



HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION, INC.

501 Campus Drive, Hancock, MI 49930

**December 2023**

---

## What Does the HPS Foundation Fund?

The Foundation supports programs at all grade levels both in academics and technology. In the last Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30), program grants totaled \$65,000 with an additional \$40,000 in scholarships for graduating seniors. The examples below showcase three of the programs the Foundation supported last year.

## Highlights

### Slime Week

In recognition of Chemistry Month (October), students in Grades 2-5 explored chemical reaction by making slime. Second and third graders learned about the properties of ingredients and how they change when combined. The fourth grade studied luminescence (chemical reactions that cause glowing) and phosphorescence (substances that absorb light to glow) while making phosphorescent slime. Fifth grade students, meanwhile, researched the perfect slime recipe from thermochromatic (color-changing with temperature) to edible!



### Coding

Second grade students practiced their coding skills using VEX 123 Robots. They are building on skills they started developing in kindergarten where they learned to code with button pushes. In first grade, coding progressed to coding cards and a card reader. Currently, students are coding more advanced commands with their ChromeBooks. The coding discipline develops excellent problem-solving skills.

### VEX Robotics Club

An extension of the Robotics and Coding curricula, the VEX Robotics Club held a competition for Middle School and Elementary students in November. Working as teams, students design, build, code, and drive robots. The objective is to move blocks of varying sizes in the the score zone.

The club held three meets on consecutive Saturdays. After each competition, the team evaluated their robots' performance and made improvements in preparation for the next meet.

The competition provides real-life experience in problem solving. More importantly, though, it's a lot of fun!



## Scholarships 2023

May is an exciting month for the HPS Foundation. We are privileged to be a part of the committee that reviews scholarship applications. It is rewarding to support students as they pursue their educational goals and dreams. In 2023, the Foundation awarded a total of \$40,000 in scholarships to ten graduating seniors.

The HPS Foundation awarded scholarships to the following students. We wish them well in their future endeavors!

Liana Berg  
Dylan Dube  
Isabella Hebert  
Jocelyn Hildinger  
Vandan Jacques  
Kysa Keranen  
Maylie Kilpela  
Cassie Pietila  
Dominick Pizzi  
Kaisa Salani



## Scholarship Opportunity

The Hancock Public Schools Foundation believes in the value of skilled trades. Scholarships are available for students planning further education, whether it be trade school or an apprenticeship. Career fairs provide a way to raise awareness of the plentiful opportunities for skilled trades workers.

In September of this year, 42 Hancock Central High School students had the opportunity to do some welding, operate spider cranes, and learn some plumbing basics at the Upper Peninsula Construction Council (UPCC) trade careers fair.

The UPCC includes ten trade associations that want to attract students interested in learning about potential careers. The day-long event offered a variety of hands-on activities and information about apprenticeships and compensation.

"I was very impressed with the variety of hands-on activities that students were offered," said Guidance Counselor Michele Serafin. "The fair also offered them the unique opportunity to speak with a variety of skilled trades professionals."

Serafin also cited the popularity of the virtual reality construction vehicle driving simulator, and the small projects students made and were able to take home.

"Overall, I think students recognized that there are some wonderful opportunities out there for rewarding careers," Serafin concluded.



**Contributions from September 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023**

**Unrestricted Contributions**

Dave & Debbie Dow  
Anthony Fisher  
Craig & Heather Galecka  
Lucia Gauthier  
Michael Hauswirth  
Jean & Don Hiltunen  
Gordon & Kimberly Kendall  
Faith Morrison  
Gwen Moroff  
William Penegor  
Charlene & Tim Schnelle  
Dennis & Emily Walikainen  
Dean & Janice Woodbeck

**Scholarships**

Kotila-Fredd Family

***In Honor of***

**David Waisanen**

Andrew & Emily Waisanen

***In Memory of***

**Linda Kroll Crump '82**

Nancy Rennie

**James Federighe '58**

Joann Federighe

**Kevin (Cappo) Flanagan '76**

Sara L. Niemeyer

**Nancy Fenton**

Chris & Vicky Roy

**Ron Helman**

Karen Hubbard

**Arthur Michael Hill '60**

Karen & Roger Reynolds

**Tim Kipela '74**

Marilyn & Paul Heinonen

**Steve Klinkhammer '72**

Sara L. Niemeyer

**Chris Rouleau Krause '73**

Sara L. Niemeyer

**Ray Kriege**

Juliann & Patrick Heller

**Robbyn Roy Lucier '80**

Terry Aittama  
Mike & Susie Aldrich  
Magdalena Belej  
Susanne Boxer  
Anne Brunet  
Tami & Todd Bessner  
Don & Carol Carli  
Molly & Brett Crimmons  
Jeanne Eilola  
Susan Eilola  
Cheryl & John Farquhar  
Colleen & Michael Goodrich  
Monica Healy  
Jeff & Shaun Kangas  
David Kent  
Bob & Julie Lang  
Bill & Nancy Lepisto  
Doug & Lynne Luciani

Bill & Ruth Lucier  
Darlene Miron  
Sara L. Niemeyer  
David & Ellen Norkol  
Paula & Bob Nutini  
Lynn Owsiak  
Almor & Kathleen Penegor  
Ken Seaton  
Al & Candi Silvola  
Carol & David Waisanen  
Jane & Michael Ward  
Amy & Tony Wilmers  
Deana & John Wuori

**Stephen Manderfield '77**

Suzanne & George Houle

**Bill & Sandy Mannisto**

Bill & Kathy Gaffney

**Dolores Liimatta Moyle '59**

Dana Reichert

**Allan Moyle '62**

Ken & Lisa Moyle

**Charles Pietala '55**

Sharon Juntunen

**George Ross '72**

Bob & Paula Nutini

**Peter P. Sandretto, Sr. '37**

Peter & Anita Sandretto

**Gayle Nicholas Vargas '80**

Mike & Susie Aldrich  
Don & Carol Carli

Your contributions make all the difference in supporting the important work of the Foundation. Make your tax-deductible gift online at <http://www.hancockpublicschools.org/school-foundation.php> or complete the form below. Please make checks payable to Hancock Public Schools Foundation and mail to 501 Campus Drive, Hancock, MI 49930. Thank you!



**Hancock Public Schools Foundation: Making a Difference**

501 Campus Drive, Hancock, MI 49930

**Yes, I/We want to make a difference!**

Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible gift in the amount of:

In Honor of

In Memory of

Name

Address

Phone

Email



**HANCOCK**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION





Hancock Public Schools Foundation  
501 Campus Drive  
Hancock MI 49930



### **2023-2024 Board of Directors**

Neil Ahola, Vice President  
Michele Blau  
David Dow, President  
Anthony Fisher, Treasurer  
Michael Hauswirth  
Monica Healy  
Kevin Kalinec  
Paula Nutini, Secretary

John Vaara  
Dennis Walikainen  
Dean Woodbeck  
**Ex-Officio**  
Chris Salani, Superintendent  
Rod Paavola, Board of Education  
**Executive Director**  
Sara L. Niemeyer