



News & Events

FALL 2017



Community Voices...

"We are thankful to be able to introduce LLI to students in first and second grades, as these are important teaching opportunities leading up to the MSTEP."

- Kate Augustyn, Director of Special Education, GHAPS

"As parents of three kids who are six, three and one, we see first-hand how important literacy is for the success of our kids in all subjects. We are thrilled that GHSF is partnering with Grand Haven Area Public Schools to bring a new literacy program to the schools with the focus on helping first and second grade students attain the literacy requirements implemented by the State of Michigan."

- Brook & Chrystal Bisonet, GHAPS parents

"GHSF leading LLI funding efforts is another great example of GHSF supporting our young children and teachers. LLI has been requested by our teachers to give them an additional tool to provide reading intervention in the classroom—at the source. I am excited to see our community come together to assist in raising funds—success for all, takes us all,"

- Chris Streng, GHAPS parent and Grand Haven School Board Member



The Definition of an Immediate Need

GHSF has launched a year-end fundraising campaign for a new literacy program for first and second grade students in the district.

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is the program of choice for GHAPS administrators and teachers who are facing drastic changes in State of Michigan testing requirements, including the Michigan Student Test of Education Progress (MSTEP). The new testing requires three reading assessments during the third grade school year, and students who demonstrate reading deficiencies must be provided with an individual reading improvement plan (IRP) or intervention. Based on 2016 scores, nearly 900 GHAPS students will need a reading intervention. Next year, students who do not receive a reading score that is less than one grade behind will not be able to be enrolled in fourth grade. Leveled Literacy Intervention was selected because it equips teachers, in the classroom setting, to address the needs of students who need intensive support.

The fundraising campaign will take place between October 1 and December 31, 2017. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$50,000 which will completely offset the expense of the first and second grade portions of the literacy program. The program will be introduced in time to help students this year and next, as testing changes begin. Honoring their commitment to fully fund preschool scholarships first, GHSF will designate donations to their "Immediate Needs" fund for literacy intervention in 2017. The timing and compelling nature of this programming for GHAPS students makes it the definition of an immediate need.

Please consider making a gift this season that will provide a lifelong impact for our children. Equipping a child to read—and read well—is one of the greatest gifts a school system can provide. Pooling our resources as a district, we can make a measurable difference in our community's future. Let's care to get them there.

Your Support is Changing Lives

For nearly ten years, GHSF has had a strategic focus on funding preschool scholarships for students who might not otherwise be able to afford this critical piece of education. Each year, the State of Michigan funds the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) and Head Start, two programs aimed at providing free access to preschool for economically disadvantaged families. As with any government funded program, the support of Great Start and Head Start ebbs and flows depending on state resources. Each year, GHSF provides scholarships to an average of seventy students beyond the number of spots provided by these programs. GHSF continues to be strategically focused on filling the gap so that all students are able to attend preschool.



Recently, the West Michigan Talent Triangle reported that students who engaged in GSRP preschool programs outperformed their peers by roughly 19% in reading and 16% in math. Furthermore, these students outperformed all Michigan students whom less than half qualify as economically disadvantaged by roughly 2% in reading and 1.3% in math. The provision of preschool education is setting these kids up for success!

Students who receive GHSF scholarships fit the same economic profile as GSRP students, and Grand Haven Area Public Schools data demonstrates similar and/or better results in terms of the educational progress of students who receive scholarships.

Thank you to the community members who make this wonderful impact possible by investing in a lifetime of success for our kids!

Lou Lou's Story

Lucille "Lou Lou" Neumann began her preschool adventure this year in the Rosy Mound Preschool Development Program. Her favorite parts of her school day are seeing her cousin who attends the same school, playing outside, and enjoying the toy kitchen in her classroom. Lou Lou received a scholarship to attend preschool that was funded through the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. Recently, Lou Lou's parents had another child, Natalia, who was born with health issues and has been receiving care at Devos Children's Hospital. The scholarship Lou Lou received made preschool affordable for her parents amidst the unexpected health crisis. Lou Lou is flourishing in her class and gaining confidence, friendships, and early learning skills each day.



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GHSF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Tri-Cities youth with critical early learning opportunities. Its endowment fund is held at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.