



Twin Cities Dunkers Fund 2024

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

These powerful words by Maya Angelou, an acclaimed American poet, storyteller, and autobiographer are often quoted, and the last of the three statements above has often been captured in the grant requests submitted by the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Athletic Directors. The AD's have emphasized how their student-athletes feel more valued and feel more capable of quality athletic experiences and performances when they have new equipment, uniforms, and supplies, which they ordinarily would not have. They truly feel the impact of our investment.

Each year since 2011, we Dunkers have made a conscious decision to invest in the lives of thousands of student-athletes and their school communities. We have followed the advice shared by the best selling author, Kobi Yamada: "Go out and find where people hold their potential and meet them there."

People reach their full potential more readily when others believe in them. Our ongoing commitment is to maximize the opportunities for student-athletes to achieve, succeed, and excel in athletics, academics, leadership, and life.

Our commitment is echoed by Point of Grace in the words of their song, "How You Live - Turn Up the Music": "It's not who you knew, and it's not what you did; it's how you live."

So, Dunkers, let's turn up the music and turn it up loud!

Let's live our commitment and generously invest in the potential and the lives of the student-athletes and their school communities!



Edison/Heritage Academy

Thank you so much for your generous donations in last year's Dunkers grant. The Edison Athletic Department truly appreciates your contributions. They play an integral part in the success of our athletic programs.

This grant request is specific to the sports of boys and girls soccer, cheerleading, boys and girls volleyball, baseball and softball.

- Boys and Girls Soccer:** Our soccer programs are thriving, with both teams poised for a successful season. Despite our ongoing fundraising efforts, we face challenges in a community and student body with limited resources. We seek assistance to acquire soccer balls and ball bags, practice vests, new game nets, flat training goals, and corner flags. Acquiring new soccer balls is crucial to facilitating productive games and practices, ensuring that our teams have the proper equipment for success. Corner flags will be used to mark off the practice field to simulate the game area when practicing at alternative locations. The practice vests enable productive practices when players are easily distinguished during competitions.

- Cheerleading:** Excitingly, the Edison Athletic Department is introducing cheerleading next year. As this sport lacks current revenue, we are unable to provide essential items like quality uniforms and team bags. The cheerleading equipment requested is essential for presenting our ladies as a cohesive team, representing Edison with confidence and pride. These items, including game uniforms and team bags, are fundamental to creating a unified and professional appearance.

- Boys and Girls Volleyball:** Volleyball equipment for both teams is necessary to enhance their training and competitive experience. Quality nets and volleyballs contribute to skill development, safety, and overall team performance. Additionally, having the necessary volleyballs and nets is foundational for the inaugural season of competition.

- Baseball and Softball:** Hats/visors for our baseball and softball teams are an ongoing need. These items must be replaced yearly due to the nature of their use. They also ensure that our teams are uniformed as a cohesive unit.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STUDENTS: (Soccer) The impact of this equipment extends beyond our immediate teams, with 75-100 Edison student-athletes benefiting directly, along with an additional 100+ park and rec youth who will utilize it for skill development. This equipment is a catalyst for fostering a positive team environment, enabling our players to learn and practice proper goalie defending techniques. **(Cheerleading and Boys Volleyball)** The requested cheerleading and boys volleyball equipment will serve over 50 Edison student-athletes. As we progress through the year and the sport, these items will continue to benefit future Edison cheerleaders and boys volleyball players.

Student Population: The student population comes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, reflecting a mix of income levels within the community. Edison's student ethnic makeup includes: 49% African American, 15% Hispanic American, 25% White American, 4% Asian American, 4% Native American, and 3% two or more races. 75.6% of the student body qualifies for Free and Reduced Lunch programs, indicating the economic diversity within our school community. The Edison athletic teams represent the diversity of the school body.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Cheerleading Uniforms	20	\$100	\$2,000
Cheerleading Team Bags	20	\$30	\$600
Volleyball Net	2	\$400	\$800
Volleyballs	10	\$65	\$650
Baseball Hats/Softball Visors	60	\$10	\$600
Soccer Balls	48	\$30	\$1,440
Soccer Ball Bags	2	\$20	\$40
Practice Vests	40	\$30	\$1,200
Game Nets	2	\$600	\$1,200
Flat Training Goals	2	\$670	\$1,340
Corner Flags	4	\$50	\$200
Total			\$10,070

**Henry/FAIR
Camden/FAIR (effective July 1, 2024)**



Thank you so much for all of the generous donations for last year’s Dunkers grant. The Henry Athletic Department deeply appreciates your past contributions. The funding you provide has played an integral part in the success of our athletic programs.

This year our needs have increased significantly! Henry High School is rebranding the school’s name to Camden High School in July 2024; therefore, the Athletic Department will need to purchase new uniforms for all of the fall, winter, and spring sports teams listed in the following description and the spreadsheet below.

- **Boys and Girls Track and Field, Soccer, Tennis, and Wrestling:** Our programs are thriving, with both teams poised for a successful season. Despite our ongoing fundraising efforts, we face challenges in a community and student body with limited resources. We seek help acquiring new uniforms for each sports athletic season.
- **Boys and Girls Volleyball:** Both volleyball teams need new game uniforms. They are necessary to enhance their training and competitive experience.
- **Baseball and Softball:** Hats/visors/ uniforms for our baseball and softball teams are an ongoing need. These items must be replaced yearly due to the nature of their use. They also ensure that our teams are uniformed as a cohesive unit.
- **Boys and Girls Basketball:** Our basketball programs have had remarkable success in the past, and the Henry Athletic Department would like to use this grant to provide our student-athletes with new uniforms for the 2024-25 season.
- **Football:** Our football program is coming off one of the best starts of the seasons in 40 years of the program. The team finished the 2022 season with a record of 6-3 with multiple student-athletes receiving all-district honors. The 2023 season was no different as the team did a wonderful job representing Henry athletics both on and off the field. The team finished with a record of 7-2 and a five-game winning streak from September 22 to October 18. The football program is in need of new uniforms for fall of 2024.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STUDENTS (All Sports): The impact of these uniforms will extend beyond our current and upcoming athletic seasons. Each team will be able to use the uniforms for five athletic years with 75-100 Henry student-athletes benefiting directly from this grant.

Student Population: The student population comes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, reflecting a mix of income levels within the community. Henry’s student ethnic makeup includes a total of 422 African American, 131 Hispanic American, 70 White American, 206 Asian American/Pacific Islander, 27 Native American, and 38 two or more races. 70 percent of the student body qualifies for Free and Reduced Lunch programs, indicating economic diversity within the school community. The Henry athletic teams represent the diversity of the school body.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Football - Uniforms	48	\$109	\$5,232
Soccer - Boys and Girls Uniforms	36	\$78	\$2,808
Volleyball - Boys and Girls Uniforms	36	\$148	\$5,328
Tennis - Boys and Girls Uniforms	18	\$155	\$2,790
Basketball - Boys Uniforms	24	\$105	\$2,520
Basketball - Girls Uniforms	24	\$105	\$2,520
Wrestling - Uniforms	24	\$58	\$1,392
Track & Field - Uniforms	36	\$138	\$4,968
Baseball/Softball - Uniforms	36	\$175	\$6,302
Total			\$33,860

North



Our North High School Athletic Department finally received newly renovated storage space. Therefore, we are operating in a little bit of madness going through our athletic supplies and reorganizing them. As we complete our inventory and reorganization, we realize that we need to restock specific sports equipment for both our male and female student-athletes.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON PROGRAM:

A Dunkers grant will have a huge impact on an educational institution like North High School, not only for next year but for years to come. We never turn away students because they don't have the personal funds to cover the activity fees associated with their sport(s) of choice.

In addition, we typically would also use activity fees to help purchase needed supplies and equipment. However, because 68% of our students receive educational benefits such as Free and Reduced Lunch, those fees are not available for athletic purchases; and we need to seek additional avenues of support.

Without a Dunkers grant, we would have to make very difficult and negative decisions on how to move our program forward. Your generous support enables us to purchase items we would not have available for our athletic program and student-athletes. Thank you for everything the Dunkers have done and for your continuing support.

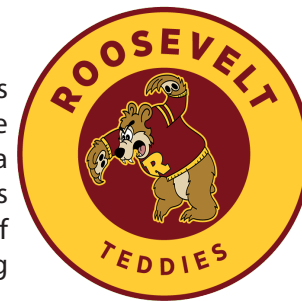
ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STUDENTS, INCLUDING #:

North High School has a diverse student body of approximately 450 students including the following: 2% Native American; 2% Asian American; 5% Hispanic American; 7% White American, and 84% African American.

There are 130 student-athletes involved in fall season sports, 70 in the winter, and 30 in the spring.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Baden Volleyballs	20	\$76	\$1,530
Spalding Legacy Women's Basketballs	20	\$72	\$1,440
Wilson GST Prime Game Balls	5	\$118	\$590
Spalding Legacy Men's Basketballs	20	\$72	\$1,440
Spalding Alpha Footballs	5	\$100	\$500
Schutt F7 Football Helmets	10	\$450	\$4,500
Wilson US Open Tennis Balls	48	\$8	\$384
MacGregor Badminton Shuttlecocks	2	\$17	\$34
Total			\$10,417

Roosevelt/Wellstone International



This grant request focuses on the needs of several of our most popular and growing sports at Roosevelt, which are soccer, track, football and our rejuvenated cheer program. With the immense growth in participation in our track and field program at Roosevelt, we have a desperate need for more uniforms. While MPS does supply uniform replacement funding, this happens on a rotational basis and with limited funding, so we were able to purchase a total of 50 uniforms with that order, but we now have more than 100 student-athletes participating in track.

With this request, we are also ensuring that we stay on the front end of large purchases such as football helmets. A season past, we had to come up with nearly \$10K out of our own budget because our helmets that were getting "refurbished" (made safe for play) were stuck at a FedEx loading dock leaving our football program short of 20 safe helmets at the start of the season. We want to have funds secured to have this process more in our control so a similar drastic situation never happens again. Our cheer program now has a coach with Division I cheer experience and she is conveying that energy and expectation to our cheer program at Roosevelt. Our cheer program has not been 'supervised' by MPS AD's for more than a decade; and, with that changing, we want to ensure that our cheer teams look unified and organized.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON PROGRAM:

The commitment and dedication shown to our student-athletes by the Dunkers Fund have had an unprecedented positive impact on not only our entire Athletic Department, but also on our school culture and our community bonding. Having new, clean gear and equipment to use is very motivating to student-athletes and their families and has undoubtedly assisted us in promoting and advertising our programs while building our participation numbers. Furthermore, our relationship with the Dunkers Fund reassures our families, who don't have the means or resources to purchase the necessary equipment or uniforms to participate in a given sport, that they will be taken care of and their student-athletes will have a same/similar experience as all Teddy Nation student-athletes.

Your contributions have enabled us to engage with our local community and foster a sense of pride and unity. We have positively impacted the lives of those around us, demonstrating the power of athletics to bring people together and make a meaningful difference. We are deeply grateful for your partnership, and we look forward to continuing this journey together as we work to inspire, empower, and elevate the lives of our student-athletes.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STUDENTS INCLUDING #:

Data below demonstrates the increase in participation in athletics at Roosevelt during the last several years:

Total Participation Numbers:

2020-21: 398 total student-athletes

2021-22: 630 total student-athletes

2022-23: 743 total student-athletes

2023-24: 791 total student-athletes

Per the above data, Roosevelt has nearly DOUBLED the number of student-athletes participating in athletics in just a three-year span. Without the support of the Dunkers Fund, we would not be able to support our growth and provide our student-athletes with the same/similar opportunities and experiences that our suburban and rural peers attain on a regular basis. A simple concept such as, "Every student-athlete should be able to wear a NEW uniform in every sport in which they participate sometime during their HS career," would not be even close to being possible for Roosevelt athletes without the support from Dunkers.

Track and Field:

In the spring of 2021, we had a total of 22 student-athletes signed up for track and field. To date for spring 2024, we have 92 student-athletes signed up. This dramatic increase in participation numbers has put us in a desperate situation to attain additional uniforms.

Football:

In the fall of 2021, we had a total of 39 student-athletes registered for football. Fall of 2023 showed a growth of participation which put us at a total of 61 registered student-athletes. We want to do what we can to ensure that this

number continues to grow and that we will be able to offer all of our football players a 5 star rated helmet (per the nationally recognized Virginia Tech Helmet Rating Scale). In this way, we can foster additional confidence, which will, hopefully, encourage student-athletes to participate.

Soccer:

This is one of our largest growing programs with 89 student-athletes registered in the fall of 2021, and 123 student-athletes playing soccer this past fall in 2023. We are in need of just keeping up with supplies that get worn out. Socks are needed annually and new nets for our game field need replacing every other season.

Cheer:

With nearly 20 student-athletes registered for cheer this year, we need to support this program by providing updated uniforms, which are properly fitted to each individual student-athlete. This substantial growth represents the cultural development within our school and community and an increased interest in supporting our athletic teams and athletes.

School Enrollment: Total enrollment for 2023-24 is 1,048 with an expectation of 1,250 for 2024-25.

School Demographics: Native American: 3%
African American: 29%
Asian American: 3%
Hispanic American: 27%
White American: 37%

Free & Reduced Lunch: 53%

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Football Helmets	10	\$327	\$3,271
Soccer Socks per dozen	30	\$53	\$1,580
Soccer Nets	2	\$108	\$216
Track & Field Uniforms	50	\$95	\$4,750
Cheer Uniforms	10	\$100	\$1,000
Total			\$10,817



South

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON PROGRAM:

Dunker's dedication to our cause has enabled us to make significant strides in many of our student-athletes' goals and aspirations. Thanks to your contributions, we have fulfilled many of the needs that our student-athletes have in order to improve performance and instill a sense of pride and unity in our school and community. Your belief in our mission has empowered us to reach new heights and achieve these goals. We are truly blessed for your continued support!

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STUDENTS, INCLUDING #:

Even with our changing enrollment numbers and diverse community, athletics is still a bond that we can use to tie us together. This grant will support many of our athletic programs and student-athletes.

Volleyball and boys and girls basketball will utilize a new score table for our scrimmages and games. We are in desperate need of a new and larger score table.

The Hudl subscription is a tool that all of our student-athletes can use to send game film, study performance, and use for recruiting purposes.

Due to our increasing number of both boys and girls tennis players, those teams are always in need of new tennis balls. The cost of tennis balls continues to increase at an amazing rate and now has become an annual equipment expense.

Last year, South had more than 520 students participate in athletics. Once again, we thank you for your invaluable support. Together, we are transforming lives and building a brighter future for South student-athletes!

South High School Population:

School Demographics:

- Native American: 10%
- African American: 36%
- Asian American: 3%
- Hispanic American: 17%
- White American: 34%

Free/Reduced Lunch: 53%

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Score Table - Gym	1	\$5,125	\$5,125
Hudl Subscription (Total Cost is \$8,700)	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
Tennis Balls	144	\$8	\$1,150
Total			\$11,275

Southwest



Hudl cameras, and the game film they provide, help our athletes and coaches improve their planning, improvement and recruiting. Most schools now use the Hudl service to review and exchange games that are played. Coaches also use it for statistics and to breakdown film with their teams. Hudl is also the number one tool right now that our student-athletes use to help get recruited in college and receive potential college scholarships. Hudl is used by both girls and boys teams throughout our program.

We have had to buy golf ball buckets at our public golf courses for our 50 boys and girls golfers to practice. The annual cost is \$4000 to \$5000. We are asking for a grant to help pay for those expenses for our golfers.

Our gym chairs right now are mismatched, and some are bent and missing backs. We are hoping to get two new chairs so they will match and not be in disrepair. They are used by girls volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, badminton and will be used next year by boys volleyball.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON PROGRAM:

Thank you so much for all your years of supporting Minneapolis Public Schools and especially Southwest. Your generous support has helped in so many ways to give opportunity to our student-athletes. Our facilities at Southwest are considerably less than all of the Region 6AA schools we compete against. Last year we had 780 of our 1300 students participate in at least one sport at Southwest, which is the highest percentage in the Minneapolis School District. We did open up new opportunities for our female athletes this year (50-year anniversary of the Title IX) by adding competitive cheer and a dance team, which is great, but it put even more strain on our budget because there is no district support for those activities.

We spend money to rent out softball and baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis, and gymnastics facilities. Therefore, we have less funding for essential equipment, uniforms, and coaches for our student-athletes.

At Southwest, we have the most teams of any Minneapolis High School: 27 teams in the fall, 24 in the winter and 17 in the Spring (including district co-op teams). With those teams we also have the most coaches, many of whom are not paid by district funding. We also need the most uniforms, many of which are also paid by Southwest, not the district.

We keep our athletic fees for playing a sport at half of what surrounding communities charge in order to help increase participation. While this helps with participation, it is a burden in generating the needed funds. We have 35 percent of our students on Free and Reduced Lunch; and while this is less than other MPS Schools, it still has a major impact on who can fully pay their fees. We are fortunate in many ways to have what we have, and we do the best we can with limited funding.

As you all know, athletics has been proven to help our young people stay in school, get better grades, and have a higher graduation rate. Your support of our athletic programs helps our facilities and equipment needs which, in turn, helps our student-athletes feel good about where they play and to know that they are an important part of our Southwest and Minneapolis communities.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS, INCLUDING #:

Hudl services will impact approximately 85 football players, 88 girls soccer players, 90 boys soccer players, 78 girls volleyball players, 43 girls basketball players and 65 boys basketball players for a total of around 450 of our Southwest student-athletes. The golf balls will impact about 51 girls and boys golfers. The logo chairs will provide seating for all volleyball, boys and girls basketball and badminton players. (Approximately 200 athletes).

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Hudl Camera Service - Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and Boys and Girls Track	1	\$8,900	\$8,900
Boys and Girls Golf - Ball Buckets for Range	300	\$8	\$2,400
Logo Gym Chairs for Girls Volleyball and Boys & Girls Basketball	2	\$275	\$550
Total			\$11,850



Washburn

Dunkers' commitment and dedication to our student-athletes and the advancement of our athletic programs have made an incredible impact on our Washburn school community. By providing equipment, uniforms, supplies, and other resources, you have opened doors of opportunity for those who may not have had the means to pursue a quality athletic experience and compete at the high school level.

Your contributions have enabled us to engage with our local community and foster a sense of pride and unity. We have positively impacted the lives of those around us, demonstrating the power of athletics to bring people together and make a meaningful difference.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership, and we look forward to continuing this journey together as we work to inspire, empower, and elevate the lives of our student-athletes.

Our athletic programs have continued to grow over the past three years by 10% each year. Our off-season Athletic Leadership Academy and the strength and conditioning programs have also grown. Washburn High School has 1,690 students. Our Athletic Leadership Academy is a 6-week, 5 hours per day, 4 days per week program designed to cultivate leaders and problem solvers. Last summer, we were able to hire a certified strength and conditioning coach whose program is so transformational that our student-athletes love working out at 6:00 am.

Washburn High School has 1,690 students. We currently have nine teams; and, during each competitive season, we have more than 150 student-athletes participating daily in the following sports: Swimming 25, Basketball 30, Baseball 30, Football 40, Track and Field 25, Cross Country 20, Tennis 15, Soccer 40, Golf 40.

Washburn's student demographic breakdown is 56% White American, 25% Latino Hispanic American, 20% Black African American, 4% Asian American and 1% Native American. 35% of our students participate in Free and Reduced Lunch.

The Athletic Department is planning to purchase 20 medicine balls, two full sets of plyo boxes, 10 sets of sprint hurdles, 10 abdominal wheels, and 5 TRX bands for training purposes.

Washburn High School has 29 sports teams and 781 unduplicated student athletes. All of our athletes will use this equipment all year long. With the amount of use this equipment will get, we will be in a wonderful place for the foreseeable future.

We have doubled the number of golfers in both of our golf programs. We now have 40 golfers in total, so we need to purchase practice golf balls, chipping nets, chipping mats and 12 more golf bags, six for the girls and six for the boys.

Description of Items	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Medicine Balls (5 ea of 4 lb, 8 lb, 12 lb, 25 lb)	20	\$121	\$2,424
Plyo Boxes	2	\$800	\$1,600
Sprint Hurdles	10	\$186	\$1,860
Abb Wheels	10	\$23	\$230
TRX Bands for Training Purposes	5	\$279	\$1,395
Golf Bags for Girls/Boys - 6 for each	12	\$225	\$2,700
Golf Chipping Mats	5	\$50	\$250
Golf Chipping Nets	5	\$40	\$200
Practice Golf Balls (Foam)	5	\$45	\$225
Total			\$10,884

Central



St. Paul Central High School is the oldest active high school in the state of Minnesota. Central has the second largest enrollment of the seven St. Paul High Schools (1,866). We offer most MSHSL sponsored activities either directly through Central or as a cooperative through St. Paul Public Schools. We have a total of about 1300 student-athletes participating in athletics this year, which is about 70% of our school population; however, many of these athletes play multiple sports. My goal is to increase that number, especially for our students of color and low income families.

Our athletic budget comes from participation fees and ticket sales, which isn't enough to cover all sports equipment, uniforms, sport specific fees, and facility updates. Over the years, the Dunkers and individual donors have helped us to purchase items for all our athletic programs so that all our athletes can be successful in the athletic activities in which they participate. Thank you for your continued support of all the athletic programs in St. Paul Public Schools and, specifically, at St. Paul Central High School.

Last year, my goal was to provide all varsity teams with new uniforms, which we were able to do with your help. The captains from each of my varsity programs were able to design their new uniforms for their respective sports. Allowing for student choice and voice has helped me build amazing relationships and athletic community at Central. Once the uniforms arrived, the excitement of our student athletes, fans, parents/guardians and community was overwhelming. All our teams look amazing, have more confidence, and are extremely grateful that we were able to transition all our programs into new uniforms with your support.

The student-athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, administration, community, and I truly appreciate your generosity and the support we receive from the Dunkers and individual donors.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Warm Ups for All Athletic Teams - Dunkers Support to Augment Central's Investment	100	\$200	\$5,000
National Women and Sports Day Funding - (Field Trip Transportation, Luncheon, and Speakers)			\$750
Golf Tees	4	\$9	\$36
Putting Trainer	2	\$98	\$196
Chipping Trainer	2	\$54	\$108
Golf Balls	15	\$25	\$375
Goals with Nets	2	\$513	\$1,026
Shuttlecocks	25	\$20	\$500
Pitching Mounds and Mats	4	\$219	\$876
Bats	4	\$349	\$1,396
Total			\$10,262



Como Park

Our district recently performed a deep dive of our budget for all activities. The data was not a surprise as we are in the red again for the larger costs of athletics: transportation, coaching, event workers, and officials. This leaves the individual schools to continue to support their own athletic programs with the athletic fees and gate that we charge for contests. We are in a tough situation where total fees collected do not meet the needs of the sports. There are so many ambitious teams that are fundraising diligently to subsidize what the Athletic Department cannot fulfill each season.

For this upcoming school year, we are looking to form a cooperative with Washington Tech in football. Football participation numbers have seen declines over the years, and this co-op will provide more opportunities for students to be involved in football at Como Park. Washington Technology has never had a football team in their history, so this will be a new adventure for both schools. We are looking to purchase fifteen new helmets with the anticipation of adding more student-athletes from Washington.

We have implemented a summer strength and conditioning program, but we will need financial support to purchase some free weights. It has been six years since I took over as the athletic director and the last time we replaced the old dumbbells was in 2018. Most of the older dumbbells now have holes in them and are rusted. We know that larger gains can be made if we invest in the weight room.

St. Paul is very excited about the addition of boys volleyball to the Minnesota State High School League. It will officially be sanctioned in 2025. For the last four years, Como Park has fielded three full teams as a club. They have funded their own league fee, uniforms, and club insurance by working at the state fair, concessions, and grocery bagging at Cub Foods. With that being said, boys volleyball will need support in purchasing the basic equipment to get them started on the right foot. We have been sharing the balls and carts with girls volleyball, but it is time to get them their own equipment. This year, we are requesting the purchase of two new volleyball carts.

Our badminton team has requested very little from the Athletic Department. With the increase in participation, we find ourselves with a deficiency in rackets and strings. We were able to buy some used rackets from Play It Again Sports. However, many of the rackets had broken or very old strings. To restring the rackets, we used the tennis stringing machine with some clever adaptation on the clamps. The girls have been busy fundraising for a new stringer. They have raised more than half of the cost of a new stringer. To complete this purchase, they will need an additional \$1300.

One of the growing sports in Saint Paul is, surprisingly, wrestling. Although it is one of the toughest sports to partake in, one of the primary reasons for the increase in participation may be its affordability. We have a large immigrant population that is heavily involved in wrestling at Como Park and across Saint Paul. I love the hard lessons it teaches our kids: work ethic, discipline, and sacrifice. One of the sharp increases in participation has been girls participation. Over the last couple of years, we have seen numbers increase from three to nearly double digits. This year, we spent a good portion of our wrestling budget on shoes and headgear. We have been holding off on the most expensive item, a new wrestling mat. Our wrestling team has been hosting the Old Man Wrestling Tournament to fundraise for a new mat the last couple of years. They have raised more than \$5,500 towards this purchase. We are close, but we could use some additional support for the remaining portion.

The impact will be huge, like every year. One of the mantras of our Athletic Department is "Earn what you get". We ask that all athletes contribute to the fundraising effort so they have "skin in the game". There is a sense of pride in providing for your own needs. Everyone of our requests this year involves an effort to earn it, and the impact of this life lesson is more profound when the student-athlete is directly involved. This new generation needs to learn the difference between needs and wants. Their own sweat equity will make a larger impact than just receiving a check.

The weight room request will impact all students at Como. We have a student body of more than a thousand students who will have access to the new equipment in the weight room. All athletic teams, during their respective seasons, also utilize the weight room.

Football will need fifteen new helmets to stay on par with the safety standards of the sport. We typically will have forty-five plus players in the program. With the new co-op, we hope to exceed sixty players and expand to a third level team.

With our demographics, volleyball is extremely popular and should be fielding three teams this year involving more than fifty players.

This spring, badminton has already started, and we have forty-five players registered. The numbers will only increase with the popularity of racket sports in this community. The upperclassmen are teaching the younger players to string, so the purchase of a stringer will leave a lasting impact on the current and future teams.

The wrestling mat will have a huge impact for Como Park as they host many tournaments throughout their season including the Twin Cities Tournament, which involves all of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis wrestling teams. It is a very exciting format with each conference determining their own champions in each weight class and then culminating in a dual meet between the champions of both respective city conferences. This tournament is held at the beginning of February each year. We would love to see you at this exciting event!

As an AD, I am very grateful for the continuous generosity of the Dunkers organization. We appreciate all that this organization has provided and will work collectively to improve the experiences of our student-athletes. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Football - New Helmets	15	\$280	\$4,200
Dumbbell Set (Weight Room)	1	\$850	\$850
Boys Volleyball - Volleyball Carts	2	\$129	\$258
Badminton - Stringer (Fundraised \$1,400)	1	\$2,700	\$1,300
Wrestling - Mat (Fundraised \$5,500)	1	\$9,952	\$4,452
Total			\$11,060

Harding

We are so appreciative for the opportunity to apply for this grant. The funds help us to support athletic programming for the approximately 450 (~ 89% F/R Lunch) student-athletes here at Harding High School. The equipment and supplies, which this grant helps to provide, enables us to increase the safety of the sports that we offer, as well as increase the engagement in athletics for the approximately 1600 (~79% F/R Lunch) students at Harding.



Harding has the unique opportunity to offer sports programming to a wonderfully diverse group of students. This opportunity allows us to promote teamwork and unity with Twin Cities youth on a level that is rarely found elsewhere. These funds help us continue to enhance that ability to have a positive impact on young people through athletics.

While our school enrollment decreased by almost 14% from last school year, our athletic registrations are nearly the same in number as last year. This shows the unique engagement that athletics provides, and it also highlights the importance of Dunkers' support of our athletics department. As our teams grow, so do our needs.

Our girls wrestling numbers continued to increase! We had nine female wrestlers compete this season compared to six last year. They really appreciated the women's-cut singlets and wore them with pride on our new mat – YES! We were able to purchase a new mat for meets this year!

We continue our work in revitalizing our boys and girls golf teams as well as our boys and girls swim team. Both groups enjoyed the benefit of new uniforms due to the generosity of the Dunkers. Our track team has seen a big boost, especially in girls' participation. Harding is also the host of many of the conference meets. As such we are looking to replace some aging starting blocks and field equipment. Boys volleyball is going strong, and we plan to field three total teams this year. They are very excited for next year as it will become a fully sanctioned MSHSL sport. We are looking to bolster our equipment that is available to both our boys and girls volleyball teams this year as well.

As we enter our spring season, many of our outdoor activities are planning off-site practices where they can find indoor space. The cost of these practice sessions can present unplanned hits to our budget. Your support is crucial in helping us secure this practice space for our athletes.

We are continuing the work on freshening up our main gym, which is used by so many of our teams. We are in desperate need of a new sound system in our gym, and I have been working on building the nearly \$30K budget that will be needed for this upgrade. Any support in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

We are so thankful for past grant awards, and we look forward to putting this year's grant to good use.

Thank you!

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Girls Soccer - Select Numero 6 Size 5 Soccer Balls	6	\$60	\$360
Boys Soccer - Select Numero 6 Size 5 Soccer Balls	6	\$60	\$360
Wrestling - Headgear	4	\$50	\$200
Girls Wrestling - Warm Up Tops	15	\$15	\$225
Girls Wrestling - Warm Up Bottoms	15	\$15	\$225
Boys and Girls Swimming - Lane Line Replacement	1	\$450	\$450
Girls Golf - Bags with Stands	6	\$100	\$600
Boys Golf - Bags with Stands	6	\$100	\$600
Boys Volleyball - Molten Super Touch NCAA Volleyballs	6	\$68	\$408
Girls Volleyball - Molten Super Touch NCAA Volleyballs	6	\$68	\$408
Volleyball - Net	1	\$540	\$540
Tennis - Court Fees for Indoor Tennis Practice (~\$25/hr)	20	\$25	\$500
Track - PortaPit Premier Starting Blocks	3	\$170	\$510
Track - Boys Team Kit - Discus/Shot	1	\$410	\$410
Track - Girls Team Kit - Discus/Shot	1	\$410	\$410
Track - PortaPit Implement Cart	1	\$590	\$590
Gym Sound System Fund - (Total ~\$28,000)	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
Football - Mouthguards	200	\$1	\$164
Football - Knee Pads	40	\$12	\$480
Football - Sport Star X-1 GX-4 Gel Chinstrap	30	\$25	\$750
Total			\$11,189



Highland Park

The Highland Park girls badminton team started their season on March 4 with new racquets and a season-long supply of shuttlecocks. The wrestling team will be performing on a new beautiful mat. The tennis team has new nets and competition balls for the season. The softball team will be wearing new uniforms this season. The track team has been growing and needed additional uniforms so everyone could match and feel part of the team. All these new items have been made possible by the generosity of the Dunkers. These annual grants from the Twin Cities Dunkers have made a lasting impact on the athletic teams and have been very much appreciated.

Highland Park Senior High School has 46% of the student body receiving Free or Reduced Lunch. We have 126 student-athletes who qualify for those benefits. To help alleviate financial burdens for those students and their families, the Athletic Department absorbs any additional expenses such as apparel orders.

The participation numbers during Covid went down significantly. We are proud to report that, at Highland, those numbers have not only rebounded; they have surpassed the pre-Covid number. A few examples include the following: Our football team was varsity only in 2020. Next fall, we are anticipating enough players to add a third team. The expected increase in the football participants will require \$4,000 in new helmets alone. Last fall, we added a fourth boys soccer team. We'll need to purchase additional soccer equipment to accommodate all four teams. With the emergence of boys volleyball, the team will need new uniforms for their inaugural season in 2025.

The generous Dunkers grants impact our athletic program by creating quality experiences for our students. We are extremely grateful for the Dunkers' support throughout the years!

Description	# Athletes	Unit Price	Total
Boys Soccer Game Balls (Qty. 5)	80	\$80	\$400
Boys Soccer Uniforms	20	\$100	\$2,000
Boys and Birls Soccer - Soccer Socks	100	\$10	\$1,000
Boys Volleyball Uniforms	40	\$50	\$2,000
Boys Basketball Game Balls (Qty. 5)	40	\$80	\$400
Girls Basketball Game Balls (Qty. 5)	20	\$80	\$400
Football Helmets (Qty. 10)	60	\$400	\$4,000
Football Girdles (Qty. 10)	60	\$70	\$700
Total			\$10,900

Humboldt

Humboldt High School is nestled in the historic West Side neighborhood of Saint Paul atop the sandstone bluffs along the Mississippi River.

Much of the student population comes from an immigrant or refugee background, with 45% of the student body identifying as Asian American, 25% identifying as African American or of African descent, 22% identifying as Hispanic American or Latino and 5% identifying as mixed-race. 42% of all students are in the English Language Learners program, and 89% of all students receive Free or Reduced Lunch.



With the support of the Dunkers grants last year, we were able to purchase customized rugs for all the varsity sports that play in our main gym (basketball, volleyball, and badminton) This year we purchased new uniforms for softball, girls soccer, boys golf, girls wrestling singlets, a new volleyball net, and equipment for both basketball teams.

Dunkers grants have a significant impact on our athletic programs, and we sincerely value your continued support. The support from the Dunkers allows our athletes to have some of the same equipment that our more affluent suburban neighbors receive. The students at Humboldt feel great and play better with new equipment and uniforms. In addition to the athletes feeling better, we are seeing an increase in our participation numbers in all sports. We appreciate your consideration of our applications and want to thank you once again for your generous support in the past.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Benches for Outdoor Events	2	\$900	\$1,800
Pom Squad (Cheerleading) Uniforms	12	\$62	\$738
B & G Swimming- Ankle Bands	3	\$16	\$48
B & G Swimming- Resistance Bands	4	\$34	\$136
B & G Swimming- Parkas	3	\$136	\$410
B & G Swimming- Resistance Belts	6	\$19	\$115
B & G Swimming- Hand Paddle	20	\$10	\$200
B & G Soccer- Training Goals	2	\$650	\$1,300
B & G Tennis Balls	4	\$90	\$360
B & G Tennis Reel of Tennis Strings	1	\$250	\$250
B & G Tennis- Ball Cart with Wheels	2	\$100	\$200
B & G Tennis- Scorecards	4	\$50	\$200
Badminton Rackets	10	\$100	\$1,000
Badminton Restringing Kit	1	\$225	\$225
Girls Soccer White Socks	40	\$8	\$320
Girls Soccer Black Socks	40	\$8	\$320
Girls Soccer Team Shirts	40	\$9	\$360
B & G Golf Umbrellas	20	\$22	\$440
Boys Golf Gloves	4	\$33	\$132
Girls Golf Gloves	4	\$33	\$132
Girls Golf Grips	2	\$30	\$60
Stocking Hats with Logos	20	\$6	\$120
Baseball- Hollywood Base Set	1	\$225	\$225
Baseball- Field Rakes	2	\$80	\$160
Baseball- Pitcher's Mound Cover	1	\$325	\$325
Boys Volleyball- Balls	15	\$60	\$900
Girls Volleyball- Balls	15	\$60	\$900
B & G Wrestling- Warm Ups	10	\$100	\$1,000
Boys Basketball- Uniforms	15	\$60	\$900
Boys Basketball- Gatorade Bottles	6	\$8	\$48
Boys Basketball- Bottle Carrier	1	\$33	\$33
Football- Footballs	5	\$100	\$500
Football- Gear Pro-Tec Girdle	20	\$40	\$800
Total			\$14,657

Johnson



Johnson High School, the Pride of the East Side, has an enrollment of 1098 students. Being an East Sider means something to the community as it takes some personal toughness and grit to live in the community. The socioeconomics of the community have always been that of a hard-working class of individuals with an average income below state averages, which makes supporting athletics tough on families. The lack of community-based programs adds to the difficulty of convincing our families that participation in sport is an important part of the high school experience. Today, our sports teams still demonstrate pride and grit on and off the field. Our student population consists of 53% Asian American, 21% African American, 11% Hispanic American/Latino, 5% White American, 8% two or more races, and 1% American Indian. Approximately 87% of the students participating in sports pay the reduced athletic fee (\$30) because they qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

The Governors athletic teams continue to grow and make strides in becoming successful programs. The cross country team saw a big growth in participation numbers. The number of girls went from one last year to seven this year! The football coaching staff and team leaders are doing an amazing job of teaching (and reinvigorating) the team culture and football skills to the incoming athletes. Their record attests to the success of their efforts. Both boys and girls soccer teams also had an increase in participation numbers and success on the field. The winter season also brought positive steps to our programs. Although a small team this year, gymnastics had two all-conference participants. Boys basketball was ranked at the 3A level for much of the season. The wrestling team had the most participants in almost 20 years! Our hockey team continues to represent the East Side and provide an opportunity for student athletes from Johnson and Como Park. Adding St. Croix Lutheran Academy to our co-op helped to stabilize our program and ensure that the tradition of Governor hockey continues.

An additional focus for the Athletics Department at Johnson is to promote participation and interest in sports among the student body. The lifelong lessons learned when involved in sports - dedication, teamwork, time management, health and fitness - benefit all teenagers who choose to make the commitment to a team. The main sources of revenue for athletics are participation fees and admission fees.

Following the pandemic, the increase in participation numbers has created a greater need to provide safe, proper equipment and uniforms for our athletes. There was a total of 510 participants throughout the 2018-2019 school year. That number dropped to 295 for the 2020-2021 school year. We have 381 currently registered for teams this year and are actively registering students for the spring season. We are confident that the current school year will show an improvement over last year's total of 386.

Several of our teams achieved a healthy increase in participation numbers including: wrestling, cross country, track, and soccer. We believe this is a sign of our student body becoming more engaged and looking for activities to improve and enhance their high school experience. In the past few years, many of our teams have relied on underclassmen who have taken the challenge to play a high school sport with limited experience. These student athletes have successfully helped to build a base for their teams to grow on and are becoming leaders on their teams and in the school. With the aid of the Dunkers, we will continue to see growth in our sports and continue to support our East Siders the best that we can.

Thanks to the generosity of the Twin Cities Dunkers, we will be able to supply the teams with necessary equipment (listed below) for the expected growth of our programs, as well as other materials that allow for maximum participation of our student-athletes. With your generous donation last year, we purchased equipment that needs to be replaced each year including: game balls, birdies, golf balls and tees, gloves, grips, mouthguards, undershirts, socks, and belts. We also were able to purchase shin guards, head gear, team swim parkas, goalie gloves and nets. All of our athletes benefitted in some way from your contribution. Please accept our most heartfelt thanks for previous grant awards and our appreciation for your consideration of this year's requests.

Description	# Athletes	Quantity	Amount
Boys Tennis - Tennis Balls	20		\$300
Girls Tennis - Tennis Balls	20		\$300
Baseball - Case of Balls, Hats, Belts, Socks	28		\$400
Softball - Uniforms	18		\$1,200
Boys Basketball - 6 Basketballs, Replacement Nets	38		\$500
Cross Country - Running Shoes, Uniforms	15		\$800
Football - Shoulder Pads, Helmets, Belts	60		\$1,500
Boys Soccer - Shin Guards, Socks	30		\$300
Girls Soccer - Shin Guards, Socks	30		\$300
Badminton - Birdies, Replacement String, 10 Rackets	60		\$400
Gymastics - Vault Floor Runner, Chalk	13		\$800
Track - Uniforms, Rolling Distance Tape Measure	38		\$500
Hockey - Gloves	20		\$800
Cheer - Uniforms	20		\$500
Wrestling - Headgear, Wrestling Shoes, Mat Tape	48		\$500
Boys Swim - Swimsuits, Caps	10		\$500
Girls Swin - Swim Coats, Caps	8		\$400
Adapted Soccer - Goalie Gloves, 2 Balls	12		\$300
	468 athletes	Total	\$10,300



Washington Technology

St. Paul Washington Technology Magnet High School is home to the Eagles and is one of two schools that have grades 6-12 in the Saint Paul Public Schools. The school is in the North End neighborhood of Saint Paul off Rice Street and Arlington Avenue. The North End is one of the most densely populated areas in Saint Paul. More than 95% of our student-athletes pay the reduced athletic fee as they qualify for the Education Benefit (Free and Reduced Lunch). It is home to nearly 1,800 students who come from diverse backgrounds, which include 51% Asian American, 25% African American, 15% Hispanic American, 4% White American, and 1% Native American. The unduplicated count for student-athletes in 2022-2023 was 433 students. Several of these student-athletes play more than one sport.

Badminton, soccer, volleyball, and wrestling are among the most popular sports for our student-athletes. In addition, student-athletes can select from baseball, basketball, cross country, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and our potential 2024 football cooperative. Washington had their first-ever state qualifying tournament appearance in athletics in 2021 as the boys' soccer team won Section 4A; they were runners-up in sections for 2022 and made their second MSHSL State Tournament appearance last fall.

Our budget for uniforms and equipment comes from three main avenues: gate fees, concessions, and participant fees. The attendance at our contests is not as strong as we would like them to be despite marketing efforts to draw in more fans. The Athletic Department relies heavily on grants linked to the Dunkers and the MSHSL Foundation to support our athletic needs. In addition, coaches and the Athletic Department try to bring in funds via miscellaneous fundraising.

The impact of the Dunkers grants requested for Washington Technology Magnet will help us immensely for the upcoming year and years to come. To date, Twin City Dunkers grants have touched every sport offered at Washington; from swim parkas to wrestling singlets and school stamped basketballs, every item funded is a relief. We appreciate your consideration of our applications. We are also thankful for past grants awarded from Twin Cities Dunkers.

Description	# Athletes	Quantity	Amount
Boys Soccer - Uniform Socks	60		\$500
Boys Soccer - Lower-Level Uniform Tops	40		\$500
Boys Soccer - Game Balls	60		\$500
Girls Soccer - Uniform Socks	40		\$500
Girls Soccer - Lower-Level Uniform Tops	20		\$500
Girls Soccer - Game Balls	40		\$500
Cross Country - Uniforms	40		\$800
Boys/Girls Volleyball - Practice Balls	40		\$500
Tennis - Game Balls	50		\$500
Tennis - Intermediate Racquets	50		\$500
Swim & Dive - Interval Pace Clocks and Hand Paddle	50		\$500
Swim & Dive - Replacement Parkas	50		\$500
Football Helmets	15		\$4,500
Wrestling - Singlets	40		\$500
Badminton - Shuttlecocks (Case)	60		\$500
Boys/Girls Basketball - Practice Reversible	60		\$800
Track & Field - Cones (Asst. Sizes for Training)	70		\$300
Total			\$12,900

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

At the Dinner: Participate in the silent auction, live auction and Fund A Need.

Visit Dunkers Fund Dinner Website: Virtually participate in the silent auction at bidp.net/dunkersfunddinner/ and Fund A Need at <https://mplsfdn.org/twin-cities-dunker>. When completing a donation on the Minneapolis Foundation website, be sure to indicate in the comments section if you want your donation designated to a specific school and/or sport.

Adopt A School: These donations allow the athletic directors to use funds at their discretion to fill their needs. After reading the summaries of the school athletic programs, you may designate your donation to a specific school.

Donate to a School/Sport: Donate an item or items requested by a school or provide funding for a sport listed below.

Have a favorite sport you want to support?

The following list breaks down the requested items by sport.

Adapted Sports

Johnson

Athletic Department

Central
Como
Harding
Humboldt
South
Southwest
Washburn

Badminton

Central
Como
Johnson
North
Washington Tech

Baseball

Edison
Henry
Humboldt
Johnson

Basketball

Henry (Boys & Girls)
Highland (Boys & Girls)
Humboldt (Boys & Girls)
North (Boys & Girls)
Washington Tech (Boys & Girls)

Cheerleading

Edison
Johnson
Roosevelt

Football

Como
Harding
Henry
Highland
Humboldt
Johnson
North
Roosevelt
Washington Tech

Golf

Central
Harding
Humboldt
Southwest
Washburn

Gymnastics

Johnson

Hockey

Johnson

Lacrosse

Central

Soccer

Edison
Harding (Boys & Girls)
Henry (Boys & Girls)
Highland (Boys & Girls)
Humboldt
Johnson (Boys & Girls)
Roosevelt
Washington Tech (Boys & Girls)

Softball

Central
Edison
Humboldt
Johnson

Swimming

Harding
Johnson
Washington Tech

Tennis

Harding
Henry
Humboldt
Johnson
North
South
Washington Tech

Track/Cross Country

Harding
Henry
Johnson
Roosevelt
Washburn
Washington Tech

Volleyball

Como (Boys)
Edison
Harding (Boys & Girls)
Henry (Boys & Girls)
Highland (Boys)
North
Washington Tech (Boys & Girls)

Women in Sports Day

Central

Wrestling

Central
Como
Harding
Henry
Humboldt (Boys & Girls)
Johnson

Let's put actions behind our words.