

THE SIERRA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



12th Annual Newsletter



Downieville students find treasures from the ocean on their Headlands trip



Loyalton Elementary students exploring lava tubes in Lassen County



Downieville Middle Schoolers build confidence & community at ropes course



Loyalton High Drum Corps hit the streets

A Letter from the President:

Our schools are the glue that connects us and binds us together in our community. From California to Appalachia, from farmlands to native lands, rural schools serve nine million students across the country and are central to a community's cohesion and pride. As corporatization, consolidation, and budget cuts have reduced the number of rural small businesses, health care facilities, and social service programs, public schools are often the only remaining trace of rural, institutional infrastructure.

We all know that a healthy American future must include a thriving rural landscape and rural public schools are at the forefront.

Our schools bring people together, they provide a sense of purpose, and they create common ground, something that has largely vanished in many rural places. A thriving school really can make the difference in whether or not a community is moving forward or experiencing slow decline. Simply driving down Main Street of a small town that has lost its public school will tell this tale. Thankfully, because of the love, commitment, and care our local community has put into our schools, both Loyalton and Downieville schools continue to flourish!

In the next couple pages you can take a look at the grants you—our generous supporters and donors—have made possible. Every grant represents a soul-stirring, mind-opening, inspiring life-path experience for each Sierra County student. When you support our grant program through your donation, you are making an investment not just in our schools, teachers, and students, but also in Sierra County itself.

I do hope you'll consider donating to The Sierra Schools Foundation again this year. If you have never donated before, let 2023 be the year you make your first donation! The programs—like the burgeoning music program in Loyalton and Downieville students exploring jellyfish, mollusks, and plankton in tide pools at the Headlands Institute in Marin County—are examples of what we can do together to enhance student learning, promote strong teaching, and strengthen our academic, social, and cultural programs.

Thank you for supporting The Sierra Schools Foundation. Because of you, our rural schools aren't merely surviving, we're thriving!

With gratitude,

Jenna Holland



Teacher & School Grants

Winter 2022

The Sierra Schools Foundation funded **\$33,960** in grants this cycle! Take a look below at our 2022-2023 grants and how we put your generous donations to work.

District-Wide Grants

DHS/LHS College Application & Essay Writing Grant, Megan Meschery & James Berardi: **\$4,000**

Downieville School K-12

Downieville School Gold & Green Garden Phase 1, Robin Bolle: **\$3,500**

DES Sierra Nevada Journeys Outdoor Education, Faith Edwards: **\$2,400**

DJH/DHS Nature Bridge Headlands Science Camp, Katrina Bosworth and Faith Edwards: **\$2,900**

DJH/DHS The Quarry Field Trip, Robin Bolle: **\$1,600**

DJH/DHS Beginner Sewing Class, Katrina Bosworth: **\$500**

DJH/DHS TMI Time Project, Robin Bolle: **\$300**

Loyalton Elementary School

Discovery Museum Field Trip, Stephanie Shelby: **\$1,500**

Gallery on the Go, Erin Folchi: **\$500**

Lava Beds National Monument, Joanna Haug: **\$3,000**

Science Walks & Classroom Talks, Allie Davis: **\$260**

Sierra Nevada Journeys, Juli Lane: **\$7,000**

LES/LHS Social Emotional Learning to Strengthen Success for Grades K-8, Annie Ceresola & Megan Meschery: **\$2,500**

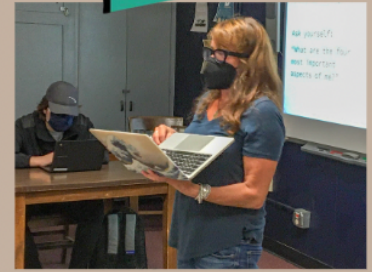
Loyalton High School

LHS Field Trip to UNR Black Rock Press, Katherine Genasci: **\$650**

LMS/LHS Ski Education, Sarah Torricelli: **\$3,350**



Cath's Corner: District Wide College & Career Counseling



The Sierra Schools Foundation was also able to partner with UC Berkeley grad & Magellan Counselor, Cath Howard, to provide quality personalized and competitive college and career support for all juniors & seniors in SPJUSD. Cath specializes in

Cath at Downieville High

personal/narrative essay composition, activity resume creation, & career consultation!

Spring 2023

The Sierra Schools Foundation funded \$15,050 in grants! Thanks again for another successful year supporting Sierra County schools, teachers, and students.

District-Wide Grants

YouScience, College & Career Curriculum Grant, Meschery & Berardi: **\$1,500**

College Exploration, Application and Essay-Writing Grant, Meschery & Berardi: **\$4,000**

Downieville School K-12

Downieville School K-12, Garden Project Phase 2, Robin Bolle: **\$550**

Musical Accoutrements, Siobhan Markee: **\$300**

DES Hydroponics Garden, Faith Edwards: **\$700**

H2O One Day at a Time, Environmental Science Project & Curriculum, James Berardi: **\$4,000**

Shakespeare Festival & College Tour, Ashland Field Trip, Amber Baca-Sainsbury, Lynn Fillo, Frazier: **\$3,000**

Loyalton High School

Dia de los Muertos Cultural Field Trip, Nevada, Andaluz: **\$1000**

2023 Senior Grants: Dream Big

Senior Projects are a unique tradition in the SPJUSD school district. As a graduation requirement, all students must explore a new academic concept or career path that is interesting to them and that they have never tried before. The Sierra Schools Foundation empowers students by leveling the playing field in regard to resources and funding as our high school seniors pursue pathways to their dreams.



These \$500 (max.) grants can be used for classes, equipment, and so much more!

Downieville High School

Mia Martinelli: Eco Friendly Interior Design

Landon Jackson: Reconstructing the Weight Room

Riley Pearmund: The Yuba Theater: A Documentary Film (photo featured in right column - on left)

Loyalton High School

Lucas Durney: History of Engines

Andrew Jordan: Motor Rebuild and Swap

Kaila Russell: Every 15 Minutes

Mikayla Hubbs: How to read Music and Play Piano

Sophia Wellise: The California Cowboy

Aubree Roen: Building a 6.5 Creedmoor

Braden Armstrong: Cake Baking & Decorating (photo featured in right column - on right)

Alena Johnson: Running a Half Marathon

Madison Servideo: Reupholstering My Boat



widely known for the color and creativity he brings to the stage as a tenor soloist and chamber musician.

Having performed for fifteen years, McIntosh now dedicates his time to his family and inspires the next generation of musicians through music education with emphasis on healthy singing, musicianship, and music literacy.

As the music teacher at Loyalton Elementary, Middle, and High schools, McIntosh's dream is to one day bring music education back to the level of importance of all the other liberal arts pillars—providing the youth once again with a complete educational experience.

Thanks to Loyalton High School Alumni Peter Bechen, one of The Sierra Schools Foundation's most generous and long-time donors, we were able to fund this wonderful new music program.

We are so happy to have Owen McIntosh bringing his deep love for music and infectious energy to Loyalton schools!

Meet Owen McIntosh!



The Sierra Schools Foundation, Musica Sierra, The Sierra Arts Council, and the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District worked together to create a world class music program that serves all of Loyalton's schools and students! Meet Owen McIntosh, Loyalton Elementary & High Schools' new music teacher!

Described by the New York Times as a "lovely, tender high tenor" in one concert and "appropriately brash" in another, three-time Grammy nominee and Gramophone Award winner, Owen is



Thank you to our partners:



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VALEDICTORIAN: \$5000 +

The Bechen Family Foundation, Peter & Missy Bechen
Sullivan Family Fund
William O'Connor

SALUTATORIAN: \$2000-\$4999

Audra Earlene Folsom
Sarah Forslund Fund
Marla Stock
Clock Key Foundation
Gumba's Family Pizza

MERIT SCHOLAR: \$500-\$1999

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Sierraville Service and Country Store
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DEAN'S LIST: \$101-\$499

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Arlene Amodei
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Bassett's Station
Bequette & Kimmel Accountancy Corporation
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Plumas Sierra Cattlewomen
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Joseph Lenney
Juan & Sheri Mendez
Julie Ledson
K.A. Randall
Katherine & Andy Genasci
Kimberly Lombardi
Kristy & Steve Folsom
LaDonna Martinetti
Lee Adams
Lee & Michele Wright
Leif & Laura Lysen
Looking Up: Janet Holm McHenry
Loyalton FNL Kids
Luis and Cheryl Madrid
M.G. & C.L. Smith
Marty Flora
Marty Walker & Al Petrie
Mary & Jim Genasci
Michael & Karen Galan
Michael Supple
Mike & Cindy Smith
Mike & Victoria Fisher
NACOB-Sierra Hot Springs
Nancy McCormack
Nicholas & Claudia Alexander
Pat McCarthy
Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
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Richard & Liz Halliday
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Robert Wheeler
Roberti Ranch
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Ronnie & Vicki Decker
Sandra Loving
Sarah Folsom & Paul Lesniak
Sierra Booster
Sierra County Chamber of Commerce
Sierra County Deputy Sheriff's Association
Sierra County Land Trust
Sierra Hardware
Sierra Wildlife Habitat and Community Foundation
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The Lost Marbles Ranch
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Thomas & Patricia Hansen
Thomas Mooers
Thomas Watson
Tom Blide
Walter & Sandra Nowakowski
William & Gail Sheridan
Yvette Durant & Jeffrey Bender

HONOR ROLL: \$1 to \$100

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Angus Ranch
Barbara Hill
Beatrice Henke
Beverly Jordan
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Bonnie E Jessee
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