



# Centaur Foundation News

Supporting the Students, Staff and Community of Brooklyn Center Schools ISD 286  
2017-2018

## Centaur Foundation's 2017-2018 Grants Enhanced and Enriched Educational Experiences of District 286 Students

During the 2017-18 school year, the Centaur Foundation awarded **24 grants worth \$14,673**. Students at **Earle Brown Elementary, Brooklyn Center Secondary and Brooklyn Center Academy** benefited from these Foundation grants. These grants helped pay for programs, supplies, materials and activities that enhanced and enriched student learning experiences. None of these grants would have been possible without the generosity of Foundation donors. The following grants were awarded during this school year:

1. **Gale Woods Farm** field trip. 4th graders visited the farm to learn about food, farming and healthy eating. Students had hands on experiences working with both crops and animals.
2. **Freshman Orientation T-Shirts** were used to promote the class of 2021 as the students began to build a 9th grade community grounded in Centaur pride, with a focus on high school graduation and college aspirations.
3. **STEAM Kickoff** for new kindergarteners with emphasis on technology which is incorporated throughout each day by using "Teachers Pay Teachers" technology activities.
4. Creation of a **Chess Team** at BCS with the hope being that many students will be attracted to the activity as they begin to develop their skills and participate competitively.
5. **Kindles for Kids** allowed students to use E-book and audio books through a membership in Amazon Prime, Kindle Unlimited and Audible. Students had access to more than 1,000 titles and libraries.
6. BCS Spanish students were able to attend a performance of **Hispanic Flamenco Ballet**. Students were exposed to a variety of songs and dance from throughout the Spanish speaking world as they celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month.
7. **Book Collection** for middle school students in the Setting 3 classroom and ATS Room. These students were provided with immediate and ongoing access to high interest books and relevant youth literature.
8. **Mousetrap Car Kits** provided a physical science activity for 6th, 7th & 8th graders during their advisory time. STEAM areas such as design, engineering, creativity, energy and scientific method were used.
9. **Green Card Voices** was an exhibit which was viewed by all BCS students. It featured Minnesota students who have immigrated for a variety of reasons. The exhibit included a photo and their story.
10. A Foundation grant paid for a set of **Djun Djun Diemb Drums** which are used to teach students about African drums and dances. Assorted **African Percussion Instruments** were also purchased through the grant.
11. The spring musical, "**Guys & Dolls**", was partially sponsored through a Foundation grant. More than 40 students were involved in this theatrical experience.
12. A subscription to **History Vault** enabled a BCA teacher to access 100's of hours of documentaries made by the History Channel. These visually enhanced student history lessons.

13. A field trip to the **Minnesota History Center** enabled students to view photos by Mexican-American photographer, Xavier Tavern, who visited the BCS classroom before their trip.
14. BCS ELL students attended the play, "**Help Wanted**" at theatre **Teatro del Pueblo** which told the true story of a Minnesota immigrant family.
15. **History Day** materials and supplies were provided through a Foundation grant. Transportation to district and regional competition was also paid by the grant.
16. **3rd Grade Farm to School** grant enabled students to go to Gale Woods Farm after working with a farm educator from Gale Woods in their classroom.
17. "**Landfill Harmonic**" DVD provided students with insight into the culture and traditions of Paraguay.
18. As part of the STEAM program, students needed more background knowledge of physical & space science and the study of **Solid Fuel Rockets** provided that.
19. **Earle Brown Field Days** included an **Obstacle Course** which was sponsored by a Foundation grant.
20. **The Best of Me Project** let 5th graders highlight their individuality through creative writing & pictures which were published as a book.
21. **Hardcover Blank Books** for BCA students to use to create, write and illustrate a story that shows the impact of supply & demand.
22. **Chemistry of Tie-Dye** allowed students to learn about the chemistry & history behind the dyeing of cloth.
23. Trip to the **Festival of Nations** enabled students to experience food, music, dance and cultural traditions of countries around the world.
24. A Foundation grant helped make a **Senior Party** possible for the graduating Class of 2018.



Centaur Foundation grant helped produce "Guys & Dolls"

### Centaur Foundation Scholarships Awarded to BCS Seniors

Four \$500 scholarships, renewable for a second year, were awarded to Christina Yang, Honory Fyne, Olufemi Akindumila and Molly Falnes at a BCS all school Awards Assembly. Awards will be given once the students complete their first and third semester of a post-secondary program.

### Centaur Foundation Thanks Generous Donors

The list of "**Spotlight Donors**", those who have given more than \$1000 since 2007, increased to 22 donors. "**Centaur Donors**" who have donated more than \$500 since 2007 numbered 40. District

286 employees donated \$8,050 during the year. They were part of the 161 donors who donated \$26,738 in 2017-2018. Included in this number were donations of \$5,000 from two BCHS Alumni. The Foundation sends a sincere thank you to all donors. **Donors listed on the back.**

### 10 Year Foundation Highlights

During the past 10 years, the Centaur Foundation has awarded 204 grants valued at \$105,152. These grants were awarded to teachers who used the grant funding to enrich, improve and enhance the educational experiences of their students.

1000's of District 286 students have benefited from these grants. In addition, it has awarded 36 senior scholarships worth \$28,000. This year, for the first time, the Foundation awarded a "Teacher Summer Professional Growth Grant". It was awarded to BCS AVID teacher, Andrea Kemink.

**Donations should be sent to:  
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6500 Humboldt Avenue North  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

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*The Centaur Foundation Board wishes to thank all the donors who have so generously donated to the Foundation. It is because of their generosity that the educational experiences of District 286 students have been enriched and enhanced.*

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