

Spring 2021



Traci Skalberg
Executive Director
123 South Webb Road
P.O. Box 4904
Grand Island, NE 68802-4904

308 385-5900 ext. 1170
Fax 308 385-5949
Email tskalberg@gips.org
Web www.gipsfoundation.org

Board of Directors

Vikki Deuel, President
Zack Butz, Vice President
Tom Gdowski, Treasurer
Dr. Connie Allen
Bianca Ayala
Kathie Degen
Todd Enck
Jenna Grenier
K.C. Hehnke
Vince Hernandez
Kim Jensen
Audrey Lutz
Erin Marsh
Pam Price
Roger Schmidt
Dr. Rob Winter

Dear Friend:

Extraordinary. There will never be another year quite like this. We have witnessed extraordinary tenacity, grit, and care, as together we returned to classrooms in person, online, and hybrid. We have been together, apart. One thing is certain, we have done it all for our students.

We are so proud to be associated with this extraordinary GIPS Family. Your flexibility and determination to make sure our students succeed during this time is heroic! We are also proud to know that we aren't alone. Our GIPS Foundation has pivoted and charged into the moment to assist our students, families, and schools as our realities changed.

While finding new ways to do all of the 'ordinary' things such as providing classroom grants, college scholarships, and student success grants; OUR Foundation also raised dollars to support our students and staff through personal hardships during this extraordinary time. **The stories make you cry.** Utility bills, internet bills, transportation, medical bills, and mental health have all been a focus. We can count on OUR Foundation to walk along-side us and make investments in opportunities when the district cannot.

Your gift matters now more than ever! Our Foundation cannot make these investments without our support. When we give to our GIPS Foundation, it is a signal to the community that we see and believe in our Foundation, and they should too. Because we give, our Foundation is able to create even more resources for our students from the greater community.

Adding up to Extraordinary Opportunities! Since we started this campaign in 2004, GIPS staff has given \$1,004,523 to our GIPS Foundation to invest in students. For every dollar you have invested, our Foundation has added \$27.06 to bring the total benefit to students up to **\$28,193,814!**

Extraordinary YOU! With the sincere desire during these extraordinary times to encourage the staff and students of Grand Island to continue to "Dream Big" in all their endeavors, Gerald and Jill Foltz have offered a **\$5,027** challenge gift from the Sam Foltz Foundation. The Sam Foltz Dream Big Challenge Gift will match your new and increased gift up to a total of \$5,027!

Additionally, all staff members who give \$60 or more (*that's only \$5 per month!*) qualify for a free t-shirt. See your Contest Rules page or your team leader for more information.

We hope that you will join us with your extraordinary gift. Your contribution, **no matter the size**, provides **Extraordinary Opportunities** for our students!

Sincerely,

Amy Bombeck & Jen Shafer-Ehlers, Elementary Co-Chairs
Deb Lawson & Audrey Smalley, Senior High Co-Chairs
Jen Kramer, Amanda Rood & Angela Wiegert, Middle School Co-Chairs

Grand Island Public Schools Foundation