

VERMILLION PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



Winter 2015

The mission of the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is to support opportunities for learners to confidently succeed in a diverse world.

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Current Projects

Literacy Learning for Life. The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is helping to support a three-year commitment to improve the writing skills of our students at the elementary schools. A professional development program to assist the staff will include mentoring and coaching by a visiting professional. Sue Galvin, Jolley School Principal, has a goal for these children "to be lifetime writers."

High School Scoreboards. Through a partnership of the Vermillion Athletic Boosters, the School District and First Dakota National Bank, scoreboards were purchased through Daktronics. The two new scoreboards are located on the soccer/football/track area and in the high school gymnasium. The Athletic Boosters' next project will focus on rehabilitating the high school football and soccer fields.



VHS Reunion Class Gifts

The Class of 1965 held their 50th Class Reunion last summer. Their class gift to the VPS Foundation provided the initial funding for the first year of the Literacy Learning for Life program at Jolley Elementary School.

Scholarships Awarded

The following high school scholarships were awarded in May, 2015: The Walter & Margaret Kaeberle Scholarship for \$1,000 to Abby Weiss; the Edith Siegrist Scholarships for \$1,000 to Teddi Settles and Adam Winslow; and the Ribs, Rods 'n Rock & Roll Scholarship to Tyler Madsen. The Siegrist Middle School Scholarships were awarded to eleven VMS students who attended one of the University of South Dakota 2015 summer camps - Governors Camp, Lawrence Bros. Science Camp and the Summer Music Camp.

Successful Fundraiser Held in November

The 2015 "MINGLE at RED Steakhouse," an annual fundraiser for area non-profits, benefitted the VPS Foundation. A broad base of support for education was represented at the event by community members, businesses, parents, teachers, and members of the University of South Dakota. Half the proceeds raised from the 250 tickets sold will go to the Literacy Learning for Life program and half will go to the Athletic Booster Club's Capital Campaign.

Group Fund Accounts Under the VPS Foundation Umbrella

Vermillion Area Robotics Club (VARC) * Vermillion Athletic Boosters * Vermillion High School Soccer
Vermillion High School Tennis * Vermillion Middle School STEM * Vermillion Music Boosters * Vermillion PTO



Our Programs: An Overview

Teacher Grants - Teacher grants enhance the education of the students in the Vermillion School District by encouraging and recognizing new educational approaches and concepts that are not currently funded by the district. The grants provide funding for classroom materials, which make these innovative instructional techniques possible. Teacher grants are made in conjunction with the Vermillion Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Scholarships - The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation manages three high school scholarship funds that award four scholarships. There is one middle school scholarship fund. Please consider setting up an endowed scholarship. When an endowment fund reaches \$6,000.00, a percentage of the earnings goes to a payout for a scholarship. The remainder of the earnings are returned to the fund for growth. No percentage of the earnings go toward Foundation expenses.

New Board Members

Jim Moran - Jim is the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at University of South Dakota.

Myesha "Mimi" Sellers - Mimi and her husband, Lamont, came to Vermillion by way of Houston, TX. Lamont is the Director of the Center for Diversity & Community at USD. Mimi and Lamont have four children in the Vermillion schools.

Dan Van Peursem - Dan serves as Chair to USD's Department of Mathematical Sciences. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three school-aged children.

Foundation working to update alumni email list

The VPS Foundation is a network for Vermillion High School alumni to connect with their alma mater. The Foundation is working to update its email records in order to better serve our alumni. If you are the contact for your class (*i.e.*, plan reunions, keep track of classmates), we request that you contact us at treasurer@vermillionpsf.org or (605) 677-7000.

Foundation seeks alumni news for Facebook page

The Foundation has a Facebook page! We encourage alumni to share your photos & news with us. Please "Like" us on Facebook.

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