



15
Years
ANNIVERSARY

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CHSEF News

From the Board

As we celebrate 15 years of supporting Cherryville High School, the Board of Directors is proud to welcome you to this special anniversary edition of our newsletter. Since our founding, the Cherryville High School Education Foundation has been dedicated to strengthening opportunities for every Ironman by funding programs and resources that might not otherwise be possible.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, friends, and community partners, CHSEF has helped bring meaningful enhancements to CHS — from technology upgrades and teacher grants to career development initiatives and outdoor learning improvements. Your support has made a lasting impact.

As we look to the future, our mission remains clear: to preserve the Ironmen tradition and continue creating new opportunities for CHS students to learn, grow, and succeed. We are grateful for your commitment and excited for what the next 15 years will bring.

From CHS Principal

My name is Mitchell Allen, and I am honored to serve as principal of Cherryville High School (CHS). As a proud product of Gaston County Schools and a 2001 graduate of Hunter Huss, it is a privilege to give back to the community that shaped me.

On a personal note, my wife Katie Allen—a Forestview and Appalachian State alumna—is one of Gaston County Schools' lead speech-language pathologists. Together, we are proud parents of two wonderful children, Aubree and Lathan. Our family enjoys supporting our daughter as a member of the Forestview Dance Team, cheering on our son at soccer games, and spending time traveling, especially in the mountains and at the beach.

The Cherryville High School Educational Foundation (CHSEF) has a profound impact on our learning environment. From the creation of our outdoor classroom and science lab to the teacher grants that support innovative instruction and the college visits to Appalachian State University and Campbell University, the Foundation continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of our students and staff. I look forward to working alongside the CHSEF and our community partners to continue the proud tradition of excellence that defines CHS.

As a servant leader, my mission is to serve the students, families, and community of Cherryville by fostering meaningful relationships and providing engaging, high-quality instruction. Together—with the continued partnership of CHSEF—we will ensure every Ironman is prepared for success beyond high school.

Go Ironmen!

Mitchell R. Allen, Principal, Cherryville High School

Bringing Science to Life

Bringing Anatomy to Life

Our health science students have been benefiting tremendously from the science lab this semester. The Anatomage table has provided an interactive way to explore the human body, allowing students to visualize the respiratory and cardiovascular systems in detail. They can also examine disorders that affect these systems, deepening their understanding in a way that textbooks alone cannot provide. The Anatomage table has truly been an invaluable resource for our students—enhancing learning and sparking curiosity. A big thank you for making this incredible tool available!

Emily Beam, RN, Health Science Education, CHS

Transforming Biology

The new science lab at Cherryville High School has transformed the way my students learn. They're now able to engage in true hands-on experimentation and deepen their understanding through reinforcement activities on the Anatomage Science Table. This technology helps them visualize abstract concepts—like genetics and DNA technology—in ways that were never possible before. My students look forward to going to the lab each week, and it's sparked a new appreciation for the sciences. I'm confident that these experiences will inspire future career opportunities for our CHS students.

Wendy Holt, Biology Teacher, CHS



Hands-On Science

The science lab has transformed the way I teach, giving students the opportunity to do science themselves rather than just learn about it. With this hands-on experience, they begin to understand what real scientific exploration feels like. This resource not only reinforces the science content we cover in class but also has the potential to spark a lasting interest in some students to pursue a future in the field of science.

Lee Shuford, Earth and Environmental/APES, CHS

Transformed Learning for Students

The science lab has truly transformed the way I teach and the way my students learn. It takes our classroom concepts and brings them to life in meaningful, memorable ways. In Biology, the Anatomage Table allows students to explore structures and relationships that were once difficult to visualize. In Chemistry, students are able to engage in hands-on investigations that make abstract or challenging concepts concrete and accessible.

LaynTreadway, Science Teacher, CHS



CHSEF



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15 Years of Impact: What You Have Accomplished

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Cherryville High School Education Foundation, we are proud to share the incredible impact our donors and community partners have made possible. Over the past decade and a half, CHSEF has invested nearly \$700,000 directly into Cherryville High School programs, classrooms, and student opportunities.

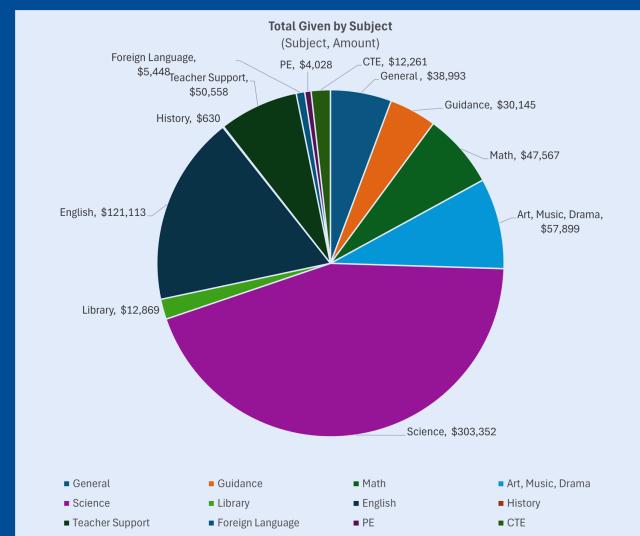
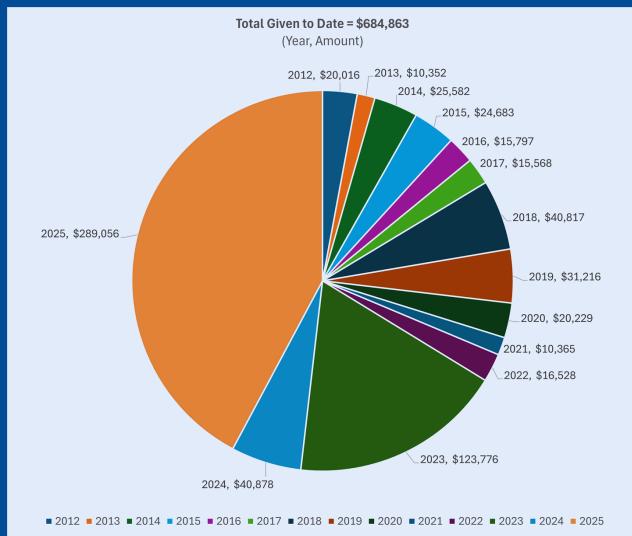
Thanks to your generosity, CHSEF has strengthened CHS in meaningful and lasting ways:

- Science – Over \$300,000 for lab equipment, technology, and hands-on learning tools.
- English & Literacy – More than \$133,000 supporting books, curriculum resources, and classroom enhancements.
- Art & Music – Over \$57,000, ensuring students have access to high-quality creative materials.
- Teacher Support – More than \$50,000 in grants, resources, and professional tools.
- General Academic Support – Nearly \$40,000 across departments.
- Library Resources – Over \$12,000 expanding reading and research materials.
- CTE, PE, History, Math, and Foreign Language – Nearly \$70,000 targeted investments that continue to strengthen learning across CHS.

These gifts have brought Chromebooks into classrooms, improved labs and learning spaces, expanded arts education, and empowered teachers to create innovative experiences for students.

As we look back on 15 years of service, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported CHSEF. Together, we are building a brighter future for every Ironman.

Thank you for 15 years of generosity—and for helping us continue the Ironmen tradition of excellence.



Campbell University Trip

We had an incredible experience taking 75 CHS students to Campbell University. We left CHS at 6:00 AM and arrived on campus around 10:00, ready for a full day of learning and exploration. Students enjoyed a guided campus tour, attended informational sessions, heard an inspiring message from our very own Mr. Bob Barker, ate lunch in the dining hall, and visited the engineering college to explore future academic and career pathways. This entire trip was made possible thanks to the generous support of Mr. Bob Barker, who fully funded the experience. After a full and rewarding day, we returned to CHS at 6:00 PM, grateful for the opportunity to provide our students with such a meaningful college visit.



CHSEFn.org/give
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Grant Fuels CHS Art Program

I was fortunate to receive a grant from the Cherryville High School Education Foundation to support the visual arts program. This funding provides my students with access to a wide range of quality art supplies that might otherwise be out of reach. With these resources, students can experiment, refine their skills, and fully realize their creative ideas. The grant not only enhances classroom learning but also allows our students to compete on an equal footing with those from larger schools, showcasing their talents with confidence and pride. Pictured below are students working with embroidery that will later be turned into a pillow.

Lacey Dellinger, Art Teacher, CHS



Just Girls Club Off to a Great Start

We were thrilled to welcome 18 girls to our November 1st meeting, and we're encouraged by the steady growth and consistency we're seeing each week. Even more exciting is watching the girls build meaningful relationships with Ms. Tuft and me—many are now reaching out to us outside of meetings for advice, encouragement, or simply someone to talk to.

This fall, the girls have enjoyed creating seasonal crafts to brighten their homes. For Halloween, they painted ceramic jack-o'-lanterns, and for Thanksgiving, they made festive fall wreaths perfect for hanging on the door. As we look ahead to Christmas, our goal is to provide each girl with a personalized gift and also plan an outing where they can give back to the community, possibly through Area Ministries or the Lutheran Church. We are also exploring a spring trip to the Biltmore House, which the girls are already excited about.

Callie Cooke, Just Girls Co-Leader, CHS

In the Classroom...Math

I also want to highlight the impact of the whiteboards around my classroom. Now in my third year using them, I've seen a remarkable difference in student engagement—my students beg to work at the boards! In Math 1, especially, if we go even one day without using them, I hear about it. It's incredibly rewarding to watch students who may be confused while seated suddenly gain confidence and understanding once they're up at the boards, working through problems together. They leave class excited because the math finally "clicks."

A heartfelt thank you to CHSEF for making this possible! Your support continues to make a real difference.

Callie Cooke, Math Teacher, CHS



Strengthening Spanish Skills

This semester, students have been using IXL Spanish to build vocabulary, strengthen grammar, and develop reading skills at their own pace. Each week, I assign targeted skills that align with our current classroom lessons. As students work, IXL offers instant feedback, allowing them to correct errors right away and continue improving with confidence. This individualized practice has become a valuable tool in supporting their ongoing language growth.

Kristen E. Logan, Spanish Teacher, CHS

