



# CENTAUR FOUNDATION NEWS

Supporting the Students, Staff and Community of Brooklyn Center Schools ISD 286  
2022 - 2023

## Centaur Foundation Awards 17 Teacher Grants During 2021-22 School Year

Despite ongoing COVID concerns, the Centaur Foundation awarded 17 teacher grants during the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers were able to maintain a normal class schedule, but the number of field trips continued to be limited. Seventeen Foundation grants, valued at \$13,500, were awarded. These grants helped pay for programs, supplies, materials and activities that enriched and enhanced the student learning experiences at all three District 286 schools. The Foundation thanks all who donated and made these grants possible. The following grants were awarded during the past school year:

1. **Documentary: "The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation"** aided in examining the Asian perspective of American history in an ECA social studies classroom.
2. **"Hlub Lub Hlub" (Love the Mind)** was a summer youth program implemented to serve Hmong students by creating a space for self-exploration, offering discussion of social and ethical issues impacting the community and engaging in advocacy activities.
3. **Sensory Play Items** for kindergarteners enabled students to engage in real life activities using the toys as vehicles for communication and growth.
4. **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness** helped 2<sup>nd</sup> graders improve their reading skills; better learn word sounds; and improve their vocabularies.
5. **"Immigrant Story Telling"- Silent Voices** helped students as they studied, recognized and acknowledged the contributions of and challenges faced by immigrants from Central and South America.
6. **Nordic Skiing Enrichment** program was partially funded through a Foundation grant. The program, in partnership with Nordic Rocks, enabled all (K-12) 286 students to experience cross country skiing.



7. **"Flocabulary"** was a website used by students to learn new vocabulary words, as well as design videos by writing music lyrics and making videos.
8. **College Career Post-Secondary Learning** grant enabled students to visit colleges and career focused sites (ie. Aveda) as they made plans and decisions about their post-secondary education.
9. **Historically Black College and University/Civil Rights Research Tour** was partially funded by a grant which helped support a student trip to Washington D.C. as students visited historically black colleges and universities and toured various historical Civil Rights sites.
10. **House Unity** was an initiative by BCE teachers to build school spirit and a sense of unity among all students in a 1-5 pod as their growth was measured and highlighted with a star each year.
11. The **Diverse Chapter Books Series** grant enabled a 4<sup>th</sup> grade BCE teacher to purchase books with diverse main characters with the hope being that students could see themselves in the stories.
12. **Chapter Books for Small Group Discussion** provided students with engaging chapter books that helped foster the development of reading skills.
13. **Student Tech Team Uniforms** were used by students who completed a course sponsored by Vivacity which enabled them to be certified to repair Chromebooks.
14. **Seeing Ourselves in Graphic Novels** found a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher adding graphic novels that fully represent the learners and lives of the students to her classroom library.
15. **Build the Change** involved using Legos to focus on human interactions on the environment, animal habitats, and the engineering design process.
16. **Fatal Vision-Alcohol and Drug Prevention Simulation Goggles** will be used to help prevent risky student behaviors related to drinking, drugs and driving. Using the goggles, the students will be able to safely experience the dangers of drinking or drug impairment while driving.
17. BCE Field Day activities were enhanced by using a rented **Savage Jump Inflatable** which the Foundation paid for.

### Centaur Foundation Scholarships Awarded to Three BCS Seniors

Three \$1000, renewable for a second year, scholarships were awarded to BCS seniors, Alexander Garcia, Elizabeth Karpah and Aliza Lee. Awards will be given once the students complete their first and third semester of a post-secondary school program.



Aliza Lee, Elizabeth Karpah & Alexander Garcia

### Centaur Foundation Highlights

During the past 15 years, the Centaur Foundation has awarded 288 grants valued at \$162,138. More than 3000 students have benefitted from these grants. 45 seniors have been awarded scholarships worth \$42,000. "Centaur Donors", those whose total donations exceed \$500, now number 60, while "Spotlight Donors", those whose donations exceed \$1000, now total 33. **\*All 2022 donors are listed on the backside of this newsletter.**

### Foundation Teacher Professional Growth Grant

Early College Academy (ECA) teacher, Katherine Kunz, applied for and received a Foundation grant that involves completing a Yoga Sanctuary course that will certify her as a yoga teaching instructor. Her hope is to get her students, as well as other BCCS students, to develop themselves as a whole person through group practice, lecture, discussion, community collaboration, personal inquiry and mentoring.

**Donations should be sent to:**  
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