

News Release
For Immediate Release
November 15, 2023

Foundation for Education Awards \$12,215 for Local School Projects

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – The Grand Forks Foundation for Education, Inc. is awarding \$12,215 through 14 grants this fall to help fund a variety of enrichment projects in Grand Forks Public Schools.

The Mini-Grants have been funded through the Foundation for Education since 1992. Awards are usually for classroom-level or grade-level projects. All areas of curriculum and all grade levels are eligible for Mini-Grants.

Elementary School

- **\$401 – Tracy Whalen, Lake Agassiz Elementary** for her “Reading Is Dino-mite” grant to purchase various dinosaur related titles for the Lake Agassiz library.
- **\$450 – Amy DeWitt, Century Elementary** for her “Instruments Cart” grant to purchase three rolling Orff stands to help transport xylophones throughout the school and to make them accessible to more students.
- **\$623 – Jaci Paintner, Viking Elementary** for her “STEM Activities” grant to purchase materials to support teachers in unlocking the excitement of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) lessons.
- **\$1,037 – Chrissy Dewey, Winship Elementary** for her “Welcoming Winship” project. This award will fund several community service and engagement projects at every grade level, as well as multicultural books to represent diverse students.
- **\$1,490 – Jessica Sporbert, Lake Agassiz/Wilder/Winship/Century/Ben Franklin Elementaries** for her “Story Champs Intervention Kits” grant. Story Champs is a multi-tiered language curriculum for preschool and school-age children.

Middle School

- **\$628 – John Stempinski, Valley Middle** for his “Juniors Auto Enrichment” grant. These funds will be used to purchase additional mini autos of various types and upgrade/replace broken parts from a previous scale kit vehicle grant to expose middle school students to automobiles.
- **\$941 – Alex Hedlund, Valley Middle** for her “Outdoor Lifetime Sports Equipment” grant to purchase various outdoor games; including volleyball, cornhole, bocce ball, and more, to be used throughout the year during physical education classes.
- **\$1,450 – Evan Pederson, Valley Middle** for his “Student Recognition” grant to purchase a backdrop and tablecloth with Valley’s newly braded logo. These will be used in various ways by many students throughout the year.

Middle/High School

- **\$667 – Nick Pederson, Valley Middle and Central High** for his “AVID Tutorial Resources” project, to purchase rolling white boards and supplies to enhance AVID elective classes; providing students with a collaborative and interactive learning environment.
- **\$1,008 – Casey Beck, Valley Middle and Central High** for his “AVID Class College Visit” project. Valley and Central AVID students will visit the TRIO program at the University of North Dakota, as well as Northland Community and Technical College and Mayville State. This is an opportunity for these students to envision themselves at a college or university prior to going through the actual process of applying for post-secondary education.

High School

- **\$430 – Nancy Greenwood, Central High** for her “Monsters-Crushing it Art” grant. These funds will be used to purchase polymer clay, tools, and other supplies that will be used to create a polymer clay sculpture in art classes.
- **\$500 – Kristijana Dogan, Central High and Red River High** for her “ML Calculators” project. These funds will be used to purchase scientific calculators to be used in multilingual learner math and science classrooms at both Central and Red River High Schools.
- **\$1,200 – Maren Dewar, Central High** for her “Theatre Arts Tech Enhancements” grant, to purchase video and podcasting equipment to be used by students to film and record themselves in an effort to improve their performances and gauge their growth in class.
- **\$1,390 – Emily Kulas, Red River High** for her “A Gateway to Literacy” project. These funds will be used purchase various non-fiction books to replace outdated titles in the library. Positive exposure to quality literature encourages students to engage with nonfiction throughout the rest of their life.

For further information on the projects that were funded this fall, please contact Foundation Executive Director **Emilia Hodgson** at 701.787.4866 or ehodgson290@mygfschools.org.

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