



## Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **D200 Ed Foundation donates \$28K for Impact Grants**

The Woodstock D200 Education Foundation awarded \$28,232 on Thursday, Oct. 16, to fund unique learning opportunities for students in the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200.

Cultural enrichment for kindergarten, museum trips, sensory panels for preK students, and theater costumes are just a few of the things the Foundation will fund thanks to its generous donors.

Education Foundation Board members raise funds throughout the year to benefit D200 students and staff. The Foundation's primary fundraiser is the Groundhog Day Auction and Raffle held each February.

This summer, the foundation made a generous donation to fund District 200's Back to School event, where administrators and staff visited neighborhoods throughout District 200 boundaries to deliver backpacks and school supplies and help families get ready for the new school year.

But most of the funds are distributed each October to D200 staff members who've applied for Impact Grants to pay for activities such as field trips, visiting authors or composers, or special equipment for classrooms or school clubs, and other educational endeavors.

"We're always so impressed with the creativity that D200 educators put into their grant applications. It's so evident that they want to provide something special for their students, and it's our great pleasure to help make those dreams come true," said Diana Frisbie, co-president of the Woodstock D200 Education Foundation Board.

Here are a few highlights of the grants awarded for the 2025-2026 school year:

- \$300 to Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center teacher Jessie Justice for cooperative games to help develop kindergarteners' key social-emotional skills, such as working together to achieve a shared goal, taking turns, and problem-solving.

- \$1,050 to teacher Matt Hopkinson for soccer goals at Dean Street Elementary.
- \$1118 to teacher Andrea Barrett for a Creekside Middle School greenhouse for the more than 30 students in the Garden Club.
- \$2,000 to auto teacher Noah Taylor and Woodstock Police Officer Spenser Svehla for the Auto Club, benefiting students at Woodstock and Woodstock North high schools and Clay Academy. The after-school auto club teaches students hands-on skills in engine rebuilding, welding, minor bodywork, wiring gauges, and swapping performance engines into classic cars.
- \$1,000 was awarded to the D200 Orchestra Program who will partner with the dynamic ATLYS string quartet: four women who explore, discover, and create music. Through engaging performances and outreach, students gain meaningful learning experiences and celebrate the power of music.
- \$2,000 to Prairiewood Elementary School teacher Julie Joslyn for adaptive physical education equipment for students with disabilities.
- \$950 to technology support technician Zachary Scott for the Northwood Middle School Gaming Club to purchase equipment and new games so that more students can participate.

A full list of grants can be found on the Woodstock D200 Education Foundation can be found on its website at [d200edfoundation.org](http://d200edfoundation.org).

The Education Foundation Board is made up of former educators and community members, including: Larry Baier, Gigi Carlson, Melanie Dougherty, Diana Frisbie, Martina Frisbie, Mark Heckmon, Cindy Meyer, John Schuette, and Bob Teuber. D200 Director of Communications Kevin Lyons and D200 Board of Education Board Member Jerry Micelli are, respectively, the administrative and Board liaisons for the Foundation.