



**Windows of Opportunity
for a New Generation**
*A Campaign to Benefit
Washburn High School*

“If there’s any public high school where the alumni could make a real difference in the life of its alma mater—it’s Washburn.”

“The public education I received at Washburn High School paved the way for my future success. Excellence in education does not result from just the availability of resources, but rather from the involvement of the community in ensuring an environment that is conducive to producing a well rounded student. Washburn has always stood for excellence in academics, sports and the arts. I believe in the Minneapolis Public School System and in what can be accomplished through an involved community with dedicated students. Not even the sky is the limit.”

Bob Cabana
NASA Astronaut, Director of
Kennedy Space Center, Class of 1967

Our future as a community, and as a nation, depends on the ability to give children the education they need to be problem-solvers and leaders in an increasingly complex and challenging world. Their opportunities should not be limited by statewide budget struggles, an economic downturn or changes in demographics.

Washburn’s students come not just from around the city, but from around the globe, creating a rich mix of cultural diversity and experience. This is Washburn’s strength: Students at Washburn learn the value of diversity and are better equipped to live in, work in and enjoy an increasingly complex and varied world.

Washburn High School is striving to be a successful urban school—challenging every student, celebrating diversity and the strength a global student body brings, and recording achievements in academics, the arts, and athletics.

There is a window of opportunity before us—right now—for Washburn to be a school of excellence, a school of choice. With a dedicated principal, carefully selected faculty, the support of Minneapolis Public Schools and the neighborhood’s embrace of the school, now is the time to invest in an exciting vision for urban education.

This new direction requires all of us—alumni, current and prospective parents, past and present teachers, our students, and the community—to reconnect, come together and support a new vision for Washburn.

Proud Traditions—Great Possibilities

When Washburn opened in September 1925, its principal, A.E. MacQuarrie, set high standards for his students. His goal was to create a pioneer school, one that would lead the way in education, not just for Minneapolis but also for the state.

For decades, Washburn was just that: a high school known for its students' accomplishments in academics and athletics. Many of its graduates became extraordinarily successful in business, education, public service, the arts and the community—crediting the teachers and training they received at Washburn as essential to that success.



“Attending Washburn has had a significant impact on my life. It has taught me how to be a great student, provided me with infinite opportunities, and has been my Sherpa up the mountain to college. I am currently waiting on decisions from Harvard and Amherst, my two dream schools.”

Ian Ingersoll, Student, Class of '09

The Vision / The Promise

The staff, students, parents, and alumni of Washburn High School are committed to having a school that:

- Offers personalized academic programs that challenge students at all level
- Has highly qualified, creative and collaborative staff
- Supports its staff with first-rate professional development—particularly in training associated with the International Baccalaureate program
- Provides a respectful international learning environment where students, families and the community are welcomed and engaged
- Offers top quality arts programs
- Continues to be a leader in developing student athletes
- Is the pride of its students and their families, staff, and the surrounding neighborhood

“My experience at Washburn was great. The support I received from my teachers and the Counseling department in particular was remarkable. I thank the school for creating a safe environment where my passion for learning blossomed.”

**Irah Biyoow, Carleton College
Student, Class of '05**

“I am a product of public education and I live in this neighborhood. What happens at Washburn relates to me as a member of the community.”

Kate DiCamillo
Author, Newbery Award Winner,
Neighborhood Resident

The Challenges of Urban Education

Like virtually all urban public schools today, Washburn has faced many challenges, from overcrowded classrooms to changes in student demographics to painfully tight budgets. During the 1970s and '80s, mandated and voluntary busing, combined with students leaving the Minneapolis public schools for the suburbs or private schools, weakened many neighborhood schools.

State aid to public schools in Minnesota has declined steadily for most of the last decade. While Minneapolis voters showed their support for the city's 91 public schools by recently passing a referendum (\$60 million a year for 8 years), the school district is still projecting a budget shortfall of \$29 million in FY 2009-2010. With a multi-billion dollar state budget deficit, even greater cuts are likely in the next few years.

Challenges to provide a good education have increased as funding has declined. There are more students needing special education, who live in homes below poverty level, who enter public schools speaking little or no English—more students who enter school without adequate preparation to succeed. But teachers and administrators have dedicated themselves to meeting these challenges.

Washburn's Fresh Start

In 2008, Minneapolis Public Schools gave Washburn a “Fresh Start,” dramatically reorganizing staff and providing extra resources to improve student performance. The Fresh Start, under the leadership of Principal Carol Markham-Cousins, provides Washburn High School the opportunity to be a leader in urban education once more, with standards as high as A.E. MacQuarrie in 1925—for today's student body in today's world.

The acclaimed International Baccalaureate (IB) program that was originated at Washburn will be returning to the school. Arts are alive with The Fall Fine Arts Kick-off, Winter Cabaret, Spring Musical, drumline, choir and band. Washburn's athletic program remains a mainstay of the school with a focus on “fitness for life,” the Athletic Leadership Academy summer program, as well as teams that advance to state championships.



Washburn Neighborhood House Gatherings

Our Principal: *Carol Markham-Cousins has been an educator for more than 28 years, working in several high school communities. She has served as principal at Olson Middle School in North Minneapolis and at Adams Spanish Immersion School in St. Paul. She came to Washburn High School in the fall of 2007—a return home for her. She grew up in the Washburn neighborhood and has lived the majority of her life within a three-mile radius of the school.*

Parents, staff, alumni and neighbors of the school have sensed a new positive energy at Washburn, evidenced daily in classrooms and hallways and regularly at athletic contests and special events. More and more families living in the area are considering Washburn as their school of choice. During the past two years there has been record attendance at the annual Fall Open House and a significant increase in enrollment is expected in fall 2009.

Meet the Challenge, and it Becomes a Strength

More and more parents see the value of a high school environment that represents the world we live in. Some schools strive to be an international school and want socio-economic diversity—Washburn already *is*! The neighborhood of Washburn is progressive and celebrates the experience diversity brings.



Measurable Goals Toward Excellence—

Change is happening quickly, and each success creates the opportunity for more. However there is still too often a gap between offering a positive, supportive environment for students—something everyone should expect—and creating excellence.

To truly be a school of educational excellence, the faculty, staff, parents, and students of Washburn are committed—with our help—to be regarded as one of the premier high schools in the Twin Cities within the next five years. The school will measure its success by:

- Incorporating an International Baccalaureate program impacting the education of all students
- Increasing student test scores on ACT
- Increasing the number of college acceptances
- Increasing opportunities for teacher training and educational advancement
- Increasing the number of volunteers assisting students and teachers during the school day
- Increasing financial support from parents, alumni, and community residents
- Increasing financial and in-kind support from businesses and corporations
- Increasing awareness and recognition of the school in the metro community
- A renewed sense of Miller pride by the Washburn High School community
- Increasing involvement of parents and guardians

“I think the students have less peer pressure at Washburn because they don’t look alike, they’re more comfortable and accepting of their individuality.”

Linda Shay, Parent

“There are just more ideas in any one classroom at Washburn because of the diversity here.”

Luke Ellingson, Student

“We are committed to providing a quality education for ALL the students who walk in our door today, no matter what part of the city they call home. The only way to make this possible is through the effort and expertise of high quality teachers, and a supportive and committed community. We will not settle for mediocrity.”

Carol Markham-Cousins
Washburn High School Principal

So, What is IB?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. There are more than 699,000 IB students at 2,576 schools in 134 countries. The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum primarily aimed at students aged 16-19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world’s leading universities.



Filling the Excellence Gap in Academics, Arts, and Athletics

To help sustain the new direction of the school, the Washburn High School Foundation has embarked on an ambitious and unprecedented fundraising campaign to raise needed monies for current academic programs, help with capital needs, and meaningfully add to an existing endowment fund to ensure that today's Washburn High School can provide not just a good education, but a great one—in academics, athletics and the arts.

The Foundation's campaign—"Windows of Opportunity for a New Generation"—is focused on filling the gap between adequacy and excellence in all areas of learning.

The initial priority relates to an urgent need to fund \$400,000 between now and the end of academic year 2009/2010. Most of these monies will go toward academic needs, particularly to help fund the necessary training needed for the International Baccalaureate program to be implemented at Washburn. Approximately \$50,000 will also go to both the Arts and Athletics programs.

The second priority will focus on capital improvements of the school's facilities and equipment including a much needed renovation of the auditorium.

The third priority will be to expand the capacity of the Foundation's endowment dedicated to the enhancement of educational opportunities for Washburn High School students.

"Washburn athletics has always been strong—and we'll continue to bring out the best in our student-athletes. We believe balance and a holistic perspective is paramount in the development of future leaders."

Dan Pratt, Athletic Director

"The arts are coming back to Washburn in a very dramatic way—buy a ticket, create with our students, contribute to the auditorium—come join our renaissance!"

Nancy Lee, Choir/Vocal Teacher



Join Washburn's Supporters

We cannot afford to let the window of opportunity close. Alumni, parents, and community members are needed to help Washburn reclaim its place as a center of educational excellence—and a model of how a school with a proud legacy can be transformed.

Please help us open Windows of Opportunity for a New Generation. Your involvement as contributors, volunteers, and advocates for Washburn High School is needed now!

For more information or to get involved with the campaign, contact David Buck, The Washburn High School Foundation, at 612-308-9394 or email him at DavidBuck4@gmail.com.

The Washburn High School Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the support of Washburn High School. Established in 1987, it has continued to provide significant financial aid in the form of student scholarships and teacher grants.

"I am forever thankful that I can call Washburn my alma mater, the school that provided me the solid footing of excellence in academics, arts and athletics to succeed in my life's vocation. I wish the same for every Washburn student today and in the future. To that end, I pledge my support to The Washburn Foundation's campaign and call upon my fellow alumni to join me in this most worthy endeavor. With our support, we'll make it happen!"

**Vice Admiral John Nyquist,
United States Navy (Retired), Class of 1950**





Building A
Place where
We Belong



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