

# AN IMPACTFUL YEAR

**Thanks to you**, the Dickinson Public Schools Foundation was able to accomplish amazing work to enrich education in the Dickinson Public Schools.

## 5 **AMAZING THINGS YOU HELPED MAKE POSSIBLE:**

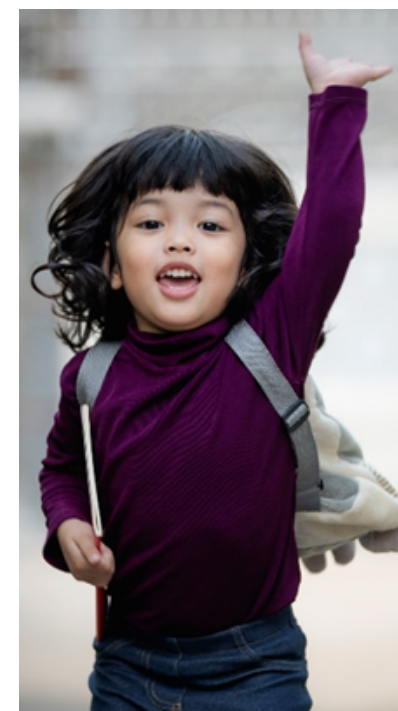
**Grant Program** - \$45,000 in grants to enrich education impacting 100% of our students.

**Scholarships** - \$4,500 in scholarships to help DHS students at the next level.

**Sponsorships** - \$2,500 in sponsorships to help students that qualified for national competitions.

**Support for classroom teachers** - \$50,000 for classroom resources and supplies for teachers through Gallons of Gratitude Program.

**Labs** - \$10,000 grant to help an elementary STEM lab.



## *Imagine*

**WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT  
YEAR WITH YOUR HELP?**





## Our Mission

“to provide private, financial support to enrich the quality of education in the Dickinson Public Schools.”

## DPS Foundation Grant Focus Areas



## Meet our Board of Directors

Leslie Ross, President  
Kris Fehr, Vice president  
Christina Wenko, Secretary  
Mike Parke, Treasurer

Bob Allan  
Jay Bleth  
Donna Fleming  
Garrett Nodland  
Dr. Rena Nordeng Zimmermann  
Dr. Marcus Lewton, Ex Officio



## Meet our Staff

Karen Heidt, Director of Development  
Marisa Riesinger, Director of Marketing

## Communication Boards

### A Story of Creating Connections

Imagine you are at a gathering. People are talking and laughing. They are sharing food, telling stories, and learning about each other. You are excited to join in and add to the conversation so you approach a group. As everyone turns to welcome you, words escape you. People stare in anticipation for you to say something, but you can't. You can't verbalize your thoughts. You can't express all of the things you want to say. Now imagine you are a child experiencing this. Wouldn't we do everything to help this child?

DPS school psychologists said, “Yes, we will help!” when they applied for a grant for elementary school playground communication boards. The boards are visual aids that provide a means of expression for students who may have difficulty with verbal communication. It consists of symbols, pictures, or words that students can point to or touch to convey their thoughts, needs, or emotions. These boards give *every* child a way to connect with others because we know *every* child's well-being matters.

School psychologist Amber Fridley shares, “This innovative tool is designed to enhance communication and interaction among our students, benefiting all, including those who may communicate in other ways than just using their voice. It is a vital resource for students with diverse abilities and communication styles. The communication board benefits all of our students!”



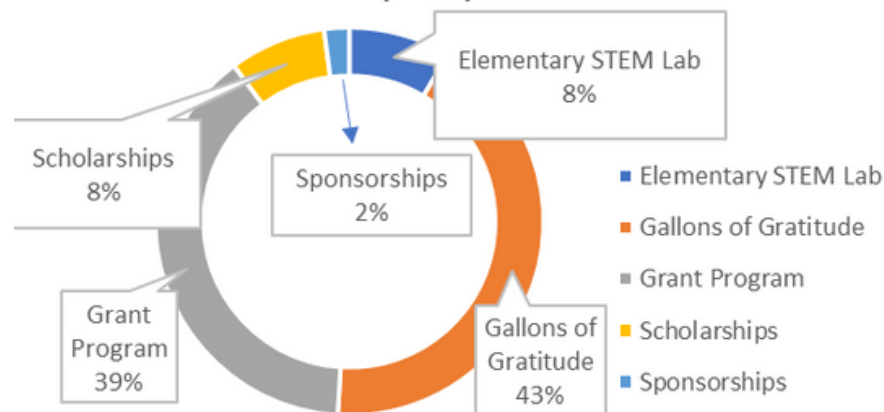
## Communication Boards are Learning Tools for ALL

The communication boards promote natural play, friendship, cooperation, motivation, collaboration, and even safety by allowing all students to engage in meaningful interactions with peers and adults, regardless of their communication abilities.



## 2022-23 Impact from our Programs

### 2022-2023 DPS Foundation Programs - \$118,013



**Thank You, Community Partners,**  
for investing in our students and our schools.



Tri Energy Cooperative (Cenex) for the Gallons of Gratitude program for classroom teachers.



American Foundation for Wildlife through the Southside Saloon which was used to help fund an elementary school STEM lab.

Mrs. Jan Fields Education Scholarship - \$14,000 was raised for this scholarship. Thank you AD PEO group and other donors!

DHS Class of 1973 - \$2,500 donation

Dickinson Public Schools employees Payroll Deduction Program for our grant program.



## 2022-23 Grant Programs

### Regular Grants

In January 2023, the DPS Foundation Board approved \$47,445 in regular grant awards.

### Grants approved include:

District-wide 5th Grade Career Day, Civics and Citizenship class at the Adult Learning Center, Breathe for Change Yoga Training at DHS, Communication Boards for all elementary playgrounds, Bookworm Vending Machine at Berg Elementary, District-wide Family Code Night, and Professional Development for Library Media Specialists.



**Mini Grants** – Over \$10,000 was approved throughout the year for mini-grants under \$500. Grants included STEM, speech and language, Literacy for Diverse Readers, Career Day & Career Readiness, books, professional development, Peer to Peer trip assistance, Literacy Carnival, Texas Waterfowl Brigade Comes to North Dakota, Gateway to Science, World Drumming training, Farm to Table Lab Activities and more.



### Texas Waterfall Brigade

Elisa Kensinger, DHS science teacher, and her daughter, Josie, attended the Waterfowl Brigade-Texas Brigade camp in July at Pintail Hunting Club in Garwood, TX. They will be hosting a ND Waterfowl Brigade at the Washburn 4H camp next summer for young people ages 13-17 interested in learning about leadership and wildlife.

# Dickinson Adult Learning Center

## Citizenship and Civics Grant

The Dickinson Adult Learning Center (DALC) received a grant from the Dickinson Public Schools Foundation to provide materials to start a Citizenship and Civics course so their students could learn more about American history, understand how our democracy works, and help them prepare for the U.S. Citizenship interview.

DALC participants took a big yellow bus to Bismarck last spring. They toured the North Dakota State Capitol, met Governor Burgum, and had lunch with and senators and representatives. They also visited the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.

*"The visit to the Capital was very interesting because I got to see where they make the important decisions for our State. But the most important thing was the intention they had with us." reported one ALC participant.*

This trip was the first step in creating a Citizenship and Civics class for DALC learners. "Hands-on learning is often the best kind of learning," stated Lindy Obach, DALC instructor who developed the course. The class started this fall on Thursday evenings. They currently have 10 students from countries including Sri Lanka, Haiti, Guatemala, and Mexico. In class, students are learning about U.S. History and Civics, N-400 Vocabulary, and Citizenship interview skills. "The students are doing great!" reported Lindy.



# 2023 Scholarships - \$4,500

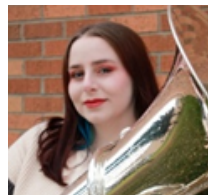
**The Dickinson Public Schools Foundation currently manages six scholarships. Contact Karen Heidt for more information if you are interested in setting up a scholarship.**



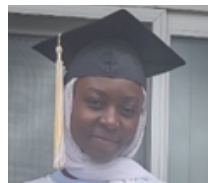
**Jack Carlson Memorial Scholarship** - Benett Carlson was awarded the Jack Carlson Memorial Scholarship. He is attending DSU this fall and plans to go into dentistry.



**Michael Callahan Hockey Scholarship** - Taj Blauer was awarded the Michael Callahan Hockey Scholarship. Taj is attending the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities and pursuing a degree in Product Design.



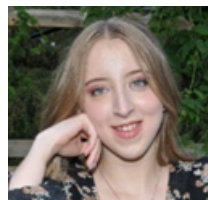
**Ruth Lenz Memorial Music Scholarship** - Elizabeth Keene was the recipient of the Ruth Lenz Memorial Music Scholarship. She is attending the University of North Dakota and majoring in music education.



**Rewarding Kindness Scholarship** - Moucheffa Batcha was awarded the Rewarding Kindness Scholarship. Moucheffa is attending DSU for Biology. She wants to be a pediatrician.



**Fong Family Trust Scholarship** - Hunter Moreno was awarded the Fong Family Trust Scholarship. He is attending the North Dakota State College of Science and enrolled in their Butler Machinery diesel program.



**Mrs. Jan Fields Education Scholarship** - Heather Cabral was awarded the Mrs. Jan Fields Education Scholarship. She is attending DSU and majoring in elementary education. This is the first year of the Mrs. Fields Education Scholarship.

## 2023 Sponsorships - \$2,500

**The DPS Foundation helps students that qualify to compete in national competitions.**

- DHS Roughrider Career Academy, Skills USA National Competition in Atlanta, GA, 6 students qualified.
- Kiera Mavity, National High School Rodeo, Gillette, WY
- Amy Fridley, Developmental Program National Championships for USA Gymnastics, Oklahoma City, OK
- National History Days National, University of Maryland, 7 DMS students qualified.
- Leighton Weigel, National Math Counts, Orlando, FL
- DHS TSA Video Game Design, TSA Nationals, Louisville, KY



## Supporting our Teachers & Staff



The DPS Foundation partnered with Tri-Energy Cooperative (Cenex) to manage the purchase of classroom supplies for

DPS-certified staff. Tri-Energy Cooperative donated \$37,000 through their Gallons of Gratitude program. Every certified staff received up to \$105 for classroom resources and new classroom teachers received an additional \$120 this year. We are very grateful for the support of Tri Energy Cooperative. A percentage of every gallon of gas that is purchased is directed towards the Gallons of Gratitude program for classroom teachers. They have donated \$131,000 over the past three years.



### Coffee for Staff during American Education Week

We purchased coffee for all DPS staff in November to thank them and show our support.

## DPS Foundation Welcomes Dr. Rena Nordeng Zimmermann



Dr. Rena Nordeng Zimmermann was recently elected to serve a three-year term on the DPS Foundation Board. She is married to Dr. Ryan Zimmermann and they have three children who are enrolled in the Dickinson Public Schools. She grew up in Watford City.

Dr. Nordeng is a local physician who strongly values education in the public school setting. She understands and appreciates the value of all avenues of education, including conventional and unconventional learners. Welcome to the Foundation, Dr. Rena Nordeng!

## For more information about the Dickinson Public Schools Foundation

**Karen Heidt**

**Director of Development**

701-590-0495

kheidt@dpsnd.org

**Marisa Riesinger**

**Director of Marketing**

701-290-7732

mriesinger@dpsnd.org



Dickinson Public Schools Foundation, Inc.  
444 4th St. West (mailing address),  
138 3rd Ave West (physical address)  
Dickinson ND 58601



[www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/dps-entities/foundation](http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/dps-entities/foundation)



Dickinson Public Schools Foundation





# DHS Alumni News

## DHS Class of 1973 Celebrates 50 Year Reunion in Style



The DHS Class of 1973 went all out to celebrate their 50-year reunion on June 30 and July 1. They had a gathering at the Veteran's Pavilion on Friday evening, a float in the Roughrider Parade followed by lunch and a tour of Dickinson High School on Saturday which was hosted by the DPS Foundation.



Brad Fong and Donna Havelka, from the DHS Class of 1973 presented the Foundation with a check for \$2,500 from their class at the September 7 Foundation meeting to enrich education in the Dickinson Public Schools.

## 2023 Dickinson High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Kerry Meske, Chad Oukrop, Dana Fisher Glick, Micah Malloy, Joe Hanstad, and Loyalty Award – Dickinson State University were inducted into the 2023 DHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Inductees were announced and introduced on September 28 at the DHS Homecoming football game. An induction ceremony was held at Dickinson Middle School on Saturday morning. Congratulations!



Left to right: Kerry Meske, Joe Hanstad, Dana Fisher Glick, and Ty Orton (representing DSU)

# Thank You for Your Support!

Karen Heidt, Director of Development

On behalf of the DPS Foundation, I want to thank you for your support of the Foundation. I have had the privilege of working for the Foundation as the Director of Development the past 20 years. It has been so exciting to see how the Foundation has grown and all of the projects that we have funded, thanks to you, our donors. We are very blessed to live in such a caring and supportive community. The Foundation is definitely meeting its mission, to enrich education in the Dickinson Public Schools.



The Foundation was recently notified that we are the recipient of a Planned Giving gift thanks to a former Dickinson Public Schools employee. Alvin Chalupnik worked in our media center and as a custodian at Roosevelt Elementary. He passed away this spring. Thanks to his preplanning, he will be leaving a legacy in the Dickinson Public Schools. More information will be released at a future date.



**Will you join us by investing in our schools?  
Give Today, CHANGE tomorrow.**

**Donate today or on #Giving Tuesday, November 28.**

Enclosed is my donation. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: DPS Foundation, Inc.,

444 4th St. West, Dickinson, ND 58601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



\*Or donate online at [www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/dps-entities/foundation](http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/dps-entities/foundation)