



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2022/23

TOGETHER, WE MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR . . .



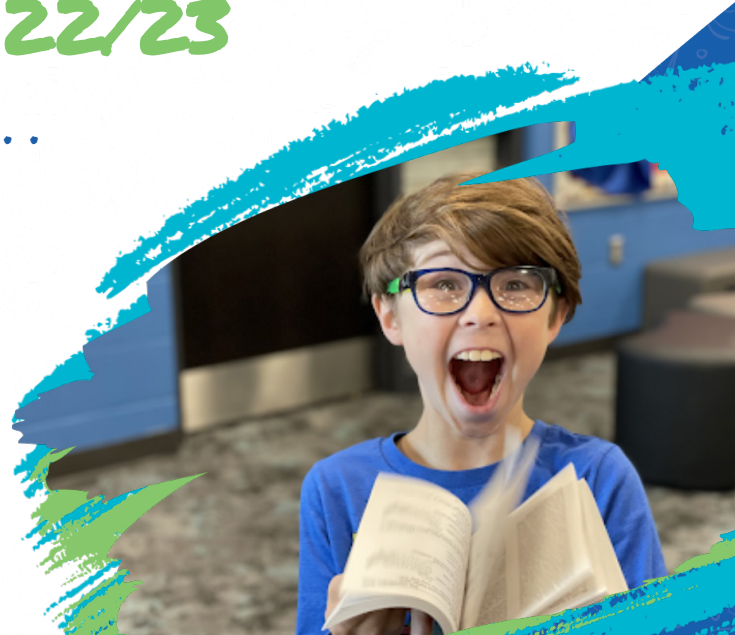
4,025 STUDENTS



521 TEACHERS & STAFF



8 SCHOOLS



WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT?



Blake R. Thompson

Blake Thompson
Executive Director

This is one burning question that has repeatedly come to mind in my first six months as the new Executive Director of the Bennington Public Schools Foundation.

While the answer to this question likely differs from person to person, it always seems to come back to the quality of the Bennington Public School District.

When my family first moved to Bennington as our kids started Kindergarten people would say:

" THAT'S A GREAT DISTRICT TO BE IN "

" THEY ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR SCHOOLS "

Now that I'm involved with the District and Foundation, I hear it even more and it provides me with a proud sense of belonging and appreciation each time I hear it.

Upon reflection I've realized this is a significant impression to stand out for consistently over the years. Many people have paved the way for this to happen for decades and it is commendable. In my new role, I've dug deeper into looking specifically at what makes the Foundation stand out? Is it about the money? Is it about the Gala? Is it about the people who have done so much work to help it grow right alongside the District?

While all of these are prime factors that play into it, I believe it goes back to one solid core concept, one goal:

" TO ENRICH TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT "

Whether it's providing grants for students, development for teachers, or community outreach with an event, it all goes back to providing for the betterment of our District. When people choose to donate, participate or give in any fashion, they are doing it with the District of Bennington Public Schools in their mind. Maybe it's because they personally had a great experience attending school here, their kids or grandkids had a great experience, they are employed here or have been in the past, or they just see the good happening each and every day. Whatever that reason is, it's praiseworthy and valued.

As you read through this report, I encourage you to reflect on **WHY BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ITS FOUNDATION STAND OUT TO YOU.** Yes, we will share about the millions of dollars of impact we have had in recent years, but I'm excited to look at the lasting impact this District and Foundation has had for decades and will continue to have for decades to come. **WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL? WHAT TUGS ON YOUR HEART STRINGS? WHAT ENCOURAGES YOU TO DONATE TIME, FINANCIAL RESOURCES, OR ATTEND AN EVENT YEAR AFTER YEAR?** Whatever that is, we want to celebrate it!

I'm proud and honored to be a part of the BPSF team. I'm proud that my children will one day be BPS alumni. I'm proud that my family lives in Bennington and volunteers in the community. These testaments stand out for me and add to my "why" each and every day. I'm thrilled to continue to learn from this thriving District and community as we collectively continue to enrich the teaching and learning happening at BPS.

LET'S STAND OUT TOGETHER!



Megan Detjens
Program Coordinator
& Office Manager



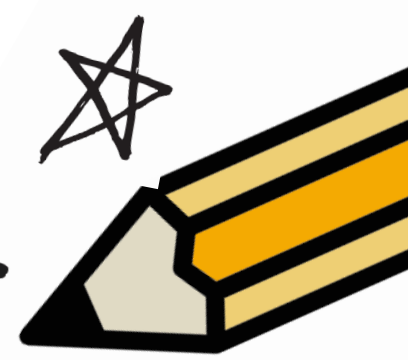
Faith Dawson
Education Program
Coordinator



Hayley Minchow
Education Program
Coordinator

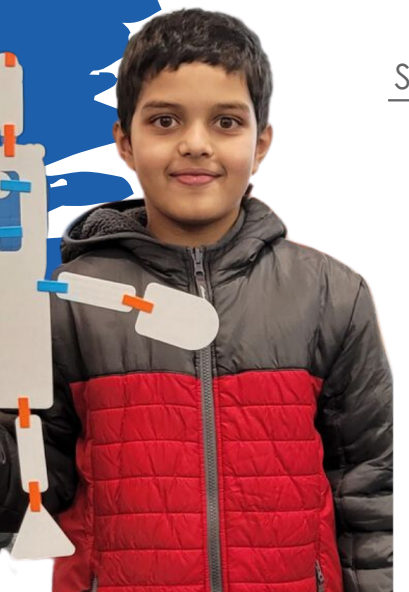
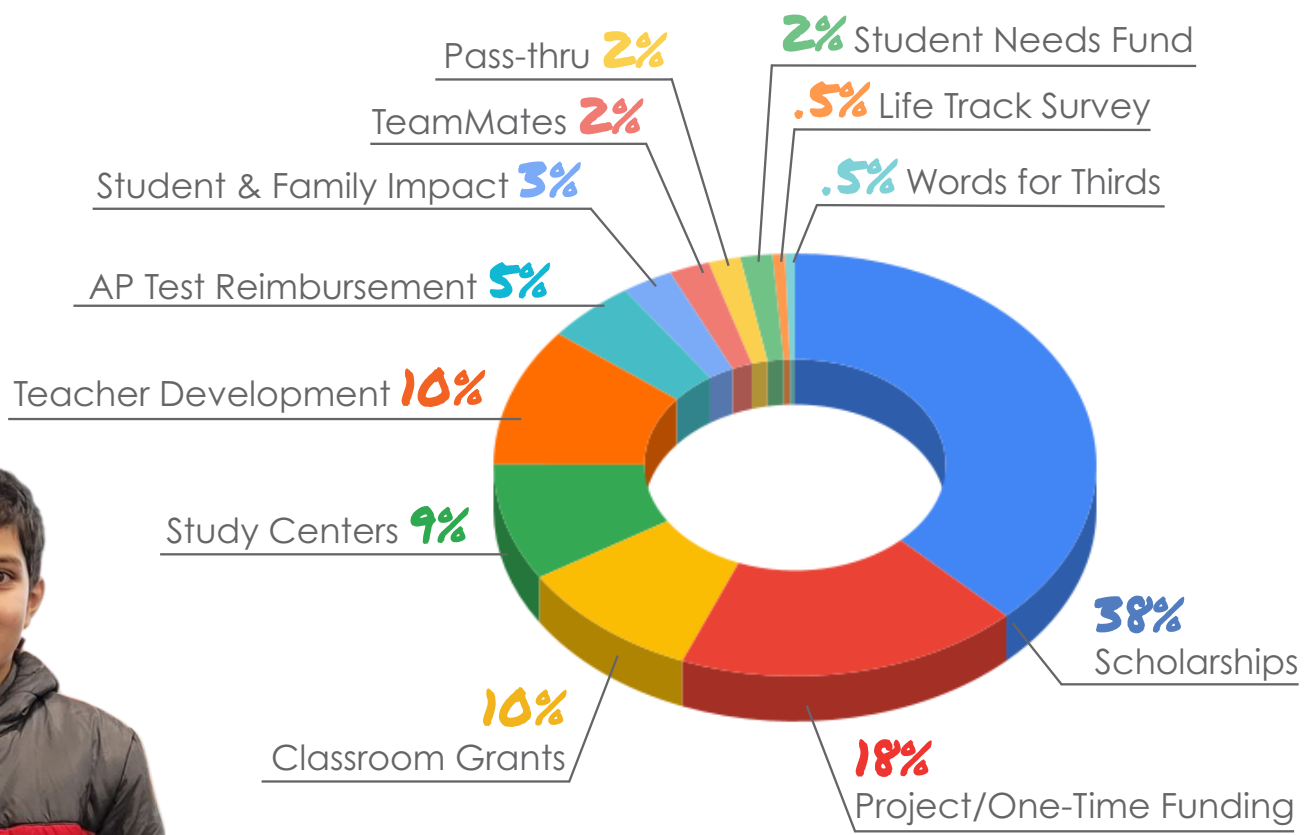


Megan Schafersman
Community Relations
Program Coordinator



\$230,000

funded IMPACTFUL programming
for THOUSANDS of students!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Project/One-Time Funding enabled Librarian Denise Klaus to pilot a Book Vending Machine program at Pine Creek Elementary. In its first year, students earned tokens to exchange for their very own books as part of an AR reading incentive. This addition **impacted all students**, inspiring them to enhance their reading and comprehension skills in a unique way! Based on the success of this pilot, the Foundation plans to **expand the program to all 5 elementary schools** by purchasing each school their very own book vending machines. Books are selected by Librarians to meet District standards and funded by PTOs.



High School STS Teacher Tom Schumacher and FCS Teacher Mallory Mohr received a **Classroom Grant** for Indoor Grow Gardens to expand on the successful outdoor garden and enable year round learning. Now a part of curriculum, this gives students hands-on experience from seed to table!



Out of 5 states and 180 chapters, **TeamMates Mentoring of Bennington** was awarded **2023 National Chapter of the Year** for outstanding "heart-work." The program currently serves 87 matches in Bennington. Learn more and apply to be a mentor today at TeamMates.org.



Hundreds of middle and high school students utilized the **Study Centers** for 700 hours throughout the year.



Dictionaries provided to **360 3rd graders** at all 5 elementary schools through the **Words for Thirds** program inspires students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers.

View more impact stories:





Student & Family Impact program helped to bring 2 speakers to the District: Cam Awesome motivational speaker for High School students and April Henry author visit for all Middle School students and community to share her personal writing journey, writing process, and how tenacity is a vital talent and skill.



Brandon Mimick – BHS Teacher, Weight Lifting and Football Coach – utilized the **Teacher Professional Development** program to help cover costs to attend a highly sought-after Square1 Training clinic. This extension of Mimick's education places him and our District at the front of this knowledge and practice on how to best train and treat the body while directly impacting the 400+ students Mimick interacts with each year.



Wayne State College: Lauren Buzbee
University of Nebraska–Omaha: Gabriela Calderon, Tyler Reiss, Carly Bishop, Daphne Henke, Hannah Madden, Brooklyn Henzel, Chloe Miller, Dylan Andrews
University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Tyler Butler, Meghan Krejci, Madalyn Nelsen, Parker Thomsen, Noah Andersen, Ashley Anderson, Tyler Crawford, Alexis Keatts, Tyler Mead, Jackson Miller, Julian Nelsen, Mason Pfister, Lauren Main, Megan Wilkins
Nebraska Wesleyan University: Connor Ziska
Southeast Community College: Noah Miller
University of Nebraska-Kearney: Weston Heinemann, Mallory Tobias
Peru State College: Steve Burgers
Morningside University: Kennedy Ganseboom, Isaac Conner, Nick Colvert
Hastings College: Emma Foland, Ayo Makinde
Creighton University: Morgan Pudenz, Jenna Robinson
Concordia University: Kai Olbrich, Ethan Korth



University of Arizona: Madison Schmaderer
Arizona State University: Samantha Jansen



Washburn University: Wren Larson
University of Kansas: Darby Ryan
Kansas State University: Brinlynn Johnson



Weber State University:
 Lennox Hughes

Massachusetts Maritime Academy:
 Emma Robinson



WHERE THEY ARE HEADED

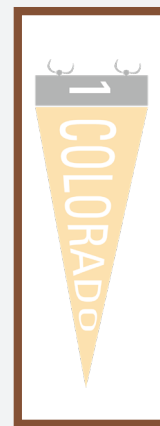
Congratulations to 64 graduates who were awarded **\$97,000 in scholarships** from the Foundation.

These seniors from Class of 2023 are now attending over 26 schools across the country.

University of Missouri-Columbia:
 Katrina Liffing
Northwest Missouri State University: Reese Smith



University of South Dakota:
 Kaeli Vondra
University of South Dakota:
 Abigail Brown



University of Colorado at Denver:
 Selah Ryan



Nova Southeastern University:
 Aviana Freed



Iowa Western Community College:
 Daylon Heater
Briar Cliff University: Ella Reinhoehl

**Note some recipients not listed here due to personal or privacy reasons.*



ROARING GOOD TIME

The 2023 Annual Gala "Roaring Twenties" raised a record \$75,000 for programming with over 400 attendees!

\$5,575 was raised specifically for TeamMates Mentoring through "Fill the Heart."

This event has grown into Bennington's LARGEST fundraiser for its schools.

We hope you'll be able to join us for next years gala and other future events!



9th Annual Gala Fundraiser

Bellissima kick off to Spring Break!

Dinner | Silent & Live Auctions | Wine Tasting

- Reserve Seats
- Become a Sponsor
- Donate Auction Item



NEW EVENT



Friday, January 26, 2024

- Teams of 4 – **only 25 team spots available!**
- \$50/team
- Each team must complete a puzzle, pizza & 12-pack of drinks.
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place



LOGEMANN'S "WHY"

The Logemann's are proud long-time supporters of Bennington and its schools today, but their history and love for Bennington stems back decades.

Darrell has been a resident of Bennington his entire life. He graduated from Bennington High School with the Class of 1965 and feels his time and experiences here well prepared him for life post-graduation. After graduating from UNO and acquiring his CPA certificate, it's no shock when it came time to establish his own business he swiftly made the decision to do so in Bennington.

Darrell and Coe Leta married in 1966 and raised their 3 daughters in Bennington where they also graduated from BHS. The Logemann's currently still reside here with their dog Husker.

Through hard work and luck, they have been fortunate to be successful in their careers and now do all they can to give back by donating their time and financial resources to a variety of organizations in Bennington.

Because of their family's positive experience at Bennington Public Schools, they choose to give back through the Foundation with hopes to carry on the tradition of excellence in educational opportunities for current and future



generations of students for years to come.

The Logemann's believe in Bennington, its schools, and its students, and their generous support is just one great way to ensure their legacy lives on.

The BPS Foundation thanks these major supporters who make it possible to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize educational opportunities for all students, teachers and schools in Bennington.

See all 110 donors who gave through us during the 2022-23 fiscal year and how you can join them:



Jason & Danielle
Buchholz

Darrell & Coe Leta
Logemann

Matt & Allie
Deaver

Dr. Chris & Sheryl
Cornett



Fleischman
Family

Dr. Dee & Rodger
Hoge



Merck Oncology
Rick & Melissa Freed



Zac Johns, Krae Dutoit, Danie Senske, Brandon Essink, Bruce Lefler, KE Flex Contracting, Bo Gebbie, Nicholas & Kim Rohe, Ben Pile, James Ahl, Kyle Hiatt, Linda Warner White, Jayme Bluhm, Amy Duhachek-Stapelman, Dale & Tonya Eurek, Megan Holtorf, Ahmed Morsy



P.O. Box 309
Bennington, NE 68007



Subscribe to our Monthly E-Newsletter
for impact & opportunities year round!



**HOW DID \$230,000
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
BENNINGTON STUDENTS,
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS?**

Find out in the 2022-23 Annual Impact Report!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Reiner, President

Kim Rohe, Vice President

Whitney Fagan, Secretary

Troy McKinney, Treasurer

Kristi Ryan, School Board Liason

Dr. Aaron Plas, Superintendent

Brad Baumert

Dee Clark

Matt Deaver

Tara Gufford

Darrin Mercer

PROGRAMS

- Classroom Grants
- Project/One-Time Funding
- AP Test Reimbursement
- Teacher Professional Development & Tuition Reimbursement
- Words for Thirds
- Summer School Book Incentive
- Life Track Survey
- TeamMates Mentoring
- All Star Kids Before & After School Program

STUDENT & FAMILY INFLUENCE

- Student Needs Fund
- Student & Family Impact
- Study Centers
- Senior Scholarships

**Learn more and get involved at
BenningtonSchoolsFoundation.org**



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to generate resources, build relationships and make strategic program investments to inspire our teachers and support student achievement in the Bennington Public Schools District.