

HONOR ROLL

THE FOUNDATION FOR DUBUQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2020

FOUNDATION FOR DUBUQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

700 Locust Street, Suite 195
Dubuque, IA 52001

www.dbqfoundation.org/FDPS

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Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Thanks to the support of generous donors, the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools was able to step up during these unprecedented times, giving hope to students and families in the district through several projects.



With the quick transition from in-person to remote learning, the Dubuque Community School District felt the responsibility to help all students access the internet. The Foundation applied for an emergency grant through the Morgridge Family Foundation and was able to supply the district with funding to offset the cost of mobile hot spots, allowing students the opportunity to continue their learning online.



Our Student Support Foundations (SSF) at Dubuque Senior and Hempstead recognized a need to support families with bags of essential items. The SSF receives funding from The Morgridge Foundation annually and students make grants to projects and programs in their school community. Students worked with the Asbury Hy-Vee and received items at cost to distribute to families, along with notes of hope. Thanks to these efforts, 50 Dubuque Senior and Hempstead families received bags of food, cleaning, and hygiene items to help them through these difficult times.

The STEM kits distributed on Wednesdays in May were big hits, too. Thanks to Ann Arnold and the High School Robotics Team, and funding from Tom Preston Werner, four types of STEM kits were distributed. The Robotics Team even made videos for families on how to assemble the kits. In total, over 1,400 kits were distributed at Hempstead and Prescott meal sites. Thank you for taking the time to produce quality activities for our students!



With students not being able to attend in-person classes, Andy and Debi Butler and Ed and Susan Butler Ritts provided funding to purchase literacy books and educational activities, along with outdoor activities, that were distributed at two school district meal sites. Families were thrilled to receive these items that brought a much-needed bright spot to their daily routines. The smiles we saw while distributing books, bubbles, and sidewalk chalk were priceless.

As we look toward students returning to school buildings, we aren't sure what immediate needs the district might encounter. The Foundation will work closely with the district to meet those needs and continue to enhance the education of the students in the public schools. We will be updating our website and sending out eblasts with funding needs as they arise. If you would like to respond to these needs, donations can be completed on our website – or please feel free to contact Amy Unmacht at 563-588-2700 or amyu@dbqfoundation.org.

ENDOWED FUNDS

John and Rebecca Burgart Fund for Dubuque Public School Libraries

Judi Chandlee Tribute to Teachers Endowed Fund

Allison Cress Endowment for Art Education Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools Endowment

Beverly R. Hodge Fund for Dubuque Public Schools

Joe and Sue Kaesbauer Memorial Scholarship

J.L. Stangeland Memorial Scholarship

Don and Jean Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Daniel J. Miller Scholarship

Sieffert Family Teacher Appreciation Fund

Ruprecht Family STEM Scholarship

Lauren Schmidt Memorial Scholarship for Nursing

Sandra L. Beisker Scholarship Fund

John Seier Memorial Fund

NON-ENDOWED FUNDS

Falb / Kendall Hunt Instrumental Music Fund

LEAP (Leadership Enrichment Afterschool Program) Fund

FDPS Project Based Learning Fund

FDPS Field Trip Fund

FDPS Education Enrichment Fund

FDPS Grants and Gifts Fund

FDPS Hempstead Class of '73 Scholarship

Chris Chapman Memorial Fund

Dubuque Community School District Scholarships

- Arthur J. Miller Social Studies Scholarship
- John D. Soley Memorial Scholarship
- Kirk D. Streauslin Memorial Scholarship
- FDPS Achieving Potential Scholarship
- Tony Becker Scholarship

GIVE TO FDPS

Please allocate my gift to:

___ FDPS Operating Fund

___ FDPS Endowment

___ Fund Name _____

(LEAP, Cress, etc.)

► Donate online at www.dbqfoundation.org/FDPS



FOUNDATION FOR DUBUQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The Positive Power of Public Schools



By Stan Rheingans
Superintendent of Schools

It seems cliché now to say that we are living in unprecedented times. Since mid-March, we have seen the world around us transform. In the midst of that change, we have also seen public schools rise to the challenge of supporting students and families.

Public schools are at the bedrock of our community, and we are thankful for the great collaboration between the district, the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools and our community partners to break down barriers and provide equitable resources to all.

STUDENT FOOD RESOURCES

At the onset of school closures in Iowa, and knowing food access for families can be limited, the district immediately began mobilizing community meal sites. Since March, these sites have served almost 111,000 meals (and almost 150,000 when combined with community partners!) with services continuing through the summer.

TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

Technology and the internet are critical to students and families, yet many in our community are without adequate access. While this equity issue cannot be addressed by the district alone, we have taken significant steps to reduce this barrier.

In addition to 3,300 district-issued computers in use by each of our high school students, we deployed over 490 laptops to middle school students without an adequate computer and purchased over 350 internet hotspots for families without internet access. The district also purchased and installed outdoor wireless access points at all 19 school buildings to provide free internet access in district parking lots.

To prepare for next year, the district is purchasing 1,900 additional tablets and laptops to support elementary instruction and be available for deployment should another school disruption occur.

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Many languages are represented across our community, and to address this potential communication barrier, the district has provided all of its updates and some educational resources in Marshallese and Spanish, our two main non-English languages. Support in 12 other languages is available upon request, and interpreters have been reaching out to English Language Learner families to enhance communication during this time.

LOOKING TO NEXT YEAR

The safety of our students and staff is at the forefront of our work. We continue to review best practices and recommendations from federal, state and local health officials regarding health and safety protocols for welcoming back students and staff.

It is still too early to know exactly what the beginning of the school year will look like, but we do know the district will be prepared to provide required, continuous learning should another disruption occur. As a district, we will develop a model that makes available three required delivery options: Fully in-person education, fully remote education and hybrid in-person/remote education. Based on best practices at the time, we pivot among these as necessary.

Regardless of what the beginning of next school year looks like, we are prepared to welcome students, address learning gaps that occurred during the extended closure, and support students' transition back to school.

As always, we will do it by putting student first – because, as public schools, that's what we do!

A Letter from Josh Weidemann

President

Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools

Our society is balanced on the edge of a seemingly insurmountable precipice. We are in the middle of a pandemic that, while slowing in some places, threatens to reignite at any moment. We also have a front row seat to the outcry over the killing of George Floyd, which has led to conversations about racial inequities and institutional racism that have plagued our country and the world for centuries. All of us at the Foundation for Public Schools hope our work assists in educating youth so they can tackle these serious issues in meaningful ways.

The question is, can we, individually and collectively, choose to climb the precipice and overcome our failures —which should inform us, but not constrain us —or retreat from the challenges presented and retrench ourselves in too familiar ways? Education has always been the bedrock of any society, but particularly just societies. Now is the time to double down by investing in our children's education.

Our youth will be the ones who continue to deal with the repercussions of this pandemic or others. They are also the ones that can help us really hear the painful stories of injustice that have occurred because someone's skin, and then help us be and do better. Now, more than ever, our schools must continue to educate all children and to meet them where they are as they live through pivotal times. We must also encourage teachers to challenge educational paradigms with the hope of empowering students to take their knowledge beyond the school walls to facilitate action.

To that end, we thank you for your past support, which has allowed students in the Dubuque Community Schools to gain knowledge and experience learning opportunities that would not have been possible without your help. We also ask for your continued support of our mission during these serious and difficult times. Together, we can scale the precipice, overcome the obstacles before us, and emerge as better individuals and a society because we have persevered through these challenges.

New board members

We are pleased to introduce our newest FDPS Board Members. The knowledge these women bring to our board will impact our public schools in many ways.



Nan Welch, educational director for Two by Two Character Development, has been involved in education for 42 years. She taught for the Dubuque Community School District in both Special and Elementary Education for 21 years. She also was principal at Prescott and Eisenhower for 15 years, and upon retirement, taught in the School of Education at UW-Platteville for three years. Nan just completed her third year at Two by Two and enjoys creating a kinder world.



Katie Stork is Creative Communications and Campaign Leader for FEH Design, an architecture, structural engineering and interior design firm in Dubuque. In her role she is responsible for branding, social media, business development and referendum campaign coordination. Katie holds a bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose University in public relations and marketing communications. A native of Galena, Illinois, she lives in Dubuque with her husband, Damian, a teacher in the Dubuque school system, and three daughters.



Carrie S. Tedore has more than three decades of marketing, communications and public relations experience, holding roles with Heartland Financial, Rainbo Oil, Diamond Jo and Peninsula Gaming, and founding Buzz Creative Group. She also has organized crisis communications plans for numerous organizations. Her passion for politics has led her to volunteer for state and national races, manage county referendums and manage city and county elections. Carrie is passionate about serving her community, serving on the Dubuque Community School District's Community Early Childhood Committee and the Vision Iowa Board. Currently, she is a United Way director and serves on the Carnegie Stout Public Library Foundation Board.



Lauren Czesinski was born and raised in Dubuque and earned her bachelor's in marketing and public relations from Loras College. Upon graduation she joined Cottingham & Butler as a benefits consultant. She also coached basketball at Hempstead High School and led the YAPPERS youth philanthropy group. Outside of work and travel, she enjoys volunteering for United Way, MercyOne Dubuque, AFP and other local organizations. Lauren attributes much of her success to the relationships and resources she had access to as a student. She looks forward to joining the FDPS Board to provide future students the same quality education and experiences she received.

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See reverse to choose an allocation for your gift.

My gift is in honor memory of:

I wish for my gift to be anonymous.

Please make checks payable to CFGD/FDPS.

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