



CHECK OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH REUNIONS AND ALUMNI

Reunions are scheduled for 2022! If your class has had, or is having a reunion let us know at the Alumni Network. You can reach us at fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us or by phone at (701) 446-1041.

Update your contact information so you don't miss out on any AlumniNews or future reunions. Go to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site and check out the Alumni Network.



FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1980 40TH REUNION

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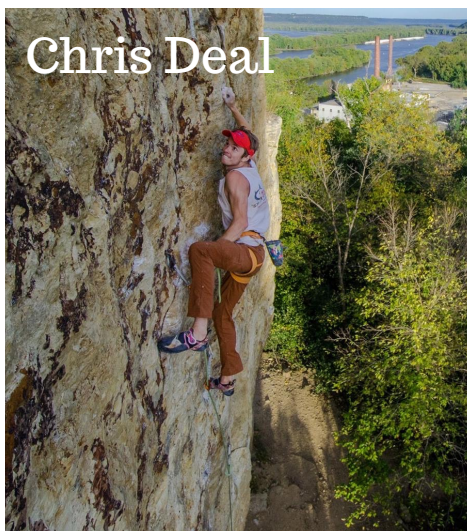
See what your classmates are up to!

REUNIONS

Fargo North High School
Fargo South High School
Fargo Davies High School

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CO-FOUNDERS OF FARGO CLIMBING, CHRIS DEAL, FARGO NORTH 2012 AND BEN WILLIAMS, WOODROW WILSON 2011



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE GRADUATING?

I got obsessed with rock climbing! I went to NDSU where I got my degree in sport management with a minor in business administration. Originally I wanted to work at a university doing outdoor recreation, but realized the only part of hiking and camping I liked was to go climb. That's when I really started getting into the business minor and joined a couple friends on the first quest for a local climbing gym, that was spring of 2015. I spent the next several years just working a lot. I actually drove Zamboni and was in facilities management for a couple years at Scheels Arena. Tried to make the climbing gym happen a couple more times, but to no success. Then I had the opportunity to go back to NDSU and get my MBA and that is when I made a real push to open the climbing facility. I developed the business plan, started seeking out funding, and developed a Kickstarter campaign.

This was postponed when I went to work for Nature of the North in Moorhead which further solidified my love for business and start ups. Worked there for about 2 years, and then in Fall of 2021 we found the right bank and we were able to start up Fargo Climbing. In addition to that I spent a lot of time traveling across the US to rock climb, from Tennessee and Arkansas to Utah and Vegas. Climbed Devils Tower multiple times as well!

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR EDUCATION AT FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS HELPED PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CURRENT CAREER?

I feel like it has taught me to be adaptable. It is not about being the smartest or the best at XYZ but how you adapt, problem solve, and critically think about things!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

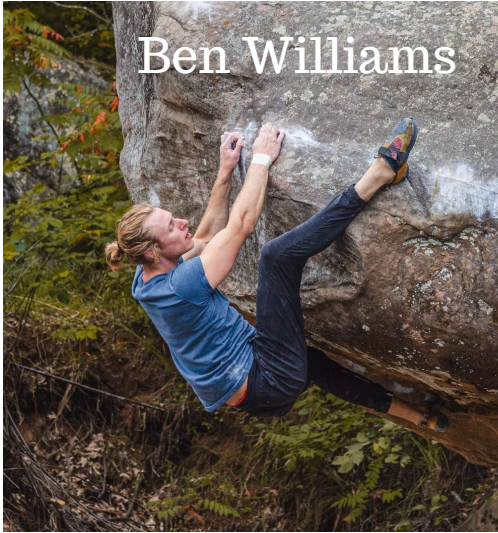
My dad teaches at NDSU, Human Development and Family Science. My mom teaches kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary. I have two sisters who also graduated from North High. My older sister lives in Eagan Minnesota with her husband and son and has a master's degree in GIS. She works very passionately in that field. My younger sister has a Master's of Public Health and Latin American Studies and works passionately in that field.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME AT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL?

Breadstick day, I would eat only bread sticks. I want to say it was Wednesdays, I would buy probably 8 or 10 bread sticks. Latin Club and class, band, and jazz band. All the great friends I met. This year will be our 10 year reunion and I am looking forward to seeing what everyone has been up to. I feel like we were a smaller class so we got along well and were closer than other classes! Also no taxes, life was much simpler.

WHO INSPIRED YOU THE MOST IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WHY?

Mr. Brekke and Mr. Tessman, my band and jazz band teachers. They showed me that through hard work and perseverance, things that feel uncomfortable or impossible are achievable. **Mr. Vince Williams** for showing us it's not about your past, but where you are going that is important and that to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be forgotten. **Mr. David Volk**, because the value is in the details, the littlest details often have the biggest effects. Also, I was not the best at Latin, mediocre at best, but that class taught me you don't have to be perfect to love what you are doing. **Mr. Midgarden** for showing me that to do what you love you really never work a day in your life.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE GRADUATING?

Alongside Chris Deal, I co-founded Fargo Climbing, a rock climbing gym and Fargo's first climbing gym.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR EDUCATION AT FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS HELPED PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CURRENT CAREER?

It gave me the foundation to grow myself into the person I am today, and I am proud of that.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I have one younger sister who is my best friend. My parents and my sister have always been very supportive of my choices even if they might not agree with them. They let me learn on my own

while providing support and guidance when necessary. I am very thankful for that.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME AT WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL?

I loved seeing my friends everyday. I always looked forward to the time spent with them. I am lucky enough to still have the same friends that I've known from my time in school.

WHO INSPIRED YOU THE MOST IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WHY?

Dick Fisher, the head coach of the Fargo North High School swim team, has definitely impacted me the most. On the swim team we swam with kids from grades 7-12, and as I joined my Junior year, Coach Fisher always drilled us to set a good example for our younger teammates. Admittedly, I wasn't as good of an example as I could have been. Now, as I have grown as a person I realize it's important to lead my life as a good example for the people around me. Those lessons are something I think about often and they are extremely important to me.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

It's cliché, but do what you love. Don't waste your time doing something you don't like, and don't wait for that thing to make you happy. Find what makes you happy and do it well.

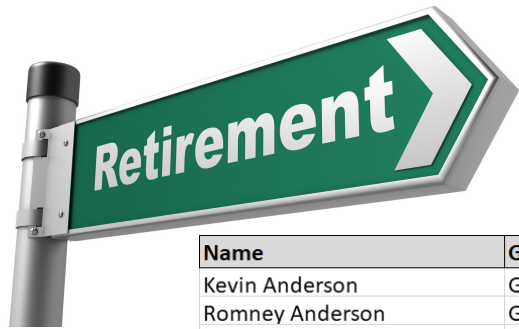
More information about Fargo Climbing can be found at:

Website: fargoclimbing.com

Facebook: [@FargoClimbing](https://www.facebook.com/FargoClimbing)

Instagram: [fargoclimbing](https://www.instagram.com/fargoclimbing)





2021-2022 FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREES CONGRATULATIONS!

Name	Grade/Position	School	Years
Kevin Anderson	Grade 3	Washington	1994-2022
Romney Anderson	Grade 2	Longfellow	2012-2022
Juliana Andrews	Paraeducator	Washington	1998-2022
Jerome Beck	Physical Education	Kennedy	1995-2022
Roberta Benedict	Grade 4	Centennial	2001-2022
Mark Blanshan	Assistant Principal	North	1997-2022
Susan Callies	Independent Learning Center	Davies	1991-2022
Robin Carey-Sweeney	Grade 2	Jefferson	1999-2022
Debbie Clapp	Administrative Assistant	Davies	1997-2022
Bonita Daily	SPED/SLP	Jefferson	2003-2022
Tim Deyle	Grade 5	Roosevelt	1996-2022
Jay Erickson	Grade 4	Roosevelt	1990-2022
Sheri Ernst	Math	Dakota	1991-2022
Robert Ferguson	Custodian	Centennial	2000-2022
Jeffrey Fiechtner	Physical Education	Ben Franklin	1994-2022
Victoria Fiechtner	Paraeducator	Horace Mann	2016-2022
Rebecca Fisher	Language Arts	Discovery	2006-2022
Karen Gibson	Lead Custodian	Jefferson	1999-2022
Lonnie Glaser	Lead Custodian	Madison	1991-2022
Julie Graalum	Office Assistant	Lewis & Clark	1998-2022
Sonia Grabarkewitz	Paraeducator	Bennett	2000-2022
Mary Hartje	Paraeducator	Washington	1996-2022
Susan Honl	Grade 3	Eagles	1989-2022
Harvey Kruckenberg	Science	South	1994-2022
Jill Larson	Paraeducator	Horace Mann	2013-2022
Sandra Law	Language Arts	Discovery	1999-2022
Shannen Martin	Principal	Ben Franklin	1987-2022
Donna Melicher	Paraeducator	Ed Clapp	2001-2022
Kathy Moe	Paraeducator	Eagles	2004-2022
Kathy Neumann-Cieslak	Assistant Principal	North	1995-2022
Janet Nysetvold	Title Math	Horace Mann	1989-2022
Rhonda Olson	SPED/ED	Madison	1999-2022
Gregory Pawlik	COTA	Lewis & Clark	1995-2022
Garry Roth	CTE – Tech Ed	Discovery	1987-2022
Cheryl Sax	Nutrition Production Lead	Central Kitchen	1994-2022
Lori Schrank	Paraeducator	Lincoln	1997-2022
Rene'e Schwandt	SPED/ID	North	1997-2022
Linda Sorby	Grade 1	Horace Mann	1989-2022
Valerie Stockdale	English Learner	Lincoln	1998-2022
Anne Swedberg	Paraeducator	McKinley	2012-2022
Jodell Teiken	Coordinator T&L	District Office	2012-2022
Deborah Villella	Paraeducator	Discovery	1994-2022
Dean Wilson	Assistant Principal	Carl Ben Eielson	1990-2022
Cindy Winters	Custodian	Jefferson	1999-2022
Rosemarie Woodbury	SPED/ID	South	1998-2022
Helene Zelaya	World Language	North	1998-2022



If you would like to celebrate the impactful and dedicated careers of any of the retirees you can honor them with a donation to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation. We will send a card with a meaningful message to the honoree, amount is not noted. Go to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation website, or [click here](#) to make an in honor of or in celebration of donation.

ALUMNI GIVING BACK

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ERIC JOHNSON, FARGO CENTRAL 1963!

Eric Johnson donated a restored silver-plated flute to Fargo Davies band for a student in need that may not have the means to rent or buy an instrument. Eric submitted the below history of the flute:

This silver-plated flute was manufactured by the A. Reynolds Company in Cleveland, Ohio, serial number 12467. It was likely manufactured in the late 1940s or early 1950s. My parents acquired it for me, probably in 1954. It began its musical life in Fargo.

I attended Clara Barton Elementary School and I began taking flute lessons when I was in the third grade. I took lessons at the Daveau Music Company in Fargo, which was located at 615 First Avenue North. They had lesson rooms on the second floor. My teacher was a music professor from Concordia College.

My classmates and I at Clara Barton were exceedingly fortunate to have had an inspiring music teacher, Miss Wilds. Below is a photograph of our orchestra, probably taken in 1956. I am the flute player in the front row at the end.



I credit Miss Wilds with instilling in me a life-long interest in music, even if I did not play the flute beyond my years at Agassiz Junior High School, where I also played in the orchestra. I probably last performed as a student at Agassiz in 1959 or 1960. I especially remember playing a borrowed piccolo in a performance of the Stars and Stripes Forever.

If you are interested in giving back. Innovative education grants provide classroom resources for innovative educational, literacy, and music projects not funded by district, state, or federal monies. This gives educators a chance to pilot a new idea or to supplement something they are already doing in the classroom. Go to the Fargo Public School Foundation web-site to donate or by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for supporting students, teachers, and staff now and into the future. The impact is immeasurable!

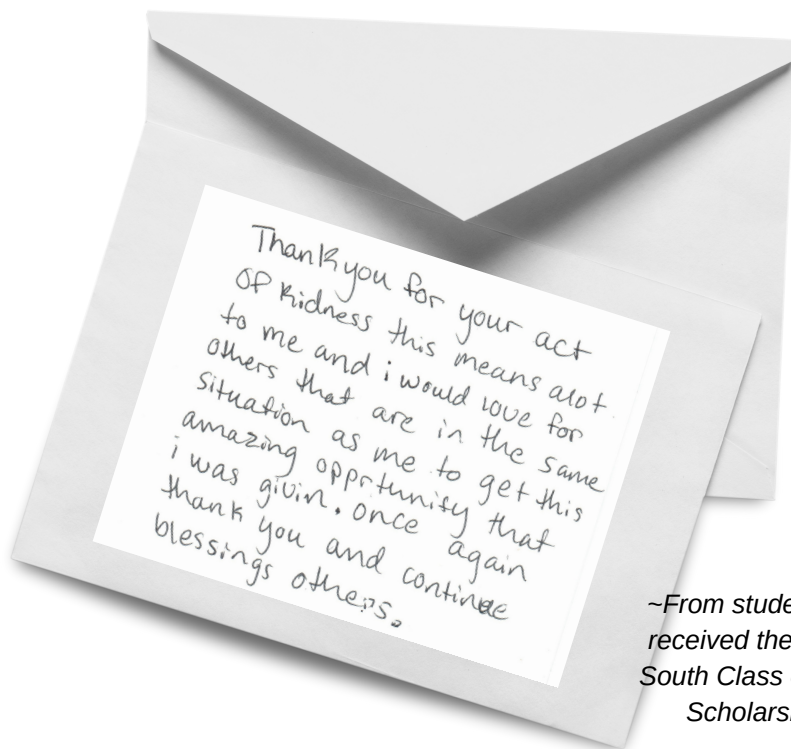
ALUMNI GIVING BACK

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1971!



Fargo South Class of 1971 donated \$1,942 to help homeless youth at Fargo South High School. David Anderson brought the donation to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation office and presented it to Executive Director, Becky Bakke, on behalf of their class and reunion committee.

This donation provided a scholarship to a student experiencing homelessness at Fargo South High School. The scholarship helped with tuition at Valley City State University.



Thank you for your act of kindness this means alot to me and i would love for others that are in the same situation as me to get this amazing opportunity that i was givin. once again thank you and continue blessings others.

~From student that received the Fargo South Class of 1971 Scholarship.

The Homeless Program is an effort to assist students in our public schools who are identified as experiencing homelessness, and to ensure that children and youth who are homeless have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to all other students. If you would like to help students that are experiencing homelessness at Fargo Public Schools you can donate at the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site or by [clicking here](#).

YOU CAN IMPACT A STUDENT'S LIFE!

DONATE AT THE FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION WEB-SITE.



CRITICAL NEEDS PROGRAM

The Critical Needs Program is organized to ensure that each and every student who needs help with basic needs receives support.



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION, MUSIC & LITERACY GRANTS

Innovative education, music, and literacy grants are available to provide classroom resources for innovative educational and literacy projects.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation administers scholarships on behalf of community businesses, families, and organizations.



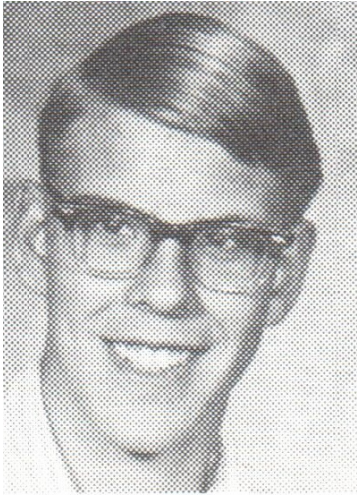
DESIGNATED & PROJECT FUNDS

The Foundation assists with special fundraising and school programs, and collects designated school donations throughout the year.

UPDATES FROM ALUMNI

Following are alumni that have submitted information. Pictures of alumni are from yearbooks. If you would like to be included in the alumni updates please contact us at fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us or update your information and send us an alumni brief by [clicking here](#).

STEPHEN VINING~ FARGO NORTH, 1972



Steven played tuba in the Fargo North High School Concert and Marching Bands, and string bass in Jazz Band. He served as cadet commander of AFJROTC squadron and was a National Honor Society inductee. Steven graduated with honors with what counselor Miss Dehne said, “was the most academic credits in the history of the school.”

Steven graduated from NDSU in 1976 with mechanical engineering degree while enjoying four more years as tubist in the NDSU concert and marching bands. He married NDSU bandmate oboist, Sandra, immediately after graduation.

Steven served 22 years active duty in the Air Force, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1999. Air Force duties included ICBM launch officer Flight Commander at Grand Forks Air Force Base, leadership positions in the Space Shuttle program, and leadership in development of spacecraft and aircraft technologies fielded in operational systems.

Civilian career involved leadership in a research and development small business developing new technologies for all Department of Defense branches, NASA, and major aerospace corporations He retired in 2016 as VP for Government Programs. Steven watched in person a Space Shuttle launch with an experiment on board that he held in his own hands.

Steven has served in leadership positions in church and Boy Scouts. Most importantly, Steven cherished raising his two sons, who are now highly skilled professionals in their fields. He also cherishes being married to an amazingly talented lady who had her own professional career and continues serving in volunteer leadership positions in the community.

KAY (KLEIN) KALLOS ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972

Kay Kallos, Ph.D. is the Public Art Program Manager for the City of Dallas, Office of Arts and Culture. Her accomplishments include the management of the public art collection of over 300 artworks valued at \$90 million, supervision of 6 staff members who coordinate 35 active permanent artwork commissions and artists' workshops, and public art conservation and collection management.

Kay manages all public art processes from bond fund planning through artist selection, contracting, and completion. Since 2009 Kay has overseen the completion of 100 successful public art commissions, including twenty-one commissions at Dallas Love Field Airport, recognized in 2018 by Travel and Leisure as one of the top 10 domestic airports based on the collection of public art.



TOM SISLER ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972

Tom and his wife Kathy both worked for the YMCA and recently retired after 40+ years. Tom and Kathy have three boys, two are married and one is single. They moved back to the Minneapolis area to be with family and they have four grandchildren. They also enjoy time at the family lake cabin in Northern Minnesota and the family home in the Michigan Upper Peninsula.

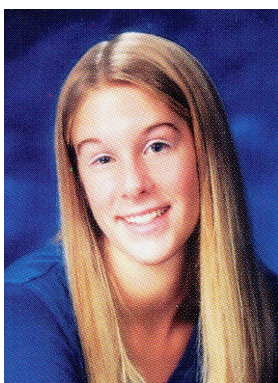


BLAIR THORESON ~ FARGO NORTH, 1982



Blair served in the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1998-2016. Has been owner of Three Lyons Pub in West Fargo since 2007.

Since 2017, Blair has been a member of the State and Local Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs team at the Primacy Strategy Group.



JANET (EKLUND) AUSTAD ~ FARGO NORTH, 2001

Janet graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and in 2016 as a Registered Nurse.

MADELEINE GREGOR ~ FARGO SOUTH, 2012

Madeleine is Associate Artistic Director of Coriolis Dance, Project Manager at Pivot Movement Studio, Company Dancer at Coriolis Dance and Hypernova Dance.



**FARGO PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
REUNIONS**

Hello Alumni!

If you have an upcoming or held a reunion let us know. We will make sure it is in the AlumniNews and shared on our social media.

Contact us at :

701.446.1041

or

fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us



DAKOTA
HIGH SCHOOL

GAIL LEWIS ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972

After graduating from Fargo North High Gail attended North Dakota State University from 1972-1976 and graduated from Moorhead State University in 1977 with a degree in Elementary Education.

She taught two years in Dakota-Arthur School District, now Northern Cass, before becoming full time staff with Red River Youth for Christ.

Gail's path in various ministries led her to Oak Hills Bible Institute, now Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, Minnesota and youth ministry in Hanover, Pennsylvania and San Antonio and Corpus Christi, Texas. She also taught elementary classes (regular education, drama, and music) at San Antonio Christian Schools for six years.

Gail taught elementary music for 19 years in Corpus Christi Independent School District and retired in the Spring of 2020. During that time she also had the opportunity to travel for three weeks with a Christian music ministry organization known as The Continentals. The trip encompassed New Zealand and Fiji, ending with a performance at Disney World.

She and her husband are on Affiliate Staff with The Navigators, a Christian organization with emphasis on helping others grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. She married Don Lewis in 2012 and has two step sons, their wives, and four grandchildren. Don and Gail live in Corpus Christi, Texas.



MARY (FERCHO) MORTON ~ FARGO SOUTH, 1982

Mary is currently a pharmacist at Fairview Edina Pharmacy.



JANELLE WANZEK ~ FARGO DAVIES, 2012

Janelle works as an OB/GYN Physician Assistant, Doula and infertility awareness. She is currently living in Las Vegas, Nevada.



CINDY (HOFF) SPLICALH ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972

Cindy is happily retired after a career in nursing administration and education. She is married to Bob and has 5 grandchildren.

Cindy enjoys golfing, volunteering, vacationing and spending time with family and friends. They moved back to Fargo in 2015.



GIFTS IN HONOR, CELEBRATION, OR MEMORY OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

HONOR A MEMORY

A memorial donation provides the opportunity to make a donation in memory of a loved one or friend. When an "in memory" gift is received, the Fargo Public Schools Foundation will send a card to the family letting them know that you have honored their loved one's memory with a meaningful gift, amount is not noted.

GIVE A GIFT BY GIVING

Instead of presents or flowers, honor someone special with a donation to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation. Honor alumni, loved ones, or anyone special with a donation.

Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, retirement, achievements, or any special occasion. We will send a card with a meaningful message to the honoree, amount is not noted.

Go to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site to honor someone today or [click here](#).



KENT HARRIS ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972



Kent retired October 31, 2021 from YHR Partners-Architects after doing their construction administration for 23 years.

He has been involved with construction in the Fargo/Moorhead and surrounding area since high school graduation. Projects that he has been involved with include several West Fargo school buildings, the West Fargo City Hall, several new churches and additions, senior housing projects, several medical facilities, and projects on the White Earth reservation.

Kent has had a very enjoyable career and is now enjoying retirement.

CINDY JONES ~ FARGO NORTH, 1972

Cindy spent 22 years in the military, between active duty Air Force and the North Dakota Air National Guard as part of the Happy Hooligans.

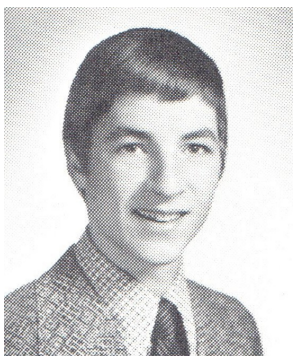
She retired with 3 DD 214s (active military duty discharge papers).



NED SORLEY ~ FARGO SOUTH, 1972

Ned is retired from UBS Financial Inc. and enjoys bird hunting in western North Dakota with friends and family.

Ned likes to bike in summer and cross country ski in winter. He has started Pickle Ball with his wife Virginia "Ginny" Haggart. He has 4 dogs and was a breeder for 20 years of Deutsche Drahthaars, (German Wirehaired Pointers), and traveled to Germany many times for field trials.



REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST

We will always cherish our alumni, teachers, administrators, and FPS staff that have been lost. We have provided a space to memorialize those who have passed at the Alumni Network webpage.



Obituaries are listed for those who attended and worked at Fargo Public Schools. Go to the Alumni Network page at the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site.

[Fargo Central High School](#)

[Fargo Davies High School](#)

[Fargo North High School](#)

[Fargo South High School](#)

[Dakota High School/Woodrow Wilson High School](#)

[Fargo Public Schools Staff](#)

Please note that the Alumni Network website list includes updates reported by family, friends, newspapers and other sources. It may not be all inclusive of all those that have been lost.

If you have a remembrance you would like us to post please contact us at fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us.

REUNIONS

FARGO NORTH HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS



For more information on the reunions below go to:
<https://bit.ly/NorthReunions>.

- Class of 2012 - 10 Year Reunion
- Class of 2001 - 20 Year Reunion
- Class of 1990 - 30 Year + 2 Reunion
- Class of 1982 - 40 Year Reunion
- Class of 1977 - 45 Year Reunion
- Class of 1973 - 50 Year Reunion
- Class of 1972 - 50 year Reunion

FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS

For more information on the reunions below go to: <https://bit.ly/SouthReunions>.

- Class of 2012 - 10 Year Reunion
- Class of 2010 - 12 Year Reunion
- Class of 2001 - 21 Year Reunion
- Class of 1982 - 40 Year Reunion
- Class of 1977 - 45 Year Reunion
- Class of 1972 - 50 Year Reunion



FARGO DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL REUNION



For more information on the reunion below go to:
<https://bit.ly/DaviesReunions>.

- Class of 2012 - 10 Year Reunion

Stay connected with your classmates by updating your contact information here:

<https://bit.ly/FPSAlumni>.



Mission~

“Partnering with Fargo Public Schools, their alumni, and the greater community to enrich and enhance learning experiences to maximize student potential.”



twitter.com/FPSFoundation



www.facebook.com/FPSAlumniNetwork



instagram.com/fps_foundation/

Staff:

Becky Bakke, Executive Director
Corey Ernst, Program & Development Coordinator

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