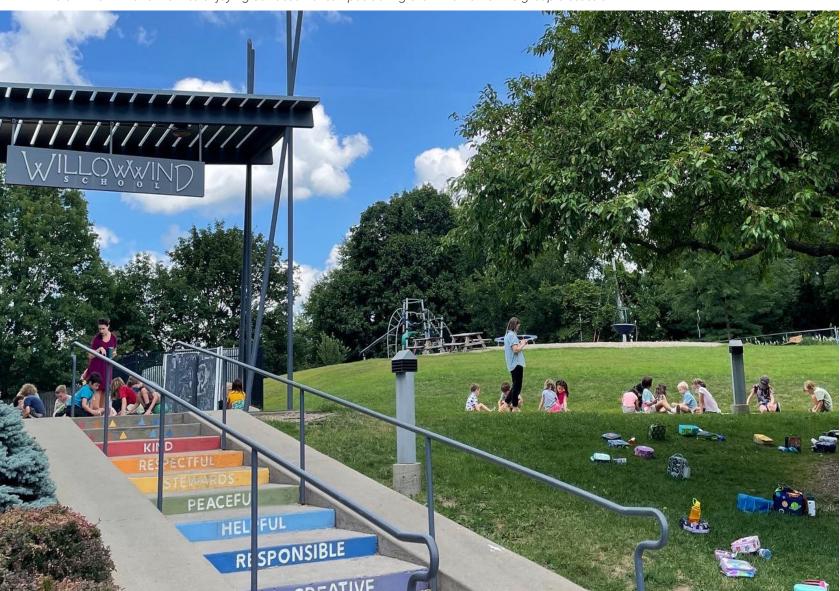


# **Land Acknowledgment**

Willowwind School is located on the homelands of the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe (Chippewa), Báxoe (Iowa), Kikapú (Kickapoo), Omāēqnomenēwak (Menominee), Myaamiaki (Miami), Nutachi (Missouri), Umoho (Omaha), Wahzhazhe (Osage), Jiwere (Otoe), Odawaa (Ottawa), Páka (Ponca), Bodéwadmi/Neshnabé (Potawatomi), Meskwaki/Nemahahaki/Sakiwaki (Sac and Fox), Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda (Sioux), Sahnish/Nuxbaaga/Nuweta (Three Affiliated Tribes) and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Nations. The following tribal nations, Umoho (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa), Páka (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), Meskwaki (Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa), and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) Nations continue to thrive in the state of Iowa and we continue to acknowledge them. Willowwind School recognizes that it is our responsibility to acknowledge the sovereignty and the traditional territories of these tribal nations, the treaties that were used to remove these tribal nations, and the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of Iowa City, Iowa state, and the United States.

(prepared by the University of Iowa Native American Council)

Below: Ms. Erin and Ms. Lisa enjoying our beautiful campus during chalk the walk at K-3 group discussion.



# **Faculty & Staff**

### **Head of School**

Michelle Beninga

Finance; Nominating; Strategic Planning; Development (Chair);

# Office Manager & Admissions Coordinator

Rachel Butler

Marketing & Enrollment (Co-Chair) Committees

### **Business Manager**

Anne Ehlinger Finance Committee

# Director of Communications & Engagement

Dana Smith

Marketing & Enrollment (Co-Chair); Policy; Strategic Planning Committees

### **Director of Development**

Yassie Buchanan Development Committee

### **Programs Coordinator**

Mary Iverson

### **Assitant Office Manager**

**Emily Hill** 

### **Preschool Lead Teachers**

Kaye Lindsley

Policy; Nominating Committees

Mae Kandler

### **Preschool Assistant Teachers**

Cassidy Daugherty Hwida Awadalla Brianna Vogel

### Kindergarten & First Grade

Erin Traicoff
Nominating Committee

### Second & Third Grade

Lisa Kavanaugh

### Second & Third Grade

Darla Burr

### Fourth & Fifth Grade

Christine Sobocinski

Nominating; Strategic Planning Committees; Board Representative

### Fifth & Sixth Grade

Ann Creasey

Nominating; Strategic Planning Committees

### **Integrated Art & Visual Art**

Megan Bishop

### **Music & Physical Education**

Alec Cassatt

### **Social Emotional Learning**

Kelsey Byrant

# **Board of Trustees**

### **President**

Michael Nolan

Executive (Chair); Nominating; Policy; Finance; Nominating; Strategic Planning & Implementation Comittees

### **Vice President**

Dawn Lyons

Nominating; Development Committees

### Secretary

Dave Shriver

Executive; Policy; Finance; Strategic Planning & Implementation Comittees

### **Treasurer**

Sally Holland

Executive; Finance Committee (Chair)

### **Ex-Officio**

Michelle Beninga

Finance; Strategic Planning Committee; Willowwind School Foundation

### **Members**

Jennifer Horn Fraser

Executive; Strategic Planning & Implementation Committee (Chair)

### Lucie Laurian

Policy; Strategic Planning & Implementation Committees

### Shannon Perteit

Policy Committee

### Kelu Sullivan

Policy; Finance; Nominating Committes

### Vance Van Daele

Policy; Marketing & Enrollment; Develpoment; Strategic Planning & Implementation Committees

### **Our Mission**

Willowwind School is a joyful learning community where children develop their unique potential through child-led inquiry.

# From the Head of School

Dear Willowwind School Community,

It is my privilege to serve as the new Willowwind head of school. A world class education is one of the best gifts we can give our children. This is exactly what we offer at Willowwind School. Our sixteen to one student-to-teacher ratio allows for a very personalized approach to education, allowing us to create educational experiences that meet the needs of every child. Our pre-K through grade 6 campus is a diverse community of globally-minded students, parents, and teachers focused on educating the whole child. Our goal is to prepare life-long learners who are creative, think critically, and communicate effectively. At Willowwind we are focused on the joy of learning. Our teachers are dedicated to creating a learning environment where students can explore



all forms of knowledge, develop future-readiness skills, and surpass their individual expectations.

We approach learning with a constructivist mindset while building a collaborative, inquiry-based culture that honors and values everyone. We are committed to future-ready students capable of greatness. Our transformative culture is focused on building relationships and collaboration. It allows our students to explore their individual learning and reflect upon how they can help others and become motivated citizens of the world. Looking forward, we have created some new positions for this academic year. Lisa Kavanaugh will serve as our curriculum coordinator. She will support all teachers with curriculum mapping, instructional resources, and professional development. Lisa will be an added resource to help with curriculum differentiation throughout our K–6 program and teach STEAM. Darla Burr has moved to being both math teacher, STEAM teacher, and interventionalist. She will be teaching math in grade 1st - 3rd, allowing for separate instruction in both literacy and math for all combined classrooms. She will also be working with K–6 students as an interventionalist to provide personalized learning and support in both literacy and math.

In addition, we are rolling out our new enrichment program this fall for families. This program will include opportunities for students to explore topics like Taekwondo, Robotics, and Odyssey of the Mind. We will continually strive to provide new enrichment courses during the spring semester and within our summer camp. These courses will be offered to our Willowwind community and the greater community at large. I look forward to partnering with you in meeting the academic, emotional, and social needs of your children. My door is always open. Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,

Stacy Stoyanoff Head of School

## **Core Values**

### **SELF-DIRECTION:**

We each develop our own unique potential by applying curiosity, goal-setting, and persistence to learning.

### **COMMUNITY:**

Understanding that we are stronger together, we foster healthy connections among members of the Willowwind community as well as between Willowwind and the broader community.

### FLEXIBILITY:

We respond with creativity to the needs of our people and educational programs and to opportunities that arise.

### **INCLUSIVENESS:**

We welcome all with kindness and with appreciation for diverse perspectives, circumstances, experiences, abilities, and potential.

### STEWARDSHIP:

We practice and promote responsible planning and care for the resources of our community and for the natural world around us.

These core values guide how we behave as we live out Willowwind's mission and consider future opportunities and areas of potential growth.

# **Willowwind School Community**

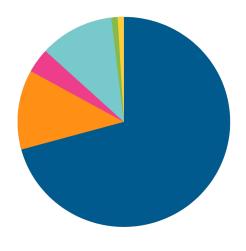
### K-6 FAMILY INCOME DIVERSITY

\*based on reported tuition tiers

# Tier 1 \$200,000 < Tier 2 \$150,000 - 199,000 Tier 3 \$100,000 - \$149,999 Tier 4 \$75,000 - \$99,999 Tier 5 \$50,000 - \$74,999 Tier 6 \$49,999 > Tier 1 59% Tier 2 14%

### WILLOWWIND STUDENT RACE DIVERSITY

Caucasian **79.8%** Asian **12.3%**Latino **4.3%** Mixed Race **11.3%**African American **1.1%** Middle Eastern **1.1%** 





- Preschoolers (29%)
- 1st Graders (8%)
- 3rd Graders (9%)
- 5th Graders (7%)
- Kindergarteners (5%)
- 2nd Graders (9%)
- 4th Graders (8%)
- 6th Graders (10%)

Faculty and Staff (16%)









Pictured above; left to right: 1st grade students displaying their light and sound research, 3rd graders testing their Rube Goldberg machine, 4-6th graders employing the scientific method.

# **Spring Learning Showcase**

Spring Learning Showcase provides an opportunity for families to engage students in conversations about their learning and experience the progression of learning across the grades. In the weeks leading up to Willowwind's Spring Learning Showcase, students in grades K-6 work hard to brainstorm, research, and experiment with a variety of science and social studies topics through a hands-on, project-based learning approach. This year's projects highlighted learning of science concepts. Kindergarten and first grade students explored concepts of light and sound. Second grade students learned about physics and used properties of force and motion to engineer their own Rube Goldberg machines. Third grade students got creative about solving problems. They used the engineering design process to come up with a unique invention and build a prototype. They pitched their inventions to parents at Willowwind's Invention Convention. Students in grades 4-6 designed and implemented an experiment to answer a scientific question about a topic of their choosing. They researched, collected data, and presented their findings to a panel of judges at Willowwind's Science Fair.

All K-6 students shared their work at the Spring Learning Showcase. All Willowwind families were encouraged to attend the event and to invite extended family and friends to join the celebration of student learning.

# **Planets Art Installation**

Willowwind School's 4th-6th grade students spent several weeks researching the eight major planets in our solar system, as well as Pluto and the sun. Students worked in teams to research a planet of their choosing and wrote a two paragraph summary of what they learned. Students then collaborated on composing a tanka, a Japanese form of poetry similar to a haiku, inspired by their planet. Beginning with the sun at E. Court Street and S. Westminster Street and extending nearly 1/3 mile along Court Hill Park trail ending at Meadow Street, visitors will find kinetic sculptures representing these ten celestial bodies. Accompanying each sculpture is an informational sign with the students' research and original poem. This project was unveiled in May and will remain up through the fall of 2023.

This project was supported by many teachers, staff members, and parent volunteers at Willowwind School, as well as Tyler Baird and the City of Iowa City Parks Department, Jim Rogers at PlexiCraft Inc., and Jay Herman of Herman Enterprises.

Pictured below: Erin Triacoff; 1st/2nd teacher walking her students thru the art installation. 4th-6th grade students installing the planets at Court Hill Park.



# **Faculty Achievements**



Pictured above: Michelle Beninga, former head of school, Kaye Lindsley, preschool teacher, and Anne Ehlinger, business manager.

### **INNOVATION IN EDUCATION 2023 WINNERS**

Our dedicated and talented teachers and staff have been recognized for their exceptional teaching skills and commitment to their students' success. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff and we couldn't be prouder of them. Congratulations to all the award recipients and our entire school community for this outstanding achievement!

Kaye Lindsley was selected for The Early Childhood Innovation Award!

This award recognizes outstanding childcare providers and programs for their commitment to building the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life. They are committed to tackling the ever-changing challenges and demands of providing accessible and high-quality childcare through creative problem-solving and collaboration.

Anne Ehlinger was selected for The Administrative/Support Staff Excellence Award! This award recognizes the exemplary service of a dedicated administrative assistant or employee who fosters a positive learning and supportive environment at their school.

Willowwind School was selected for The Impact Award!

This award is given to a school group that embraces three core goals: to inspire, innovate, and achieve. Their pursuit of these three goals culminates to realize a fourth: IMPACT on teachers, students, and their community. Willowwind School exceeds all others in its ability to impact students and teachers through inspiring, innovative, exceptional, unprecedented and/or extraordinary program components. Michelle Beninga accepted this award on behalf of the school.

# **Student Achievements**

### **ONE BOOK TWO BOOK**

During the 22-23 school year, five Willowwinders were recognized for their outstanding writing at lowa City's UNESCO One Book Two Book festival. Congratulations to Jasper H., 3rd Grade (Write Stuff category) and Grayson H., 6th Grade (Write Stuff category). Vance V., 2nd Grade (from the Heart category), Cohen M., 3rd Grade (from the Heart category), Max B-M., 4th Grade (from the Heart category), Emma Y., 5th Grade (from the Heart category), and Zariah J., 6th Grade (from the Heart category). Also being recognized for their outstanding writing, congratulations to Anna B., 2nd Grade, Edie S., 3rd Grade, Rowan E-L., 4th Grade and Molly N., 6th Grade.



Pictured above back row: Emma Y., Molly N., Zariah J., and Grayson H. Front row: Vance V., Cohen M., Anna B., and Jasper H.

### WRITE NOW'S HAWKEYE HAIKU CONTEST

Willowwinders have outdone themselves on the literary front. During the 22-23 school year, we beamed with pride as we celebrated eleven students whose original writing was recognized at the Write Now's Hawkeye Haiku Contest. Our students were selected from more than 314 University of Iowa alumni and friends from around the world who submitted haikus during the University of Iowa's haiku contest in the fall. Ellie N., 4th Grade (Honorable Mention), William B., 3rd Grade (Winner), Gabby A., 4th Grade (Honorable Mention), Zariah J., 6th Grade (Honorable Mention), Emma Y., 5th Grade (Winner).



Pictured above: Ellie N., William B., Gabby A., Zariah J., and Emma Y.

### **MIDWESTONE ART SHOW**

Each year MidWestOne Bank selects 25 pieces of artwork to be featured in the Kids' Art Calendar and an additional 25 pieces to be framed by Blick Art Materials. This annual program offers the children in our community the opportunity to be creative, dream, and build their self-esteem. Will E; 4th grader, was selected to have his artwork in the calendar and Jasper H; 3rd grader, was selected to have his art work framed.



Above: Art work by Will E., 4th Grade



Above: Art work by Jasper H., 3rd Grade

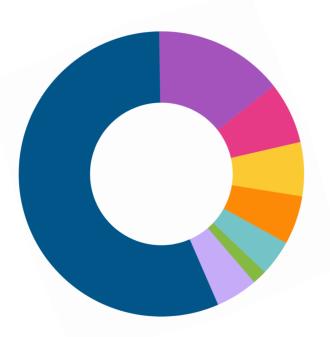
# **Financials**



### **OPERATING INCOME**

Total Operating Income	\$1,967,580
<ul><li>Scholarships</li></ul>	\$84,903
Other Operating Income	
<ul><li>Donations</li></ul>	<u>\$</u> 51,649
Programs & Enrichment	\$191,548
Summer Program	
Preschool Tuition	\$363,242
<ul><li>K-6 Tuition</li></ul>	<sup>\$</sup> 977,795

**41%** of Willowwind families benefit from our sliding scale tuition model and **12%** receive additional scholarship funds.



### **OPERATING EXPENSE**

Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits	\$1,003,27°
<ul> <li>Long-Term Debt/Liabilities</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Tuition Discounts &amp; Sliding Scale</li> </ul>	<sup>\$</sup> 124,562
Building & Utilities	\$109,072
Other Operating Expense	
<ul><li>Supplies &amp; Technology</li></ul>	\$71,637
<ul><li>Programs &amp; Enrichment</li></ul>	
<ul><li>Scholarships</li></ul>	\$84,903
Total Operating Expense	\$1,783,069



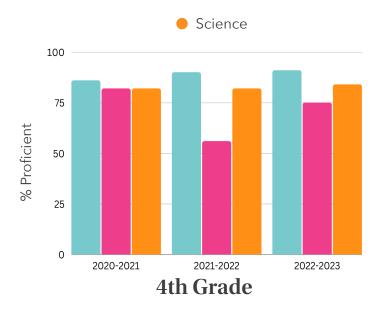


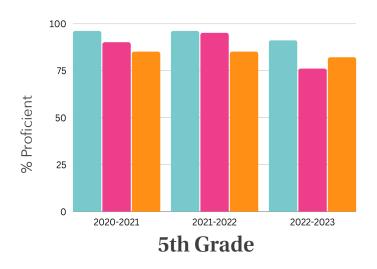
# **Student Test Scores**

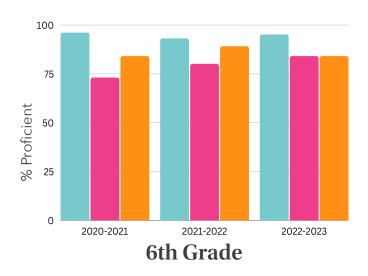
As educators, we are constantly striving to help our students succeed. One way to measure their progress is by analyzing their test scores over the years. Completed annually by our 3rd-6th grade students, the lowa Assessments serve as one indicator of student progress for Willowwind educators and parents. The results of the lowa Assessments help teachers understand how students perform in key academic areas. By comparing their scores from previous years, we can see how much they've grown and identify areas where they might need more support. This process also helps us evaluate our teaching methods and adjust our approach to better meet the needs of our students. Ultimately, tracking student growth through test scores is a valuable tool for promoting academic success and ensuring that we are doing everything we can to help our students achieve their full potential.

### Willowwind Student Test Scores









# From the Board of Trustees

Warm greetings to our Willowwind community!

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! It's been a great year and amazing summer and we look forward to a fulfilling academic year. The board would like to pass a warm welcome to our new head of school, Stacy Stoyanoff! Stacy hit the ground running in June and we look forward to our community welcoming him - lots of great things ahead!

For the coming year, the board of trustees will continue to build on the success and growth of the past few years to ensure the long-term viability and health of the school and our community. Our focus this year is on outreach and engagement – working hand-in-hand with our broader community to demonstrate our mission and core values. The board and head of school will be working on a few changes that will affect our school in the coming year. We will continue to communicate with you as we move forward. These are a few of the items we are tracking:

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL REALIGNMENT - Starting with the 2024-2025 academic year, Iowa City Community School District is realigning the middle school structure to create 6th-grade through 8th-grade campuses. Willowwind currently offers classes through 6th grade and will continue to offer this option to currently enrolled families. The board and head of school will work with the faculty to consider options for the future and determine how we best serve our Willowwind family and community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT - Willowwind offers a great deal to our community at large and we want to continue to expand our presence. Last year the upper grades completed an amazing solar system sculpture in Court Hill Park which is a visible (and highly complimented) way to showcase our learning and dedication to our community. Service learning will be a fixture as appropriate this year. Additionally, fall enrichment programs will be open to the community which will offer another path for introduction to our school. Look for other events - Harvest Festival, amongst others - that will offer an opportunity to meet our neighbors and share our mission. The hard work of the last few years creates an opportunity to turn our focus outward in the months and years to come.

**GIVING BACK - WE NEED YOUR HELP!** - The board of trustees is an *all volunteer force* and we are looking for partners! Please take advantage of opportunities to join committees or volunteer for events; the more our parent and student community contribute, the better our school will be for all. If time is a challenge, please consider a financial gift. In the current educational environment we are dedicated to providing an alternative that is valuable and necessary - every bit helps us continue this amazing institution.

The board of trustees could not do what we do without the support and collaboration we enjoy with the unparalleled faculty, staff, and community of Willowwind School. We continue to foster a spirit of teamwork and mutual respect as we collectively work to fulfill our school's potential. We invite you to join us as we look to the future:

Imagine that by 2025, Willowwind School shines brightly in the larger community for providing valued opportunities not available elsewhere in the educational ecosystem to a diverse group of students.

What does this look like?

Thanks to all for your support and engagement this past year - we are excited for the coming year and all it has to offer!

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees of Willowwind School

# **Your Giving Fuels Their Learning**

Aside from tuition, donations are Willowwind's biggest source of income. Without the generosity of our donor community we would not be able to provide students with the unique and enriching education they deserve or enhance their experience through a creative and engaging learning environment. There are a variety of ways you can support Willowwind and help fuel our passion for education and our students' passion for learning.

### **ANNUAL FUND**

Our annual fund covers a wide range of costs--from programming to facility needs--making it one of the most fruitful ways to give to the school. The flexibility of the annual fund allows us to make the best decisions for our students year-round. As we consistently strive to provide a top tier education in a joyful learning environment, we look to our annual fund and community of donors for support with everything from day to day needs to larger scale projects and initiatives.

### **GIVE & GROW**

The Give & Grow campaign is held annually in April in partnership with GreenState Credit Union. This campaign gives donors who are GreenState Credit Union members the opportunity to have their donations matched with the potential to raise \$15,000 for Willowwind. Unlike our annual fund, the Give & Grow campaign is restricted and allocated for specific needs that have been identified at the school.

### **GIFTS IN KIND**

Gifts in-kind are another way to support Willowwind's mission. In-kind donations refer to donors donating their services or goods to the school. From telescopes to iPads and pottery wheels, our families have continuously advanced our students' learning environments by providing essential resources and opportunities to expand our curriculum.

Willowwind is grateful to have such an incredible community of parents and friends. We lean into our volunteers to support Willowwind's events, outreach initiatives, committee work, and so much more. If you're interested in volunteering at Willowwind, please sign up through weekly news communications or contact Willowwind's office manager, Rachel Butler.

Email Rachel at rachelb@willowwind.org.

### **EMPLOYER MATCH**

A great way to enhance the impact of your donation is by turning to your employer for a match. Many employers will match both monetary donations and volunteer hours for current and retired employees. Talk with your employer about doubling the impact of your gift and involving more of the community in Willowwind's mission.

### HILLS BANK CLASSROOM CASH

Hills Bank Classroom Cash is a way for you to donate to the school without deviating from your regular spending. You can select a public or private school district of your choice and Hills Bank will make a small donation with every Hills Bank debit or credit card purchase. You can visit <a href="hillsbank.com/classroom-cash">hillsbank.com/classroom-cash</a> to learn more.

**VOLUNTEER** 

# **Ways to Give**



### **ONLINE**

**Give through Venmo** @Willowwind-School

**Give through PayPal** at willowwind.org/giving

### **CALL US!**

Want to chat before you make a gift? Want to **give by credit card**? Give us a call at (319) 338-6061.



### **BY CHECK**

We love getting mail, so if you would like to give by check please send it to:

Willowwind School 950 Dover St. Iowa City, IA 52245



We thank you for embodying Willowwind's goal of creating a compassionate community of Willowwind supporters.

# We couldn't do it without you.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our donors during this past school year. Thanks to their contributions, we were able to enhance our educational programs, provide valuable resources to our students and staff, and make a positive impact in our community. Our school can integrate better technology, improve facilities, buy educational materials, and hire highly-qualified teachers. We also provided support to families facing financial difficulties and collaborated with community partners to improve our students' health and wellness. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for their unwavering commitment to our mission and vision. Your generosity has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our students and their futures! We thank you for being a part of our Willowwind community and taking this vital role in bringing our mission to life.

### **BLAZE \$2,500 +**

Catherina Pinnaro & Alan Driggs Beau & Felicia Fenner GreenState Credit Union Demaris Mills & Jonathan Sallade

### FLAME \$1,000-2,499

Kay & William Creasey Hills Bank Jennifer Horn-Frasier Sarah & Luke Leonard Alina Dumitrescu & Meindert Niemeijer

### **FLICKER \$500-999**

Juan & Lastascia Coleman
Sally Holland
Michael & Barb Kaldenberg
Dawn & Timothy Lyons
Michael & Sarah Nolan
Evelyn Ross-Shapiro & Ian Shapiro
David Wieseneck & Samantha
Karrel

### **SPARK \$250-499**

BlackStone
Bluebird Cafe
Diane & Kevin Cassatt
Caterpillar Foundation
Lucie Laurian
Julia & David Papworth
Larisa Bowman & Chris Sales
Mandy Southard
Carol Watson

Veronica & Randy Armstrong Jeremy & Mari Barsema Jacob Beal & Anaya Sen Gupta Michelle & Brian Beninga Vernon & Metta Beninga Linnea Bert Megan Bishop Goli & Russell Buchanan Yassie Buchanan Darla & Brett Burr Rachel Butler & Jim Mills Alec Cassatt Hong & Xi Chen Ligia Vaughan & Kameron Cole Michael Cowan & Helene Sicard-Cowan Ann Creasey Stacy & Corey Crouse Paul Dilley & Roxanna Curto Roger Dotson Anne & Michelle Ehlinger Glenn Ehrstine & Lisa Heineman Janet Freeman Kelly Gerlach Linda & Stephen Greyser Aleksey Gurtovoy & Martha Hampel Anne & Matthew Harding Jane & Bob Harding James & Katherine House Karamoko Hubbard Deborah Hubbard Jill Jack Carly Jones

Sandra & Tom Lawrence Kaye & Nick Lindsley Crystal & Corey Markfort Thomas & Wanda Martin Michael & Jean Matlock Emilie Maurel-Destruel Alyssa McMillan Rachel Yoder & Seth Michel Sandra & John Moreland Syed Mubeen & Joun Lee Courtney Nelson Oasis Falafel Emma Papworth Jack & Cassandra Piper Amy & Mark Poremba Stephanie & Joshua Radke June Tai & Jason Rantanen Suzanna Rodriguez & Noah Stein Lauren Ross & David Ernst Rachael & Adam Schmerbach Chenchen Liu & Amir Shaban Erin & David Shriver Christine & Steven Sindt Dana Smith Jessica Smith Kelu & Sean Sullivan Megan Gilster & Hector Torres-Cacho Susan Toth Vance & Douglas Van Daele Michael Watson & Erin Lane Adrien Wing

Mae Kandler

# Thank you Volunteers (listed by family name)

Ross-Ernst



### WILLOWWIND VOLUNTEERS DO IT ALL!

- Coordinate & support food drives
- Set up and work at the Scholastic Book Fair
- Bring in snacks for teachers
- Serve on the board of trustees & committees
- Bring in supplies for classroom projects
- Drive on field trips
- Landscape work around campus
- Support school events like Thanksgiving Feast, Authors' Cocoa, and end-of-year fun
- Planning and preparations for the 50th anniversary celebration
- Carpentry projects for the school
- Interior painting
- Library shelf organization
- Much more!

# 

"If a child can't learn the way we teach. Maybe we should teach the way they learn."

-Ignacio Estrada

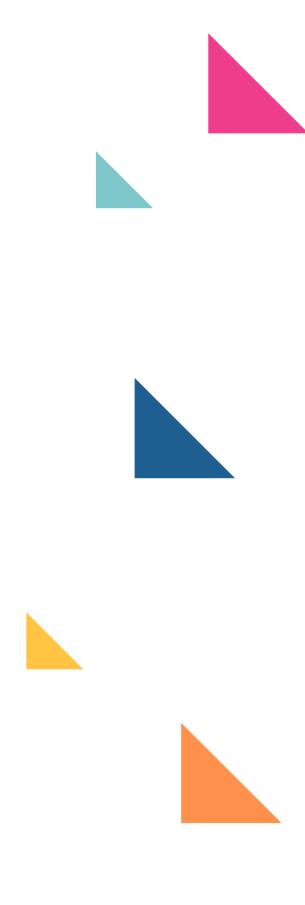






950 Dover St., Iowa City, IA 52245

P: 319-338-6061 E: info@willowwind.org



Reconnect with YOUR Willowwind Community!

W: willowwind.org FB & IG: WillowwindSchool