



VISION & OPPORTUNITY

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW



**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
Investment in Opportunities



TWO POWERFUL WORDS - VISION AND OPPORTUNITY.

That is what the Education Foundation provides for those it supports, those it encourages, those it inspires. And that is what YOU - our trusted stakeholders - give to students across our school district. The WCPS Education Foundation was born of the strong desire to give this next generation of students every opportunity to excel, every chance to be their best. In just over one year, the

Education Foundation has delivered on this promise of increased opportunity, as you will see showcased in this report. Thanks to Superintendent Rob Clayton and the WCPS Leadership team that dreamed this Foundation into creation and built a strong base of support. Thank you to a dedicated Foundation Board of Directors who seek creative, innovative ways to secure funding for excellence for all students today, and for future generations. Its success is made possible by you—by your belief in the power of education, your commitment to a brighter future for our students, and your vision for the opportunities ahead at Warren County Public Schools. Thank you!

Allison Mefford, WCPS Education Foundation Director



The Visionary Circle is the heartbeat of our mission—a circle of passionate donors committed to advancing WCPS. Annual gifts of **\$1,000 or more** qualify for Visionary Circle membership.

VISIONARY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Julie and Tommy Adams
Tammy and Charles Adams
Arnold Consulting Engineering Services
Benefits Resource Group
Leslie and John Paul Blair
Bowling Green Hot Rods
Amy and David Chandler
Robin and Rob Clayton
CrowdSouth
Erica Cutright
Bart Darrell
ELPO Law
Mary and Sam Evans

FirstBank
Dr. Amy and Justin Gearlds
GM Cares
German American Bank
Graves Gilbert Clinic
Greenwood Ford Lincoln
Jana and Brett Hightower
Chris Higgins
Houchens Insurance Group
Shanetti and Detric Jones
Allison and Brian Mefford
Med Center Health
Dr. Kim and Laura Myers

Cheri and Joe Natcher
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Chelsey and Josh Poling
South Central Bank
Stewart Richey Contracting Group
Ray Theriault
Trace Die Cast
Mary Vitale
Vybond Group, Inc.
Glenna and Johnny Webb
Julie and Brad Wheeler
Mary Loyce and Steve Wheeler
WBKO
Wiesemann Orthodontics
Meredith and Rick Wilson

YOUNG LEADERS, BIG IMPRESSIONS THE INAUGURAL LUNCH AND LEARN

The inaugural Lunch and Learn took place on October 23, 2025, at the newly constructed Warren Elementary School. Over 50 attendees were greeted by a team of students, ready with a smile to share information about their school. These leadership students not only were greeters for the event, they were presenters and tour guides. All attendees were impressed by their display of poise, confidence and amazing eye contact. A special thanks to Glenna Webb, a former WCPS educator and inaugural Visionary Circle member, for delivering the keynote address at the event.

Guests were treated to a deliciously crafted lunch by Hippie Hen, owned by Warren Central High graduate Steve Garden and his wife, Cindi. Each guest was given a unique placemat made and designed by Mrs. Jennifer Wansack's art class at Warren Elementary. Lunch was sponsored by Houchens Insurance Group. Thank you for providing the lunch and thank you to all who attended.



IMPACT CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION



October 2023



November 2024



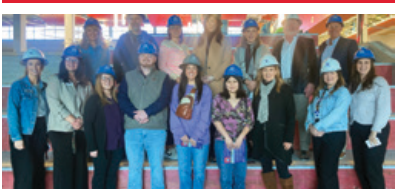
June 2025



July 2025



December 2025



March 2026

IMPACT Center for Leadership and Innovation opened its doors on August 12 to more than 1,100 students. After 5 years of planning and dreaming, students across the district have the opportunity to engage in state-of-the-art learning in various specialized fields such as medical, AI, engineering, robotics, aeronautics and digital media. Since the groundbreaking on October 16, 2023, we have hosted over 1,200 visitors to tour the Center. Dr. Cody Rich, the IMPACT Center Principal, and his team of 79 teachers and staff are excited for this upcoming school year.



"I'm most excited to see students step into a place designed to inspire their passions, develop their leadership, and prepare them to make an impact on the world around them."

Dr. Cody Rich



BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS

The Bright Ideas Grant was made possible from the support of German American Bank and the Community Foundation of Southcentral Kentucky. In its inaugural year, two projects were selected in the fall of 2025 and completed through the school year.



Ryan Marie, a 3rd Grader at Alvaton Elementary School, installed Squishy Circuits and maker's space items for her project entitled "STEM and STEAM Kits for Innovation." Students used this new equipment for coding and maker space activities.

At Drakes Creek Middle School, 8th graders **Max Vanschenkhof**, **Grady Spears**, and **Lydia Nelson** created "Planting Positivity." This project enhanced and improved the outdoor space at their school with planters, native plants, and spaces for conversation and community.



HICKORY & OAK GIFT CARD PROMOTION

The WCPS Education Foundation raised \$3,000 through a collaborative effort with restaurateur and WCPS 2025 Hall of Distinguished Alumni Inductee Josh Poling.



Josh, a 2004 Greenwood High School graduate, is a successful restaurant entrepreneur and business owner. In 2011, he first opened the restaurant Home Cafe & Marketplace with his wife, Chelsey. In 2018, the couple opened Hickory and Oak, an upscale restaurant, making a \$1 million investment in downtown Bowling Green. Through Mr. Poling's generosity, Hickory and Oak is known for numerous community events including providing steaks to veterans on Veterans Day, as well as gifting steaks to local educators during the first week of school. He also integrates the restaurant into downtown events which are vital to the community's culture. In June 2024, the Polings acquired Broadbent B&B Foods.



SPRING 2026 ART SHOW

Sponsored by



We had a wonderful time celebrating creativity at the Spring 2026 Art Show. Student artwork from across Warren County Public Schools was on display, showcasing incredible imagination, personal expression, and technical skill from our K-12 artists. Congratulations to our middle and high school award winners who were recognized at the closing reception.



W.E. KINDNESS



Warren East High School launched a brand-new engineering program to create a pathway for students to gain hands-on experience with real-world tools and technologies. As part of this initiative, students wanted to answer the question: "How can an engineering program help make Warren East High School a better place?"

Their solution was the WE Heart Kindness Project, where students designed and 3D printed small Warren East "WE Hearts" to recognize random acts of kindness among peers, fostering a culture of kindness that aligns with the school's mission and the Leader in Me framework.

By connecting cutting-edge technology to character-building initiatives, this project involved over 30 students. By combining engineering technology with compassion, students saw firsthand how technical knowledge can positively influence their school culture and community.



HOT RODS NIGHTS

The WCPS Education Foundation and Bowling Green Hot Rods partnered together to support WCPS' high schools throughout the summer:

South Warren June 11
Warren East June 25
Greenwood July 23
Warren Central August 20

The first 500 fans received a free hat with their school logo. There was so much excitement that all 500 hats were distributed within 10 minutes of the gates opening.

Fun was had by all celebrating our students and the Hot Rods!



CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

WCPS reflected on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful message of justice, service, and hope. We were so proud of the students who brought that message to life during our annual celebration. Huge congratulations to our art and essay winners for their inspiring work. Our District choir sang with heart, as the students' passion lit up the stage. Thank you to our Dream Builder partner, ELPO Law, for making this night possible.



WCPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT

to enable businesses, individuals and community stakeholders to make a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of students through investments that expand opportunities for innovative teaching and learning.

We believe that the cornerstone of a strong community is a quality education system.

We believe that community prosperity, both quality of life and economic growth, results from increased educational excellence.

We believe we are developing tomorrow's leaders.

WCPS Students are the creators, innovators and leaders who will shape the future and drive the success of our community, state and nation. The future is unlimited. Your investment in WCPS is the catalyst from which our future is born.

JOIN US! Your gift opens doors, creates paths and is the spark that ignites the future.

**DONATE
NOW**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Bart Darrell *Chair*
Meredith Wilson *Chair-elect*
Ashley Carter *Secretary*
Chris Whitfield *Treasurer*
Bob Young *Past Chair*
Allison Mefford *Director*

Tammy Adams
John Paul Blair
Leslie Carter
Amy Chandler
Paula Hendrick
Sheriff Brett Hightower
Chip Hightower
Shanetti Jones

Brian Mefford
Dr. Kim Myers
Andee Rudloff
Kim Thomas
Bobbie Whittaker
Supt. Rob Clayton
Chris McIntyre
Dr. Tracey Young
Brad Wheeler



FOUNDATION INTERN KIM CELIKBAS

Kim is a motivated and well-rounded student with a passion for photography and education. She has spent two years on Greenwood's yearbook staff while balancing part-time work at Crumbl and as a WCPS preschool bus monitor. Actively involved in the National Honor Society, school musical stage crew and International Club, Kim is deeply engaged in both academics and extracurriculars. She plans to attend the University of Kentucky to pursue elementary education, with an interest in adding a marketing major. Through her experience as an intern for the Education Foundation, she gained insight into fundraising, branding and innovative learning environments, and she advocates for sustainability, technology integration and student-led initiatives in schools.



LEADERSHIP GAUNTLET



**160 Gifted and Talented
Leadership Students met
March 17, 2025**

Sponsored by **WIESEMAN**
orthodontics

What went down: 5th graders from across the district were given challenges based on real-world simulations.

Result: Students engaged in critical thinking and collaborative problem solving.

Long term effects: Generation prepared to become tomorrow's leaders who can contribute to our community's continued growth and success.

WCPS BY THE NUMBERS

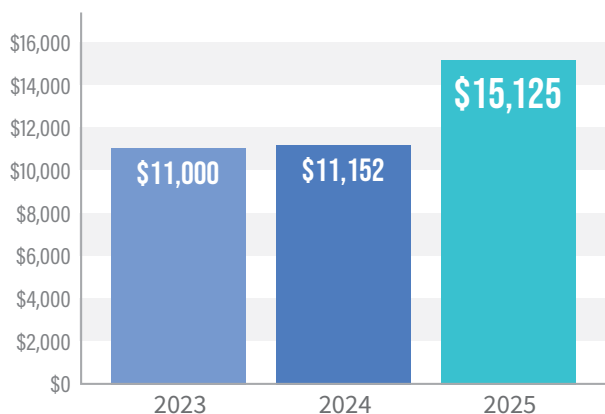
2025 DONATION TOTAL

\$515,125

The Foundation experienced a remarkable year of giving in 2025. Total contributions reached \$515,125, thanks in large part to an extraordinary \$500,000 gift from Amy and David Chandler designated for the Early Learning Academy Outdoor Learning Space.

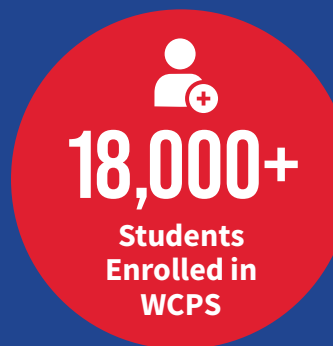
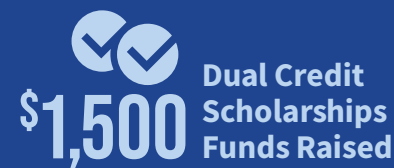


REGULAR DONATIONS: YEAR OVER YEAR GROWTH



The WCPS Education Foundation began in 2023. Individuals, families, and community supporters collectively contributed \$15,125 through regular donations. These gifts represent a positive trend of year-over-year growth in community support.

Meaningful impact is made possible through both transformational gifts and consistent grassroots support. As we celebrate this milestone year, we remain committed to growing a culture of giving across our community. Every contribution plays a role in helping us invest in students, educators and schools, and we are deeply thankful for each person who chooses to support our mission.



FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

The newly implemented Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. subsection 25F, goes into effect January 1, 2027. Kentucky House Bill 1 allows your designated tax credits to remain in Warren County schools and allows taxpayers the opportunity to directly support WCPS students.



Passed in March 2026, the law lets Kentuckians claim a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 per individual when donating to approved Scholarship-Granting Organizations (SGOs). WCPS Education Foundation, a 501 (C) (3) qualifies as an SGO. Please consider partnering with us and designating your tax credit to remain local and make a difference for our students.

Your support makes an impact and creates opportunities.



303 Lovers Lane
Bowling Green, KY 42103

**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
Investment in Opportunities

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Bowling Green, KY
Permit #14



**DONATE
NOW**

supportwcps.org/invest