

Looking Back, Moving Forward

2025-26 Recap & 2026-27 Preview



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER IN 2025-26

Donated \$25,635 in grants to student activities

This year, the Boosters awarded over \$25,000 in grants to student clubs, athletic teams, and arts and academic programs.

Grant recipients and their funded projects included:

- MENS Club: \$500 for a celebratory event recognizing participants' commitment and hard work.
- Boys Soccer: \$1,000 for players who cannot afford the cost of WIAA required uniform components, ensuring all players can participate.
- Football Team: \$1,000 for branded gear to build team morale, visibility, and pride.
- Raza United: \$495 for a team-build trip to Schuster's Farm.
- Black Student Union: \$1,000 for club events, holiday gatherings, and refreshments.
- Africa Club: \$1,000 for field-trip transportation and celebration costs.
- Demetral Track Study: \$1,200 toward architectural site plans to launch fundraising for a new Eastside track.
- French Club: \$1,000 toward a coach bus for a trip to the Haitian American Art Museum in Chicago.

MAY 2026



This year, the East community showed up in powerful ways. Next year, we're building on that momentum with new programs and expanded support.

This newsletter highlights what you made possible – and how you can be part of what's ahead.

**Connect with us at
easthighboosters.org**

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2025–26 Grant Recipients, Continued

- Pro Start: \$1,000 for chef coats, specialized equipment, and practice ingredients for culinary competition prep, ensuring students can participate without financial barriers.
- Spanish Careers: \$100 for lunch vouchers for students attending Multilingual Day at MATC.
- Gymnastics: \$1,000 for uniform shorts and gym bags for practicing in borrowed spaces.
- Mountain Bike Club: \$1,000 for scholarships, safety gear, loaner bikes, and supplies.
- Cypher: \$1,000 to replace aging audio equipment and expand student participation.
- Fall Tennis: \$1,000 for new tennis bags for boys' and girls' teams.
- Spring Tennis: \$1,000 for new tennis bags for boys' and girls' teams.
- ATL Drumming: \$1,000 for traditional instruments and performance outfits.
- Mariachi Club: \$1,000 toward instructor costs and traditional instruments.
- Theatre: \$1,000 for musicians, choreography, and costume design for the spring musical.
- Girls Soccer: \$1,000 for scholarships, snacks, team-building, and essential equipment.
- Sisterhood: \$500 toward a Chicago trip to the DuSable Museum and Architecture Tour.
- Summer Speed & Strength: \$1,000 coach's stipend to keep the program free and accessible.
- Math Club: \$750 for Pi Mile costs, supporting scholarships and access to calculators.
- East High School: \$5,500 for senior yard signs, senior brunch, and Purgolder Picnic.
- East Staff: \$1,000 for pizza at fall and spring conferences.

The First-Ever Great East Side Bakeoff & Community Bake Sale

Our inaugural Bakeoff brought in nearly \$2,000 and created a joyful, community-centered event we can't wait to build on. We had 45 volunteers, 18 business sponsors, six celebrity judges, 40 contestants, and hundreds of baked goods.

Party For Purgolders

Our annual celebration raised nearly \$13,000, thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and attendees. We had 40 volunteers, 50 business sponsors, three celebrity bartenders pouring a signature cocktail, a capacity crowd of 300 partiers, and a ton of fun.

Pack the Stands

We launched Pack the Stands, working with coaches to choose key games and promoting them to our mailing list to help drive big, spirited crowds for athletes across all three seasons.

Dining Out

We launched our first Dining Out series, which brought in over \$2,000.

New Ways to Support East

- Refreshed our website and launched a Donate page to make giving easier
- Opened online apparel stores and hosted multiple pop-ups selling new East hats, hoodies, and shirts
- Ran a Just Coffee sale featuring student-designed artwork
- Created robust content for our mailing list, including a new Club Spotlight series
- Partnered with middle school PTOs to give free East shirts to rising 8th graders



Celebrating a winning pull in the Bakeoff cake raffle

WHAT'S COMING IN 2026-27

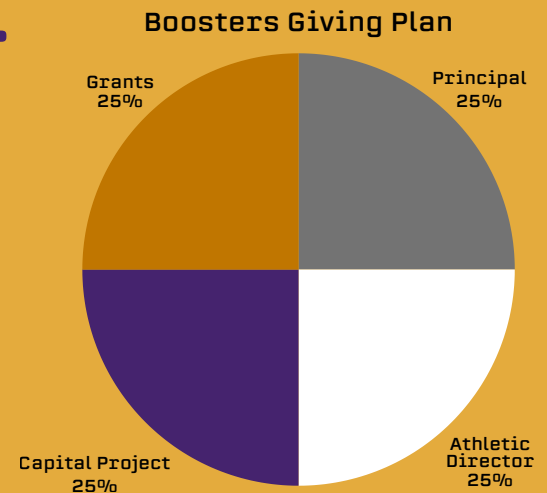
Next year is shaping up to be our most ambitious yet.

We're giving \$60,000 to East.

The Boosters approved a 2026-27 Giving Plan that includes:

- \$15,000 to the Athletic Director
- \$15,000 to the Principal
- \$15,000 toward a capital improvement project to be determined at our upcoming June 8 Boosters meeting
- \$15,000 in club, athletic and activity grants

This plan ensures consistent, predictable support for student needs across athletics, arts, clubs, and classrooms.



Party For Purgolders Returns

We'll bring back P4P with new ideas for even greater impact.

Just Coffee Sale + Student Art Contest

We'll once again partner with Just Coffee, with students submitting original artwork for the label.

Dining Out Series, Round 2

We'll bring back Dining Out with old and new restaurant partners.

Standing Up a Silent Auction

We're launching a Silent Auction to help fuel our \$60K Giving Plan, supporting East athletics, arts, clubs, and classrooms – and we'd love your help.

Donate to the Boosters Silent Auction!

We're looking for:

- Gift cards
- Homemade items
- Professional services
- Tickets & experiences
- Lessons
- Hosted events
- Getaways
- Gift baskets

If you'd be excited to win it, we'd love to include it. Your donation directly supports East students.

Bakeoff: Season 2

After a strong debut, the Bakeoff will return with more bakers, more swag, and more fun.

More Apparel Pop-ups

We'll continue offering apparel pop-ups throughout the year to help families show their East pride, and will be launching new stickers and window clings!

Taking Over Concessions Operations

Next year, the Boosters will take over concessions operations, creating a sustainable revenue stream and more opportunities for families to get involved.

Scan here to submit a silent auction item



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

There are so many ways – big and small – to support East students. Whether you have time, resources, or simply school pride, you can make a meaningful difference.



Make a Financial Donation

Your contributions directly support grants, events, and student opportunities. [Donate here.](#)

Follow Us on Social Media

Stay connected, share our posts, and help spread the word. We're on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Get updates on events, grants, volunteer opportunities, and school happenings. [Sign up here.](#)

Come to a Meeting

Meet other families, hear what's happening, and help shape our work. [Check our schedule here](#) and [see past minutes here](#).

Volunteer

Help at events, support concessions, join a committee, or pitch in on short-term projects. [Check here](#) for opportunities throughout the year (more coming this summer and next fall!).

Support a Teacher or Coach with a Grant Application

Ask a teacher or coach if they need help applying for funding. That might mean assisting with a [Boosters grant request](#), or helping them research and apply for external grants that require a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor – a role the Boosters can provide.

Attend a Dining Out Event

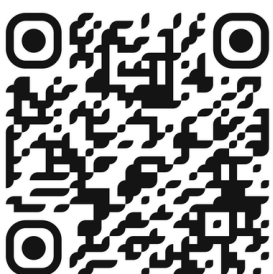
Enjoy a meal out while supporting East – easy, fun, and community-building. Keep an eye on our social media pages and mailing list for next year's lineup.

Share Our Posts

Amplifying our reach helps more than people realize. Sharing a post, tagging a friend, or forwarding our newsletter helps bring more supporters into the fold.

Buy Some Merch

Show your East pride and support student activities through apparel pop-ups and online stores. Choose your Class Year, or rep a favorite team, club or activity.



Class Year



Affiliation





The packed dance floor at Party For Purgolders

Additional Ways to Support the East Boosters

Employer Matching Gifts

Many workplaces match donations made to nonprofits, and the East High Booster Club is a registered 501(c)(3) – which means your gift may be eligible to be doubled.

Sponsor an Event

Families and local businesses can sponsor the Bakeoff, P4P, or other events throughout the year. Contact fundraising@easthighboosters.org

Advertise on the Scoreboard

Boost your business profile and support East by placing an ad on the electronic scoreboards. It's a high-visibility way to reach the Eastside community while directly supporting Booster-funded programs. Reach out to sponsorships@easthighboosters.org.

Boosters Board

Becca Schwei

President & Acting Treasurer
president@easthighboosters.org

Tracy Burrus

Vice President
vicepresident@easthighboosters.org

Sunny McDaniel

Secretary
secretary@easthighboosters.org

Susan Parsons

Fundraising Chair
fundraising@easthighboosters.org

Reach out directly, or email
info@easthighboosters.org.

Other ideas?
We'd love to
hear from you.



Thank you, East Community.

Everything we do is powered by you – your time, your generosity, and your belief in our students. We can't wait to see what we accomplish together next year.

If you'd like to get involved, volunteer, or learn more, reach out anytime.

See you at The Castle!

