

Making a difference in the lives of our students!

MERCER ISLAND Schools foundation

IMPACT

REPORT

or the Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2020

THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR BEGAN LIKE EVERY OTHER.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

As we look back on the 2019-2020 school year, we feel a tremendous amount of gratitude to all who supported the Mercer Island Schools Foundation during a time that challenged our community beyond measure. Although we were unable to hold our biggest yearly fundraising event in the spring, our community still came together to support our schools, and together we raised \$894,856 in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

On March 23, our world changed when Governor Inslee issued a stay-at-home order. The rapid shift from onsite to remote learning mid-year was stressful and complicated. Our district's administrators and staff took note. With the help of MISF funds, the schools were able to invest in professional development, online curricula and new emerging needs, enabling them to further pivot and prepare over the summer. The ability to quickly direct funds toward these pressing needs contributed to noticeably improved remote learning. We celebrate the way the Mercer Island community came together during this time.

While an annual report is typically a reflection of the year in review, the past year has been anything but typical. Therefore, we also pause to look at the present and future. Like all of you, we look forward to the day when our kids can return to their respective schools for in-person learning. However, until then, every day our teachers are tasked with teaching, and every day our kids are asked to zoom in and learn. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is here to provide the necessary tools needed to support every child at every school every day. Honestly, we could not meet these needs, regardless of the learning environment, without our many volunteers and generous contributors.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, we thank you all for your ongoing support of the Herculean efforts put forth by our students and teachers every day.

Sincerely, Andrea Dickstein and Susan Szafir Co-Presidents, MISF Board of Directors

WITH YOUR HELP MISF FUNDED THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY OUR DISTRICT.

SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT PRIORITIES

MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST ACADEMIC STANDARDS

K-5 Math Materials	\$10,000
K-8 Science Materials	\$35,000
K-12 Increase in Enrollment Materials Support.	\$30,000
K-12 Fine Arts	\$33,000
6-8 Math Materials & Adoption	\$10,000
6-12 World Language Adoption	\$25,000
9-12 Novel Adoption	\$ 5,000
11th Grade Social Studies Adoption	\$15,000
High School Calculus Textbook Adoption	\$32,000
Online Textbook Renewals and Adoptions	\$20,000
Enrichment Grants	\$78,500
New Ideas Investment Fund	\$20,000

PERSONALIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

School Improvement Plans for Every School......\$100,000

PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Board Certification for Teachers.....\$20,000 LETRS Training/Implementation for Teachers.....\$10,000 Consortium of Collaborative Schools Book Studies...\$5,000

DEVELOP SELF-AWARENESS AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

MIHS Bridges (School-wide Issues, Projects, Speakers)...\$10,000 IMS Where Everybody Belongs (WEB).....\$6,500 IslandWood Camp (Fifth-grade Outdoor Camp)......\$15,000

FALL FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$480,000

MERCER ISLAND SCHOOLS FOUNDATION MISSION

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) public service, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing and improving the quality of education provided to ALL students of the Mercer Island School District by obtaining contributions for the public schools.

VISION

Four ways YOU foster excellence in education with your support for our schools through the Mercer Island Schools Foundation:

- Connect students to their futures
- Advance academic achievement
- Support students who learn differently
- Promote professional development

WE PROVIDED CURRICULA, ENRICHMENT AND TEACHER GRANTS FOR STEM CLASSES-WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

MISF ENRICHES SCIENCE

My Biotechnology course has received a Mercer Island Schools Foundation grant for several years, allowing students to interact with scientists, visit research labs, and demonstrate their understanding of a chosen biological concept in a creative way. Field trips to the Institute for Biological Research and the University of Washington allowed them to work in small groups with research scientists to learn about their careers, work-place and current research, and to ask their individual questions and spark curiosity. Through their BioExpo project, students were able to compete against other local students, demonstrating their communication and leadership skills as they worked one-on-one with a science mentor and presented to judges.

When the schools closed in March, several scientists joined our Zoom class as guest speakers, which worked well. To replace the BioExpo competition, our class chose to compete within our own ranks during our Zoom time. It was great to have all the students see each others' projects that they have been passionate about for the whole year. All my students supported each other with wonderful feedback, and appreciated the recognition of those who really stood out.

STEM

Newsweek magazine partnered with STEM.org to create its annual rankings of America's Best STEM High Schools-and Mercer Island High School is ranked among the top 6% of all high schools in America, ranking 106th out of 5,000 high schools nationwide for teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We are proud of our teachers and students for this recognition.

My students continue to tell me these experiences have been very valuable in learning the skills it takes to be successful outside of school. Some have even pursued their interest in science and have come back to say these experiences helped them choose their career path and prepare for life after high school. None of this would have happened without the MISF grants I've received. My students and I thank you for all you have provided us!

Jamie Cooke MIHS Instructional Coach/Science Teacher

1th HIG

Newsweek

stem.org

MISF GRANTS ALSO ENHANCED LANGUAGE, ART AND DRAMA CLASSES.

MISF ENRICHES DRAMA

The MIHS Drama department has been lucky to have so much support from MISF. In my nine years here as the Drama teacher/director, the program has received numerous generous grants that have allowed me to build the program. We have had guest artists from theatre companies around town (Seattle Shakespeare Company and Jet City Improv, to name just two). These artists have helped the drama students push their creative boundaries and discover their voices. We have had artists who teach stage combat–a skill students don't always have the opportunity to learn in high school theatre. The Drama department is a place where creative, unique, young artists really thrive and prosper. It's a safe place for them that allows the opportunity to grow and develop in an individual way. I am incredibly grateful for all the help we've received through the years, as it truly has inspired and motivated numerous students over that time. Thank you!

Daniela Melgar, Mercer Island High School, Drama Director and Teacher

MISF ENRICHES LANGUAGE

The money the Foundation has provided to the World Language Department has been invaluable. We have created a library of books for all levels of our three languages, to allow our students to read for PLEASURE in their prospective languages. There is much research that reading at one's level for pleasure is key to developing Comprehensible Input (CI) and increasing students' ability to produce the correct grammar and spelling in a language. Just as native speakers become proficient writers by being proficient readers, the same goes for world languages. The impact this has had on our students is increased vocabulary and, ultimately, AP scores! This is a project that took three years and would never have been possible without the support of the Foundation.

Deana Wiatr, French teacher, Mercer Island High School World Languages Co-Dept. Chair

LETRS

YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE BEST PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR OUR TEACHERS.

The Mercer Island School District commits to enhancing professional learning for teachers to better support students identified with areas of weakness and indicators of dyslexia. The LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) program is a flexible-literacy professional development solution for K-12 educators. The program provides teachers with the skills they need to master the fundamentals of reading and writing instruction: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing and language. The LETRS program content strengthens foundational teaching for ALL students. Through generous community donations, the Foundation was able to provide the LETRS program to our teachers

Our first year of LETRS with kindergarten, ELL, LSP, Special Ed Resource Room teachers, and instructional coaches went amazingly well! Teachers have embedded this learning in their classrooms—even virtually! I've been lucky enough to be invited to see some of the classrooms using the supplemental materials and tools we included in their kits, and teachers have been innovating new ways to help support student reading in the virtual classroom. This year we extend the learning with this group to include a deeper dive into:

- · Word study and phonics
- · Phonological awareness
- · Assessment and data literacy
- · Dyslexia and other reading difficulties

We also expanded program availability to first- and second-grade teachers and new hires or position changes, which began in the spring and continues this year. With the implementation of state dyslexia/reading difficulties screening requirements slated to come in the fall of 2021, the Mercer Island School District is geared up to support students who are identified through our assessments. We plan to continue learning to best support our students, all of them.

Nova Williams, Assistant Director of Learning Services, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

THE NEW MATHEMATICAL MINDSETS PROGRAM WAS ADDED, THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY.

TEACHING A LOVE FOR MATH

I started teaching Mathematical Mindsets a few years ago after taking a class from Jo Boaler. Boy, what a difference that has made! The idea, based on a growth mindset, is that all students can do hard math. Unfortunately, many of my students come to me with the idea that they are either good or bad at math. By introducing math problems that enable students to answer at their own level of understanding, the old mindset has begun to shift. Open-ended questions allow students to answer in a way that best suits their learning style. I encourage students to use their fingers, use manipulatives, or draw it out. This gets other areas of their brains involved in the learning and, in turn, solidifies concepts far better than rote memorization. As we introduce new math concepts, students are becoming more comfortable showing what they know in a variety of ways. I've had students make posters, write poems, sing songs, and create games. This year I have several students who are working on creating videos to explain how to do multiplication. In fact, it is often the

students who seem to struggle that have the best ideas. My favorite is that students who were reluctant math learners at the start are now saying how much they love math.

Leslie Scheurich Third Grade Teacher West Mercer Elementary

MATHEMATICAL MINDSETS

The Mathematical Mindsets new math curriculum helps educators inspire and boost math achievement. It provides the latest neuroscientific research on the best methods by which students learn math, as well as the specific methods and approaches to successfully help students develop a growth mindset.

Thanks to your support, a new 6th-8th math curriculum was added!

AS USUAL, OUR DONORS WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND.



THIS COMMUNITY IS A FAMILY

Sixteen years ago, Eric and I moved to Mercer Island wanting a better future for our children. We were drawn by the fantastic school district, but what struck me was how close-knit this community was. The entire MI community was devoted to supporting the children and their education. I realized that this community is a family, and that each child on this island is also my child. We are all connected through our children and our families. This is why, every year, Eric and I donate to the Mercer Island Schools Foundation.



WE FEEL AN OBLIGATIONTO DO OUR PART

The Lang family fully supports the principle of "All in For Kids" in education. As members of our caring Mercer Island community, we feel obliged to do our part in supporting the school district and individual schools to provide the best overall learning experience for our children, whose generation in the foreseeable future will innovate and invent new things to make the human race multi-planetary.

Thank you, Susan & Bin Lang



SCHOOL CLOSED

IN MARCH, COVID-19 STRUCKOUR COMMUNITY-SCHOOLS CLOSED, MARCH202 AND REMOTE LEARNING BEGAN.

PROVIDING ESSENTIALS DURING COVID-19...

Your donations helped us respond quickly to provide the essentials needed during school closures.

- Over 70 mobile hotspots provided to students needing internet access.
- Over 150 lunches provided daily, for all families who wanted or needed them.
- Childcare provided for first responders, medical professionals and those in need, in partnership with the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club.
- Emotional support by continuing the Bridges & WEB programs at the middle school and high school.
- Immediate access to professional development platforms imperative to effectively teach remotely.
- Access through specialized platforms to best practices for online teaching, curricula development and training on providing students with social and emotional support.
- Access to programs to help teachers build engaging lesson plans and provide access to all students.

The 2019-2020 school year was one of the most unique and challenging years we've ever faced. We had to navigate remote learning together. The Foundation was quickly able to provide funds for new needs including professional development for teachers, technology support, renewal fees for digital platforms and subscriptions for digital textbooks, lunches for ALL students who needed or wanted it and childcare for first responders and healthcare workers.

WHILE ALSO FUNDING

Because of the generosity of our community we were also able to fund:

- LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)
- Mathematical Mindsets for sixth to eighth grades

AND SPONSORS AND SPONSORS CONTINUED TO GIVE BIG TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS DURING THIS TIME!

THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS WAS CANCELLED AND SPRING FOR SCHOOLS REPLACED IT

The MISF Breakfast of Champions was canceled, but Spring for Schools fundraising continued. Our community rallied and continued to support our teachers and students as they made the difficult transition from in-person to remote learning.

Erika & Greg Brown Alesia Pinney & Jackie Brown Alyson & Justin Burks Sharon & Michael Deal Hilary & Alexander Doroski Linda Floyd & David D'Souza Andrea & Kevin Fitzwilson Katarina & Jim Garner Beth & Peter Goodman Jill & Bill Gormley Shannon & Greg Gottesman Maggie Tai Tucker & James Gwertzman Stacy & Mark Harrington Kristin & Greg Hart Leslie Magid Higgins & Pete Higgins Beth & Cameron Hykes Rachel & Garrett Hyman Yijiao Hong & Antero Koskinen Erin & Peter Krawiec





ANGELS \$5,000

Jody & David Kris Alexandra Boyle & Charles Lee Wenxia Gao & Guofu Li Katherine Van Kessel & Derek Loeser Jessica Abramson & Jeremy Lott The Macrae Foundation Sonia & Subeer Manhas Elizabeth Heron & Brian Marsh Julie & Brad Newcomer Brandy & Pete Nordstrom Angelina & Daniel Odievich Leslev & Malcolm Poole Sarah & Kent Rowe Mickey & Christian Schiller Susan R. & John W. Sullivan Susan & Ariel Szafir Nancy & Wayne Weil Anonymous



CHAMPION \$5,000

Gallagher Co. DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION Your Island Builder! www.gallagherco.net 206-849-4992



Gallagher Co. Mary E. Groff Charitable Trust

MEDALIST \$2,500



ORTHODONTIC ASSOCIATES OF MERCER ISLAND mercerislandsmiles.com

Orthodontic Associates of Mercer Island

TEAMMATE \$1,000

Carrie K. York, DDS King Insurance

ASS OF THE MISF SENIOR STRONG **PENNY YANTIS** SENIOR STRONG **SCHOLARSHIP** WINNER AND **PATHFINDERS** WERE **CELEBRATED VIRTUALLY.**

"I am honored to be the winner of the Penny Yantis MISF Scholarship. I want to thank the Mercer Island Schools Foundation for supporting so many of the programs that make Crest Learning Center the place it is." Ethan Schwartz

MIHS

CLASS OF

SENIOR

2020 PENNY YANTIS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

MIHS CLASS OF-

Ethan Schwartz Congratulations to our 2020 MISF Penny Yantis Scholarship recipient! Ethan was able to find the support and community he needed to excel, academically and personally, at the Crest Learning Center. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is proud to support Ethan and all the amazing students at Crest Learning Center through the generosity of our incredibly community. We wish Ethan the best in all of his future endeavors.

You can view Ethan's complete speech on YouTube under Mercer Island Schools Foundation, titled:

MISF Scholarship Speech.

PATHFINDERS

The Pathfinder Award is the Mercer Island School District's highest alumni honor, presented to graduates of Mercer Island High School whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth to make significant contributions to humankind.

> Steve Hawes (1968) Nearly 52 years after he graduated, Steve Hawes' name remains etched throughout the record book of the Mercer Island High School boys basketball program, with more records than most. Hawes went on to star for four years at the University of Washington and was later inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame and the Pacific-10 Conference Hall of Honor. Hawes was selected in the second round of the 1972 NBA draft, but chose first to play overseas in Italy. He began

MISD 2020 PATHFINDER AWARDS

Robin Bennett (1977) Inspired by her

MIHS biology teacher Bill Tougaw,

College and was among the first

Robin Bennett graduated from Kenyon

graduates from the genetic counseling

training program at Sarah Lawrence

College. Robin is a national and interna-

tional leader in the field of genetic counseling,

serving as senior genetic counselor and

UW Medicine. The clinic has grown into one of

the leading clinics in the country for adult and

manager of the Genetic Medicine Clinic at

cancer genetics services.

his NBA career in 1974 with the Houston Rockets, then played one season with Portland and seven with Atlanta before finishing his career with the hometown Seattle SuperSonics in 1983-84. He is now in his third stint as the boys basketball coach at The Bush School.

DESPITE THE TUMULTUOUS SPRING, THE IMPACT **DONORS MADE IN OUR SCHOOLS** WAS SUBSTANTIAL! J04

Advance Academic Excellence

Support for Students who Learn Differently

misf.com/donate

We couldn't do it without you!

VERCER ISLAND SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



FUNDING

ending August 31, 2020. The complete Independent Review of Financial Statements is available upon request.

PARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS CAME TOGETHER TO CONTINUE THE MISD'S LEGACY OF EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION.



The 2019-20 school year was unlike any other. The Foundation welcomed many new board members, and said goodbye to a few who had generously served our school community for years. We surpassed our fundraising goal during our "All In for Kids" fall campaign, and had started to plan for the Spring for Schools campaign and the Breakfast of Champions.

Then March happened; schools were closed and quickly shifted to distance learning. Our most significant fundraiser of the year, the Breakfast of Champions, was canceled. Fortunately, we were able to pivot quickly to help address the school district's immediate needs by providing funds to help with school lunches, childcare for first responders, and hotspots for students. We continued to fundraise, albeit in different ways. Thanks to our generous community, we were able to fund new and online curricula, digital learning resources and professional development for our teachers to learn to teach, support, and engage students remotely.

In this Annual Report, we hope supporters like you understand the Mercer Island Schools Foundation's critical and powerful work. Out of 698 high schools in Washington state, the Mercer Island School District ranks #8. This is because of YOU! Thank you for the incredible impact YOUR investment has made on our schools. With your help, the Foundation raised over \$894,850. Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of all our students!

> With gratitude, Tammy Shoop, Executive Director Mercer Island Schools Foundation

LEAVING ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO SAY

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \$10,000+

Linda Floyd & David D'Souza Stacy & Mark Harrington Alexandra Boyle & Charles Lee Brandy & Pete Nordstrom Lesley & Malcolm Poole Susan R. & John W. Sullivan

HONORS \$5,000-\$9,999

\$5,000-\$9,999 Erika & Greg Brown Alesia Pinney & Jackie Brown The Burkey Family Alyson & Justin Burks Sharon & Michael Deal Hilary & Alexander Doroski Andrea & Kevin Fitzwilson Katarina & Jim Garner Beth & Peter Goodman Jill & Bill Gormley Shannon & Greg Gottesman Maggie Tai Tucker & James Gwertzman Kristin & Greg Hart Leslie Magid Higgins & Pete Higgins Kirsten Vogelsong & Mark Hoeke Beth & Cameron Hykes Rachel & Garrett Hyman Yijiao Hong & Antero Koskinen Erin & Peter Krawiec Jody & David Kris Venxia Gao & Guofu Li Catherine Van Kessel & Derek Loeser Jessica Abramson & Jeremy Lott

Sonia & Subeer Manhas Elizabeth Heron & Brian Marsh Angelina & Daniel Odievich Sheila Miller Rivera-& John Rivera-Dirks Kelly & Paul Rogan Sarah & Kent Rowe Mickey & Christian Schiller Susan & Ariel Szafir

Thank

You

BENEFACTORS \$2,500-\$4,999

\$2,500-\$4,999 Barbara Quaranta & Marco Argenti Jill & Warren Ashton Linnea & Matt Augustine Tiffin Goodman & Jason Baumgarten Joan & Christian Belady Shelley & Sean Boyle Jill Hendrick & Ramon Castillo Minna Wong & Justin Chan Andrea & Marc Chatalas Anupama Vege & Abhijit Dubey Michelle & David Dumler Elizabeth & Jeffrey Evans Sharon & Jason Fischel Karen & Eli Friedman Rachel & Kyle Garton Anne & Steven Gillis Anne-Christine Poncelet & Patrice Godefroid Aleks & Sam Grocott Erin & Jason Gurney Sue Biggins & Tom Henderson Nancy & Virl Hill Dawn & Brian Hogan Dawn & Brian Hogan

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Thank You!

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FRIENDS \$500-\$999

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