



Newburyport  
Education  
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 24

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A Letter from the 2024 Foundation President

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I am proud to present the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) annual report for 2024. It was a year marked by growth and meaningful achievement, all made possible by your support. Whether through your financial contributions, volunteer efforts, or advocacy, you have played a pivotal role in enhancing educational experiences for students in the Newburyport Public School System. Together, we have made a lasting impact, and we look forward to another year of collaboration and progress. With your continued support, we will keep advancing our mission and providing valuable resources to help shape the future of education in our community.

In 2025, our efforts are centered around a range of strategic initiatives that aim to respond to the dynamic challenges and opportunities within the education system, such as:

- Funding phase three of the NHS Video Production Lab (to-be-named the Cindy Johnson Studio); a multiyear effort creating a high-profile video production center that will make communication tools accessible to all students and encourage use across the curriculum.
- Replenishing the Book Vending Machines at the Bresnahan and Molin Elementary schools,

which were a shining star in 2024. Since the machines were purchased, literacy lesson completion K-3 has doubled!

- Supporting “Discovery Fridays” with the purchase of four “Gif-o-Graf” Machines used for stop motion animation. Discovery Fridays are a new monthly hands-on, immersive experience at the Molin school designed to help students become creative, collaborative, problem solvers.
- Continued investment in the Dual Enrollment Program and Student Scholarship Fund designed to give students coursework and experience in high-demand industries with the access to early college programs.
- Supporting the annual Visual & Performing Arts Festival, where students from all grade levels will showcase their artwork and perform along the waterfront.
- Expanding our support for Teacher Partnership Grants, enabling educators to collaborate with the business community and bring innovative ideas to life in their classrooms.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to creating lasting change. Your support goes beyond investing in our organization—it’s an investment in the potential of every student across the district.

Kristine Enes

President of the NEF Board of Directors



# Empowering education in our community, we funded \$340,793 in allocations in 2024.

Thanks to our generous donors, we funded the following in 2024, allowing students in the Newburyport Public School system abundant opportunities to learn and excel.

## BOOK VENDING MACHINES | \$14,349

Two book vending machines and age-appropriate books funded by the NEF were installed in the Bresnahan and Molin Elementary schools, where the goal of increasing excitement about books was met on the first day! Students were eager to earn tokens for positive behavior and go to the vending machine to “purchase” a book. The program offers incentives for all students to read, including an avenue for high-risk students to earn books to read at home. A book drive led by an NHS student ensured that the machines were fully restocked after meeting the initial demand.

## MUSIC TECH LAB UPGRADE | \$50,632

Almost 20 years ago, the NEF funded a music technology lab to enable students to write music and explore composition. In 2024, new equipment, software, and furniture for 24 workstations were purchased for an updated Music Tech Lab used for Molin Technology and Nock Music Composition & Production classes. Students in both schools continue to be able to write music and explore composition, while updated equipment and software enable other classes to utilize the lab for projects such as video & audio recording and editing.

## MICROPHONE UPGRADE | \$10,462

This project adds high-quality wireless microphones so important for the Molin and Nock Performing Arts as well as for events held in the Nock/Molin auditorium. The additional microphones ensure that the sound and lighting improvements funded by the NEF continue to perform as planned—and that audiences can fully appreciate student performances.

## VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDIO, PHASE ONE | \$150,000

The design, construction, and studio furnishings for a high-profile video production center on the first floor of the high school are the latest phase of a multiyear effort to redesign the basement of NHS into a multi-media integrated arts lab. The video center will raise the profile of these communication tools to make them more accessible to all students and encourage their use across the curriculum. The center will house the video filming and editing technology purchased by the NEF in 2023, while moving NHS closer to the long-term vision for the integrated arts area. In 2023, we invested \$97,400 to outfit the graphic arts and video labs with state-of-the-art technology for both teachers and students, and this equipment is in use while

construction proceeds. In 2024, we funded the first half of the video production studio, scheduled to be completed in spring 2025.

## SUMMER COURSE IN AR/VR | \$15,000

In Summer 2024, the NEF funded a course in the NHS “Advanced Academy” where students can earn credit for learning to create an augmented reality application using industry-standard tools. This hands-on five-day introduction to immersive experience design and development was geared to students in grades 7–12 and, as part of the XR Foundations Academy, laid the foundation for future study. Twelve students completed the course and five teachers attended to “train-to-be-the-trainer” and bring the knowledge to the soon to be completed video production studio at NHS.

## SAILBOT COMPETITION HOSTING | \$10,274

As the 2023 winners of the International Robotic Sailing Regatta (Sailbot), Newburyport hosted the event for a second time in 2024! In addition to Newburyport High School’s team, teams from 8 schools (Cornell, Virginia Tech, WPI, and more) attended a week-long competition in June 2024. The NEF supported the Camp Bauercrest location fee, dinners, materials, t-shirts, and awards. Learn more about Sailbot at [sailbot.org](https://sailbot.org).

Please visit our website at [newburyportef.org](https://newburyportef.org) for more information on past projects, including Technology Improvements, Bresnahan Strem and Nock/Molin STEM labs, Nock/Molin and NHS Auditorium Renovations, IFS Library & Media Center, Nock Seismograph Activity, and Wellness Initiatives.

You made this possible!  
Thank You!

## K-12 VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL | \$10,141

This event, held in the spring, features students across all grade levels participating in band, orchestra, chorus and other forms of performance art at the Waterfront Park, as well as a display of student-created visual art to the community. Organized by arts teachers at the Molin, Nock, and NHS schools, the Waterfront Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students across all grade levels to perform and display their artwork for a broad community audience and each other. This grant fully funded the festival for the third year in a row.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR APPLIED LEARNING | \$34,630

For many years, the NEF has funded Business Partnership grants in the Spring and Fall. These grants connect teachers with business partners who then work together to create meaningful educational experiences that allow students to see how their skills apply to the world of work. The program also funds curriculum innovation and projects that purposely connect curriculum to the community at large. In 2024, grants included guitars for grade 5, Bresnahan Community Gardens, a cultural speaker series, Shakespearean Actor in Residency, visiting artists, poetry, Sailbot, archery club, and more.

## TECHNOLOGY CLUB | \$11,245

The Technology Club has been a successful club at NHS for many years. Funded by the NEF, the student technology team continues to grow, provide hands-on learning, and build computers that go into service in the schools. In 2024, the Club built customizable “do it yourself” laptops to replace aged Thinkpads used by administrative staff and the special education department.

## K-12 STEM MATERIALS | \$12,515

We continue to provide STEM program funds each year across all schools in the district to allow leading-edge STEM learning year over year. Our support provides the consumables that are needed for student projects.

## TOWER GARDENS | \$510

The Tower Gardens at the Bresnahan, Molin, Nock and High School began with funding from a local donor many years ago. These gardens are enjoyed by students throughout the district and are maintained by students and teachers. With the NEF’s support, materials are purchased to keep the gardens growing throughout the school year.

## ONE-TO-ONE STUDENT TECHNOLOGY | \$4,437

TA 1:1 program guarantees that every student has access to a reliable and agile portable computing

device. This allows uniformity, creativity, accessibility, learning beyond the classroom walls, and is an important component of the district’s “portrait of a graduate” vision. In the fall of 2023, the district initiated a lease-to-own program for iPad Air devices at NHS. The NEF supported need-based scholarships in 2024 to ensure that every student/family has a pathway to invest in a device that is their own.

## ADVANCED STUDIES | \$15,460

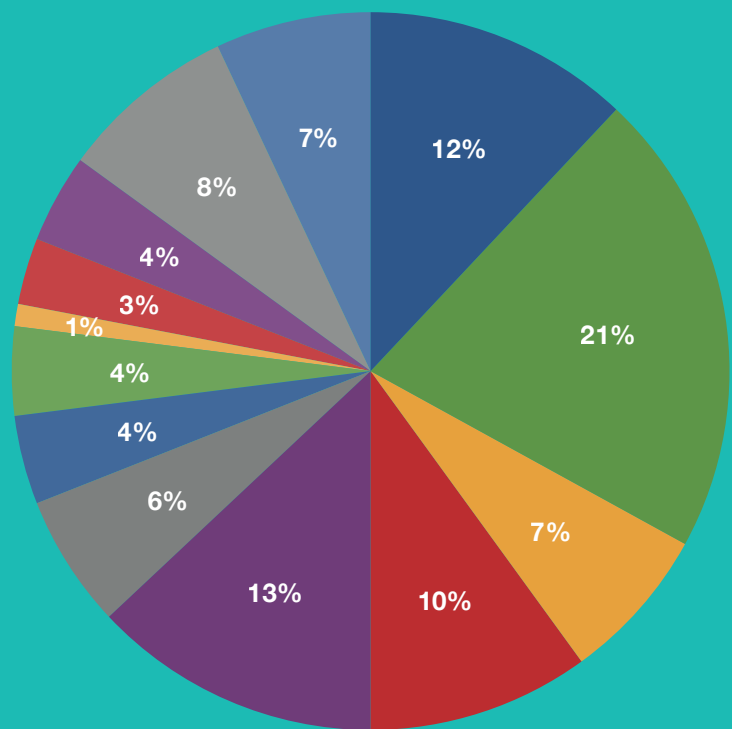
Through Endicott Community College, the NEF continues to fund a Dual Enrollment Program to allow students to earn college credit while in high school. Early college programs are designed to blend elements of high school and college to provide students with the opportunity to experience and complete college level academic coursework and simultaneously gain exposure to a variety of career opportunities. Early college programs also reduce the time and expense of earning a college credential while increasing the likelihood of higher education completion. In 2024, we funded three courses, one each in the Spring, Summer, and Fall, taught at NHS by Endicott College professors. Students paid for the cost of the book and the NEF covered full tuition. In addition, the NEF Student Scholarship Fund assists students in need who are attending dual enrollment classes at either Northern Essex Community College or Southern NH University.



## 21 Years of Giving Newburyport Education Foundation 2004-2024

Over the past 21 years, your generous support  
has allowed the NEF to donate \$5,546,931 to the  
Newburyport Public Schools.

- Science Labs 12%
- HS Auditorium 7%
- Literacy Support 13%
- Nock/Molin Auditorium 4%
- Nock/Molin Music 1%
- Wellness 4%
- Other 7%
- Technology 21%
- NEBC/Business Coalition 10%
- NHS Integrated Arts 6%
- Nock/Molin Library 4%
- HS Library 3%
- STEM 8%



## 2024 NEF Award Honorees

### 2024 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION “ED” AWARD - GRACE CONNOLLY

The Excellence in Education “Ed” Award is given to an individual in the community whose leadership, acts, and support have raised the level of excellence in the Newburyport Public Schools.

Grace was a lead member of the group that conceptualized the NEF. Grace made the first initial monetary asks to local banks that netted \$125,000, setting the NEF up for success in its earliest years. She filed all of the necessary paperwork to obtain the NEF’s charity status and drafted the bylaws. Additionally, Grace was a founding board member and chaired the first Ed Award Gala, where the inaugural award was first presented to Ed Molin.

Grace continues to be a leader in the Newburyport community and her leadership was instrumental in establishing the NEF as a community organization. At its inception, Grace urged the board to pursue naming opportunities for the then renovated high school; this program continues to be a key tool for encouraging and recognizing donors, as well as raising funds for our schools. Grace currently serves as a trustee of the Small Foundation, whose mission is education and whose largesse has supported the NEF generously over the years. She is also the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Anna Jaques Hospital.

### 2024 CINDY JOHNSON VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS - JANE AND JOHN NICKODEMUS

The Cindy Johnson Volunteer Award is presented to an individual(s) for his/her many devoted volunteer hours to support the Newburyport Education Foundation.

For over a decade, Jane and John Nickodemus have been dedicated and humble supporters of the NEF, from volunteering their time to generously giving their resources both financial and tangible. Together, they co-chaired the NEF Auction in 2017. They set a high-bar for future committees across the board with their professionalism, enthusiasm, and fantastic combined stage presence. Jane was an NEF Board Member from 2017-2019, spending countless hours building and executing events, and as an ambassador for the organization spreading awareness through outreach activity. She helped start ‘NEF Coffee and Conversations’. These intimate events brought small groups together to educate them on our mission, fundraising activities and to develop new volunteers. John has been an active participant in the annual NEF Golf Tournament and Monte Carlo/Poker fundraisers. He has donated countless sets of tickets and rounds of golf to be used auction items over the years.

### 2024 BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD RECIPIENT - NEWBURYPORT BANK

The Business Partner Award is presented to a company that has made particularly noteworthy contributions to the NEF and the Newburyport Public Schools.

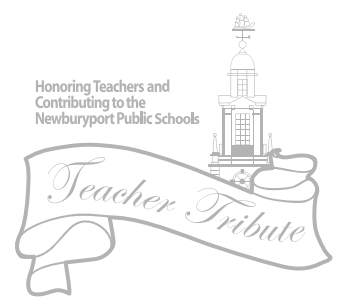
The Newburyport Bank was one of the founding supporters of the NEF, and has donated almost \$300,000 since the NEF’s inception. There has not been a year they did not provide financial support for our mission. They have funded the Library Media Center at the Bresnahan and the World Language Lab at the high school. They have been true stewards of STEM, funding our STEM consumables for all three schools. Most recently they have funded two FarmBots and planter beds at the Nock/Molin. These farming robots will merge traditional agriculture with technology, and coding, allowing Nock students hands on fun as they grow and care for plants and produce.

Over the years the bank has been involved with or sponsored many of our events, including being very active with the Spelling Bee, Poker/Monte Carlo nights, and the Ed Awards. Longtime bank President Richie Eaton was also a founding member of the NEF, our treasurer, and Ed Award Winner in 2012 for his dedication and impact to our organization.



2024 TEACHER TRIBUTE RECIPIENTS

Mary Ahern	Vicki Dyer	Kelly Lawler	Matthew Roper
Lisa Alexander	Paige Engler	Sarah Leadbeater	Michael Saccomani
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Joseph Byrnes	Lindsay Green	Meghan Marlar	Jessica Trehwella
Janis Cahill	Jennifer Groskin	Jennifer Marshall	Margaret Tsu
Chris Cain	Katara Harding	Melissa Martin	Erica Vaughn
Tina Cochran	Stacey Harriman	Dominick Masi	Kathleen Volpone
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Graciela Cummins	Erin Hobbs	Matthew Moscardini	Paul Yameen
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		Michaela Ramini	
		Erin Rich	
		Sara Robertson	
		Soraya Rodriguez	



# Community engagement is the key to the NEF’s ability to support our schools — and our students.

## Thank you to our generous donors.

<b>PLATINUM</b> <i>\$25,000 and Over</i>	<b>SILVER</b> <i>\$1,000 to \$4,999</i>	Gregory and Nicole Dower	Zachary Longley	Lorye Peddie
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We have tried to list every donor in the way they would like to be listed. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please notify us at: info@newburyportnef.org if we need to correct our records. Thank you.



We move “Onward  
and Forward” in  
2025 to continue  
to support  
Newburyport public  
school students.

Unaudited Financials for the year 2024

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Gifts and Grants	\$ 172,074
Lighthouse Auction	\$ 139,715
Investment Income	\$ 75,388
NEF Open Golf Tournament	\$ 69,353
Annual Appeal	\$ 58,795
Teacher Tributes	\$ 5,500

TOTAL REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$ 520,825
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EXPENSES

Program Services / Allocations	\$ 334,425
Administration	\$ 100,377
Fundraising	\$ 64,693

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 499,495
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Unrealized Gain	\$ 145,753
Change in Net Assets	\$ 42,347

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 69,616
Unrestricted Quasi Endowment	\$ 1,788,574
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 3,674

NET ASSETS as of 12/31/24	\$ 1,861,864
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Upcoming Events  
Support our schools!

MAY 17, 2025 (RAIN DATE MAY 18)

Newburyport K-12 Performing Arts Festival  
Waterfront Park

MAY 19, 2025

17th Annual NEF Golf Open  
Wentworth By The Sea Country Club

JUNE 10, 2025

NEF Awards Evening  
The Deck

FALL 2025

Ribbon Cutting for the Cindy Johnson Video Production Studio  
Newburyport High School

NOVEMBER 2025

NEF Lighthouse Auction  
Newburyport City Hall



Newburyport  
Education  
Foundation

#### CONTACT THE NEF

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