



Foundations

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation & Alumni Association Fall Report 2020



*Our COVID Response
Donor Honor Roll
Upcoming Events*



UPCOMING EVENTS

GERKEN OPEN 10/5/2020

12:30pm shotgun start
Thousand Oaks
Golf Club
Register or sponsor
at egrfsf.org

CLASS OF 2015 REUNION 11/25/2020

AUGUST 2020

The Class of 2024 were among the first to re-enter East Grand Rapids Schools while they participated in "Freshman Connection" led by the High School's Leadership & Youth Development Student Organization.

Freshman Connection is an interactive registration and orientation to the high school that begins the bonding process within the Freshman Class and helps integrate them within the school community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

I hope this message **finds you well.**

That greeting has become a cliché in these trying times, but I really do have hope for many things. We sent this newsletter to the printer on August 24, the first day of school. Three weeks later, I truly do hope this message finds you well.

I hope that schools were able to reopen fully and safely. I hope that the remote learning options our schools have provided have proven to be successful. I hope our teachers, students, administrators and staff are safe and doing what they do best: teaching and learning to prepare for the changing world ahead.

An enormous amount of work has gone into making all that possible. Our EGRPS administrators worked tirelessly throughout the summer to plan for a safe return to school this fall. The district's Return to Learning Plan was revised numerous times to provide the best possible options for everyone involved.

We've been busy at the Foundation too. As you'll see inside this newsletter, the Foundation has been hard at work ever since schools shut down in mid-March preparing for the future and providing our community with the resources it needs to carry on.

Thanks to our donors, we've been able to make our schools safer by purchasing state of the art robotic sanitizing machines. We've helped feed our community through the Family Food Fund. We've helped support local businesses through Gaslight Giveback. Our endowment has generated more than \$330,000 to support vital school programs. And, through One East, our community provided our schools with approximately half a million dollars to keep our district solvent and prevent even more severe cuts than have had to be made. **All together the Foundation will provide our schools with \$870,000 this school year.**

All that work—by the district, the Foundation, and all of you—has occurred during a time of unending uncertainty. We still don't know what state and federal funding will be. We don't know what new challenges the fall and winter will bring. We don't know when we will be able to gather together and celebrate our community.

One thing we do know is that our commitment to our schools will never change. We will continue to do everything we can to support all our students and all our schools. Our schools have always been at the heart of our community. This crisis has reminded us how interconnected we all are. Our schools make East Grand Rapids a better place to live, and our community makes our schools better places to learn. Together, we're investing in our students, because the future belongs to Pioneers.

Amy C. Stuursma
Amy Stuursma, Executive Director
East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation



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ONE EAST

2020 DONOR ROLL CALL | One East Campaign Supporters

This edition of the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's Donor Roll Call recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the Foundation's One East Campaign from **June 1, 2020 through August 18, 2020**. The Foundation's Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges all who have generously supported our mission through their gifts.

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For more information visit us online at egrsf.org

“Where is the Foundation in all of this?” – East Grand Rapids Parent Facebook post

Great Question!

Ever since the pandemic hit, our community has been rallying to support our schools, our students and each other.

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation has been at the center of these efforts.

“When the story is told of how our schools were able to survive, that story is going to be all about community involvement, helping each other out, and working together to show our commitment to our public schools.”

– Amy Stuursma
Executive Director
East Grand Rapids
Schools Foundation

\$870,000



MARCH

3/12 EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED
Michigan schools close for three weeks

3/18 EMERGENCY GRANT
Foundation holds special meeting to approve grant for robotic sanitizing machines



3/25 CONNECTING COMMUNITY
Foundation creates EGR Staying In, Reaching Out page

APRIL

4/8 FAMILY FOOD FUND
Foundation creates a mechanism to help EGRPS families facing food insecurity



4/22 COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Foundation launches Gaslight Giveback to help Gaslight businesses

MAY

5/19 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS
Aidan McCahill
East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation Scholarship

Anna Knuble
Charles B. “Chip” Ridenour Jr. Scholarship
Laine Richards
Reid VanGelderens Memorial Scholarship
Acacia Walter-Rooks
Reid VanGelderens Memorial Scholarship

Jack Sheridan
Matt F. Fouch Scholarship of Character
Rori Anderson
Matt F. Fouch Scholarship of Character



5/22 BUDGET CRISIS
EGRPS announces it is facing a \$2.85 million deficit

3/17 RECHARGE CANCELED
Foundation forced to cancel its major annual springtime fundraising event

3/20 UV SANITIZING
Robotic sanitizing machines begin cleaning schools

4/2 OFFICIAL CANCELLATION
District announces in-person learning and winter/spring sports canceled for rest of school year

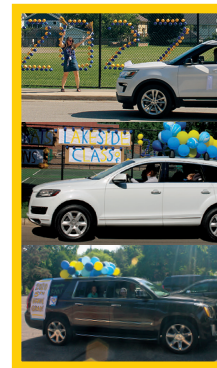
4/15 CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS
Foundation begins featuring the Class of 2020 with New Alumni Profiles at egrsf.org

5/18 SENIOR GIFTS
Foundation delivers alumni gifts to the homes of each graduating senior

5/21 SENIOR BANNERS
A Foundation board member collaborates with senior parents to create 249 “Points of Pride” banners displayed at Memorial Field

JUNE

6/12 8TH GRADE PROMOTION
Middle School Teachers say goodbye to the Class of 2024



6/13 TRADITIONS ENDURE
Fifth Grade Farewell “Drive of Fame” at Breton Downs, Lakeside, & Wealthy



6/16 A CALL TO ACTION
Foundation launches the One East fundraising campaign



6/26-27 COMMUNITY YARD SALE 1.0
Benefitting One East at EGR Middle School



6/15 BUDGET CUTS NEEDED
EGRPS announces \$1.25 million in proposed cuts, Board of Education asks EGRPS to identify list of additional potential cuts.

JULY

7/17 ONE EAST REACHES \$200,000



7/19 13.3 MILES
Amorak Huey raises \$1,621 for One East by running a half marathon without training



6/24 YES WE CAN
One East Can Drive begins

7/12 MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO’s KONA ICE FUNDRAISER



7/12 BRETON DOWNS PTO’s KONA ICE FUNDRAISER

7/30 WEALTHY PTO’s KONA ICE FUNDRAISER

7/16 ONE EAST REACHES \$250,000

7/24 RTL 1.0
EGRPS releases Return to Learning Plan



7/21 150,000+ CANS!
One East Can Drive raises over \$15,000



GRASSROOTS CONTRIBUTIONS
Thank you to the campaign’s 479 unique donors!

AUGUST

8/24 SCHOOL REOPENS



8/7 RTL 2.0
EGRPS updates Return to Learning Plan to include remote learning with EGRPS teachers



8/9 ONE EAST REACHES \$450,000

7/22 ONE EAST REACHES \$350,000

7/31 ONE EAST REACHES \$400,000

7/21-22 COMMUNITY YARD SALE 2.0
Part 2 benefitting One East at EGR Middle School

8/14 ONE EAST CONCLUDES
The campaign secures \$460,000 in donations, preventing even more drastic cuts to programs and allowing our district to remain financially solvent.