

Hillsboro Schools Foundation
Innovative Grants for 2025 – 2026

Esports Club Expansion: Hillsboro HS: David Steinhauer, Jeff Baisch

Provides students with competitive gaming opportunities, fostering teamwork, leadership, and college/career readiness through organized tournaments and skill development in the growing field of Esports.

Cutting it up in the Lab!: Tamarack ES: Sharon Angal

Provides for additional “Chompsaws”, a multidisciplinary hands-on tool that integrates engineering, math, and social-emotional learning, fostering problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration aligned with academic standards.

Empowering Future Innovators: Coding for Success: Hillsboro Online Academy: Margaret Kellar

Enhances STEAM education at Hillsboro Online Academy by engaging K–6 students in hands-on coding and robotics using LEGO Education Kits and Coding Mice, promoting critical thinking, collaboration, and technological literacy through a hybrid learning model.

Talking through Space!: Evergreen MS: Sean Fishback

Engages students in building crystal radios to learn basic circuitry and radio components, expands into HAM radio use and licensure for long-range communication and emergency preparedness, and culminates in a potential live contact with the International Space Station—sparking interest in electronics, space, and public safety careers.

Groner Goes Gaga: Groner ES: Natalee Moore, PTO President

Aims to create a dedicated, inclusive, and engaging space for students to play Gaga Ball, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and social interaction while fostering a healthy school environment, enhancing school spirit, and contributing to improved academic and social outcomes.

Move, Create, Inspire: Animation and Action in Education: Minter Bridge ES: Shawna Munson, Jenny Morgan

Uses stop-motion animation to empower all students, including English Language Learners and those with diverse abilities, to become storytellers, leaders, and collaborators, while developing academic, artistic, and physical education skills through creative, student-driven learning experiences.

Playground Access for All Kids!: Orenco ES: Shelly Heller, Allison Combs, Angie James, Kate Heierman, Will Wenzloff, Lisa Hicks. Provides safe playground access for students with physical disabilities and improve the safety of the students and the staff serving them.

Expanding Minds, Enriching Lives: A Diverse Literature Initiative for Middle School Students: South

Meadows MS: Stacy Talbot. Enhances middle school literacy and promotes empathy by incorporating diverse novels into the curriculum, where students actively choose books that reflect their cultures and backgrounds for themselves and future generations.

Fox Farm Expansion: Free Orchards ES: Sarah Newton, Gabby Hensley

Builds a rainwater barrel system, compost bin, and expansion for the school garden.

Lifting Barriers, One Load at a Time: Minter Bridge ES: Shawna Munson, Erin Canova, Erika Tofaeono

This project installs a discreet, ventless washer/dryer on campus to reduce hygiene-related barriers to learning, support student well-being, and contribute to a more inclusive school environment.

Bloom Box - Helping HSD families grow, one milestone at a time: Oak Street Campus/Hillsboro Big Picture:

Raya Cadiz- Offers age-appropriate developmental kits for children ages 0-3, equipping teen parents in the Hillsboro School District with accessible, research-based tools to support early childhood development, strengthen parent-child relationships, and promote school readiness at home.

Instruments for All: Tamarack ES: Colin Mejdrich

Provides free access to band instruments for elementary students in Tamarack's after school music program, removing financial barriers and fostering long-term growth in musical skill, confidence, and academic engagement.

Success through Diversification of Middle School Literature: Evergreen MS: Kathryn Pawelko

Purchases 3-5 class sets (30-60 books each) of diverse books in both English and Spanish that meet state standards regarding curriculum and reflect learners' social and linguistic identities to support HSD students in developing their awareness of other perspectives, their own identity, and their place in the global world.

Power of Play: Tamarack ES: Christine Goldmann

Empowers and inspires students to embrace physical activity through innovative, non-traditional sports equipment, fostering physical health, mental well-being, inclusivity, and a stronger sense of community.

Sensory Spaces for Student Success: Jackson ES: Polly Lugo (PTO), Cherylen Marshall, Sarah Day

Updates the sensory space and adds an indoor sensory path in the school library to support student well-being, focus, and emotional regulation through interactive, Oregon nature-inspired design.

Let's Play/Juguemos: Inclusive Communication Board for Playground: West Union ES: Talia Shide (PTO), Juliet Hong.

Installs a communication board from Talk to Me Technologies on the playground, fostering inclusivity by using PECS images, bilingual captions (English/Spanish), and the ASL alphabet to support diverse communication needs, enhance literacy, promote social interaction, and build a more connected and empathetic school community.

Making Forever Memories: Glencoe HS: Thomas Stephens

Purchases a photo booth package that will become the cornerstone of bringing joy, memories and community to not only the student body, but will be used at district events in feeder schools as well. ***Generously funded by an anonymous donor***

Expanding Collaborative Recess Play: Indian Hills ES: Mary Ciula

The goal of this project is to increase opportunities for inclusive and accessible play during recess for students at Indian Hills Elementary School with the purchase of new recess equipment and storage racks. ***Generously funded by an anonymous donor***

AVID & The Arts: Liberty HS: Shannon Witman

Prepares AVID students for life after high school by immersing themselves in the rich arts culture of Portland and its surrounding areas, attending monthly performances or exhibits, and reflecting on these experiences through a year-end project that connects the arts to their future academic and career aspirations. ***Generously funded by an anonymous donor***

Hi/Low Books = Higher Outcomes: Brown MS: Chandra Hohmann

Enables the creation of a Hi/Low book collection for the library, providing special needs, learning-disabled, and ESL students with accessible books that align with their reading levels while addressing relevant topics, fostering equity and SEL benefits for all students. ***Generously funded by an anonymous donor***

Increase Reading by providing high-interest non-fiction books: Butternut Creek ES: Jessica Miller

Enhances the school library with high-interest, recent non-fiction books, including graphic novels, "how-to" guides, and books on popular topics like video games, sports, animals, space, and current celebrities, encouraging reluctant readers to explore their interests and support career and college pathway development. ***Generously funded by an anonymous donor***

Total: \$80,209