Excellence in Education



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Cover Photo

The cover features the playground at Longfellow Elementary School, the first inclusive playground of its kind in Great Falls. Funding for this project came from the Grey Family Foundation and D.A. Davidson Companies.

Photo credit: Larry Beckner



Drew Blewett Board Chair

Greetings from your Board Chair

It has now been almost a full calendar year since Stephanie Schnider officially took over as executive director of the Foundation, and she has not missed a beat as the Foundation continues to enhance highquality teaching and life-long learning for students in our public schools. There is no question she benefitted tremendously from having the opportunity to work alongside past executive director, Dave Crum, given she has made a seamless transition in leading the Foundation.

As always, I would like to first thank our donors who graciously continue to support the Foundation's efforts in this community. The Foundation's success depends on the generosity of our donors, and it is obvious, based on the consistent support we receive, that this community cares deeply about its public schools. I would also like to commend our Foundation staff and board members who work diligently to ensure the Foundation is successfully carrying out its mission of enhancing public education in Great Falls.

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and the generosity of the Oakland family and City Motor Company, the truck raffle had a record-breaking year, raising over \$160,000 for education in our public schools (see article on Page 19). As of this academic year, over \$1 million has been awarded in teacher grants since 2011. Fifteen new scholarships were established this year for graduating seniors, which is more than has been established in any previous year. One such scholarship was funded through a generous estate gift from the D.W. Loney Trust. These funds will also go toward a facility improvement project at Memorial Stadium. Learn more about Bill Loney and how his gift has been put to use on Page 22.

The future is bright, and with the strength of our Board and through Stephanie's fine leadership, I am very confident the Foundation's positive impact on public education in Great Falls will only increase as we work our way through 2022 and beyond.



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Mission Statement

The mission of the GFPS Foundation is to enhance high-quality teaching and lifelong learning for students in Great Falls Public Schools by funding innovative educational programs and scholarships.

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2022 Excellence in Education Honorees

Teachers are the key foundation to student learning and success. Since 2012, Great Falls Public Schools Foundation has celebrated the influence of teachers and the dedication of students through its Excellence in Education program.

Top-rated graduating seniors, recognized as distinguished scholars, each have the opportunity to select one educator from kindergarten through 8th grade and one from high school who made a significant difference in their learning experience. These educators often fill the traditional role of classroom teachers, but students may also select school counselors, coaches, or administrators who positively impacted them.

Distinguished Scholars from C.M. Russell and Great Falls High Schools were selected based on academic achievement, GPA, and rigorous coursework. Distinguished Scholars from Paris Gibson Education Center were selected by teachers, counselors, and administrators based on academic achievement, leadership, service, and successfully overcoming obstacles.

The Foundation is pleased to honor this year's selection of 33 distinguished scholars and the 66 distinguished educators who helped to support, mentor, and challenge them to be the best they can be.

C.M. Russell High School

Student: Hannah Bingham Teachers: Jessica Goosen and Holly Molyneaux

Parents: Jonathan and Nola Bingham

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences include competing in cross country and tennis, playing the French horn in multiple ensembles, participating in Business Professionals of America, cheering on my fellow Rustlers at sporting events, and the friendships I made.

Plans after high school: I plan to study political science and finance at a Jesuit university on the east coast to pursue a career in public service.

Distinguished Educator: Jessica Goosen, Accounting

School: CMR High School

Why: In 2020 Mrs. Goosen convinced me to join BPA,

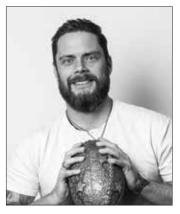
for which she is the advisor. While the professional skills she taught me are invaluable, it was her devotion, kindness, and concern for both me and her other students in and out of the classroom that demonstrated how much she cares for our futures.

Distinguished Educator: Holly Molyneaux, Music

School: Meadow Lark Elementary

Why: I never intended on music becoming such a dominant force during high school, but Mrs. Molyneaux's early encouragement motivated me to participate in youth orchestra, District Solo Festival, and All-State auditions. She shaped my love for the French horn. I want to continue creating music for the rest of my life.

Sorrusten Serves as Guest Speaker



Excellence Event Speaker Dane Sorrusten

The Foundation welcomed back 1997 C.M. Russell High School graduate Dane Sorrusten as the guest speaker for Excellence in Education 2022. Storrusten recently received an Emmy Award for his creative work on the NFL's 100th Anniversary marketing campaign. He currently lives in L.A. with his wife and three children.



Student: Robin Blair Teachers: Lynn Ryan and Jean Falcon

Parents: Scott and Katie Blair

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences include participating in homecoming festivities, soccer and swimming. I had fun playing soccer all around the state and at crosstown. I was also lucky to be a part of the amazing swim program and to win two second-place trophies.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and study biology. I plan to be on the pre-med track and continue to play soccer.

Distinguished Educator: Lynn Ryan, Choir

School: CMR High School

Why: Mrs. Ryan taught me so much more than being a better singer and sight reader. She has three kids, is working on her doctorate, and is still an amazing teacher. Her ability to balance all these things is inspiring and shows me that if I put my mind to it, I can do anything.

Distinguished Educator: Jean Falcon, Science

School: North Middle School

Why: Mrs. Falcon pushed me to be my very best. She held me to a high standard, which helped me succeed. When I was frustrated, she never let me quit and helped me see projects through to the end.

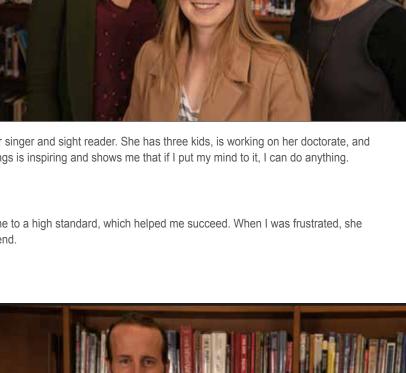
Student: Ashton Blake Teachers: Brian Halverson and Penny Cooper

Parents: Rodney and Anamarie Blake

Memorable experiences: My most fond memory is competing on CMR's State Principal's Cup team during my freshman year. We lost every one of our preliminary rounds but managed to pull ourselves together and defeat the top-seeded team. We ended up taking second overall in this academic bowl!

Plans after high school: After a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I will attend Brigham Young University to major in political science, history, or economics. Later I plan to attend the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU and practice law before I seek one of my greatest ambitions - running for state or national legislative office.

Distinguished Educator: Brian Halverson, AP Government and AP Economics





Distinguished Educator: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Halverson is a brilliant educator. His unique teaching style reshaped how I think about the world and further empowered my goals to run for public office one day. His kindness and consideration show that he genuinely cares about his students' success. I am so grateful to know him.

Distinguished Educator: Penny Cooper, 6th grade English Language Arts (retired)

School: Meadow Lark Elementary

Why: Mrs. Cooper was such a kind, caring teacher. Often with a smile on her face, she would go above and beyond in helping her students learn. I enjoyed her class because she really encouraged her students to read and write well, skills that have blessed me for the rest of my time in public schooling.



Student: Natalie Bosley Teachers: Danielle Stark and Kerry Otto

Parents: Kurt and April Bosley

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experience was winning the volleyball state championship this year. Nothing will compare to the moment when the final whistle blew and we all dropped to the ground. I am incredibly blessed for the opportunity to play the game I love with the girls I love.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University. I do not know what I am majoring in yet. I have decided to just ride the wave and see where life takes me.

Distinguished Educator: Danielle Stark, Culinary Arts

School: CMR High School

Why: Mrs. Stark not only is an excellent culinary teacher but just a wonderful human being all around. She has such a fun and inviting personality, and I look forward to her class every day. It is obvious she loves and cares for her students, and I am so grateful for her.

Distinguished Educator: Kerry Otto, Connections

School: North Middle School

Why: I never had Mrs. Otto as a math teacher, but was lucky to have her for Connections in 8th grade. One day I came to school crying after I found out my dog had cancer. Mrs. Otto was so sweet and caring. The next week she gave me a card and told me she was thinking about me. I still have the card. That act of kindness meant so much to me and is something I will never forget.

Student: Jackson Crook Teachers: Erica Davis and Jordan Hollern

Parents: Shawn and Jayne Crook

Memorable experiences: One of my most memorable experiences was participating in the Principal's Cup. It is an academic bowl near Great Falls where you spend a day with your friends competing for the grand prize. It's always a blast!

Plans after high school: I plan to attend an out-ofstate college and study electrical engineering.

Distinguished Educator: Erica Davis, French

School: CMR High School

Why: Madame Davis has one of the most interesting classes at CMR. If not for COVID, I would have gone with her and other students on a trip to France. It's sad that I couldn't go, but I still had plenty of wonderful experiences in French class.

Distinguished Educator: Jordan Hollern, Physics

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Hollern's projects provided some of the most memorable experiences I had in school. His class is always fun and informative. There is never a dull moment in physics.





Student: Jacklyn Fatz Teachers: Christi Virts and Brian Dues

Parents: Colton and Karalee Fatz

Memorable experiences: My most memorable high school experience is a health science interning class I took as a senior. I had an incredible opportunity to shadow a local dentist that inspired me to pursue a career in dentistry.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend the University of Montana as a pre-dentistry student. I hope to be accepted into dental school after I graduate college to continue my education in dentistry.

Distinguished Educator: Christi Virts, Health Science

School: CMR High School

Why: She not only taught me valuable lessons in

the classroom and in HOSA club, but she is a role model to me. I know she has touched many lives by preaching positivity and making learning fun. She inspired me to go into the medical field, where I can positively impact others' lives.

Distinguished Educator: Brian Dues, History

School: North Middle School

Why: The relationships he builds with all his students are unforgettable. He pushed me to come out of my shell and become more outgoing. Five years later, I know that anyone who sat through his class could walk back into his classroom and feel welcome.

Student: Jadan Garner Teachers: Laura Rawlins and Stephanie Olson

Parents: Shannon and Lindy Garner

Memorable experiences: My favorite high school memories include homecoming week with all the activities and school spirit, watching the crosstown games, and being one of four officers for the CMR HOSA chapter. I will always appreciate these experiences and making lifelong friends.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend the University of Montana for the study of communicative sciences and disorders, with the goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist.

Distinguished Educator: Laura Rawlins, Honors Statistics

School: CMR High School

Why: After meeting Mrs. Rawlins this year, I quickly began to enjoy her class. Math is not my favorite subject, but the way she teaches is amazing. She works to make sure all students understand. Thanks to her great techniques, I learned a lot in rigorous courses like statistics.

Distinguished Educator: Stephanie Olson, 3rd grade

School: Chief Joseph Elementary

Why: Mrs. Olson and I were both new to this school when I started 3rd grade. It was a frightening experience. Immediately I had the feeling that she was someone I could go to while trying to learn how to adjust. I am very thankful for her. She has a very special heart and cares about her students while pushing them to learn and grow.





Student: Madeline Hamma Teachers: Burke Allen and Stacie Skawinski

Parents: Jason and Tammy Hamma

Memorable experiences: I enjoyed forming bonds with my peers, as many of us were in the same upperlevel classes. I enjoyed watching football games, playing both softball and basketball, and dressing up for theme days and sports theme days. It's amusing to dress in comical outfits with your friends.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend either the University of Washington or University of Colorado Boulder. I will pursue a master's degree in astronautical engineering, with a concentration in spacecraft design and construction. I'll minor in astrophysical and planetary sciences. My career goal is to work at NASA.

Distinguished Educator: Burke Allen, AP United States History

School: CMR High School



Why: Mr. Allen's class was the first history class that pushed me out of my comfort zone. He taught me superb studying and writing skills that I will take with me to college. Also, he was aware of my test anxiety and let me learn and work through test-taking options to get the best results. He asks thought-provoking questions that engage deep thinking and class discussions.

Distinguished Educator: Stacie Skawinski, 5th and 6th grade

School: Meadow Lark Elementary

Why: Mrs. Skawinski always knew how to push me to become the best student I could be. She recommended me to test for the Extended Curriculum Services (ECS) program, because she knew that would help to push me even further. I loved her as an English teacher, but her math teaching was excellent. It combined the right style of instruction and her unique personality.

Student: Ruby Jennings Teachers: Steve Olson and Andrea Thares

Parents: Peter and Elizabeth Jennings

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences are being a part of orchestra and the tennis team. The people in those programs are some of my best friends, and they make high school an amazing experience. I also have fond memories of English class my freshman year. We made a few group project videos that were fun, although slightly embarrassing to look back on.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend college and study environmental science.

Distinguished Educator: Steve Olson, Orchestra

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Olson is not only one of the best teachers

I've ever had but also one of my most influential role models. He's very demanding and expects his students to put in a lot of work. He also puts an incredible amount of effort and time into the CMR orchestra program. I've been a student of Mr. Olson's for four years and have been inspired by the passion and enthusiasm he brings to his work.

Distinguished Educator: Andrea Thares, 4th grade

School: Riverview Elementary (currently Longfellow Elementary)

Why: Mrs. Thares was the teacher that first fostered my love of learning. I remember being in her class and realizing that, whether I liked a subject or not, a good teacher could make it interesting and even fun. Mrs. Thares is a prime example of that. She always had a smile on her face and made coming to school something to look forward to.



Student: Alex Johnson Teachers: Chris Hibbert and Joel Carlson

Parents: Bill and Jeri Johnson

Memorable experiences: One of my most memorable experiences in school was grading math papers in 6th grade. Mr. Hall saw that I finished the math work very quickly and with almost 100% accuracy, so he gave me something to do since everyone else was still working.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University and obtain degrees in economics and engineering.

Distinguished Educator: Chris Hibbert, Chemistry

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Hibbert is excellent at teaching chemistry. He teaches in such a way that almost everyone can understand, and he truly cares for how well his

students do on tests. He pushes them to strive for excellence and score well on the AP Chemistry exam.

Distinguished Educator: Joel Carlson, Gifted Education

School: Sacajawea Elementary

Why: Mr. Carlson is well known to many kids who were in gifted Extended Curriculum Services (ECS) and for good reason. He was great at teaching and coming up with fun interactive activities that made it a joy to be in gifted education. He taught us useful problem-solving and math skills.

Student: Madalie Kershner Teachers: Theresa Jacobs and Tamie Pachek

Parents: Jake and Kaylene Kershner

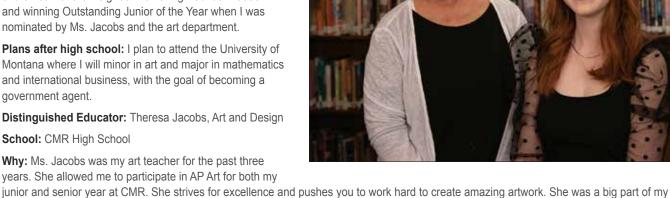
Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences at CMR were winning Interior Designer of the Year for the NeighborWorks High School House and winning Outstanding Junior of the Year when I was nominated by Ms. Jacobs and the art department.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend the University of Montana where I will minor in art and major in mathematics and international business, with the goal of becoming a government agent.

Distinguished Educator: Theresa Jacobs, Art and Design

School: CMR High School

Why: Ms. Jacobs was my art teacher for the past three years. She allowed me to participate in AP Art for both my





Distinguished Educator in Memoriam: Tamie Pachek, 6th grade

growth and development as both an artist and a person.

School: Sacajawea Elementary

Why: I transferred to Sacajawea from Meadow Lark Elementary School at the start of 6th grade. I was so nervous to start at a new school, but Ms. Pachek took me under her wing welcoming me, introducing me to new friends, and encouraging me to be more confident. She even nominated me to be a weather girl on KRTV! Ms. Pachek was kind, patient, and generous. I attended my first funeral in 2018 when I went to say good-bye to a beloved teacher and friend.



Student: Paige LePard Teachers: Steve Skaer and Orlo Enyeart

Parents: Todd and Heidi LePard

Memorable experiences: Being part of the CMR swim team for the last four years was one of the most impactful experiences for me. I also loved being in student sections cheering on other Rustler athletes and participating in student government.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University to study psychology and business. I would like to become a wilderness psychologist.

Distinguished Educator: Steve Skaer, Math

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Skaer is always happy to see students. He shows us new ways of thinking and problem solving. When you walk into his class, you know he is going to do everything he can to help you succeed as a student.

Distinguished Educator: Orlo Enyeart, 4th grade

School: Meadow Lark Elementary (currently Loy Elementary)



Why: Mr. Enyeart has a special ability for making kids laugh. I was so excited to go to school every day, because I knew that no matter what we would be doing, it would be enjoyable. Ever since being in his class, he has always been one of my favorite teachers.

Student: Maya Stevenson Teachers: Ryan Anderson and Elizabeth Quinby

Parents: Nate and Desiree Stevenson

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experience was all the time I spent with my friends and teammates. I gained friendships in high school that will last forever. Playing soccer under the lights at Memorial Stadium and winning was a highlight. I also feel blessed by the music and art programs we have at CMR.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Utah State University to major in fine arts and business, while enjoying life to the fullest in the outdoors.

Distinguished Educator: Ryan Anderson, English

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Anderson shows a great amount of pride for CMR and love for his students. He spends hours planning and promoting activities for us. Mr. Anderson



was my English teacher and my student government advisor. The connection he made with me and other students shows how much he cares about us. I am grateful for his encouragement and support.

Distinguished Educator: Elizabeth Quinby, Orchestra

School: North Middle School

Why: Mrs. Quinby gave me the opportunity to play the cello in middle school, even though I had never played before and was two years behind everyone else. She dedicated many hours catching me up to the rest of the class. I met her six years ago and continue to take cello lessons from her. She is my constant advocate, and I am grateful for her confidence in me and her support.

Student: Noah Stimac Teachers: Chris Kloker and Everett Hall

Parents: Michael and Kandace Stimac

Memorable experiences: While I was in school, my teachers were always supportive, kind and very good at helping me learn what I needed to learn. Every time I needed help on a subject or if I needed help with anything at all, I have been able to visit my teachers. I am very thankful for that.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University to study engineering.

Distinguished Educator: Chris Kloker, Band

School: CMR High School

Why: Mr. Kloker was my teacher for four years and was always very helpful. I have a fun time in his class, and he helps me to learn a lot.

Distinguished Educator: Everett Hall, 6th grade (retired)

School: Sacajawea Elementary



Why: Mr. Hall was an amazing teacher. I always looked forward to being in his class. He always made learning fun. On top of class being fun, he always made learning the material very attainable.

Student: Fox Weymouth Teachers: Noel Osterman and Russell Kellogg

Parents: Bruk and Penny Weymouth

Memorable experiences: My most memorable school experience was playing four years on the CMR golf team. It is an extremely supportive community, and it's where I found some of my best friends. Every year was fun, and I made memories I'll never forget.

Plans after high school: I plan to play baseball at Elmhurst University in Chicago.

Distinguished Educator: Noel Osterman, Librarian

School: CMR High School

Why: Whenever I walked into the library, the first person I'd go to is Mrs. Osterman. She was always willing to help with whatever I needed and was a great

person to talk to. The encouragement she gave always helped me get through my day.

Distinguished Educator: Russell Kellogg, Band

School: North Middle School

Why: When Mr. Kellogg transferred from CMR to North Middle School, he instantly became one of my favorite teachers. I really liked the humor and energy he brought to every class. He challenged me a lot, but would always support me along the way. The work ethic he taught me still sticks with me today.



Great Falls High School

Student: Avery Buglione Teachers: Michelle Brown and Kirsten Dige

Parents: Joe Buglione and Stacy Dolderer

Memorable experiences: My favorite memories include being a member of the GFH volleyball and track teams, dressing up for homecoming week, and cheering on my fellow Bison in the student section. I've enjoyed every moment in the classroom and met some remarkable people who helped me create lifelong memories.

Plans after high school: I plan to go to college to pursue a nursing degree and eventually become a nurse practitioner.

Distinguished Educator: Michelle Brown, AP Statistics

School: Great Falls High School (currently Adult Basic Ed at Great Falls College-MSU)



Why: Mrs. Brown's love for math and her passion for helping students are inspirational. She always had a positive attitude, and I looked forward to her class every day, even though it was challenging. She always believed in me, encouraged me and helped me with any challenge I had.

Distinguished Educator: Kirsten Dige, 4th grade

School: Lincoln Elementary

Why: I had Mrs. Dige for math and science, and her classes were some of my favorites. She always had so much enthusiasm for whatever she was teaching, and she truly cared for all her students. Mrs. Dige always believed in me, and I will never forget the love she showed me every day.

Student: **Wyatt Cobb** Teachers: **Brian Sullivan and Daniel Rediske**

Parents: Denver and Athena Cobb

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experience was as a sophomore when I went to the University of Montana with some upperclassmen and my friend Valon. We met with two U.S. ambassadors, got a campus tour, and competed with groups from around the state to win a trip to Japan. We lost by a long shot but had a lot of fun and learned a lot about the world.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana Tech University in Butte to get a degree in mechanical engineering. More specifically, I want to focus on nanotechnology.

Distinguished Educator: Brian Sullivan, AP Biology

School: Great Falls High School



Why: Mr. Sullivan is extraordinarily selfless and wants his students to get the most out of their learning. He encourages students to use techniques to help them understand the subject, like reading the textbook the night before and handwriting notes. More importantly, he wants all his students to become lifelong learners.

Distinguished Educator: Daniel Rediske, Science

School: East Middle School

Why: Mr. Rediske is a unique character. He is serious and literal about everything he says, he is one the stricter teachers I've had, and he also got me into drinking tea. He made his classes memorable and prepared his students for the worst. That's why I would say he had one of the most significant impacts on my education.

Student: Piper Denno Teachers: Dawn Reitz and Beth Thomas

Parents: Brandy Piper and John Denno

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences were being involved in athletics like volleyball and track. After COVID, I was even more thankful for opportunities to be involved in the activities I loved. The experiences I had traveling and getting to know my teammates over the years are ones I will never forget.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University and major in cell biology and neuroscience. I eventually want to work in the psychiatric field.

Distinguished Educator: Dawn Reitz, German

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Frau Reitz always finds a way to keep her students engaged and make her class fun. I was always excited to go to her class. That part of my day always put me in a better mood. For someone who teaches the "language of aggression," Frau is one of the kindest, most patient teachers I had.

Distinguished Educator: Beth Thomas, Science

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Mrs. Thomas helped me grow both as a student and as a person. She always encourages and pushes her students to reach their full potential. Although she is understanding and reasonable, she will not accept laziness That helped me establish a good work ethic. Though I am no longer in her class, she continues to show genuine interest in how I am doing.

Student: Valon Haslem Teachers: Julie Easton and Terry Flanagan

Parents: Keern Haslem, Errol and Stacy Rice

Memorable experiences: One of my greatest experiences was running varsity cross country for all four years. It was a fantastic yet challenging sport, and it always gave me something to look forward to. The people who run cross country and the coaches who lead it are uniquely wonderful people, and the entire experience truly redefined high school for me.

Plans after high school: My plans are still uncertain, but I intend to study economics and pre-law either out of state or at the University of Montana Davidson Honors College.

Distinguished Educator: Julie Easton, French

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Madame Easton, as a coach and a teacher, inspired me to push myself academically and competitively. She has a strong interest in many cultures and aspects of the world that we often overlook. She helped me gain a more well-rounded world view. She developed my curiosity toward the world around me.

Distinguished Educator: Terry Flanagan, Social Studies and Algebra

School: Our Lady of Lourdes

Why: Ms. Flanagan was an amazing teacher. She has such a broad understanding of math and history and is incredible at teaching these subjects. Ms. Flanagan taught me the value of hard work and helped me fall in love with learning.





Student: Isabel Hawley Teachers: Pamela Mackiel and Darcia Aakre

Parents: Blake and Amanda Hawley

Memorable experiences: Many of my favorite experiences were because of cross country. I enjoyed being part of such a supportive and fun team. Also, I will never forget the kind teachers who challenged me and the friends I made the last four years.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Northern Arizona University to study nutrition with a goal of becoming a physician assistant.

Distinguished Educator: Pamela Mackiel, 5th and 6th grade

School: Roosevelt Elementary (currently Giant Springs Elementary)

Why: Mrs. Mackiel's love for teaching was apparent in



the energy and passion she brought to her classroom every day. Her positive attitude was infectious and helped create a fun and challenging environment. She instilled in me a love of learning, and I would not be the student I am today without her kindness and dedication.

Distinguished Educator: Darcie Aakre, Honors English

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Mrs. Aakre's kindness and empathy for students created an environment in which we all felt comfortable expressing ourselves. Her fun and creative class helped remind me of my love of English.

Student: Lucy Lewis Teachers: Jerry Hopkins and Tammy Madill

Parents: John and Mary Lewis

Memorable experiences: I have countless memories from the past four years including being involved in music, art, Key Club, speech and debate, and National Honor Society. I will always remember my sophomore year ending early due to COVID, making semifinals at state for speech and debate despite the awkwardness of competing remotely, and participating in Academic Bowl my freshman year.

Plans after high school: I plan to pursue a degree in graphic design at Montana State University.

Distinguished Educator: Jerry Hopkins, Honors English

School: Great Falls High School



Why: Mr. Hopkins helped me to grow as a writer and as a person. He identified a talent I possessed for writing. He encouraged me to enter writing competitions such as the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and to join speech and debate. His humor made discussions engaging and entertaining while maintaining insight and value.

Distinguished Educator: Tammy Madill, Middle School English

School: Our Lady of Lourdes

Why: Mrs. Madill introduced me to fundamental components of the English language, including sentence structure. Such knowledge is invaluable in my work as a writer and speaker, enabling me to excel as a student and to communicate the nuances of my opinions and ideas. She helped foster my emerging ability as the supervisor of the school newspaper.

Student: Ellie McCluey Teachers: Aaron Brien and Katie Yeisley

Parents: Gavin and Katie McCluey

Memorable experiences: I enjoyed playing four years of varsity soccer. I made amazing friendships, and I loved competing alongside my teammates. I also loved homecoming, and this year being a candidate was something I will never forget. I will miss sporting events, prom and awesome class discussions.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend either Carroll College or an out-of-state university and major in biochemistry with a minor in psychology on the premed track. I hope to eventually become an orthopedic surgeon.

Distinguished Educator: Aaron Brien, AP Mathematics

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Mr. Brien's excitement and depth of knowledge about math is contagious. He is one of few teachers who makes an 8:00 a.m. class feel upbeat and exciting with his "power stance" and passion for the subject. He always makes class engaging through his energy and positive outlook on learning.

Distinguished Educator: Katie Yeisley, 6th grade

School: Mountain View Elementary (currently East Middle School)

Why: Mrs. Yeisley was the first teacher who influenced my love for math. Without her, I would not be where I am now as a student and a person. She is extremely invested in all her students, and I still look to her for guidance. I am very grateful to have had her as a teacher.

Student: Zach Newton Teachers: Coda Tchida and Nathan Hicks

Parents: Jeff and Nichole Newton

Memorable experiences: The most memorable experience I had was playing in the crosstown football game in the snow. In addition to football, I thoroughly enjoyed taking the industrial technology classes that GFH offers, specifically auto technology.

Plans after high school: I plan to play football for Montana Tech University while pursuing an engineering degree earning a welding certification.

Distinguished Educator: Coda Tchida, Weight Training/Health

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Coach Tchida has not only made an impact on me in academics, but also as a coach. Coach Tchida



taught me how to properly train to become a better athlete, as well as work to become a better person. Coach is always there for his students and goes beyond to help them improve.

Distinguished Educator: Nathan Hicks, 6th grade

School: Chief Joseph

Why: Mr. Hicks was my 6th grade teacher and made an impact on my education by treating his students like adults even though we were in elementary school. This stuck with me, as I felt like he had a great deal of respect for his students. Mr. Hicks kept his students engaged and made learning interesting.

Student: Zachary Nichols Teachers: Patrick Ryan and Barbi Foster

Parents: Michael and Melissa Nichols

Memorable experiences: My sophomore year I participated in AlI-State Choir. It was the first time I had sung with anyone outside my high school. It allowed me to meet new, amazing people and create outstanding music that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise. It was an experience I never expected to have, and one I will never forget.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Utah State University to get bachelor's and master's degrees in biological engineering and sing in the choir program. After I graduate, I hope to work in tissue and tendon reconstruction and regeneration via the development of continued stem cell research.

Distinguished Educator: Patrick Ryan, Choir

School: Great Falls High School



Why: Mr. Ryan taught me that making music is never just about making music. It is about the expression, connection and emotions that are fostered through music. He not only taught me to be a better musician, he also guided me to become a better person.

Distinguished Educator: Barbi Foster, 6th grade

School: Mountain View Elementary (currently Morningside Elementary)

Why: Mrs. Foster took an interest in me as a person, not just as a student, and continues to do so. She is always positive and upbeat, a radiant energy that spreads to those she interacts with. She taught me that it's the things you do for other people, no matter how seemingly insignificant, that have the biggest impact on those around you.

Student: Madison O'Leary Teachers: Lisa Frank and Zack Ringler

Parents: John and Dawn O'Leary

Memorable experiences: My most memorable school experience was the homecoming royalty assembly. I was incredibly nervous to dance in front of everyone, but once Ben and I got out there, I had so much fun! It was an honor to be able to represent my school in such a way.

Plans after high school: I will attend Boise State University to major in political science and minor in psychology. From there I want to attend law school, hopefully in Boston.

Distinguished Educator: Lisa Frank, Spanish

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Profe Frank will always lift you up. She does not



have a negative thing to say about anyone. She has been one of my role models since middle school, when she taught me the importance of kindness, optimism and perseverance. I don't know anyone with a heart bigger than hers.

Distinguished Educator: Zack Ringler, Social Studies

School: East Middle School (currently Great Falls High)

Why: I first met Mr. Ringler in middle school. I remember discovering my freshman year that he would be teaching at Great Falls High. I was very excited. He helped me come out of my shell and become who I am today, and I am very grateful for his influence these past six years.

Student: Kate Reiff Teachers: Suzanne Sturges and Jerry Ferderer

Parents: Nathan and Karen Reiff

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experiences from high school were playing on our soccer team and traveling to games with my teammates. I also enjoyed the pep assemblies and the traditions during the year.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University to pursue a degree in engineering.

Distinguished Educator: Suzanne Sturges, Spanish

School: Great Falls High School

Why: I had Mrs. Sturges for two years. She does a great job of making her class energetic and showing her knowledge of the language. I would stay almost every day after class just to talk to her about what we were learning or what was happening in my life.

Distinguished Educator: Jerry Ferderer, Reading and Writing (retired)

School: Holy Spirit Catholic School



Why: I had Mr. Ferderer for reading and writing help. He made something that I did not enjoy into something I looked forward to each day. He still makes sure to say hello and ask me how I am doing every time I see him.

Student: Tanner St. John Teachers:Jordan Lee and Tony Swartz

Parents: Eric and Stacy St. John

Memorable experiences: One of my most memorable experiences was the student-teacher dodgeball game at the 2021 homecoming assembly. The dodgeball game took place on the 50-yard line of the football field. Shockingly, I was selected as one of the students to play against the teachers, and it was a very good time.

Plans after high school: I plan to study pre-veterinary medicine at Montana State University Bozeman, then enroll in the veterinary school at Washington State University.

Distinguished Educator: Jordan Lee, Choir

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Mrs. Lee was one of the best teachers I had in



high school. Mrs. Lee works hard to teach music, and she also gets to know her students and becomes a friend. Mrs. Lee's kindness has positively impacted my life and has helped me get where I am today.

Distinguished Educator: Tony Swartz, Math

School: East Middle School

Why: Mr. Swartz was a fun teacher. His quirky personality and sense of humor made for a very engaging class. Mr. Swartz's classes were invaluable to my education. I have used the lessons I learned from him since then.

Student: Emma Tolan Teachers: Luis Carranza and Nick Herd

Parents: Darron and Marybeth Tolan

Memorable experiences: My most memorable experience was my junior year when we were given the chance to dissect pigs in a lab for honors anatomy and physiology. Before that, I would have never pictured myself becoming so involved and curious about such a project. Though I was reluctant at the time, I am grateful for that experience as it revealed to me a field of study to pursue for my career goals.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University-Billings in the nursing program.

Distinguished Educator: Luis Carranza, Weightlifting

School: Great Falls High School



Why: I have always been passionate about sports and becoming stronger. My weight training teacher Mr. Carranza understood that. He would work with us on the basic level of training for our overall health and strength. He would then go further, learning his students' sports goals and providing us with workouts to train specifically for our sport and reach our athletic goals.

Distinguished Educator: Nick Herd, Math

School: East Middle School

Why: Mr. Herd knew his students' capabilities and pushed them to their individual limits when it came to math. When I was in his class, I knew and understood the material, but he pushed me to join advanced math. I could have joined honors math, but he created another class level for the students who didn't want to become too stressed out but still wanted to challenge their potential.

Student: Katelyn Wanner Teachers: Amber Lloyd and Ty Moore

Parents: Garn and Kathryn Wanner

Memorable experiences: I had many memorable moments the past four years including all the swim meets and orchestra concerts. Dressing up for homecoming and the student sections at games were great experiences every time. I will remember all the amazing people that made high school a blast.

Plans after high school: I plan to attend Montana State University to study nursing.

Distinguished Educator: Amber Lloyd, Honors Anatomy and Physiology

School: Great Falls High School

Why: Mrs. Lloyd introduced me to the wonders of the human body and ignited my love for nursing. She



was always so happy to teach and made learning fun. She pushed me to do my best every day and believed in every student in her class.

Distinguished Educator: Ty Moore, 4th grade

School: Sunnyside Elementary (currently Lincoln Elementary)

Why: Mr. Moore provided a safe and calm environment for his students. He always had a positive attitude and was dedicated to all his students. He encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and reach new limits bringing me to where I am today.

Student: Benjamin Woldtvedt Teachers: Edward McNamee and Mike Jarrett

Parents: Brent and Tina Woldtvedt

Memorable experiences: Some of my most memorable high school experiences come from swimming on the swim team all four years, including bringing home three trophies in a row.

Plans after high school: I plan to go to college to study health and human performance and to one day become a physician assistant.

Distinguished Educator: Edward McNamee, Government and Swim Coach

School: Great Falls High School

Why: I had the privilege to have been taught and coached by Mac for four years. He rekindled my love for swimming and encouraged me to take it to the next level.

Distinguished Educator: Mike Jarrett, 5th grade

School: Lewis and Clark Elementary (currently North Middle School)

Why: Mr. Jarrett was brought in to replace my fifth-grade teacher halfway through the year due to health issues. Instantly, he made it my favorite elementary year and encouraged us to push ourselves.

Paris Gibson Education Center

Student: Devin Green Teachers: Theresa Besich and Jennifer Newman

Parents: John and Lacey Green

Memorable experiences: After going through some rough experiences in my life, I didn't have a lot of push left to put into schooling. Paris Gibson completely turned that around for me, and I am forever grateful. I have made new friends, learned to love subjects I didn't before, and witnessed the passion all the teachers have for the student body.

Plans after high school: I would love to pursue a career in pediatric nursing and/or dancing. Both children and performing have played a huge role in my life. To be able to help children in need and perform with a spotlight on my face would be a dream come true.

Distinguished Educator: Theresa Besich, Business

School: Paris Gibson Education Center

Why: Mrs. Besich has been my advisor for two years and from the first day I met her, I knew it was going to be a trip to remember. She has helped me with personal problems, schooling, and even dramatic outbursts. I am so proud to call her my advisor and one of my best friends.

Distinguished Educator: Jennifer Newman, Honors English

School: East Middle School

Why: Prior to 8th grade Honors English, I was not the biggest fan of reading and writing. Mrs. Newman helped teach me the ins and outs of literature and how beautiful it can be when you have an open mind.





Student: Daylan Holefelder Teachers: Randy Faechner and Sandy Brown

Parents: Paul and Kimberly Holefelder

Memorable experiences: My most memorable school experience happened near the end of my sophomore year. This is when I started going to Paris Gibson. This high school helped me turn my life around and gave me an enjoyable experience with my education.

Plans after high school: After I graduate from high school, I plan to have my first year of college credits done, then I'll continue my education towards a degree in nursing. Eventually, I plan to go to the new medical school in Great Falls.

Distinguished Educator: Randy Faechner, English

School: Paris Gibson Education Center



Why: I chose Mr. Faechner as my most influential teacher because he helped me through my time at Paris Gibson. He is not only a great teacher but also a good friend. He really gave me a reason to pursue my future education.

Distinguished Educator: Sandy Brown, 2nd grade (retired)

School: Lewis and Clark Elementary

Why: Mrs. Brown was always kind to everyone and has a good heart. I have always remembered her as my favorite elementary school teacher. And she was always a kind teacher to all my siblings.

Student: Kaylee Stremcha Teachers: Vince Kornick and Becki McMickle

Parents: Brian and Joelle Stremcha

Memorable experiences: Attending Paris Gibson Education Center has meant days filled with laughter and encouragement. One of my favorite memories is the trip I took to Missoula with my Jobs for Montana Graduates classmates. We were able to bond and share with friends, with prompting from Mrs. Jaques' famous book of 3,000 questions!

Plans after high school: I will attend Montana State University to pursue a degree in an English-related field. I want to see my writing published, whether that be articles, poetry or a novel. Eventually I see myself in a high school classroom returning the inspiration, opportunity, and knowledge that was provided to me.

Distinguished Educator: Vince Kornick, Jobs for Montana's Graduates, Advisor for Lynx Grafix



School: Paris Gibson Education Center

Why: Mr. Kornick taught me the value of opportunity and optimism. Whenever I was presented with a volunteering or scholarship project, he helped me to achieve my goals. No matter the challenge, he advocates for his students and is a voice of encouragement. Countless times he inspired me to push through my self-doubt and be confident in my skills.

Distinguished Educator: Becki McMickle, 1st Grade

School: Riverview Elementary

Why: Mrs. McMickle is a strong and nurturing role model for her students. She taught me from a young age how to be aspirational and caring. Mrs. McMickle also ignited my passion for learning through her passion for her student's success in and out of the classroom. She encouraged me from the first day I walked into her classroom to the day I graduated!



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the distinguished educators.

At BNSF, we know investing in education is important. The future of our economy and our state depends on creating a skilled workforce, and we are committed to supporting schools and communities across Montana. We are proud to partner with the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation in honoring these two outstanding educators with the Teacher of the Year Award. Each will receive \$2,500 to use for continuing education or classroom enhancements.



Lisa Frank, Spanish Teacher, Great Falls High School

According to Great Falls High Associate Principal Paul Culbertson, Mrs. Frank's students are challenged to explore, experiment, and work at extending their thinking in fun and inventive ways. Her students gain knowledge of other cultures as well as language skills.

"The world language teachers, counselors, and staff at our school have appreciated the professionalism Lisa brings to Great Falls High," shared Mr. Culbertson. "She is capable of teaching students at all levels as she has demonstrated in her career by teaching 7th-12th grade classes. Her varied teaching methods are impressive."

A twenty-year educator and five-year Distinguished Educator, Mrs. Frank will use the award money to further her education this summer. She will complete a 200-hour certification course on wellness and social emotional learning for the benefit of her students.

When asked about her teaching philosophy, Mrs. Frank highlighted communication as the central underpinning of human connection and success. "Communication is the heart of the human spirit. When we communicate with words and actions, we connect with others and ourselves," she said. "These connections are powerful and ultimately lead us to success, both academically and personally."



Stacie Skawinski, 6th Grade Teacher, Meadow Lark Elementary

"Mrs. Skawinski is one of the most dedicated, professional and dynamic teachers I have had the opportunity to work with," shared Associate Principal Ben Jacques. "She is masterful at making meaningful connections with students and families. She develops dynamic lessons that engage students and make math meaningful. Stacie is a role model and mentor in the classroom and in the larger school environment."

Mrs. Skawinski, a twenty-six year educator with the District and two-time Distinguished Educator honoree, has a philosophy of education based on three fundamentals: belief that all children can learn to the highest level, belief that a positive relationship between a teacher and student affects their success, and an understanding of the importance of creating rigor and relevance in her instruction of students.

Mrs. Skawinski will use the award money to purchase a robotics curriculum to use in her classroom. The program contains robots, along with activities and lesson plans.

"These robots will assist my students in learning fundamental STEAM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) and developing skills that are necessary for students to excel in our technology-rich 21st century," Mrs. Skawinski shared.

Truck Raffle Hits \$1 Million Mark in Record-Setting Year

In a partnership now nearing a decade, the City Motor Company and Oakland Family have teamed with the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation to raffle a donated Toyota vehicle each year. The result? More than \$1.1 million raised to benefit schools and student organizations.



The formula for success is simple: Student groups sell tickets for \$10 each. The group keeps \$6

The Oakland family with 2021 Toyota truck winner, Jeff Newton of Great Falls

per ticket to use as it pleases; the remaining \$4 goes to the Foundation for classroom grants. Every dollar spent on a ticket benefits schools and students.

Bob Stingley, Great Falls High cross country coach, said his team has raised over \$35,000 from the raffle in nine years. "Without it, we would not be able to keep the team outfitted in uniforms and cross country shoe spikes," he said. Some of the funds even helped pay for team members to race at the Nike Cross Country Regionals in Boise.

Other organizations that sell the tickets to raise funds include football, soccer, golf and tennis teams;

and music programs; student councils and others.

cheer, drama, dance

numerous PTAs;

"We are so grateful to the volunteers and the community for embracing this fundraiser," said GFPS Foundation Executive Director Stephanie Schnider. "Thousands of students reap the benefits.

"And, of course, none of it would be possible without the generous support of City Motor

Company and the Oakland family," she said. "The donated vehicle makes it all possible. And the staff's enthusiasm, support, and encouragement make it fun!"

2021 sales efforts resulted in a record-setting \$161,000. The winning tickets were drawn at the Crosstown Football Game on Oct. 22. Great Falls Police Chief Jeff Newton won the new Toyota Tacoma truck, and Claude Isaacs won the \$1,000 North40 gift certificate. Both winners purchased tickets from the Great Falls High School Football team.

Truck raffle tickets go on sale July 1, 2022.



Foundation Awards \$122,462 in Teacher Grants in 2021

In 2021 the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation awarded nearly \$123,000 in grants to assist classrooms and programs across the district. Teachers often have new ideas for their classrooms and schools but do not have access to needed funds due to tight budgets. Discovery grants–usually between \$500 and \$3,000 each–provide teachers the means to implement their ideas. Meanwhile, groups of teachers or schools also may apply for larger Innovation Grants–up to \$10,000–for projects of greater impact.

Since the inception of Discovery Grants ten years ago and the later addition of Innovation Grants, the Foundation has distributed more than \$1 million for 451 projects. This work is possible due to the generosity of donors and is also funded by the annual Win This Truck Raffle made possible by City Motor Company and the Oakland family.

2021-2022 Discovery Grant Winners

Preschool / Elementary

Library Software and Books for Ages 3-5 Years Colette Getten, GFPS Preschool - \$1,000

Book Club Activity for 5th Grade Mary Proud, Giant Springs Elementary - \$700

Reflex Math License for 1st - 6th Grade Jayci Braaten, Lincoln Elementary - \$2,966

Accelerated Reader 360 Program for Kindergarten - 6th Grade Robin Brown, Longfellow Elementary - \$2,966

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art Tours for All 3rd Grade Students

Dusty Molyneaux, District-wide Music and Art Department - \$2,916

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art Tours for all 3rd Grade Students

Middle School

Music Technology Lab Sound Systems Lisa Sundquist, East Middle School - \$1,889

New Athletic Jerseys for 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams Lance Olson, East Middle School - \$3,000

Chromebooks for Students in Academic Intervention Program Clinton Topel, North Middle School - \$2,927

Library Learning Lab and Maker Space Area

Shelley O'Rourke, North Middle School - \$1,531

High School

Video Production Camera Brian Crosby, CMR High - \$3,000

Concession Business Equipment for Swim Teams Kathryn Wanner, CMR & GFHS Swim Team - \$1,350

Backyard Sports Equipment for Lifetime Physical Activity

Samantha Stevens, Great Falls High School - \$1,344

Classroom Library for Self-Selected Reading

Joan Dailey, Great Falls High School - \$700

Electric Ceramic Kiln

William Harning, Great Falls High School - \$3,000



Spectrophotometers for CMR Chemistry Lab

2021-2022 Innovation Grant Winners

Preschool / Elementary

School-Wide Wishtree Book Study for Social-Emotional Development Riki Johnson-Lackey, Giant Springs Elementary - \$9,865

Library Renovation Project

Tara Murillo, Chief Joseph Elementary - \$10,000

Project received additional funding from school funds, PTA contributions, and private donors.

Library Renovation Project

Dean Jardee, Whittier Elementary - \$10,000

Project received additional funding from local businesses and private donors.

Inclusive Playground Project

Meghan Grady, Meadow Lark Elementary - \$10,000

Project received additional funding from outside grants, local businesses, and private donors.

Middle / High School

Chromebooks for Online Music Programs Ellen Forslund, North Middle School - \$10,000 Native American Aquaponics Projects and Display Cases Drew Uecker, Paris Gibson Education Center - \$7,500

iPad Airs and Pencils for Digital Art Cortni Harant, Great Falls High School - \$10,000

Physics Lab Equipment Elizabeth Wiles, Great Falls High School - \$9,989

Spectrophotometers for Chemistry Classes Chris Hibbert, CMR High School - \$6,360

District-Wide

Every Child Ready to Read - Ferst Readers Program

Carol Paul, GFPS Title I - \$10,000.00

Program received additional funding from outside grants and private donors.



Scholarship winners Mattiah Murillo and Benjamin Bailey.

Loney Gives Back to Great Falls Students and Stadium

Back in the days when Great Falls hosted the East-West Shrine Football Game every summer, Bill Loney was the go-to guy. A dedicated Shriner, Loney served as the director of the beloved cross-state matchup for 16 years.

It wasn't his job. It was a labor of pure love, said his longtime friend Jim Grant, who served as the first athletic director of Great Falls Public Schools from 1968 to 1997. "Bill was a fanatic football fan – an absolute fanatic – and he was a friend of football coaches across the entire state."



Bill Loney

Loney hailed from Michigan, where he played high school football. During World War II, he was stationed in Great Falls as a pilot. Grant said Loney fell in love with Great Falls and returned after the war to become a successful Conoco fuel dealer and an active Shriner. "He knew every person involved in football in Montana,

and he gave his all to the Shrine game," Grant said.

Loney eventually moved to Utah but his connection to Great Falls remained strong long after his departure. In a final act of generosity, he and his wife, LaPriel Mathias Carlton Loney, left an estate gift of \$216,000 to the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Loney passed away in 1999 and his wife LaPriel died in 2019.

The donation was unrestricted, meaning its use was left entirely to the Foundation's discretion. "When we receive generous estate gifts like this, we imagine the donor is in the room with us providing guidance. It is incumbent on the Board to direct the gift in a way that honors the donor's legacy and the things they cared about most," shared Executive Director Stephanie Schnider.

As the Board considered this gift, they discovered that Loney was not only a strong supporter of athletics. He also demonstrated a commitment to students' academic success. For a number of years, he offered a scholarship to graduating seniors at Great Falls High for postsecondary education.

With this in mind, the Board set aside \$100,000 to fund scholarships for student athletes. Two \$1,750 scholarships will be awarded each year — one to a C.M. Russell graduate and one to a Great Falls High graduate who participated in athletics and demonstrated a commitment to community service.

This year's recipients of the D.W. Loney Memorial Scholarship are Mattiah Murillo of Great Falls High and Benjamin Bailey of C.M. Russell. Murillo participated in soccer, track and swimming. She intends to pursue a criminal justice degree at a university in Montana. Bailey participated in cross country and plans to study business at Brigham Young University-Provo.

The Board also decided that Memorial Stadium, home of the East-West Shrine Game – a venue beloved by Loney – will receive \$50,000 in upgrades from his gift. The Foundation looks forward to sharing more about this project when the details are finalized. In the meantime, the tradition of the East-West Shrine Game forges ahead as it celebrates its 75th anniversary this summer. The game will take place on June 18 at Memorial Stadium in Great Falls.

Grant said he believed Loney would be "absolutely

Scholarships

delighted" with how the Foundation is allocating the donated money. "It's just what he would've wanted," Grant said.

That is exactly what the Foundation's goal is, Schnider said. "We value every dollar given to support our mission of enhancing education in Great Falls. Unrestricted gifts are especially valuable because they allow us to not only honor the intent of the donor but also direct funds toward the greatest need."

If you are interested in supporting education in Great Falls with a legacy gift, contact Stephanie Schnider at (406) 268-6021.

Managed by the GFPS Foundation

The Foundation administered over \$310,000 in scholarships to local students in 2021. Scholarships make post-secondary education more achievable and encourage our students to continue to grow and broaden their perspectives after their time in Great Falls Public Schools. If you or your business is interested in establishing a scholarship, please contact Stephanie Schnider at 406-268-6021.

Bertha Feaster Memorial Scholarship **Bison Family Scholarship** Blewett Family Scholarship Blythe Brandvold Award for Academic Excellence Braget Family Scholarship for Healthcare* Braget Family Scholarship for Social Work* Carl Straight Memorial Scholarship Carnahan Towing Softball Scholarship* CMR Class of '18 Green and Gold Scholarship CMR Quarterbacks Club Scholarship Continuing Education Scholarship D.W. Loney Memorial Scholarship* Dave Crum Scholarship* Dave Nebel Memorial Scholarship David and Patty Van Tighem Scholarship David Delcomte Memorial Scholarship Dean Riggin Memorial Music Scholarship D.M. Garrity MD Scholarship* Earl and Maudene Stice Scholarship Ed Warren Education Scholarship Eidel Family Scholarship First Interstate Bank Scholarship Frances Kirwin Scholarship for Girls Frank and Arlene Osborne Scholarship Fred and Vasilia Grasseschi Scholarship George W. and Kathleen Tracy Memorial Scholarship GFH Class of '87 True Blue Scholarship GFH Class of '89 Bison Spirit Scholarship

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Donor List

The donor list below includes gifts received January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

While we make every effort to get names correct, occasional errors occur. Please call Stephanie Schnider at (406) 268-6021 if you find we omitted or misspelled your name to allow us to apologize and correct the records. Thank you again for your gift and, if necessary, your forbearance.

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Tom Hering's Mother GFPS Cabinet Tom Moore

Troy Thornton's Sister Tom Moore

Teacher Scholarships Awarded in 2021

The Heisey Foundation Teacher Scholarships are awarded annually to up to 20 teachers seeking to enhance and advance their education. Each recipient receives \$1,000.

Thanks to funding from the Heisey Foundation, these ambitious educators will be able to pursue board certification, advanced degrees, endorsements, and other academic work that supports GFPS goals and initiatives.



Heisey Scholarship Recipient Kathryn Heryla of Paris Gibson Education Center

2021 Recipients

C.M. Russell High School: Ryan Anderson, Lynn Ryan, Holly Ingeman

Chief Joseph Elementary: Londa Hart

East Middle School: Lisa Sundquist

Giant Springs Elementary: Randi Johnson

Great Falls High School: Rebecca (Beckie) Frisbee, Danielle Elledge, Jerry Hopkins Jr., Brooke Gruntowicz, Bob Stingley, Zack Ringler

Longfellow Elementary: Jennifer Hale

Morningside Elementary: Arika Hagel

Mountain View Elementary: Lindsay Cline

Music and Art Department: Joseph Dresen

North Middle School: Elizabeth Quinby

Paris Gibson Education Center: Geoffrey Mainwaring, Kathryn Heryla

West Elementary: Courtney Nagengast

A Trusted Partner

The Foundation is proud to support our community's tradition of strong public education. We add value to that effort by facilitating private donations to provide scholarships, teacher grants, recognition programs, and facility enhancements.

Philanthropic families and businesses are creating a legacy of educational excellence through their gifts, and we are grateful for those of you who continue to believe in our mission. If you would like more information about our programming or legacy gifts, contact Stephanie Schnider at (406) 268-6021.



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