

Summit Schools empowers each student to exceed their academic, social, and

community report 2023-2024



25 YEARS OF SUMMIT

emotional goals to ensure a lifetime of success and personal fulfillment





A Note from our Head of Schools

Summit Schools was founded in 1998 by a small group of parents who were passionate about education. Summit and its predecessors - Linn Academy and McLeod Academy - have a long

history in education. The school has undergone changes in location and management, but its aim to provide an environment rich with real-life experiences and personalized learning has remained constant. Twenty five years later, thousands of local students have benefited from Summit - attending the independent school, participating in popular summer camps, or seeking services from the tutoring program.

Summit celebrated its 25th year with a back-to-school ice cream social with families, a gala event and online fundraiser, and all-school community service projects. Summit's 25th anniversary theme throughout the school year was "Celebrating our silver anniversary with golden opportunities." Twenty five years later, Summit is stronger than ever as you will see here in this Community Report, and we couldn't have done it without the continued financial support from Summit families, alumni, staff, board and friends.

Summit is Summit because of the way it cultivates kindness, curiosity, inclusion and understanding. The school's approach

is known as "The Summit Way"-- and it proudly reflects a philosophy that nurtures and helps develop a community of caring human beings. Summit students exude confidence in who they are, feel a part of their community and actively contribute to that community. These students are our present as well as our future, and they take the Summit Way out into the world every day. This year Summit began celebrating Tigers of the Week, students who embodied "The Summit Way."

In 2023-24, Summit not only celebrated its past but strategically planned for the school's exciting future. The board of trustees voted to remove fundraising from the operating budget starting in 2024-25, announcing that family investment in future years will more accurately reflect the true cost of educating a child at Summit. The board also raised the salaries of teachers and staff to retain and attract the best educators. These important changes have positioned the school for security and growth.

We thank you for 25 years of support of Summit Schools, and invite you to continue your partnership with us as we reach and educate local students. Here's to the next 25 years - and beyond!

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



Speak kindly
Use compassion
Mindfully listen
Move calmly
Include others
Think first

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.



2023-24 Board of Trustees

Becky Lindwall (Secretary), Amy Shoemaker, Theresa Fettkether (President), Cassie Mitvalsky, Camron Devor (Treasurer), Ashley Balster (Vice President), Megan Hart-Fernandez. Not pictured: Armond Dawson.



2023-24 Summit Staff

April Bickford, Principal/Head of Schools	Leigha Roggeveen, Intermediate Teacher
Larisa Bickel, Director of Business & Operations	Shelby Paradise, Intermediate Teacher
Kathleen Reinwart, Office Manager	Angie Lesky, Middle School Teacher
Ken Scheinblum, Accountant	Sydney Gleason, Middle School Teacher
Tonya Trudo, Director of Marketing & Communications/Volunteer Coordinator	Jamie Day, Physical Education/Health/Wellness Teacher
Jill Elliott, Tutor Manager	Andrea Happel, Spanish Teacher
Rachel Eilers, Kitchen Manager	Amber Maas, Art Teacher/Summer Camp Director
Chris Maloney, Early Childhood Teacher	Jenna Smith, Music Teacher
Erin Valarezo, Early Childhood Associate	Pat Akers, Tutor
Rachel Willenborg, Primary Teacher	Sue Menken, Literacy Coach
Jackie Allen, Primary Teacher	

the Summit experience

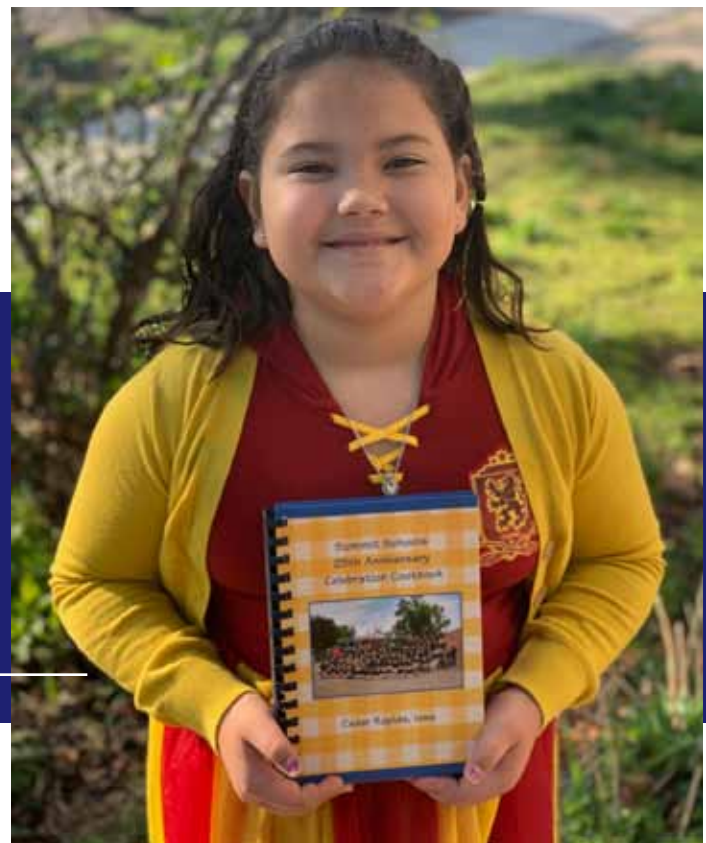
Summit Schools celebrated 25 years in several ways in 2023-24.

The school hosted a back-to-school ice cream party for families and students with balloons, face painting, a photo booth - and of course ice cream! The Celebrate Summit Gala Fundraiser was held at Elmcrest Country Club for parents, alumni and supporters in the fall. The event offered speakers, a live auction, the 25th anniversary video, and a donation opportunity. The annual Celebrate Summit online auction was open to supporters near and far, and offered unique experiences and exclusive items. The gala and online auction successfully raised over \$100,000, the school's annual fundraising goal. We thank everyone for their generous financial support and for helping Summit celebrate this milestone!

Watch Summit's 25th anniversary video here:

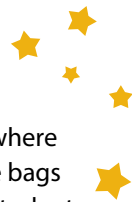


Summit's PTO compiled a 25th anniversary cookbook filled with favorite recipes from families, staff, students - and of course Summit's beloved kitchen manager Miss Rachel!



community connections

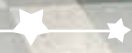
Summit also celebrated its 25th anniversary by giving back to the local community through outreach events.



Summit hosted an Earth Day spring service project where students, staff and volunteers filled 12 large garbage bags with trash found at nearby Noelridge Park. Summit students often venture to Noelridge Park for learning opportunities, and to play and explore!



Summit families donated 333 lbs of nonperishable food for HACAP's Food Reservoir, which helps local people experiencing food insecurity.



Summit fourth graders raised \$550 with their lemonade stand for the Cedar Valley Humane Society. Students learn marketing skills, budgeting and fundraising through this annual project.

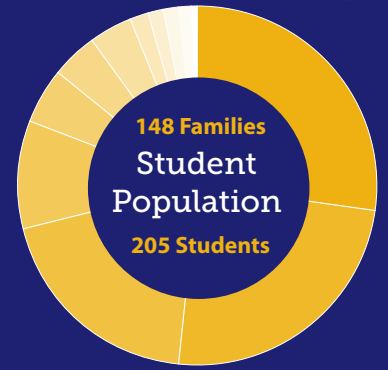


by the numbers

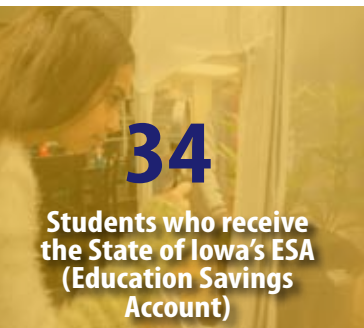


118 PreKindergarten-8th grade school students

Summer Camp



- Summit 56
- Linn-Mar 50
- Cedar Rapids 40
- Private School 20
- College Community 10
- Other 9
- Homeschool 8
- Mount Vernon 3
- Alburnett 3
- Marion Independent 3
- Solon 2
- Lisbon 1



34

Students who receive the State of Iowa's ESA (Education Savings Account)



\$47,346

Average educator salary



\$8090

Investment



22%

Students receiving financial aid



\$118,389

2023-24 Fundraising



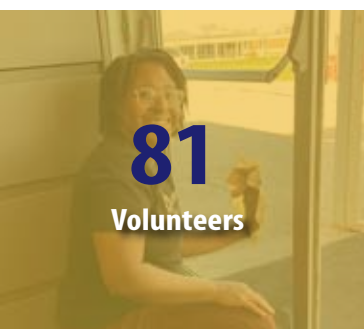
\$11,900

Total cost to educate a Summit student



37

Students who receive Summit tutoring services



81

Volunteers



1383

Volunteer hours



\$2774

Average financial aid package



63%

Percentage of tuition that covers expenses



\$1,452,295.33

- Tuition 64%
- Auxiliary Programs 22%
- Development 8%
- Other 6%

"Our daughters have always enjoyed Summit Summer Camps. The opportunity to reunite with friends and make new ones over the summer adds an extra layer of joy to their experience. The variety of interactive activities and outdoor play are a definite highlight. From exciting games to engaging challenges, the camps keep them active and entertained throughout. The emphasis on hands-on experiences, especially through crafts, creative projects, and outdoor learning allows them to use their imagination.

"What really stands out is the exceptional care and attention provided by camp staff. Their warmth and helpfulness make us feel confident that our children are in a safe and nurturing environment. They are attentive and ensure they always feel comfortable and included in all activities. We highly recommend Summit Summer Camps to any parent seeking a fun, enriching, and well-supervised summer camp experience for their child."

- Amanda Hollenbeck, parent



\$1,390,706.97

- Staff Wages/Benefits 63%
- Auxiliary Programs 12%
- Supplies & Materials 10%
- Admin Expense 8%
- Utilities & Maintenance 7%

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 (O-G), the phonics-based sensory reading method, which has been especially effective in children with learning disabilities and differences. Summit's classroom teachers are all trained in O-G and its benefits. Summit's ongoing O-G training in the fall of 2023 was made possible in part with funds raised in the 2023 Fun Run, so thank you to the families and students who made this important and generous investment in Summit's teaching staff!

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

English Language Arts (ELA)
82%

Science
60%

Math
72%

"My son is a completely different kid after his first year at Summit.

He is excited and eager to go to school, which is a huge transformation from past years at other schools. The teachers are incredible - he feels such support and love from them. They care about him as a unique individual and are always partnering with us as parents to be a part of his education. Summit is an environment where he feels safe to learn, explore, be challenged, and grow. I've seen monumental growth in his academics - as a naturally bright kid, they have tapped into his strengths and continued to nurture them, while always finding ways he can further his learning or connect his love for certain subjects in a personal way. As a parent, the amount of communication I receive from his teachers makes me feel connected to what he's learning at school and I always feel welcomed into the building. When he comes home from school, he's not completely depleted because he gets breaks, time outside, and is actively engaged and happy during the school day. He's always eager to tell me about what he is learning, about a cool activity or field trip, or teach me a new word he learned in Spanish that day. From a mom who has struggled with her son's school engagement and behaviors, Summit has changed our life in the most positive way. We are so thankful to have found our school home here."

-White Family



the Summit difference

FastBridge

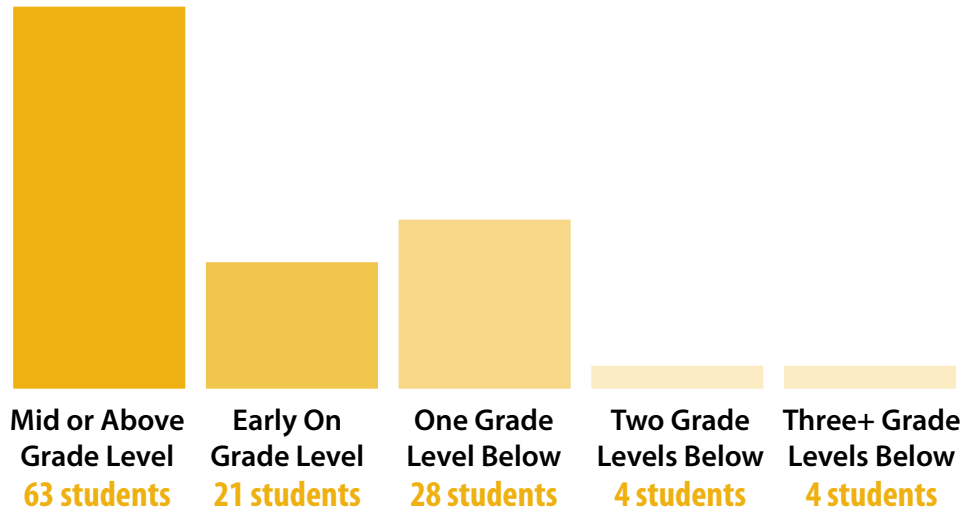
FastBridge Assessments is a tool for assessing student reading skills multiple times during the school year.

% MEETING BENCHMARK: BUILDING K-6

Fall 2022/23	Winter 2022/23	Spring 2023/24	Fall 2023/24	Winter 2023/24	Spring 2023/24
73%	77%	74%	74%	69%	77%

iReady

iReady mathematics program helps determine the needs of students, personalize their learning, and monitor progress.



“Summit set me up for success in music and foreign language, with these classes being as advanced as some middle school ones I took. I was also set up for academic success as my teachers were able to support me continuously. Summit helped me grow socially as well, and it’s where I learned to be a decent human being.”

- Hannah Neuville, Summit (and recent high school) graduate

Conditions for Learning

The Department of Iowa’s Conditions for Learning (CfL) student survey measures safety, engagement, and environment.



3RD-5TH GRADES:

Student-Student Relationships
Summit average: 96%
State average: 86%

Adult-Student Relationships
Summit average: 78%
State average: 81%

Physical Safety
Summit average: 80%
State average: 59%

Emotional Safety
Summit average: 22%
State average: 21%

Boundaries and Expectations
Summit average: 73%
State average: 75%

6TH-8TH GRADES:

Student-Student Relationships
Summit average: 59%
State average: 41%

Adult-Student Relationships
Summit average: 53%
State average: 39%

Physical Safety
Summit average: 65%
State average: 52%

Emotional Safety
Summit average: 47%
State average: 25%

Boundaries and Expectations
Summit average: 24%
State average: 41%

Summit support



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 63% 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 hosted the Celebrate Summit gala fundraiser and annual online auction to help fund our mission, and surpassed our \$100,000 goal.

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 support

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Change a Life (\$7,300+)

Lynda Schimberg

Build a Mind (\$5,000-\$7,299)

Michael & Jennie Telisak

Invest In Our Assets (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Ryan & Amanda Hollenbeck
Clayton & Becky Lindwall
Virginia Michalick
Joe & Kara Parsons
Everitt & Terri Petersen

Shape the Future (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Haroon & Paly Afridi
Larry & Marilyn Callahan
Dan & Sharon Clark
David Matalon & Dani Collins
Mitch & Rhonda Estling
Beau & Dana Huberg
Edwin Morris
Alex & Jane Passos
Ian & Ashley Shaw
Scott & Amy Shoemaker
David Swaney
Colin & Tamara Wetlaufer
Claire Wilson
Jim & Julia Wittnebel

Believe (\$500-\$999)

Mark Andersland & Mary
Susan Pruzinsky
Shane & Erin Appleby
Jon & Michelle Bailey
Camron Devor
Robert Holmes & Sharon
Carmody-Holmes
Mark & Nicole Mast
Willie & Cathy Sneller
Jamey Stroschine & Lisa
Wiebenga
Jim & Sarah Wittnebel

Learn (up to \$499)

Pat Akers
Omar Akhtar & Shadia Igram
Clint & Morgan Aldeman
Anonymous
Emma Barden
Janie Bengard
JP & Larisa Bickel
Dylan & April Bickford
Doug & Carol Blair
Charles Cherry & Diamond
Butler
Kylie Chihak
Michael & Janelle Clymer
Bob & Mollie Cunningham
Brandon & Tara DeWolf
Tim & Carol Dolson
Matt & Rachel Eilers
Matt & Theresa Fettkether

Curtis Hames & Abbie
Riehle-Hames
Ken & Allison Hecker
Tariq Igram & Shereen Sarsour
Catharine Johnson
Tyler & Maureen Knight
Joe & Becky Lahart
Steve & Laurene Lanich
Rebecca Morrison
Angie Neuville
Brian Nigg & Katheryn Paulsen
Chris & Sarah Nolte
Christopher & Kayla Orr
Leon & Jolyn Robbins
Peter & Kristine Sahayda
Katie Shatzer
Carolyn Simons
Kasey & Jennifer Smith
Ruth Stadheim
Brent & Tonya Trudo
Aaron & Erikka Vosmek
Nichole Willey
Angela & Kirk Wilson
Lisa Wilson

CORPORATE DONATIONS

Change a Life (\$7,300+)

Raytheon Technology
Matching Gifts

Invest in Our Assets (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Balster Pediatric Dentistry
Blue Grass Enterprises
B/P Associates
JPM Enterprises & Heather
Morris Realty

Shape the Future (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Carson Wealth
Cedar Graphics
GreatAmerica Financial
Services
Hills Bank
Hy-Vee

Believe (\$500-\$999)

911 Restoration
Alliant Energy
Eddie's Rod & Custom
Hames Homes
Scott Shoemaker & Associates

Learn (up to \$499)

Applebee's Neighborhood
Grill
Box Tops for Education
Casey's General Store
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Dunn Brothers Coffee
Freddy's Frozen Custard &
Steakburgers
Level 10 Apparel
Noodles & Company
Panera Bread Company

Raising Cane's
Van Meter, Inc.
Wells Fargo
Zio Johnno's Spaghetti House

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Haroon & Paly Afridi
Omar Akhtar & Shadia Igram
Jackie Allen
Anonymous
Maggie Balster
Tammy Bayer
JP & Larisa Bickel
April Bickford
Bistro at Blooms
Blooms Garden Center
Nursery & Gift Shop
Cedar Graphics
Cedar Rapids Kernels
Cedar Rapids Opera
The Cheesecake Lady CR
The Collegiate Group
Coe College
CR Signs
Kelly Cummings
Dance Garage, LLC
Jamie Day
Sarah Driscoll
Rachel Eilers
Barb Geilenfeld
Great Harvest Bread Company
Hacienda Las Glorias
Lacey Hamlett, D.C.
Hansen's Dairy
Andrea Happel
Tom Hart
Megan Hart-Fernandez
Ryan & Amanda Hollenbeck
Laurene Lanich
Amber Maas
Chris Maloney
Dr. Laura at Marion Dental
Marion Police Officer
Sue Menken
Philip & Divashree Morehead
Jared & Heather Morris
Angie Neuville
Shelby Paradise
Pop-Up Cinemas
Porfirio's Mexican Restaurant
Pura Vida Creative
Tom Reinwart
Leigha Roggeveen
Amanda Rundquist
SCOUT of Marion
Jenna Smith
Kristen Sindelar
Cathy Sneller
Sweet Sofia's
Jamey Stroschine & Lisa
Wiebenga
Erin Valarezo
Verve Creative Studio
Rachel Willenborg
Wittnebel Family

GRANTS

Allegra FootPRINT Fund



Summit Schools empower
student to exceed their
social and emotional goals

"We were initially drawn to Summit because of the small class sizes, individual attention, and personalized learning opportunities. We have grown to love Summit in the past few years because of the caring, family-oriented community and the nurturing teachers and staff who help our young son to feel at ease and at home. There is a wonderful and deep emphasis on community, inclusion, sensitivity to individual needs, and helping children grow not only academically, but socially and emotionally, so that they are happy, secure, confident, and excited about learning. Above all, we love that kindness is modeled and valued at Summit each and every day!"

- Matalon-Collins family



social, and emotional go
encourage a lifetime of succ
personal fulfillment. Em
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global community by fos
critical thinking, proble
and creativity both inde



★25 YEARS★

summit schools

Celebrating our silver anniversary
with golden opportunities

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