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Eudora Schools FOUNDATION
cultivating community investment to enhance student opportunities

Press Release

Eudora Schools Foundation Announces 2016 Teacher Excellence Grant Recipients

Friday, Sept 30, 2016; Eudora, KS: The Eudora Schools Foundation (ESF) announced today the award of $10,000 in Teacher Excellence Grants to 17 teachers in the Eudora school district. Teachers apply for grants for innovative programs that enhance students learning and success in the classroom. Since 2006, the Eudora Schools Foundation has funded more than 60 projects totaling more than $35,000 in educational initiatives across the district.

"What a privilege it is to recognize teacher ingenuity as they cultivate and inspire our students toward success, said Kania Shain, ESF President, “Student excellence is a reflection of the expertise and dedication of teachers and the support they garner from the district and community. We are so fortunate to be part of a community that understands the importance of strong education and supports the efforts of the Eudora Schools Foundation to recognize teacher excellence and propel our students into the 21st century. It is this support that makes our Teacher Excellence Grants possible”.

The chosen projects will have a beneficial effect on students from K through the 12th grades and Special Education. Examples of the grants proposed include STEM projects, books and advancement curricula, health initiatives, career and college readiness, and common core education. Twenty-two applications were received and grants were awarded to the schools in the following amounts:

Eudora Elementary: $2,963
Eudora Middle School: $1,955
Eudora High School: $5,236

Individual school grants and award recipients are listed below:

Eudora Elementary School

- Solid & Liquid Learning Kits– allows 2nd grade students the opportunity to perform high-quality experiments and observations utilizing materials scientists would use in a real lab setting. The kits provide exact measurements and experiments to engage students in real-world science instruction, and increases their interest in STEM studies. Hands-on science equipment is essential in increasing student engagement to help make connections to the world around them. Grant Recipient: Kari Heide

- Afterschool Book Club – fosters 3rd grade students’ ability to fluently read books, comprehend the text, respond to a work of literature, and to foster students’ love of reading outside of the school day. The club will engage students in an online blog about the books they read. Students will seek out books that they can fall in love with and will learn to engross themselves in literature. Grant Recipient: Heather Moore

- Filmmaking Pocket Camcorders– enables 4th grade students the opportunity to enhance their learning through their role as a film director and creator. Students will use the devices in a variety of capacities to improve reading fluency, promote creativity, inspire writing, and increase student engagement. Students will feel empowered to take charge of their learning and share what they know, what they write, and what they experience with the world. Grant Recipient: April Peavey

- Sensory Accommodations – provides special education and general education students with a variety of sensory accommodation tools to assist children who may have difficulty focusing, controlling their body, and who may require assistance with modulating their sensory system to fully engage in the school and learning environment. Recognizing not all students reach their potential in the same way, these resources allow students to have increased time learning, increased social time with peers, and increased classroom engagement. Grant Recipients: Hillary Brunin, Nicole Ramirez, Meghan Reardon, & Jennifer Sweany

- OSMO Gaming – allows 1st grade students the opportunity to practice social-emotional skills, creativity, art, STEM, and college and career ready skills through fun and engaging technology. Teachers will use the OSMO Gaming System to help students with spelling practice, creative problem solving, drawing, counting, and addition/subtraction fluency. It will give the students the ability to explore and work collaboratively with their classmates using technology and 21st century skills. Grant Recipient: Becky Topil

Eudora Middle School

- Makey Makey Circuit Boards – enhances the learning of 6th grade science students by giving them hands-on tools to investigate and learn about electricity and electrical engineering. Students will be able to use objects around them to create closed circuits. These objects can then be used to control a variety of different things such as a computer or be programmed to run one of their favorite video games. These boards will allow students to go beyond using wires, light bulbs, and switches to make circuits by learning about the engineering aspect of electricity. Grant Recipient: Betsy Lawrence

- Oximeters – promotes a physical education initiative to increase student health levels while at the same time providing the opportunity for hands-on higher learning. Oximeters will provide efficient means to attain individual target heart ranges, which is a true means of determining quality exercise. Middle school students reaching their target heart ranges and keeping them there for an appropriate duration, is the only true way to determine if they are getting a quality workout on an individual basis. Grant Recipient: Mitchell Tegtmeier

- *The Outsiders* Classroom Novel Set– provides 8th grade students the opportunity to explore a classic piece of literature that is so timely in relating to their personal development. *The Outsiders* is considered a "coming-of-age" story in which the cast of characters make mistakes and grow from them, as well as discover their identity. Middle school students struggle with identity and finding their place in the world, which is why this novel is a great choice. This novel shows them how as humans we tend to be judgmental, and the impact that can have on others. Grant Recipient: Heather Adams

- Solar Powered Cars – enhances 8th grade students understanding of physics, meteorology, and chemistry as they create their own solar powered cars. This equipment engages students by providing them with a basic task or challenge in addition to a degree of autonomy in how they approach the solution – these skills are essential in students becoming college and career ready. Grant Recipient: Paul Kaldahl

- Spanish Novels and CDs – enables both middle school and high school foreign language students to build interpretive skills in order to attain Spanish proficiency in interpersonal skills. TPR Storying Telling Novels & CDs are written specifically for novice Spanish students, using sheltered vocabulary and fun, and compelling storylines. Language learning supports academic achievement in many ways, including development of reading abilities, the transfer of skills from one language to another, higher scores on ACT tests, and higher academic performance. Grant Recipient: Melanie McQueen

Eudora High School

- Science Olympiad – enables middle school and high school students the opportunity to participate in a national competition where students compete in 23 events covering various areas of science from cell biology to engineering and robotics. Participants become project managers researching, designing, budgeting, running trials, redesigning, competing, presenting, and answering questions from judges (professionals in STEM fields), then redesign for improvement before the next competition. Students experience opportunities they wouldn't normally have until adulthood. Science Olympiad enhances their high school resumes making them stand out to prospective colleges and scholarship decision makers. Grant Recipients: Barbie Hartwell & Julie Splichal

- Juice & Coffee Stand – provides high school culinary art students the unique opportunity to operate a fully equipped juice and coffee station serving the student body and staff at the high school. Students practice many employable skills especially related to a hospitality business operation. This is a student-operated and student-designed program which provides ownership to these students in addition to a practical internship, all while providing a service to the school community. Grant Recipients: Cathie Klein & Jack Low

- KidWind Physics Kits – allows physic students in the 11th and 12th grades to construct small working wind turbines while engaging in challenging, current, and relevant science. Students will be better-informed citizens who have a greater appreciation and understanding of the issues related to energy creation and usage. Data collection technology is an area of major emphasis in current science teaching and this will allow our students to keep up with current trends. Grant Recipient: Joe Pickett

- Coding Kits – improves high school mathematics students' exposure and experience in coding and computer programming fundamentals. As coding and programming becomes a more necessary job skill, our students stand to become more employable for having had experience in basic programming concepts before they enter a college or technical program. The reasoning and logic demonstrated by the TI-Innovator kits is valuable to students at many levels of learning. Grant Recipient: Scott Keltner

- Shakespearean Costumes & Props – enhances 10th grade English Language Arts classes by providing students with costumes and props to aid in instruction while learning about Shakespearean plays. Student engagement and understanding of poetry, plays, and stagecraft has increased tremendously since we started incorporating costume and prop pieces. Plays are meant to be acted out, and students gain so much more insight, creative vision, and comprehension when they become part of the play. Grant Recipient: Shannon Pickett

- Go!Link Adapters – allows high school chemistry students opportunities to use computers to collect data immediately during lab experiments. The Go!Link Adapters allow students to view probeware with a small calculator screen or with a projected teacher demonstration. Students can manage experiments using probeware on their own, and will take part in a inquiry based learning using the technology and their personal computers. Grant Recipient: Morning Pruitt

- Industrial Tools – provides high school industrial technology students with much needed updated technology and safety equipment. This equipment upgrade will enhance students' production, safety, and creativity abilities while promoting a better working knowledge of machines and their functions. These upgrades will allow students to be a "step" ahead of their peers when entering college or the workforce. Grant Recipient: Gus Andrews

The Eudora Schools Foundation is a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3) that generates resources, builds relationships, and champions public education in Eudora Public Schools. Founded in 2006, the Foundation exists to enhance the quality of education through partnerships with the community. Expenditures are primarily directed toward enhancing classroom instruction and impacting the broadest number of Eudora students.

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