



# Vermillion Public Schools FOUNDATION

Tanager Update Fall 2024

Supporting Opportunities to Learn

## New Technical Education Scholarship Honors the life of VHS Graduate Doug Mart

Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is excited to partner with the family of Doug Mart in the creation of an endowed memorial scholarship. Doug Mart was a lifelong resident of Vermillion and owner of Mart Marine. He loved boating and the outdoors from a young age. He shared his love of the Missouri River with countless friends, family and customers. He enjoyed fishing, relaxing on sandbars, pulling tubes filled with kids behind the boat, and teaching others how to operate or fix a boat. After a courageous three-year battle with cancer, Doug passed away on February 24, 2024.

“Doug was a proud graduate of Vermillion High School and a big supporter of young people going into technical fields,” said Doug’s wife Sara Mart.

He loved the idea of supporting VHS grads with plans to pursue technical education, so this scholarship was the perfect fit for Doug’s memorial money,” stated Sara. “Doug was so modest; he didn’t think there would be much memorial money.” Instead, generous donations came from near and far to honor him.



His family kindly followed his wishes for memorial funds to be used in partnership with VPSF to form an endowed scholarship to be awarded to students pursuing technical degree programs after high school. The goal of an endowed scholarship is to support the scholarship in perpetuity. A fund is created with the principal amount remaining intact while the interest generated provides funding for the scholarship into the future. “We have raised over \$18,000 and we are under \$7,000 away from having the funds to award this \$1,000 scholarship to a VHS graduating senior forevermore with the interest earned from the endowment” stated Sara.

The first Doug Mart Technical Education Scholarship was awarded in May 2024 to Tayden Wells. “I am just so pleased to know that future members of the Mart family (Doug’s great nieces & nephews) will see classmates awarded scholarships in memory of their Uncle Doug for years and years to come!” Sara said.



Thanks to generous donors, we raised \$200,000 for the new accessible playground at Vermillion Elementary School where all students are included in outdoor play! Special thank you to Clayton & Odessa Lang Ofstad Foundation and Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee, for donating the inclusive playground surface. VPSF continues to raise funds for additional accessible playground equipment.

Visit us: [vermillionpsf.org](https://vermillionpsf.org)



**Joan Holter Gift Supports Teachers**

Joan Holter’s gift of \$15,000 provided \$250 for each staff member at the new Vermillion Elementary School. The gift was designed to aid Vermillion Elementary teachers in furnishing their new classrooms with the goal of creating a good learning space for them and their students.

**All School Reunion Welcomes VHS Grads**

Alumni ranging from the Class of 1948 to 2022 attended the Vermillion All School Reunion in June. It was a time to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about the good times, and create new memories. There was a social on Friday evening at the XIX Brewery with the release of a Tanager beer for the occasion. On Saturday, high school tours were given and from 6-9 pm a dinner and social with live music at the high school commons was held. Sunday morning the reunion concluded with a brunch at Cee Cees in downtown Vermillion. A little over \$3,200 was raised and will be put towards a new VPSF fundraiser, outdoor learning spaces.



Reunion attendees sign the “decade” posters and review class memorabilia during the Saturday dinner.

**Vikki Fix Endows Professional Development Fund for Vermillion Teachers**

“We want teachers to be continually improving the ways they teach. However, they usually bear the cost of this growth, e.g., paying the travel costs to go to a conference, working extra hours without extra pay to make changes. This fund will pay these costs and encourage teachers to continue to learn and develop their skills,” said Vikki Fix, a former Vermillion teacher.

After 5 years of donating \$10,000 a year to The Teacher’s Professional Development Fund, Vikki Fix, working with the VPSF, made a \$250,000 donation for an endowment fund that will provide \$10,000 per year in perpetuity. Vikki taught math and computer classes at Vermillion High School from 1996 to 2003. Her endowment

will ensure teachers will be able to attend professional development conferences and activities that enhance their knowledge and enrich the classroom.



**150+ Vermillion High football fans enjoyed a tailgate with food, face painting and games before the 2024 homecoming game. Tailgate donations support outdoor learning spaces for all three schools.**

**We Say Thank You to All of Donors from July 2023 to June 2024—You ARE Our Foundation!**

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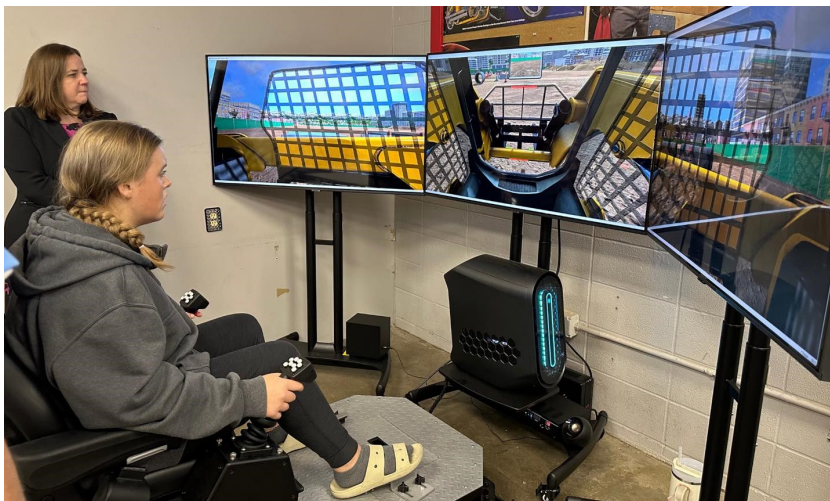
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**FOUNDATION**

## Vermillion Public Schools Foundation Brings Heavy Equipment Simulators to Local Students

The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation assisted in providing state-of-the-art heavy equipment simulators to the Vermillion School District, offering students hands-on experience with machinery used in construction, agriculture, warehousing, distribution, and other industries. This innovative addition allows students to practice operating a forklift and skid steer loader in a safe, controlled environment.

The simulators are part of the district's career and technical education (CTE) programs, helping students develop valuable skills for high-demand fields. By gaining experience on these machines, students can earn certifications and prepare for apprenticeships or entry-level positions after graduation.

This partnership with the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is a key step in bridging the gap between education and workforce readiness, providing students with the tools they need to succeed in their future careers.



A Vermillion High School CTE student practices skid steer operations and tests their abilities against programmed training activities.

For more information, please visit:

<https://vermillionpsf.org/>