



IMPACT REPORT

2022~2023

For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023





The Mercer Island community is committed to ensuring that every child receives an outstanding education.
Thank you for joining us in making this vision a reality.

VISION

Four ways YOU foster excellence in education with your support for our schools through the Mercer Island Schools Foundation:

- Connect students to their futures
- Advance academic achievement
- Support students who learn differently
- Promote professional development

MISSION

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public service, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing and improving the quality of education provided to ALL students of the Mercer Island School District by obtaining contributions for the public schools.



Dear Friends of the Mercer Island Schools Foundation,

The past year has been a remarkable journey, highlighted by the appointment of Dr. Fred Rundle as the new MISD Superintendent. Driven by his unwavering commitment to student excellence and a focus on prioritizing their needs, we are so pleased to have such an accomplished leader at the helm of our District. Dr. Rundle's unparalleled dedication to students, educators, and schools inspires us all.

This year also marked a pivotal return to normalcy, emerging from a three-year event hiatus due to the challenges of the Covid pandemic. The MISF All in for Kids Phone-A-Thon returned to an in-person format in the fall, uniting our MISF Board of Directors, educators, administrators, volunteers, and an unprecedented number of students. Through these collective efforts, we successfully engaged every Mercer Island School District family, raising an impressive \$520,000.

The generosity of our community enabled the Foundation to award over \$80,000 in teacher enrichment grants. These grants empowered exceptional initiatives, including the We Can All Be Authors program, where professional authors guide 5th-grade classes to write and publish a novel collaboratively. An enriching Orchestra Artist-in-Residence program enhanced students' musical understanding and exposed them to diverse cultural traditions, while Physics students at MIHS gained hands-on experience with alternative energy sources by providing Stirling Engines.

Spring brought the return of our iconic annual fundraiser, the Breakfast of Champions, which celebrated our community's profound impact on our schools. Over 400 individuals, including students, educators, scholarship recipients, and esteemed alums, united to celebrate and financially support our schools, thus bridging critical gaps.

Thanks to our generous community, the Foundation funded over \$600,000 for new texts and resources in MIHS classes like AP Biology, Marine Science, and Human Geography & Climate Impact at IMS and MIHS. Additionally, over \$200,000 funded the Benchmark Advanced Literacy Curricula and iReady Instructional Math Curricula in elementary schools and new Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II resources at MIHS and IMS.

As you explore the 2022-23 Annual Impact Report, we hope you grasp the extent of YOUR impact and are inspired to continue your commitment to fostering unparalleled education for Mercer Island's students. Your support bridges the chasm between state funding and the District's educational requisites, propelling equity, innovation, and resources that amplify student triumphs.

Whichever role you play — donor, volunteer, or local business partner — your collective influence is profound, a testament to YOU!

With heartfelt gratitude,



Michelle Dumler,
MISF Board of Trustees President



Tammy Shoop,
MISF Executive Director

The future of our students relies on the shared belief that every student deserves an excellent education. Your support for this vision is genuinely valued.

Thank you for investing in our children and our community.

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All in for Kids CAMPAIGN



Your fall All in for Kids generosity funded the following programs.

Each fall, funding requests support strategic programs in core academics and enrichment. Foundation support is especially critical now as community funds help to bridge the gap between what the state provides and what is needed to ensure every student has the tools and resources to reach their highest potential. Please help us make a difference!

2022-2023 DISTRICT PRIORITIES

ADVANCING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

K-5 Math Implementation & Supplemental Resources	\$5,000
K-8 Science Materials	\$21,000
K-12 Fine Arts	\$38,800
K-12 Agile Resource & Materials Deployment.....	\$30,000
5th Grade Honor Choir	\$7,000
6-8 Math Materials	\$10,000
8-12 Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry Review.....	\$5,000
8-12 Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry Year Two Adoption.....	\$30,000
9-12 Biology Review & Adoption	\$30,000
9th Grade Social Studies Review/Pilot Program.....	\$10,000
9-12 Humanities	\$5,000

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE CHILD

IMS- Where Everybody Belongs (WEB).....	\$6,500
MIHS- Islander Hour (Bridges)	\$10,000
5th Grade Experiential Learning.....	\$15,000
K-5 Supporting Advanced Learners in Elementary Classrooms.....	\$8,000
Shelley Moore Professional Learning for Teachers	\$15,000
School Improvement Plans (SIPs)	
Elementary.....	\$37,800
Middle School	\$24,000
High School	\$34,000

SUPPORTING THE MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

Superintendent Values, Vision, and Mission Fund	\$20,000
Teacher Innovation Grants.....	\$78,500
LETRS Training and Materials	\$10,000
Consortium of Collaborative School Book Studies.....	\$4,400
Support for National Board Teachers	\$10,000

FALL FUNDRAISING GOAL:..... \$465,000

Fall All in for Kids Phone-A-Thon

Each fall, our Mercer Island Schools Foundation launches the All in for Kids campaign, uniting our community to raise essential funds to maintain top-tier academic standards in our schools. Committed to delivering world-class curricula and enrichment, we aim to spark learning, enhance educational outcomes, and equip students for lifelong learning.

Through community donations, the Foundation plays a crucial role in providing the rich education our classrooms demand. The All in for Kids Phone-A-Thon, our primary fall fundraiser, brings together the Foundation board, parents, community leaders, teachers, and administrators. During this event, we reached out to every family in the District.

Funds raised through the Phone-A-Thon support priority K-12 academic programs, covering core academics, classroom enrichment, professional development and so much more. These resources, vital for fall implementation, ensure that students and teachers have access to materials that enhance the learning experience throughout the year. Community support makes a lasting impact on our students' education.



Mercer Island Schools Foundation 2022-23 Financial Snapshot Investing in Excellence.



Thank You!

A vibrant educational community flourishes in Mercer Island through the collective efforts of individuals and business sponsors working together. Your support is the key to elevating our Mercer Island School District's offerings beyond what public funding alone can provide. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to you for investing in the future of our children and community.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

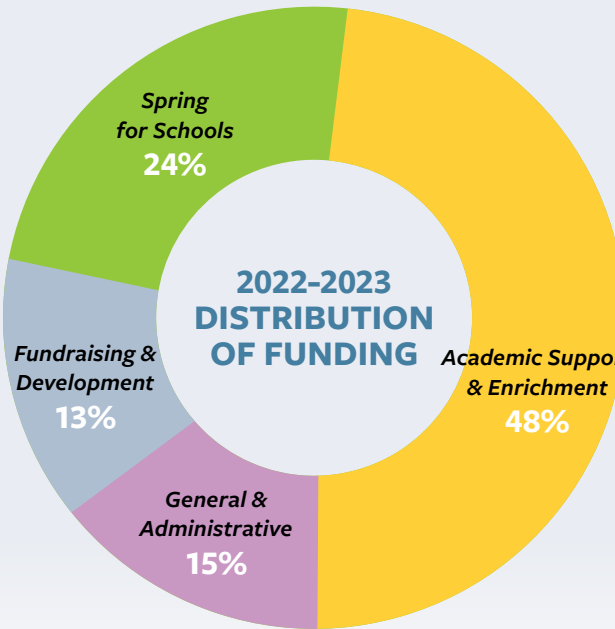
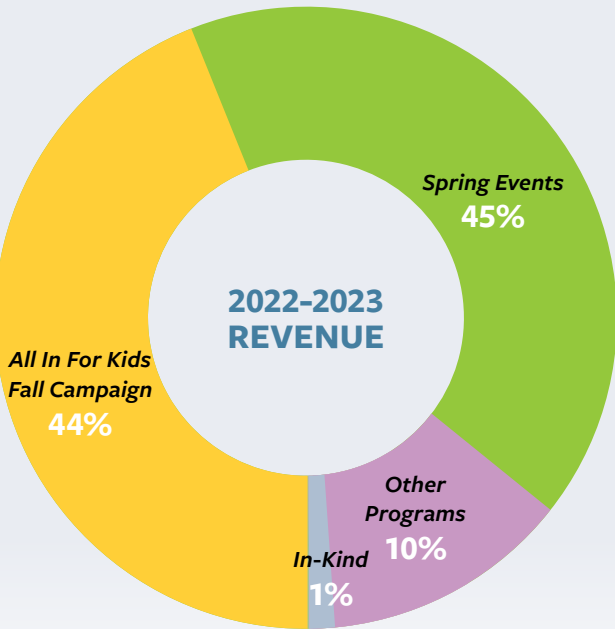
2022-2023 REVENUE

All In For Kids Fall Campaign	\$517,827
Spring Events	\$527,321
Other Programs	\$115,490
In-Kind	\$10,300
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$1,170,938

2022-2023 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

Spring for Schools	\$294,071*
Academic Support & Enrichment	\$588,025*
General & Administrative	\$187,303
Fundraising & Development	\$161,889
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,231,288

*Grants paid to Mercer Island School District



Independent accounting firm Clark Nuber PS performed the Annual Review of Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023. The complete Independent Review of Financial Statements is available upon request.

Education Grants

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Mercer Island Schools Foundation

- Exploration of Stirling Engines for alternative energy sources
- Introduction of a “Shakespeare Made Easy” version of Othello for 9th-grade students
- Seattle Shakespeare Company workshops to enhance Drama skills
- Collaboration with a Kamishibai guest artist for Drama performances
- Improv sessions in partnership with Youth Theater NW
- Guest Artist engagement for Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Bands
- Procurement of Marching Band Uniforms
- Appointment of an Orchestra Artist in Residence
- Choir Pianist support for concert repertoire
- Graphic novels and best sellers for the student book club
- Expansion of the Film Library with a focus on diverse titles
- Funding for counseling enrichment programs and specialty training



Lakeridge Elementary:

- STEAM materials, including Lego blocks and structure kits
- Interactive Mystery Science lessons
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Books for 4/5 HiCap classes
- Visiting Author & Illustrator - Ben Clanton
- Fifth-grade in-house field trip on “Changes in Matter”
- Art Printmaking materials to elevate all art class lessons



Islander Middle School:

- Consultation with professional musicians for the Band program
- Endangered Instrument program
- Establishment of an After-school Instrument Club
- “Choose Your Own Adventure” math books and the Formation of a Friday Book Club
- Orchestra Artist-in-Residence
- Choir coach to work with students weekly
- Choir Pianist to accompany concert repertoire
- Hokki stools for improved seating
- Integration of a microphone ball for social studies activities
- Small group coaching for the orchestra
- Vocal coaching for the choir



MISD Special Education:

- Health & Fitness Activities for SEL & Crest students
- Life Skills & Cooking programs for adaptive SpEd
- Resources to support adapted PE/Music programs
- Adaptive writing tools for the SpEd, including palm grip crayons, pencil weights, and letter stamps



Island Park Elementary:

- Art history elementary card games
- Update science book collection for Library
- Diverse NonFiction to add more diversity to collection
- Toymaker virtual science field trip connecting with Materials and Properties science unit
- Wiggle seats for stability and focus
- Nature Visions virtual Plant & Animal Survival science field trip for all 2nd grades
- Basketballs in different sizes for all grades



Northwood Elementary:

- Nature Vision in-house program on Living Things & Eco-Systems for 5th grade
- Workshop on Colonial Toys integrating Colonial America concepts with STEM
- Field Trip to the Museum of Flight for 3rd grade
- Introduction of a Kong Academy parkour course for 350 students
- Visiting Author/Illustrator Ben Clanton for Kindergarten & 1st grade
- Time for Kids magazines to support 4th grade learning
- Kids Quest Forces in Motion In-House Field Trip with for all kindergarten classrooms
- Student drum set for the music room
- Student-identified high-priority Scholastic books for 5th grade libraries



West Mercer Elementary:

- Drums for the West Mercer music program
- Participation in the WA Children's Choice Picture Book Award program
- Holiday books for all kindergarten classes
- Math Decodables for all kindergarten classes
- ReadTheoryPro for personalized reading activities
- Author-in-Residence for all 5th grade classes
- Alternative PE Activities
- Art Supplies for 3D Art
- Implementation of small group learning with games

Today. Tomorrow. Together. Mercer Island School District's partnership with MISF continued to demonstrate the power of cohesion and collaboration. Our district leveraged the resource commitment from MISF and the generosity of its donors to maintain, enhance, and even add programs and services. I believe we continue to accelerate the student academic, social, and emotional learning process at a faster rate than others in part because of the support from MISF. We are excited about what we can accomplish along with MISF in 2023-2024.

Fred Rundle, Superintendent
Mercer Island School District





Our Spring for Schools
ANGELS & SPONSORS
continued to give BIG to support
our schools during this time.



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

The Breakfast of Champions is the Foundation's largest fundraising event of the year. The event brings the Foundation's mission to life. State funds alone are inadequate to support the rigorous, challenging, and inclusive education our students deserve. Community funds help to bridge the gap between what the state provides and what is needed to ensure every student has access, tools, and resources to reach their highest potential.



The 2023 MISF Breakfast of Champions, which took place on Tuesday, April 25 at the MIHS Gym, was a rousing success, raising over \$300,000 in community support. The Mercer Island High School Drum line kicked off the event, which began with a lively MIHS Bel Canto Choir performance. Superintendent Dr. Fred Rundle gave opening remarks, and the event co-hosts Hilary Benson, and Cliff Sharples welcomed the crowd.

The spirited morning was a celebration of so many inspiring Foundation-funded programs. Breakfast guests enjoyed presentations by teachers and students who shared how Foundation-funded programs like the IDEA Project, teacher enrichment grants, and the new iReady and Benchmark Literacy curricula in the elementary schools have impacted them. Speakers included MIHS Senior Renn Novak, the MISF Penny Yantis Scholarship winner; Joan Papasadero, the MISD Pathfinder award winner; and parent Emily Thompson who shared her story on how the MISD schools prepared her students for college and beyond.



Thank You to our Angels

The Angel Fund provides matching for all donations of \$1,000 or more.

Jill & Warren Ashton
Linnea & Matt Augustine
Fatema Burkey
Alyson & Justin Burks
Frank Close
Hilary & Alexander Doroski
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Jennifer & Greg Rosenwald
Mickey & Christian Schiller
Shannon & John Stokke
Nancy & Wayne Weil
Kelly & Jim Weisfield
Suzanne Lacross Wen & Marco Wen

Thank You to our Sponsors



VICTORY CIRCLE - \$10,000+



CHAMPION - \$5,000



GREG ROSENWALD
REAL ESTATE | MERCER ISLAND



MEDALIST - \$2,500



TEAMMATE - \$1,500



FRIENDS - \$500

Carrie K. York DDS / Carin Susann Designs / Dulce Lash & Skin Mercer Island
EK Beverage Company / Foster Garvey / Fuel Talent
Hali Health & Wellness Chiropractic / Mercer Island Martial Arts
NW Lifestyle Homes / Robyn + Rachel Group / Stephanie St. Mary

Teacher Enrichment

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation annually provides teacher grants to foster classroom creativity and innovation. During the 2022-23 academic year, the MISF allocated \$85,000 in grants, benefiting 63 teachers.

Dedicated to supporting innovative educators, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation empowers teachers with grants that enable students to develop skills, discover passions, and create a learning spark that fosters a well-rounded education.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Toymaker Workshop

This Foundation-funded grant has facilitated the Toymaker and former teacher Rick Hartman’s visit to Island Park Elementary. Rick introduced a captivating toy-making workshop tailored for 2nd graders. Aligned with the second-grade curriculum, which includes a science unit centered around materials and their applications, the Toymaker’s involvement added a significant dimension to the learning experience.

In this unit, students discussed material properties, the transformations materials undergo when heat or cold, and the concept of material recycling and reusability. The Toymaker’s visit was the culmination of this materials-focused curriculum. During this concluding activity, each student enthusiastically participated in crafting a “toy” boat using handmade hammers, nails, and a wind-up propeller.

Following the boat-making process, the students conducted hands-on tests of their creations in water-filled buckets within the classroom environment. This testing phase prompted necessary adjustments and modifications to enhance boat performance. Many resourceful students incorporated sails and adjusted weights, which required thoughtful design and repetitive testing.

Adding a layer of educational enjoyment to the experience, Mr. Hartman engaged with the second graders in discussions regarding the specific properties of the materials employed in the project. Additionally, he delved



“I had fun making boats and testing them”.

“I think that all the grades should have Mr. Hartman come to visit their classroom”.

*~ Second Grade Students
Island Park*



into the concept of energy storage within these materials. The boats, a testament to the student’s creativity and craftsmanship, were sent home, encouraging ongoing exploration and discovery.

Overall, the Toymaker’s involvement was an engaging and enriching enhancement to the 2nd-grade curriculum. It fostered a deeper understanding of materials, their attributes, and practical applications, sparking imaginative thinking and hands-on learning.

MISF allocated \$85,000 in grants, benefiting 63 teachers!

HIGH SCHOOL Construction of Stirling Engines

Mercer Island High School Students in Rita Harvey’s Physics 2 and Chemistry 2 classes engaged in a final STEM project involving the construction of Stirling Engines using everyday materials. Supported by a grant from MISF, the Stirling Engines were utilized for class presentations. Students selected the Stirling Engine after they explored various energy-conservation devices due to its versatility as an engine, refrigerator, or heat pump. The MISF grant supplied 150 students in Harvey’s classes with three Stirling Engine models and necessary equipment such as brass tubing, copper pipe, steel wool, galvanized wire, glues, and balsa wood. Working in groups, students selected a model, studied its functionality, and presented their findings to peers.



Following this, students constructed their own Stirling Engines using provided materials. This initiative facilitated the practical application of STEM knowledge, hands-on physics, and engineering comprehension while enhancing public speaking and evidence-based communication skills. This endeavor allows all students, irrespective of mathematical proficiency, to demonstrate their unique strengths in physics and chemistry.

This project provided the opportunity for students to showcase their STEM knowledge and participate in hands-on investigations and experimental design concepts. The students used real-time data collection to reinforce physics and engineering concepts they’ve learned.



“This is a great thought-provoking way for students to build from inexpensive material an energy-conversion device. In explaining and showcasing their end result, the students will gain experience in public speaking and using evidence to support their statements.”

~ Rita Harvey

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IDEA Project

The IDEA Project is a non-profit organization that provides interactive disability education awareness in schools. With custom programs tailored to each grade level, its goal is to create understanding and empathy by educating students about differences and different abilities.

The IDEA Project’s program started with a group assembly. The 40-minute event was an interactive program during which students were encouraged to participate in the discussion and interactive group activities. An inspiring video showed children with different abilities doing things others might not expect

them to do. The purpose was to illustrate that although everyone is different, it is possible to find similarities and ways that everyone can participate in activities.



Individual activity stations followed the assembly, all tailored to meet the student’s developmental stage and grade level. As students went from station to station, they learned how it would feel to walk in the shoes of others. Some stations included sensory processing issues, communication delays, and physical impairments. The goal was to create awareness and compassion by educating students about differences, different abilities and to foster an understanding in typical peers of how their friends with disabilities navigate their lives.

Foundation-Funded Curriculum Initiatives
Strengthening Student Success

Both of these innovative curricula underscore the commitment of Mercer Island to providing high-quality education, ensuring that every student has the tools and resources needed to succeed academically.

The introduction of iReady Math, a Foundation-funded curriculum, has significantly impacted elementary education in Mercer Island. Through generous contributions from the local community, students can access a world-class, comprehensive, and adaptive learning platform that caters to individual needs and enhances mathematical proficiency. Implementing iReady Math has enriched classroom instruction and empowered teachers with valuable insights into student progress, allowing for targeted interventions and personalized support.



The integration of Benchmark Literacy made possible through the generous support of the Mercer Island Schools Foundation and community funding, has brought about a transformative impact on elementary education in Mercer Island. With access to this comprehensive literacy program, students have the necessary skills to become proficient readers and critical thinkers. Supported by engaging resources and research-based strategies, Benchmark Literacy has revitalized classroom instruction, fostering a love for reading and enhancing comprehension abilities. With Benchmark Literacy, teachers have the tools to effectively differentiate instruction and provide tailored support, ensuring every student receives the attention they need to excel.



“When teachers apply for and are awarded enrichment grants it allows them to provide add depth and dimension to lessons and a spark to learning. Thank you to our generous Mercer Island community for making this possible.”

~ Greta Stednick
MISF Board of Directors
& Grant Lead



MIHS is in the top 1% out of 754 high schools in Washington state.

“MIHS Drama is able to thrive as a result of the grant support we receive from MISF and MIHS PTSA. Through a series of different workshops, all the Drama students come away with a new set of skills and techniques to apply to their work.

Specifically speaking, our spring play, Shakespeare in Love, is directly impacted as a result of our workshop with a guest artist from Seattle Shakespeare, thanks to MIHS PTSA. Our teaching artist guided the students in the language, characterization, and world of Shakespeare.”

~ Daniella Melgar
MIHS Drama teacher



Student Ambassador Program

Our MISF Student Ambassador program is designed to engage MIHS students and provide the opportunity to participate in real-world challenges, facilitate critical thinking and communication among professionals. As major stakeholders of our mission, the program allows them to make a meaningful impact in our district programs and our schools. They will benefit from the transformational experience, all while representing the needs of their school site.

MISF 2022-23 Student Ambassadors –
Silas Burkey, Julia Harper and Nathan Wen

Renn Novak is the recipient of the
2023 MISF Penny Yantis Scholarship

This scholarship is granted to a MISD senior who demonstrates how a Mercer Island Schools Foundation program has impacted or inspired them during their time in the District.

Renn struggled immensely with her identity at the beginning of high school. Growing up as a queer student and trying to navigate mental health issues proved challenging. Through her involvement in the MIHS radio class and with the support of Joe Bryant, the KMIH general manager and radio program teacher, she found her place and voice in the community. Renn started to think about the type of content she wanted to produce and immediately knew she wanted to create a radio show that emulated kindness. Nervous about putting this raw version of herself on air, the support she received from Joe allowed her the freedom and confidence to pursue self-authenticity. Renn started her first podcast, The Tides Show, a commentary on her life as a queer young adult and educator on advocacy and mental health. In return, she was greeted with encouragement and a desire to uplift her voice. It was at that point she realized she had something important to say. More essentially, people were willing to listen.



Through this, Renn and many others have learned that their stories are worth sharing. This model of assistance that the Mercer Island Schools Foundation has set up has influenced the way students seek the community that will support the next generation of change.

To read Renn’s full story, go to Mercer Island Schools Foundation on YouTube.

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation has generously funded the radio station, supporting KMIH and the radio classes with grants for essential equipment. This investment not only amplifies the voices of students like Renn but also serves as a prime example of MISF’s commitment to empowering outlets that contribute to students’ success.

Next year, Renn will be studying neuroscience and playing lacrosse at Whitman College.



Mercer Island School District Rankings

Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents.

Best School Districts in Washington
#2 of 247

Districts with the Best Teachers in Washington
#10 of 243

Best School Districts for Athletes in Washington
#12 of 238

Our schools achieve excellence in education, all thanks to your generous support

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
\$10,000+

Anonymous
Fatema Burkey
Maggie Tai Tucker
 & James Gwertzman
Katrina Spaunhurst
 & Joshua Jeharahjah
Alexandra Boyle & Charles Lee
Lesley & Malcolm Poole
Kelly & Paul Rogan
Jennifer & Greg Rosenwald

HONORS
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Jill & Warren Ashton
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Katherine Van Kessel
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Sonia & Subeer Manhas
Camie Ng & Thach Nguyen
Kim & Stephen Oberto
Kaitlyn Lee & Eun Pyeun-Kim
Mickey & Christian Schiller
Shannon & John Stokke
Nancy & Wayne Weil
Kelly & Jim Weisfield
Marco Wen
 & Suzanne Lacross Weno

BENEFACTORS
\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Kei Morita & Lawrence Azzano
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Michelle Wong Baldwin
 & Drew Baldwin
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Colleen & Scott Barneson
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Emily & Russell Benefield
Liia & Ian Bennett
Hilary & David Benson
Nathalie & Itay Bentov
Johana & Ryan Beresky
Norma & Robert Bergquist
Elaine Berryman
Joci & Jeff Besecker
Amanda & Lee Van Blerkom
Darcey & Alan Blinn
Jody & Eric Blohm
Sheri & Jeff Blumenthal
Francie & Jason Bluming
Kate & Benjamin Boatman
Naushad Zaveri
 & Shivani Bommakanty
Katherine & Noah Borun
Shelley & Sean Boyle
Tasha & Kyle Brown
Lindsey & Matt Buchanan

Merkys Gomez
 & Michael Bundesmann
Katie & David Bunker
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Ava & Brent Chin
Corina & Gregory Chin
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I give to the Mercer Island Schools Foundation because I want our kids to have the best education possible, which requires an investment of time and resources from parents and grandparents and members of the community. Our teachers and staff and administration work extremely hard to ensure that our kids are learning in their classrooms, but they are limited in what they can do by the city and state’s budget allocations. As parents and community members, we can increase the funding available for enrichment, new curriculums and special programs and we can make a significant impact on the level of learning resources and tools that our available in our classrooms.



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“Fourteen years ago, we moved to Mercer Island so that our preschooler (and later, his brother) could start kindergarten in the Mercer Island School District. That preschooler graduated from Mercer Island High School in June and we are confident that his Mercer Island education prepared him for success in college. Our two sons are fairly similar academically, but have widely different interests and socio-emotional needs. Programs to address those interests and needs would be considered “extras” in many school districts. On Mercer Island, they are essentials. It is exactly those types of programs the Mercer Island Schools Foundation helps fund, and we feel fortunate to have sent our kids to schools with such incredible community support.

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