



# COMMUNITY AND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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## John Whitty, 30-Year Member of the MHS Scholarship Committee

John Whitty was born in North Bend in 1933, the second of the Coos Bay family's four sons. He entered Marshfield High School in 1946 and, for three years, had the unwelcome distinction of being the shortest person in school. During high school John was manager of the track and basketball teams and the assistant football team manager. John was elected Student Body President at the end of his junior year and graduated from Marshfield in 1950. After high school he attended the University of Oregon.

From the time John entered college he knew he wanted to become a lawyer. He took pre-law courses, followed by law school, graduating in 1956. Hard work in law school earned him a second place finish on the Oregon State Bar Exam. John served in the U. S. Air Force until 1959 and, in April of that year, met Teri Berg. The couple married the following year and settled in Coos Bay. John began his law career and welcomed daughter Kelly in 1961. Five more children joined the family over the years, with the youngest, Brian, making his appearance in 1974. John tells us that all the Whitty children are doing well. "Kelly has her own market research business in Portland, George is a keyboard musician and has won Grammy and Emmy awards, Lucy has her own public relations firm in Sacramento, Kevin is Associate Dean of the Engineering school at University of Utah, Jeff is a playwright and won a Tony award for Avenue Q in 2004. Brian works for a law firm in San Francisco."

John has been actively engaged in community life, serving as a Port Commissioner, Vice-Chairman of the Oregon Transportation Commission, a member of the boards of the Bay Area Hospital District, the Coos County Economic Development Board, and the Coos Art Museum. He was on the Coos County History Museum Steering Committee which raised the funds needed to build the county's new history museum. John was a member of the Marshfield Scholarship Committee from its inception in 1990 until the spring of 2020. In recognition of his many contributions to our community, he was named Coos Bay Citizen of the Year both in 1988 and in 2014.

One of John's most lasting accomplishments was successfully spearheading the effort to build Bay Area



**John Whitty,  
MHS Class of 1950**

Hospital in the 1970's. This required not one but two local bond elections—a huge challenge. John and two other community leaders worked tirelessly to achieve passage of the second bond, attending more than 90 meetings with service clubs, labor unions and others to advocate for the new hospital. John says, "I personally made more than 60 presentations during the three-month period before the election, and when it was held, it passed by a greater majority than the first vote."

In describing his reasons for wanting to be a member of the Scholarship Committee, John said, "I had prepared a couple of estate plans for people who left money to the School District to provide scholarships, and found it to be a rewarding thing to do, so when the idea arose for forming a committee to handle the scholarships and solicit more of them, I was ready." Over the years, John worked with other clients who established significant endowed scholarships. John said, "Usually the idea for the scholarship came from the client, but sometimes I encouraged people with charitable feelings to create a fund. I talked with the client to see what kind of scholarship they wanted, then drafted the will or trust to create the scholarship fund. It was enjoyable work."

Our community and the MHS Scholarship Committee owe a deep debt of gratitude to John for his 30 year commitment to the establishment and success of a scholarship program that has been ranked by the Oregon Student Access Commission as one of the best in the state. In his 30 years on the Committee John oversaw the writing and amending of our bylaws, helped the Committee establish endowed funds with the Oregon Community Foundation, and shared his approach of using data and spreadsheets to evaluate as many as 80 scholarship applications each spring. In his letter announcing his retirement from the Committee John said, "My work on the scholarship committee has been meaningful to me in many ways. It gave me a chance to do a good thing for the community, to help young people go to college, and to work with clients of a charitable nature. I liked the planning and implementation of scholarships and feel that they are very important."



# Vocational Technical Scholarship Winner Tryce Greiner – MHS Class of 2020

MHS Class of 2020 graduate Tryce Greiner was in Pirate shop classes all 4 years at MHS. He loved to weld and planned to attend a community college and become a welder. In January of his senior year, a WyoTech representative visited his shop class. Tryce had always enjoyed working on cars with his father and when the WyoTech rep made it seem possible that he could have a career working on cars, he was hooked. However, the \$34,000 cost of the program was scary. After adding up the \$1000 Tryce had saved working at the Sizzler and the Pell Grant he would receive from the federal government, he still would have to come up with about \$25,000. The WyoTech rep and Mr. Crook, the MHS shop teacher, encouraged Tryce to apply for scholarships.

Tryce didn't think he was a good enough student to be awarded a scholarship, but he was determined to attend WyoTech and was willing to do everything he could to make it possible. He completed the MHS Scholarship application and included three references that were very positive about his likelihood of success. The Voc/Tech applicant interview with the MHS Scholarship Sub-Committee confirmed the statements in the references that



**Tryce Greiner,  
MHS Class of 2020**

Tryce was a determined and capable young man.

In the first week of June, during the 2020 MHS Senior Scholarship Awards Announcement Slideshow, presented by a YouTube video link

due to the pandemic restrictions (See it here: [www.marshfieldalumni.org](http://www.marshfieldalumni.org)) Tryce was surprised and very pleased to learn that he had been awarded the following scholarships for a total of \$25,000: Stamper Family V/T Scholarship, FW Smith V/T Scholarship, the Knife River V/T Scholarship, the Ray Gapp Memorial V/T Scholarship and the Pirate Shop Scholarship. Tryce was shocked and excited that he would now be able to attend WyoTech without constantly worrying about how he would repay his student loans.

Tryce is currently a student at WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming, studying Automotive Technology and is loving the experience. His core program will take 6 months and then he will spend 3 months studying high performance power trains. He has taken several tests successfully and is optimistic about his future. He is living in a dorm and he says that the students are nice and that the instructors are really helpful.

Tryce plans to return to Oregon and work as an automotive technician at a car dealership. Tryce has a bright future ahead of him and the MHS Scholarship Committee, Marshfield High School and our community are very proud of his determination to accomplish his goals.

## Thank You Notes:

*I would like to thank you for believing in me and helping me on my way to becoming a successful person and reaching my goal of becoming a successful business owner one day. — ES*

*From the bottom of my heart thank you so much for believing in me as a student and person. I will be attending Oregon State*

*University. I want to thank you again for not only changing my life, but also the lives of many of my classmates all for the better. — SW*

*I plan to begin the pre-nursing program at SWOCC. Thanks to this scholarship I will be able to pay for books and tuition. Thank you for helping me and my family. This scholarship means everything to us. — MC*

*Thanks to your generous donation, I will have more time to focus on*

*my studies instead of worrying about how I will pay for it. You have made a huge impact on my life and future and I will forever be grateful. — AG*

*I am so thankful that I was picked for this amazing scholarship. I am going to Wyotech in September to do the automotive technology program. I am so thankful for this amazing opportunity that I have been given. It will help me pay for most of my schooling. I feel blessed. I want to make everyone proud and I know I can do it. — TG*



## Scholarship Recipient Success Story: Cheyenne McNeely

2016 Marshfield graduate Cheyenne McNeely is doing work she loves, teaching third grade in Dayton, Oregon.

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**“Thanks to scholarships I am a 22-year-old teacher with a master’s degree and no student debt.”**

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She tells us, “I think I knew I wanted to be a teacher by the time I was in the first grade. I would go home after school and re-enact my school day in front of my stuffed animals. I still enjoy every aspect of teaching—I just love it.”

During high school Cheyenne took advantage of the expanded options program offering college credit coursework—at no cost to the student—at Marshfield. Cheyenne said, “While classes like this helped me be academically prepared for college, they also helped me with the transition to college. I graduated with my AA/OT degree the day before I graduated from MHS. This allowed me to go straight to Portland State University and skip the prerequisites. Because of the expanded options at MHS, I finished a bachelor’s degree and then earned a master’s in teaching in four years combined.”



**Cheyenne McNeely,  
MHS Class of 2016**

Cheyenne’s extracurricular activities at Marshfield were also helpful in preparing her to succeed. She credits her work on the staff of *The Marshfield Times* with improving her writing skills and her role as a student coordinator of the Mr. MHS community charity program for teaching her about leadership. She said, “I learned that leading means sitting at the table with others and working together. This is something I have brought with me into my classroom.”

Cheyenne says that the scholarships she received were a huge help. “I received enough in scholarships

from the MHS scholarship committee to completely fund my first year of college. That made it possible for me to enjoy my college experience without worry and gave me the time to volunteer in schools. Thanks to scholarships I am a 22-year-old teacher with a master’s degree and no student debt. I could not be more thankful for that. I can now focus on my career and the rest of my life, and not begin my adult life with thousands of dollars in debt looming above me. I am forever grateful to the scholarship committee.”

Cheyenne sought out a small town for her first teaching position. “My heart was pulling me to smaller communities more like the one I grew up in,” she said. “I feel I am able to make a bigger impact in a small community. This year, I want to build relationships and help my students navigate a global pandemic and disastrous wildfires while, at the same time, many of them also battle food insecurity, poverty, and other struggles. While this year has started from a distance due to COVID-19 and our first day of school took place under eerie smoke-filled skies, I am in love with my school, my job, and my students. The best part: we are the Dayton Pirates. You know what they say - “Once a Pirate, always a Pirate.”

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## Can a Scholarship Really Make a Significant Difference?

With the staggering cost of post HS education, we can understand why one might ask this question. But the feedback that we receive reminds us that there are significant benefits that translate into a deeper, more meaningful college experience.

One hidden benefit reveals itself in the thank you notes recipients write to the Committee. Students frequently write how scholarships demonstrate the Committee’s belief in them as someone who can be successful, and that this belief motivates them to pursue their education.

Still another benefit, less often acknowledged, is that scholarships give some students the financial freedom to have personal and/or professional experiences that impact their future. Three examples follow that illustrate the possibilities.

One recipient was studying machine tool technology at an out of state school. He said that the scholarship allowed him to only have to work a weekend job while in school. This made it possible for him to take full advantage of the learning opportunities available and become more employable upon graduation. Without the scholarship he would have had to

have taken on an additional job and would only have been able to do just enough to get by at his school.

Another student stated that his scholarship allowed him to have minimal debt at graduation. He had started a business while in college. Since he didn’t have to get a time-consuming “real job” to make student loan payments, he was able to fully devote himself to developing his business upon graduation. His business has become very successful.

Finally, one student attributed numbers of hours that she could pursue activities of value to her as the benefits of her scholarship. She attended college in the state of Washington, where the minimum hourly wage was eleven dollars. Her annual \$2,200 scholarship equated to 200 hours that she could use to study, perform community service, and take full advantage of the educational opportunities at her college, instead of using those 200 hours to work at a minimum wage job.

We may never know all the ways scholarships affect students. It is clear, however, that being awarded a scholarship matters greatly to students and has a positive effect on their lives.





# MHS Scholarship Program Steering Committee

The MHS Scholarship Program operates under the auspices of the Coos Bay School Board, who created a permanent committee to review applications for scholarships and to administer scholarship funds received by the School District. According to the organization's bylaws "The committee shall consist of not less than eight nor more than 25 members appointed by the School Board". While the entire Committee meets twice a year to review applications and select recipients, a smaller sub-committee works year-round to coordinate the bookkeeping and see that scholarship recipients fulfill the enrollment requirements and that appropriate payments are disbursed to the proper institutions. Then, they work to prepare the subsequent year's application and after the due date, collect and coordinate the duplication of completed applications, transcripts, and recommendations, for the consideration by the entire committee.

This steering-committee brings a cumulative total of over 150 years of experience in the field of education/administration and are proud to serve in their respective roles with the MHS Community and Memorial Scholarship Committee. (See our website for complete list of selection committee, [www.marshfieldalumni.org](http://www.marshfieldalumni.org).)



### JENNIFER BUNNELL\*\*

*(As a regular part of the Scholarship Newsletter, we try to feature a member of the MHS Staff. So, here, we will kill 2 birds and introduce MHS Staff member Jennifer Bunnell, who is also a member of the MHS Scholarship Steering Committee. She is the important liaison between*

*the MHS Staff and student body, and most importantly, the senior class as they consider their options as they relate to scholarships.)*

I graduated from MHS in 1985 and started working at Marshfield High School in 2003 and instantly became involved with the MHS Local Scholarship program. I am currently the College and Career Specialist, the MHS Scholarship Coordinator, the ASB/Leadership advisor and I also run the MHS Charity Program. I enjoy working with students in their journey to decide what they will be doing once they graduate from Marshfield High School. My favorite event of the year is the scholarship assembly when the recipients receive their awards. I am honored to be part of this committee and I hope to continue for many years to come.



### LES ENGLE

I attended Marshfield Jr High and graduated from Marshfield in 1962. After graduating from Oregon State in 1966, I returned to Coos Bay to a very rewarding 35-year career with the Coos Bay School District as a teacher, coach, counselor, Guidance Director and Director of Student Activities.

My role with the MHS Scholarship Program began in 1986 and continued as a volunteer after my retire-

ment in 2002, until present. I have been very fortunate to have had the support and mentorship of many dedicated teachers/coaches, administrators, and colleagues. My community has given much to me and I hope that I will be able to repay the debt of gratitude through my service.



### CAP SHARPLES

I worked at MHS from 1987-2004 as counselor and as counselor/Guidance Director. I also worked as an elementary/middle school teacher and a community college advisor. I have been involved in the scholarship program continuously since my first employment at MHS. Over

the years I have become increasingly aware of how important a post high school education is to young peoples' future professional and personal opportunities. The cost of education is an overwhelming barrier to obtaining an education for many students. Scholarships give such students hope that they can afford to pursue their education who, otherwise, would not think it possible. I thoroughly enjoy my work on the steering committee.



### KATE SHARPLES

I started my educational career working as an aide in Special Education at Marshfield Junior High and Marshfield High School. I earned an elementary teaching degree and then taught at Allegany, Coos River, Milner Crest, and Charleston Elementary Schools. I was laid off because

of budget shortfalls, but I was subsequently hired to teach in North Bend School District in the late 1980's and finished my teaching career in North Bend. I never lost my commitment to Coos Bay School District and when the position of MHS Scholarship Recipient Advocate was offered I jumped at the chance. My job is to make sure that award recipients complete the requirements to receive their scholarship awards. This involves a lot of phone calls, emails, texts, to ensure that deadlines are met every step of the way.



### GINA SUTHERLAND

I worked as a commercial geologist for a few years after college. I found I did not enjoy it as much as I had hoped and so I pursued a teaching credential at Portland State University. After substitute teaching for a couple of years, I was offered a position teaching eighth grade earth science with Coos Bay Public Schools.

I later taught ninth grade physical science at Marshfield High School. After twenty-five years in the classroom, I became an administrator and concluded my career as Assistant Principal at Marshfield. I joined the MHS Scholarship Committee fourteen years ago when I retired and very much enjoy helping Marshfield students take the next steps in their lives.

# Distinguished Alumni

## John A. Busterud — MHS Class of 1939

John’s family had deep roots in Oregon. His great grandfather John Kruse (1835-1896) was a master shipbuilder with A.M. Simpson Co. in North Bend. Both of his parents were very involved with several civic organizations in Coos Bay and the state level as well. Mr. Busterud was born on March 7, 1921, in Coos Bay, and after graduating from Marshfield High School in 1939, he went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon in 1943. He served in WW II as an Infantry officer with the U.S. Army’s 90th Infantry Division in the European Theater. During combat operations, his Battalion captured the vast German gold reserves and priceless art treasures deep in a salt mine in Merkers, Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge for his service and would eventually retire from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, Mr. Busterud graduated from Yale Law School and moved to San Francisco to start his legal career with the firm of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison. During his retirement Mr. Busterud authored “Below the Salt,” a historical account of the 90th Division in WW II and its discovery of the German gold reserves.



**John A. Busterud, 1921-2016  
MHS Class of 1939**

Mr. Busterud was a dedicated public servant. He served three terms as a California Assemblyman from 1956-1962, representing the 22nd District in San Francisco and eventually becoming Assembly Minority Leader. He was the last Republican Assemblyman to represent the famed Haight Ashbury community.



Following his tenure in the Legislature, Mr. Busterud returned to the practice of law with the San Francisco firm of Broad, Busterud and Khourie. During this time, he also served as President of the Commonwealth Club of California and President of the Committee to Save The Headlands. In this latter role, he was instrumental in the successful

- Student Body President 1938-39**
- Student Body VP 1937-38**
- Sophomore Class President 1936-37**
- Football 4 Years**
- Debate 3 Years**
- Extemporaneous Speaking,  
Coos Co. Champion 1938-39**

efforts to save the Marin Headlands and lay the groundwork for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

In 1971, President Nixon appointed Mr. Busterud to be the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environmental Quality. Subsequently, he served as a member and eventually Chairman of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality under President Ford. During his tenure at CEQ, he represented the United States as a delegate to the groundbreaking Law of the Sea Convention in Geneva, Switzerland. After his service in Washington, Mr. Busterud returned to California to found Resolve, an environmental mediation foundation.

Throughout an accomplished career of public service



**John A. Busterud with President Richard Nixon.**

spanning four decades, John Busterud was deeply committed to environmental protection at the state, national and international levels. As a legislator in Sacramento and appointed official in Washington, he was widely respected on both sides of the aisle as a man of wisdom, integrity, moderation, and good humor.

### COSTS OF EDUCATION

The following Costs of Education include tuition, fees, on campus room & board, books and supplies, personal expenses and 15 credits per term for one school year. These are the “sticker prices” and in some cases, these expenses can be lessened with institutional grants. However, there is no guarantee that students will receive such grants.

| College                               | Cost of Education |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Southwestern Oregon Community College | \$19,230**        |
| University of Oregon                  | \$30,312          |
| Oregon State University               | \$29,307          |
| Western Oregon University             | \$23,853          |
| Willamette University                 | \$72,092          |
| Pacific University                    | \$64,530          |
| Corban University                     | \$44,658          |

\*\*Many SWOCC students live at home so the cost can be significantly less.



*Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate!*

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