

2014 Annual Report

Current data shows that one in three students in the state of Oregon will not earn a diploma next June. The statistics are slightly better in Corvallis public schools, but not by much. The “4 year cohort” graduation rate in 509J schools has held steady at about 72% for many years. Corvallis Public Schools Superintendent Erin Prince believes we can do better and we agree. Private donors (YOU) give more than \$400,000 each year through the Foundation, impacting all Corvallis schools for academic enrichment, supplies, athletics and arts education. In addition to managing school directed giving, the CPSF has focused on improving graduation rates as one of the most compelling areas in need of additional resources.

Last summer, at a cost of \$100 per student, summer options funded by the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation served over 350 students in middle and high school. These donations were leveraged with school resources to provide educational pathways for students in greatest need of academic support on their journey toward a high school diploma.

Annie (*not her real name*) is an eighteen year-old, going on thirty. Even though she was enrolled in school, her family relied on Annie to care for her younger siblings. The family has been homeless in Corvallis for most of her life and faces hardship each day that is stressful and dehumanizing. Items like clean socks and toilet paper are not taken for granted. With this as the backdrop, Annie did not make progress her senior year and she did not graduate with her class in 2013. She had given up hope and stopped attending classes, which felt like the only option. Fortunately for Annie, College Hill advisor Cathy Wright learned about her situation and worked with Annie to create a plan, including a summer school opportunity in 2014. With private donor funding, expanded options in the summer provide students like Annie a way to make up the credits required for graduation. As told by Ms. Wright, “The consistency of summer classes and free breakfast were just what she needed. Her teachers greeted her every day and she was able to earn credits for three of the four classes needed to earn her diploma.” Annie worked this fall to complete her final credit and will officially receive her diploma in 2015. This is a powerful example of getting the right kind of help to a student facing unimaginable odds. Annie did the work and her future is brighter with a diploma in hand.

The challenges are complex; our plan is simple. The Corvallis Public Schools Foundation is aiming to provide more learning options, to more students, across all grade levels, to ensure that all students can be successful learners no matter what barriers they might face. We invite you to join us and support the work of helping all students stay on track to graduate.

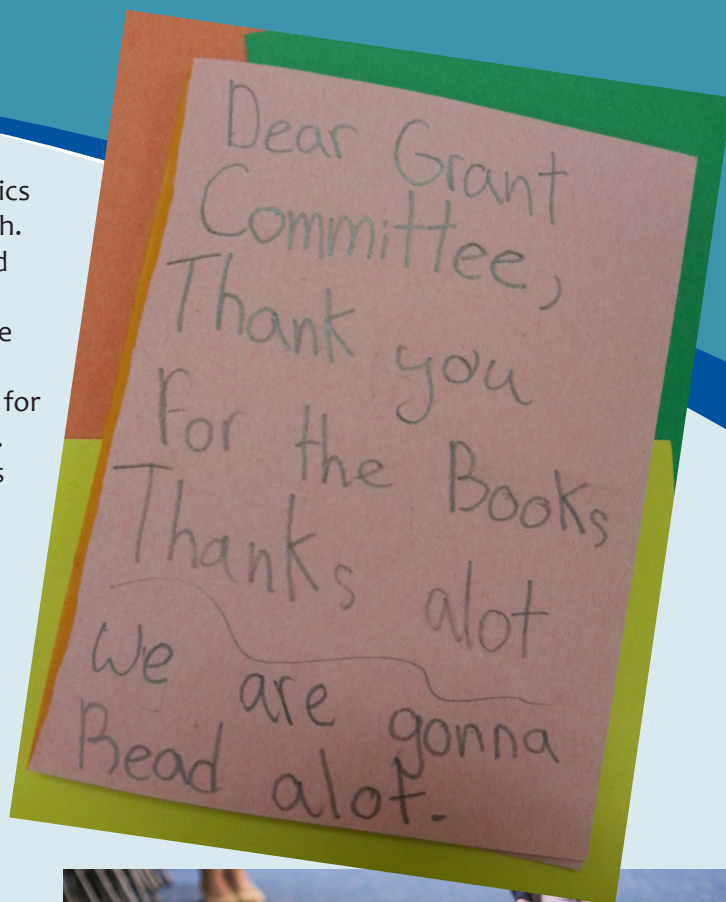


Photo Credit: Mina Carson

Students in Need

Most students are faced with challenges in school, and parents do their best to provide support. However, nearly 40% of our students have the additional burden of economic disadvantage. Some are homeless, some are sheltered but struggling, and all need help to overcome barriers to full participation in school. With your help, we can provide supplies and support for these students.

Student Opportunity for Success Fund

This fund was created to eliminate barriers to full participation in school and provide non-standard school supplies and emergency health and hygiene supplies. Your gift provides the following:

- ◆ graphing calculators or art supplies for high school students,
- ◆ field trip fees, snacks and take home books for elementary students,
- ◆ physical education t-shirts and emergency clothing and supplies for middle school students.

This fund is generously supported by a gift of nearly \$9,000 from the estate of former school board member Molly Bloomfield and an anonymous gift of \$10,000. Your donation will help us meet this growing need.

Corvallis Public Schools in the 21st Century

The top 10 issues in 2015:

1. **Student Learning.** Corvallis School District is focused on meeting the needs of all students by providing targeted support to help students make progress and achieve their highest potential. The RTI (Response to Intervention) and PBS (Positive Behavior System) initiatives provide a data-based methodology.
2. **Teacher Effectiveness.** Research clearly shows that the single most influential factor on student achievement is teacher effectiveness. CPSF provides funds for new teacher mentoring and ongoing Professional Development activities.
3. **Equity.** There is disparity in academic achievement in Corvallis. 509J leadership is directly confronting the barriers for students of color, English language learners, low income students, and students with special needs.
4. **Mental Health.** Students and families are facing increased mental health issues. 509J and a multitude of community partners are aligning to provide support.
5. **Poverty.** 1 in 4 students are living in a household that falls below the Federal poverty line, resulting in family stress, hunger, and other barriers to learning.
6. **The Common Core Standards and Smarter Balanced standardized tests.** CCSS is a set of K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and mathematics. Introduced in our schools in 2011, these standards require a higher level mastery of information and concepts. 2014-15 is the first year of Smarter Balanced, the testing based on CCSS.
7. **21st Century Skills.** Creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication are necessary for today's students in order to engage with their own learning and experience success in and outside the classroom.
8. **Technology.** Whether it's instructional technology (1:World tablet program) or personal devices at school, the digital world permeates the lives of most students. Digital citizenship is a key component of a 21st century education.
9. **Educational pathways.** Students are given choices in Corvallis schools, including Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Dual-Immersion, Running Start, and summer school, to advance toward high school graduation.
10. **Sustainable School Budget.** The passage of Ballot Measure 5 in 1990 limited the amount of local property taxes that can be collected and used for schools. Per-student funding, adjusted for inflation, has declined over time. The ongoing effect of declining Local Option Levy revenue due to compression has also had a negative impact. Each year, the 509J budget process is a matter of prioritizing resources and determining where investments are needed for the priority areas of student support. **Additional funds through grants and private donations help to bridge the gap for a variety of programs that support student growth.**



Learning Enrichment Success Stories

Each year, educators are invited to submit a grant request (up to \$1,000) for classroom enhancements funded through the CPSF small grants program. Highlights of grants funded last year:

Hoover Elementary/
Anna Marie Gosser –
Math Materials

For the first time we were able to give a second dose of targeted math instruction to our neediest students in math. We are excited to have these kits available to our students for many years to come. Student comments included: “Why didn’t someone show me this strategy before?”, “This really helps me do better in my regular math class!”, “I love math now!” and best of all, “I finally get it!”



Photo Credit: Mina Carson

Crescent Valley High School/Karrie Woodruff – Spanish Buddies

High school students travel to Garfield Elementary school four times during the school year to practice Spanish, buddy up with younger students, and participate in Spanish culture projects and activities. Student reviews indicate that this type of interactive, project based learning is meaningful and personally rewarding.

Lincoln Elementary School – Spanish language books

Funds were expended equally among our Dual-Immersion Spanish language teachers within the school. Books included literature written originally in Spanish for upper grades. This grant will have a lasting effect on our school through a significant infusion of Spanish language reading materials into our classrooms for years to come. These books provide a rich variety of reading opportunities to engage and excite early readers at a critical point in their k-12 journey.

In addition to classroom grants, your donations made it possible for CHS teachers to launch **Rock Star Mentoring**. Headed by teacher Julie Williams, this program uses a system of rewards and positive reinforcement for freshmen and sophomores at risk of failing required classes. The combination of relentless positive feedback, consistent accountability for homework and attendance, and the afterschool tutoring made the difference for these students with a 10% increase in passing grades for this student cohort.

Financial Summary 2013-2014

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$26,598
Other Assets	
Total Investments	\$1,136,149
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,162,747
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$134,532
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$657,392
Total Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$370,824
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,162,747

Did you know?

13 schools

6,552 students

39% number of students identified as economically disadvantaged

\$465,066 FY14 School designated donations

\$101,166 FY14 Foundation program donations

\$63,930 FY14 funded programs:

- Classroom grants
- Professional development funding
- Support for low income students
- Programs to improve graduation outcomes
- Mario Pastega Golden Apple Awards
- Olaf Hedstrom Memorial Scholarship Award
- Somos El Futuro Scholarship Award
- Susan Small-Hall Scholarship Award
- David Zajicek Golf Scholarship Award

Investing in Every Student

Corvallis educators are working toward the goals articulated by Superintendent Erin Prince:

- ◆ **Close the opportunity gap**
- ◆ **Every student shows growth**
- ◆ **Every student graduates**

This aligns with Governor Kitzhaber's 40/40/20 goal. This 'north star' goal is that by 2025, **all adult Oregonians will hold a high school diploma** or equivalent, 40% will have an associate's degree or a meaningful post-secondary certificate, and 40% will hold a bachelor's or advanced degree.

The **Corvallis Public Schools Foundation supports this vision** by uniting private donations with targeted support for students. In 2013, more than 200 high school students benefited from donor funded summer school options. In 2014, those numbers grew to 327 high school and 24 middle school students. As we continue to support the secondary level students and track academic outcomes, we hope to broaden the scope and target elementary students, providing a strong foundation for their k-12 journey. Your donation to the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation will help provide more options for Corvallis students.

Behind Every Successful Student Stands an Extraordinary Teacher

For many people, the phrase "outstanding teacher," triggers a memory of a favorite teacher that knew how to make learning fun and provided encouragement when the going got tough. The Mario Pastega Golden Apple Awards recognized four educators in August, to celebrate their outstanding contributions to students and their school community. Congratulations to this year's recipients: **Debbie Zuidema**, College Hill math mentor; **Tara Stroup**, Mountain View Elementary first grade teacher; **Roxie Huffaker**, Cheldelin Middle School math teacher; and **Marin Langner**, Crescent Valley language arts teacher. This year's awards also included the Stellar Service Award presented to 509J Risk Manager **Karen Selander** for 42 years of excellence in service.

Roxie Huffaker



Marin Langner



Karen Selander



Tara Stroup



Debbie Zuidema



Photo Credit: The Ball Studio

2014-15 Board of Trustees

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CPSF IN THE COMMUNITY

Benton County High School Career Convention, CH2M HILL Alumni Center

February 25, Volunteers are needed at this annual event providing high school juniors with opportunities to learn about career pathways and to participate in mock interviews. To learn more, visit the program website at bchsc.org.

509J Student Artist Exhibit, Guistina Gallery, OSU

February 27 – March 9, All Corvallis schools will be represented at this visual arts exhibit. Artist reception, Thursday, March 5, 5:30 pm.

Academy for Life Long Learning – Enriching Education Beyond Tax Dollars

March 3, To learn more, visit www.all.osuaa.org.