



SPRING 2026

LEGENDS & LUMINARIES GALA – OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER YET

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and volunteered to help make this year's Legends & Luminaries Gala a tremendous success, especially co-chairs Lindsay Johnson and Khushboo Rami-Patel.

Once again, our community showed up in extraordinary ways, making a profound impact in support of the NPES Fund and our Financial Aid Program through the Paddle Raise.

This year's gala marked the largest fundraiser in NPES history, raising more than \$385,000 - a 23% increase over last year. The Paddle Raise alone raised \$137,000, a 45% increase from last year, in support of the NPES Financial Aid Program.

Financial aid plays a vital role in ensuring talented and deserving students can experience the transformative education and supportive community that define NPES. It strengthens our classrooms, broadens perspectives, and ensures the opportunity to grow, learn, and belong at NPES remains accessible to families who value our mission.

A special highlight of the evening was the reception entertainment from Alumni Parent Richard Sides and his band, Blue Orbit Combo, who once again brought incredible energy and made the celebration even more memorable. Their performance is always a favorite and added to the spirit of such a meaningful night.

The generosity shown that evening was a powerful reminder of what makes NPES so special — a community that believes deeply in investing in children and in one another.

DON'T MISS THE 2ND ANNUAL NPES GOLF OUTING

The NPES Alumni Committee invites you to hit the course for our 2nd Annual NPES Golf Outing on Friday, May 29 at Tam Golf Course in Niles.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or brand new to the game, this outing is for everyone (ages 18+). With a 9-hole scramble (best ball) format, you can come as you are and enjoy the day - no experience required.

Gather your friends, family, or fellow NPES parents and enjoy golf, carts, food, drinks, and swag while celebrating our incredible community. We especially hope to see more women out on the course this year!

Early bird tickets end tomorrow, April 30, at midnight, so don't miss your chance to register at a special rate.

The day will conclude with a reception at Howard Street Inn, giving everyone a chance to connect and celebrate.

All proceeds support the NPES Financial Aid Program, helping ensure more students can experience everything our school has to offer.

Spots are limited - we would love to see you there!

Click [here](#) to register.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT REPORT – A SMALL SCHOOL WITH A BIG IMPACT

We are proud to share the Impact Report on the implementation of NPES' first strategic plan, developed during the 2022–23 school year with input from hundreds of community members including faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, and current and past parents.

Over the last three years, our focus was not on how NPES could become bigger, but how the overall experience could become better.

As a community, we embraced our identity as a small school with a big impact.

Some of the highlights include:

- Launching the school’s first need-based Financial Aid Program
- Expanding athletics with cross country, track, and volleyball
- Strengthening our academic identity through our Portrait of a Graduate and Signature Threads
- Creating meaningful place-based learning opportunities through educational travel, service learning, and real-world problem solving
- Investing deeply in faculty and staff wellness and retention
- Expanding student programming to include more holidays and summer opportunities

The results speak for themselves, and we invite you to view the full Impact Report and video to see the lasting impact of this work.



Click [here](#) to watch the video and read the full report.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE ISACS ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY PROCESS

As part of our accreditation self-study process (which takes place once every seven years), we are conducting a formal survey of our past and present constituents. The survey should take less than ten minutes to complete. This survey is critical to our self-study process as we seek a deeper understanding of NPES's strengths and areas for improvement. Please help us with the following in mind:

- Review [NPES' mission statement](#) and reflect on the school's success in its implementation prior to completing the survey
- Use the link provided below to access the online survey
- Your answers are anonymous and confidential; please provide your honest opinions.
- We are using a third party (the survey team from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, our accrediting agency) to process the survey and tabulate the data
- You will be able to provide written or narrative comments about your views of our school along with answers to specific questions
- Please complete the survey as soon as possible; the **deadline for completing the survey is Tuesday, May 5**

To complete the ISACS Community Survey for NPES, click [here](#).

NPES NAMED GIGI's PLAYHOUSE 2025 COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

We are honored and humbled that GiGi's Playhouse Chicago named NPES its 2025 Community Partner of the Year.

This meaningful recognition reflects the heart of our school community and our commitment to place-based learning and service learning - an important part of the student experience at NPES. Through hands-on experiences in our city and meaningful partnerships with organizations like GiGi's Playhouse, students learn the value of inclusion, empathy, and community impact.

Our first graders have built a special connection with GiGi's Playhouse, learning firsthand that all people are capable, beautiful, and deserving of

dignity, love, and belonging. Their mission to change the way the world views Down syndrome and send a global message of acceptance for all deeply aligns with NPES values.

A special thank you to GiGi's Chicago Site Coordinator Grace Glenny and the entire GiGi's team, along with First Grade Teacher Nikki Lawrence, Associate Teacher Kristen Howe, our incredible first graders, and Assistant Head of School Emily Friend and Director of Admissions & Communications Anne Zagotta, who accepted this recognition on behalf of NPES.

We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to many more years of learning, service, and shared impact together.



8TH GRADE VS. FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME

One of NPES' most beloved traditions returned this spring with the annual 8th Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game and for the first time in 3 years, the 8th graders defeated the faculty and staff in unforgettable fashion.

A huge thank you to Mr. Hirsch for organizing this amazing event and bringing our community together for such a memorable night.

It was an incredible showcase of school spirit, teamwork, and one very determined group of soon-to-be graduates.

Congratulations, 8th grade - you earned this one!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – SARAH KAPLAN '23 RETURNS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

We love seeing our alumni come back and share their passions with current students.

On Earth Day, NPES alum Sarah Kaplan '23 visited our students to speak about microplastics and the impact they have on both our environment and our bodies.

Sarah shared the work of her nonprofit, [Seas the Future](#), which supports scientific research and sustainable solutions to address plastic pollution. Her organization contributes to the Woods Hole Oceanographic

Institution's Microplastics Accelerator Fund, helping fund innovative research and real-world solutions.

She did an incredible job helping students understand the urgency of this issue while inspiring them to take action and make a difference in their own communities.

We are so proud of Sarah and the leadership she continues to show.



CLASS OF 2022 – WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

We can't believe the Class of 2022 is about to graduate high school and we would love to welcome you back to NPES to celebrate!

Join us on June 3 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for a fun, laid-back afternoon where you can walk the halls, reconnect with former teachers, catch up with classmates, and enjoy snacks and cornhole on the play lot.

Most importantly, come ready to share what's next.

Whether you are heading to college, taking a gap year, starting work, or exploring something new, we want to celebrate your next chapter.

Please wear college gear, career gear, or anything that represents where life is taking you next as we capture it all in a group photo.

NPES will always be part of your story, and we love seeing our alumni stay connected.

Please RSVP [here](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES – YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us for the spring installment of our Social Justice Film Series on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the NPES Library.

We are excited to feature [*Counted Out*](#), a thought-provoking film that explores some of today's biggest social issues through an unexpected lens—math.

In our information-driven world, math influences nearly everything around us: the news we consume, the opportunities we access, the jobs we get, and even the power of our voices and votes. Yet for many people, math feels inaccessible or intimidating.

Counted Out challenges that reality by showing how numeric literacy shapes social and economic opportunity and asks an important question: What kind of future do we want to create?

Through powerful personal stories, expert interviews, and real-life examples, the film highlights why understanding math is not just about academics—it is about equity, access, and empowerment.

As always, the NPES Social Justice Film Series is free and open to the public, and popcorn will be served! Young people are welcome to attend with adult supervision.

We hope you will join us for an evening of learning, conversation, and community.

Please register your attendance [here](#).

\$20K IN 20 DAYS SPRING APPEAL CELEBRATING THE 8TH GRADE LEGACY TRADITION

Each spring, the NPES community comes together to support a meaningful initiative that strengthens and enriches the student experience. This year, we are proud to launch our \$20K in 20 Days Spring Appeal, running now through May 18.

What makes this year especially meaningful is that the focus was chosen by our **Class of 2026** as part of what we hope becomes a lasting **8th-Grade Legacy Tradition** - where each graduating class helps shape and inspire the Spring Appeal.

After a thoughtful conversation, our 8th graders shared a strong desire to celebrate the incredible teachers who have guided them and to enhance learning beyond the classroom for future students. As a result, this year's appeal will support:

- **Faculty and Staff Appreciation and Recognition** – honoring the educators who make NPES so special
- **Place-Based Learning Opportunities** – expanding student experiences through service learning, field studies, and real-world engagement

To help bring this vision to life, 8th-grade families have come together to establish a Legacy Challenge Gift of \$15,000. This means the first \$15,000 donated during the 20-day campaign will be matched, doubling the impact of every early gift.

We invite our alumni and alumni families to join us in supporting this student-led tradition. Your participation helps honor our amazing teachers while creating even more meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and lead.

Any size gift makes a meaningful difference and helps us move closer to reaching our goal together.

Thank you for continuing to invest in the future of NPES.

Thank you for being an important part of the NPES community. As we continue to grow our alumni network, we look forward to staying connected and sharing the lasting impact our small school has on the lives of our students, parents, and faculty.

JOIN THE NPES ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Looking for a meaningful way to stay connected to NPES? We invite you to join our Alumni Committee!

The committee meets once a month via Zoom and works together to create opportunities for alumni engagement, including reunions, special events, networking opportunities, and ways to strengthen our alumni community.

Whether you graduated recently, many years ago, or are an alumni parent who wants to stay connected, your voice and perspective matter. It is a simple but impactful way to stay involved, reconnect with NPES, and help shape meaningful experiences for our community.

We would love to have you join us! Contact Erin Leyden, Director of Development, leyden@npeschool.org to learn more.

STAY CONNECTED!

We'd love to hear what you've been up to! Please complete our [online form](#) to share your news with us. Feel free to share this link with your former classmates to help reconnect them with NPES.

NPES ALUMNI MAGNETS

We now have NPES Alumni car magnets. Be sure to stop by the front office to pick up your free magnet or to have one sent to you, please reach out to [Erin Leyden](#), Director of Development & Marketing.

NPES ALUMNI WEBSITE

Our [website](#) is the most effective tool for sharing everything that makes NPES special. We work hard to keep it up to date and recently started adding new articles written by our incredible staff, offering insights into their classrooms and curriculum. Be sure to visit often to see what's new!

ALUMNI SPIRIT WEAR SHOP