

# Planning for the future to help students succeed

Environment and adequate space are important to student learning. Now, with COVID-19, ensuring there's adequate space is more important than ever to help keep students and staff healthy. One of the ways to help ensure spaces contribute to student success, Mankato Area Public Schools' officials have a long-range planning process. The community is an important part of this process because citizen input is important and helpful in shaping the future.

Data, including enrollment projections, are collected to help determine what to focus on, such as programs and activities, to best provide opportunities that benefit students and families. Examples of ideas that may be considered include building updates, increased learning space and activities.

"It's essential Mankato Area Public Schools' look ahead and prepare for changing demographics and student needs, while also considering how the current events can have an impact," says Superintendent Paul Peterson. "This aligns with our mission to assure learning excellence and readiness for a changing world."

For more information contact staff at 507-387-1868.



*An elementary classroom before COVID-19. Adequate space is important to student learning.*

## Educare awards \$76,233 in Educator Initiative Grants to Mankato Area Public Schools

The Educare Foundation awarded \$76,233 in educator initiative grants to support innovative learning across Mankato Area Public Schools.

Grant awards for the current school year include: Virtual Reality Expeditions for East and West high schools; and, Prairie Winds and Dakota Meadows middle schools, \$31,223—brings the world to the classroom and provides opportunity for students to explore a variety of topics and experience immersive virtual settings from the Louvre to Mount Everest. Roller skating program for K-5, \$15,000—Elementary students will experience a roller skating program as part of their physical education curriculum.

Greenhouse for Mankato Area Public Schools' East High School and Prairie Winds Middle School, \$30,000—students will have the opportunity to study and apply topics including science, math agriculture and nutrition.

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 \$1.3million 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.



**Educare**  
FOUNDATION for  
Mankato Area Public Schools

*Support the wonder of learning*

The Educare Foundation has provided more than \$1.3 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](http://www.educarefoundation.org).

We appreciate your generous support of Educare.

**DIAMOND SPONSORS** (\$7,500+)

Lowell and Nadine Andreas Foundation

CHANKASKA CREEK RANCH & WINERY

THE GLEN A. TAYLOR FOUNDATION

Mankato Clinic

Consolidated communications

**PLATINUM SPONSORS** (\$5,000-\$7,499)

Mayo Clinic Health System

**GOLD SPONSORS** (\$2,500-\$4,999)

ISG

Jones Page Jacobson Family Foundation

MEI – Total Elevator Solutions

Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic

Schwicker's Tecta America

WEB Construction