



CENTAUR FOUNDATION NEWS

Supporting the Students, Staff and Community of Brooklyn Center Schools ISD 286
Fall 2025

The Centaur Foundation approved 16 teacher grants totaling over \$20,000 during the 2024-2025 school year. These grants helped pay for programs, supplies, materials and activities that enriched and enhanced the student learning experiences in District 286 schools. The Foundation thanks all who donated and made these grants possible. Below are a few of the grants the Centaur Foundation supported this past year.

1. **Flamenco Ballet Dance Show & Mexican Restaurant**
Approximately 40 students in grades 10-12 watched a live Latin dance performance and enjoyed a meal at a Mexican restaurant. *Julie Hart*
2. **Honoring Native American History Trip** Approximately 80-100 students in 11th grade took a field trip to the MN History Center to tour exhibits related to Native American history. Then they went to the Indian Mounds Cemetery to participated in an activity that honors sacred Native land. *Kerry Gautsch*
3. **Theater Production** 21 students in grades 6-8 performed a one act play as part of Theater Enrichment class. They learned skills related to production, set design, makeup, and different acting techniques. *Jordan Colby*

4. **Spanish Language Day at the MN Zoo** Students researched an assigned zoo species, then presented at the Minnesota Zoo's Spanish Language Day in front of other language learners / visitors from across the state. *Julie Hart*
5. **Cahill School Tour** Visited the Cahill School in Edina with 120 students in the 2nd grade. *Sydney Smith*



Cahill Student Tour - 2nd Grade (Sydney Smith, Brooklyn Center Elementary)

6. **Field Trip to MN Arboretum** Minnesota Arboretum field trip for 40 students in the 9th and 10th grade. They met the garden curators at the Hmong Garden and attended the new exhibit "Transplanting Traditions". *Amanda Faz*

2025 SENIOR \$2000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Three \$2000 scholarships were awarded to BCCS seniors. Awards will be given once the students complete their first and third semester of a post-secondary school program.



Left to Right: Jakelin Ramirez Sanchez, Tamie Wong, Christin Jefferson-Moore

Centaur Foundation Highlights

During the past 17 years, the Centaur Foundation has awarded 319 grants valued at \$185,000. More than 3000 students have benefitted from these grants. 54 seniors have been awarded scholarships worth \$60,000.

DONATION INFORMATION

Donations can be made online via Paypal on the website or Facebook site.

Checks can be sent to:
Centaur Foundation
6500 Humboldt Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430



Spotlight Donors

Total Donations Exceed \$1000

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Centaur Donors

Total Donations Exceed \$500

****District 286 Donor**

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IN MEMORIAM:

Kerm Klefsaas



Age 93 ~ Passed away January 2025

Kerm lived in Brooklyn Center for over 50 years and taught Social Studies and coached many sports at Brooklyn Center High School 1962-1992. His contributions in the classroom and on the field will forever be remembered. Thank you, Kerm, for your amazing service to the BC Community.

Bernice Vaillancourt



Age 91 ~ Passed away May 2024

Bernice worked at Brooklyn Center High School as the lead administrative assistant to the principal until she retired in 1998. She had three daughters graduate from BCHS: Julie, Carla, and Jody. Bernice was very active in her church and the BC Community. We are grateful for her dedication and years of service to our Centaur community.

The Centaur Foundation thanks 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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Once a Centaur, always a Centaur!