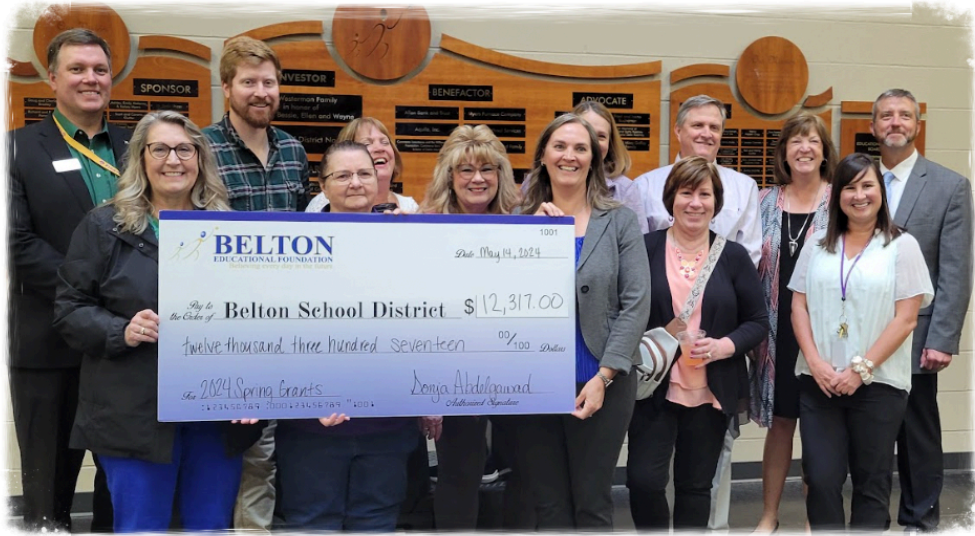




Over \$12,300
Awarded to Teachers
on Grant Surprise Day - Spring 2024



Keep reading to find out which schools and which teachers will have new materials for innovative projects that go above and beyond the regular curriculum, as we begin the 2024-25 school year!

Nick Civitello at Belton High School - \$170



Mr. Nick Civitello at Belton High School/Yeokum received a \$170 grant for his small but powerful project "Visualizing Engineering: for 3D Integration in the Classroom."

This grant will purchase an Astra 3D Camera that students in engineering and computer sciences classes will use to create 3D scans of objects, do motion tracking, and create interactive experiences. Ultimately, the scans from the cameras will be used by students for 3D printing and/or VR programming. Students will also use the camera to develop software that uses motion tracking.

Amber Webel & Dr. Kim Carson-Swift at Gladden Elementary - \$1,357

Counselor Amber Webel and Music Teacher Dr. Kim Carson-Swift at Gladden Elementary were awarded \$1,357 for their "Rhythms for Regulation" project.

This research-based project will allow for these two staff members to attend training in Rhythmic Entrainment Intervention (REI) and for the purchase of drums and recordings to use with children K-4 at Gladden Elementary. REI has been found to create neural pathways that help people improve their ability to self-regulate, focus, and overcome many neurological challenges. We are excited to hear more about how this innovative project impacts children in Belton!



Special Education K-4 at Gladden Elementary - \$2,488



Special Education Teachers, Madison Nading, Maria Lesch, and Diane DuCharme, at Gladden Elementary will engage students through their project "Hands on Learning Through Sensory Exploration."

Teachers will use hands-on learning to improve student engagement, particularly focusing on sensory stimulation, to meet the diverse needs of their students.

Materials purchased with these grant funds will provide opportunities for students Kindergarten through 4th grade at Gladden to learn a variety of academic skills while also stimulating their specialized sensory needs. Learning centers using light tables, sand and water tables, and a variety of thoughtful coordinating materials will stimulate students sensory diets and keep students engaged in learning activities while working alone, with a teacher, or with their Occupational Therapist.

First Grade Teachers at Wilckens STEAM Academy - \$2,484



Teachers Madison Baker, Courtney Ishihama, and Jaci Gage at Wilckens STEAM Academy at Hillcrest were awarded a grant for \$2,484 for their project "All About Birds."

A group of Missouri Learning Standards for first graders address observing animals and learning about the shapes and functions of their body parts and then designing a solution to a human problem by mimicking how animals use their part to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.

First graders dig deep in their study of birds. This grant will provide a Smart Birdhouse with a camera for students to closely observe birds through live video feed, brooder boxes for their chick hatching, Bird Specimen & Beak Discovery Kits for hands-on learning, bird feeders, and more!



These grant materials will positively impact learning for 1st graders at WSA for MANY years.

Second Grade Teachers at Wilckens STEAM Academy - \$2,495



Kathryn Davis, Melissa Fitzpatrick, and Alexa Lopez at Wilckens STEAM Academy at Hillcrest were awarded a grant for \$2,495 for their project "Sound and Vibration Come Alive."

This grant will provide for student investigation of how changes in vibration result in changes in sound using a variety of hand-on, real world experiences. With these materials, students will get to see and experience sound vibration through a paint splatter project with tuning forks, explore pitch with jars of liquid, and observe sound vibration using a mechanical wave table with a frequency machine, where sand will move on the table in differing patterns based on sound frequency.



Nathan Mattson & Brad Hughes at Belton Middle School - \$3,323



Nathan Mattson and Brad Hughes have been awarded \$3,323 to purchase three 3D printers, a compatible computer and printer filament for students at Belton Middle School.



Mr. Mattson shared that the 3D printers at BMS are outdated and obsolete, they can no longer be used. However, he knows that students love to bring their designs to life, that is why he wrote this grant. Students at BMS will use CAD software to explore digital design and then bring their projects to life with the 3D printers. Students will apply their knowledge to solve real-world design challenges, creating functional tools, products, and architectural models. They will engage in the design process, including refining their prototypes based on feedback, testing, and user need and constraints. Using CAD and the design process provides students with a rich immersive learning experience that prepares them for future careers in STEM fields as well as fostering a mindset of creativity, innovation and lifelong learning.

BEF Grants to Teachers are our MOST Impactful Program supporting children and education!

Materials purchased because of BEF grants touch the lives of children EVERY DAY in the Belton schools!

Over the past 21 years, BEF has awarded \$735,000 in grants to Belton schools, including nearly \$25,000 this year!

We need your help to continue to promote innovation in Belton schools, funding grants to support teachers and learning.

Please make a donation to support our BEF grant program today.

Each year we give numerous -

- New Teacher Grants** for \$100
- Mini Grants** for up to \$250
- Teacher Grants** for up to \$2,000
- Team Grants** for up to \$2,500
- Building Grants** for up to \$5,000

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

[**Giving Button**](#)

Use the Giving Button above to make a donation to help us support BEF Grants for the 2024-25 school year.

Thank you!!

Without our generous donors, we could not encourage innovation and support children and education in such an impactful way.

THANK YOU to our 2024 Pirate Foundation Sponsors!!

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Mark your calendar!



BEF
Annual Gala
Sept. 7, 2024
at The Venue
in Leawood

OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

An elegant evening of entertainment with a tropical sunset theme
- Featuring The Teresa Deaton Band -



**BHS All Class Reunion
Homecoming Weekend**

October 10-12, 2024 - Parade, Tailgate and Hall of Fame Luncheon



BEF Turkey Bowl

Nov. 9, 2024

A FUN bowling event to kick off the holidays and raise funds for scholarships and teacher grants.



GIVE TO BEF



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The mission of the Belton Educational Foundation is to provide funding to enrich educational opportunities and encourage innovation to maximize the learning potential for every student attending the Belton School District.

For more information about the Belton Educational Foundation, visit our website at www.beltonfoundation.org. Or reach out to Sonja or Jennifer at the BEF office.

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