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East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

2915 HALL STREET SE | EGR | MI 49506



## SAVE THE DATES

Reunion '59 . . . . 9/27-28

Reunion '84 . . . 9/27-28

Homecoming . . . . .9/27

Parade 4:30pm

Alumni Tent 6:30pm

Football Game vs. Wayland 7pm

Reunion '74 . . . . .10/19

Reunion '14 . . . . .11/27

Reunion '09 . . . . .12/27



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

### EGR SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

#### Board of Directors

Jill Miller | *President*  
 Brian Schwartz | *VP*  
 David Hojnacki | *Treasurer*  
 Beth Skaggs | *Secretary*  
 Nick Adamy  
 Tom Blower  
 Jennifer Bruce  
 Stephanie Doublestein  
 David Hall  
 Joel Iakiri  
 Sara Irwin  
 Rob Kowalewski  
 Melissa Marsh  
 Jenny McMahon  
 Megan Miller  
 Trish Reid  
 Kelli Smith  
 Abby Sorota  
 Meg Zerfas

#### Student Board Members

Xiangyu Chen, '21  
 Raenah Lindsey, '20

#### Ex-officio

Dr. Heidi Kattula  
*EGRPS Superintendent*  
 Brad Laackman  
*EGRPS School Board Member*

#### Staff

Amy Stuursma  
*Executive Director*  
 Maria Allen  
*Alumni Relations Coordinator*  
 Jay Forstner  
*Communications Director*  
 Rosanne Mack  
*Accountant*  
 Carole McDonald  
*Office Manager*

It's hard for me to believe, but even after more than 35 years of the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation helping our students, our schools and our community, I still am occasionally asked, "Who are you?"

Here's the long answer: We are a group of 23 board members and five staff members who are dedicated to preserving the East Grand Rapids tradition of excellence for all our students and for generations to come.

**We are students**, two of whom are members of our board, and all of whom benefit from the programs and academic enhancements the Foundation provides.

**We are parents**, of children who are about to enter East schools, of students at Woodcliff, Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy, East Grand Rapids Middle School, and East Grand Rapids High School. We're also parents whose children have graduated from East.

**We're grandparents**, of students who attend East schools, students who are East alumni, and children who will attend East schools someday in the future.

**We're alumni**. We're the more than 13,000 East alumni who continue to make the world a better place in our community, in our state, across the country and around the globe.

Some of us are all of those things. My father, Dave Cook, was part of the East class of 1957. He has seen his children and grandchildren graduate from East. Another will graduate this year. And another is entering the high school this fall. Like so many others in our community, my parents continue to support the Foundation because they realize the tremendous difference East Grand Rapids Public Schools have made in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

**Some of us are staff members**, more than 130 of whom have contributed to our Now&Forever endowment campaign. They have seen first hand how programs funded by the Foundation and its donors have helped our students, and they want to make sure the education they provide continues to be the best it can be.

And some of us are none of those things. **We're community members** who may not have attended East schools, who may not have had children go here, but who understand that our schools are a center of pride for our community and are an enormous part of what makes East Grand Rapids such a wonderful place to live.

So that's the long answer to the question, "Who are you?"

Here's the short answer: **We are you**, a group of champions of public education dedicated to preserving the East Grand Rapids tradition of excellence.

*Amy C. Stuursma*

Amy Stuursma  
 East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation Executive Director

**1,606**  
**TOTAL DONORS**  
to the Foundation  
this past year  
**2,889**  
**STUDENTS**

**2,434**  
**GIFTS**  
to the Foundation

**132**  
**STAFF**  
have donated

**800+**  
**FAMILIES**  
have donated  
to Now&Forever

**340**  
**NEW DONORS**  
to the Foundation

**51**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
have been on a  
Now&Forever committee

**703**  
**ATTENDEES**  
at Foundation functions  
in the past year

**8,472**  
**ALUMNI**  
have shared their  
contact info with us  
(more than 4,000 still haven't,  
but we'd love to have yours)

**726**  
**REUNION ATTENDEES**

This year students  
will benefit from  
**\$328,000**  
in Foundation  
funding including:



745 from the Gerken Fund's grant for Barwis Strength Training



75 middle schoolers and 11 staff from leadership training



1,944 elementary and middle school students from classroom & media center updates



1,944 elementary and middle school students from author and artist visits

# THANK YOU



690 middle schoolers from Innovation Lab materials



1,940 participating in events at the Performing Arts Center



988 high schoolers from academic resources Questia and Turnitin



East Grand Rapids  
Schools Foundation

**\$6.3 MILLION RAISED**  
**TO DATE**  
*\*at time of printing*

# NOW & FOREVER

Be part of this historic effort. **BE A PIONEER.** Go to [egrsf.org](http://egrsf.org) to make your pledge.