

# 7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE

## ORONO Foundation

FOR EDUCATION



### 1. TAX DOLLARS ARE NOT ENOUGH

- Public schools are primarily funded by tax dollars, but not all tax dollars are kept in our district. Rather, they are redistributed across the state and each MN public school gets the same basic amount per pupil.
- The only funds that stay in our district are referendum dollars and private donations to school-related non profits, such as the Orono Foundation.



### 2. PRIVATE FUNDS ARE NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The amount each MN school district receives from the state has not kept pace with inflation. The basic funding formula would be \$550 more per pupil today had it kept pace since 2003.
- Funding gaps require many school districts to seek additional revenue through foundations. Every school district in our area has one, including Westonka, Delano, and Rockford.



### 3. THE FOUNDATION IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SCHOOL-SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- The Foundation truly serves all students and teachers across the K-12 spectrum. In contrast, the other school-supporting organizations serve specific niches.
- The Foundation supports teacher training, additional teachers and specialists, and technology and coursework not offered at schools of a similar size. These efforts impact all Orono students, their whole learning experience, and their entire educational trajectory.



### 4. THE FOUNDATION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE A SOLID AND TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP

- The Foundation knows that each year the district leadership will thoroughly and diligently assess and identify the greatest needs across the K-12 spectrum and set very strategic priorities.
- The District then works closely with the Orono Foundation to finalize where extra funding is needed and where it would have the biggest impact.



### 5. EVERY GIFT MATTERS

- We are fortunate to have families and community members who make very generous gifts, but every single gift matters when trying to meet a need, fill a gap, or enhance a program.
- Other ways to support the Foundation include volunteering your time or talent, attending the Bash or a Great Gathering, hosting an event, having your business buy ads or sponsorships, or donating a gift-in-kind for an event prize or auction item.



### 6. GIFTS CAN BE MORE TARGETED IF YOU CHOOSE

- Our main grant to the school is called the Annual Fund, this fund serves immediate critical needs. Excellence Funds make it possible to specify where you would like your gift to be focused.
- We also have an Endowment Fund for which only a portion of the interest can be granted to the school each year, leaving the principle intact, so there will always be a reliable funding stream.

\$7M

### 7. THE FOUNDATION HAS GRANTED MORE THAN \$7,000,000 IN 17 YEARS TO ORONO SCHOOLS

- We are fortunate to live in a community that values excellence in public education. The Foundation has granted \$7 Million in 17 Years to the schools, which has help propel Orono to become a top-ranked and high-demand school district.
- Imagine what more impact could contribute if we maximized all the assets we have in our community. What role do you want to play, how do you want to make an impact?

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[www.oronofoundation.org](http://www.oronofoundation.org) | 952.545.6873 | [info@oronofoundation.org](mailto:info@oronofoundation.org)

The Orono Foundation for Education is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Taxpayer identification number 41-1974305.

# 7 WAYS TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE

**ORONO** Foundation   
FOR EDUCATION



**LIKE** the Orono Foundation for Education and the Orono Alumni Association Facebook pages to spread the word and support Orono schools.



**TALK** to a friend about the Foundation. Encourage them to read the annual report and make a donation.



**CHECK** with your employer on whether they will match gifts, consider a sponsorship or advertising opportunity, or donate a gift-in-kind as a prize or auction item.



**VOLUNTEER** at an event, serve on a committee, or lend photography/videography, web design, or editing skills/talents.



**ATTEND** an event! Great Gatherings, Red & Blue Bash and new parent coffees are all great ways to connect with other parents and support Orono Schools.



**SIGN-UP** for AmazonSmiles and designate OFE as your preferred charity-.05% of Amazon.com purchases will support our schools.



**MAKE** a meaningful gift to the Orono Foundation before December 31st.  
Go to [www.oronofoundation.org/donate](http://www.oronofoundation.org/donate).

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