

WHS Class of 1971

Nominations for Awards from our Legacy Fund - 2026



1. **Project Title:** Primary School Inclusive Playground Enhancement

Beneficiary: Washington Primary School Students

Description:

Washington Primary School serves hundreds of young learners during their most formative educational years. While the current playground provides opportunities for recreation and physical activity, additional equipment and enhancements would create a more engaging and inclusive environment for all students.

Funding would be used to purchase and install new playground components designed to promote physical development, social interaction, creativity, and cooperative play. Potential additions include inclusive play structures, sensory play elements, climbing features, shade improvements, and seating areas. These enhancements would support student wellness, encourage active lifestyles, and provide opportunities for children of varying abilities to learn and play together.

The improved playground would be utilized daily by students and would positively impact generations of Washington Primary School children.

2. **Project Title:** High Ability Defined Curriculum Expansion

Beneficiary: High Ability Students in Washington Community Schools

Description:

Washington Community Schools is committed to meeting the academic needs of all learners, including students identified as high ability. While differentiated instruction occurs within classrooms, dedicated curriculum resources are needed to provide advanced learning opportunities that challenge students beyond grade-level expectations.

Funding would support the purchase and implementation of research-based curriculum materials, project-based learning resources, STEM enrichment activities, advanced literature studies, and instructional materials specifically designed for high-ability learners. These resources would allow students to engage in deeper inquiry, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving experiences.

This investment would help ensure that high-achieving students remain engaged, challenged, and prepared for future academic success while strengthening the district's commitment to excellence for all learners.

3. Project Title: STEM and College & Career Exploration Field Trips

Beneficiary: Washington Community Schools Students

Description:

One of the most powerful ways to inspire students is by connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences. This project would provide transportation and admission costs for STEM, college, career, and industry-focused field trips for students across Washington Community Schools. Students would have opportunities to visit colleges, universities, manufacturing facilities, healthcare providers, engineering firms, technology companies, and other workplaces that align with the district's College and Career Academy pathways. These experiences allow students to explore future career possibilities, meet professionals working in high-demand fields, and gain a better understanding of educational pathways available after graduation.

Funding would help remove financial barriers and ensure that more students can participate in meaningful experiences that broaden horizons and encourage future career aspirations.

4. Project Title: Graduation Cap and Gown Assistance Program

Beneficiary: Washington High School Senior Class

Description:

Graduation represents a significant milestone in the lives of students and their families. However, the cost of graduation attire can present a financial burden for some households. This project would establish a Graduation Cap and Gown Assistance Program to cover the rental cost of graduation gowns for all members of the Washington High School senior class.

By eliminating this expense, the district can ensure that every student participates fully in commencement ceremonies without financial hardship. The program would promote equity, reduce barriers to participation, and allow students and families to focus on celebrating academic achievement and future opportunities.

The Class of 1971 would be recognized for helping make graduation more accessible and memorable for an entire graduating class, creating a meaningful and immediate impact on students and families.

5. Project Title: Agricultural Education Experiential Learning Expansion

Beneficiary: Washington High School Agriculture Program Students

Description:

The Washington High School Agriculture Program provides students with opportunities to explore careers in agriculture, agribusiness, natural resources, animal science, plant science, and agricultural technology. As the program continues to grow, there is an increasing need for hands-on learning experiences that allow students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings.

Funding from the Class of 1971 would support the expansion of experiential learning opportunities through the purchase of equipment, supplies, and instructional resources that enhance student engagement and skill development. Potential investments include greenhouse improvements, hydroponic growing systems, livestock and animal science equipment, welding and fabrication tools, agricultural technology resources, precision agriculture demonstrations, and materials for supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs).

In addition, funds may be used to support student participation in agricultural leadership events, industry tours, career development competitions, and partnerships with local farms, agribusinesses, and agricultural organizations. These experiences help students develop technical skills, leadership abilities, and career awareness while strengthening connections between education and the local agricultural community.

Agriculture remains a vital part of the region's economy and heritage. This project will help prepare students for careers in one of Indiana's most important industries while providing meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that cannot be replicated through traditional classroom instruction alone.

6. Project Title: Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Program at Washington Jr. High

Beneficiary: Washington JH Students

Description:

At Washington Junior High School, we implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model. Rather than relying solely on traditional punitive discipline, PBIS proactively fosters a joyful school culture where students thrive academically and socially by knowing exactly what is expected of them. To promote holistic student growth, students qualify for our weekly "Student of the Week" drawings and our major,

nine-week milestone incentives by maintaining positive school attendance, earning good grades, and remaining completely free of behavioral write-ups. The ways we try to highlight student success, such as prizes for student of the week or the 9-week incentive outing is tied to the amount of money we have available to organize those incentives. Funding from the class of 1971, would be instrumental in sustaining this vital mission; it will directly finance the tangible prizes, certificates, and school-wide celebrations that keep our students deeply engaged, while covering the ongoing expenses incurred by the program. By investing in our PBIS initiative, you are providing the critical financial resources needed to validate our students' hard work, incentivize personal responsibility, and build a respectful community where every child is inspired to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration!

7. Project Title: Hatchet Robotics

Beneficiary: Washington HS Robotics Teams

Description:

We are a co-curricular class that inspires students into the world of STEM. We have brought the most difficult robotics competition to Washington, and our students have stepped up to the challenge evident by having our team qualify for the state level competition each of the last 5 years! What is more important is that students have found their future with this program - earning honors, scholarships to college, and college credits while in high school because they are a team member of this program.

Any money donated would go straight towards opportunities for students in two main ways: equipment for students to work with (our students design, machine, assemble, wire, and code our robot from stock parts!) and to help students with travel. Last year we were able to attend a competition in Charleston, South Carolina, where we made it to the semifinals! Travel is difficult to finance for some of our students, and giving deserving students a scholarship to be able to grant them the same opportunities will be a big help.

If anyone would like to discuss this farther, or get a tour of the robotics room, I'd be happy to meet with them.