

FALL 2024

ROAR // ON 54

USD 265
ENROLLMENT
EXPECTED TO
GROW BY 2,000
STUDENTS



**GODDARD
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GODDARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**GODDARD
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

Welcome #265Family

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Goddard Education Foundation, it's inspiring to reflect on how far we've come and the incredible impact we've made together. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our community, this milestone represents a decade of dedication to supporting the students and educators of Goddard Public Schools. As author Brian Solis said, "Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter." The Foundation has become a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together with purpose and passion to support our students. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey—in our first decade, and for the decades to come.

Jacque Grant

Goddard Education Foundation President



Thank You GEF Board of Trustees

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Kevin McWhorter, *Class of 1977*

Mark Richards, *BOE Representative*

The mission of the Goddard Education Foundation (GEF) is to provide resources designed to enrich the educational opportunities for the students of USD 265 through an independent nonprofit community-based organization.



Thank You USD 265 Board of Education

Nicole Hawkins-McWhorter, *President*

Jenny Simmons, *Vice President*

Amanda Gish

Jerry Longabaugh

Mark Richards

Ginger Rose

Ruth Wood

On Behalf of Goddard Public Schools

Over the past decade, the Goddard District has experienced continued growth and expansion, not only in terms of the number of students and families we have the privilege to serve but also in the opportunities we are able to provide. This progress is a testament to the long-term commitment from our school community and a willingness to invest in the future of thousands of students.

During this time, the partnership with the Goddard Education Foundation has also dramatically impacted the opportunities provided to students. This partnership has been crucial in

supporting our core mission to educate all students for lifelong success. As we continue to grow and change, we recognize that with this expansion comes a variety of new opportunities and challenges. We look forward to this continued partnership and invite you to engage in the process of shaping the future of Goddard Public Schools.

Dr. Justin B. Henry
Superintendent of USD #265

WE BELIEVE

- 1** All students can learn and must have access to resources, which maximize their opportunities for post-secondary and career success.
- 2** Education is a shared responsibility. Students, parents, community members, and the District must be active partners in the process.
- 3** Status quo is not acceptable. We must pursue excellence in providing diverse and advanced opportunities for all students.
- 4** We must continue to recruit, develop, and retain world-class staff members throughout the District.
- 5** The District must provide a safe, caring, and connected learning environment to educate the whole child academically, physically, and socially.



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G *In this edition of ROAR, highlighted are examples of academic excellence supporting the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.*

Learn more about the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



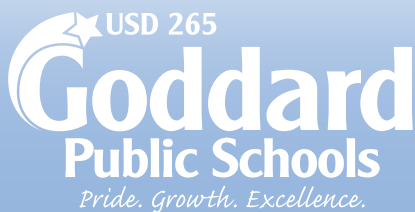
ROAR Magazine

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Grades 9-12

Eisenhower High School
Goddard High School
Goddard Academy
Goddard Virtual School

Grades 7-8

Eisenhower Middle School
Goddard Middle School

Grades 5-6

Challenger Intermediate
Discovery Intermediate

Grades K-4

Amelia Earhart Elementary
Apollo Elementary
Clark Davidson Elementary
Explorer Elementary
Oak Street Elementary

The mission of Goddard Public Schools is to educate all students for lifelong success.

GODDARD GROWTH

USD 265 Student Enrollment Expected to Grow by 2,000

If you've driven around the Goddard Public Schools District recently, you've likely noticed an increase in housing developments under construction. This summer, the District partnered with Davis Demographics to forecast enrollment for the next decade. They identified 53 separate housing developments with over 5,900 residential units planned. Their findings suggest significant growth for Goddard schools—an increase of 1,000 students in the next five years and 2,000 students over 10 years. This represents more than a 30% increase from the current student population of 6,300.

Generations before have consistently invested in excellent educational spaces and facilities to support world-class instruction for students in Goddard Public Schools. These investments have continued to attract new families that want the small-town feel but also provide their kids with the best educational opportunities possible. "As an alumna of Goddard Public Schools, spouse of a Goddard teacher, and parent of students in multiple Goddard schools, I have a vested interest in the future of our District. We need to get out in front of this growth to help keep that small-town feel we've all come to love in our schools. Now is the time to come together to do what's best for our students," said Jessica Holle.

This projected growth in student population over the next decade has presented our school community with a challenge. The capacity of schools and classrooms across the District will shortly surpass their optimal level for learning, and will need the community's help in determining the future of what the next investment in education will be.

Over 300 District patrons were presented with this information at the July Community Education Retreat. On September 30, 2024, the USD 265 Bond Steering Committee, made up of over 50 community leaders, families, and educators, came together to begin developing a bond proposal to address the District's future facility needs.

The steering committee is co-chaired by Lindsay White, Jessica Holle, Ashley Miller, and Travis Rink. With assistance from Schaefer Architecture, over the next few months, the USD 265 Bond Steering Committee will be reaching out to the community for input on the bond proposal. The steering committee will utilize the input from the community to help shape what this bond proposal will include. Steering committee co-chair Lindsay White said, "Our first objective is to go out into the community and listen. When you have an opportunity to engage in this conversation, I encourage everyone to participate."

As specific solutions are developed, the steering committee will review and prioritize projects, creating a bond proposal package for the Goddard USD 265 Board of Education's consideration. If approved by the Board, the bond proposal will proceed to an election. All USD 265 District patrons will have the opportunity to cast their vote, collectively shaping the District's future for generations to come.

RECORD OF SUCCESS

November 1988

- Construction of Clark Davidson Elementary School (CDS) **BOND PASSED**

November 1998

- Construction of Amelia Earhart Elementary and Goddard Middle School
- Improvements to Oak Street Elementary, Discovery Intermediate, Challenger Intermediate, and Goddard High School **BOND PASSED**

November 2007

- Construction of Eisenhower High School, Eisenhower Middle School, and Apollo Elementary
- Updated Technology District-Wide **BOND PASSED**

May 1994

- Construction of Goddard High School
- Updated Technology District-Wide **BOND PASSED**

June 2004

- Construction of Explorer Elementary School
- Improvements to Discovery Intermediate and Goddard Middle School
- Updated Technology District-Wide **BOND PASSED**

April 2017

- Safety and Security Upgrades for ALL Schools, including Storm Shelter Access and Intruder Prevention Hardware in Classrooms. **BOND PASSED**

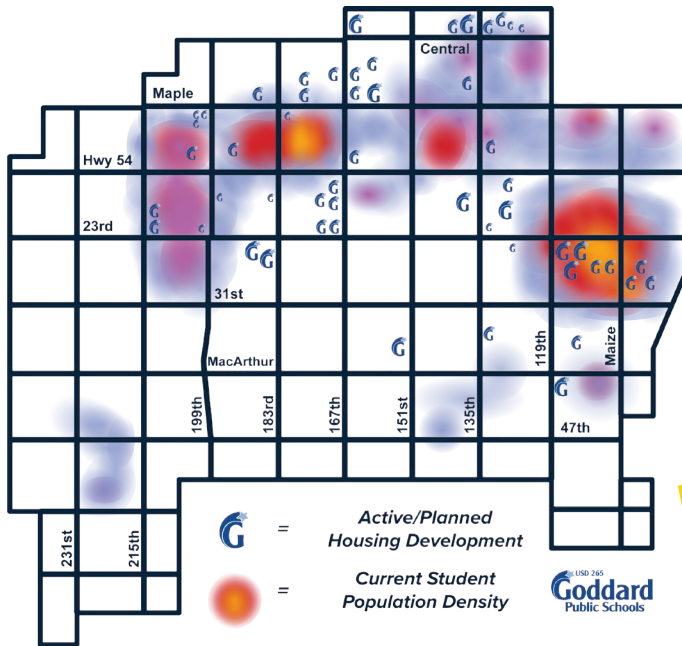


We encourage you to stay up-to-date with the planning progress of the USD 265 Bond Steering Committee. You can find the latest information and opportunities to engage by scanning the QR code below or visiting <https://www.goddardusd.com/page/2025-bond>.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to stay up-to-date with all bond information.



USD 265 IS GROWING OVER 30% IN THE NEXT DECADE!



53 Active or proposed developments being tracked across the USD 265 District.

OVER 5,900 New residential units are planned over the next 10 years.

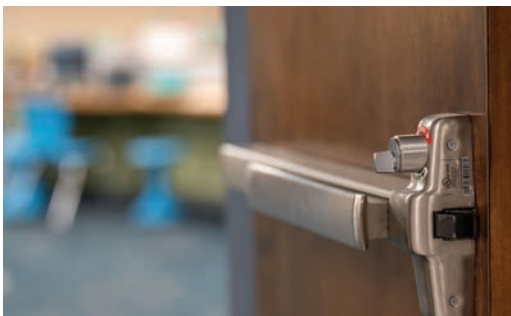
+2,000 STUDENTS Projected increase of 1,000 students in 5 years, and nearly 2,000 over 10 years.

*The District partnered with Davis Demographics to forecast future enrollment growth.

The most dense areas of student population increase are in the eastern area of the District, represented in red and yellow.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

In the most recent bond election in 2017, the community invested in storm shelters, intruder prevention hardware in classrooms, energy-efficient facilities, and infrastructure. The projects were completed on time and under budget. Thank you Goddard community for investing in the growing Goddard Public Schools over the last 36 years!



Intruder Prevention Hardware



Storm Shelter Access



Investment in Infrastructure

265 JOURNEY

Early Childhood Education

The journey began for the Goddard Education Foundation (GEF) very similarly as it does for each child who becomes a student in Goddard Public Schools, with Early Childhood Education.

Goddard Public Schools offers Pre-K programs for at-risk 3 and 4-year-olds, special education services for 3 to 5-year-olds with Individualized Education Plans, and Parents as Teachers services but the pathway for students and families to qualify and receive early learning services can be challenging.

The GEF was formed by a group of leaders who shared the common vision to provide comprehensive early childhood education services for ALL students. When a community invests in early learning programs and eliminates barriers to participation, it reduces achievement gaps, increases graduation rates, and improves overall academic outcomes for students.

The GEF received a planned gift from the late Mary Brosseau, a retired educator, who shared this vision for early childhood education. As the Foundation continues to partner with the District, this lead gift will be utilized to inspire a capital campaign to make this vision a reality for Goddard Public Schools.



**FROM
EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**TO
GRADUATION**



**WE ARE
#265
FAMILY**



Thank you for the memories...



Check out the Backpack video by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



The Journey a Backpack Makes

Karaline Scott, Class of 2024 graduate and former student intern with the USD 265 Community Relations team, shared, "The opportunity to help with this video gave me, as a high school senior at the time, a chance to relive the moments in my life spent in Goddard Public Schools that have helped shape me into the person I am today. This video represents many milestones in a student's life, but also moments that make up core memories, alumni and current students share. Memories of good things, picture day, sports, lockers, and finally, graduation. As a K-12 Goddard alumni and the child of an educator, I know the importance and impact of a great teacher, coach, or administrator, and I am so grateful to have been surrounded by a District that always had my back. The backpack video concept shows how quickly yet also how slowly life moves for a K-12 student. As a recent high school graduate and a current senior in the filming process, I realized that time had passed so much faster than I thought possible. The memories of my kindergarten classroom and my first lost tooth suddenly came flooding back to me. I hope this video reminds you of those moments in your education, your loved ones, and the #265Family that had your back through it all."

The video showcases a student's 265 educational journey, but it's also a symbol of all the things not shown in the video—the efforts of every teacher, every para, every bus driver, school nurse, cafeteria crew member, every coach, and every maintenance and support staff member that it takes to educate each and every student. Because in Goddard, America, it will always be about the people who make these school communities vibrant and alive. We are #265Family!

265 FAMILY



"It is fun to connect with other students. When I was younger, I wanted the older students to notice me and get to know me, versus just walking by me. Having my school family makes me feel like I belong at CDS."

Gabi Adversalo
4th-Grade Student
Clark Davidson Elementary School

What Makes a Family?

What makes a family? In a word, "love," reflected Gabi Adversalo, a 4th-grade student at Clark Davidson Elementary School (CDS), at the conclusion of 'Family Day.'

Family Day is a 45-minute experience each quarter that helps foster connections between students and educators they may not have had during their educational journey at CDS. Each 'school family' is made up of at least two students from each grade level, kindergarten through 4th grade. Students are paired up and, together with their 'school family,' attend the Family Day activity.

CDS Principal Matt Cavanaugh stated, "Family Day instills a sense of confidence in our students. It's incredible to see the relationships built and how they can prosper into positive character-building moments."



Flexibility Fosters a Family Atmosphere

One way that Explorer staff ensures they are meeting students needs is through co-teaching. This practice pairs a special education teacher with another teacher within the same classroom. Leah Whelan, who has over 16 years of experience at Explorer, is paired with Kim Truzzolino, a Special Education Educator, and they co-teach 2nd-grade together.

"The students all take care of each other, they've adapted so well, and it provides us the flexibility to give all our students what they need," shared Truzzolino.

By breaking into groups often, both instructors have the opportunity to play the lead role, and they truly share that role. "It's been wonderful. We see huge gains in confidence, ability, test scores, and empowerment among the classes. We connect so much as a group; it's truly like a family in the classroom," explained Truzzolino.

With the students embracing this positive change so well, the co-teaching pair has been able to try new activities in the classroom and incorporate different tactics to see what works best for the balance of abilities. "I find that our District does a great job of putting the students first and doing everything possible to meet their needs, and I wouldn't have it any other way," shared Whelan.



"We always pride ourselves on being a family at this school."

Leah Whelan
2nd-Grade Teacher
Explorer Elementary School



"My dad's name, my middle name, and his last name are all 'James', so I knew we would get along. It's exciting to come to school and have someone to connect with. It's fun and gives me confidence. I feel seen in the halls and Mr. James will not let me pass without a handshake and a quick check-in on my day. Anytime I have a hard time in class, he'll listen, and give me great advice. I will never forget Mr. James."

Bradyn Lear
8th-Grade Student
Goddard Middle School

Meaningful Relationships

Building positive, meaningful relationships with students is at the heart of Goddard Middle School (GMS). Walking through the halls of GMS, it's common to discover Marcus James, Assistant Principal & Athletic Director, interacting with several students, with whom he's created a unique handshake.

Bradyn Lear, an 8th-Grade student, has a special connection with Mr. James, as he has become a mentor and accountability buddy. Over the fall semester, Mr. James would constantly check in with Bradyn, connecting on their love of the NFL. James is a big fan of the Cowboys, and Bradyn's team is the Philadelphia Eagles. Through conversations of football stats, a friendly wager was placed. When the Cowboys won, Bradyn would wear a Cowboys jersey, and when the Eagles won, Mr. James would make a schoolwide announcement declaring the Eagles his new favorite NFL team.

A colleague of James confirmed, "He brings the energy. He has handshakes with nearly every student. He is always in a good mood and will stop everything to connect with a student who needs it. We're glad to have him a part of our GMS family."

The relationship Bradyn formed with Mr. James will have a lasting impact on his life. Bradyn's father said, "It's amazing to see how much of a role model Mr. James is for his students. He goes out of his way to fight for the kids that need it the most. It's not easy, and what he does is real. He had my son's respect because he earned that respect. I can never repay what GMS has done for my son. For someone who may have felt lost, you made him feel heard and valued."



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

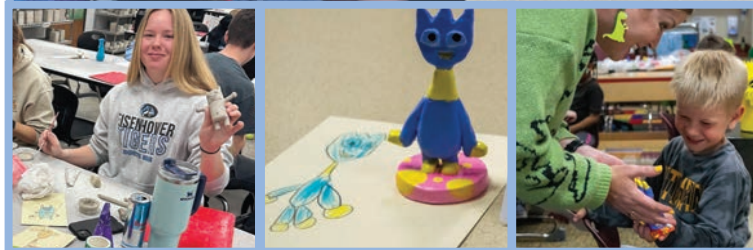
Lions, Tigers, and Monsters

Students in Sarah Mater's kindergarten class unleashed their imagination by drawing their own unique monsters. Once the drawings were complete, the kindergarten class teamed up with Jessica Conner's Eisenhower High School (EHS) National Art Society students to transform the two-dimensional illustrations into three-dimensional clay sculptures using their artistic skills and creativity. The high school students molded, shaped, and painted each monster to reflect the kindergartener's illustration.

EHS National Art Society students visited Ms. Mater's kindergarten class to hand-deliver their monsters. The kindergarten students' faces lit up seeing the monster they imagined come to life as a sculpture. "This was such a fun project! It allowed us to get into the mind of a kindergartener to really interpret their design. Now, on the other end of education, we see the value of creativity in all ages," shared Winnie Vandorn, Eisenhower High School Senior.

"Ultimately, this project isn't just about creating art; it's about fostering connections, sparking imagination, and nurturing a love for creativity that transcends age boundaries."

Sarah Mater
Kindergarten Teacher
Apollo Elementary School



Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is a program that helps students who have trouble making friends, become more connected with their peers. Circle of Friends aims to build positive relationships, social skills, and helps encourage self-esteem. The program pairs students in need with buddies who serve as positive role models and mentors, hoping to be a bridge for helping all students feel more connected to their school family. Circle of Friends develops valuable friendships, and creates a lasting impact on all involved.



Respecting Our Differences

By: Landon Marcy

7th-Grade
Eisenhower Middle School

As a member of Eisenhower Middle School's Circle of Friends, I am deeply committed to ending bullying. It's devastating to see our buddies being bullied for things they can not control, especially those with learning

disabilities and medical needs. I believe that they are superheroes with unique superpowers. The Circle of Friends buddies all deserve to be respected for their differences and treated with kindness.

I have witnessed firsthand the negative impact of bullying. Circle of Friends is designed to help prevent bullying and make the buddies feel good about themselves. We offer them a safe space where they can come to us anytime and ask for help or just hang out with us. We get to visit fun places like the bowling alley, the zoo, and the pumpkin patch. We do everything we can to make sure all Circle of Friends buddies feel special and loved.

Bullying does not discriminate, and anyone, regardless of their abilities, can be a victim. We need to be more mindful of our words and actions and always ask ourselves, "Is this helpful or hurtful?" We need to show more kindness and empathy towards each other. We need to be the heroes that our buddies can trust and confide in. We need to be their true friends. So let's make a promise to ourselves and others to always be respectful, understanding, and compassionate towards each other. Let's hold each other close to our hearts and never let anyone feel alone or unwanted. Let's create a world where bullying no longer exists because we all appreciate and respect each other's differences. Let's create a world where everyone is treated with the love and care they deserve, regardless of their abilities or differences.

SUMMER LEARNING

Goddard Public Schools offers many exciting FREE summer learning programs each year. These comprehensive experiences are offered exclusively to current USD 265 students, and combine academic growth with engaging activities. The dedication from Goddard educators helps make Summer Learning an exceptional and unique program for #265 students.

KinderPrep

KinderPrep offers pre-academic skill-building for qualifying pre-kindergarten students who may benefit from additional development skills. This targeted program helps incoming kindergarten students embrace the structure of a school environment with elevated social and structural confidence.



CHAMPS Camp

CHAMPS Camp, a program for Kindergarten - 8th grade students, enhances math and reading skills. Educators work with students throughout the year to identify who might benefit from CHAMPS Camp. Students leave with developed skills, heightened academic confidence, and a growth mindset.



STEM Academy

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics collide at STEM Academy for 1st - 4th graders. Through guest presenters and hands-on activities, students build problem-solving skills, and engage in learning through real-world STEM applications.



Goddard Kids ROCK

Drumroll, please! This highly interactive program, offers 3rd and 4th graders an introduction to the world of music. Utilizing instruments like the ukulele, keyboard, bass guitar, drums, and vocal instruction, students receive foundational training on musical theory and band collaboration.



Big Cat Summer Retreat

This flexible program allows 5th - 7th grade students the opportunity to customize their experience through a variety of engaging educational offerings. With the ability to attend multiple sessions, families have the ability to shift this program to fit their schedule.



USD 265 and WSU Tech Dual Credit Courses

Through the District's partnership with WSU Tech, USD 265 high school students may complete select fee-based courses to earn simultaneous high school and college credit.



"Goddard is focused on preparing all students for lifelong success. Innovation in education never stops, and USD #265 summer learning opportunities take kids that want to learn, improve, or try something new, to the next level. I love being a part of something great!"

Brandy Lane
CHAMPS Camp Teacher

PREP FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS



COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY *BUILD* OPPORTUNITIES

Goddard Public Schools offers the following CTE Pathways:

- Biomedical
- Business Finance/Accounting
- Law Enforcement
- Pre-Law
- Digital Media
- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Engineering and Applied Mathematics
- Family/Community/Consumer Services
- Fashion/Apparel/Interior Design
- Graphic Design
- Health Sciences
- Marketing
- Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- Programming and Software Development
- Restaurant and Event Management
- Teaching/Training
- Web and Digital Communications

Each semester, Goddard Public Schools hosts a Career and Technical (CTE) Advisory Council meeting that brings together a diverse group of USD 265 educators and industry professionals from the Goddard and Wichita communities. This group meets to help enhance the Career and Technical Education opportunities available to USD 265 high school students for post-secondary education, career exploration, and success.

This council maximizes students' opportunities while balancing realistic expectations and providing solutions and ideas that are not only possible but easily feasible in the school environment.

"CTE Pathways expose you to so much, which helps you build respect for the profession. When you build experience, you build knowledge."

Lisa Harris
Physician Assistant Certified (PA-C)
USD 265 CTE Advisory Council



"Students wanting to establish a culture of spirit is what makes this program so special. They gain what they put in. One of my favorite things to intertwine into all of my courses is the idea of high-performing teams and leadership. I do my best to help students navigate how to work together, while also overcoming obstacles and failure - together. Most importantly, they learn something about themselves, and who they want to become."

Jim Zimmer
Marketing Teacher
Goddard High School

Read more about the GHS Marketing CTE Pathway by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



Making Their Mark

“What is your sphere of influence in the world?” posed Jim Zimmer, Marketing Teacher at Goddard High School (GHS), to his second-year marketing students. By evaluating the differences between influence and popularity, Zimmer helps students make their mark, both in the classroom and out of it. His focus is specifically on developing hard skills that will positively impact students in real-world situations and experiences. The marketing class utilizes events at the school as practice for hosting events in a professional setting. Zimmer

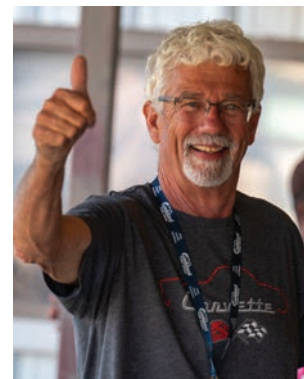
shows his classes how to prioritize assets, atmosphere, and attitudes in the room to maximize the desired outcome. “Marketing always comes back to impact- how do you, your organization, or your products make a difference in people’s lives?”

GHS’s marketing classes, under the guidance of Zimmer, have become an integral part of the school’s spirit and event planning. Students from all grade levels come together to create exciting and memorable experiences for the entire student body, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and

marketing prowess. One of the most notable projects undertaken by the marketing students is their involvement in planning and executing pep assemblies. These high-energy events bring the school community together, fostering a sense of unity and school spirit. The students collaborate to develop themes, design promotional materials, and even coordinate performances from various school groups. “Zimmer’s class is laid back, and we love it because he provides us with an idea, and we’re the ones to bring it to life,” shared Ethan Pape, GHS senior.

265 FAM





265 PROUD

USD 265 Attitude Awards

The District Attitude Award recognizes an individual for going above and beyond their duties and responsibilities, displaying an exceptional attitude, to further the District's mission to educate ALL students for lifelong success. Nominated by their peers, students, or families, Attitude Award recipients are recognized by the USD 265 Board of Education.



Ryan Jilka Impact Award

Moments matter. The Ryan Jilka Impact Award honors staff members who, early in their USD 265 careers, go above and beyond to make lasting impacts in the lives of students and staff. Congratulations David Hickerson for receiving the 2024 Ryan Jilka Impact Award!



David Hickerson
*Interim Director
Human Resources &
Student Services*

Dave Hickerson not only answered the call to fill a challenging interim HR position, but he also came to work every day with the attitude to make a positive impact on someone's life and the District as a whole.

Ruth Wood & Sara McDonald Legacy Award

The Ruth and Sara Legacy Award recognizes a staff member whose career of service has made a lasting difference in the lives of students, colleagues, and families within our school community. Congratulations to the District's 2024 Ruth and Sara Legacy Award recipients!



Dr. Justin B. Henry
*Superintendent
Goddard Public Schools*

A servant leader and a relentless advocate for all students and staff, Dr. Henry has positioned Goddard Public Schools above all others.



Barb Reichenborn
*Secretary (Retired 2024)
Human Resources*

Barb's many years of service, her bubbly personality, and passion to serve USD 265 students are just a few of the characteristics that reflect her lasting legacy in Goddard Public Schools.

Kansas Horizon Award

The Horizon Award honors and recognizes exemplary first-year teachers in Kansas elementary and secondary classrooms who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. Each spring, 32 representatives are selected from across the state of Kansas to receive this prestigious award for excellence.

2023 Kansas Horizon Award Recipients



Shae Enegren

*1st-Grade Teacher
Oak Street Elementary School*

"She genuinely sees the best in every single student. There's a love that she has for her students, but there's also a love that she teaches them to have for each other, their building, and their community. It shines through everything she does."

- Ashley Miller, *Oak Street Principal*



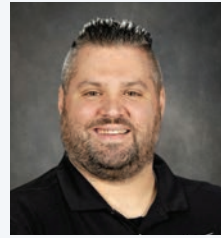
Elizabeth Toribio

*Mixed Abilities Teacher
Eisenhower Middle School*

"We have a very unified school, there's no limitations whether you are general education or special education. Ms. Toribio, is constantly evolving to help ensure that her student's goals are met, she makes our school better."

- Teresa Spencer, *EMS Speech Pathologist*

2024 Kansas Horizon Award Nominees

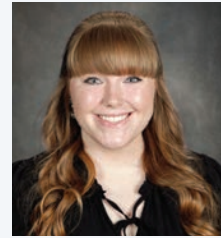


Tyler Kohlman

*2nd-Grade Teacher
Amelia Earhart Elementary School*

"First and foremost, he builds a positive relationship with each student who enters his classroom. His students trust him because he earns it. The connections he makes inspire a lifelong love of learning in his students."

- Marney Hay, *Amelia Earhart Principal*



Hannah Reynolds

*Science Teacher
Eisenhower High School*

"Hannah has a natural ability to break down difficult concepts and make them understandable for her students. She continuously develops creative and effective lessons, challenging herself and her students to explore new ways of learning."

- Travis Rink, *EHS Assistant Principal*

Kansas Teacher of the Year Nominees

Recognized as one of the premier state Teacher of the Year Programs in the nation, the Kansas Teacher of the Year award recognizes and engages representatives of excellent teaching in elementary and secondary classrooms across the state. Its mission is to build and utilize a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in improving schools, student performance, and the teaching profession.

2024 Nominees



Melissa Short

*Project Lead the Way Teacher
Discovery Intermediate School*

"Melissa is a dedicated educator who goes above and beyond to create an engaging classroom that challenges and motivates students to achieve their full potential."

- Mary Kloefkorn, *Retired Discovery Librarian*



Jodi Schendel

*German Teacher
Eisenhower High School*

"Jodi prepares a dynamic learning experience for her students, encouraging them to embrace a new language as well as to explore a new culture."

- Travis Rink, *EHS Assistant Principal*

2025 Nominees



Shanda Busby

*6th-Grade Teacher
Challenger Intermediate School*

"Mrs. Busby creates a classroom culture where every student feels safe, respected, and valued. She celebrates diversity, creating an environment of both respect and understanding."

- Darrin SanRomani, *Challenger Principal*



Catherine LaFever

*Science Teacher
Eisenhower High School*

"Catie is an exceptional educator who not only excels in the classroom but also ensures that education transcends beyond its walls, creating a lasting impact on her students and the community."

- Todd Hague, *EHS Principal*



Kansas Teacher of the Year 2023-2024 Finalist

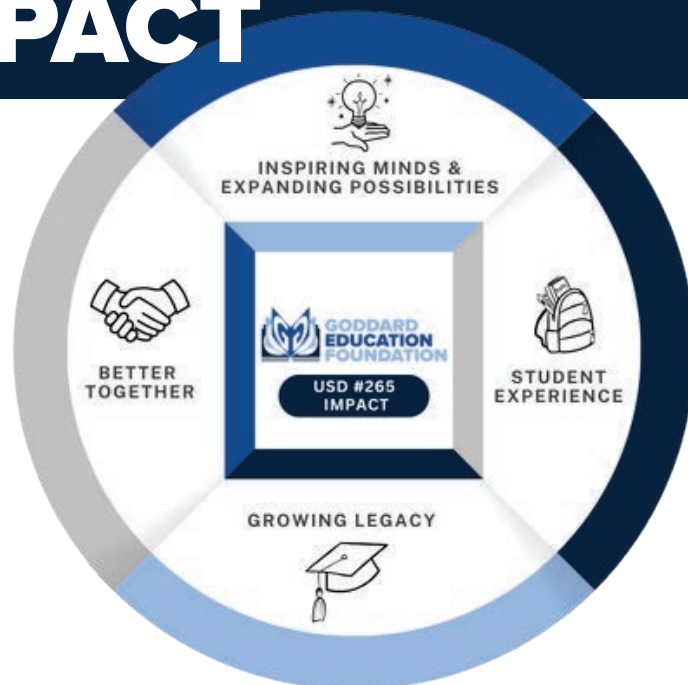
"It was an honor and privilege to travel the state representing the Goddard District as a Kansas Teacher of the Year finalist. I am the teacher I am today because of the amazing educators and staff I have worked alongside throughout my career. The opportunity to speak to future educators and travel to other districts across Kansas was such a rewarding experience, and I will forever be grateful."

Melissa Haney

*Project Lead The Way Teacher
Explorer Elementary School*

DECADE OF IMPACT

The Goddard Education Foundation (GEF), a decade-strong nonprofit organization, has been instrumental in enriching the educational experience of USD 265 students and staff. Since its establishment in 2014, the GEF has provided a steady stream of resources to support innovative teaching methods, fund student programs, and recognize outstanding educators and alumni. Through innovative teacher grants and community partnerships, the GEF continues to play a vital role in enhancing the overall quality of education within Goddard Public Schools.



"All USD 265 students truly benefit because of the amazing work of the Goddard Education Foundation and the thousands of people who have contributed to this organization."

Dr. Justin B. Henry
Superintendent of Goddard Public Schools

\$2.4 Million

Total dollars raised since the Goddard Education Foundation was established as an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) in 2014

2,750

Individuals have donated to the GEF

152

Innovative Teacher Grants awarded, impacting over 100 classrooms and countless USD 265 students

Each year the Goddard Education Foundation funds classroom learning opportunities through an innovative teacher grant program.

OVER 300 STAFF

Contributing to the GEF each month through payroll deduction.

35

Individuals or Teams inducted into the Goddard Public Schools Hall of Fame

The GEF is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as the direct support organization to the Goddard Public Schools. Our mission is to provide resources designed to enrich educational opportunities for the students of USD 265 through an independent nonprofit community-based organization. Your contribution will directly impact the Goddard Education Foundation and the designated programs listed below.

G Goddard Strategic Plan: *Provide world-class educational opportunities for all students while utilizing resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible toward this goal.*

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to help invest in the future of our #265Family.



INVESTING IN USD 265 GPS

ALUMNI COMMUNITY EDUCATORS EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CLASSROOMS



Hands-On ELA Activities

At Explorer Elementary School, Kari Vermillion and Taylor Graber's kindergarten classrooms now have access to hands-on manipulatives for their English Language Arts (ELA) program through the incorporation of new materials provided by an Innovative Teacher Grant.

As students start their journey with Goddard Public Schools as kindergarteners, access to these innovative ways to learn only enhances their skills. Mrs. Vermillion and Ms. Graber express, "Providing hands-on activities are crucial in the development of student learning."



INSPIRING MINDS

KINDNESS



To learn more about Sandra Lahar's wall art and Innovative Teacher Grants, scan the QR code to watch a short video.



Capturing Kids' Hearts Through Wall Art

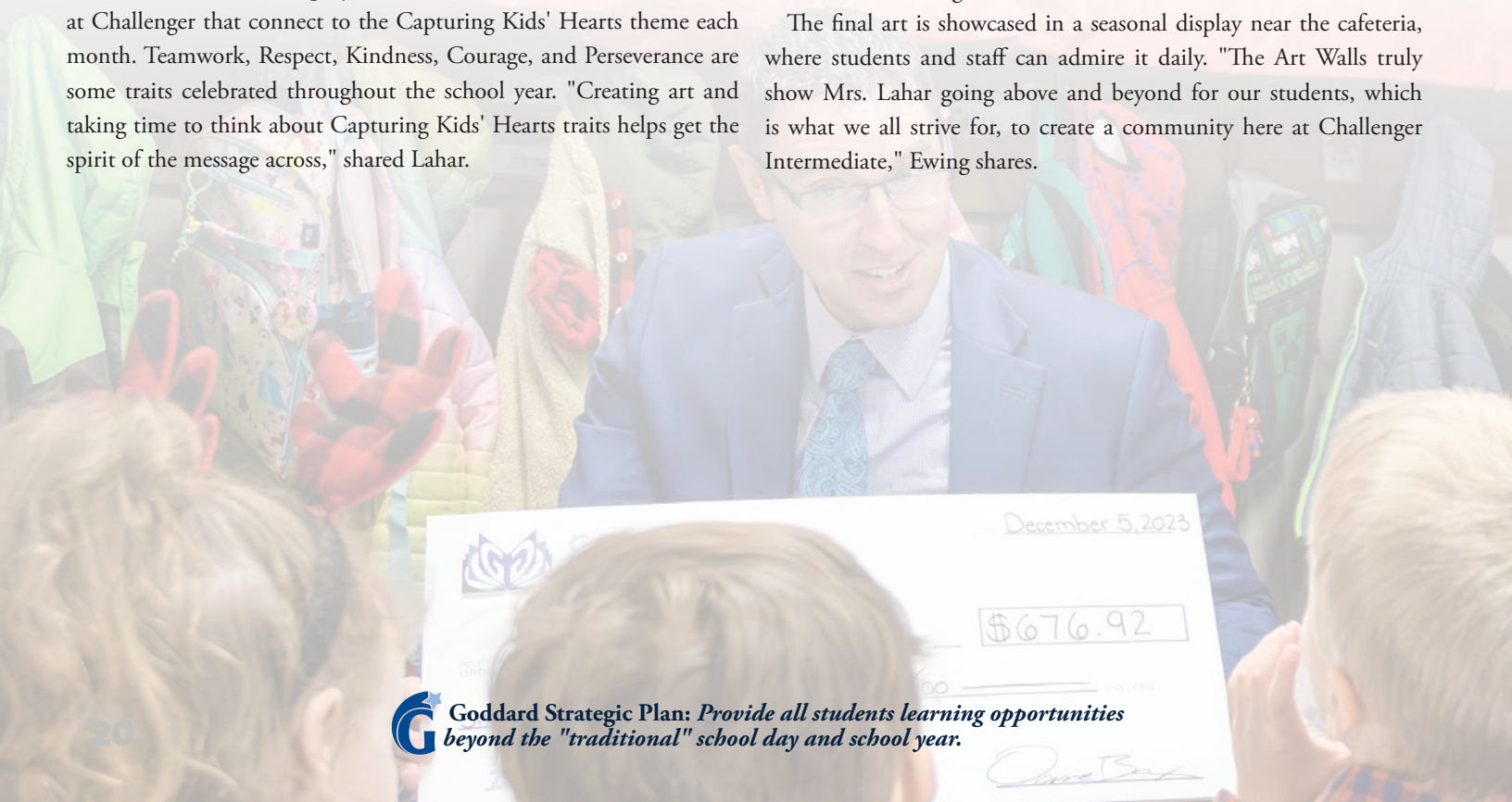
"Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind. Friendships matter," shared Sandra Lahar, Paraeducator at Challenger Intermediate School. The halls of Challenger Intermediate echo those statements with artwork used to help bring Capturing Kids' Hearts themes to life. Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) aims to strengthen students' connectedness to others by enhancing healthy bonds with teachers and helping build a school culture founded on relationships.

Mrs. Lahar creates art projects for the 5th and 6th-Grade students at Challenger that connect to the Capturing Kids' Hearts theme each month. Teamwork, Respect, Kindness, Courage, and Perseverance are some traits celebrated throughout the school year. "Creating art and taking time to think about Capturing Kids' Hearts traits helps get the spirit of the message across," shared Lahar.

Each month, Mrs. Lahar purchases, prepares, and delivers art projects with instructions to Challenger teachers so they can complete them with their classes. Mrs. Lahar also partnered with Challenger Librarian, Elizabeth Ewing to select a book that will tie in with the project/theme each month.

"I got the privilege of reading the book selection to all of my classes. This helped begin a discussion about what they would see in the hallway to make it more meaningful. I loved that it allowed me the opportunity to collaborate more with the classrooms and student work," shared Ewing.

The final art is showcased in a seasonal display near the cafeteria, where students and staff can admire it daily. "The Art Walls truly show Mrs. Lahar going above and beyond for our students, which is what we all strive for, to create a community here at Challenger Intermediate," Ewing shares.



O.W.L.S.

Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site

Goddard High School's Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site, or OWLS, is a multifunctional space for students and staff to experience the outdoors while learning curriculum in science, English language arts, math, and physical education. From enrichment in biology and ecology classes to studying literature on benches, this area expands student knowledge and exposes students to the beauty of nature.

Brad Cline, the GHS science department head, understands the importance of incorporating wildlife into everyday learning environments. With the assistance of a Goddard Education Foundation Innovative Teacher Grant, Cline along with GHS

student volunteers are working to build a new waterway boardwalk for GHS OWLS. This new boardwalk would help protect the ecosystem of the wetland area right on the GHS campus. Mr. Cline says, **“Having students help in the building of the walkway will provide them with a sense of pride and ownership in the area as well as teach them valuable construction skills.”** This is a unique experience for students to help protect wildlife and beautify their school.

GHS is fortunate to have an outdoor learning space such as OWLS. Cline shared, “We are fortunate to have one of the most complete OWLS centers in the state. Most suburban and inner-city schools have absolutely no access to native prairie lands. Our OWLS is designed to bring a slice of the native prairies to Goddard High School.” Mr. Cline’s dedication to protecting and improving OWLS increases the possibility for students to utilize an outdoor educational facility. Cline states, “Studies have shown that 'outdoor education' improves students’ engagement and motivation for learning, as well as improvement in social and mental health.” OWLS is an inclusive learning space accessible to GHS and Goddard Middle School students. Mr. Cline explains, “It is our goal to keep this outdoor treasure up-to-date and useful for all the curricular areas at Goddard High School and Goddard Middle School.”

EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES



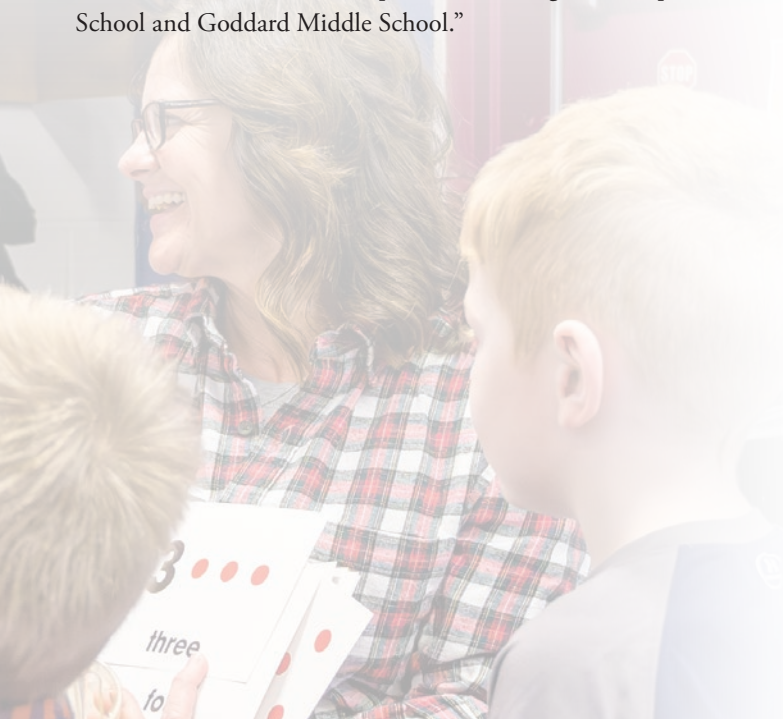
Learn more about OWLS by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



Fund an Innovative Teacher Grant

Your generosity gives educators the resources to help make their most innovative, hands-on learning projects become a reality in their classrooms. Please consider joining us on this journey to educate all students for lifelong success. You can make an online contribution to support Goddard Public Schools' educators today by scanning the QR code below.

To help fund an Innovative Teacher Grant scan the QR code with your mobile device.



CELEBRATE THE PAST

Alumnus Darren Mullen

Darren Mullen's journey through Goddard Public Schools was marked by a profound sense of community and belonging. From working at the Goddard Pool in the summer as a lifeguard, to becoming a photographer on the high school yearbook staff, Mullen's Goddard experience is deeply intertwined with the town's fabric. "The school itself was more than just an academic institution; it was a family, where everyone knew and supported one another," recalls Mullen.

Mullen's deep-rooted connection to Goddard Public Schools stems from his personal experiences and the enduring bonds he formed within the community. As he watched his own children navigate the same hallways he once walked, Mullen recognized the opportunity to give back to the place that had shaped him so profoundly. In his words, "Goddard is home, Goddard Schools is home, it always has been and always will be." His decision to give back to his alma mater and his ongoing pursuit to capture Goddard memories for current students through photography reflects his commitment to preserving the legacy of Goddard Public Schools.



Darren Mullen
Goddard High School
Class of 1990



SAVE THE DATE!
9.12.2025

EHS vs. GHS Football Game

Calling all Goddard Public Schools alumni! You're invited 'home' to Goddard, America, on Friday, September 12, 2025, for the ROAR on 54 football game. Join the Goddard Public Schools Alumni Association (GPSAA) for free to stay connected and learn more about upcoming Goddard alumni events.



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
GODDARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Need help planning your next Goddard class reunion?

The GPSAA can help! Gain exclusive access to GPSAA swag, event registration support, current directory of alumni, school tours, and resources inspired to help reconnect relationships and reintroduce alumni to the growing Goddard Public Schools family.

For reunion support, contact Dane Baxa at
316-794-4000 or danebaxa@goddardusd.com.

Join the Goddard Alumni Association by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



INSPIRE THE FUTURE

GODDARD HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

Jeff Berblinger

Class of 1989



“One of my fondest moments in Goddard was attending the high school football games... it's really where I think I got my love of sports.”

Dennis Cavalier

Former Educator & Coach



“Win without bragging.
Lose without excuse.”

Charles Edmonds

Former USD 265 Superintendent



“Change happens whether you wish for it or not.”

Nancy Fredrickson

Former Educator & Coach



“My time in Goddard is a gift from God. Looking back, I think about my students. Seeing how they have grown up is just amazing.”

Chrystal Krier

Class of 1981



“I'll always be a Goddard Lion, Blue and White.”

Max & Deborah Ogden

Class of 1969 & 1972



“Once you start something, don't look back, just keep working at it, just keep moving forward.”

The Goddard Education Foundation established the Goddard Hall of Fame in 2018 to celebrate, honor, and recognize the service, success, and achievements of Goddard Public Schools alumni, staff, and friends who are making a difference.

The GEF recognizes the legacy of those who have gone ahead of us and, in part because of their Goddard education, have made a positive impact on the world. These stories continue to draw inspiration for the next generation of alumni and staff who will continue the legacy of excellence.

To read about past honorees or nominate an individual for the Goddard Hall of Fame, scan the QR code with your mobile device.



265 COMMUNITY



Somewhere Over the Rainbow...

On March 24, 2024, over 350 people, including business partners, community leaders, patrons, and volunteers, united in support of Goddard Public Schools at Oz, the Goddard Education Foundation's spring fundraiser. The event raised over \$130,000 for our #265Family. A team of 45 volunteers poured their passion and hard work into bringing Oz to life in the most enchanting way possible. This year, three outstanding student interns were invited to be a part of the Oz planning team. GHS students, Kennedie Frame and Rachel Simmons, helped create and work with the team on decorations and marketing. Braydon Stewart, EHS Senior, along with teacher Kassady Meng and the EHS Culinary Program, created delicious hand-made themed desserts for the event.

Join us for Oz 2025!
Scan the QR code to
learn more.



#265 School Supply Drive

Each year the Goddard Education Foundation partners with local businesses, including First National Bank, Credit Union of America, Vrana Chiropractic, Goddard Public Library, Cofellow Coffee Parlor, Chick-fil-A, and Pathway Church Goddard to collect and provide USD 265 families in need with school supplies to help ensure each student has a successful start to the school year.

Thank you, Goddard community and local businesses for contributing to the 2024 School Supply Drive. Because of your efforts, over 300 students were able to start the school year with all the supplies they needed to be successful this year.

“When schools flourish, communities prosper.”





Books and Blankets

For over 10 years, the Goddard Woman's Club has helped support USD 265 students in crisis by providing books and blankets, also referred to as 'Crisis Kits.' The Woman's Club volunteers make fleece blankets, collect gently used books, and organize a 'shopping event' for Goddard District counselors to collect items for each school year. It's a labor of love they hope brings comfort to students facing crisis or difficult situations.

"Its kind of like getting a warm hug and helps students feel loved by their school and their community when they're going through a tough time."

Megan Alexander
Counselor
Challenger Intermediate School



Ticket-to-Ride for #265

In the fall of 2024, the Goddard Education Foundation partnered with each school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) or Booster Club for an opportunity to support USD 265 students and win big! As part of the Ticket-to-Ride raffle, each school hosted an event to bring their school family together for fun and community. To help raise money to support each school's initiatives, \$10 from every Ticket-to-Ride raffle ticket went to the school of the purchaser's choice, raising collectively over \$40,000 for Goddard Public Schools!



#265 Community 'Bus Tour'

Lange Real Estate partnered with the Goddard Education Foundation to help provide breakfast for ALL 1,200 staff members in Goddard Public Schools on our staff appreciation 'bus tour.'

Each week, the infamous Blue and White Goddard activity bus made its way to every school and department in USD 265. District educators were greeted with warmth, kindness, and appreciation with a delicious breakfast from Chick-fil-A and piping hot coffee from Cofellow Coffee Parlor.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to view a short video of the USD #265 Staff Appreciation Tour!



Lange
 REAL ESTATE

BETTER TOGETHER

It's truly inspiring to know that over 300 Goddard Public Schools employees believe in the Goddard Education Foundation's mission and regularly contribute to the GEF through payroll deduction. The GEF can leverage that support to help make a transformational impact in our schools. Thank you to the following individuals for your support.

Curtis Albin	Matthew Cavanaugh	William Goodwin	Memori Keck	*Judith McAnally	Marylee Ramsay	John Stuever
Megan Alexander	Jackie Chambers	Dinah Goolsby	Jodie Kerschen	Jill McAndrews	Trudi Randolph	Suzanne Sullivan
Shelby Allee'	Kira Chapman	Nina Gracy	Dawn Kimber	Rachel McCormick	Graham Ratzlaff	*Sharon Szurpicky
Michelle Allen	Jennifer Chism	Robert Graf	Kyrie Kinder	Carolyn McDanel	Makayla Raux	Briana Talley
Christina Anderson	Connor Christensen	Cory Graupmann	Christina Kinney	Lanelle McKernan	Sara Read	Collin Taylor
Julianne Aragon	Emily Christensen	Nicholas Grummert	Amanda Klein	Jacquelyn McLain	Cynthia Redfield	Taunya Terhune
Eric Armstrong	Katherine Clapp	Alisha Guerra	Brett Klepacki	Audrey McLemore	*Barbara Reichenborn	Ashley Thorene
Valerie Armstrong	Kelly Clark	Diana Gutierrez-Sanchez	*Mary Kloefkorn	Rebecca McReynolds	Renee Richards	Elizabeth Toribio
Cameron Barger	Bradley Cline	Todd Hague	Craig Koenigs	Catherine McSwain	Autumn Riddle	Stephanie Tovell
Kaitlyn Barrientos	Kelly Cocking	Fawna Hahn	*Paige Koeppen	Brian Means	Cynthia Rietcheck	Charles Triggs III
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Rebecca Batemon	Pamela Cole	Melissa Haney	Rebecca Kohlman	JR Miller	Dennis Roat	*Pamela Troll
Thomas Baughman	Michelle Cottingham	Tamme Hanrahan	Kenneth Krom	Carol Mock	Patricia Roberts	Kimberly Truzzolino
Dane Baxa	Miranda Cotton	Kelli Hansard	Catherine LaFever	Kelci Mohr	Sharlo Rogers	Rose Valek
Daniele Baxa	Tamara Craytor	Jennifer Harrison	Samantha Lampe	Kara Molina	Christen Ronksley	Diana Van Horn
Thomas Beason	Marcy Cross	Kaleigh Hartzler	Brandy Lane	Philip Moorhouse Jr.	Kaylee Rosenhagen	Hannah Van Nort
Michael Beavers	Donna Curran	Kyle Haught	Christa Larson	Ann Morgan	Shea Ruffin	Andrew Vang
Samantha Becker	Erin Davis-Sweetwood	Marney Hay	Pamela Lawson	Blake Morgan	Ryan Ryan	Diane VanStrien
Jamie Belt	Valene Day	Mckenzie Heath	Taylor Leis	*Linda Morgan	Stephanie Ryan	Bridget Vaughn
LeeAnn Bennington	Tanya Dickerson	Jason Hefe	Amanda Leivian	Stephanie Mouse	Alexis Saffell	Danielle Vequist
Kacie Benteman	Latisha Dickman	Malory Hein	Gracie Leslie	Angela Mullen	Kristin Salazar	Kari Vermillion
*Gretchen Bixler	Jennifer Dinkel	Margaret Henriques	Jonell Lies	Mira Mullen	Pamela Salerno	Sarah Vieyra
Joseph Blasi	Rachel Dodge	Dr. Justin B. Henry	Carie Lieurance	Blake Myers	Shelly Sanders	Brenda Vitztum
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Karen Boden	Timothy Dougherty	Jess Herbig	Era Lilly	Rachel Nally	Angela Savute	Amy Warren
April Bond	Tony Douglas	Cathy Hersh	Nathan Lind	Erin Nelson	Pamela Schmidt	Christine Watkins
Linda Borden	Teresa Drake	Madison Hight	Ann Locke	Marlene Nikodym	Christal Schneider	Sabrina Watkins
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Amanda Bralley Garner	Shae Enegren	Sabrina Hill	Carolyn Long	Jean Marie Noller	Jennifer Schrader	Cindy Webb
Dana Bridwell	Lisa Estes	Cynthia Himes	Shannon Long	Julie Nuessen	Mellisa Schwartz	Alyson Weber
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*David Burbank	*Cynthia Fairbank	Katherine Hollas	Diana Lynn	Randi Ornelas	Brenda Sharp	Gary West
Charlotte Burdge	Brittania Ferris	Sean Hollas	Ellie Macy	Melissa Owen	Laura Sharp	Brittney Westgard
Joey Buresh	Alyson Fink	Jacob Holle	Pamela Mahannah	Lauren Painter	Stephanie Shoff	Leah Whelan
Joel Burgeson	Catherine Fluty	Melanie Hommertzhaim	Karan Mahon	Anita Parks	Melissa Short	Piper White
Leanna Bussman	Russell Fluty	Bridget Hook	Amy Mann	Rebecca Peery	Lory Silva	Terri Whitmore
Ryan Bussman	Teresa Fortney	Shannon Howe	Douglas Mann	Deborah Perkins	Crystal Simmons	Alexandra Wilken
Julie Campa	Lisa Fouts	Leslie Huff	Rochelle Mann	Robin Perkins	Christopher Smith	Jennifer L. Wilmoth
Kassie Campidilli	*Deena Fowler	Kimberly Huntley	Evan Manning	Tegan Perkins Ulmen	Lucas Smith	Jennifer S. Wilmoth
Dr. Julie Cannizzo	Patricia Frame	Alison Jack	Lawrence Marchant	Emily Pezzola	Melissa Smith	Josephine Wilson
Joshua Cannon	Nathan Franke	Marcus James	Jewell Martinez	Carrie Phelps	*Susan Smith	Kimberly Winkler
Sami Cannon	Cecilia Friedel	Jeanette Jellison	Lisa Martin	Alexandria Phillips	Laura Somers	Victoria Wollard
Emily Carrillo	Peggy G.	Annette Johnson	Erick Mathews	Aretha Place	Tamera Spencer	Heather Wood
	Andrea Gardner	Julie Johnson	Douglas Maxwell	Heather Potter	Mindy St. Peter	Sandra Yost
	Brian Gee	Tara Johnson	Christine Maxwell	*Kay Premer	*Connie Staley	Brandee Young
	Carly Gerstner	William Johnson	Scott May	Connie Purnell	Rebecca Steckline	Ashley Zoglmann
	Valerie Gerton	Amy Kalinich	Jennifer Mayer	Seth Ralstin	Angela Steele	Marilyn Zoglman
	Ellen Goodwin	April Karber	Stephanie Mayfield	Sierra Ralstin	*Julie Strecker	Neal Zoglmann
		Kaleigh Kear	Tamra Maynard	Albert Ramey	Drew Strickert	

* Represents Goddard staff contributing to payroll deduction who have retired in the last year.

Memorials

Rick Kilmer	<i>1947 - 2024</i>
Leona Grigsby	<i>1939 - 2024</i>
Sara McDonald	<i>1944 - 2024</i>
Nancy Johnson	<i>1959 - 2023</i>
Ryan Jilka	<i>1972 - 2023</i>
Vickie Kilmer	<i>1947 - 2021</i>
Miriam McLain	<i>1937 - 2021</i>
Michele Longabaugh	<i>1963 - 2020</i>
Missy Davis	<i>1984 - 2020</i>

The Goddard Education Foundation is proud to help families honor the life and legacy of those who have had a tremendous impact on Goddard Public Schools. Each individual listed has a memorial established through the GEF to receive contributions in memory of their dedication to Goddard Public Schools.

To learn more about each individual's impact, or leave a gift in honor of their life and legacy, you can scan the QR code below, or contributions can be mailed to the Goddard Education Foundation, 201 S. Main St. Goddard, KS 67052.

Learn more about an individual or contribute to a memorial by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.





CREDIT UNION *of America*

Serving Educators Since 1935

All Blue for Goddard Schools

The Goddard Education Foundation is excited to announce a 5-Year 'All Blue' Partnership with Credit Union of America. As students journey through Goddard Public Schools, partnerships with local businesses help enhance the educational experience for both students and educators. Each year, Credit Union of America provides grants that help support educators' classroom needs, gifts and prizes for USD 265 staff, and meals for staff throughout the year to show their appreciation.

"Credit Union of America values partnerships, and we are proud of the long-standing and impactful relationship with Goddard Public Schools and the Goddard Education Foundation. As the Educators' Credit Union, CUA is dedicated to positively impacting both educators and students. We are excited to launch the new 'All Blue' partnership, which will strengthen our relationship and deepen our impact on future leaders and the exceptional educators who inspire them."

Bradley Dyer
Sr. Business Development Officer
Credit Union of America

Business Partnerships

The Goddard Education Foundation is grateful for the individual benefactors and partnering organizations that provide the resources to inspire minds and expand possibilities. Partnering with the GEF allows you the opportunity to maximize your impact on the lives of students and educators. Your contribution can open doors to meaningful engagement opportunities to connect with educators, students, and families through unique and inspiring events and activities.

Want to partner with the GEF?
Contact Dane Baxa to set up an appointment today.
316-794-4000
danebaxa@goddardusd.com

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to learn more about GEF business partnership opportunities.





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Serving Educators Since 1935

