

Great

Schools

Great

Communities



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Impact Report
for the Community



Dear Supporters,

Thank you for making our schools and community **GREAT!** You contributed more than \$1.5 million last year to support the students, teachers and staff of the Issaquah School District.

These donations truly are an investment. **Studies show that strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand.** The benefits of a strong school system include maintaining and increasing property values, providing a qualified workforce, lowering crime rates, creating a strong sense of community, and enhancing public services while decreasing the demand for social programs.

Your partnership with the Foundation fuels success for every student at every school in the district. Throughout this report you'll see examples of your investment at work. You'll read about Briarwood Elementary students who are **making academic strides** thanks to the After School Assistance Program. You'll learn how middle school students are **building skills for the future** through a district-wide financial literacy curriculum. You'll read about programs like Start Strong and the VOICE Mentor Program's College Bound initiative, **helping students achieve** in high school and prepare for college.

The stories in this report, and countless other stories, **would not be possible without YOU.** When you support the Issaquah Schools Foundation, you ensure that our communities continue to be a magnet for families and that **all students have the tools they need to achieve the promise of their potential.** Please visit isfdn.org to learn about how you can volunteer and change lives.

With gratitude,



Kristin Behn
Board Chair



Robin Callahan
Executive Director

"Our schools could not do the work we do without the support of the Issaquah Schools Foundation."

—Ron Thiele, Issaquah School District Superintendent

4 Ways Donors Foster Great Education

ADVANCING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- **After School Homework Labs and Open Libraries** at middle and high schools
- \$1,000–\$10,000 **Academic Enrichment Grants** for teachers
- **Highly Capable** Program Grants
- **Writing Curriculum Adoption** support at every elementary and middle school
- **Special Needs** Program Grants
- \$100,000 Rotating **Dedicated Fine Arts Fund** for middle and high school band, orchestra, choral, drama and visual arts programs
- **Shakespeare Alive** unit with Seattle Shakespeare Company for all freshmen
- **Elementary Science Tech** Magnet support
- **English Language Learner** support for all ages, including the *Cultural Bridges for Education* magazine and district-wide translation services

SUPPORTING STRUGGLING STUDENTS

- **VOICE** (Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education) one-to-one Mentor Program
- **Port Blakely Environmental Sustainability** for pre-biology students
- **Start Strong** program to help students transition from middle to high school
- Targeted **Academic Interventions** for all ages
- **Healthy Youth Initiative** in support of mental health, suicide and bullying prevention, emotional resilience and basic student needs

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO THEIR FUTURES

- **TEALS** (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) **Computer Science and Web Design** classes at all high schools
- **Financial Literacy** for all 8th graders
- **Robotics Clubs** at middle and high schools
- **Great Careers Conference** to introduce students to alternative career paths
- **Career Cruising & FutureMap** for 8th–12th graders

PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **National Board Certification** scholarships for educators
- **New Teacher Classroom Start Up Funds** to help teachers set up their classrooms
- **Career and Technical Education Scholarships** for teachers, providing instruction with real-world application

Great Achievements

Authoring a New Story for Elementary & Middle School Writers


It's hard to identify a career that doesn't involve some form of written communication. But district-wide, student writing scores were not keeping pace with reading and math scores.

"Writing is tricky to teach," says Emilie Hard, the School District's Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning. "Unlike some other subjects, there is not just one right answer."

A new comprehensive writing curriculum is equipping students with first-rate writing skills. Introduced to kindergarten through 8th grade students at every school, the curriculum breaks writing into manageable steps and helps students identify and master specific strategies.

Foundation donors funded intensive workshops to help teachers implement the new curriculum. Teachers experienced the curriculum from a student's perspective, practicing the strategies they now bring to their classrooms. This training would not have been available without donor support.

The results are remarkable! **In a single year, there was a 19 percent increase in the number of ISD students exceeding state standards for elementary writing.**



"My teacher taught us how to find a good topic and how to self-evaluate our writing."

— Grace D., Briarwood Elementary



Great Strides

Starting Students on the Path to Success

Donors are building a foundation for high school success. For students who are struggling academically as they leave middle school, the donor-funded **Start Strong** program is an opportunity to prepare for and thrive in high school.

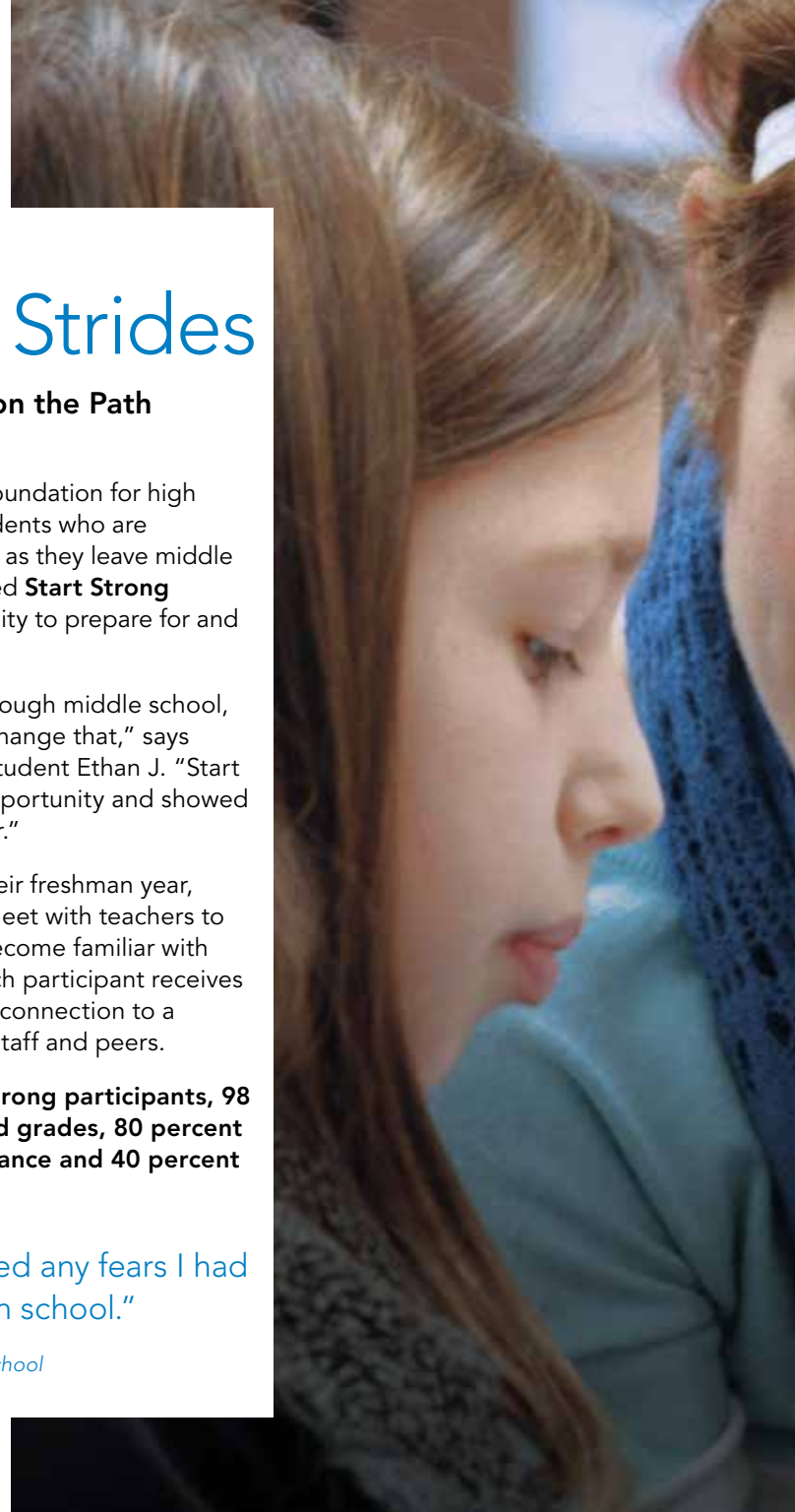
"I'd been struggling through middle school, and I really wanted to change that," says Issaquah High School student Ethan J. "Start Strong gave me that opportunity and showed me what I can do better."

In the weeks prior to their freshman year, Start Strong students meet with teachers to learn study skills and become familiar with high school culture. Each participant receives a laptop computer and connection to a supportive network of staff and peers.

Among recent Start Strong participants, 98 percent have improved grades, 80 percent have improved attendance and 40 percent have a GPA above 3.0.

"Start Strong erased any fears I had about starting high school."

— *Tristan B., Liberty High School*





Great Outcomes

Empowering Students Through After-School Assistance

It's a common story: an elementary student struggles in class, feels incapable and starts to dread school. Foundation donors are changing this story for students at Briarwood Elementary.

The After School Assistance Program (ASAP) provides targeted support in math, reading or writing for approximately 50 students.

Foundation donors help compensate teachers who staff the program. Donor support also provides healthy snacks and bus transportation, which is essential for many students who could not attend without transportation.

"I have heard from numerous students who hated math, reading or writing before ASAP," says Jennifer Mitchell, Dean of Students at Briarwood. "They've told me how thankful they are for ASAP because now they get it."

Since ASAP began in 2010, student test scores have increased 10 to 15 percent in any given year.

"We couldn't offer this program without Foundation donors," Mitchell says. "Thank you!"

"I can't wait until I go to sixth grade because my reading will be better."

— Awjanea H., Briarwood ASAP Student

Great Expectations

Mentoring College Bound Students

Foundation donors are giving College Bound students a VOICE.

The Foundation's VOICE Mentor Program matches community volunteers with Issaquah School District students in need of academic or other support. **Donor investment has allowed the expansion of VOICE to serve College Bound students.**

A statewide program, College Bound identifies 7th and 8th grade students who qualify for full college scholarships based on financial need. Without ongoing support, students who register for College Bound in middle school may not be eligible for college by the time they leave high school and therefore miss the opportunity to receive a full-ride college scholarship.

"Donors have given us the capacity to provide dedicated mentors for students on this path. **A qualified mentor can help pave the way for college success,**" says Susan Gierke, Co-Director of the VOICE Mentor Program.

327

Number of students matched with a VOICE Mentor last year

**109 students are still awaiting a mentor. Learn how you can volunteer to be a mentor at isfdn.org.*



Making Music Accessible

Issaquah schools are alive with the sound of music. District-wide, orchestra participation has nearly doubled in the last five years. The increased demand left many students without access to school-owned instruments.

Donors to the Foundation's Dedicated Fine Arts Fund provided \$100,000 for new instruments and equipment used by middle and high school orchestra students.

Great Ovations



"I feel like part of a bigger unit, the orchestra, that can make great things."

—Ian W., Grade Orchestra Student

School-owned instruments are essential to student musicians. Many students do not have an instrument at home. Those who own large instruments, like cellos and basses, may not be able to transport them to and from school.

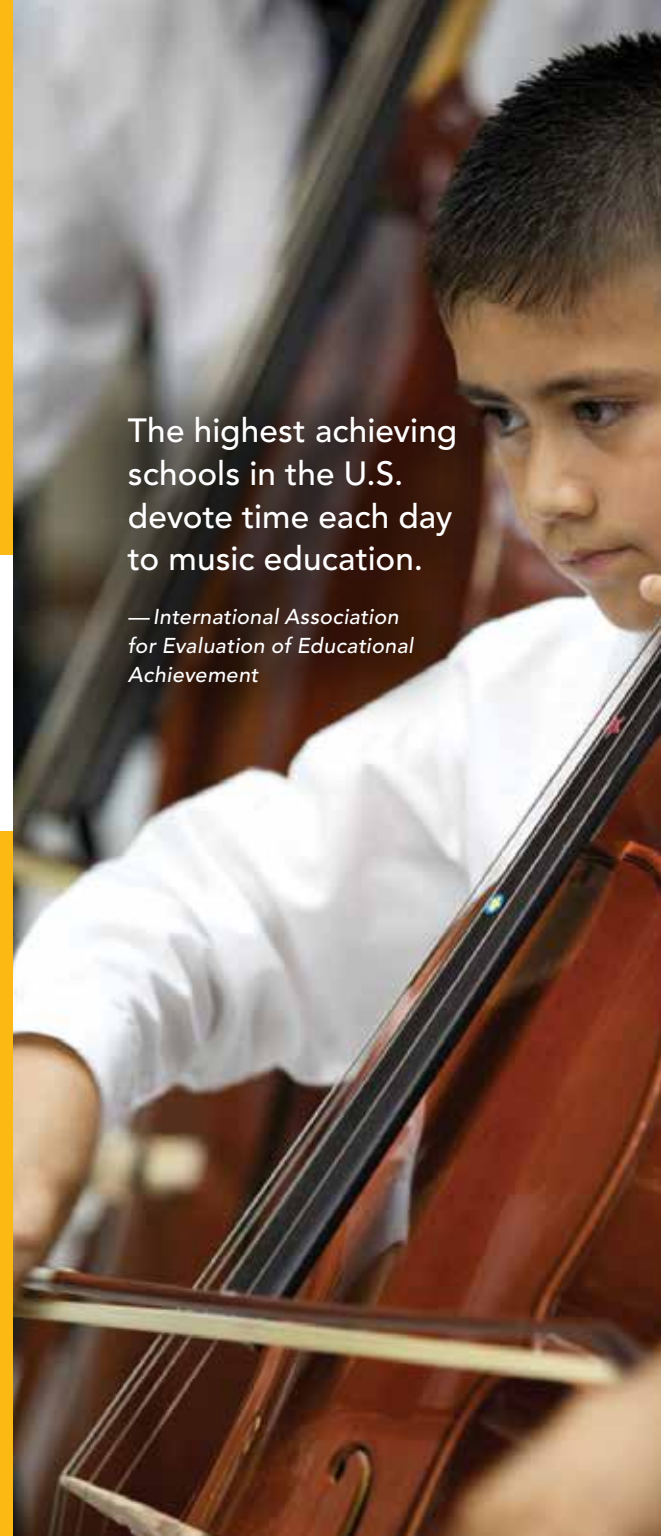
"With Foundation donations, our students proudly play on beautiful sounding instruments," says Terry Shade, Orchestra Director at Pacific Cascade and Issaquah Middle Schools. "What a boost it has been for our kids!"

Dedicated Fine Arts Future Priorities

- 2014–2015—Choral, Music, Drama
- 2015–2016—Fine & Visual Arts
- 2016–2017—Band
- 2017–2018—Orchestra

The highest achieving schools in the U.S. devote time each day to music education.

—*International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement*



Great Welcomes



Foundation donors welcome every new teacher with \$100 in classroom start-up funds and local business coupons to help them set up their classrooms.

“Knowing I live in a community that values its educators has helped me succeed as a first-year teacher,” says Jaci Belur, who started teaching history at Issaquah High School in 2014. Belur used her funds to purchase flipchart paper and atlases her students use daily.

Belur is well acquainted with our district’s Great Schools and Great Communities. A graduate of Issaquah High School, Belur knew she wanted to return as a new teacher.

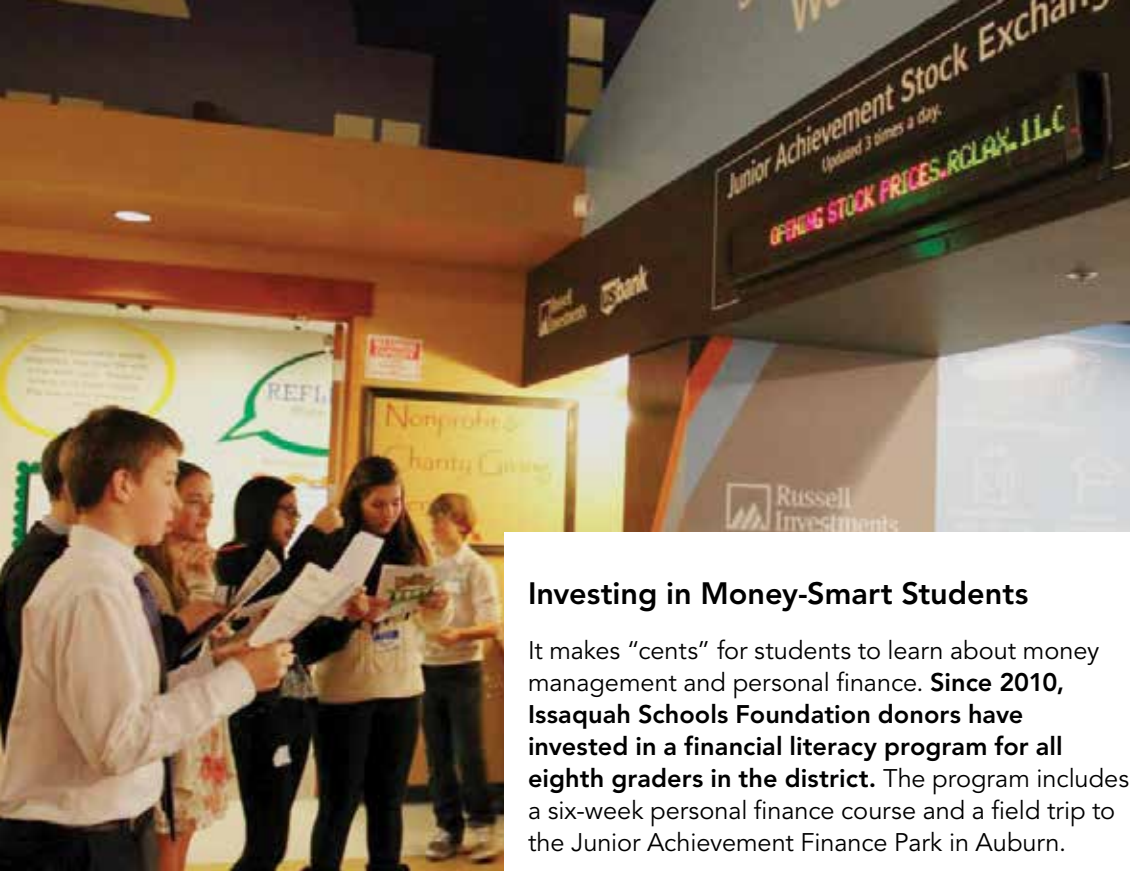
“The start-up funds were such a huge help,” she says. “The support from the Issaquah Schools Foundation really is priceless.”

\$485

Average public school teacher’s annual out-of-pocket expenses

2,926

Number of students who benefit from New Teacher Classroom Start Up Funds in a single year



Investing in Money-Smart Students

It makes “cents” for students to learn about money management and personal finance. **Since 2010, Issaquah Schools Foundation donors have invested in a financial literacy program for all eighth graders in the district.** The program includes a six-week personal finance course and a field trip to the Junior Achievement Finance Park in Auburn.

Great Opportunities

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM classes)—prepare students for academic and career success. But traditional STEM courses may not strike a chord with all students. A donor-funded guitar making class is changing the tune for Liberty High School.

“This class allows students to apply STEM concepts to something they’re passionate about,” says instructor Gary McIntosh.

Using the National Science Foundation curriculum, students design and build their own electric guitars. Foundation donors provide the materials and tools. STEM concepts like acoustics and chemistry enable students to customize their guitars. **Liberty is the first high school in the state to offer dedicated guitar making classes.**



“This is a class kids don’t want to miss. There’s never anyone absent.”

—Fred H., Guitar Making Student

Great Futures

“This is a vitally important curriculum. It prompted many discussions at home about credit, accrued interest and the importance of savings.”

—Issaquah Middle School Parent

“Parents are very supportive of the program,” says John Mejlaender, who teaches financial literacy at Issaquah Middle School. Mejlaender says parents are grateful their **children are learning real-world skills that are necessary to their future lives.**

“Eighth graders are not too young to consider the cost of living, the importance of budgets, wants versus needs, taxes and the use of credit and interest,” says Mejlaender. **“Teaching this curriculum is completely worth the time and effort.”**

Great Generosity

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our **Leadership Donors** who
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Great Impact Stretching Far for Students

For Danielle Miller, owner of Hot Yoga Experience, there is one option for her company's charitable giving, The Issaquah Schools Foundation.

"We give to the Issaquah Schools Foundation because we can see how our donation directly impacts students in our community," Miller says. "That's important to us as a business, because students are the people who will grow our community in the future."

Hot Yoga Experience supports the Foundation as a *Nourish Every Mind* sponsor and by donating a portion of the retail profits from their studios, located in Issaquah and Sammamish.



"Great schools bring in new families and allow our business and our community to grow."

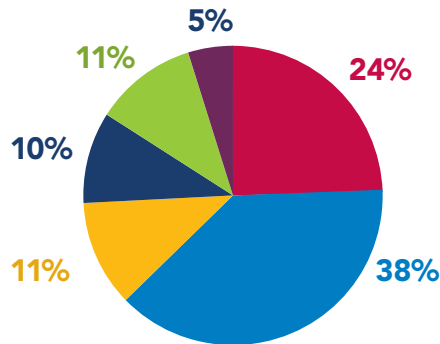
—Danielle Miller

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Great Investments

Your 2014–2015
Dollars at Work
\$990,308



ADVANCING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Interpretive Equipment for Special Needs Students
- Elementary SCRATCH Coding Clubs
- Environmental Sustainability (Green Teams)
- Teacher Innovation Grants
- Books for School Libraries
- Robotics Clubs at Middle and High
- STEM Enrichment
- Magnet Program Support
- Shakespeare Alive
- After School Homework (Middle and High Schools)
- AP, IB and Intro to Computer Science (TEALS)
- Highly Capable (MERLIN, SAGE)
- Special Services Student Support
- Curriculum Support (Writing)

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS

- After School Homework Middle and High Schools
- Teacher Innovation Grants
- ELL Support (TransAct and Voz de La Comunidad)
- Classroom Environmental Stewardship (MTS Greenway)
- Pre-K Summer School
- Start Strong (Middle to High Transition)
- Targeted Academic Interventions
- VOICE Mentoring
- WEB (Elementary to Middle Transition)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

- Curriculum Support (Writing)
- Career & Tech Education
- GLAD Training for HS ELL Teachers
- National Board Certification
- New Teacher Classroom Funds

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO THEIR FUTURES

- Environmental Sustainability (Green Teams)
- Robotics Clubs at Middle and High
- STEM Enrichment
- AP, IB and Intro to Computer Science (TEALS)
- Teacher Innovation Grants
- Conference Sponsorship
- Financial Literacy 8th Grade
- Internship Database
- PSAT/SAT Testing Scholarships
- Speaker's Bureau

DEDICATED FINE ARTS FUND

- Theater and Vocal Music Support at Middle and High

HEALTHY YOUTH INITIATIVE

- Mental Health (BEST)
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention (ITC)
- Basic Student Needs (Breakfast, School Supplies)

Great Legacy

To learn more about leaving a legacy for students, visit isfdn.org.



"A quality education maximizes a lifetime of opportunities for all children. We are donors because the Issaquah Schools Foundation enhances the education of all students in our district."

— Neva Luke and Pat Caiarelli, Legacy Society Donors

291

Issaquah School District's rank in state funding, out of 295 districts.

You make **Great Schools** and a **Great Community** possible.

Financial statements in their entirety are available online at www.isfdn.org. The Issaquah Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered with Washington's Secretary of State. For more information, please contact us at **425.391.8557** or info@isfdn.org.



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Our **Mission**

In partnership with the Issaquah School District, the Issaquah Schools Foundation drives resources to help all students achieve the promise of their potential.



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