



## Community Voices

“The Grand Haven Schools Foundation looks vastly different from the time I joined the board more than eight years ago. We continue to provide preschool scholarships for children in the Tri-Cities area but also help support social-emotional needs and literacy development in preschool through fourth grade. Preschool is the foundation of early educational success, and we want to ensure every child in this community has the chance to experience preschool—we exist to make sure that happens. It has been an honor to be part of this amazing mission.”

— Jay Greer,  
Immediate Past President  
of GHSF



## Kids Read Now Fully Funded Because of YOU!

The Kids Read Now campaign goal of \$23,000 has been met! These funds will allow each child in kindergarten through third grade to be enrolled in this summer reading program.

Kids Read Now is the program of choice for the Grand Haven Area Public Schools’ administrators and teachers who continue to tackle literacy head-on in their classrooms. Kids Read Now is a literacy program that focuses on avoiding summer reading loss. Up to two months of reading skills can be lost over the summer and teachers are spending up to six weeks in the fall reteaching old material. It only takes children two to three hours of reading per week during the summer to prevent any learning loss.

### About Kids Read Now...

- **Children Choose:** Each child gets to choose and keep nine new books to read in the summer. The first three books will be given to children at a “Family Reading Night” and the rest will be mailed to each child throughout the summer.
- **Parent Tools:** Weekly parent engagement reminders and ideas are texted, emailed or phoned.
- **Books as Rewards:** When children respond that a book has been read, another book on their list is mailed.
- **Managed Program:** The program will be managed by each building principal and literacy coach.

GHSF’s mission is to support education initiatives that increase school readiness and promote continued educational success throughout the preschool through fourth grade experience.

# Grand Haven High School Hall of Fame

Planning for the 2019 Grand Haven High School Hall of Fame has begun! This triennial event continues to be a very meaningful program for our community. Our residents, schools and businesses realize the importance of recognizing our graduates' accomplishments and providing role models for generations of students to come.

Proceeds from the event will support the Grand Haven Schools Foundation's mission of providing opportunities to increase school readiness and continued educational success. The Grand Haven Schools Foundation believes, while honoring those who have achieved much, we can support our community's most vulnerable children, to help them reach their full potential.

The deadline for nominations is May 17 for 2019 Hall of Fame consideration. An induction dinner will be held November 9, 2019. There are five categories for nomination:

- Cultural and Performing Arts
- Athletic Accomplishments
- Career/Academic Achievement
- Service to Grand Haven Area Public Schools/Society
- Honorary Achievement



We urge you to nominate an individual who would make a great candidate and role model for our youth. You do not have to be a graduate of Grand Haven High School or Central High School to nominate an individual nor do you have to be a resident of Grand Haven. Nominations are kept confidential. Nomination forms and instructions can be found at [ghsf.org](http://ghsf.org) or pick up forms at any of these locations: The Chamber of Commerce, Loutit Library, Education Services Center, Grand Haven Tribune, The Bookman, and Grand Haven High School.

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## Meet Our New Executive Director!



Hannah Olechnowicz

The board of directors of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) is pleased to announce Hannah Olechnowicz as the organization's first full-time Executive Director. She will lead the organization in its mission to support education initiatives that increase school readiness and promote continued educational success throughout the preschool through fourth grade experience.

Hannah is a Grand Haven resident and comes to GHSF with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership from Grand Valley State University. Hannah has a passion for the non-profit sector and has spent most of her initial first months getting out into the community and meeting those who are passionate about what we do. Hannah will take over all administrative duties, communications, fundraising, board management, the Hall of Fame event, maintaining relationships with our current donors, and cultivating new relationships. You might receive a phone call from her in the near future as she continues to establish new relationships!



## Community Voices

"I am beyond excited to have stepped into the role of President of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. I have previously served as a board member and most recently as the treasurer on the executive committee. I have learned so much about where we as an organization have come from, and even more importantly, where we must go.

Kids have always been a passion of mine, being a pediatric and family wellness based chiropractor in Grand Haven for over 12 years. I have three beautiful children of my own. I am particularly excited to watch the Foundation grow. We will always keep preschool scholarships at the forefront of our efforts, while expanding our support to other areas that will ensure lifelong learning for children in our community. "

— Dr. Matt Dirkse,  
Board President of GHSF



## Leveled Literacy Intervention Outcomes

Last fall, our community supporters helped us fund a new literacy program for first and second grade students in our district. Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) was selected because it equips teachers with the materials needed to assist students who need intensive support. Literacy is one of the main priorities of GHAPS and the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. Providing students with these tools is crucial to their success throughout their entire educational experience.

Your past support has enabled us to purchase this curriculum for all 240 first and second grade students. A district reading specialist communicated that one first grade class started with 14 students in reading intervention and by the end of the year decreased to only 3 students.

This curriculum will continue to be used to make sure students are getting the support they need.

### Three Easy Ways to Give



**Online:** To contribute to the Grand Haven Schools Foundation Immediate Needs Fund, go to [ghsf.org](http://ghsf.org) and click Donate.



**Mail:** Grand Haven Schools Foundation  
P.O. Box 272, Grand Haven, MI 49417



**Phone:** (616) 850-5066

## Memorial Gifts

**Gifts were made to GHSF in memory of the following persons:**

*Walter & Margaret Bright  
Vonda Walma  
John Carlyle  
Mary Kozicki  
Thomas Streng  
Dorothy Klintworth  
E. Paul Babcock  
Earl H. Babcock  
Phil Yedinak  
Mark M. Mueller  
William Beach  
Mary Hall  
Len Sleutel  
William & Helen Edison  
Jack A. Braak  
Charles & Ruby McDonald  
Scott Flahive  
Mary Jo Correll  
Kathy Sheehy*

**Gifts were made in honor of the following:**

*Class of 1958  
Class of 1960  
Class of 1962  
Class of 1992  
Class of 1995  
Lana Jacobson  
Nelson Jacobson*

## Refreshed Mission, Vision and Values

The board of directors is excited to share their newly refreshed mission, vision and values to more accurately reflect the work of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. GHSF will continue to be headstrong about providing preschool scholarships, but we are also focusing on additional critical learning opportunities.

**Mission:** To support education initiatives that increase school readiness and promote continued educational success throughout the preschool through fourth grade experience.

**Vision:** Every child in our community will enter Grand Haven Area Public Schools ready to learn and prepared for better student outcomes, and with a foundation that supports lifetime learning and success.

### Values:

**Education**—GHSF seizes the opportunity to impact children early, when the window of opportunity is greatest. By funding preschool scholarships, kindergarten readiness efforts and school enrichment programs, each child's education foundation will be set for even greater learning.

**Family**—GHSF recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers. It is our desire to help parents provide opportunities for their children to be kindergarten-ready and for their families to make a seamless transition into the school system.

**Community**—GHSF values the support of our schools' administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni; and our local organizations, businesses and community members. Together we can help more children succeed early on and help them reach and surpass their potential as students, employees and citizens.

**Stewardship**—Our stewardship commitment embraces our values and respects our donors as partners. We are grateful to our supporters for their generosity, and we are honored to manage their intentions and gifts to help move our mission forward.

# Art at the Yard

This fourth annual Art at the Yard event was hosted in October in partnership with the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective (LVAC) and D. Baker & Son Lumber. The event was another huge success, with crowds topping nearly 900 attendees and proceeds to the Grand Haven Schools Foundation totaling nearly \$12,000. These dollars allow us to fund approximately 10 to 12 preschool scholarships. The idea for this event was initiated four years ago by Maggie Bandstra, the current board chair for LVAC, and Nada Edson, Vice President of D. Baker & Son Lumber. Their vision was to connect people to art who wouldn't otherwise feel as though they could purchase art or attend an artistic event. Varying forms of art were on display from nearly 30 local artists. Corporate support for the event was shown by Chemical Bank as the presenting sponsor; supporting partners were Bosgraaf Construction, Herman Miller Cares, Adam Hass Fine Homes, Bluewest Properties and Metrie. The Grand Haven Schools Foundation is beyond grateful to have been chosen once again as the beneficiary for this beautifully creative event. Stay tuned for more information about Art at the Yard V. We are excited to partner with LVAC again in October 2019—exact date will be announced soon!



PO Box 272  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

## Leadership Team

### Officers:

Matt Dirkse — President  
Todd Anthes — Vice President  
Barbara Rickard — Secretary  
Brandon Reame — Treasurer  
Lana Jacobson — Chair of the Emeritus Board

### Directors:

Kate Augustyn  
Christine Baker  
Jay Greer  
Leslie Cassis-Withun  
Melinda Linebaugh

### Executive Director:

Hannah Olechnowicz

## Contact

(616) 850-5066  
[www.ghsf.org](http://www.ghsf.org)

GHSF is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Its endowment fund is held at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.