

Spring 2024



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Dear GIPS Foundation Supporter:

The **2024 Add it up to Opportunity!** Staff campaign is kicking off with the goal of adding up 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 on ALL students in Grand Island Public Schools. From scholarships, to classroom grants, to legacy funds, our Foundation makes a difference every day.

**#whyigive**

*“Personally, being able to see the growth from all of our students is what helps drive me to continue to support and give back to the Foundation. Seeing students be successful and achieve their dreams is something that every educator should strive for. Since being in the district, I have chosen to give in support of the students who might not be able to achieve their dreams without a little bit of help. Allowing students the opportunity for them to see that we are invested in them.” - Eon Lemburg, Walnut Middle School*

Get ready for the thrill of making a real impact every single day! The dynamic team at GIPS is on a mission, and it's not just a job – it's a passion! Picture this: a collaborative TEAM of educators, custodians, paras, secretaries, counselors, administrators, social workers, nutrition service personnel, maintenance personnel, nurses, and specialists all coming together to shape the lives of nearly 10,000 students annually.

But here's the kicker – it's not just about us, it's about YOU! Yes, you are the driving force that propels our success. The GIPS Foundation relies on your support to make a difference in our community, showcasing our commitment to students and sparking a chain reaction of generosity. You are the key player, setting the bar high. And guess what? We're not just celebrating 21 years of excellence; we're gearing up for the most phenomenal year yet. Get ready to be part of something extraordinary!

**Add it up to Opportunity!** Since we started this campaign in 2004, GIPS staff has given \$1,511,677 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 **\$33,505,170**.

**YOU make the difference!** Douglas and Cheryl Jensen know what a difference giving makes to students' lives and have offered a challenge gift of **\$5,000**. The Jensen's have been attending, working, coaching, teaching, or supporting in the GIPS district for an astounding 69 consecutive years! They also encourage you to think about how you can make a difference with your gift. The Douglas & Cheryl Jensen Challenge Gift will match your new or increased gift up to a total of \$5,000!

You can also help us celebrate 2024 with a GIPS Foundation t-shirt! All staff members who give \$72 or more (*that's only \$6 per month!*) will qualify for a free t-shirt.

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

Sincerely,

Beth Schott & Chandra Kosmicki - Elementary School Co-Chairs  
Eon Lemburg, Holly Ortega, & Kathryn Zeller - Middle School Co-Chairs  
Pat Doyle & Haley Koeppel - Senior High Co-Chairs