



Vermillion Public Schools Foundation

2014-15 Board Members
Michael Granaas, President
Nancy Craig, Secretary
Lynne Day, Treasurer
Lisa Bye
Jim Peterson
Susan Tuve
Tim Schwasinger
Mark Froke, ex-officio

P.O. Box 569
Vermillion, SD 57069
www.vermillionpsf.org

Winter, 2014

Vermillion School District Mini-Grant Program

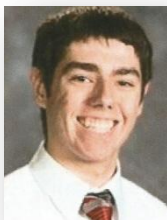
The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is initiating a Mini-Grant program for our teachers. Mini-grants are intended for a classroom-level project that is outside the school district budget. This grant will assist teachers with the out-of-pocket expenses for such projects during a school year. Grant requests will be for teachers individually, or collaboratively, that will benefit the education of our students. An example of such funding is the Foundation's recent grant to the Vermillion High School and Middle School Robotics Teams to attend the regional championship contest in Fargo, ND in December. If you are interested in donating to the Mini-Grant Program, please use the enclosed contribution form.

New Board Members

The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation welcomes new board members: Lisa Bye, Jim Peterson and Susan Tuve. Tim Schwasinger is the Vermillion School Board representative to the Foundation. The Board is working on several future projects. These include hosting a literacy event at the elementary school and an annual luncheon.

The Edith Siegrist Charitable Trust

The Edith Siegrist Charitable Trust (Siegrist Trust) annually provides money to the Vermillion School District that benefits the school district libraries, student scholarships, and district music programs. The school ***District Libraries*** used the Siegrist Trust for an annual subscription to "OverDrive," a digital distributor of eBooks, audiobooks, music, and video titles. Under the OverDrive program, VHS students are able to access eBooks through their iPads.



Wyatt Hansen



Caitlin Britten

The Siegrist Trust also provided ***Scholarships*** for high school and middle school students. The 2014 Siegrist Scholarship recipients were Wyatt Hansen and Caitlin Britten. They were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their post high school studies. The Siegrist Trust also sent eleven (11) Vermillion Middle School students to various University of South Dakota summer camps. The students attended the USD Governor's Camp, USD Music Camp or the Lawrence Bros. Science Camp.

The **Vermillion School District Music Program** acquired, through the Siegrist Trust, several types of electronic equipment to enhance both rehearsals and performances at all grade levels. Two new amplifiers will be used in many different settings – jazz band, show choir pit, musical pit – to boost the sound of the electric instruments. The old amplifiers were not in good shape, and the school district did not have the budget to replace them.

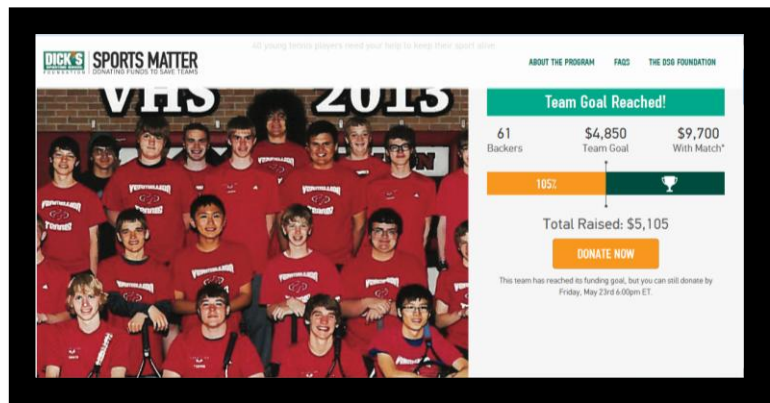
The Vermillion School District has a wonderfully built auditorium at the High School, but it has a limited sound system. The stage was built for theater (speaking), not for singing/talking over pianos and instruments, so the music program was in need of some voice amplification for concerts, musicals, assemblies, and any other time when performers require a little help getting their sound out in a vocally healthy way. The Foundation purchased shotgun microphones to be used at the auditorium to provide more flexible, high quality amplification for voices. The music department was able to use the microphones on a couple of their spring 2014 concerts.

Finally, the rehearsal/music rooms at all four schools were in need of new sound systems to play CDs and MP3s and amplify music from iPods and iPads. The old boom boxes were outdated and unreliable, and the Foundation was able to replace them with sturdy, high quality units that should last for years.

Assistance to Vermillion School District Groups

The Foundation continues to provide support to the following groups in their fundraising efforts: VHS Tennis, VHS Girls' Soccer and the Vermillion Athletic Booster Club Capital Campaign. The **VHS Tennis Program** was chosen for the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation inaugural fundraiser "Sports Matter." Because of the generous support of the community and friends, VHS Tennis met their fundraising goal and received the matching funds. This is the fourth year that the VHS Tennis Program has supported itself with the help of the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation.

The Foundation assisted the **Vermillion High School Girls Soccer** team. The VHS boys and girls soccer teams, traditionally a self-funded club sport, were placed under the rules of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, which required soccer to be sanctioned by their school boards. The girls soccer team now had to bear the higher costs of a state-sanctioned program. Through the generosity of the Vermillion Community, the girls team met their fundraising goal.



Vermillion High School Boys & Girls Tennis Online Web Page

The Foundation was also asked to assist the **Vermillion Athletic Boosters** with their Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign has already completed the installation of a new high school reader board sign with a Daktronics LED display, located in the front of the high school. The Capital Campaign will also be raising funds for a new scoreboard for the football/track field, shot clocks for the basketball court, weight room upgrades, a sprinkler system for the football field and football practice field, resurfacing the tennis courts, resurfacing the football practice field and a "Gator" which moves equipment to the field.

Vermillion Public Schools Foundation

www.vermillionpsf.org

Enclosed is my gift of: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

Please designate my gift to the following fund:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mini-Grants for Teachers | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Foundation's Greatest Need | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Enhancement Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Education Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Education Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvements Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Financial Aid Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | \$ _____ |

My Name/Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Vermillion Public Schools Foundation

P. O. Box 569

Vermillion, SD 57069

treasurer@vermillionpsf.org

VPSF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation
Your donations are tax deductible

***VPSF has received 107 donations for 2014.
Thank you for your support!***

Why is the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation necessary?



As state and federal allocations shrink, it is critically important for a quality public school to broaden the base of its support in order to fund vital educational programs, cultural enrichment programs and to provide the facilities necessary to meet the needs of the children and the community.

We welcome you to join in the effort by participating in the annual giving and the planned giving programs. If you are interested in establishing a named endowment to support our schools, please contact president@vermillionpsf.org for more information.