



# 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**MEQUON - THIENSVILLE  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Diana Levy



Tom Price

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation and our community's public schools. The 2015-2016 school year was another banner year for our students and schools as they continue to receive many accolades, awards, and recognition. In addition, many needed capital improvements for all six school buildings were approved due to the community's support of a referendum, and the new turf field at the high school debuted, made possible by private fundraising through the Homestead Booster Club's Highlander Strong campaign. These improvements to the school buildings, performing arts facilities, and athletic facilities will serve the community for years to come!

Meanwhile, directly due to your support, the MTEF is again able to "invest in the advancement of excellence" for the students of the Mequon-Thiensville School District. In particular, because of your financial and volunteer support the past school year, we will be awarding grants of \$228,784 for use during the 2016-2017 school year. The MTEF has now awarded over \$3.6 million in grants since 1998, all toward the educational advancement of our students. You should have a sense of pride knowing your gifts directly assist our students to continue to reach their best potential and strive for excellence.

Thank you to the Foundation's Board of Directors for their guidance and participation in our organization. A special thank you to our ex-officio officers from the district, Matt Joynt and Robin Schlei, who have donated many hours of personal time to the Foundation. We are very appreciative of the collaboration that exists between the MTEF Board and our school district's staff and administrators.

Finally, please know YOU truly make a difference! Whether you share your time, talents, or financial resources, you help the students in our community achieve their educational goals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana Levy  
President, 2015-2016

Tom Price  
President, 2016-2017

The Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation

**WORKING FOR**  
**EVERY SCHOOL,**  
**EVERY TEACHER,**  
**EVERY STUDENT!**

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## INVESTING IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF EXCELLENCE

The Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation was incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit organization committed to advancing educational excellence. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, which operates independently yet in conjunction with the Mequon-Thiensville School District and Board of Education. The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. The MTEF benefits all six schools in the MTSD, consisting of Donges Bay Elementary School, Oriole Lane Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, Lake Shore Middle School, Steffen Middle School, and Homestead High School.

## MISSION

The Mission of the MTEF is to develop community-wide private financial support for the Mequon-Thiensville School District and, through grants, to help support continued excellence in education.

## GOALS

- To achieve a distinct, beneficial, and clearly understood role in the community.
- To collaborate with school district personnel and other school support groups to identify ways to maintain the educational excellence our children deserve.
- To seek and support creative ways to ensure the school district advances in technology, curriculum, and personnel.
- To expand our parent, staff, and community donor base.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Foundation is committed to helping address the budgetary shortfalls and to ensuring that the Mequon-Thiensville School District advances in technology, curriculum, and personnel. Declining enrollments coupled with the unfavorable state funding formula make this a fiscally challenging time for the Mequon-Thiensville School District. Creation of strong private-public partnerships empowers supporters of public education to partner to make a difference as we prepare our students for the 21st century global world.



Donges Bay Elementary School



Oriole Lane Elementary School



Wilson Elementary School



Lake Shore Middle School



Steffen Middle School



Homestead High School



## 4K PROGRAM—SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS

The MTSD's 4K Program kicked off its inaugural year in 2015-2016, and the MTEF was proud to be a part by providing grant assistance. Funds were used toward math manipulatives, emotional learning resources, technology, and classroom libraries.

Hilary James, 4K program chairperson and teacher at Wilson Elementary, shares her insight of how the MTEF's support impacted students: "In building our classroom libraries, we were able to choose a wide variety of author studies that we are using as a springboard for our units incorporating emergent reading and writing skills. Across the district, students were wild about the author Mo Willems and his use of speech bubbles! This spilled over into our students' writing, which was shared with peers and parents. In addition, we purchased several small readers where children were able to retell stories and become immersed in books that captivated their attention. The use of technology in the 4K classrooms aided the teachers in differentiating instruction, helping to meet the needs of all learners. Several programs were used (such as the app Handwriting Without Tears) to reinforce the concepts and skills taught throughout our day. The use of the iPads was a great way to infuse technology appropriately for our youngest of learners."

MTSD 4K parent Kristin Smith said she was actually "surprised and happy" to see iPads in the classroom. "I was very impressed at how the teachers incorporated the iPads into the classroom to help with learning. My daughter benefited from the exposure to the technology, but still loved and engaged in traditional learning methods. Technology is the world we live in today."

Ms. James also commented: "Without a doubt, we would not have had such an amazing first year without the support of MTSD and the grant money from MTEF. Because of the resources made available by the MTEF, the teachers were able to engage all learners with a variety of materials, to meet each child where they were at and move them forward on the learning continuum, setting the stage for future success."

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

It is important to recognize the major impact that strong teachers have on students. The annual MTEF Excellence in Teaching awards are given to educators who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the preparation of students for continued academic advancement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In 2015-2016, an extra award was given to recognize a district specialist as well.

All recipients must demonstrate good communication and leadership skills; exhibit a willingness to become involved; share their teaching expertise with students, as well as peers; incorporate innovating teaching methods; and have a positive impact on students.



***Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients (from left to right): Laurel Strauss (Elementary School Excellence in Teaching Award), Joe Ordinans (Homestead High School Excellence in Teaching Award), and John Emanuelson (Specialist Excellence in Teaching Award). Not pictured: Molly Kroemer (Middle School Excellence in Teaching Award).***



## TOTAL: \$228,784

### TECHNOLOGY

**\$58,540**

#### CHROMEBOOKS (\$25,540)

As our students continue to utilize more online academic resources, ever useful and always needed Chromebooks will be purchased for the elementary and middle schools.

#### 4K iPADS (\$18,000)

The MTEF is excited to continue to support our 4K learners. Rounding out last year's grants for 4K curriculum and technology, this grant will provide additional iPads. Now all 4K students will have access to the technology, increasing student engagement and interaction in the learning process.

#### SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (\$15,000)

New Windows-based laptops will utilize the latest software and provide Physics students with authentic scenarios and access to relevant data. High school Physics is taught every hour of the trimester, and this grant will help fill the great need for these computers.

### PERSONNEL

**\$51,500**

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (\$32,500)

The MTEF appreciates one of MTSD's greatest resources: outstanding teachers. To help educators continue to grow and keep up with best practices, the MTEF will be granting all six school principals discretionary support to cover staff professional development.

#### AVID ELEMENTARY PATH TRAINING (\$19,000)

This grant will help expand the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at the elementary level. The MTEF has been a financial supporter of the AVID implementation at all three school levels.

### CURRICULUM

**\$82,000**

#### SPRINGBOARD ELA (\$30,000)

With a goal of making rigorous courses accessible to all learners, MTSD is upgrading the 7th and 8th grade ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum to the College Board's comprehensive instructional program. The MTEF will help fund textbooks, staff development, and curriculum writing hours with this grant.

#### AP SEMINAR (\$16,250)

This grant will be used to cover some of the start-up costs for the new AP (Advanced Placement) English Language and Seminar class at HHS. Students will have the opportunity to hone their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills, while strengthening their abilities as researchers and communicators.

#### ROBOTICS I (\$15,250)

The MTEF will help fund the new high school Robotics I class start-up costs (equipment, textbooks, and curriculum writing hours). The new course will allow students to develop mechanical design and critical-thinking skills needed to construct, operate, and program robots through collaboration and project planning.

## HHS WRITING LAB (\$15,000)

Before and after school, and during every hour of the instructional day, high school English teachers will continue to help students with an array of writing assignments—from an outline to a research report—with the support of this grant for the Sydney Lauren Tabakin Writing Lab.

## LANGUAGE HONORS CLASSES (\$5,500)

This grant will cover the start-up costs for the new Latin IV Honors and Mandarin Chinese IV Honors classes. Both courses focus on all four aspects of communication—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—to help prepare students for collegiate-level content.

## DONOR-DESIGNATED DONATIONS

**\$32,744**

Individual donors have directed and funded grants to meet specific needs throughout the school district. The Leave a Legacy project, Room 2016, is one of many designated grants included in this total.

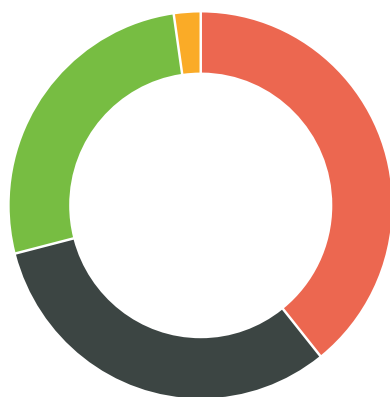
## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

**\$4,000**

Teachers are the heart of our schools, and the MTEF Excellence in Teaching Awards recognize an outstanding elementary, middle, and high school teacher. In 2015-2016, an extra award was given to recognize a district specialist.

*Thank you to Grants Advisory Committee Chair Tom Price and the committee: Debbie Anderson, Sue Birmingham, Brett Bowers, Jeridon Clark, Matt Joynt, John Krueger, Diana Levy, Brett Ludwig, Alli Rudich, Bryan Sadoff, and Robin Schlei.*

## MTEF CUMULATIVE GRANT AWARDS 1998-2016



- 39% TECHNOLOGY
- 32% PERSONNEL
- 27% CURRICULUM
- 2% EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

1998-2016  
100% TOTAL: **\$3,630,839**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Established in 2002, the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation's Endowment Fund was created with the goal of eventually providing an ongoing source of income for operating expenses and general funding purposes. The Fund was seeded with private donations, and continues to grow through private contributions and investment growth. The goal is to grow the Endowment Fund to \$1 million, after which the Foundation will use earnings to support overall program objectives. The Fund is currently managed by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.



**THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN** direct mailing, MTEF's largest fundraiser, was sent to all Mequon-Thiensville residents in October.

The May Matching Donation Challenge was a successful new event this year. Due to the generosity of a few anonymous community members, all May donations were matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000 total. The campaign exceeded the goal, as more than \$30,000 was collected.

*Together, these Annual Giving appeals generated more than **\$216,000** in donations.*



**THE SPRING RAFFLE** raised approximately **\$2,300** this year. Congratulations to Zachary Teplin (Homestead) for winning **\$1,000**; Molly Kroemer (Lake Shore) for winning **\$500**; and Ashley Heitz (Homestead) for winning Mr. Bowers' parking spot.

A winner at each school received **\$250**: Olivia Harris (Donges Bay); The Chawla Family (Oriole Lane); Matt Reiland (Wilson); The Thomas Family (Lake Shore); Owen Zeisler (Steffen); and Dave Savage (Homestead).

Thank you to Co-chairs Dana Bartol, Tanya Thorson, and Dana Valentine!

**THE TARTAN BASH** is a celebration of and a fundraiser for our excellent schools. In January 2016, the Tartan Bash's "Party for Our Pupils" was held at the River Club of Mequon. HHS's Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra provided pre-dinner entertainment. Co-chairs Liz Braatz and Tina Timm, along with board member Tracy Lappin and Silent Auction Co-chairs Shana Brewer, Heidi Joynt, and Roxanne Lentz helped generate more than **\$115,000** in profits, including **\$51,650** through the Fund-A-Grant voice auction, which was designated for portable technology at all six schools.

## TARTAN Bash





## CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

**REGENT (\$15,000 TO \$19,999)**  
Sydney Lauren Tabakin Memorial Fund

**EMERITUS (\$10,000 TO \$14,999)**  
Nicholas Family Foundation

**LEGACY (\$5,000 TO \$9,999)**  
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*Thank you generous donors!*

*This list is intended for recognition purposes and was compiled from MTEF donation records to show contributors' aggregate financial support. It is not intended to serve as a written acknowledgment of the tax deductibility of any gift or any portion thereof. We sincerely apologize if your name was misspelled or inadvertently missed!*

*Please help us avoid repeating the error by emailing [info@mtef.org](mailto:info@mtef.org).*





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Steffen Middle School



Homestead High School



Lake Shore Middle School



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 Infinite Gymnastics  
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     Running Center  
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 Knowledge Edge  
 Koss Stereophones  
 Kristie Zach Photography  
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 Le Petit Papillon  
     - Geraldine Keber  
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 Libby Montana Bar & Grill  
 Little Switzerland Ski Hill, Slinger  
 Lululemon  
 Mader's Restaurant  
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     Department  
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     - Laura and John Leszczynski  
 Worzella Photography, Inc.  
 Xenia Gallery  
 Xzia  
 Zarletti Mequon



## LEAVE A LEGACY IN HONOR OF HHS GRADUATES

In honor of Ryan Baranko  
The Baranko Family  
In honor of Lauren Bartlett  
The Bartlett Family  
In honor of Alejandro Bitetto  
Ivan Diaz and Ana Gilmond  
In honor of Thomas Blaubach  
The Blaubach Family  
In honor of Samuel Brink  
Sharon and Don Brink  
In honor of Alexandra Burns  
Doug and Shelley Burns  
In honor of Georges Chedid  
The Chedid Family  
In honor of Eddie Cheng  
Eddie's parents  
In honor of Ryan Cho  
Michael and Cheryl Cho  
In honor of Sebastian Chou  
The Chou Family  
In honor of Max Clavette  
Lynn Nicholas  
In honor of Jessica and Josh Cooley  
Ryan and Julie Cooley  
In honor of Olivia Joy Damron  
Rob and Leah Damron  
In honor of Thomas DeGuire  
Stephen and Laura DeGuire  
In honor of Mari Duckler  
The Duckler Family  
In honor of Seth Eiseman  
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In honor of Olivia Feinman  
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Tom and Wendy Gebhardt  
In honor of Gabriella Geiger  
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In honor of Erin Gifford  
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In honor of Josh's Graduation  
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In honor of Maggie Hadcock  
The Hadcock Family  
In honor of Matt Heilmann  
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The Hobbs Family

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The Kennedy Family  
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The Lewinsky Family  
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The LoCoco Family  
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The Looker Family  
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The Malicky Family  
In honor of Megan Manning  
The Manning Family  
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The Newton Family  
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The Norman Family

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In honor of Megan Ochalek  
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The Plamann Family  
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The Powell Family  
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The Rolfs Family  
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The Rowe Family  
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The Salerno Family  
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The Shore Family  
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The Steinert Family  
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The Takerian Family  
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The Wade Family  
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## HONORARIUMS

In honor of the Class of 2016  
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In honor of Danny Levy  
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In honor of Diana Levy  
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In honor of the Malicky Family and  
Eric Malicky's Birthday  
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In honor of Nicole Martin  
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In honor of Saarang Patel  
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In honor of Carly and Micah  
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In honor of Jon Safran  
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In honor of Tim Van Vooren  
Cornerstone Community Bank  
In honor of our grandchildren  
Michael and Lois Weber  
In honor of Scarlett and Darby Williamson  
Kilby and Amy Williamson

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Edwin Bruggeman,  
father of Bridget Sandlow  
Mike and Andi Zimmerman  
In memory of Alex Fish  
Gary and Mithra Ballesteros  
In memory of Joseph C. Martin  
Scott and Cherie Bjornstad  
Dawn Omernik-Nimmer  
In memory of Royce Wayne Miller,  
father of Melanie White  
Mike and Andi Zimmerman

*When you honor or memorialize a friend or loved one by making a donation to the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation, a notification of your contribution (without disclosing the amount of your gift) will be sent to the person or family being honored or memorialized by your gift.*



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 255,765	\$ 244,284
Certificates of deposits	85,198	100,579
Pledges receivable	11,457	13,865
Prepaid expense	1,427	4,425
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>353,847</b>	<b>363,153</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Computer equipment	1,492	1,492
Less: accumulated depreciation	(596)	(298)
Net property and equipment	896	1,194
<b>INTEREST IN ASSETS HELD BY THE GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION</b>		
	538,085	529,929
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 892,828</b>	<b>\$ 894,276</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payable to Mequon-Thiensville School District	\$ 107,516	\$ 131,101
Accrued expenses	306	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>107,822</b>	<b>131,101</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated (deficit)	6,384	(6,424)
Designated	449,965	441,050
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>456,349</b>	<b>434,626</b>
Temporarily restricted	193,142	197,109
Permanently restricted	135,515	131,440
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>785,006</b>	<b>763,175</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 892,828</b>	<b>\$ 894,276</b>

Independent Auditors' Report completed by Sikich LLP. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

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We're proud to share this year's newly designed annual report with you. It was printed in full color at no additional cost to the Foundation, thanks to the generosity of the following people who donated their time and expertise:

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info@mtef.org

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| OCTOBER          | Annual Campaign Kicks Off                            |
| JANUARY 21, 2017 | Tartan Bash at Ozaukee Country Club                  |
| APRIL 18-MAY 1   | Spring Raffle  |
| FALL 2017        | Fun Run with Taste of Mequon,<br>details forthcoming |

## MTEF IS GOING GREEN

Should you wish to receive this report via email next year, send your preference with your name and address to [info@mtef.org](mailto:info@mtef.org).

