

Educare awards \$57,124 in Educator Initiative Grants to Mankato Area Public Schools

The Educare Foundation awarded \$57,124 in educator initiative grants to support innovative learning across Mankato Area Public Schools.

Grant awards for the current school year include:

- Telepresence robots by OhmiLabs for all K-12 schools, \$10,775--robots provide a unique communication experience through a combination of video cameras, video screens and remote physical operation.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) kits and buddies for Jefferson Elementary School, \$11,599--STEM kits provide hands-on examples, puzzles and challenges related to core STEM subjects.
- Mariachi ensemble for East High School - \$6,607—to add depth to musical ensembles.
- Multi-process welders for East and West high schools, \$11,529--More than 300 students taking welding courses at Mankato Area Public Schools, including students involved in welding internship and manufacturing apprenticeship programs. Construction pathway expansion for Central, East and West high schools, \$16,614--funds will help expand construction trades through equipment purchases and upgrades.

Educare
FOUNDATION for
Mankato Area Public Schools

Support the wonder of learning

The Educare Foundation has provided more than \$1.2 million in financial support to Mankato Area Public Schools to fund programs and activities that go beyond the normal operating budget. Through this funding, teachers are enabled to enhance educational opportunities for all students, explore new ways of learning and provide a vital link between the community and the classroom.

For more information about the Educare Foundation, call 507-387-1868 or visit www.educarefoundation.org. We appreciate your generous support of Educare.

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Support is also provided by Educare through Ed Waltman Mini Grants. Generally, up to \$24,000 are awarded annually in mini-grants.

A non-profit public entity, the Educare Foundation provides financial support to Mankato Area Public Schools beyond the normal operating budget. Since it's 1995 beginning, Educare has funded more than \$1.2 million grants.

Educare supports programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students and encourages teachers to explore new ways of learning and provides a vital link between the community and the classroom. Learn more about Educare at www.educarefoundation.org.

Mankato Area Public Schools offers quality nutrition to optimize learning

By Shelly Miller

Studies show that quality nutrition optimizes student learning. Therefore, Mankato Area Public Schools strives to provide students with healthy food that tastes good.

"We believe an environment that fosters healthy eating habits creates better learners," said Darcy Stueber, food services director at Mankato Area Public Schools. "We empower students to take health and wellness into their own hands by offering quality food options and encouraging them to take them."

For each meal, five healthy items are offered including milk, meat or meat alternative, fruit, vegetable and whole grain-rich items. Students are encouraged to take three which must include a half-cup serving of fruits or vegetables. Stueber says offering convenient packaged fruits and vegetables at checkout like raisins and carrots helps students reach that goal.

For elementary students, breakfast costs \$1 and lunch is \$2.35. For secondary students, breakfast is \$1.05 and lunch is \$2.65. Meals are provided at free or reduced cost for students who qualify. Families must reapply every year and may do so at any time by calling 507-388-7442 or emailing foodservice@isd77.org.



Darcy Stueber, director of food services at Mankato Area Public Schools, encourages students to take three healthy food items.