



Summer 2023

President's Pen

Brandon Reame, GHSF President



It's hard to believe that the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) will be celebrating its 30th year as a nonprofit organization next year. A small group of dedicated community members started the Foundation to help support a first-class education for the students of Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS), and address any gaps in learning.

During the past three decades, your Foundation has made an incredible impact on thousands of students and their families, and the trajectory of this incredible Foundation is more promising than ever.

Last year, we completed a 5 year strategic plan and quickly transitioned into implementation mode. We added five new members to our board during the 2022-2023 school year, resulting in a dynamic group of committed, focused, and talented collaborators. A refreshed brand that better communicates our vision and mission is rolling out during the next few months. You may have noticed the new logo on this newsletter. We have an incredible team working together to lay the groundwork required to do our most important work yet, which is to help support a quality education for our students.

During the past academic year, the Grand Haven Schools Foundation has provided nearly \$99,800 in grants to support a variety of meaningful initiatives. For example, 40% of students attending the GHAPS Preschool Development Program received full tuition scholarships from the Foundation. We also supported large grant initiatives related to math recovery training, math manipulatives, and decodable books for our early elementary students to help address learning gaps in math and reading. For the first time, the Foundation has increased its support to include Pre-K

through 12th grade initiatives. This was achieved through our new GHSF Mini Grant Program, which allows teachers and staff to apply for \$500 mini grants to support learning opportunities in the areas of Math, Reading, Behavioral Tools and STEM.

THANK YOU for your generous contributions and support of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. The needs continue to be great and we appreciate your partnership in helping to support a quality education for area students. Please consider donating to our Endowment Fund to ensure we will have resources available to fund these important initiatives for decades to come. If you prefer to support our Immediate Needs Fund it allows us to stay flexible and support funding requests within the next year. Please visit GHSF.org/DONATE to help support area students.





GHSF Builds Strategic Plan with a Growth Mindset

The Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) embarked on developing a strategic plan last year with the help of an outside facilitator from do good Consulting, a local organization who helps non-profits thrive. The GHSF team, made up of the board of directors and the Executive Director, identified four main goals for the Foundation to focus on in the coming years. Each goal was developed with an eye on how the Foundation could grow, raise awareness and increase the number of students impacted in Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS).

The team has been busy implementing many of the goals and objectives this school year and has recently embarked on a brand refresh in order to better align the Foundation with its vision and mission. Below is just a brief look at our four strategic goals.

Our VISION:

To support academic readiness, lifetime learning and success for all.

Our MISSION:

To support a quality education for students through funding initiatives that help empower learning.

Our VALUES:

Engage. Educate. Empower.

Our GOALS:

<p>Communications & Community Outreach</p> <p>Develop a systematic, coordinated communications plan to establish and improve Foundation visibility and awareness across our service region.</p>	<p>Grants & Programs</p> <p>Curate a comprehensive and responsive set of criteria to evaluate and fund our mission.</p>
<p>Human Assets</p> <p>Develop and maintain a strong, diversified high-functioning team of staff, board members, committees, and volunteers.</p>	<p>Fund Raising & Development</p> <p>Cultivate a comprehensive and diversified development program.</p>

The Foundation is also excited to introduce its NEW logo which aligns with the GHAPS logo and shows our continued engagement and support of area students.



While the logo is just one aspect of the brand refresh project, the Grand Haven Schools Foundation is excited to be working with Design Force Marketing, a local design firm, on refreshing our website. We are excited to share our new website with you later this summer at GHSF.org. Stay Tuned!



Welcome to the Board of Directors

New Members (2022-2023)

The Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) is excited to announce the addition of five new board members during the 2022-2023 school year.

Amy Dalman joined the Foundation in the Fall of 2022. Amy brings a wealth of knowledge of early childhood development from her current role as the Director of Community Education at the Children's Advocacy Center of Ottawa County. Chris Streng joined the Foundation in January and brings his passion for service and board experiences to GHSF and is the Vice President of the Grand Haven Area Public Schools Board of Education.

In March 2023, the Foundation welcomed three additional members including; Megan Akselberg, Christine Bleicher and Alison Spiewak. Megan brings her passion of helping others and her philanthropy background as Stewardship and Donor Relations Officer at Trinity Health Muskegon. Christine is a local Freelance Editor who brings her writing, strategic planning and fund development background to the board. Alison is a Media Assistant at Grand Haven Area Public Schools and devotes her time impacting children at both Peach Plains and Griffin Elementary.

Welcome to each of these incredible individuals who are devoted to making an impact for area students.





Amy Dalman



Chris Streng



Megan Akselberg



Christine Bleicher



Alison Spiewak

Officers:

Brandon Reame – President
Chris Van Schoick – Vice President
Denise Stone – Treasurer
Mary Jane Evink – Secretary

Directors:

Megan Akselberg
Christine Bleicher
Amy Dalman
Alison Spiewak
Chris Streng
Nikki Tiefenbach
Heather Walsh

Emeritus Board Chairperson:

Lana Jacobson

Executive Director:

Susan Bays

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Grand Haven, MI 49417
GHSF.org
(616) 850-5066

Preschool Spotlight



GHSF Celebrates Kate Augustyn's Preschool Influence

The Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) has a proud history of supporting preschool by promoting early education for all children and providing scholarships to families in need. This philanthropic choice is intentional. Not only does research show preschool makes a significant impact on school readiness, but it also predicts life-long success in education, careers, and relationships.

Kate's passion for early childhood education is rooted in the delight of teaching the basic building blocks of learning and socialization. "I want children to love learning and to believe school is fun," Kate shared.



Additionally, if challenges of learning can be detected early on, there is an opportunity to address them and have the greatest impact for intervention and remediation.

Once Kate landed in the Grand Haven Area Public Schools Special Education office, she worked in partnership with Lana Jacobson, Emeritus Board Chair of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. In the formative years of the Foundation, the primary mission was to make preschool accessible to all families. Together they grew the GHSF endowment, and increased awareness and programming for three- and four-year old children. Under Kate's leadership, Grand Haven Area Public Schools transformed the preschool program from a daycare to a comprehensive preschool, with research-based curriculum and teachers who specialize in early education. Congratulations to Kate Augustyn on her retirement and a job well done!

Kate Augustyn, Special Education Director at Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS), will retire in June of 2023, leaving a legacy with preschool and early childhood education. **Under Kate's service, the Grand Haven Schools Foundation has funded nearly 800 full tuition preschool scholarships since 2005.**

Kate has been an advocate for preschool education all of her professional life. She received a Bachelor's degree in Music and Education, and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. During a practicum at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, she co-facilitated the opening of Tuesday's Child, an organization which provides training for parents of preschool children. This organizational model was successful and grew quickly. Kate explains, "My experience provided clarity about the importance of developmentally-appropriate preschool and the positive impact it has on a child, a family, and a community."

If you would like to enroll your child in the GHAPS Preschool Development Program, please call (616) 850-6825. If you wish to inquire about a preschool scholarship, visit [GHSF.org/APPLY](https://www.ghsf.org/APPLY).

TOGETHER

let's make a difference.

YOUR support will directly impact PreK through 12th grade students of Grand Haven Area Public Schools in the following ways:

- **Increase the number of preschool scholarships** available for three- and four-year old children most in need. The Foundation is committed to helping our youngest children have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of having a strong start to their education.
- **Increase the number of Teacher Mini Grants** available for area staff to support student learning in the areas of Math, Reading, Behavioral Tools and STEM. The Foundation funded half of the requested funds last year during the first year this program was offered. With YOUR support we can fund more initiatives next year!
- **Support the New Teacher Classroom Library Grant Program** (K-6th grade). A small grant awarded to help new teachers build their classroom libraries. Often new teachers do not have the same resources as seasoned staff.
- **Support Field Trip Grants** for our Title One schools. The Foundation is helping to support experiential learning experiences outside the classroom for students who otherwise would not be afforded the opportunity.

It's easy to give.

Mail check:

Grand Haven Schools Foundation
PO Box 272
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Visit Online: ghsf.org/DONATE



Consider a \$1,500 donation to support sending one child to preschool for a year.



Thank you Donors!
(FY 2022-2023)

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*deceased





SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 14, 2023

5pm - 8pm

D Baker & Son Lumber | 720 Pennoyer Ave | Grand Haven, MI

ART AT THE YARD 2023

Featuring local artists, a live band and cash bar.
Proceeds benefit the Grand Haven Schools Foundation



THANK YOU to last year's Art at the Yard supporters!

Summer 2023

Grand Haven Schools Foundation

Surprises Local Teachers with

\$42,000 in Granted Wishes



The Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) surprised Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS) staff and teachers at celebrations across the district this spring. GHSF board members arrived in pairs at 10 of the district's campuses with certificates and giant checks to announce \$42,000 in grant awards.

In total, the GHSF has provided more than \$99,800 in grants and preschool scholarships this school year, increasing its financial impact on initiatives that directly improve academic readiness and success for all.

In the fall, the GHSF surprised each of the district's 11 new K-6 teachers with a \$500 grant to begin building their classroom library. Title I elementary schools Mary A. White, Ferry, Griffin and Lake Hills, each received \$2,000 to bolster their field trip fund. This is the second year these grants were made possible by the Grand Haven Schools Foundation.

"We are forever grateful for our supporters," says GHSF Executive Director Susan Bays. "Their generosity is directly impacting important, quality initiatives that benefit students and empower learning. We've been working hard to expand our reach and as the endowment grows, we want our impact to grow as well."

For the first time, the GHSF used an application process to award mini grants of up to \$500 to teachers and staff in all grades. This is an expansion of last year's preK-4 grant funding. Over \$11,500 in mini-grant funding will back specific teacher requests in math support, reading, books, behavioral incentives, STEM materials and more.

The GHSF also announced several larger grants to support a variety of district needs. "Collaborating with principals and instructional coaches, we were able to identify some important common requests," says GHAPS Curriculum Director Mary Jane Evink. "We appreciate how mindful the foundation is about using their resources in ways that directly benefit Grand Haven students." Among them are decodable books for early-elementary classrooms, math recovery professional development, and hands-on math manipulatives for elementary classrooms.

Full-tuition preschool scholarships represent a significant portion of the foundation's giving, making high-quality preschool available to nearly 800 families since 2005. "Quality preschool programs improve kindergarten readiness and set these young learners up for success from the start," Bays explains. This year, the GHSF awarded more than \$43,000 in tuition scholarships, allowing 31 preschoolers to attend the GHAPS Preschool Development Program despite financial barriers.



The Grand Haven Schools Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports a quality education for students through funding initiatives that empower learning. The GHSF supports academic readiness, lifetime learning and success for all. To learn more, apply for a preschool scholarship or become a donor, please visit GHSF.org.





Celebrating Our New Inductees



The GHHS Hall of Fame, hosted by the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF), was established in 2008 to help shine a light on the many accomplishments of Grand Haven alumni, as well as those in our community who have provided exceptional service to Grand Haven Area Public Schools.

Last November, the 2022 GHHS Hall of Fame class was recognized and celebrated at an awards ceremony held at the Spring Lake Country Club, led by our Master of Ceremonies, Chris Streng.

Congratulations to our 12 inductees, honored in five different categories, including the following individuals/teams:

Cultural/Performing Arts:

Derek DeYoung '99
Paul Trap '80

Athletic Achievement:

Rebecca Addison '09
2010 Girls Cross Country Team
Douglas Poort* '56
John Sluka '61

Career/Academic Accomplishments:

John Beernink, M.D. '57
Brent Jackson '97

Service to GHAPS/Society:

Brent Boyink* '58
Leon Stille '57



Thank you to our GHHS Hall of Fame Sponsors:



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 Budd & Melinda Brink

Honorary Award for Service to GHAPS:

Robert Monetza
Randy Poel

Prior to the awards ceremony Tracy Wilson, GHHS Principal, provided a tour of the high school for the inductees. A special visit was arranged when "Bucco" surprised Paul Trap, cartoonist and creator of the GHHS Bucco mascot.

Proceeds from the Hall of Fame help support the Grand Haven Schools Foundation's mission to support a quality education for area students by funding initiatives that help empower learning. GHSF has had a strategic focus of providing preschool scholarships to area three- and four-year olds since 2005, and has funded nearly 800 scholarships since that time.

As the Foundation's largest fundraiser, we thank our supporters of the GHHS Hall of Fame. Through generous donations, YOUR support is appreciated and continues to make a difference for students in our community!

To learn more about the 2022 GHHS Hall of Fame inductees, or to nominate an individual or team for the next Hall of Fame, please visit GHSF.org.

