Foundation
Kinman-Oldfield
Scholarship \$500
Matching Funds:
Hastings College
\$250



Tanner Cline

Gene Hass
Machine
Technology
Scholarship \$1,000



Matt Karnes

Johnson Family
Scholarship \$1,000



Corey King

Gene Hass
Machine
Technology
Scholarship \$1,500



Marcus Long

Class of 1961
Scholarship \$1,000



Cassandra Karr

Hastings Public
Schools Foundation
Kinman-Oldfield
Scholarship \$750



Katie Kingsley

Matt Shoemaker
Scholarship \$500



John Bohlke congratulates Ryder Mays, recipient of the four-year Ardyce Bohlke Scholarship.

..... *More and More Students Receive Post-Secondary Support*

Specially recognized seniors include Ryder Mays, who received the Ardyce Bohlke Scholarship; Sam Roth, who received the \$4,000 Johnson Family Scholarship; Nicole Dillin, who received the newly created Kelly Buck Memorial Scholarship; and Vo Tai, who received the \$2,500 Johnson Family Scholarship.



Ryder Mays

Ardyce Bohlke Scholarship with support of Kinman-Oldfield Trust \$4,000



Jeff Keele

Jack Horsham Memorial Scholarship with support of the Kinman-Oldfield Foundation \$1,000



Garrett Kothe

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500 Matching Funds: Central Community College Foundation \$500



Noah Metzger

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Taylor Kidwell

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



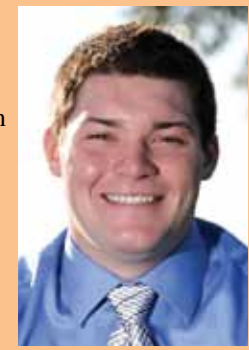
Nolan Laux

Charles and Margretha D. Uerling Family Memorial Scholarship \$500 Matching Funds: Hastings College \$500



Neli Morales

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Tyler Musgrave

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Philip Pedroza

Dean F. Ceerle Science Scholarship \$500 Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$250 Matching Funds: Hastings College \$250



Collin Spilinek

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Marissa Najera

Meeske/Pankratz Opportunity Scholarship with support of Kinman-Oldfield Trust \$1250



Sam Roth

Johnson Family Scholarship \$4,000

Hard Work Pays Off in Scholarships

Graduation is a joyous time. The Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and a number of scholarship donors award the scholarships during Honors Night at Hastings High School. It is one place where the true joy of giving is witnessed again and again!



Sherri Andreassen awards the \$4,000 Johnson Family Scholarship to Sam Roth.



Zachary Strobl

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Welding Scholarship \$1,000



Neely Nuss

Class of 1958 Scholarship with support of Kinman-Oldfield Trust \$1,500



Andrew Rutt

Johnson Family Scholarship \$1,000



Taylor Suminski

Annie Starkey Memorial Scholarship \$500



Albert Pedroza

Class of 1958 Scholarship with support of Kinman-Oldfield Trust \$1,500



Alex Schmidt

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Javier Torres

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Vo Tai

Johnson Family Scholarship \$2,500



Huy Truong

Class of 1961 Scholarship \$1,000



Diego Ventura

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500



Andres Villegas

Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$55,0



Madeline Warrick

Dr. & Mrs. Tseng Yen Memorial Scholarship/Kinman-Oldfield Family Trust \$500 Hastings Public Schools Foundation Kinman-Oldfield Scholarship \$500

..... *The Scholarship Portfolio Continues to Grow*

Taken together the scholarship package offered through the Hastings Public Schools Foundation has grown from a total of \$8,250 awarded in 2010 to a record high of \$51,550 awarded in 2015. New scholarships are regularly added, funds are added to existing scholarships, and endowed HPS Foundation scholarships are in a state of perpetual growth as a result of careful investing through the Hastings Community Foundation.

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation Scholarship Portfolio

The Hastings Public Schools Foundation was founded in 1987 by farsseeing members of the Hastings Community. These individuals were intent upon finding ways to support and honor HPS graduating seniors. Thus, the Hastings Public Schools Foundation scholarship program was initiated. Over time, donors came forward with contributions to create general scholarships. Memorial scholarships were created. Our safe and reliable system of investing and managing the entire portfolio was instituted with the support of the Hastings Community Foundation.

As a result of these donations, over time several scholarships in the HPS Foundation scholarship portfolio have been endowed (requiring a minimum investment of \$10,000.) In an endowment, the principal

is always maintained. Earnings on the principal supply funds to provide scholarships. However, in most years, a portion of these earnings are returned to the principal so that the endowment continues to grow. This provides a hedge against inflation and, over time, allows for an increase in the value of the scholarships awarded. Thus, endowed HPS Foundation scholarships are in a state of perpetual growth.

Presently scholarship values range from \$250 to \$4000. Some of the scholarships are supported by yearly donations; the remainder are funded through endowed scholarship funds and matching funds provided by the Kinman-Oldfield Family Foundation, Hastings College and Central Community College.

Haas Technology Scholarships To Increase in 2016

Matt Hurt, HHS Industrial Technology instructor, has many reasons to be pleased. The Hastings Public Schools Foundation has received word that \$15,000 will be available through the Foundation for Industrial Technology scholarships in 2016 for graduating seniors who qualify. A gift from the Gene Haas Foundation, this donation represents an increase of \$10,000 over the amount awarded by the Haas Foundation in 2015. In addition, another \$25,000 is expected to come to Central Community College from the Gene Haas Foundation. These scholarship funds will also be available to Hastings students. Together the new scholarship funds provide exceptional opportunities for students involved in the Manufacturing Pathway.



There is Power in Numbers.

Recognizing our Donors! The list below represents donations to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation from January 2015 through December 2015. The Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors extends heartfelt thanks to these donors.

Our 2015 Donors . . .

20,000.00 - 50,000

Central Community College

15,000.00 - 19,999.00

Marie E. Johnson Residual Trust

10,000.00 - 14,999.00

Kinman Oldfield Foundation
Brad Seiler

7,500.00 - 9,999.00

Hastings Community Foundation

5,000.00 - 7,499.00

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___ \$ 5,000	___ \$ 35,000	___ \$150,000
___ \$ 10,000	___ \$ 50,000	___ \$200,000
___ \$ 15,000	___ \$ 75,000	___ \$250,000
___ \$ 20,000	___ \$100,000	___ Other

(Wood/Metal Plaque sizes are determined by size of gifts.)

Cummulative Donations of \$1,000 - \$4,999 are honored on a group plaque in the HHS Auditorium separate from the Donor Wall.

When cumulative donations exceed \$5,000, the donor(s) name is placed on a metal and wood plaque and placed on the Donor Wall located in the lobby of the Hastings High School Auditorium. Donor plaques range in size from \$5,000 to \$250,000 and above. Higher contributions equate with larger metal and wood plaques. When a donor(s) contributions rise to the next level, a new, larger plaque replaces the previous one.

500.00 - 999.00

Don Allison
Tom Bassett
Tom and Cathy Cafferty
Hastings College
Roger and Karen Doerr
David V. Evans
Brent and Patty Gollner
HHS Class of 1960
William and Amy Hermes
Janet Hibbs
Kellie Hoffart
Gary and Emily Johnson
Chris and Tracey Katzberg
Patrick and Kim Kern
Franklin and Denise Koch
Joyce Yen and Ben Lin
Rick and Rebecca Matticks
Tracy and Michelle Ochsner
Susan Meeske and Robert B. Rhodes
Dr. Harry and Dr. Phyllis Salyards
Jeff and Abby Schneider

500.00 - 999.00 (Con't.)

Dr. David and Brandee Schram
Dr. Justin and Kili Wenburg
Stan Wolcott
Dr. Kevin and Paige Wycoff

250.00 - 499.00

Anonymous
Dr. Gary Barth
Mark and Stephanie Bliss
Bruce Furniture
Roger and Teresa Edgington
Robert and Judy Finnismier
Faye Friesen
Gessford Machine Shop
Thomas and Patricia Griffith
Neil and Joyce Grothen
HHS Class of 2015
Rich and Connie Halloran
Robert and Janice Herbek
Charles and Margaret Hermes
Paul and Rhe Holm

250.00 - 499.00 (Con't.)

Dr. Michael and Rachelle Johnson
Mary Kortum
Jeff and Jennifer Kully
Donna Moss
Steve and Karyn Nicholson
Jorn and Mary Olsen
Ron and Carolyn Priebe
Larry and Judy Rader
Dr. Thomas Sachtleben
Donald and Nancy Seaton
Dr. Jerry and Mary Seiler
HHS Class of 1964
Julie Simmons
Tom and Lisa Smith
Doug and Marnie Soderquist
Orren Stoval
Corey and Laura Stutte
Sarah Wolf
Dan Yost



Honor a special person in your life –

Purchase a commemorative brick from the Hastings Public Schools Foundation!

If you are looking for a reason, here are a few possibilities—

- honor a student, teacher or parents
- memorialize a loved one
- create a lasting legacy of your time at HHS
- make a statement about your graduating class
- remember a classmate

(A percentage of the purchase price of bricks is tax deductible.)

Bricks are being laid to form a courtyard around the sign near the new science wing at Hastings High School. Bricks can be purchased anytime of the year and for any suitable reason. With the purchase of a brick, you are contributing to the success of Hastings Public Schools Foundation programs which support classroom learning in the Hastings Public Schools.

Go to www.hastingspublicschools.org or phone 402-461-7564 now!

.... and This is Why We Are Succeeding

When your name appears on the list below, YOU are “Extending the Horizon of Opportunity” for the youth in the Hastings Community. On their behalf, the Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors thanks you!

100.00 - 249.00

Robin Bailey
Dale and Ronda Bierman
Juliana Bohlke
Ronald and Sandra Boike
John and Anjanette Bonham
Loretta Boumann
Brent and Erika Brooks
Dr. Mark and Chris Brosnihan
Michie Burmester
Larry and Ute Butler
Jean Cambridge
Anne Cech
Chapter G PEO
HHS Class of 1954
Lance and Elizabeth Creech
Ray and Ruthie Crowl
Dave and Paula Cure
Dale and Cathy Davis
Kathleen DeLashmutt
Roger and Dian Eigenberg
Irina B. Erickson
Janelle Ernst
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Mary Kathman
Chris and Marcie Kemnitz
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Jim and Cheryl Kostal
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100.00 - 249.00 (Con't)

Dave and Kelly Landgren
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Dennis and Marlene Mullen
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Grace and Duane Shackelford
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Ray and Carol Szlanda
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Harold and Elizabeth Thaut
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Emily Tonniges
Mary L. Topp
Franc E Wagner
Ed and Katie Watson
Charlotte Welch
Donald Whitcomb
Ken and Arlene Wiederspan
Belle Williams
Joachim and Laura Wunderlich

50.00 - 99.00

Kimberly Bielz
David and Lisa Brandt
Kathy Carlin
Donna Dill
Tracy Douglas
David Essink
Linda Fowler
Christian and Sarah Fruehling
Nicole Gengenbach
Steve and Marilyn Groeteke
Dick and Phyllis Hawes
HHS Class of 1962
Drew and Jan Heady
Laurie Heeren
Jim and Marge Hewitt
Joel and Ellen Jank
Patrice Jensen
Howard A. and Belva J. Junker
Kimberly Karnes
Steve and Darci Karr
Patricia Kneale
Mary A. Lamken
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Marcella Lemonds
HHS Class of 1961
Dr. Ed and Cheryl Lockwood
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Dan and Cheryl McCarthy
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Tom and Amy Michalek
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Dennis and Arletta Towns
James P Vogel
Richard and Beverly Watt

Memorial gifts are a special way to recognize a loved one and provide support to the HPS Foundation. Gifts of this nature “keep on giving” as opportunities for youth in the community and as endowed funds that continue to give in perpetuity.

1.00 - 49.00

Gary and Betty Aadland
Anonymous
Anonymous
Janice Barnason
Scott and Stephanie Barwick
Jenni Bauer
Lauren Bliss
Jason and Erin Cafferty
Cathy Callan
Fred and Brenda Catlett
Randy and Pat Chick
Randy Creech

1.00 - 49.00 (Con’t)

Rod and Laverna Epp
Meloni Esser
Gary Greinke
Janice Ham
M. Steven and Karen Hohman
Kathy S Katt
Jodi Kauffman
Jackie Koepke
Francis and Arlea Labrie
Tony Lauters
Don and Deb Lyons
Floyd and Phyllis Marian

1.00 - 49.00 (Con’t)

Glenda Mullen
Ronda Ochsner
Richard and Lenita Shumaker
Frank Sandeen
Troy and Leslie Schroeder
Cody and Sheana Smith
Ellen Stark
Dr. Dwayne and Cindy Strasheim
Kathy Tessman
Ron and Darlene Veburg
Barbara E. Yost
Cheryl Yost

Honorariums

- Kimberly Bielz ~ Given to the Hastings Middle School Garden Project in honor of Zach Smith
- Jason and Erin Cafferty ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Randy Creech ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Ray and Ruth Crowl ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Dale and Kathy Davis in honor of their children, Adaire King Toms ‘53 and Wyatt Davis ‘14
- Roger and Karen Doerr ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Scott and Jessica Franssen ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Faye Friesen ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Delores Rider Godwin ~ Given in honor of the Kruegers and the Scheirmans of Hastings
- Joyce Grothen ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Byron and Debra Jensen ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Robin and Ann Koozer ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Betty and Ron Kort ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Francis and Arlea Labrie ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Dale and Elaine Lamski ~ Given to the Foreign Language Fund in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Colin and Donna Moss ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Eugene and Barbara Peck ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Drs. Harry and Phyllis Salyards ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Frank Sandeen ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Van and Shirley Sandstedt ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Troy and Leslie Schroeder ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Dr. Jerry and Mary Seiler ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Dr. John and Margaret Welch ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding
- Joachim and Laura Wunderlich ~ Given in honor of Jon Bohlke & Anne Fairbanks Wedding



Planning a class reunion?

*Let the HPS Foundation know the date and place.
We'll place your information on our facebook page and our website.
The Foundation is happy to provide information and support to class reunions.
The Foundation can provide a web page for your class and help locate missing classmates.*

Class Donations

Honoring the Class of 1950

Dolores Rider Godwin

Honoring the Class of 1954

Marleen Mullens

Honoring the Class of 1960

Jon Bohlke ~ Matching Funds for Class of '60
Class of 1960 General Fund
David V. Evans
Joyce Grothen
Merle Hinrichs
Lee Saathoff
Richard and Lenita Shumaker
Richard and Beverly Watt

Honoring the Class of 1963

Roger and Karen Doerr
Dr. Harold W. Thaut

Honoring the Class of 1964

Mary L. Topp ~ Restricted to the HPS Music Program
Cheryl Yost ~ Restricted to the HPS Music Program

Honoring the Class of 1965

Alan Campbell
Bob Unger ~ Restricted to High Ability
Student Enrichment Program
Stan Wolcott

Memorials

Ardyce Bohlke Memorial ~ Kinman-Oldfield Foundation
Mershonne Brown Memorial ~ Ron and Betty Kort
Don Goodrich Memorial ~ Ron and Betty Kort
Don Goodrich Memorial ~ Class of 1961
Don Goodrich Memorial ~ Class of 1962
Superintendent Charles G. Heller ~ Belle D. William
Lampmann Memorial ~ Kathy S. Katt
Margaret Little Memorial ~ Ron and Betty Kort
William M. Rundle Memorial ~ Directed to the Foundation by
Bill and Terry Rundle
Raymond Scheidies Memorial ~ Tony and Karen Mulford
Annie Starkey Memorial ~ Bill and Monti Starkey
Dr. Thomas Tonniges Memorial ~ Ron and Betty Kort
Dr. Thomas Tonniges Memorial ~ Jerry and Mary Seiler
Dr. Thomas Tonniges Memorial ~ Directed to the Foundation
by Jane Tonniges and Family

Memorial gifts are a special way to recognize a loved one and provide support to the HPS Foundation. Gifts of this nature "keep on giving" as opportunities for youth in the community and as endowed funds that continue to give in perpetuity.

Thank You for Becoming a Member of the HPS Foundation

Memberships are essential to the ongoing work of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation. If you are not a member, we invite you to join. If you are now a member, you will receive a letter from the HPS Foundation encouraging you to *renew your membership* on a yearly basis.

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors:

Being a member of both the HPS Foundation Board and the Hastings Public Schools Board of Education has been both rewarding and extremely challenging over the past few years. I have been fortunate enough to witness what is possible when generous gifts are given to a great organization such as the HPS Foundation. We see enrichment in the lives of Hastings Public School students, not only in academics, but in extracurricular activities as well. This is made possible through community gifts and memberships to the Foundation.

I am challenging each of you who have a membership to increase your giving level and to find one additional person or company to invest in our young people. If the HPS Foundation continues to grow its membership, we will be able to give our talented young people greater opportunities than ever before. Thank you in advance for growing the HPS Foundation into an organization that we can all be proud of.

—Brent Gollner, Chair
Hastings Public Schools Foundation



Cut or tear along this line; fill in the information; and send this form, along with your tax deductible membership contribution, to the HPS Foundation.

I wish to become a **MEMBER** of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation. I am choosing to become a member at the level checked at right:

I AM A **MEMBER** of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation and wish to make a donation of \$ _____ at this time.

Choose Membership Level

(Check your choice for kids!)

- \$2,500 Merit Benefactor
- \$2,000 Merit Sponsor
- \$1,500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Sponsor
- \$500 Advocate
- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining member
- \$50 Member (family)
- Other (Amount _____)

Please send me information about **PLANNED GIVING.**

Please join and/or contribute at the highest level you can manage and

Remember: Your membership/contribution is 100% tax deductible!

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone Cell

Email

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed (Make checks payable to HPS Foundation)
- Pay Pal
- Or go online to pay with credit card on our secure site:

- Access the Hastings Public Schools webpage at **Hastingspublicschools.org**
- At left-hand side, click on **HPSFoundation**
- At lower right-hand side, click on **DONATE**
- Complete the online form
- The Foundation accepts **Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express**

Complete the information and place this page in an envelope, along with your contribution, and send to

**HPS Foundation
1924 West A Street
Hastings, NE 68901**

Thank you!

Extending the Horizon of Opportunity: *A new world awaits our children— a world we may not so much as recognize! Knowledge doubles at a faster and faster rate . . . technology is creating a new world of opportunity that is changing the way we live and work and play. Will our children be ready? Your donation in support of the HPS Foundation will help make certain that students have the knowledge to successfully meet tomorrow's challenges!*

Hastings Public Schools Foundation



Cathy Callan's preschoolers at Alcott Elementary School swing out to the music! Back, left to right: Axel Gonzalez Estrada, Jason Gonzalez. Front: Austyn Beard, Kayarie Russell, Jadya Kauffman, Ashlynn Frerichs, Pedro Gonzalez, and Andrew Socoy.

Hastings Public Schools Foundation

1924 West A Street
Hastings, NE 68901

ADDRESS

Every Child Counts!

Every Child is a Budding Citizen!

Strong Schools Create Strong Citizens!

Strong Citizens Create Strong Communities!

Strong Communities Create a Strong, Resilient Nation!