



CASTLEWOOD  
Education Foundation

October 2025 Volume 16, Issue 2

## Elementary grants given

A Differentiated Kindergarten grant was awarded to Stephanie Pillatzke and Kristin Ruesink through the Innovative Education Grants program funded by CEF. The project combines both sensory and fine motor play that helps support the ELA and Math curriculum. This program centers on play-based learning, peer teaching and shared responsibility.

Kristy Borer, first grade teacher, received a grant for a classroom rug to promote a sense of community. These rugs have separate spots for each student, creating a gathering space for collaborative projects and discussions. They also provide a dedicated learning zone for better classroom management.

CEF has awarded a total of \$34,412 in Innovative Education Grants since its inception.



**FIRST GRADERS INTERACT** on the new rug in their classroom. The rug has a square for each student and promotes collaboration and a sense of community within the group. *See more photos on page 6.*



**KINDERGARTNERS** Megan DeLoera and Amelia Pillatzke (above) have fun using the new materials that support ELA and math learning.



**CLASSMATES** Skylar Gallop and Stetson Mack (left), play a game of "Lost My Lunch," part of their new kindergarten ELA/Math program.

## Ravenhorst receives 2024-25 ROSE Award

The Castlewood Education Foundation announces Dorus Ravenhorst as the recipient of the 2024-25 ROSE Award.

According to his nomination, "Dorus can be found

in the stands of any gymnasium or football field where our Warrior student athletes are competing. He has been a very large supporter of the Warrior athletic programs for many years. He is probably most recognized by his generous donations in the transportation of the Warriors."

"They just don't make them like that anymore," is one of the lines from the nomination letter for Dorus.

CEF and the community thank Dorus for all he has done and continues to do for the Castlewood School District.

The ROSE Award recognizes individuals who promote academic excellence and strong character to our youth. All individuals are eligible for nomination for the award, which is given annually, including school staff, community members and business leaders.

To nominate someone, mail your nomination and reason why to: Castlewood Education Foundation, PO Box 214, Castlewood, SD 57223. The deadline for 2025-26 ROSE Award nominations is Oct. 31st.



Dorus Ravenhorst

## Message from the superintendent

There's a renewed sense of energy in the halls of Castlewood School as students and staff settle into the newly renovated spaces. The elementary classrooms are once again filled with learning. We are extremely happy to have everyone back in their spaces within the building.

The gym has been a great addition for PE and practices, especially for our junior high students. There's a lot of excitement about having the extra space available for our youth programs and for community use as well. Our junior high and high school students are also glad to have locker rooms again. High school students appreciate having the new flex space,

which has been helpful for their dual credit classes. While we're excited about all the progress that's been made, there are still a few important needs to help us fully finish and equip the gym for maximum use. We still need stage lighting and curtains, including installation and rigging. We also need a scorer's table, shot clocks and score board controller.

As we continue to grow and improve, we're grateful for the ongoing support from our community. These final items will help us make the most of the new space, and we welcome any interest in partnering to bring them to life.

Thank you for being a part of this exciting new chapter at Castlewood School.



Angela Keszler

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 CastlewoodEducationFoundation@gmail.com

## CEF changes publication date, delivery method

This is the second edition of this newsletter published in 2025, highlighting the foundation's activities during the 2024-25 school year (and a few from 2025-26). The fall publication date will help the foundation keep our news timely and also allow us to highlight anything of interest in the upcoming school year.

We hope to reduce the number of newsletter copies mailed by offering a digital version. It can be emailed or downloaded from the website (see back page for information on the website). **To receive your newsletter by email or to let us know you'll be downloading future editions, please email us at castlewoodeducationfoundation@gmail.com. Thank you!**

## CEF awards \$14,000 in senior scholarships



**TWELVE SENIORS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS** from the Castlewood Education Foundation and other sponsored scholarships at Awards Night 2025. From the left are Leah Aderhold, daughter of Matthew and Jenna Aderhold; Odysseus Wernke, son of Venus Wernke; Paul Everson, son of Travis and Sandra Everson; Jamison Keszler, son of Angela Keszler and Kurt Keszler; Jarin Eidson, son of Casey and Jessi Eidson;

Emerson Carter, daughter of Charlie and Jenni Carter; Bridgette Horn, daughter of Craig and Jessica Horn; Taylor Mischke, daughter of Tina and Matt Aas and Allen Mischke; Hailee Raasch, daughter of Robert and Amber Raasch; Shae Solsaa, daughter of Eric and Stacy Solsaa; Abigail DeBoer, daughter of Chuck and Ayrica DeBoer; and Kora Julius, daughter of Jason Julius and Terri Peschong.

Aderhold, Carter, Eidson, Horn, Julius, Raasch and Wernke each received a \$500 scholarship from CEF.

### Jacob Dahl #99 Memorial Scholarship

Leah Aderhold was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship given by Jeff and Lesa Cummings Dahl (Class of 1978) and their son Jarred, in memory of their son Jacob Dahl (Class of 2013).



Leah Aderhold

### Seppala Family Scholarship

The \$1,000 Seppala Family Scholarship was awarded to Leah Aderhold. The scholarship was given by Lynn (Class of 1964) and Joan Seppala in memory of his parents, Elmer and Lillian Seppala, brother Dean (Class of 1964) and sister Dorothy Seppala Schooley (Class of 1954).

## Who administers the Education Foundation?

Castlewood Education Foundation is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors operating independently of the school district. Directors, drawn from the community and alumni, meet regularly and function in accordance with adopted by-laws.

The S.D. Community Foundation handles major donations to the foundation. This association allows us to receive gifts of real estate, securities and cash.

### Larry and Beverly Meyer Family Scholarship

The \$500 Larry and Beverly Meyer Family Scholarship was awarded to Kora Julius.

The scholarship is given by Larry Meyer (Class of 1956) in honor of his wife, Beverly (Rose) Meyer (Class of 1956).



Kora Julius

### Edward and Rachel Westgard Memorial Scholarship



Hailee Raasch

Hailee Raasch was awarded the \$1,000 Edward and Rachel Westgard Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established by Krisma Westgard Dewitt (Class of 1974) in honor of her parents, Edward and Rachel Westgard.

### John and Delice Gleysteen Memorial Scholarship

Bridgette Horn received the John and Delice Gleysteen Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship is given by Jane Gleysteen Bobzin (Class of 1962), Arlys Gleysteen Sikorski (Class of 1966) and Ron Gleysteen (Class of 1968) in memory of their parents, John and Delice Gleysteen.



Bridgette Horn



## Roxann Bruinsma Kemink Memorial Scholarship

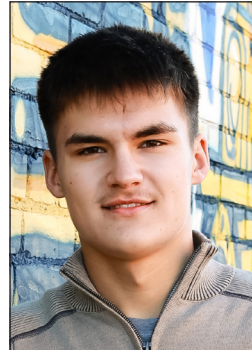


Paul Everson

The foundation announced Paul Everson as the recipient of a \$2,500 Roxann Bruinsma Kemink Memorial Scholarship. Jeff Kemink (Class of 1977), along with his children Andrea and Austin, established the scholarship in memory of their wife and mother, Roxann (Class of 1979).

## Maynard and Sharon (Miller) Nagelhout Scholarship

Jamison Keszler received the \$1,000 scholarship established by Sharon (Miller) Nagelhout, (Class of 1956) in honor of her husband Maynard Nagelhout (Class of 1956) and their families.



Jamison Keszler

### Interested in serving on the CEF board?

We are always looking for new individuals to serve on the Castlewood Education Foundation board. If you have an interest in being a part of the foundation, please contact us through a board member.

## Gaylord Hoftiezer and Marjorie Hoftiezer O'Brien Memorial Scholarships

Taylor Mischke received the \$1,000 Gaylord Hoftiezer Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by the Castlewood Historical Society in memory of Gaylord Hoftiezer (Class of 1948) through a generous bequest from the Gaylord Hoftiezer Endowment Fund made to the society by Gaylord's estate in 2014.

Hailee Raasch was the recipient of the \$1,000 Marjorie Hoftiezer O'Brien Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by the Castlewood Historical Society in memory of Marjorie Hoftiezer O'Brien (Class of 1938) in recognition of her efforts to establish the Gaylord Hoftiezer Endowment Fund with the historical society in 2014.



Taylor Mischke



Hailee Raasch

### Foundation Board

Cory Akin, President  
Lesa Dahl, Vice President  
Carrie Boyd, Secretary  
Carol Collins, Treasurer

Board Members: Vicki Strait, Lois Wiarda, Heather Schmit, Kristy Borer, Angela Hunter, Deb Mack and Jesse Haagensen.



## Businesses support CEF, students

Several businesses continued their support for CEF with donations last spring. Donations totaled \$2,500, allowing us to continue to fund Innovative Education Grants to teachers, classroom field trips, funds for music and the arts, and senior scholarships.

- ADZ LLC
- Automatic Transmission & Gear
- Citizens State Bank
- Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel
- Estelline Care Center
- Glacial Lakes Energy
- Green, Roby, Oviatt LLP
- Hamlin County Publishing
- H-D Electric
- Lynn and Sandy Hoitsma
- ITC
- Palmquist Dental
- Popham Construction
- Sharp Automotive, Inc.
- VanLaecken Orthodontics
- Watertown Ford Chrysler



**FIRST GRADERS PAIR UP** for some fun learning games on their new classroom rug. See "Elementary grants" article on page 1.



**KINDERGARTNERS** Bryson Barrett (left) and Megan DeLoera play with colored magnets that were included in new classroom materials purchased with Innovative Education Grant funding.

*Thank you to all of our donors for your generous gifts to the Castlewood Education Foundation!*

## Donors

Lynn & Sandy Hoitsma  
 Castlewood Consolidated Fund  
 David Heidemann  
 Randy & Cindy Rudebusch

## Scholarship Donations

Wanita & Robert Bullert – Bruinsma Kemink Scholarship  
 Krisma Dewitt – Westgard Scholarship

## Projects and fundraisers add to CEF opportunities

During the past year, \$386.80 was generated from our aluminum can recycling project. Since the project began, \$7,747 has been raised. We want to thank the community for their support of this project. A special thanks to Gary Gabur, JW Rolloff, and Ryan Ruesink, Dakota Dumpsters and Sanitation, for hauling the cans to Watertown for us.

A pizza feed and 50/50 raffle held during a January fundraiser raised \$949.60.

Warrior Wear sales provided over \$2,375 in funding for CEF grants and projects. It is operated by the board members.

## In Memory Of...

Cecil, '41, and Bee Wiarda <i>by Randy and Sally Kemink, '66</i>	Jim Janssen, '75 <i>by Chad, '88, and Heidi Schooley by Dave and Cindy Hahler</i>
Dick and Leola Carlisle Wenzlick, '54 <i>by Ray Carlisle, '58</i>	Ron Bohls, '68 <i>by Mort and Karen Schooley, '59, '61</i>
Ross Gerhold, '54 <i>by Bonnie Gerhold, '55</i>	<i>by Chad, '88, and Heidi Schooley</i>
Lloyd Sikkink	Gary Hyde, '63
Ronnie Thyen, '52 <i>by Chad, '88, and Heidi Schooley</i>	Theresa Peterson Culver, '79 <i>by Mort and Karen Schooley, '59, '61</i>

*We are grateful for the generous gifts to the Castlewood Education Foundation given in memory of loved ones.*

## Show your Warrior pride!

CEF sells shirts for football, volleyball and boys and girls basketball through flyers sent out prior to each sport season. Be watching for our winter/ Christmas order form that will be coming soon. Warrior Wear also has a Facebook page that promotes CEF and school activities.



## Teacher and Staff Appreciation

Bars and snacks were provided for school staff members in May 2025 in honor of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

THANK YOU, teachers and staff, for your service to the students of the Castlewood School District and commitment to work together with our school board, families and the community to build a foundation for life for our students.

## Get donation form, CEF news online

The Education Foundation has several web pages on the Castlewood School's website. Updates and information on scholarships, awards, grants and activities are included, along with a

donation form that's downloadable. Go to [castlewood.k12.sd.us](http://castlewood.k12.sd.us), then click on Community and choose Castlewood Education Foundation.



PO BOX 214  
 CASTLEWOOD, SD 57223



CASTLEWOOD  
 Education Foundation

## YES! I Want to Help!



I would like to support the Castlewood Education Foundation in making educational opportunities available to children within the Castlewood School District.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION

Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ONE TIME GIFT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL PLEDGE

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORIAM GIFT

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be publicly acknowledged unless you request otherwise.*

SPECIAL PROJECT FUND DONATION

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To fund project \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check made payable to **Castlewood Education Foundation** and return this form to the foundation at **PO Box 214, Castlewood, SD 57223.**