



# COMMUNITY AND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## Spotlight on Scholarship Recipients: Sienna and Ada Mahaffy

Sisters Sienna and Ada Mahaffy have ambitious plans for the future and MHS scholarships are helping them to achieve those goals. Sienna graduated from Marshfield High School in 2023 and received a Pranatis \$1,000 scholarship, the Messerle \$1,400 scholarship, the MHS Early Bird \$500 scholarship, the Coos River Alumni \$1,000 scholarship, and the Chamley 4-year scholarship of \$6,000 per year. Younger sister Ada is a 2025 Marshfield graduate and was awarded a Pranatis \$1,000 scholarship, the Messerle \$1,450 scholarship the Engle Memorial \$1,000 scholarship, and the Brunell \$6,600 scholarship. Sienna is majoring in animal science at Oklahoma State University and Ada is in her freshman year at the University of Idaho, majoring in food science.

Sienna plans to pursue a master's in food science after earning her bachelor's degree and then spend



**Sienna and Ada Mahaffy**

a few years working in the dairy industry before returning home to the Coos River farm. Ada hopes to study abroad for a term during college to learn more about European methods of cheese production. The sisters plan to take over their family's dairy farm and make and market artisanal cheeses and ice cream. Sienna and

Ada will be the fourth generation of Mahaffys to operate their Coos River dairy farm.

Both young women are grateful for their upbringing. "Growing up on a farm up the Coos River was the best possible childhood I could have imagined!" Sienna said. Ada agreed, saying, "I am so thankful that I grew up on a farm, out in the country, learning the meaning of hard work and commitment, helping on the dairy, driving equipment, feeding calves, and not being afraid to get

dirty."

Attending Marshfield High School also helped Ada and Sienna in a number of ways. Both girls credit the mentorship, instruction, and encouragement they received from Marshfield life-science teacher Chelsey Seedborg as a key factor in their high school experience. Both young women

*(continued on page 3)*

## MHS Scholarship Program Then & Now

### A Thirty-Year Glance

Thirty years ago, in 1995, just eight Marshfield High School seniors received a combined total of \$5,500 from five endowed scholarships.

In 2025, sixty-five members of the MHS Class of 2025 were awarded \$475,415 in scholarships at the Senior Awards Assembly in May. The MHS Community & Memorial Scholarship Program has continued to thrive thanks to the tremendous

generosity of alumni and community members. Their support has fueled remarkable growth in both the number of scholarships and the total funds available.

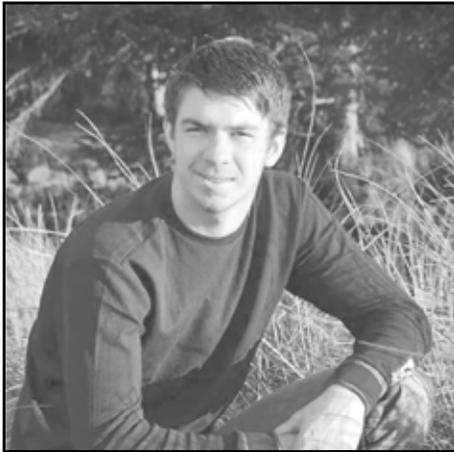
Today, the program includes 66 endowed scholarships with total endowments of \$9.73 million—a lasting testament to the commitment our community has made to helping students pursue education and training beyond high school.

### A Legacy of Community Generosity

The Scholarship Committee remains deeply grateful to the many donors, families, and organizations whose generosity sustains this remarkable program. Their vision ensures that future generations of Marshfield graduates will continue to have the opportunity to pursue their educational and career goals, building on a proud tradition of community support that spans nearly four decades.



## Scholarship Recipient Update: **Gannon Frost**



**Gannon Frost**

Gannon is a 2024 graduate of MHS. Upon graduation, Gannon was awarded

an MHS vocational technical scholarship in the amount of \$6,000 to attend Coast Trucking School in Coos Bay to earn his commercial driving license (CDL). In October of 2024, Gannon successfully completed his CDL training, which he thought was very professionally done. Gannon’s ultimate career goal is to work as a heavy equipment operator with a large construction firm. He viewed obtaining a CDL as giving him an edge in obtaining a job in the construction field through which he would eventually reach his career goal.

Gannon’s plan is a good one. He is currently working for Clean Rivers, a home site prep and excavation

contractor in the Bay Area. Gannon is one of three commercially licensed drivers at Clean Rivers. He drives a ten-yard dump truck and a hydro seeder truck. Gannon is also able to gain experience operating heavy equipment in addition to his other duties at the company.

Gannon is thankful for the scholarship that enabled him to jump start the progress toward his career goal without having to spend a lot of time working to save the money needed for his CDL schooling. Gannon has a bright future ahead of him.

Scholarships help develop the skilled workers needed in America.

## New Leader at the Helm of Coos Bay Schools: **Gary Roberts**

Gary Roberts was born in Portland but moved to Coos Bay during first grade. Gary was a high-spirited kid—he says he had lunch detention so often during sixth grade that teacher Mick Pickett laminated his detention slip. In eighth grade Gary was a teacher cadet for Peggy Smith, an experience he cites as a key reason for choosing a career in education. Another strong influence on Gary was his relationship with high school coaches Wayne Van Burger, Tony Jones and Scott Shannon.

After high school, Gary enrolled at Southern Oregon University but dropped out after two terms. Once back home, Gary’s former coaches urged him to take classes at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Gary followed their advice, taking two SWOCC classes in the spring of 1997 and three more classes that summer. After that, he took a full academic load every term.

Gary finished his bachelor’s degree in education at the University of Oregon in 2001. At the time, the job market for new social studies teachers was bleak, and Gary could not find a full-time teaching position. He returned once more to Coos Bay, working in short-term teaching posts for the next two years. In October

of 2003 Gary took a temporary job in Camas Valley, substituting for a teacher on his honeymoon. But the teacher didn’t return, and Gary finished the school year at Camas Valley, teaching six different subjects daily. Gary then worked at Sheldon High School and in the Fernridge Alternative Education Program before accepting a full-time position at Cottage Grove High School teaching social studies and coaching football.

Gary’s team won three league titles during his 11 years coaching football at Cottage Grove. He became the school’s athletic director in 2014 and, in 2016 was promoted to Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, a position he held until 2019.

Gary enjoyed what he was doing but wanted to give back to the community that raised him. He applied for and was offered the job as Dean of Students at Marshfield at the end of the 2019 school year. But, over the summer, the position of Principal of Millicoma Intermediate School opened up. The job was offered to Gary, who accepted it. Working with students in grades 3 – 6 was a new experience but, Gary says, it was great to “work with kids who got off the bus happy every day.”

Gary served as Millicoma’s Principal through the spring of 2025, dealing with



**Gary Roberts**

many challenges of Covid and assisted in making significant improvements to Millicoma’s educational programs and outcomes. This summer another unexpected career opportunity arose when the Coos Bay District Superintendency suddenly became vacant. Gary had been one of two finalists for the position the previous year and so was the perfect candidate to step into this new role as interim superintendent. We congratulate Gary as he assumes his new position and wish him the very best.



# MHS Scholarship Coordinator: Jennifer Bunnell

Jennifer Bunnell (Rossi), Class of 1985, began working at MHS in 2003 as the ASPIRE coordinator, a program that helps educate students to become career and college ready. In addition, Jennifer was the administrative assistant for the MHS Community and Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee which consists of community members and past and present MHS staff. She publicized and distributed scholarship applications and organized the annual Scholarship Award Assembly. In 2006, Jennifer took on the responsibilities of leading student government and student activities.

Jennifer continues with these duties and has added more. Her job title now is the College and Career Specialist and she is part of the Student Services Department. She helps students and parents with the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA), assists with AVID, a program to help students be successful in school, and helps students with college admission and scholarship applications. Jennifer enjoys the great variety in her job and the interactions she has with students and staff. However, her greatest passion is the scholarship program and the life-changing opportunities it can provide students.

Jennifer uses her commitment to scholarships to continually make improvements to the program. She was instrumental in bringing the application online. Because it is online, students can access the application through Google Classroom. Jennifer utilizes Google Classroom to monitor students' progress in completing the scholarship application since she can actually see each student's application in real time. Jennifer can help students improve their application before



Jennifer Bunnell

the applications deadline in addition to urging students to complete the form. Jennifer widely publicizes the MHS Scholarships through emails to students and parents, class meetings, senior advisory meetings, and through individual help sessions. Jennifer also works closely with the scholarship committee. She assists with establishing the scholarship application and selection calendar for the year in addition to offering her knowledge when ways to improve the program are suggested.

One area of Jennifer's work with the scholarship program that deserves particular attention is the Scholarship Award Assembly.

Jennifer uses Power Point to create a slide for each student receiving a scholarship(s). The slide has a picture of the student and a list of each scholarship received and its monetary value. The slide is projected on a large screen on the MHS Auditorium stage, and the student is on the stage while her/his awards are announced. Donors, parents, relatives, and the student body are in attendance. Donors can see the results of their contributions, students are recognized, and underclassmen see the rewards they can obtain if they put out the effort. The assembly is available on the [marshfieldscholarshipfund.org](http://marshfieldscholarshipfund.org) website so people can see view it after the assembly is over. This assembly takes a great deal of effort to organize. Jennifer skillfully makes it a heartwarming experience for all involved

Jennifer is an invaluable resource for students who hope to find a way to afford a post-high school education.

## ..... Recipients: Sienna and Ada Mahaffy

(continued from page 1)

also benefitted from taking dual credit classes at MHS, allowing each of them to graduate after completing a year's worth of college classes. Sienna said, "I am choosing to stay in school for four years instead of the three, thanks to the college credits I earned at SWOCC. Without scholarships I would not be able to afford the tuition for four whole years, and would have been forced to finish as quickly as possible. I am taking full advantage of the extra room in my schedule to add two minors and lots

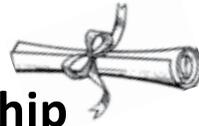
of electives that will help prepare me for grad school." Ada is also grateful for the assistance MHS scholarships have provided, saying, "Without scholarships, attending college would have been a struggle, but with the Marshfield scholarship program and our amazing community, my first year of college was almost completely covered, allowing me to keep my savings for later." Sienna and Ada are making the most of the opportunities Marshfield scholarships have provided.

### 2025 MHS SCHOLARSHIP FUND BY THE NUMBERS

- \$9.73M = Total Endowed Funds
- \$1.79M = V/T share of Total Endowments
- \$475,415 = Total 2025 Awards
- \$122,000 = V/T share of Total Awards
- 65 = Total Recipients
- 15 = Voc/Tech Recipients
- 4 = Multi-Yr Voc/Tech Awards
- 66 = Total Endowed Scholarships
- 5 = Multi-Yr (4yr) Scholarships
- 44 = Memorial Endowments
- 5 = Family Endowments (while living)
- 5 = MHS Class Endowments (Class of 1954, 56, 62, 63 & 66)



# Newly Endowed: John & Bonnie Dustin Scholarship



**John Dustin**

**July 03, 1937 - June 16, 2024**

For most of his life, John Dustin served the sport of wrestling.

With the incredible support of his wife Bonnie, John coached wrestling at MHS 1962-1970 and produced eight individual state champions. He also taught mathematics at MHS and was instrumental in the success of the Oregon Wrestling Cultural Exchange Program, giving valuable international wrestling experience to many Oregon high school wrestlers. In 2012 John was inducted into the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame and in 2013, he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

During his collegiate wrestling career at Oregon State University, he placed fourth at the NCAA wrestling tournament at 177 pounds in 1957 and 1958, becoming the first two-time All-American in program history. His 42-5 career record placed him eighth on Oregon State's all-time career winning percentage list.

Dustin was an assistant coach at Oregon State before coaching at Marshfield High School and in 1970, Dustin and his family left for a two-year assignment at the American School in Japan.

After returning to the United States Dustin continued a distinguished career of over five decades of service to the sport of wrestling, which included roles as a coach, national and international official, national and international sports administrator, and manager of the wrestling competitions at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and three Goodwill Games. He has worked with FILA, the international governing body for the sport of wrestling, the Amateur Athletic Union, USA Wrestling, and virtually every major wrestling organization around the world.

He refereed three FILA World Championships, including the 1966 World Championships in Toledo, Ohio; the 1969 Junior World Championships in Boulder, Colo.; and the 1971 Junior World Championships in Tokyo, Japan. He was also selected as team leader by USA Wrestling for the 1990 World Championships.

Dustin received nine major awards from FILA and additional awards from the Asian Wrestling Congress, and from the wrestling governing bodies of Taipei, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia. Included in those awards are two Diplomas of Honor and a very special award in 2002 for "extraordinary contributions to the sport of wrestling development all over the world," given by FILA president Milan Ercegan.

## Thank You Notes:

*Thank you for your belief in me and helping me reach my goal to become a civil engineer. This scholarship will help pay tuition at Oregon State. – SJ*

*I would like to thank you for this amazing scholarship. It will help me reach my post-high school goals and let me realize my dreams that I originally thought to be out of reach. – AT*

*I am incredibly honored and thankful to have received the memorial scholarship. As the first in my family to go to college, I hope to make you all proud. – RW*

*Thank you for your generous contribution that supports the Ray Gap Memorial Scholarship. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity this is giving me. It made my beauty school career a possibility. – JJ*

## COLLEGE COSTS

**2020-2021 TO  
2025-2026**



The following estimated annual costs include: tuition & fees; books & supplies; food & housing; personal expenses; and transportation. All estimates are based on full time enrollment at 15 credits per term. These costs do not include fees for specific programs. Some costs will only be estimated for dorms and others will be estimated for both dorms and off campus living. Just to demonstrate how rapidly costs have risen, costs from 2020-21 and 2025-26 have been included. Private institutions want it known that these listed prices are "sticker prices" that may be adjusted on an individual basis.

<b>Public 4-Year Colleges</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
University of Oregon	\$30,312	\$38,607
Oregon State University	\$29,307	\$36,753
Western Oregon University	\$24,636	\$28,560
Portland State University	\$27,663	\$32,259
<b>Private 4-Year Colleges</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
Willamette University	\$71,098	\$75,838
Linfield University	\$60,942	\$71,390
George Fox University	\$53,460	\$65,444
University of Portland	\$67,274	\$80,158
<b>Community College</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
Southwestern Oregon	\$18,285	\$22,221

# Scholarship Awards are more than just numbers

While the MHS Scholarship Program was still in its early years, some of the awards offered by community members were as small as \$100. In 1996, the MHS Scholarship Committee received a letter from a 1990 recipient that reminded us that a scholarship’s impact often extends far beyond its monetary value. Today, although very few awards are less than \$1,000, the Committee continues to believe that every scholarship is meaningful—regardless of the amount. The letter below beautifully captures that sentiment, expressing a value that can’t be measured by the numbers on a check:

“ June, 1996

To whom it may concern:

*I am writing in appreciation of the \$100 scholarship that I received in my senior year of high school, 1990. I wanted to thank the donor personally. This scholarship encouraged me to continue my education, whereas I may not have otherwise. I will graduate on June 15, 1996, with a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences with a History minor. I am pleased to inform you that I am choosing to continue my education further, through internships in my field, museum work. I will intern for 2 years, then I plan to attend the University of Oregon for my master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. My emphasis will be research and museum/archival studies.*

*I am also happy to inform you that, while I was less than a stellar student, at times, in high school, I have maintained honor roll status for 10 consecutive terms. Thank you for believing in me. My husband and I both appreciate it greatly!*

Sincerely,  
KE

*Note: Please feel free to share this information with the donor, since I do not know who it is and am unable to thank them myself. Thanks Again.* ”

## Do your givin’ while you’re livin’

A visitor from the East Coast once stopped by Marshfield High School to see where the legendary Steve Prefontaine grew up. After visiting our website, he said he was amazed by how strongly this small community supports its students through the MHS Scholarship Program.

Despite rising tuition and tough economic times, 65 members of the Class of 2025 received scholarships and are now continuing their education or training. That’s something our community can be proud of!

Your support helps ensure that the MHS tradition of opportunity and community pride continues for generations to come.

### Want to help keep it going?

- ◆ Make a one-time or annual **Pass-Thru Gift**
- ◆ Create an **Endowed Scholarship** (starting at \$25,000) in your family’s name or in honor of someone special. You can set the award criteria — or let the committee decide.
- ◆ Contribute to an **existing endowment** — see the list on our website.

### Other ways to Give or Plan a Legacy

- ◆ Cash Gifts
- ◆ Employer Matching Gifts
- ◆ Appreciated Securities
- ◆ Real Estate or Trust Fund Transfers
- ◆ Wills and Estate Gifts
- ◆ Retirement Accounts
- ◆ Life Insurance

For more information visit the: **Oregon Community Foundation: Ways to Give »**  
Oregon Community Foundation

### MHS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?



**53** = In state  
**5** = SWOCC  
**12** = Out of state  
**16** = Less than 4yr. Degree

#### AREAS OF STUDY:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Animal Science         | • Gaming                      |
| • Architecture           | • Health Sciences             |
| • Atmospheric Science    | • Heavy Equipment             |
| • Associate of Science   | • Lineman                     |
| • Automotive Technician  | • Marine Science              |
| • Creative Writing       | • Mechanical                  |
| • Culinary/Baking (2)    | • Engineering                 |
| • Gen Education          | • Mortuary Science            |
| • Biology                | • Nursing (6)                 |
| • Biology/Animal Science | • Nutritionist                |
| • Business (8)           | • Operating Engineer          |
| • CDL (2)                | • Paramedic                   |
| • Cosmetology (2)        | • Physical Therapy            |
| • Creative Writing       | • Political Science           |
| • Criminal Justice       | • Psychology (5)              |
| • Criminology (2)        | • Public Health               |
| • Education (6)          | • Radiology                   |
| • English                | • Social Work                 |
| • Equine Science         | • Sonography (2)              |
| • Fabricator             | • Tattoo Artist               |
| • Cinema Studies         | • Welding/<br>Heavy Machinery |
| • Food Science           | • Wilderness Conservation     |
| • Forest Operations (2)  | • Zoology                     |
| • Forestry               |                               |

### PLEASE VISIT THE MHS SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE

Want to see a list of all the endowed and pass-thru **MHS Scholarships** and even read the bio’s of the endowed scholarship’s namesake?

Or how about the video of the MHS Class Of 2025 Scholarship Slideshow? Or the gallery of photos of 2025 recipients receiving their awards?

Ok... so maybe you’d like to browse through the eighteen previous editions of the **MHS Scholarship Newsletter?**

If you’re into numbers, check out the self-guided slideshow **Funding Sources and Understanding the Basics** of how the program is sustained.



**SCAN QR CODE** with your smart phone to be taken directly to the: **MHS Scholarship Website**

OR VISIT US AT:  
[www.marshfieldscholarshipfund.org](http://www.marshfieldscholarshipfund.org)



*Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate!*

**Marshfield High School  
Community & Memorial  
Scholarship Fund**

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Coos Bay, OR 97420

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2025 ■ VOLUME 20

*CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE*



**MHS COMMUNITY  
AND MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Contact information:**

**Les Engle**

PH 541-297-4242

Email: lesengle@charter.net

— or —

**Cap Sharples**

PH 541-404-7829

Email: csharples@charter.net

[www.marshfieldscholarshipfund.org](http://www.marshfieldscholarshipfund.org)

*(Please complete and return this form)*

*Make your contribution to the future...*

Enclosed is my contribution.

I would like a committee member to contact me.

Please check donation amount:

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000

Other \_\_\_\_\_ (endowment: \$25,000 or greater)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

***CHECKS payable to: MHS Community and Memorial Scholarship Fund***

***MAIL to: PO Box 1541***

***Coos Bay, OR 97420***

