



# 2021 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments at GNSF



**GRINNELL-NEWBURG**  
SCHOOL FOUNDATION

[www.grinnellsf.org](http://www.grinnellsf.org)

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# A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**ELIZABETH HANSEN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**"If you can dream it, you can do it."** This quote from Walt Disney guided me throughout 2021. At the December 2021 GNSF board meeting each attending member responded to this question, "Please reflect on the top GNSF accomplishments during 2021." This list provided by the board is truly inspiring and will guide our work in 2022.

- Support for the REDI fundraising, National Board Teacher Certification, teacher reimbursements, mini-grants and adding GHS students to the board
- GNSF worked with a variety of people, including GHS students, and surviving the pandemic
- Wifi hotspots that made a difference for kids and their homework completion
- The student-led project at GHS
- Providing assistance to teachers pursuing National Board Teacher Certification
- Establishing the new educator fund
- GNSF's ability to say YES!

In 2020, GNSF supported our schools with two new funds: Emergency and Personal Protective Equipment - to keep our kids safe as they returned to school.

As we pivoted during 2021, it became apparent PPE needs continued as did the need for wifi connectivity. Connectivity goes beyond wifi, we continue to support students and families with hot spots and Windstream wifi - and we were also hearing that student participation in school activities outside of the classroom was declining across Iowa. GNSF is committed to applying an equity lens to this issue. The Emergency Fund was converted to a new fund: Supporting Technology, Resources, Innovation and Participation for Every Student or STRIPES was created to meet the emerging needs.

GNSF tackled another equity issue impacting district teaching staff. As student success is directly related to teacher effectiveness in the classroom, National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC) is a proven professional development program for teachers to pursue. NBTC is a voluntary, rigorous, reflective, year-long (or more) process with steep upfront costs totaling \$1,975. GNSF assisted five teachers with the initial costs of the NBTC program. Granted funds were paid directly to the National Board on behalf of the participating teacher.

**GNSF continues to dream big in 2022!  
Thanks to all of our donors for believing in our dreams.**



## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malissa Juni  
*Co-President*

Mary Lindberg  
*Co-President*

Ashley Grundler  
*Vice-President*

Lauren Gant  
*Secretary*

Pam Vosburg  
*Treasurer*

Jamie Leonard  
*Annual Campaign Chair*

Doug Cameron  
*Past President*

Terese Grant  
*Past President*

Roger Henderson  
*Mini-Grant Committee*

Helen Redmond  
*School Board Representative*

Emily Guenther  
*School Board Representative*

Sarah Smith  
*Teacher Reimbursements*

Amy Harper  
*Mini-Grant Chair*

Janet Stutz  
*Ex-Officio, GNCSD Superintendent*

Elyse Eisen  
*GHS Student Board Representative*

Iris Mackenzie  
*GHS Student Board Representative*

Mary Jacobson  
*GHS Student Board Representative*

Elizabeth Hansen  
*Executive Director*

## THE CHALLENGE

The Grinnell-Newburg School District strives to keep pace with the ever-changing demands in public education. The District's operating budget fluctuates year to year depending on enrollment, demographics, local, state, and national economics, and legislative decisions. GNSF believes budgetary constraints should not restrict innovative learning opportunities in the classroom. Through generous donors, GNSF provides financial support to enhance teaching and learning for every student in the district.

## GNSF MISSION

Working with the community, GNSF promotes excellence in the Grinnell-Newburg public schools through fundraising efforts.

- Bi-Annual mini-grant awards
- Teacher reimbursements for classroom supplies
- Special campaigns for high-value projects

# \$96,285.38

## Total Donations Received in 2021

Gifts include: GNSF Endowment Funds, STRIPES Fund, REDI Fund, and GNSF Annual Fundraising Campaign

# \$7,517.89

## STRIPES Funds Available to Students

The STRIPES Fund (Supporting Technology, Resources, Innovation and Participation for Every Student) was created to support students' emerging needs.

# \$17,600

## Grants Received by GNSF

Green State Give & Grow - \$2,600  
Racial Equity Fund - \$4,500  
Theisen's - \$3,000  
Grinnell College Mini-Grant - \$7,500

# MINI-GRANTS & TEACHER REIMBURSEMENTS



Left photo:

Students in Mr. Hosbond's 9th grade English class first trimester recipients were Rylee Belcher, Maggie Kaup, Myah Stephenson, and Rylie Imhoff

Right photo:

Madi Kriegel and Kelci Rubendall are hard at work at a learning center.

- **Mini-Grants:** Spent \$5,560 supporting 4 grants representing all levels - high school, middle school and elementary
- **Teacher Reimbursements:** Reimbursed 113 teachers (for a total of \$5,591.84) for classroom supplies
- **New Educator Grants:** 4 new educators received \$200 gift cards to help prepare their classrooms

## Mini-Grant Spotlight: English 9 Learning Centers

A mini-grant was awarded to implement learning centers in Mr. Hosbond's classroom. The centers featured a combination of teacher-led and student-centered instruction to supplement the current classroom content. The GNSF mini-grant purchased \$300 in Pioneer Bookstore gift cards. Each time a student completed learning center activities, the student's name was entered into a raffle for one of the gift cards at the end of the trimester.

# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Student project at GHS

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Formation of GNSF Advisory Committee at GHS

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Support for GNCSD teachers seeking National Board Certification

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Creation of the New Educator Grant

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## YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

GNSF has created opportunities for our school children since we began in 2006...we raised money for a Steinway grand piano that graces the stage of the high school auditorium. We funded iPads for elementary school classrooms, purchased robots to encourage middle school students to learn computer programming and coding, and sponsored a composer to write choral music for a collaboration between the sixth grade and high school choirs. We also helped to ensure the safety of our children through the Safety & Security Campaign, which helped to secure our school buildings and allow for better communication with our community's first responders.

Still, we recognize that schools provide more than just educational opportunities. Grinnell schools are essential to our children's social and emotional health. GNSF has paid to train therapy dogs at the high school, we have subsidized music therapy for at-risk students throughout the district; and, we have paid for teachers to learn mindfulness techniques and apply them to classrooms in the lower elementary schools. As COVID-19 upended all our lives, we pooled community resources to provide Internet access to students so that they could finish out the school year virtually.

## GIVING LEVELS

- \$1000+ Donation Sponsors a mini-grant
- \$500 Donation Sponsors a student-led project
- \$200 Donation Supports a new teacher's classroom
- \$100 Donation Reimburses a teacher for classroom supplies annually
- \$50 Donation Supports our ongoing projects

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Your tax-deductible gift enables GNSF to enrich opportunities, provide needed instructional equipment, and supplement the resources needed in Grinnell schools. You may mail a donation to GNSF, PO Box 344, Grinnell or donate online at [grinnellsf.org](http://grinnellsf.org).