



BPSF

Brainerd Public Schools Foundation

WHAT IS BPSF?

The Brainerd Public Schools Foundation is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization that exists to support the students of the Brainerd Public Schools in various ways; including scholarships and providing 4A Grants to staff and coaches. The 4A Grants cover academics, activities, arts and athletics.

BPSF'S Mission:

To enhance opportunities for quality academics, arts, activities and athletics for the students of the Brainerd Public Schools.

4A GRANTS

Academics, Activities, Arts and Athletics



CHOMP SAW
GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ROCK WALL
LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MOTOR LAB
WARRIOR EARLY LEARNING CENTER



AMAZING ANIMALS
WARRIOR EARLY LEARNING CENTER



STEP BELLS
RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BEE BOTS
DISTRICT WIDE

BPSF is proud to announce over \$93k was awarded during our three 4A Grant cycles in 2025/26. The Foundation commits a portion of our funds each year to the 4A granting program, in addition to utilizing dollars from donor-advised grants, 4A grant-specific funds, and an annual grant from the Innovative Schools Project. We sponsor innovative projects requested by Brainerd Public Schools educators and coaches that enrich and enhance the high-quality education our students receive across the district.

THANK YOU!

BRAINERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATORS & STAFF,
thank you for all you do for our students! You are appreciated!



Ways to Give ...

Make a strategic investment in schools that you care about.
Maximize the tax advantages of your giving.
Leave your local charitable legacy.

BPSF has several fund options to support our schools and students:



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Fund: Scholarship Funds are awarded annually to graduating Brainerd Public Schools seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education. (ie: Four-year degree, two-year degree, certificate or trade program) Donors determine the award criteria based on what is important to you or your loved ones. Scholarship funds can be established as endowed, non-endowed, or flow-through.



4A GRANTS

4A Grant Fund: 4A Grant Funds help fund grant requests made in the areas of arts, academics, athletics, and activities. Each year, teachers, coaches, admin, and other district staff can request funding for special projects, initiatives or activities that fall outside general operating dollars. Learn more about non-funded projects at BPSF.org/grants. 4A grant funds can be endowed or non-endowed.



DONOR DIRECTED

Donor Advised: A Donor Advised fund allows donors to direct funds to a specific cause, building or educational area in the Brainerd Public Schools. These would be accessible year-round as they are not required to be part of the 4A Grants process.

CHEAT SHEET:

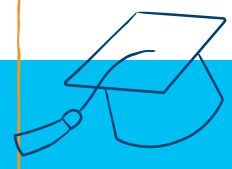
Endowed Funds are a permanent savings account that grows through strategic investing and financial contributions from donors. Endowed funds are used to provide stability and long-term growth to organizations. Endowed assets are intended to support an organization's mission in perpetuity.

Non-Endowed Funds have no permanent principal balance and are available for immediate distribution; however are restricted towards a specific cause. This type of fund will remain open until funds are depleted. A non-endowed fund can become an endowment fund at any time upon request.

Flow-Through Funds are a one-time-gift that will be used in a short period of time for a specific cause.

Contact Jessica Gangli at 218-454-6423 to discuss fund options.





Scholarship Recognition Night



Each year BPSF awards numerous scholarships to graduating seniors. Students must complete only one electronic general scholarship application to be in the running for over 200 scholarship awards hosted by the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation. Opportunities are available for every student type. We will award over \$250k in scholarships this year!
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

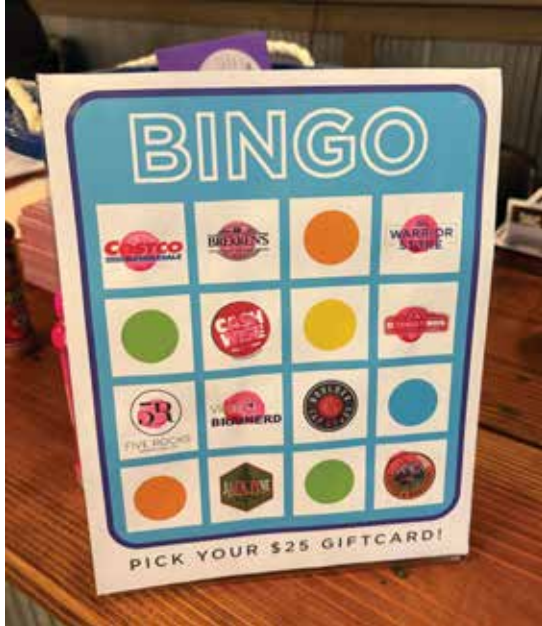
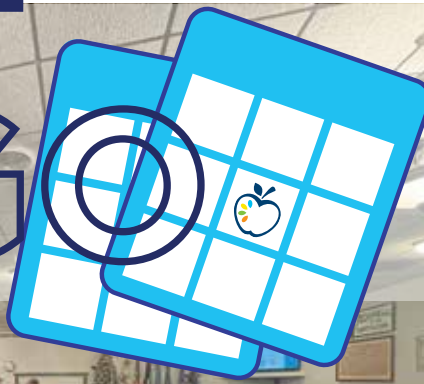
BPSF has three main types of scholarship funds: Endowed, Non-Endowed, and Flow-Through. Donors choose their type of fund and awarding criteria. (ie: GPA, field of study, extracurricular participation, etc) We manage the process from application, to reviewing, matching, celebrating, and awarding. After the student completes a semester of college, they must request their funds. BPSF submits the award payment directly to the college of the scholarship recipient after reviewing the student's transcripts. Students have three years to claim their award.



With the help of our generous donors, BPSF was able to donate \$8,450 to our school pantries in the 2025/26 school year!



BPSF BINGO



BPSF BINGO NIGHT

BPSF's 4th annual Bingo Night was a huge success! Lots of winning and fun was had on December 8th at the Brainerd American Legion! Attendees enjoyed ten rounds of bingo, a meat raffle, a chance to win one of 10 door prizes and felt good knowing that event proceeds support BPSF's mission. This lively event raised over \$12k in support of our programs.



Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers who helped us **GO FOR THE GOLD** at the 13th annual Big Event! Between the Big Event and our Warrior Club sponsorships we raised nearly \$93k in support of our mission! We are beyond grateful for this community's generous support. Thanks for **TEAMING UP** for our schools!



WARRIOR STORE

OPEN YEAR ROUND @ VISIT BRAINERD- 214 S 7TH ST.

The Brainerd Public Schools Foundation has hosted the Warrior Store since 2016 to better enable our students, staff, and community to access Warrior gear and show their school spirit! A portion of every purchase supports the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation. Warrior gear is available for purchase at the Visit Brainerd storefront in Downtown Brainerd at 214 S. 7th Street. The online Warrior store will reopen mid-August through Christmas. Link can be found at BPSF.org.

WARRIOR WORN

BPSF is currently collecting gently used Warrior wear for our "Warrior Worn" initiative. Warrior themed items are being collected now through June 30th. Please donate with dignity - ensure items are in good condition, free of holes, stains, or damage. Any Warrior themed gear will be accepted; including school or sport-specific clothing items (ie: shirts, sweatshirts, jerseys, pants/shorts, jackets, hats etc). No personalized gear, please.

Drop off at any school building now through May 15th and at the Washington Educational Services Building through June 30th.

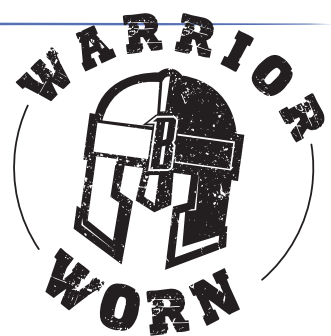
Revenue from these sales will benefit Brainerd Public Schools' food and essential pantries. Last year, we raised nearly \$3k with this initiative!! GO WARRIORS!

NOW COLLECTING *gently used* WARRIOR GEAR

BPSF IS CURRENTLY COLLECTING GENTLY USED WARRIOR WEAR FOR OUR "WARRIOR WORN" INITIATIVE.

ACCEPTING ITEMS AT EACH SCHOOL BUILDING NOW THROUGH MAY 15 AND AT THE WASHINGTON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUILDING THROUGH JUNE 30TH.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR 2026 SALE DETAILS!



- ✓ Good Condition
- ✓ Youth & Adult
- ✓ Sport/School Specific
- ✗ No personalized items

EACH PURCHASE SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL PANTRIES!

PLEASE DONATE WITH DIGNITY!



Thank you for supporting our schools!



Old National Bank
Mid MN Federal Credit Union
CTC
Lexington Manufacturing
Hubbard Radio
Bell Bank

Crow Wing Recycling
Weizenegger-Engel Insurance
Clow Stamping
HyTec Construction
BLA Community Foundation
Vision Electrical Services

Brainerd American Legion
Sourcewell
The Teehive
Jack Pine Brewery
Cashwise
R & J Broadcasting
Garrison Commercial Club



Original Logo

BPSF History

The Foundation was created in 1987 to simply facilitate and encourage scholarships. The Brainerd Public Schools Class of 1941 was credited for their initiative and vision in encouraging the establishment of the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation.



Superintendent Bob Gross presents plaque to Robert E Campbell Class of 1941

The Foundation has grown from three initial deposits to 100+ dedicated scholarship funds, issuing over \$2.32M in scholarships since inception. When the district experienced a failed referendum in 2007, a group of concerned citizens began to look at ways to provide additional support to specific needs in the operation of educational and associated activities in the Brainerd Public Schools. The ad hoc citizens group, seeing a need to involve the community in providing resources to continue quality programs and activities for students and teachers in light of changing economic times, collectively searched for an avenue or entity to facilitate and coordinate the gathering of funds or in-kind support.

Thus the beginning of the new era... In October of 2008, after consultation with community groups, the Foundation Board members, school board members and school administration, a new face and mode of operating began for the Brainerd Public School Foundation.

The new structure is a Board of community members, not necessarily graduates of Brainerd Public Schools, as the voting members, with representatives of the School Board and administrative staff of the system as ex-officio, non-voting members of the board. The finances and management of funds are controlled by the voting members, as well as decisions on grants and uses of funds. All resources are separate from school system funds and budgets until such time that the Foundation Board, in communication with school officials, makes a grant to the system.

The Foundation has committed a portion of its funds annually to the 4A granting program. The Foundation is proud to sponsor innovative projects requested by Brainerd Public Schools educators that will enrich and enhance the fine education our students are receiving in our District.

Since 1996, BPSF has made over \$731.3K in grants available to teachers for special projects that have had great impact on student learning. These grants are funded through general donations, BPS staff campaign donations, the Big Event and other event proceeds, and twenty two specifically endowed funds held with BPSF.

1987 BPSF FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS: C. Elmer Anderson, Howard Blanck, Robert Gross, Parker Campbell, Criston Drake, Rick Kummet, John Nelson, Lee Weaver, and Frederick Casey.

CURRENT BPSF BOARD

 Nick Haglin President Thelen Heating & Roofing	 Amye Miller Vice President The Miller Group, Edina Realty	 Jacen Gondringer Treasurer B. Johnson & Associates	 Jenny Castle Lindar *Past Board President	 Matt Holmstrom Nor-Son Custom Builders *Past Board President	 Willy Severson Retired from Brainerd Public Schools	 Jason Walkowiak Crow Wing County
 Daniel Hood CTC	 Anne Soberg CWC Attorney's Office	 Ashley Gabrick Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union	 Jill Borge Brainerd Public Schools	 Heidi Hahn Sourcewell	 Peter Grant Ex-Officio, ISD 181 Superintendent	 Stephanie Etterman Ex-Officio, ISD 181 School Board

A Note from the Board President

With several of my relatives serving as teachers, staff, and board members over the years, the Brainerd Public School district has always been a big part of our family. I am very proud that my own kids are fourth generation graduates of the Brainerd Public Schools. The district has always been a solid asset for our community, and I consider my service on the BPSF board a good way I can contribute back. It is an honor to serve with this great board and many other volunteers that help carry out our mission to support the Brainerd Public School district. Let's Go Warriors!



CONTACT US

Jessica Gangl- Executive Director
jessica.bpsf@gmail.com, 218-454-6923

Stefanie DeVries- Marketing & Administrative Coordinator
stef.bpsf@gmail.com, 218-454-6921



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Executive Director



Stef DeVries
Marketing & Administrative Coordinator



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