

Spring 2023



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Dear Friend:

The 2022-2023 school year will mark the 20th year of the **Add it up to Opportunity!** staff campaign. Twenty years adds up to a lot of opportunities for students! Opportunities and students drive our desire to give as teachers and co-chairs. The work of the Foundation has a positive impact for ALL students in Grand Island Public Schools. From scholarships, to classroom grants, to legacy funds, our Foundation makes a difference every day.

#whyigive

"Through our donations, we can impact our students in ways beyond what we can do in the classroom every day with them, and often we may not even realize just how much of an impact our donations have on our students. The GIPS Foundation does everything from awarding mini-grants and scholarships, to helping families in need deal with unexpected hardships. Our students are young people with hopes, goals, and dreams, and through our foundation, we are able to provide them with the support they need to pursue those ambitions." - Katelyn Weseman, Walnut Middle School

Those every day differences happen because the staff at GIPS cares. Collectively, we educate and we nurture nearly 10,000 students every year. It takes all of us. We are teachers, custodians, paras, secretaries, counselors, administrators, social workers, nutrition service personnel, maintenance personnel, nurses, and specialists. And, we all make a difference.

Our Foundation cannot do it without our support. That support shows our community that we are invested in our students and in turn, creates a domino effect of giving. You are the integral piece in setting the standard. That standard has been raised again and again each of the last 19 years. We challenge you to make this 20th year the most successful yet.

Add it up to Opportunity! Since we started this campaign in 2004, GIPS staff has given \$1,400,535 to our Foundation to invest in students. For every dollar you have invested, our Foundation has added \$22.16 to bring the total benefit to students up to **\$31,041,792!**

YOU make the difference! To honor the legacy of their late matriarch, Janet Benson, and to support their love of public education, the Benson Family has offered a challenge gift of **\$5,000**. The Bensons have been attending, working, coaching or teaching in the GIPS district for an astounding 56+ consecutive years! They encourage you to think about how you can make a difference with your gift as well. The Benson Family challenge gift will match your new and increased gift up to a total of \$5,000!

You can also help us celebrate **20 Years of Giving** in 2023! All staff members who give \$72 or more (*that's only \$6 per month!*) will qualify for a free t-shirt that includes a custom twenty year anniversary logo.

Your contribution, **no matter the size**, will MAKE A DIFFERENCE for our students!

Sincerely,

Bailey Aupperlee & Sarah Nedrig, Elementary Co-Chairs
Kelsey King, Hannah Schmidt & Katelyn Weseman, Middle School Co-Chairs
Deb Lawson & Kent Naylor, Senior High Co-Chairs

Grand Island Public Schools Foundation