



**MERCER ISLAND**  
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



Making a  
difference  
in the  
lives of our  
students!

# **IMPACT REPORT**

## **2021~2022**

For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2022



Donations to the Mercer Island Schools Foundation helped provide **\$808,379** in additional funding, providing countless opportunities in ALL six Mercer Island Schools for over 4,000 students!



HELLO FRIENDS,

What a year! This year the Mercer Island Schools Foundation celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Since the Foundation's inception in 1981, more than **\$26 million** has been raised for our schools, thanks to our generous Mercer Island community. The Foundation started as a volunteer-driven, grassroots organization and has grown to become one of the largest and most impactful education foundations in Washington.

The secret of the Foundation's success is the strength of our generous community and the corporate sponsors who partner with us to provide the best education for our students – our future generation of thinkers, creators, and innovators. Thank you for joining us in this critical mission. Never has adaptability and responsiveness been more necessary than over the past two years. The global pandemic turned the world upside down and left our Mercer Island schools to quickly meet the different and emerging needs of over 4,000 students. With your help, the Foundation could extend support immediately. We are proud of this community for coming together to ensure our students receive the rich educational experience they deserve.

We are happy to share this impact report with you and celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year. This year we awarded more than \$50,000 in teacher grants to bring innovative ideas and enrichment to classrooms throughout the District, over \$85,000 for K-12 Math and Science curricula, materials, and new adoptions, and over \$35,000 for Fine Arts, which included visual arts, performing arts, and music. In addition, Foundation dollars provided professional development for teachers, social, emotional, and academic support programs for all grades, and so much more!

Between the Fall All in For Kids campaign and the Spring for Schools campaign, we were able to award the Mercer Island School District **\$808,379!** Every student was truly impacted in so many ways by the programs provided by YOU!

Let's be proud of what we accomplished together. It would not be possible without the community's commitment and dedication to providing the BEST education for our students. On behalf of the MISF Board of Trustees and Staff, thank you for prioritizing our mission with your time, resources, and trust in our work to support the students and teachers in our Mercer Island schools!

With gratitude,



Tema Burkey  
MISF Board President



Tammy Shoop  
MISF Executive Director

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***The future of our students depends on the community's belief that all students deserve the best quality education.***

***We are grateful you share this vision with us.***

# Celebrating 40 Years OF GIVING



**In 1981, Mercer Island parents and community leaders had a dream –** a vision of enriched opportunities for students and teachers through a privately funded organization. It had become clear that public school districts needed more than government funding alone could provide. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Bob Klein and Richard Weinman, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation became a reality. They registered the Mercer Island Schools Foundation as a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation and raised \$3,490 in donations in the first year. Between 1982 and 1990, MISF volunteers increased that to an average of \$100,000 per year. During the 1990s, the Foundation grew substantially, and grants



MISF founders Richard Weinman and Bob Klein

**\$26,000,000  
Contributed  
Since Inception**

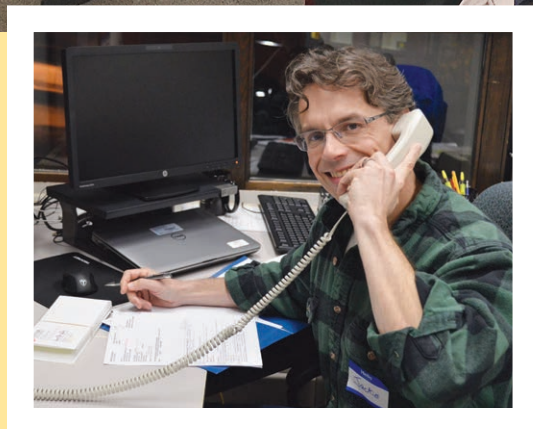
increased to over \$225,000 annually.

Penny Yantis joined the MISF board in 1996 and served as president for four years, becoming the first Executive Director in 2002. She successfully led the

Foundation through many years of growth until her retirement in 2019. The annual MISF Scholarship was renamed the Penny Yantis Scholarship in her honor and is given to a graduating MIHS senior each year. Initially, the Foundation did most of its fundraising through mailers and a Phone-A-Thon held over two evenings each fall. From the outset, the Phone-A-Thon was very successful, and donations grew annually.

However, by 2003, contributions from the Phone-A-Thon had plateaued. At this time, the MISF board added another fundraising event, and the first Breakfast of Champions was held in the spring of 2004. The Breakfast took place in the MIHS gym and raised over \$150,000. Since then, the Breakfast of Champions has become a regular spring event, with an attendance of over 600 people each year and regularly bringing in over \$300,000 in donations on the event day.

Community support for the Mercer Island Schools Foundation has continued to grow. Since the Foundation's inception, parents, community members, and businesses in Mercer Island have invested more than \$26M, creating an ongoing legacy of excellence in education. This tremendous success lies in the fact that the Foundation was born in a community that places a high value on education. Annual support for Mercer Island public schools through the Foundation allows the District to provide the most up-to-date, world-class curricula, the best professional development for educators, enrichment opportunities for students, teacher grants, and programs to provide social, emotional, and academic support. Thank you to this generous community that helps to guarantee an exceptional teaching and learning experience for every student.



# With your help, MISF funded the priorities identified by our District.



## 2021-2022 DISTRICT PRIORITIES

### ADVANCING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

K-5 Math Materials.....	\$5,000
K-5 Year One Math Adoptions and Renewals.....	\$25,000
K-8 Science Materials.....	\$25,000
K-12 Fine Arts.....	\$35,000
K-12 Increased Enrollment Materials Support.....	\$30,000
8-11 Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry Review.....	\$5,000
8-11 Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry Year One Adoption.....	\$25,000
9-12 Humanities/Novel Adoptions.....	\$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.....	\$16,000
Dynamic Social Justice.....	\$30,000
School Improvement Plans (SIPs)	
Elementary.....	\$40,000
Middle School.....	\$26,000
High School.....	\$34,000

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

MISD Values, Vision, and Mission Fund.....	\$20,000
Teacher Innovation Grants.....	\$50,000
Support for National Board Teachers.....	\$10,000
Consortium of Collaborative School Book Studies.....	\$5,000
LETRS Training and Materials.....	\$32,000

**FALL FUNDRAISING GOAL:                   \$434,500**

# Education Grants Highlights

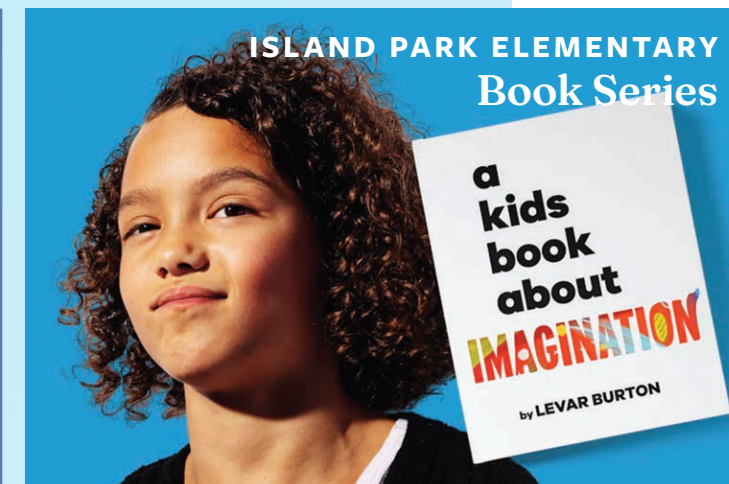
It's long been understood that a study of drama at the elementary, middle and high school level helps students improve in a wide range of areas, such as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-expression, communication, collaboration, interpersonal skills, aesthetic awareness and, last but not least, imagination.

Last year, the students of Drama 1 were privileged enough to have a guest artist from the Seattle Shakespeare Company come spend two weeks with them guiding them through a hands-on workshop where they learned how to perform Shakespearean text, and how to make it accessible for their performance work. In the end, each student had a Shakespearean monologue to work on for their end-of-semester performance.

**Daniela Melgar**  
*MIHS Drama Teacher*



**HIGH SCHOOL  
Shakespearean  
Guest Artist**



The *A Kids Book About* series has been a wonderful resource in my classroom and other classrooms at Island Park. Reading a book to ignite discussion and learning around a specific topic is always a powerful way to present information. Students absolutely love listening to these books, and there is always rich discussion after a text has been read. At Island Park, we have been focusing on the word 'inclusion' and discussing what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like. I have read several books from the series, such as *A Kids Book About Disabilities*, *A Kids Book About Gender*, *A Kids Book About Autism*, and *A Kids Book About Empathy*, to discuss the topic of inclusion. Simply asking the students, "what does this book teach us about inclusion?" has led to rich and insightful discussions that allow students to practice empathy and respect. I have also shared these books with several other teachers at the school, all of who have found them to be a wonderful resource. I am hoping to keep adding to my *A Kids Book About* series!

**Griffen Jones**  
*Teacher, Island Park*

# Investing in the next generation.

## Hilary & Zander Doroski

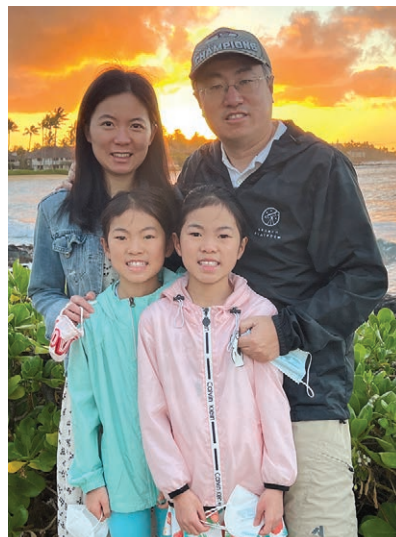
“We want to invest in the Mercer Island community. Investing in our community and our kids is beneficial to everyone. We are an island rich in resources, and there is no reason we wouldn’t want to support our children or the community. By investing in our schools, we can support students every step of the way. We are happy to help and feel privileged to be able to.

Covid caused a tremendous cost for the District, and although there have been funds to support these needs, Mercer Island has received less than a tenth of what the average school in WA state has received. Without the support of the Foundation and the generous support of the community, the money that would be going to fund student academic enrichment has been going to fund essential services. It’s our responsibility to help; by doing that, dollars going to the Foundation help reduce that gap.”



## Cindy Yang & Xiao Kong

“Our family moved to Mercer Island six years ago. One of the primary reasons was the great school district. We really like the Mercer Island community, and the schools definitely exceed our expectations! We also learned that many great things are contributing to the great school experiences, one being the Mercer Island Schools Foundation. The MISF’s role has been well received and acknowledged across the board! The MISF has done a tremendous job here, bringing in resources and giving students access to more programs, materials, and activities, which challenge them, build their self-confidence, and help them connect with others. I am thrilled to see the wonderful work the Foundation has done and want to do our part to contribute. Our donation to the MISF is an investment in the next generation and a big difference-maker in maintaining and improving the education our children are receiving. We feel great that we can do our part to support our schools and students, and we’d feel even better if we could help to influence more families to do the same. If everyone would support the Foundation, our students’ future would be brighter than ever!”



**Our donors are the heart of the Foundation.**  
*Thank you!*



# Financial overview of a bounce-back year.

## Thank You!

Your dollars touched every single student in our schools by way of curricula, enrichment opportunities, professional development, and teacher grants. Your support was needed this year more than ever, and our community came through. We couldn’t do it without you!



### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

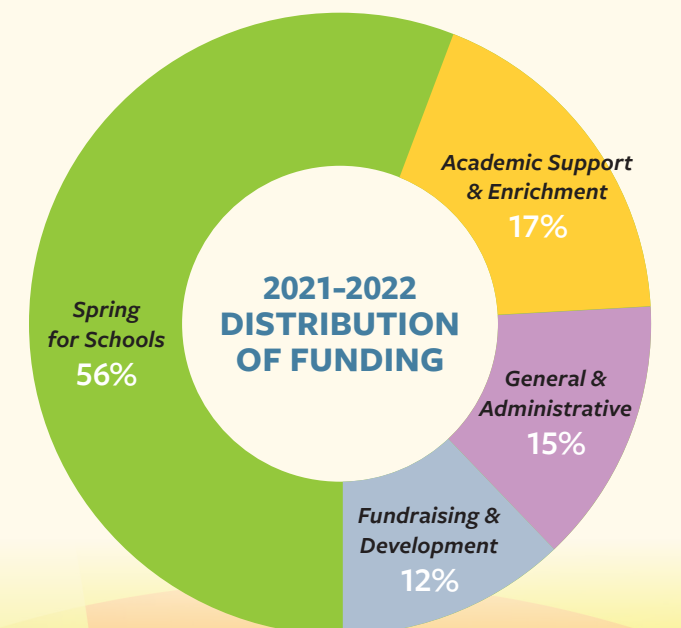
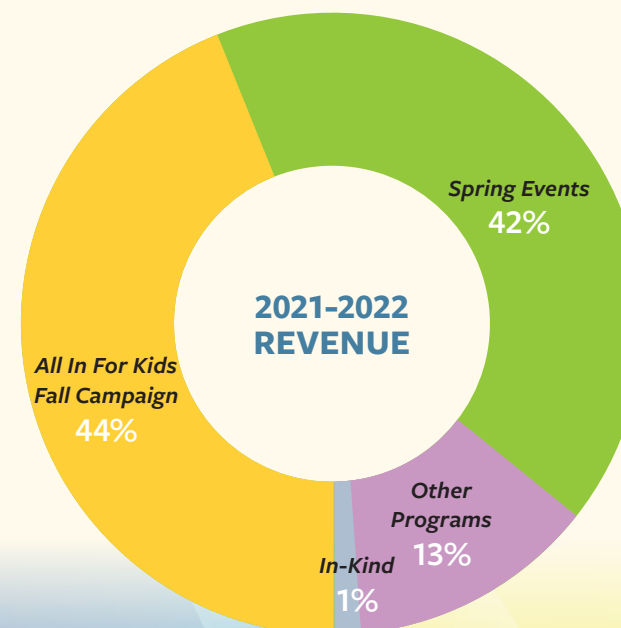
#### 2021-2022 REVENUE

All In For Kids Fall Campaign	\$493,069
Spring Events	\$460,534
Other Programs	\$152,895
In-Kind	\$ 2,500
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$1,108,998</b>

#### 2021-2022 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

Spring for Schools	\$625,000*
Academic Support & Enrichment	\$183,379*
General & Administrative	\$169,484
Fundraising & Development	\$130,810
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,108,673</b>

\*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, 2022. The complete Independent Review of Financial Statements is available upon request.

# Education Grants Highlights

We were so appreciative of the Mercer Island Schools Foundation grant awarded. We were able to produce a beautiful all-district virtual choir video that represented singers from grades 4-12. We provided connections throughout our schools in a year where a connection was not as easy to come by. Here's a link to that [video](#).

We also were able to put together videos for each choir at IMS and MIHS that included live, professional accompaniment, rather than a midi track that is not as high quality. It made a huge difference in our virtual performances. Thank you!

**Annalise Rockow**  
Choir Director, IMS & MIHS



"I received grant to provide for Poetrypalooza, a program to celebrate National Poetry Month and to get kids to read an array of poetry by contemporary poets. The students at IMS and MIHS create brackets, kind of like March Madness, and then to read and vote on their favorite poems over the month and see whose bracket best predicts the choices of MIHS and IMS students. So far, we have over 150 students involved. The winner was Ha Jin, a poet who stayed in the U.S. after Tiananmen Square and writes poems that are introspective about his relationship with both his adopted country and his country of origin."

Listening to poetry helps students to become fluent readers and creative writers, while writing poetry helps them learn to revise their ideas and develop a precision with language. Learning a repertoire of poems gives children and adults shared memories, a shared heritage, and shared understandings.

Poetry can enrich instruction in reading, writing, speaking and listening, capture students with its musicality, and spark their creative and critical thinking.

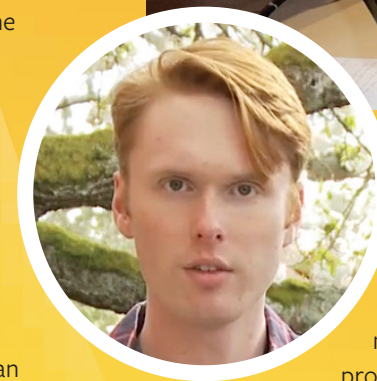
**Creighton Laughary**  
MIHS English Teacher



# Broadcasting Excellence

**Dan Sundholm**  
2022 Penny Yantis Scholarship Winner

My name is Dan Sundholm, and I completed my senior year of high school in 2019. I am currently in the Pathways Program. When I think about the Mercer Island Schools Foundation and how it has helped me, I think about KMIH The Bridge. MISF has supported the radio station with a grant for the three-microphone studio. I used it to make my Beatles radio show on Saturday mornings. I participated in the radio program since my freshman year. Being a part of the radio class has helped me learn how to program music on KMIH and how to plan my show. It has taught me to speak clearly and think about what to say. MISF also paid for



the speakers installed in the hallway so everyone could hear our great radio station. I play songs like Give Me the Chance and All You Need is Love because Beatle's music is all about peace, love, and freedom. One day I'd like to work in the music technology field. Next year I will attend a program at Bellevue College that will help me continue to work toward my goal. Thanks, Mercer Island Schools Foundation, for your support for students like me.

## 2022 MISD PATHFINDERS

*The Pathfinder Award is the Mercer Island School District's highest alumni honor. This award is presented to graduates of Mercer Island High School whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth to make significant contributions to humankind.*

**Dr. Kirk Robinson • Class of 1995**

Kirk Robinson was a loving husband and dad. He was a problem solver and helper who passed away in 2019 after a courageous battle against cancer. Kirk joined MI's auxiliary firefighting force in 1999, was an EMT in Mi's Marine Patrol. Kirk was the first to help a neighbor put up holiday lights, organize a community Fourth of July picnic, or work with his church to bring groups to Mexico to help build houses. Salim Nice, Mayor of Mercer Island, summed it up perfectly when he said "We need to recognize Kirk for all his contributions and the countless lives he touched. Kirk anchored so many with his spirit, enthusiasm, and commitment to the service of others."



**Matt Galvin • Class of 1987**

Pagliacci co-owner, Matt Galvin, inspires all with his commitment to support local communities. Under his leadership, Pagliacci has become the third-largest purchaser of green power in all of Seattle and the first restaurant chain to compost and build a LEED-certified pizzeria. He is involved in numerous organizations to combat homelessness and helps feed those in need through St. James' Cathedral Kitchen. Matt's dedication to doing the right thing has made our region better. He is an impressive inspiration for the youth of our community.



# SPRING for Schools Showcase & Auction

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation held the 2nd Annual Spring for Schools Showcase. This virtual event was a resounding success with help from the MISF Board of Directors, community volunteers, and our incredible show hosts, Hilary Benson and Cliff Sharples. In addition, Dr. Fred Rundle, the MISD Superintendent, made a surprise appearance and held a live Q&A. The Showcase celebrated district programs funded by our generous and committed community. You can watch the 2022 MISF Spring for Schools Showcase on the Mercer Island Schools Foundation YouTube Channel titled **2022 MISF Spring for Schools Virtual Showcase**.

Again this year, an auction was held the week preceding the event. The community got busy bidding and trying to outbid each other! Thanks to our generous supporters and their commitment to education, close to \$500,000 during the 2022 Spring for Schools campaign.

It takes an entire community united in support of educational excellence to ensure that every student in the Mercer Island School District has the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed! The community makes our work possible. Thank you!



*"It was an honor and a privilege to help organize and support the second annual 2022 Spring for Schools virtual event. I believe that our school district is the heart and soul of Mercer Island. Our Spring for Schools event was a proud testament our success. Bound by land and interconnected by choice, we are not only an Island, we are a village."*

- Tema Burkey, MISF Board President

SECOND ANNUAL VIRTUAL EVENT | APRIL 24, 2022

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

### Thank You to our Angels

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

- |                            |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Erika & Greg Brown         | Beth & Cameron Hykes                | Lesley & Malcolm Poole              |
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| David D'Souza              | Jody & David Kris                   | Xiaoling Chen & Ping Zhao           |
|                            | Alexandra Boyle & Charles Lee       |                                     |

### Thank You to our Sponsors



# Thanks to YOU our generous donors!

We strive to provide accurate recognition for every donor, and sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. Matching gifts are included when determining donors' giving levels.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION \$10,000+

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& Derek Loeser  
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Camie Ng & Thach Nguyen  
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*"Being a member of the MISF allows me to be an active part of the development of the Mercer Island school experience for teachers, students, and parents. We are in an exciting yet critical time in the world and in the country; this Island can be the perfect ground to foster deep understanding and experience of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The school system is where we can make a difference to prepare the next generations for a holistically improved society."*

~ Celine Realini  
MISF Board Member





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**“We support our schools because they provide the basic foundation of knowledge for our children. With proper funding and support, our schools and teachers instill a love of learning in our children. Our children can explore a variety of disciplines from math to music to art to foreign language to social justice to robotics to radio to leadership to marketing and many more in order to find their passion. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation affords our district the opportunity to offer our students a diverse and meaningful education that sets them up for success in life.”**

– Dawn & Jeff Dunn  
Dawn / MISF Board Member



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 Tavern Hall  
 Technique Pilates  
 Terra Bella  
 The Boutique Lounge  
 The Fauser Group  
 The Gottesman Chapin Group  
 The Robyn & Rachel Group  
 The Walt Disney Corporation  
 Theron Manson DDS PS  
 TikTok  
 T-Mobile USA, Inc.  
 TRUFUSION  
 Twilio  
 Umpqua Bank  
 United Health Group  
 United Way of King County  
 Urban Pilates  
 Vanguard Charitable Endowment  
 Program  
 Venture General Contracting  
 WarnerMedia  
 Whisk  
 Willard's Kitchen  
 YogaSix Mercer Island  
 Zoe Dodds



*Every Gift Matters!*



### **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.

### **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



## **MERCER ISLAND SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

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