GRINNELL-NEWBURG
SCHOOL FOUNDATION

2025

Annual Report

GRINNELLSF.ORG

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH HANSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 was a year marked by gratitude, thoughtful transitions, meaningful community impact, and exciting momentum as we look ahead.

Turning a Mix-Up into Magic
When the 2024 annual campaign letter was accidentally sent for our 2025 campaign, GNSF didn't miss a beat. We pivoted quickly, calling it our "mixtape moment"—a playful nod to the mix-up—and sent an entirely new letter. Our community responded with incredible generosity, and this campaign netted $10,527.00.

Filling the Local News Void:
The We Belong Here Podcast
In January 2025, GNSF launched the We Belong Here podcast to fill the gap left when KGRN local news ceased operations in May 2024. Hosted by Dan Walker of the Tiger Sports Live Stream Network, the podcast quickly became a vital community resource. Our first episodes focused on the upcoming PPEL vote in March, providing factual information to voters. Over the year, 40 episodes featuring graduation speakers, school board candidates, retiring and new teachers, and student voices were recorded. Lifting up the positive stories happening in our schools has never been more important.

A Historic Vote and a Generous Gift
March brought a milestone moment: the passage of the PPEL (Physical Plant Equipment Levy) to build a new school. This vote was made possible by a generous land gift from the Ahrens Park Foundation. When completed, this will be Grinnell's first new school building since the construction of GMS in 1979.

Welcoming New Voices to Our Board
We bid farewell to dedicated board members Doug Cameron, Mary Lindberg, and Laurel Tuggle-Lacina, Maggie Kaup, and Wiralba Pichardo, whose leadership shaped GNSF's direction. We welcomed an energetic new class of board members: Zane Strawser-Picardo, Abby Moyer, Bill Kostow, Katie Ditzler, Bev Huebner, Amy Miller, Emily Fenner, and school board representative Laura Fendt.

Supporting Our Youngest Learners
GNSF partnered with Read 2 Lead's Kindergarten Kickoff campaign, providing a copy of The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing to each student entering GNCSD in August 2025.

Investing in Teachers
First Interstate Bank awarded GNSF a $7,000 Community Grant to support our core initiatives: New Teacher Grants, Teacher Reimbursements, and our Mini-Grant program.

As we reflect on 2025, I'm filled with gratitude for this community's unwavering commitment to our students and schools. From the "mixtape moment" that showcased your grace and generosity, to the historic PPEL vote that will shape Grinnell's educational landscape for generations, this year reminded us that when we come together in support of our children, remarkable things happen. Thank you to our donors, board members, and every community member who believes in the power of public education. Together, we're not just supporting schools—we're investing in the future of Grinnell. Here's to an even brighter 2026.

THE CHALLENGE

Today's public schools are navigating a rapidly changing landscape — one shaped by evolving technology, diverse student needs, increasing mental health awareness, and the ongoing impact of legislative and funding decisions. The Grinnell-Newburg School District works tirelessly to keep pace, even when operating budgets don't always make that easy. That's where our community comes in. GNSF was founded on the belief that every student deserves access to innovative, high-quality learning experiences — regardless of budget limitations. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, GNSF provides meaningful financial support that enhances teaching and learning for every student in the Grinnell-Newburg community.

GNSF MISSION

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

- Bi-Annual Mini-Grant Awards
- $100 Teacher Reimbursement
- National Board Certification Financial Support
- New Educator Grants
- GHS Student-Led Grant
- STRIPES Fund to Remove Financial Barriers

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lauren Gant
Co-President

Chelsey Kolpin
Co-President & GHS Student Board Liaison

Bill Kostow
Treasurer & GHS Student Board Liaison

Ashley Grundler
Secretary & Past President

Roger Henderson
Past President & Mini-Grant Chair

Amy Harper
Mini-Grant Chair

Doug Cameron
Fundraising Committee

Mary Lindberg
Communications Committee

Laurel Tuggle-Lacina
GNCSD School Board Representative

Laura Fendt
GNCSD School Board Representative

Zane Strawser-Picardo
Fundraising Committee

Abby Moyer
PTO Liaison

Katie Ditzler
Communications, Interview Committee

Lisa Beames
Ex-Officio, GNCSD Superintendent

Maggie Kaup
GHS Student Board Representative

River Haenfler
GHS Student Board Representative & Advisory Committee Chair

Lanie Kaup
GHS Student Board Representative

Jonathan Solomon
GHS Advisory Committee Vice Chair

Wiralba Pichardo
Grinnell College Service Leadership Work Study Student

Honor Hanau
Grinnell College Service Leadership Work Study Student

Amy Blanchard
GPCF Liaison

Elizabeth Hansen
Executive Director

2025 COLLABORATION WITH GRINNELL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

GNSF PARTNERED WITH THE GRINNELL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND A GENEROUS STRIPES FUND DONOR TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH TICKETS TO BALLET IOWA'S NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCES IN GRINNELL LAST NOVEMBER. THIS COLLABORATION REFLECTS GNSF'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH ENRICHING EXPERIENCES IN OUR COMMUNITY..

2025 GNSF MAJOR GIFTS

Annual Campaign: $10,527.00

First Interstate Bank: $7,000.00

Green State Give & Grow: $4,200.00

Grinnell Mutual Group: $2,000.00

STRIPES Fund: $7650.00

We GIVE: $7,425.00

Other Donations: $64,966.00

$103,768.00

Total 2025 Gifts to GNSF

TEACHER REIMBURSEMENTS NEW EDUCATOR & STRIPES FUND GRANTS

Teacher Reimbursement 2025

During 2024 strategic planning sessions, the GNSF board listened to new ideas. This year, teachers will submit reimbursement receipts ONCE for a total of $100 instead of twice annually.
The numbers below reflect the spring 2025 reimbursement.

School	# of Teachers	Total Reimbursement
Bailey Park	8	397.81
Fairview	6	294.94
Davis	8	366.14
Grinnell Middle School	13	637.57
Grinnell High School	5	248.06
Multiple Schools	1	50.00
Total	**41**	**1,944.52**

In 2025, 5 Mini-Grants were awarded to 4 teachers: Jennie Flinspach, Kevin Hosbond, Kathryn Kauffman, and Sam Watts.
Areas addressed through the grants include: CTE, special education, professional development, and literacy.

2025 Grants	Amount Funded	Additional Funding
Professional Development at the 2025 International Thespian Festival	$ 500.00	
American Realities: A Research Study with Nonfiction Lit Circles	$1,000.00	$ 900.00 Grinnell College Mini Grant
Industrial Tech 3D Printer	$ 863.32	
English 12 Inspiring Sports Books	$ 921.80	
Special Education Level 3	$1,000.00	
Total	$4,285.12	$ 900.00

New Educator Grants:
*In 2025, **5** new educators starting their careers received a $200 gift card to assist with preparing their classrooms (GMS-3 & GHS - 2)*

2025 STRIPES REQUESTS

Request Category	Number of Requests	Amount Requested
Clothing	6	967.97
Fines	1	475.00
Registration Fees	7	322.00
Invisible Closet	8	902.51
Nutcracker Tickets		2,573.50
Other	2	588.02

TOTAL SPENT: $5,829.00

SPOTLIGHT: WE BELONG HERE PODCAST LAUNCH

GNSF launched **We Belong Here**, a new podcast highlighting the achievements and stories that make the Grinnell-Newburg School District exceptional. The podcast debuted on January 29, 2025, and 40 new episodes were produced in 2025. New broadcasts were released on Mondays at 7 p.m.

The **We Belong Here** podcast amplifies the vibrant spirit of the Grinnell-Newburg School District by sharing authentic stories of achievement, innovation, and community. The podcast extends GNSF's successful **We Belong Here** campaign launched in 2023, bringing these stories to life in an engaging audio format.

Hosted by Dan Walker of Tiger Sports Livestream Network, the podcast's mission is to inform listeners about school-related news while championing the district's teachers, staff, students, and community supporters.

We Belong Here is available on all major podcast platforms, including:
Apple
iHeart:
Spotify
PodBean

Listeners may tune in weekly to hear inspiring stories and stay connected with the latest developments in the Grinnell-Newburg School District. Follow GNSF on Facebook and Instagram to catch the latest podcast announcements and other updates throughout the school community.

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. 50112 or donate online at grinnellsf.org.

GRINNELL-NEWBURG
SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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