



CHECK OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH REUNIONS AND ALUMNI

Reunions are scheduled for 2021! If your class has had or is having your 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. [Click here](#) to check out the Alumni Network.



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Fargo Public Schools unveiled the new Dakota High School (formerly Woodrow Wilson High School) logo and mascot. The new name and logo will be begin in the 2021-22 school year.

Following thoughtful consideration and research, North Dakota's state bird, the western meadowlark, was selected by the school community as the Dakota High School mascot. This decision was made in collaboration with the District's Indian Education Program which consulted its parent committee and regional Native American tribes. In Dakota culture the meadowlark is a symbol of friendship and loyalty. Wheat strands are also incorporated into the imagery as another nod to the Dakota culture, representing abundance, prosperity, and fruitfulness.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SALLY JACOBSON, WOODROW WILSON, 1995



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE GRADUATING?

I attended MSUM, majoring in Anthropology. I graduated *magna cum laude* in 2003 and began my career in the zoo field. I was hired at Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton as a Zookeeper and quickly became involved in as many aspects of zoo operations as I could. During my tenure, I held multiple managerial positions including: Lead Zookeeper, Registrar, and Intern Education Director.

I absolutely fell in love with the impact that zoos have on their communities. One experience that I cherished was traveling to rural communities throughout Southeastern North Dakota and Southwestern Minnesota conducting conservation based education events for after school programs.

I decided to take time off from my career when my son was born. Raising two small children is a big job and I kept even busier by creatively incorporating work and family life. I was fortunate to be hired as a Resident Manager at Ronald McDonald House (RMHC), living on-site with my family. I enjoyed providing a space of comfort to the families staying at RMHC. After my experience working for RMHC, I decided to help other friends with small children by having a very small daycare at my home. I incorporated concepts I gained through my experience as a zoo educator into our daily routine. It was a really rewarding experience.

My lifelong passion has centered around caring for wildlife and wild places while making people smile. In 2012 I was excited to get back into the zoo field when I was offered the position of Business Manager at the [Red River Zoo](#). As Business Manager, I oversaw the guest services, membership, special events, and volunteer departments, as well as the day-to-day business operations during a dynamic period of growth for the zoo. I also served as chair of the Zoo's Safety Committee and as a member of their Master Planning Committee. In 2016, I was honored to be selected to serve as the Zoo's Executive Director. It is an exciting and challenging responsibility. As the Executive Director I oversee all aspects of zoo operations, development, and strategic plans. I am very lucky to work with an amazing group of professionals dedicated to conservation, education, and family fun!

In addition to my work at the zoo, I am a member of Fargo West Rotary and Kiwanis. I am a Professional Fellow Member of the Association of Zoo's and Aquariums (AZA) and serve on the Business Operations Committee for AZA.

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

I have wanted to run a zoo my entire life, which is a bit non-traditional. I had so many wonderful teachers at Fargo Public Schools that encouraged me to learn more about many passions and to follow my dreams, while preparing me for college and beyond. From grade school through high school, I was lucky to have supportive, fun, and engaging teachers who made an impact on my life. They truly care and I still visit with some of them to this day.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

SALLY JACOBSON, WOODROW WILSON, 1995

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I have two amazing kids, two teeny tiny dogs, and one very old hamster. My kids have had a great experience attending Fargo Public Schools as well. We have so many treasured memories of their time at Clara Barton/Hawthorn Elementary Schools. One particularly heart-warming memory is the annual “Brave Show” put on by Clara Barton/Hawthorne Parent Teacher Association (PTA). So wonderful to see kids be “brave” and showcase whatever talent they want while being cheered on by their teachers, PTA members, and families.



Kids grow fast! My son now attends North High School, and my daughter is at Ben Franklin Middle School. We spend family time at our lake cabin, hiking, playing with our dogs, or just relaxing at home. Always incorporating nature into our fun!

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

I attended Woodrow Wilson and I know that my time there prepared me for a successful college career. I learned how to prioritize my goals and manage my time to complete each course. My favorite memory from Woodrow Wilson was an annual celebration they held before winter break. Teachers and students would complete all sorts of silly activities like egg races and hula hooping. It was a wonderful team building event for students and staff that I looked forward to each year.

WHO INSPIRED YOU THE MOST AT WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL AND WHY?

It is hard to pick just one staff member. All the staff at Woodrow Wilson are dedicated to the success of their students and often go the extra mile. But if I had to pick one it would be Gary Brekke, my biology teacher.

Gary made learning fun and took extra time to ensure that I truly understood the concepts I was learning in each course. In addition to that, he had a passion for nature like me! He had a boa constrictor in his classroom, grew all sorts of plants in class and I would often see him out enjoying nature kayaking or biking. You could tell he loved biology, the environment, and his job. Every day was a scientific adventure in Gary’s class.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1981 JULY 9 & 10, 2021

Fargo South Class of 1981 plans to hold their 40th Class Reunion on July 9 & 10, 2021.

- July 9th consists of a golf outing at [Edgewood Golf Course](#) (19 Golf Course Rd, Fargo), school tour with former Principal Dr. Richard Warner, and a gathering at [Sidestreet Grille and Pub](#) (404 4th Ave N, Fargo).
- July 10th events include a gathering at [Plains Art Museum](#) (704 1st Ave N, Fargo) with appetizers, cash bar, DJ and much more.



For more information and to register [Click Here](#).

FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1991 POSTPONED



After a survey the reunion committee has made the difficult decision to postpone the Class of 1991 reunion. Their ultimate goal is to get as many classmates together as possible.

For those who have already purchased airline tickets and those still in the area, there will be an informal gathering on Saturday, July 31st. More details will be provided on the Fargo South High Class of 1991 Facebook page. [Click Here](#).

Again the goal is to provide enough time for those who live out of state to plan ahead for 2022, the committee has proposed a few options. More information will be shared once plans have been finalized.

FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1977 TBD

Class of 1977 is in the process of planning their 45th reunion for the summer of 2022.

Stay tuned and watch the [Alumni Website](#) for more information.



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



STAY IN TOUCH!
[Click Here](#) and update
your contact info.

UPCOMING REUNIONS (CONTINUED)

FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1971 AUGUST 7, 2021



Help celebrate our 50th year reunion!

Join us August 7th from 6:00-11:00 pm at the [Jasper Hotel](#), 215 Broadway North, Fargo.

For more information [Click Here](#) and follow the Fargo North High Class of 1971 Facebook group.

Questions? email: fshs71@gmail.com.

FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1980 JUNE 25 & 26, 2021

Although the reunion is one year later than planned, it is expected to be awesome!

- Friday June, 25th will consist of golf at [Edgewood](#) and a meet & greet at [Tailgators](#) (1322 Main Ave) with a band.
- Saturday June 26th there will also be golf, a tour of Fargo North, a memorial tree planting, and a meet & greet at the El Zagal Shrine (1429 3rd St N).

For more information and to get tickets [Click Here](#).

Join the Fargo North Class of '80 Facebook page [here](#).

Questions? Contact Tami Seifert (Pladson) at tami@longweekendsportwear.com.



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.

[Click Here](#) for Remembering.



Obituaries are listed for those who attended and worked at Fargo Public Schools. Click on the links below.

[Fargo Central High School](#)

[Fargo Davies High School](#)

[Fargo North High School](#)

[Fargo South 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.

FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES 2020-21



Name	Grade/Position	School	Years
Shane Alderman	Science	South	1994-2021
Donna Anderson	Administrative Assistant	Lincoln	1991-2021
Erik Berg	Physical Therapy	Longfellow	1995-2021
Thomas Bommersbach	Building Engineer	Carl Ben Eielson	2006-2021
Cindi Bondy	Science	Davies	1990-2021
William Brehm	Custodian	Eagles	2005-2021
Lisa Campbell	Paraeducator	Carl Ben Eielson	1998-2021
Andrew Dahlen	Principal	North	1994-2021
Sheri Dennis	SPED/MI	Ben Franklin	1994-2021
Connie Deutsch	Materials Resource	District Office	1998-2021
Melanie Engle-Unger	World Language	Davies	1990-2021
Michael Finneseth	Science	North	1997-2021
Cindy Fossen	Custodian	South	1997-2021
LuAnn Franzen	Network Manager	Discovery	1997-2021
Karen Harder	Math	Ben Franklin	2018-2021
Dale Hudson	Building Engineer	Roosevelt	1999-2021
Thomas Johnson	Grade 4	Centennial	1989-2021
Bradley Larson	Principal	Carl Ben Eielson	1995-2021
Susan McGuire	Paraeducator	Lincoln	2004-2021
Lori Morlock	Dishwasher	Central Kitchen	1994-2021
Patti Nelson	Title Reading	Ed Clapp	1997-2021
Rochelle Olson	Physical Education	Madison	1991-2021
Jeffrey Pegg	CTE/Tech Ed	Ben Franklin	1998-2021
Judy Piersol	Library Assistant	Eagles	1995-2021
Rebecca Pittenger	Librarian	Longfellow	2014-2021
Sue Scilley	Office Assistant	Jefferson	1994-2021
Jennifer Stein	Administrative Assistant	Jefferson	1998-2021
Kristi Trautwein	SPED	Centennial	1994-2021
Elizabeth Thompson	Math	Ben Franklin	1989-2021
Donna Unrue	Administrative Assistant	Ben Franklin	1994-2021
Laurie Vesledahl	SPED/ECSE	Agassiz	1998-2021
Catherine Sadler-Villella	Physical Therapist	Agassiz	1991-2021
Rodney Volk	Science	Ben Franklin	2001-2021



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE RETIREES!

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.

[Click here](#) to make an in honor or celebration of donation.

ALUMNI BRIEFS

Following are alumni, past and present educators, and future alumni who have submitted information or made the news. If you would like to be included in the alumni briefs please contact us at fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us or update your information and send us an alumni brief through the web by [clicking here](#).

BLAKE ANDERSON ~ FARGO NORTH, 2019

Blake Anderson, while at Fargo North High School, earned all-conference honors as a junior and senior and all-state honors as a senior. He is currently in his second seasons at Bismarck State. As of May 10th Blake was 5-1 with 47 strikeouts in 30.1 innings pitched.



Blake signed his National Letter of Intent to continue his athletic and academic career at Augustana in Sioux Falls, SD. Tim Huber, head baseball coach states: "Blake is someone we expect to come in and help us right away in some role, whether as a starter or back-end reliever. He has shown some elite vertical break with his fastball and we see him as having some upside with the already upper 80s velocity. Blake likes to train and believed in the development process. With a few tweaks and an obvious willingness on his end to work and get better, we see a lot of upside in Blake."

While at Augustana, Blake plans to major in social science education and minor in history.

DIANE MILLER ~ FARGO SOUTH, 2004



Since moving to the Twin Cities in 2018, Diane Miller has made a name for herself on the Twin Cities music scene, but to celebrate a decade of her hip-hop group D Mills & The Thrills, the Fargo native brought it all back home.

[D Mills & The Thrills](#) brought their music home to Fargo 10 years later. In May 2021 the Fargo-Moorhead hip-hop group had their 10th anniversary show. It was the bands first show in 18 months.

[Click here for the full article.](#)



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.



MCKENZIE KJOS ~ FARGO DAVIES, 2012



Young entrepreneur, McKenzie Kjos has been busy.

On March 1, the 27-year-old relocated her first children's clothing store, Tootsie's Children's Boutique, to a new space in the BLU 32 Development at 4600 32nd Ave. S. Suite 100, in Fargo. On March 25th, she opened her second boutique in, Tooties location, at 5670 38th Ave. S. Suite E.

[Kenzie + Co. Kids Boutique](#) carries children's clothing in sizes 6 through 16.

"It was always my plan to open a second store catering to the sizes that Tootsie's left off, but I did not expect to be opening it so soon. I figured maybe five or 10 years down the road," Kjos said. "With all of the stores closing, though, it felt like the perfect time. There is not a lot in the area for kids in the 6 to 16 range, and I remember being that age and shopping for clothes was all I wanted to do."

MELODY STAEBNER ~ FARGO SOUTH, 1995



Melody Staebner has been recognized for her achievements and community involvement.

Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities that promotes civic education and community development, has named Melody as a Campus Compact 2021 Newman Civic Fellow. As a fellow, she will have access to learning opportunities, scholarship and post-graduate opportunities aimed at

providing personal, professional and civic growth.

She is a first-year student in M State's Associate of Arts-Social Science program. Staebner has led community and outreach work for 18 years as the program coordinator for the [Indian Education Program](#) for the Fargo and West Fargo School Districts. She also serves on the National Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, North Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council, North Dakota ESSA Tribal Stakeholder Committee, North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings Committee, Woodlands and High Plains Powwow Committee, and the Youthworks Board.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College

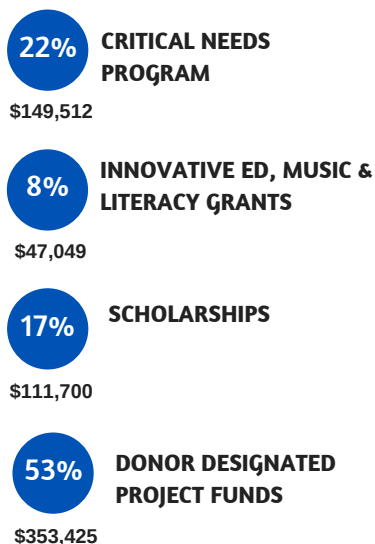


The Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation works to secure a variety of resources to enrich and enhance the quality of education provided by Fargo Public Schools that would otherwise not be possible through regular education funding.

The Foundation is supported with tax-deductible annual and endowment gifts from alumni, businesses, service clubs, parents, current and former school district staff, and the greater community.

They manage assets in excess of \$8.3 million and annually distribute more than \$500,000 to support Fargo Public Schools students, programs, staff, and teachers.

2002.21 DONATION DISTRIBUTIONS



ANDRE BAGUMA ~ FARGO DAVIES, 2018

Andre Baguma was a three-time North Dakota High School place winner, including winning a state championship in 2018. He is also a two-time MCAC/NJCAA North District Champion and NJCAA All-American after placing sixth at nationals in 2020.

Andre is currently in his junior year at Minnesota State University, Moorhead and is one of four members of the [MSUM wrestling](#) team to have earned Scholar All-American honors from the National Wrestling Coaches Association.



PAUL MEYERS ~ FARGO NORTH, 1967

Paul Meyers the president of Fargo's [Legacy Wealth Management](#), is the host and driving force behind Investment Talk TV on WDAY/WDAZ, and long-running Investment Talk on KFGO radio.

Every week, he and his co-hosts talk about the financial markets, take calls,



and explain the sometimes arcane world of stock, bonds, annuities and other investments, all while putting a grin on listeners' faces.

And thanks to co-hosts Brady Brunsvold (a financial adviser at Legacy Wealth) and radio and TV personality, Steve Poitras, the half hour taped "live" broadcast (prerecorded to add closed captioning) moves along at "Hi, Ho Silver!" speed.

Meyers realized the value of investing his time on the airwaves more than a dozen years ago when he started doing a show with the Wealth Enhancement Group that's aired on Fargo-based radio station KFGO.

The 71-year-old Fargo native started teaching English, drama, journalism and mass communications at North High School after graduating from Moorhead State University in 1971. He eventually moved into financial management in 1991, spending time with Merrill Lynch and Smith Barney. He spent a year with Wealth Enhancement Group before starting Legacy Wealth Management. He was also a member of the Fargo School Board for 16 years. Full article can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

YOU CAN IMPACT A STUDENT'S LIFE!

CLICK ON THE PICTURE BELOW TO LEARN MORE:



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.

HOW YOUR IMPACT MADE A DIFFERENCE

FARGO DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL TURF FIELD



Davies High School celebrated the groundbreaking of its new [turf field](#) on May 10th. Turf Committee members, Principal Troy Cody, Assistant Principal and Activities Coordinator Lenny Ohlhauser, Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi, and several other community members gathered on the current grass field to put the first shovels in the ground.

Excavating by Hellas Construction Inc. began on May 17th. The project is expected to be completed by the end of July 2021, and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the first home game in August. The \$1.3 million privately funded turf field will increase student access to outdoor space and greatly reduce field constraints due to inclement weather.



FARGO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TRADE RECORDERS FOR KEYBOARDS

When the coronavirus pandemic forced elementary music teacher LeeAnn Kramlich to set aside recorders, she turned to an instrument most public schools don't reach, the piano.

But Roosevelt Elementary School didn't have any pianos. "They're expensive and difficult to store well", Kramlich said. First, she needed the money, \$2,500 to be exact.



LeeAnn found the funds through grants from the Fargo Public Schools Foundation [Mary Ellen Thompson Music Fund](#) and the Kit Scherber Memorial Fund.

[Click Here](#) to read the full article.



Mission~

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



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