

2025–2026 School Year Recap: Community Engagement, Fundraising, Donations & Grants



September 17th,
2026

Growing Leaders.
Growing Community.
Growing Tomorrow.



Grant Development & Funding Progress

Grant Activity & Funding Pipeline

- 4 MDE grant awarded
 - \$325,248 in funding
- 6 local & national foundation grants submitted
- 4 additional grants currently in the pipeline, pending decisions
 - Bernick Family Foundation: 3rd application submitted, continuing pursuit of funding for community-focused projects
 - The Bee Cause project: Monetary renewal
 - Casey's General Foundation: Classroom ??
 - Community Giving – Special Needs: Sensory Room



State Grants Awarded in 2025-2026

MDE Grant Applications

- **MnMTSS Competitive Grant** – Supports implementation of Minnesota’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports to strengthen academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports.
- **Gender-Neutral Restroom Grant** – Supports improvements to student facilities to promote accessibility, privacy, and inclusivity.
- **Ethnic Studies Course Development (Grades 5–12)** – Supports development of ethnic studies curriculum and learning opportunities for students.
- **Non-Exclusionary Discipline Strategies** – Supports positive, proactive approaches to student behavior and discipline while keeping students connected to learning.

Total grant funding

\$325,248

Fundraising Highlights



6
events
hosted



\$5,333
total funds
raised



22.76%
YoY
Fundraising
Increase:

Community in action



Fundraising increased by \$988.86 from the previous year, representing a 22.76% increase.



All six fundraising events increased from the previous year, reflecting increased community engagement, student participation, and strengthened partnerships.

Scooters Coffee	\$327.00
Crew Car Wash	\$174.50
Harry's Pizza	\$1,107.50
Skatin' Place	\$875.00
Golf Tournament	\$2,793.00
TreeMachine Greenraiser	\$55.86
Total Raised	\$5,332.86

These results expanded opportunities for students, strengthened family and community partnerships, and directly supported our school.



Golf Tournament

2026 Financials

Gross Revenue: \$5,924

- Net Profit: \$2,793
- YoY Net Increase: (1.04%)

Sponsorship Growth

- Sponsorships: \$1,970
- YoY Increase: (45.9%)

Additional Highlights

- Raffle items
- YoY increase: (15.4%)



COSTCO
WHOLESALE

Community Engagement Initiatives

01

Partnerships with local organizations

- The Whitney Center – AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Cribbage Volunteers
 - 4th-grade students participated
 - The top four players had the opportunity to compete against students from All Saints Academy in a tournament.
- Costco Reading Buddies

02

Student-led community projects

STRIDES first school wide community food drive

03

Community Events

- Benton County Fair
- Summertime by George



Volunteerism Environmental Stewards

Volunteer programs & partnerships

- Salvation Army - Christmas Gift Shop
 - City of St. Cloud Parks & Rec. - Annual Arbor Day Event
 -  Exciting New Community Partnership Opportunity
 - Great River Greening – Future Stewards Program
- **After two years** of impactful student restoration work at Quarry Park, STRIDE has been selected as the first-choice partner school for this expanded opportunity.
 - **The program** would bring habitat restoration directly to our campus, with Great River Greening supporting students and staff through planning, implementation, maintenance, and ongoing environmental education.
 - **Our vision:** Build on our existing pollination project and beehive program by creating a butterfly/pollinator garden on campus.
 - **Grant-funded** = no cost to STRIDE and includes support for up to four years.



Community Engagement Initiatives



FOOD DRIVE

FOR STRIDE ACADEMY

Together, we can make a difference — donate a non-perishable item today!

GIVE TODAY

Mon. Nov. 10th – Fri. Dec. 19th, 2025

Families in our community are grateful for your support!



Donations

Businesses & Organizations That Donated Last Year

- SCHEELS — 4
- Costco — 3
- Raising Cane's
- Skatin' Place
- Culver's
- United Way
- The Elks Lodge
- DonorsChoose

**Donations
continue to
trend upward
year over year,
increasing by
29% from \$6,858
to \$8,844**

**Repeat giving from
partners like SCHEELS
and Costco
demonstrates the value
of building and
maintaining strong
community
relationships.**



Looking *ahead*

2026–2027 Priorities

- **Maintain 4 student-driven**, school-wide fundraisers annually to create consistency and predictable fundraising opportunities.
- **Grant Funding Goal**
 - Strengthen and diversify STRIDE's grant pipeline to increase funding opportunities and sustain year-over-year grant support.
- **Action Items**
 - Establish an annual grant funding goal based on historical awards and current opportunities.
 - Maintain a diversified pipeline of foundation, corporate, and community grant opportunities.
 - Track applications, outcomes, feedback, and resubmission opportunities.
 - Build on funder relationships and resubmit strong proposals when opportunities reopen.
 - Meet monthly with Mara to review the grant pipeline, upcoming deadlines, applications in progress, and potential funding opportunities.
- **Explore bringing Big Brothers Big Sisters to STRIDE** to create a student mentoring opportunity and potential long-term community partnership.



THE STRIDE STANDARD

SIX KEYS TO SUCCESS

S	STRUCTURE
T	TRUST
R	RESPONSIBILITY
I	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
D	DETERMINATION
E	ENGAGEMENT

Six Keys. One STRIDE Standard.

Building STRIDE Through Community

Creating opportunities.
Building partnerships.
Securing resources.
Supporting students..

Thank You!

Questions?

LET'S KEEP BUILDING FOR STUDENTS—TOGETHER.

