

DONATE TODAY!

The Winchester Education Foundation appreciates your commitment to support Winchester Public Schools. Donations support programs and foundation operations.



wefsuccess@gmail.com



winchestereducationfoundation.org



540-876-0856



"Partner in Education" Program

The WEF's "Partner in Education" program is designed to help provide the funding needed to continue administering existing programs and to develop new partnerships.

By becoming a Partner in Education, you support scholarships, teacher incentives and pioneering programs. The following businesses and individuals have already committed to achieving excellence together as a WEF "Partner in Education."



Judge Level
\$5,000

The Borden Foundation



Founder Level
\$2,500

Mike Birchenough
Bank of Clarke
United Bank
Kathy Thomas Charitable Fund



Patron Level
\$1,000

Frederick Block Brick and Stone
Sharon Byrd
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Atlantic Union Bank
Martha and Wilborn Roberson



Supporter Level
\$500

Glenn & Laura Burdick
Amy & Steve Slaughter
The Winchester Group
Hottel & Willis
William Eaton
Shenandoah Valley
Westminster-Canterbury



Star Level
\$100

Apple Federal Credit Union
Larry & Cathy Weiss
Courtney Reilly
Thach Nguyen
Eugene & Karen Schultz



Member Level
\$25

Joann Rinker
Nikolay Nikolov

(as of September 19, 2025)

Ready to make a difference?

Become a **Partner in Education** for as little as \$25 per year!
Scan the QR code or email us at wefsuccess@gmail.com.



2025 Annual Report

"Dedicated to elevating our community through promoting educational opportunities and providing support for Winchester Public Schools, its students, teachers and staff"

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As we embark on our second quarter century of advancing excellence in Winchester Public Schools, the Winchester Education Foundation remains a positive catalyst for change, strengthening our community and investing in the future of our students. Over the past year, we have expanded our board, bringing renewed energy and expertise to ensure we maximize our impact in alignment with the ELEVATE 2030 strategic plan.

Our success is made possible through the generous support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. This annual report highlights how collaboration and investment in education drive real results, sharing the stories, milestones, and successes of our programs. We invite you to join us in shaping a brighter future for all by contributing your time, talent, or resources to be part of this inspiring journey.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Carl Rush, President
Glenn Burdick, VP
Madelyn Jimenez-Torres, Secretary
Lisa Frye, Treasurer
Mike Birchenough, Director
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Claire Prosser, Director
Stephen Slaughter, Director
Kathy Thomas, Director
Larry Weiss, Executive Director
Dr. Jason Van Heukelum, Ex-Officio



WEF Launches YouTube Channel

The Winchester Education Foundation is now online with a YouTube channel! This channel features short video interviews with members of the WPS faculty who have received Educator Grants from the WEF.

Take a minute to visit the channel and learn more about some of the most gifted members of our WPS faculty and staff. Come back often as new video content will be added monthly. You can find the channel here:



THE WEF BY THE NUMBERS



\$404,846

received in donations, pledges and grants

\$244,038 provided to Winchester Public Schools by the WEF

11 scholarships and grants awarded to graduating seniors



totaling **\$28,500**



8

teachers received WEF "Come Back to Teach" grants totaling

\$27,500



WEF INITIATES PORTERFIELD ENDOWMENT

The WEF and WPS are proud to announce the establishment of the Porterfield Endowment, a new fund created to honor the legacy of beloved educator James R. Porterfield, Jr. The endowment supports the JHHS English Department.

The Porterfield Endowment was established by generous donors and Handley Alumni Gerald and Kaye Smith, who were both inspired by Mr. Porterfield's legacy to provide funds for new initiatives that promote mastery of literacy through high-quality instructional resources and direct student experiences.

WEF HOSTS "LUNCH WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT" FOR KEY DONORS

This signature event provided Founder and Judge level donors with an opportunity to connect directly with Dr. Jason Van Heukelum, WPS Superintendent. Dr. Van Heukelum shared reflections on the successful completion of the district's five-year strategic plan, Empower 2025, and introduced the new strategic plan, Elevate 2030.

During the luncheon, WEF also honored three departing Board Directors for their dedicated service:

- **Martha Roberson**: Long-serving Director, Secretary, and Chair of the Education Programs Committee
- **Dennis Haston**: Long-serving Director and Education Programs Committee member, who brought his experience as a retired Handley math teacher to the board
- **Bill Armstrong**: Chair of the Donor Relations Fundraising Committee and Director

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Winchester Education Foundation was proud to participate in the Baccalaureate ceremony at John Handley High School to present our 2025 scholarships to outstanding members of Handley's graduating class.



- Diana Najarro Gonzalez, Wells Fargo Scholarship
- Addison Bessette and Joseph Cooper, Eugene B. Cooper Scholarship
- Hayley Davis and Mario Gomez, The Mindy Loy Future Educator Scholarship
- Moustafa Hassand, The Mindy Loy Vocational Technical Scholarship
- James Mabe, The John and Polly Duvall Scholarship
- Ana Aquino Batista, Joseph Cooper, Tatiana Diaz, and Olivia Jett, Rees Memorial Scholarships
- Luis Ruiz Maya and Luis Fernandez, Hispanic Heritage Month Award
- Emyerce Worrell and Blessed Makahamadze, Black History Month Award

EDUCATION GRANTS



The annual Mindy J. Loy "Come Back to Teach" Education Grants are funded by a testamentary trust of the late Mindy J. Loy, Handley Class of 1974. These grants assist JHHS graduates who serve as educators, administrators, and certificated professionals in Winchester

Public Schools with monetary awards that help defray the costs of past or continuing education. Five grants, each in the amount of \$5,000, were awarded to newly hired members of our WPS team. One \$2,500 grant was awarded to a current member of the WPS teaching staff.

- Wendy Houser, Assistant Principal, JKES (\$5,000)
- Tiffany Markosky, Nurse Aide Teacher, JHHS (\$5,000)
- Sarah Palmer, Special Education Teacher, DMIS (\$5,000)
- Sabrina Ramey, Math Teacher, JHHS (\$5,000)
- Jeremiah Wilson, English Teacher, DMMS (\$5,000)
- Sarah Walrath, Math Teacher, JKES (\$2,500)

Two Navy Federal Credit Union grants were also awarded. The goals of the Navy Federal Credit Union WPS Educator

Grants are to assist professional staff who serve as educators, administrators, and other certificated professionals in Winchester Public Schools and to promote recruitment and retention of outstanding education professionals.



- Laura Filppu, Music Teacher and Band Director, DM
- Yelena Bravo Edwards, Kindergarten Teacher, GQES