

Building Minds... Changing Lives

ADVANCEMENT JOURNAL

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USI RECEIVES A HISTORIC COMMITMENT

United Schools of Indianapolis received a contribution of **\$12,500,000 from the VITAL 2023 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust**. The gift, which was provided by an anonymous donor, emphasized the importance of investing in teacher and administrator excellence, as highlighted by the VITAL acronym—Vigilance in Teaching and Learning. The donation will fund USI’s performance-based teacher and student-facing staff bonuses and will be distributed annually in increments of \$500,000 per year over the next 25 years. The funds will be added to USI’s existing annual bonus pool of \$150,000, bringing the total funding for performance-based bonuses to at least \$650,000 per year.

In making the announcement, USI Executive Director Kelly Herron stated, “Our staff and faculty have long been dedicated to excellence. This generous gift allows us to further demonstrate our appreciation and recognize their invaluable contributions. By investing in our teachers and staff, we are investing in the future of our schools and our students.” Eligibility for the funding will be extended to the top 30% of teachers and administrators. One award of \$40,000 will be presented annually, and the average award will be approximately \$15,000.

Kandis Pearson, Principal of Avondale Meadows Academy said about the gift, “we are thrilled to see the VITAL Trust partnering with our schools to provide bonuses aimed at retaining and attracting top-tier educators, as high-performing teachers play a pivotal role in shaping dynamic learning environments and driving improved academic outcomes for our students.”





TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: NATE EVANS

Nate Evans is Avondale Meadows Academy's Dean of Students. He grew up on a farm outside of Crawfordsville, Indiana with four brothers and two sisters. At North Montgomery High School, Nate participated in football, basketball, and track. For college, Nate attended DePauw University, majoring in Communications with an emphasis on Marketing & Advertising, while playing wide receiver on the football team and high jumping for the track team. After graduation, Nate accepted a position teaching English to students in China for two and a half years before returning to Indianapolis to pursue a career in teaching. He enrolled in the Indianapolis Teaching Fellows program and received a Master in Teaching from Marion University.

In 2016, Nate began teaching kindergarten at Avondale Meadows Academy, then in 2018 transitioned to teaching 2nd grade for two years. During this time, he enrolled in Purdue University's Masters in Administration program and graduated in 2020. In that same year, he was named Dean of Students at Avondale Meadows Academy.

In his free time, Nate is a woodworker. As a young boy, he admired his grandfather who was a master woodworker and also took art classes in college. Today, many of Nate's creations are featured and for sale at High Frequency Arts in Carmel.



“ Woodworking allows me to express creativity and bring ideas to life through the manipulation of wood. It's a sense of accomplishment to create functional and aesthetically pleasing objects. ”

UNDER ARMOUR OUTFITS VISION ACADEMY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Vision Academy's basketball teams recently received a major commitment from Good Sports, a nonprofit organization in Boston, Massachusetts that focuses on donating new sports equipment, footwear, and apparel to those in need. Good Sports secures equipment from various sports companies and then donates items to needy schools and organizations across the country.

One of Good Sports sponsors, Under Armour, has demonstrated a commitment to women's sports by actively engaging in partnerships and initiatives aimed at supporting female athletes. The company has sponsored and collaborated with women athletes across various sports and has developed specific product lines for women.

Vision Academy's girls' basketball teams were in need of jerseys, basketballs, and apparel. Knowing Under Armour's commitment to celebrating, supporting, and championing women teammates and athletes, we asked them to contribute jerseys, socks, sports bras, compression shorts, and shoes for all of the players. Under Armour agreed to help the team and made a donation of apparel and equipment valued at \$9,000.

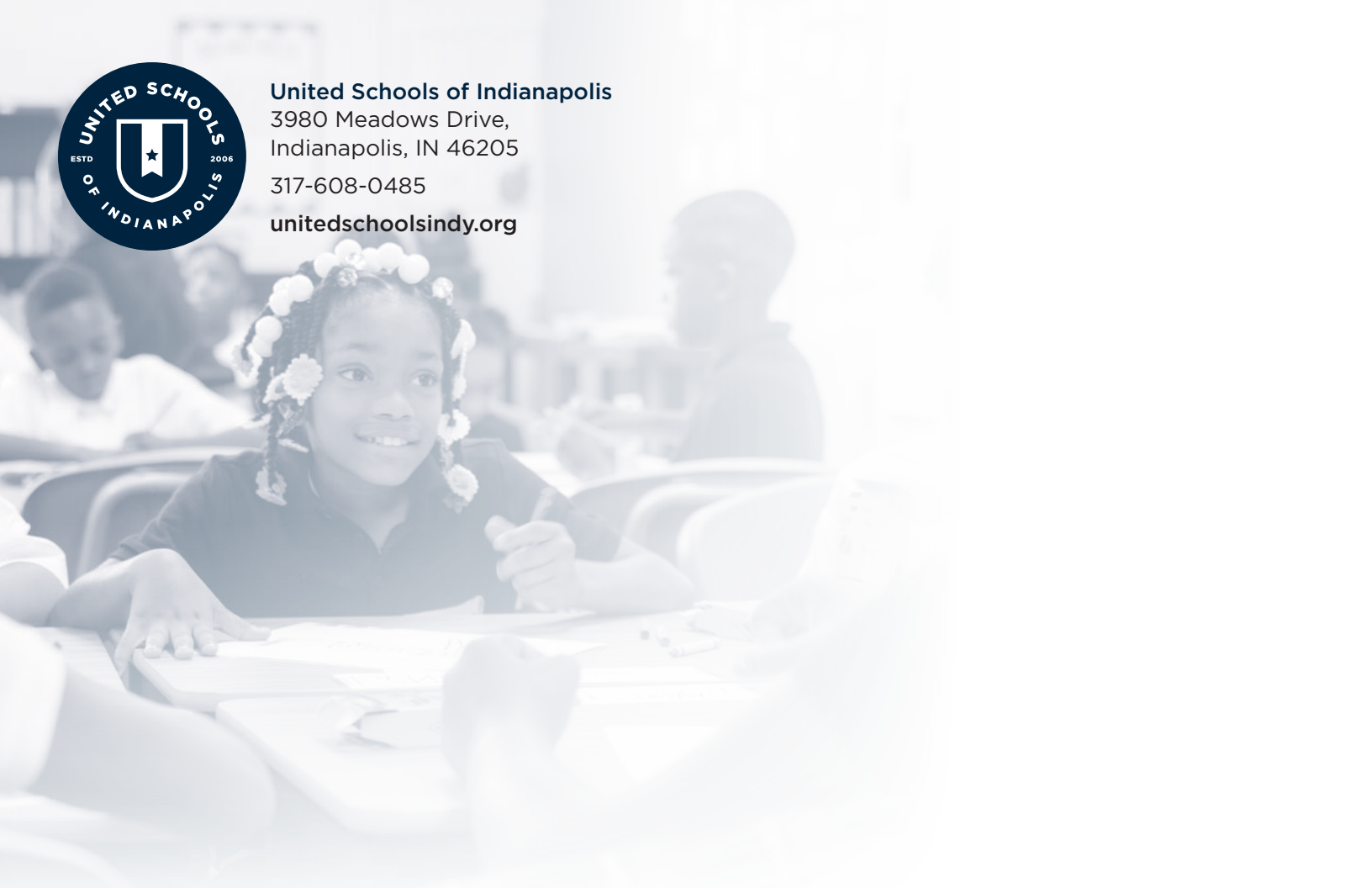
In addition to this contribution, Good Sports has committed to donating equipment, apparel, and/or footwear up to five times during the next two years to our schools. Each donation will consist of various quantities of multiple items.



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AVONDALE MEADOWS | VISION ACADEMY

YOU'RE INVITED!

Building Minds...Changing Lives

2024 CELEBRATION DINNER

The *Building Minds...Changing Lives* gala will be held on May 2, 2024 at Vision Academy in Riverside. The event will celebrate the successes of our students and faculty as well as honor **Marianne Glick** with the "Making a Difference" Community Service Award for her contributions to the Indianapolis community through her time, actions, and dedicated volunteer leadership.

For more information about the event, visit unitedschoolsindy.org/celebration-event

