



The Marlborough Education Foundation

**P.O. Box 5824
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For Immediate Release:

MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2017 - 2018 GRANT AWARDS

Marlborough, December 12, 2017: The Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2017/2018 grant award recipients

OUR MISSION

MEF's mission is to provide the funds for new programs and resources that enhance the educational opportunities for students in the Marlborough Public Schools. The programs we support should complement the existing curriculum, help as many students as possible, and be self-sustaining.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?

MEF relies on the generous support of individuals, families, organizations, and businesses in the greater Marlborough area to provide the funding needed for these grants. Money is raised through various community events, through our semi-annual "Thank an Educator" program, and via direct solicitation of local businesses. We are also deeply indebted to **Drs. Carvalho and Roth** who made a contribution to endow a special grant for the promotion of literacy in the schools.

HOW ARE GRANT RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Our grant selection process is "blind"- the names and school affiliation of the applicants are deleted from the copies the board reviews. Only one board member, the person responsible for photo copying and distributing the grant paperwork, knows the name of any applicant. The grants are reviewed by each member and questions are relayed back to applicants through the member who did the paperwork distribution. A subsequent meeting is held at which each application is reviewed and discussed. The Board considers the scope of the grant, the number of children it will benefit, the ability for the program to sustain itself once funds are provided, and finally, the relevancy of the program to the school's curriculum.

HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN AWARDED?

Over the last twenty-one years MEF has awarded over \$193,000 to fulfill 172 grant applications, many that were submitted by multiple teachers for their classrooms. Many of our grant awards encompassed entire grade levels - we awarded grants that would supply a program or technical equipment, to ALL of the teachers of grade level (ie second grade, sixth grade) in a school.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:

We were extremely happy to be able to fulfill all the grant requests sent to us this year. \$4,517.98 will be awarded at tonight's school committee meeting to:

The Charles Whitcomb School

Danielle Martins and Erin Casey - \$519.80 for HOKKI Stools for their Sixth Grade Team

Danielle and Erin designed their classrooms with active learning in mind. They provide a time where students can choose a space to learn where they are most comfortable. They wanted to include more "fidget-friendly" options. HOKKI Stools are an ergonomic stool that transforms stationary sitting into an activity ideal for brainstorming sessions and other active sitting environments. Their goal is to increase student engagement with these active seats. This grant allows them to add 4 HOKKI stools to their standing desks, floor seats, tables with crate or bucket seats and comfy seating.

Kelly Hall - \$1,820 for iPads for iEngineering for Fifth Graders. This is the recipient of the Carvalho/Roth endowment for literacy.

With the grant award of \$1,820, Ms. Hall will be able to purchase six iPads, child safe cases and docking stations that will allow her students to document the engineering design process using videos, photos and reports. The process will allow her students to capture events over time and analyze results. Digital notebooks promote student collaboration by sharing documentation, and build literacy through authentic science inquiry. As students use their digital notebooks, they develop computer skills while enhancing the practices of science and engineering.

To Richer School

\$2,178.18 awarded to Susan Rosenthal to provide alternative seating to assist children with ADHD in grades K - 4

Do you know kids who act as if they are driven by a motor? These children cannot sit still and have difficulty attending to teacher instruction. Using therapy ball seating or allowing children to stand can help children with the ability to focus and attend to instruction. With this grant Richer School will purchase 18 stand-up desks and 6 therapy ball chairs. Susan was awarded a grant last year to purchase therapy ball chairs for third and fourth graders which proved to be very successful in decreasing the activity level of hyper-active children while at their desks. With this year's grant, this work will now be spread to the lower grades -

kindergarten, first and second grades. Susan is also providing standing desks in the different grades. Often children with ADHD have such a difficult time sitting and attending that standing is often a better option. In a study conducted by Texas A&M University, it was discovered that "when children stand during the day their attention and focus increase by 12%".

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