# Vermillion Public Schools Foundation



# We provide opportunities that ignite excitement in learning.

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

#### Contacting the **Foundation**

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### **Message from President Jim Moran:**

Our Foundation continues to grow thanks to your support and continues to make a difference for our students. This year, for example, we are expanding the opportunities for more students to be engaged in the Arts Attack program by adding another grade level. Thanks to you, we have reached significant milestones in the level of our Endowment and in our Annual Gifts, but we know our teachers have more to do for their students.

Our priorities, over the past two years, have focused on the arts and reading based on working with the School Board and our teachers. As we undertake a strategic planning process, we would like to hear from you – please give us your ideas on how the Public School Foundation can better serve your needs.











## **VPS Foundation Current Projects**

The picture of Ms. Law's First Grade class shows her students drawing a turtle with the objective of learning the concept of line and pattern. This art lesson is part of "Arts Attack", an online video-based art curriculum that teaches the

elements and principles of art and drawing in a developmental and sequential way. This art program was purchased two years ago for the kindergarten and first grade classes by the **VPS** Foundation



as a test project to overcome the loss of the art teacher position years ago. The art program has since been purchased for second grade. The verdict is that the

Arts Attack program works very well. Based on this success, the school board has purchased the art program for the third through fifth grades. This public-private partnership demonstrates the advantages where the VPS Foundation's seed money to test a potential program proved positive for the elementary schools.

The Bean's "Fund-It Friday" for VPS Foundation will be Friday, June 15, 2018 8 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD – Proceeds will support art education for Vermillion Public Schools.

### Groups 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

## **Grants Awarded in Spring 2018**

Edith Siegrist Funds: The Siegrist VMS Summer Camp Scholarships will send two students to the USD Governor's Camp, four students to the Lawrence Brothers Science Camp, and four students to the USD Summer Music Camp.

**VPS Foundation Scholarships**: The Foundation awarded several scholarships to VHS Seniors this year: two Dennis Helseth Scholarships to Olivia Tawar and Stian Olson; the Kaeberle Scholarship to Keonni Knight; two Siegrist Scholarships to Shelby Brady and Bali Summers; and two Ribs, Rods & Rock 'n Roll Scholarships to Blake Anglin and Nathen Brady.

#### **New Board Members**

Katharina Wymar (VHS '87) works at the University of South Dakota as a PMO manager for IT. She has two boys, Armand & Emile, who attend USD and VHS, respectively.

Donny Stewart (VHS '06) works at his family's long-time Vermillion business Vermillion Ford.

















# Thank you to the following Donors ~ December 2017 – May 2018

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Kevin & Rose Weiss – *In memory* of Darrel & Cloette Schroeder

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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 info@vermillionpsf.org or (605) 677-7000.



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### **Accomplishments by Vermillion Booster Groups:**

<u>Athletic Boosters</u>: The Vermillion Athletic Boosters will start construction this summer on a new grandstand and coaches boxes at the VHS Football & Track Field. The Tanager Hall of Fame was held in April honoring the 1965 VHS undefeated football team; Richard (Dick) Slattery; Todd Poling; Jane (Knutson) O'Brien; and Kevin Cusick. The Athletic Booster's Inaugural Golf Fundraiser will be held on May 19, 2018.

<u>Vermillion Area Robotics Club</u>: The Vermillion Area Robotics Club (VARC) was awarded a Daniel Swets Materials Award for \$3,000 from The NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium. The Consortium noted that "from its inception four years ago, the Vermillion Area Robotics Club (VARC) has grown to reach 160 students from 3rd grade through high school with their VEX robotics program." VARC, in collaboration with USD, hosted a 3-state VEX IQ Regional competition and has plans to expand the competition next year to a 5-state region to include VEX EDR metal robots for middle and high school students. VARC teams finished in the top five at both US Open and Worlds this spring.

<u>Music Boosters</u>: The VHS Rhythm in Red Show Choir was awarded "Champions" in Class A at the SDHSAA State Show Choir on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The VHS Show Choir band was also recognized as the Best Band. Many alumni participated in the annual "All School Extravaganza" to honor John Alpers, director of bands at VHS since 1990, who will retire this spring after 28 years teaching in the Vermillion School. Best wishes to Mr. Alpers in his retirement!