



Newburyport
Education
Foundation

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A Letter from the 2025 Foundation President

As we reflect on another impactful year, I am proud to share the Newburyport Education Foundation's (NEF) 2025 Annual Report. This year reflected both progress and momentum, grounded in more than two decades of community trust and a shared commitment to innovation and student success.

None of this work happens without you. Through financial support, volunteerism, and advocacy, our donors and partners play a critical role in strengthening educational opportunities across the Newburyport Public Schools. Your belief in our mission allows the NEF to respond thoughtfully to evolving needs while continuing to invest in programs that have measurable impact. Looking ahead to 2026, the NEF is advancing a focused set of initiatives:

NHS Spaces that Prepare Students for the Future

As learning at Newburyport High School continues to evolve, the NEF is investing in spaces that help students think creatively, collaborate across disciplines, and build the skills needed to succeed in a technology-driven economy. These investments are closely tied to the district's broader Integrated Arts vision and include:

- **Robotics and Engineering Lab:** An integrated, industry-aligned space where students move seamlessly from digital design to hands-on prototyping and testing.
- **Expanded Band Room:** A larger, purpose-built space that supports the continued growth of the music program while fostering collaboration, discipline, and creative performance. This relocation also enables the expansion of adjacent innovation spaces, reinforcing the connection between arts and technical learning.
- **College and Career Center:** A highly visible, flexible hub that increases daily access to college counseling, internships, presentations, and post-secondary planning. This space strengthens student connections to future pathways while laying the groundwork for expanded career-focused programming, including healthcare and medical certifications.

Other 2026 investments:

- **Strengthening K-12 STEM learning** through consumable materials and hands-on programs that promote problem-solving and real-world application.
- **Expanding access to technology** by supporting one-to-one student devices, need-based technology scholarships, and the NHS Technology Club, where students design and build technology used throughout the district.
- **Advancing literacy and a love of reading** through investments in library books and the Feed Your Mind book vending machines.
- **Showcasing student creativity and artistic expression** through district-wide visual and performing arts events across all grade levels.
- **Deepening college and career pathways** by funding dual enrollment courses and student scholarships that provide early access to college-level coursework in high-demand fields.
- **Empowering educators** through Teacher Innovation and Partnership Grants, enabling teachers to collaborate with community and business partners to bring innovative, real-world learning experiences into the classroom.

Your support is more than a contribution, it's an investment in every student, every classroom, and the long-term strength of our community. We are grateful to continue this important work together.

With Gratitude,



Kristine Enes
President of the NEF Board of Directors



Newburyport Education Foundation

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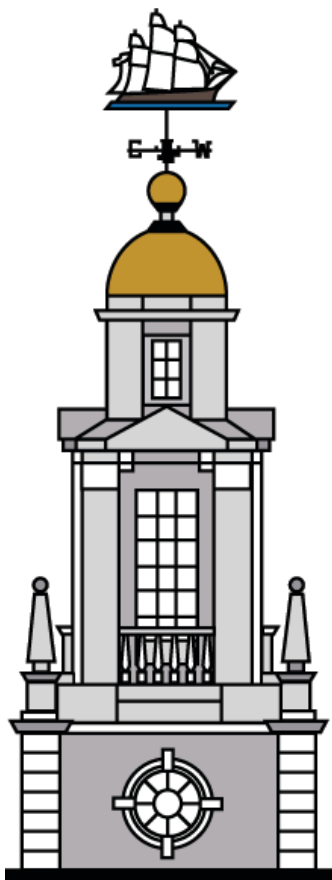
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2025 Project Summaries

Thanks to our generous donors, **the NEF has expended over \$300,000 in 2025** to support the following campaigns, allowing students in the Newburyport Public School system abundant opportunities to learn and excel.

STEM

STEM K-12 | \$26,629

Each school will receive a STEM “consumables” budget which is used to purchase supplies for STEM-based projects in our renovated STEM labs. Read more about the history of our STEM program here: <https://www.newburyportef.org/stem/stem/>

TECHNOLOGY

Discovery Fridays: Gif-o-Graf Machines | \$8,628

Discovery Fridays are a new monthly hands-on, immersive experience at the Molin School designed to help students become creative, collaborative, problem solvers. Using the “Pedagogy of Play,” each has a curriculum-aligned theme such as “Building and Engineering” for students to explore—perhaps by building the tallest tower they could and recording its height in different units. For example, one theme will ask students to expand their skills in storytelling, collaboration, and problem-solving by creating 2D animations with a Gif-o-Graf machine. This grant purchased four Gif-o-Grafs, storage bins, and other manipulatives to support Discovery Fridays.

NHS Technology Club | \$9,969

The Technology Club has been a successful club at NHS for many years. Students work to build computers that are used throughout the district. Our investments over the years have included the NHS library computers, high-end computers for engineering/arts to run CAD and design software at both NHS and Nock/Molin, and more. In 2025, we funded the club's work to replace PCs in the engineering lab at NHS.

LITERACY

Feed Your Mind: Book Vending Machines | \$5,272

The NEF purchased two book vending machines for our Bresnahan and Molin Elementary Schools in 2024. The goal of the program is to increase excitement about books, offer incentives for students to read, as well as target high-risk students by offering them an avenue to earn books and close the achievement gap. Students can earn tokens for achieving reading goals and then go to the vending machine to “purchase” a book. Since the machines were purchased, literacy lesson completion K-3 has doubled! This grant funded books to replenish the machines.

Library Books and Literacy Support | \$8,056

Since inception, the NEF has supported literacy programs district-wide, as well as the physical improvement of the library/media center spaces. In 2025, the NEF allocated funds to the Bresnahan and Molin/Nock libraries (similar to our support for STEM materials) to allow them to purchase books and materials to enhance literacy and the love of reading.



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For more information on past projects, including Technology Improvements, Bresnahan STEM and Nock/Molin STEM labs, Nock/Molin and NHS Auditorium Renovations, IFS Library & Media Center, Nock Seismograph Activity, and Wellness Initiatives.

ARTS

NHS Integrated Arts | \$173,435

This project completed the design, construction, and studio furnishings for a high-profile video production center on the first floor of the high school. The focus of phase 3 in 2025 has been to raise the profile of these communication tools to make them more accessible to all students and encourage their use across the curriculum. The center now houses the video filming and editing technology purchased in 2023, moving NHS closer to the long-term vision for the integrated arts area.

Phase 1 was completed in 2022 - the NEF invested \$92,000 to fund the design plan for the space, iPad Pros/pencils for educators, iPad carts for students and digital photography equipment. 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.

Visual & Performing Arts Festival | \$12,637

The Visual Arts Exhibit displayed student-created visual art at the Senior Center. This Waterfront Festival, held in May, featured students participating in band, orchestra, chorus, and other forms of performance art. Organized by arts teachers at the Molin, Nock and NHS schools, these events were a wonderful opportunity for students across all grade levels to perform and display their artwork for a broad community audience and each other.

TEACHER

Teacher Innovation Grants | \$36,476

The Teacher Innovation Grant Program empowers teachers to identify and implement innovative ideas that help students make connections between their academics and life outside of school, typically through project-based learning, extra-curricular activities, and connections with the broader local, state, national or global community. Projects also promote lifelong learning and spark student interests in new areas. In 2025, examples of grants include the running club, rock band, SailBot, Shakespeare artist-in-residence, Bresnahan Pollinator Gardens, Poetry Soup, an international cultural festival, golf club, and a Lego league.

STUDENT SUPPORT

One-to-One Student Technology | \$10,313

A 1:1 program guarantees that every student has access to a reliable and agile portable device, allowing uniformity, creativity, accessibility, learning beyond the classroom walls, innovation, and is an important component of the district's "Portrait of a Graduate" vision. After years of planning, the district initiated a 1:1 campaign in the fall of 2023, using a lease-to-own program for iPad Air devices at Newburyport High School. The NEF is supporting need-based scholarships to ensure that every student/family will have a pathway to invest in a device that is their own.

Dual Enrollment Program and Student Scholarship Fund | \$15,500

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 on a clearly articulated pathway 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 2019, the NEF assisted with the pilot of a dual enrollment program with Endicott College. The NEF now funds three courses, one each in the Spring, Summer and Fall taught at NHS by Endicott College professors. Students pay for the cost of the book and the NEF covers 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.

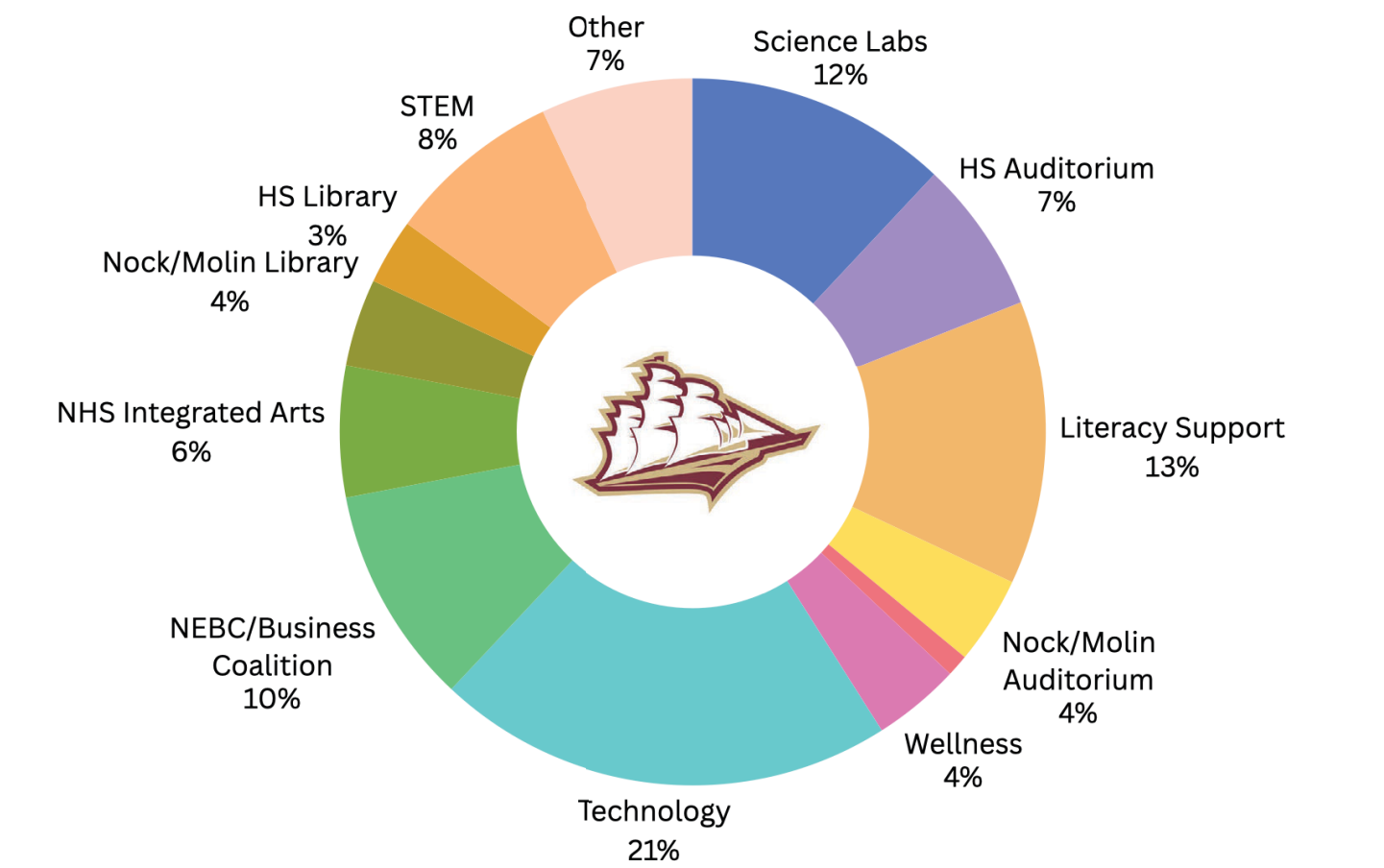


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22 Years of Impact

Since 2004, your generous support has allowed the NEF to donate **\$5,962,770** to the Newburyport Public Schools.



2025 NEF Awards



2025 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "ED" AWARD - WENDY GUS

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.

Wendy Gus was an active and involved parent, but her work as NEF Treasurer from 2005 to 2017 was instrumental in the successful establishment of the NEF as a well-run organization that is scrupulous about donors' contributions and transparent as to how monies are used. In addition to her work as Treasurer, Gus served in every way a board member can. She asked for donations and sponsorships, participated in events, and got the proceeds from our events in the bank. Because she was a board member in our early years, her expertise in non-profit accounting was invaluable as the Board developed tools for various fundraising avenues, including events, major gifts, alumni outreach, and an annual appeal. She also advised the NEF on the best way to set up a quasi-endowment with a large bequest, a move that will continue to pay dividends into the future.



2025 CINDY JOHNSON VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT - ANDREA VARANO

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

Andrea Varano is one of the volunteers that work behind the scenes, specifically two marquee events – the NEF Golf Open and Lighthouse Auction. Though she shies away from any spotlight, her generosity and support are front and center. From setting up and breaking down events to working contest holes at the golf tournament, Andrea's contributions have been wide-ranging and invaluable. Most recently, in support of the 2024 auction, Andrea worked to take the VIP experience to a new level. Her creativity led her to approaching local businesses, where she successfully secured unique and thoughtful items to create impressive VIP gift bags, which propelled VIP ticket sales to their highest level ever. Andrea exemplifies the spirit of the Cindy Johnson Volunteer Award through her kind nature and bar-raising support of the NEF.



2025 BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD RECIPIENT - ROTARY CLUB OF NEWBURYPORT

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

The Rotary Club of Newburyport has been supporting the NEF since its inception, being one of their first sponsors of the Spelling Bee and then continued participants for years after, in addition to also sponsoring the Lighthouse Auction. They have done their own fundraising to help bring so many campaigns to life, programs that have touched thousands of Newburyport's students. They have been particularly big supporters of the Summer Reading Program, providing the funds necessary to purchase books for students who could particularly benefit from receiving books sent to their homes throughout the summer in order to prevent summer reading slide. They have generously helped with two room namings, one at the Bresnahan and our most recent naming opportunity, the Cindy Johnson Video Production Studio. They have also donated very memorable opportunities for the NEF Auction, including student involvement in the Santa Parade.



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2025 Teacher Tributes

Renee Ames

James Antonelli

Stefanie Berger

Tamba Bissell

Lacey Blake

Theodore Boretti

Lynn Byrnes

Elizabeth Carroll

Josh Cote

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Elaine Cutrone

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Robert Doyle

Paige Engler

Colleen Fallon

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Kelly Lawler

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Pamela Mosesian

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Kristin Spinney

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Martha Trail

Margaret Tsu

Nicole Twomey

Matthew Valli

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Our Donors

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

Thank You to our Generous Donors!

PLATINUM \$25,000 and Over

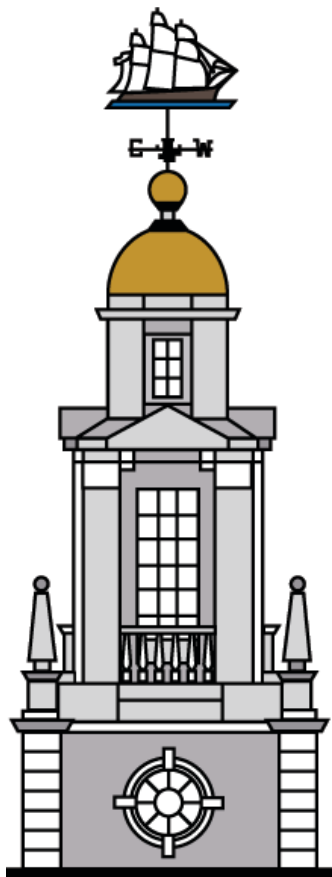
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2025 Financials

We grew our net assets by over \$146k in 2025. For 2026 and beyond, we continue to explore innovative ways to fundraise and engage the community in support of the Newburyport Public Schools.

Unaudited Financials for the year 2025

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Gifts and Grants	\$ 159,311
Lighthouse Auction	\$ 145,595
NEF Open Golf Tournament	\$ 67,214
Annual Appeal	\$ 41,321
Teacher Tributes	\$ 2,398

TOTAL REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$415,839
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EXPENSES

Program Services / Allocations	\$ 306,915
Administration	\$ 112,961
Fundraising	\$ 59,803

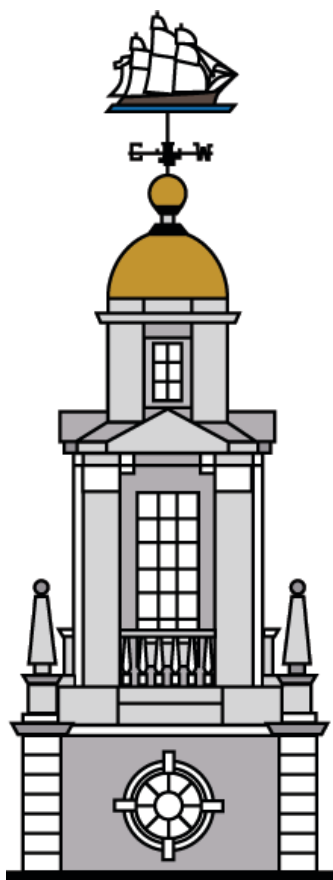
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$479,679
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Investment Income	\$ 210,431
Change in Net Assets	\$ 146,591

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 185,928
Unrestricted Quasi Endowment	\$ 1,853,169
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 7,000

NET ASSETS as of 12/31/25	\$2,046,097
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2026 NEF Events

Support our Schools! Join us at our events, and follow us @newburyportef on Instagram for the latest news and happenings.

May 16, 2026

Newburyport K-12 Performing Arts Festival
Waterfront Park



May 18, 2026

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



June 9, 2026

Annual NEF Awards Evening
Upstairs @ The Deck, Salisbury



November 14, 2026

NEF Lighthouse Auction
Newburyport City Hall



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2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Above: The NEF launches the Video Production Center at Newburyport High School in 2025



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Contact the NEF

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