

Summit
School
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• brilliant beginnings



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social

community report 2022-2023





A Note from our Head of Schools

On behalf of everyone at Summit Schools, I am delighted to present our 2022-23 Community Report. As we review the year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support and commitment of individuals like you who believe in Summit's

mission and values. We find ourselves reflecting on the tremendous impact your generosity has had on Summit's students.

Whether through volunteering your time, making financial contributions, or simply spreading the word about our school and programs, your support has played a vital role in advancing our mission of empowering students to exceed their academic, social and emotional goals to ensure a lifetime of success and personal fulfillment.

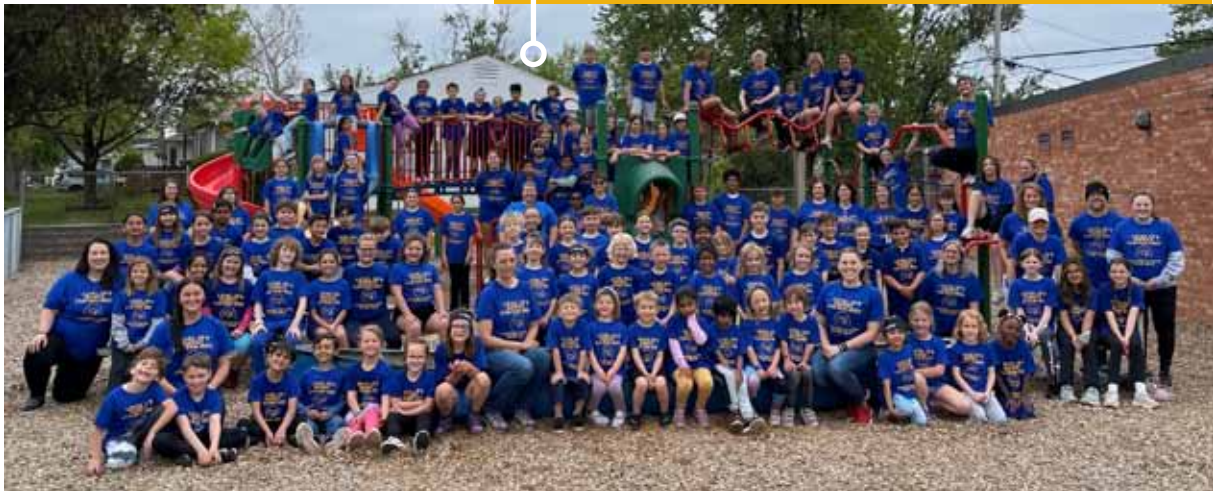
In this community report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments, initiatives, and impact in 2022-23. From the achievements of our students to the milestones reached in our educational programs, each page reflects the collective efforts of our staff, students, families, and supporters like you.

We are proud to share that enrollment continues to be strong as families seek out the safe, inclusive learning environment that Summit provides. Summit creates lifelong, thoughtful learners who aren't afraid to ask questions for better understanding and those skills will be useful long after they leave Summit. In 2023, Summit graduated its largest 8th grade class since the school expanded to eighth grade several years ago.

As we embark on yet another year of growth and opportunity, we invite you to continue your partnership with us. Your ongoing support will enable us to further expand our reach, enhance our programs, and provide even greater opportunities for the students we serve.

On behalf of Summit's staff, students and board of trustees, thank you for your support. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to Summit Schools. Together, we are shaping the future, one student at a time.

With heartfelt appreciation,
April Bickford, *Head of Schools/Principal*



STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

Summit Schools empowers students who represent diverse learning styles, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and personal identities. There is no such thing as a "traditional Summit student," but there is such a thing as a "Summit tradition," where each student is valued and celebrated as a unique individual and where academic, social and emotional growth flourish in a nurturing environment.

Summit is dedicated to presenting a diverse curriculum that is intentionally inclusive. Summit uses its autonomy as an independent school to explore history and our world from multiple perspectives and lenses. At Summit we believe that we learn best when we consider experiences and explore opinions different from our own. We cultivate empathetic and independent thinkers who are aware they are part of a community and citizens of the world. We offer safe spaces to listen, share, question, and participate.

Summit's Statement of Inclusion helps guide the school and our community as we evaluate curriculum, activities and teaching.

ensure a lifetime of



MISSION & VISION

MISSION: Summit Schools empowers each student to exceed their academic, social, and emotional goals to ensure a lifetime of success and personal fulfillment.

VISION: Empowering individuals to succeed in the global community by fostering critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity both independently and collaboratively.



2022-23 Board of Trustees

From left to right: Dan Clark, Paly Afridi, Armond Dawson, Laurene Lanich (President), Theresa Fettkether (Vice President), Ashley Balster, Molly Smith, Camron Devor (Treasurer), Grant Luebe (Secretary), Not pictured: Cassie Mitvalsky



2022-23 Summit Staff

Paul Pressler, Principal/Head of School	Jackie Allen, Primary Teacher
Larisa Bickel, Director of Business & Operations	Shawna Walker, Intermediate Teacher
Kathleen Reinwart, Office Manager	Shelby Paradise, Intermediate Teacher
Ken Scheinblum, Accountant	Angie Neuville, Middle School Teacher
Tonya Trudo, Director of Marketing & Communications	Teresa Coleman, Middle School Teacher
Jill Elliott, Tutor Manager	Jamie Day, Physical Education/Health/Wellness Teacher
Rachel Eilers, Kitchen Manager	Andrea Happel, Spanish Teacher
Chris Maloney, Early Childhood Teacher	Amber Maas, Art Teacher/ Summer Camp Director
Erin Valarezo, Early Childhood Associate	Jenna Smith, Music Teacher
Rachel Willenborg, Primary Teacher	Pat Akers, Tutor

the Summit experience



"Teaching first grade is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had."

Summit first grade teacher Rachel Willenborg was honored as one of five area educators who received a Robert E. Yager Active Learning Award at The Iowa Children's Museum's Celebrate Play! Gala in March. Miss Rachel was nominated by the Fernandez family, and we are so fortunate to have her teaching at Summit Schools. "I feel very honored to receive this award, and I am so grateful to the amazing family that nominated me," says Miss Rachel. "Seeing the students' incredible growth throughout the year is so special, and getting to be a part of that is such a wonderful feeling. Thank you to The Iowa Children's Museum for this opportunity!"



LEGO LEAGUE

LEGO League enjoyed a successful season mentored by Summit teachers Teresa Coleman, Shawna Walker, and several volunteers. The Summit Seekers team earned the Innovation Project Award at the regional competition, and advanced to the state competition. The Summit Curiosity team received the Motivate Award. Summit teacher/coach Teresa Coleman also won the Coach Award.



HARVEST HUSTLE 5K

Summit hosted its first annual Harvest Hustle 5K at nearby Noelridge Park to celebrate the end of Fall Running Club.



Y.A.L.E.

Summit PreKindergarten-4th grade students experienced Y.A.L.E. (Yet Another Learning Experience) with The Dancer's Edge instructor Miss Maddie DeJong, who returned to Summit to teach hip-hop dance for 4 weeks.



YEARBOOK CLUB

Summit's newly formed yearbook club was mentored by Summit teacher Angie Neuville. Angie's high-school daughter (and Summit alum) Hannah Neuville volunteered as the yearbook advisor. The club's yearbook was distributed over the summer and fall of 2023.



ART & CULTURE NIGHT

Summit celebrated and honored our wonderfully diverse school at Art & Culture Night at the Red Cedar Lodge in Wanatee Park. Families enjoyed viewing student artwork and taste-testing cuisine from around the world provided by the Summit community.



DAY OF KINDNESS

Summit fourth graders celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Day by handing out fun little monster keychains with a small message to spread kindness and joy at Coe College. Students loved being able to do something for other people. In one recipient's words, "Thank you, this was an awesome surprise and it did make my day!" This was a great reminder/lesson for students that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

CLEANUPCR

Summit's PTO hosted a fall service project where students, families and staff filled garbage bags on the Cedar River Trail.



MISSION OF HOPE FOOD DRIVE

Summit families rallied together and donated to Pod 3's food drive to help restock Mission of Hope's food pantry after a devastating fire at the nonprofit organization.



CEDAR VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Summit fourth graders raised \$550 in their annual lemonade stand for the Cedar Valley Humane Society. "Running the lemonade stand teaches important life lessons like how to work together as a team, how to advertise, persuade, plan and execute an event, and customer service," says fourth grade teacher Shelby Paradise. "Running the lemonade stand provides an authentic, real-world application to everyday math skills that students are working on mastering in fourth grade."



GOTSNEAKERS

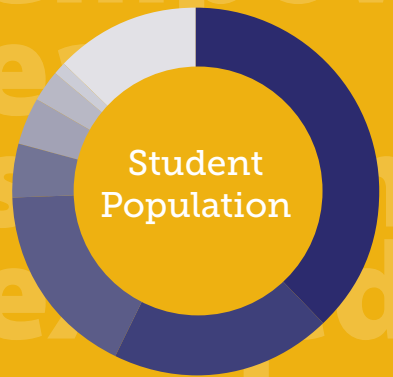
Summit's PTO collected bags of used athletic shoes for Got Sneakers, an organization that recycles old shoes and prevents them from filling up landfills.



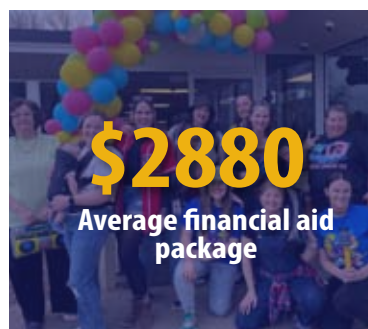
by the numbers



Summer Camp







- Summit Schools: 66
- Linn-Mar Community School District: 34
- Cedar Rapids Community School District: 30
- College Community School District: 8
- Private: 7
- Homeschool: 5
- Marion Independent School District: 2
- Other: 22



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\$1,265,435.84






-  Tuition 62%
-  Auxiliary Programs 23%
-  Development 10%
-  Other 5%

“Summit prepared me for many aspects of living life. In public school you barely learn things that are applicable to what you will face in the future, and the project-based learning at Summit was extremely useful because I was already comfortable with working in groups with new people, being flexible, and interacting with others in a space that is unfamiliar to me.”

- Summit (and recent high school) graduate Amira Luensman



\$1,242,558.91

-  Staff Wages/Benefits 64%
-  Auxiliary Programs 12%
-  Supplies & Materials 11%
-  Admin Expense 8%
-  Utilities & Maintenance 5%

learning at Summit

Summit's autonomy and small class sizes make it easier to tailor instruction to help students. Summit employs well-respected and retired Summit teachers to work with students in need of more intensive remediation in math and literacy. Summit is the only school in the area that exclusively teaches Orton-Gillingham, the phonics-based sensory reading method, which has been especially effective in children with learning disabilities and differences.

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Achievement at or above grade level in grades 3-8

6th-8th GRADES:

Math

Summit average: 82%

State average: 72%

English Language Arts (ELA)

Summit average: 100%

State average: 76%

Science

Summit average: 91%

State average: 66%

5th GRADES:

Math

Summit average: 100%

State average: 71%

English Language Arts (ELA)

Summit average: 100%

State average: 69%

Science

Summit average: 80%

State average: 63%

4th GRADES:

Math

Summit average: 63%

State average: 73%

English Language Arts (ELA)

Summit average: 75%

State average: 73%

3th GRADES:

Math

Summit average: 80%

State average: 76%

English Language Arts (ELA)

Summit average: 80%

State average: 66%

"The Summit Way of doing things always appealed to me as an educator. The small class sizes, the emphasis on mindfulness and social emotional learning, the project based learning, and the community feel are things that most teachers strive to be able to be a part of. When the opportunity came for me to join the Summit team as a teacher, I jumped at the chance. For me, the joy of working here outweighs the higher salaries of public district teachers. My favorite part of this job is seeing kids who come from less-than-satisfactory school experiences, and helping them turn them into kids who like school! I also love that I get to teach kids over several years, and watch them grow. I love that I teach in a school where learning is valued, and families are supportive."

- Summit Pod 3 teacher
Angie Lesky Neuville

"This is my dream job and I LOVE coming to work everyday."



the Summit difference



“One thing Summit has taught me is to never shy away from a challenge, even when things get difficult. Keep working hard and practicing or ask for help and eventually you’ll get it!”
- 8th grade graduate Shaylin Munson

Summit classes take many field trips throughout the year, understanding that learning doesn't only happen in the classroom. At Summit, the world is a classroom!



Summit support



THANK YOU

Summit is honored to have loyal and generous alumni, parents, and friends who give through their time and resources in a variety of ways. Thank you for your generosity. Tuition alone does not provide the revenue needed to offer the excellent Summit education that is our school's tradition. Tuition only covers 62% of operational costs so your support directly impacts the educational opportunities for local children at Summit.

Annual giving is the single most important source of non-tuition income for our school. Summit hosts annual fundraising events including the Celebrate Summit online auction in the fall, and the student-led Fun Run in the spring to help fund our mission.

Summit appreciates a gift of any size because strong voluntary support from parents demonstrates the confidence from those closest to the school. Your support is carefully considered by foundations and corporations when awarding grants and sponsorships. Thank YOU for your support!



Summit Schools

@Summit-Schools



venmo

Summit added Venmo as a giving option in 2022-23. Online donations are also accepted at summitschools.org.

Summit support

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Change A Life (\$7,300+)
Lynda Schimberg

Invest In Our Assets (\$2,500-\$4,999)
Haroon & Paly Afridi
Anonymous

Erik & Ashley Balster
Ryan & Amanda Hollenbeck
Joseph & Kara Parsons
Everitt & Terri Petersen
Michael & Jennie Telisak
Jim & Julia Wittnebel

Shape the Future (\$1,000-\$2,499)
Dan & Sharon Clark
Beau & Dana Huberg
Clayton & Rebecca Lindwall
Mark & Nicole Mast
Alex & Jane Passos
Ian & Ashley Shaw
Russell & Tara Snow

Believe (\$500-\$999)
Omar Akhtar & Shadia Igram
Mark Andersland & Mary Susan Pruzinsky
JP & Larisa Bickel
Douglas Blair
Brandon & Tara DeWolf
Chris & Kiley Graw
Theresa Haldeman
Edwin & Jessica Lindeman
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Sarah Riley
Peter & Kristie Sahayda
Muhammad & Romi Shah
Scott & Amy Shoemaker
Carolyn Simons
Jamey Stroschine & Lisa Wiebenga Stroschine
Nick & Elissa Zakrasek

Learn (up to \$499)
Jackie Allen
Keri Andrews
Cindy Archer
Chelsea Archibald
Billie Atherton
Chad Atherton
Charles Atherton
Ben Balster
Kathryn Balster
Ryan Balster
Sarah Balster
Tom & Maggie Balster
Emma Barden
Cheryl Barglof
Joel & Sarah Bartlett
Roy Bartlett
Janie Bengard
Mike Bengard
Ashley Benter
Andrea Blair

Steve Bloomquist
Allan & Jennifer Boettger
Bod & Joyce Borris
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Kathryn Boutte
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Molly Breslin
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Mary Brown
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Phyllis Burnett
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Rikka Burroughs
Brian & April Butcher
Diamond Butler
Clara Camarillo
Judy Chihak
Kiley Chihak
Michael & Janelle Clymer
Jeff & Karen Collins
Molly Cord
Matthew Daniels
Gina DeMatteo
Kiran Devaram
Devaram Family
Chris & Suzy DeWolf
Greg & Brooke DeWolf
Kelly Dodge
Paul & Anna Drexler
Barbara Drexler
Melinda Dufoe
Robert & Ann Eckles
Tori Elgin
Roxanne Erdahl
Alice Erger
Manuel Fernandez & Megan Hart-Fernandez
Candice Fekkether
Matt & Theresa Fekkether
Shirley Fekkether
Jennifer Fields
Donald Gallagher
Luis Garcia
Mia Garret
Brent & Kim Garrett
Kenneth & Theresa Haldeman
Curtis Hames & Abbie Reihle-Hames
Joseph Hanigan
Michael & Lisa Hanigan
Greg & Andrea Happel
Angi Hartman
Alyan Hashmi
Zahra Hashmi
Jill Hawtrey
Jan Hessman
Piper Hollenbeck
Tariq Igram & Shereen Sarsour
Sally Immerfall
John James
Tina James
Sabeen Javed
Jennifer Jiruska
Catharine Johnson
Susan Knight
Tyler & Maureen Knight
Chris Knoll

David & Jillian Knutson
Andrea Lackman
Joe & Becky Lahart
Stephen & Laurene Lanich
Diana Ledford
Michael & Marilyn Loan
Ryan Lomen
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Brian & Chris Maloney
Angela Martin
David Matalon & Dani Collins
Ramya Maturu
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Angelina Miller
John & Peg Morris
Chet & Kathleen Mullin
Jennifer Mullin
Grant Munson & Emily Flowergarden
Jonathan Myers
Angie Lesky Neuville
Chris & Sarah Nolte
Dave Nolte
Sally Olson
Alexis & John Orr
Carol Orr
Christopher & Kayla Orr
Jessie Orr
Terry & Betty Parsons
Nelson Passos
Doug & Susan Patten
Eddie & Lani Pettus
Aveera Rawat
Kasey Reese
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Ignacio Vasquez Jr.
Brenda Wagg
Brandon & Shawna Walker
Brett & Sara Walker
Hadley Walker
Frank Weinstein
Kelvin Witmer
Rachel Witmer
Greg Wittnebel
R & V Wolf
Justin & Tamara Young
Rod & Michelle Zimmerman

GRANTS:
Allegra FootPRINT Fund

CORPORATE DONATIONS

Invest in Our Assets (\$2,500-\$4,999)
Balster Pediatric Dentistry
Raytheon Technology
Matching Gifts
Restoration Dental Center

Shape the Future (\$1,000-\$2,499)
Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.
Cedar Graphics
Heather Morris Realty Consulting
Hy-Vee
Sunny Point Inc.

Believe (\$500-\$999)
Bremac Materials Handling Solutions
Chipotle
D&N Fence Co.
Hames Homes LLC
Hills Bank
Huberg Trucking Special Inc.
JPM Enterprises, Inc.
Scott Shoemaker & Associates, PLC
Summit Schools PTO
Wells Fargo

Learn (up to \$499)
A to Z Help, LLC
AmazonSmile
Box Tops for Education
Casey's General Stores
Cedar Valley Montessori School
Dunn Brothers Coffee
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steaksburgers
Level 10 Apparel
Meta Platforms, Inc.
Noodles & Co.
Panera Bread Company
Red Robin
Shutterfly
Van Meter Inc.
Zio Johnno's Spaghetti House

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Afridi Family
AirFX
Omar Akhtar & Shadia Igram
Jackie Allen
Erik & Ashley Balster
Todd & Melissa Barker
JP & Larisa Bickel
Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.
Cedar Graphics
Cedar Rapids Kernels
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Dan & Sharon Clark
Coe College
Don Coleman
Teresa Coleman
CR Signs
The Dancer's Edge
Jamie Day
Donutland
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Edible Arrangements
Rachel Eilers
Theresa Fekkether
The Graduate Hotel
Great Harvest Bread Company
Hansen's Dairy
Andrea Happel
Harger's Acoustics, Inc.
The Highlander Iowa City
Huberg Family
Hurling Hatchet
Iowa Brewing Co.
Iowa Ceramics Center
Laurene Lanich
Amber Maas
Chris Maloney
Monarch Research Project
Planting Forward
Morris Family
Asma Najeeb
Jim & Sue Novak
Angie Lesky Neuville
Over the Moon Flowers & Farm
Shelby Paradise
Pirc-Tobin Construction, Inc.
Pura Vida Creative
Tom & Kathleen Reinwart
Kristie Sahayda
SCOUT of Marion
Jenna Smith
SOKO Outfitters
Sparkling Image Car Wash
Jamey Stroschine & Lisa Wiebenga Stroschine
Theatre Cedar Rapids
Toula Studio
Erin Valarezo
Verve Creative Studio
John Wagner
Shawna Walker
Rachel Willenborg



Summit Schools empower
student to exceed their ac
social and emotional goa

"I want to thank you. We wanted to surprise our daughter Jaylah and get her out of school early. Upon arrival Jaylah didn't want to leave. I don't think I can ever recall a time when my parents called me out of school early and I wasn't racing to the office. What 10-year-old doesn't want to come home early from school?! Jaylah didn't want to miss being a part of class. It's things like this that make Summit UNIQUE. You have no idea how much you have changed our lives for the better, and we are thankful every day to be a part of Summit Schools."

- Summit parent Jeramy Simmons



summit schools

brilliant beginnings, bright futures

1010 Regent St. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

319-294-2036

info@summitschools.org

Summitschools.org



social, and emotional goa
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personal fulfillment. Emp
individuals to succeed in t
global community by fost
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and creativity both indep