

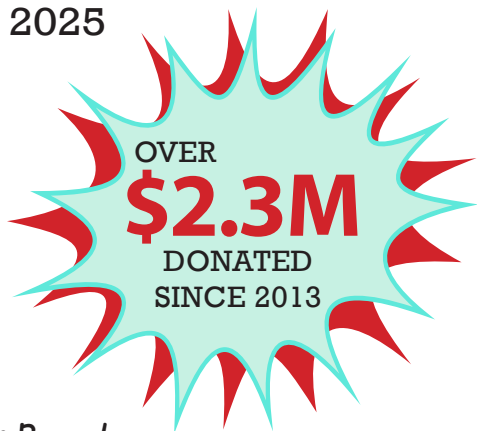
Fund
Our
Mission



FOUNDATION FOR DUBUQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

700 Locust St | Dubuque, IA 52001

Annual UPDATE 2025



Letter from the Board,

As we begin 2026, the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools extends our deepest gratitude to every donor, volunteer, and advocate who stood with us this year. Your generosity has made a real difference for our students and educators, and we are humbled by the strength of this community. Yet, as we look ahead, the needs of our public schools have never been greater. Every child deserves access to the tools, opportunities, and support that will help them thrive and we know we cannot do it alone. We invite you to continue standing with us.

Your partnership allows us to remove barriers to learning, invest in educators' innovative ideas for student success, and continue to collaborate with DCSD to create and fund programs that extend learning, build curiosity, promote postsecondary opportunities, and make students excited to come to school every day.

Your investment in our schools is an investment in Dubuque's future and in the future of public education. Together, we can ensure that every student has the chance to succeed.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being a fundamental part of this work. Let's keep moving forward together, because we are needed now more than ever.

Together Serving DCSD,
Foundation for Dubuque Public School Board Members

Katie Stork, Lauren Siegert, Mimi Holesinger, Mat Langenberg, Dawn McCoy, Kevin Eipperle, Verrick Foust, Wil Hudson, Zach Hodge, Jennifer Faley, Gary Reid, Tracy Schadle, Tammy Duehr, Josh Weidemann, Whitney Sanger

Enhancing Student Achievement \$165,482

Robotics for grades 4th-12th
Student Support Foundations in grades 9th-12th
Student Clubs/Organizations
Musical Instruments for 5th-12th graders
Field Trips for 5,380 students
School Garden Clubs in 6 schools
New Library Books for 3 schools

Reducing Barriers to Education \$81,510

DCSD Open Closet/Food Pantries for all
Fees with College Level Courses and CTSO's
Paying negative Meal Accounts \$18,800 paid in 2025
Individual Student Scholarships for 28 students
Lesley Stephens fund for students with disabilities
John Deere Benevity to Marshall \$12,500 invested in 2025
Brain Health Summer School for 50 students
Brain Health Retreat Rooms for 9th-12th
Beverly R. Hodge for athletics, business, world language

Supporting DCSD Educators \$57,175

Judi Chandlee Grants
Kim Becker Grants
Alt STEM Professional Development Opportunities
Schmid PD for Music and Art Educators
Building Grants... and more!

Your Support Lead To ...



District-Wide Funding

Outdoor Adventures continued to thrive in 2025 because of generous donor support and a grant through Iowa Conservation Education Programming. All Pre-school-5th graders and 7th graders were able to attend an Outdoor Adventure that connected to Science standards for each individual grade level.



"FDPS thank you for working so hard to provide funds for us to do these amazing field trips. The joy and excitement on the faces of my students is priceless. Thank you to the wonderful donors who provide funds for busses and everything else that goes with these trips. Because of them, all students are able to experience this opportunity."

- Amy Evarts, 5th grade teacher
Sageville Elementary School

"Outdoor Adventures provides student a hands-on and connected learning experience in nature or in environments related to the field of science. These experiences bring life to the concepts that are introduced in the classroom and has profound impact on the students' learning through these tangible experiences. The Outdoor Adventures program works with community partners and highlights the resources and opportunities that are within the city of Dubuque."

- Lisa Feltes, Director of Elementary Education
for DCSD



FDPS Mission

The Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools (FDPS) supports student achievement by promoting investment in the Dubuque public schools. FDPS board members and staff fulfill this mission by securing financial gifts and grants for school programs and projects that are not currently supported by public tax dollars.

Individual Building Investment



“The John Deere Benevity gifts, supported through the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools, have provided Marshall Elementary students with valuable resources that fall outside the scope of the regular school budget. These contributions have funded new library books, technology, and essential winter clothing for students whose families may not have the means to purchase them. The Benevity gifts offer opportunities that go above and beyond what we could typically provide. Marshall Elementary is deeply grateful for our partnership with John Deere and the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools—partnerships that make a meaningful difference for our students every single day.”

- Nick Hess, Principal
Marshall Elementary School

Other ways FDPS has supported individual school buildings in 2025: After school programming, new technology to teach coding, sensory pathways and items for sensory rooms, communication boards on playgrounds.

Connecting Classrooms to Community

“FDPS has given students access to the broader community and has helped them make connections outside of their classroom. Through student support foundations, students have also learned how to spend money more responsibly, advocate for their classmates and teachers, and use critical thinking skills they will use after graduation.”

- Molly Anderson, English Teacher
Dubuque Senior High School and SSF Co-Facilitator

Access to snacks, food, personal hygiene items, clothing, school supplies through DCSD Open Closet & Food Pantry



Individual Student Success

“I joined the garden club because my brother would come home excited as he shared about planting, harvesting, and eating the produce he worked so hard to grow. Now I know so many more people, from all grade levels, and no matter what we do together, it is always fun. I also have a garden at my house, know when to rotate plants indoors, and even replant the tops of potatoes to grow new ones, instead of throwing them away.”

- Brielle Ambrosy, 8th grader at Roosevelt who has been in Garden Club since 6th grade

“Our team has grown so much over the past two years, and it’s incredible to watch students who once struggled to make friends now finding a safe, welcoming space where they belong and can succeed,” shared Harper Goranson, 10th grader at Hempstead. *“We’re so much more than what we build,”* added Spencer Meyer, 11th grader at Senior. *“We aren’t just a robotics team, we mentor younger students, collaborate with community members, volunteer our time and talents, and carry the skills we’ve gained into our future plans.”*

“I really liked how the clarinet felt and it was really easy to play so I thought it would be fun to join band. My first choice was definitely the Oboe because of hearing the Oboe in Peter in the Wolf from first grade. When I go to middle school I would like to learn the oboe. The clarinet feels like it’s little brother. I like listening to music, playing music, and I like singing too.”

- Evelyn Brimeyer, 5th grader at Prescott in the school band



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GreenState Credit Union
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Fidelity Bank & Trust
Fuerste Eye Clinic
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Additional ways to support FDPS:

- Host a “fund” fundraiser
- Adopt FDPS around the holidays
- Spread the word to your family and friends
- Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn



Upcoming Dates

Save the Dates!
March 19th Annual Event
April 23rd Dine Out for Public Schools



Learn More

