



Bellingham Public Schools  
Foundation

# 2024 Partnership Opportunities

*Investing in a bright tomorrow...*



Bellingham Public Schools Foundation

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# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

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In just a few short years the 11,000 students of Bellingham Public Schools will be the business owners, construction workers, nurses, teachers, and neighbors that make up the heart of our community.

Today we rely on the support of a community of generous donors, businesses, and partners to help get them ready for their next steps.

The support of our partners helps ensure that every Bellingham student is provided with the opportunity to reach their highest potential in the classroom and beyond!



## Lets Make Beautiful Music Together

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For more than a decade, our sponsors have been helping make music in Bellingham Schools. Sponsors have given thousands of dollars worth of instruments, sheet music, and learning opportunities to help all of our musicians hit the right note



# OUR PRIORITIES

The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation helps to bridge the gap between the basic education funded by the state of Washington and one filled with excellence, joy, and opportunity.

School foundations play a crucial role for many school districts across the nation by serving as a reliable source of funds and stability in times of need. As well as by providing exceptional opportunities outside the scope of district budgeting.

Our funding supports the six pillars of the Bellingham Promise

- One School House Approach
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Great Teaching
- Early Childhood Education
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Student, Family, and Community Engagement

# The Difference is You!

When you sponsor the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation, you are investing in the future of our community. Your gifts will fund grants that provide outstanding opportunities and outcomes throughout the district. Sponsorships have funded field trips at all grade levels, supported robotics and construction programs in our high schools, provided advanced STEM equipment in our elementary schools, purchased and repaired hundreds of instruments, and so much more! By partnering with Bellingham Schools and the Bellingham School's Foundation, you are making a difference in the lives of thousands of kids.

In addition to our immense gratitude, each sponsor level offers multiple forms of recognition and publicity for your company. You can see the recognition opportunities available for each of our sponsor levels on page 8.



## Special Event Sponsorships

We are planning a number of outstanding community events for 2024. In addition to general program sponsorships there are additional opportunities to sponsor these events. This year we are planning on holding the following public events to support the kids and teachers of Bellingham Schools:

- May 8th, 2024 - Hungry Minds Happy Hour
- Fall 2024 - Back to School Block Party
- Fall 2024 - School kick off celebration
- September 20, 2024 - BPSF Gala (Formerly known as Thyme to Dine)

# SPONSOR LEVELS

## Leadership (\$10,000+)

- All of the benefits of the lower levels plus:
- Your company name will appear permanently on the new donor wall that will be erected in a highly visible location at the new district office.
- Your logo will appear with our gratitude in an issue of Inside Schools which is distributed to all school families in Bellingham (reach 10,000+)
- We will work with you to create special opportunities for your staff to be recognized as sponsors of specific grants and programs throughout the school district or to volunteer with specific programs within the schools.
- A complementary table at our newly resumed fall gala

## Impact (\$5,000+)

- All of the benefits of the lower levels plus:
- You will have the option to work with us to create a video highlighting your support of the Bellingham School Foundation that will appear on our social media (Reach 5000+), in an email newsletter (Reach 5000+), and be hosted on our website for the year.
- You will receive individual recognition quarterly on all of our social media platforms (reach 2500 +)
- Two complementary tickets to our fall gala
- Special recognition at our spring Hungry Minds Happy Hour and at our fall community event



## Inspire (\$2,500+)

- All of the benefits of the lower levels plus:
- As an Inspire sponsor, your company name will be displayed on the Donor banner at the central district office as well as on our website
- You will receive individual recognition annually on all of our social media platforms (reach 5000 +)
- Have your business logo displayed on recognition at our Hungry Minds Happy Hour in spring 2024

## Empower (\$1000+)

- Your company will be recognized in publicity for our annual grant round as sponsors of one or more teacher grants.
- Your company name will appear in our annual print and digital gratitude report (Reach 2000+)
- You will be recognized annually in an email newsletter to our supporters (Reach 5000+)

## Innovate (\$500+)

- As an Innovate sponsor, your company name will be prominently listed among the supporters on our website.
- You will receive recognition on our social media as sponsors of the Bellingham School Foundation
- Your company name will appear on media at all events other than our Fall Gala.

Are you interested in sponsoring at a higher or lower level or do you have something specific you would like to sponsor? Call us! We would be happy to work out an individualized opportunity.

# PROGRAMS YOU CAN SPONSOR

## TEACHER GRANTS

The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation awards dozens of grants to individual teachers every year. These grants enable teachers to provide their students with incredible, creative opportunities that would be impossible without the support of the foundation and the generous Bellingham community that gives to help fund exceptional education.

Our top funding priorities for this year are:

- Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning
- Libraries and Literacy
- Creativity in STEM



## YES Cards

**Yes Cards give teachers a way to directly help students in need**

The teachers in our district are often the first to notice when a child is in need. They see when a student doesn't have a coat or shoes, they hear from kids when they are hungry or when someone in the family is sick. They are face to face with the hardships that students and families experience on a daily basis but often they are left without a way to help.

The Bellingham School Foundation started the Yes Card program to give teachers a way to help those students. A Yes Card is a \$100 grant that any teacher can apply for on behalf of one of their students. Because teachers' time is precious, the application takes only minutes to submit and virtually all applications are funded. Teachers receive the money within a day or two.

Frequently Yes Cards act as a lifeline, providing immediate help to a family while counselors and social workers are able to find long term options to help support them.

## Actual Yes Card requests from this year

*"My student is doing part-time running start and mentioned family stress over the cost of a text book. She is so close, I don't want to see her give up over something like this. Can you help her?"*

*"My student and her mom recently had to move out of their apartment. They now live in subsidized housing across town. My student wanted to stay her last year at Roosevelt since her friends and adults who know her are here. Her mom now drives her to and from school which is requiring more gas and she isn't sure how long she can manage. Can we get them with a gas card?"*

*"My student lives with his 3 siblings and his single mother in a motel. They are barely making it and this week someone stole their clothes from the laundromat. They need to replace pretty much ALL of their clothing. Can we help?"*





## STEM and Robotics

**These days, almost every job – even those you least expect – require some skill in a STEM discipline. Our STEM fund works to ensure that Bellingham students are prepared to take that next step.**

Our STEM fund supports essential learning across STEM disciplines from kindergarten through graduation. Your donations will support projects that foster a love of math and science in the littlest learners and provide opportunities for our high schoolers at the highest levels to prepare for rigorous college studies... and everything in between!

This year, STEM sponsors have:

- Installed 3D printers and provided modeling software to elementary school classrooms to engage primary students in advanced STEM concepts
- Provided microscopes and advanced equipment to middle school labs to replace outdated and broken materials.
- Given high school robotics students pneumatic components to ensure that they are able to compete with the very best in the state

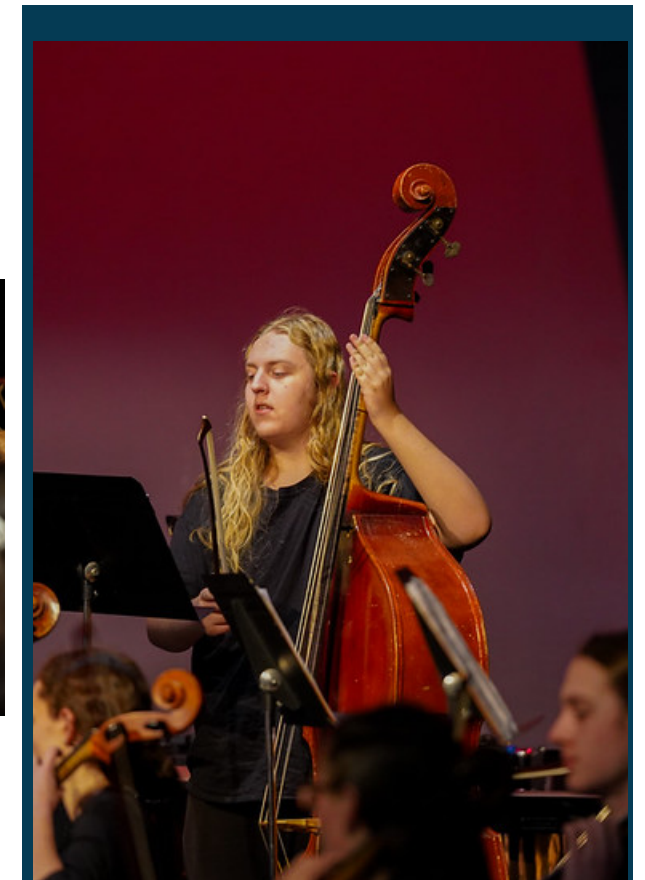
## Music and the Arts



We recognize that the arts are critical to any well rounded education. Our dedicated Music and the Arts Fund supports drama, visual arts and music at the K-12 level throughout the district.

Funds are used to:

- Purchase school-owned instruments so that every student can participate in music
- Bring guest artists into our schools to teach special lessons
- Provide supplies and resources for drama and visual arts classes
- Fund field trip opportunities for students throughout the district to experience the work of local artists throughout our region



# Unified Sports

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Sponsors like you provide the critical funding to ensure that ANY Bellingham student who wishes to is able to participate. Many of the athletes participating in Unified Sports require a degree of special assistance, up to and including a one on one para-professional with them at all times.

Our business partners enable the foundation to support the district with the resources to make this possible.

Last year, more than 500 Bellingham students were able to participate in Unified Sports thanks to our generous partners.



# Food for Thought

Across the district, 8% of students are homeless during the school year. At some elementary schools, nearly 20% of students will experience homelessness.

Almost 40% of Bellingham School District families qualify for free lunch. This means a family of four has a household income under \$45,000.

Hunger is a problem for our kids and in our schools. And it's getting worse.

The Food for Thought initiative was launched in 2023 in recognition of the fact that students can't focus on learning if they spend all day hungry and wondering where their next meal will come from. This dedicated fund supports student nutrition throughout the school day. This effort starts by paying off lunch debt for struggling families throughout the district. But that's not enough. These funds go beyond lunch to help provide supplemental snacks and nutrition to those students who need it before school, during the school day, and after classes end.



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE KIDS OF BELLINGHAM SCHOOLS!



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