

# Level Up

# LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Leveling up opportunities for ALL students to realize their dreams.

There are students in every high school in America that are encountering steep obstacles to higher education after graduation. These students are bright, intelligent, and capable of success. They, like their classmates, have the potential to contribute significantly to our communities and to the world. However, unlike their peers, they may not have the resources to realize what is possible beyond high school.



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Generational poverty presents unique challenges for our students, but it also highlights the powerful opportunity for positive change and growth. When poverty is passed down through generations, it can limit access to resources and opportunities, creating barriers that make it harder for families to break free. However, with community support, these barriers can be overcome, allowing families and children to build a brighter future.

While families facing economic hardship may have limited resources, these challenges also present an opportunity for communities and organizations to make a meaningful impact. Many of our students have aspirations of a college degree to achieve their dreams. Through targeted mentor programs beginning sophomore year, financial support, and access to resources, students can be empowered to rise above their circumstances and accomplish their future goals along with their peers.

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Many of these students don't envision college as a possibility, largely because their reality is so different from that of their peers. Growing up in generations of poverty, the idea of pursuing higher education often isn't part of their lived experience. The dream of a college education feels out of reach, not because of a lack of potential, but because it has never seemed attainable due to economic barriers along with the added difficulty of not knowing the process to begin the journey.

## MATTAWAN LEVEL-UP

Mattawan Schools has taken a proactive approach to transforming this narrative with the launch of the LEVEL UP PROGRAM in 2022. This innovative initiative is designed to empower students from low-income backgrounds, particularly those who would be the first in their families to pursue a college education. The program supports students facing various challenges, including homelessness, and provides them with the resources and guidance to help them succeed. Participation in the program is voluntary, and both students and families are given the opportunity to engage in this life-changing journey toward educational and personal growth.



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## HOW WE HELP

Services are provided to assist these students with fulfilling their goal of attending college.



### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

[Beginning Sophomore Year]

- Academic tutoring
- Academic Advising/Assisting
- Support with Study Skills & Test-Taking
- Scholarship & College Application Support
- Financial Aid Application Assistance
- Campus Visits

Level Up has proven to be a successful intervention for students who complete the program. These students are not only graduating, but they are also enthusiastic, driven, and eager to pursue their goals. Through the program, they are given the opportunity to dream big, and for the first time, higher education is within their reach.

Level Up benefits from the commitment and ongoing financial support of the Mattawan Public Education Foundation, which helps cover program expenses. The Mattawan school community is actively responding to the educational challenges unique to students living in poverty, ensuring they receive the support and resources they need to succeed and plan their future.

### PERSONAL SUPPORT

[Beginning Sophomore Year]

- Social & Emotional Health
- Cultural Activities
- Career Development
- Career Guidance Exploration



## HOW YOU CAN HELP



The next challenge, however, became apparent with our attempts to provide funding for our first graduate. With scholarships and maximum student aid, the student was faced with a deficit of between \$4,000-\$10,000 annually depending on the college they attend. We believe it incumbent on us as a community to remove the **FINAL BARRIER** to their potential success. It requires yet another community intervention on their behalf. To that end, we seek to establish The Mattawan Legacy, a crucial funding mechanism to support their enrollment in higher education.

### CONTACT

Interested benefactors who wish to leave a legacy and change a life can contact Kim Porco, Director of Whole Child Services, at 269.668.3361, Ext. 1772, to learn more about how their support can make a difference.

**YOUR LEGACY.**  
their opportunity



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