2025-2026, Edition 1

WATT'S GOING ON?

An illuminating review from Interboro Education Foundation



ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Frontline Form Applications for 2025-2026 Mini Grants, via My Learning Plan, will be available beginning Monday, September 15, and will close on Friday, October 10, 2025. Applications will be accepted for grants up to $1,000.

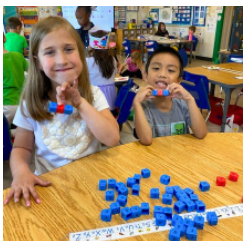
see the flyer attached for more details

2024-2025 MINI GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Literacy and Movement
Mary Deegan, Kindergarten Academy

Mary Deegan's students will have the ability to focus better with flexible seating and wobble seats. They will be able to make real life connections to sounds during our OG curriculum and the reading rods will give them a hands-on and fun way to build words during OG and small group time.

The reading rods and sound tubs will support our OG phonics curriculum and help students connect sounds, letters, and words. They can be used during literacy center and small group time for hands-on activities. The flexible seating will help give students choice and make them feel comfortable so they can focus on learning. These items will also be reused for years, allowing many classes of kindergartners to benefit.











24 Club Supplies
Stacy Foreacre & Gail Hassel, Prospect Park School

24 is a competitive math game–the game provides unique opportunities for students to practice math facts and increase automaticity. Gail Hassel and Stacy Foreacre mentor a club that meets bi-weekly after school. They hold a yearly building competition and winners of that competition represent Prospect Park in the County-wide 24 Competition at the DCIU in May.

Students refine their mental math skills and enjoy playing with each other. Friendly competition encourages both academic and social skills for all students. Students learn and retain learning through play.

Congrats to Our Graduating Board Reps!



The Interboro Education Foundation is both grateful and honored that Kendra Hopkins and Andrew Hoopes chose to serve as Student Members of our Board of Directors. Despite very busy personal schedules, they have rarely missed a Board meeting. In addition, they met with Board members at the high school to work on student-related IEF initiatives. We join many others who congratulate them as they move on to the next phase of their lives. Kendra and Andrew represent the true meaning of BUC PRIDE!



The Interboro Soapbox Speech Contest was held on April 10, 2025. Prize money was provided by IEF for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place contest winners and by IEA for the 1st place winner. IEF board member Linda West was honored to serve as one of the judges. Kudos to these students for their participation in this public speaking competition:

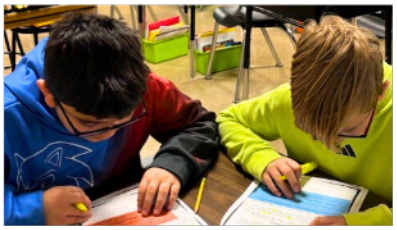
Molly Nestor, Gianna Pendleton, Nour Arhroud, Addison Monaghan, Rayan Ouaquerrouch, Jessica Kim, Mounneat Keo, Caileigh Salvatore Augustine Swaray, Matthew Weiss, Gabby Reese, Lily Shaffer, Cianna Estrada, Christian Hooper, Finn Bense, Payten Severna, Avery Kok, Abigail Malloy, Anyla Moore, Leah Wilkin.

National Junior Honor Society inductees represent the values of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship. IEF was honored to support the district's Induction Ceremony on May 8, 2025. Congratulations to all of the 7th and 8th grade students who represented their community schools proudly.

2024-2025 MINI GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Tools for Reading Support
Judith Tilles, Jennifer Dalton, Allison Price, and Cynthia Rost-Frick - Tinicum School





Reading support tools are designed to increase the student's ability to sustain reading. Research indicates that dyslexia, reading disabilities, ADHD, and convergence insufficiency or other vision related issues due to over-use of video and virtual screen time may interfere with a child's ability to sustain eye movement on text or auditory focus. Curriculum materials assume that students have basic skills mastered but many do not. Losing track of text negatively impacts reading success, so the Mini-Grant awardees are now able to support their students' learning with Whisper Phones, Finger Trackers, and Colored Acetate Bookmarks–fun strategies designed to engage the student to interact with the text more consistently.

Games for Social Skills Gains
Christine Bryan - Kindergarten Academy



Ms. Bryan was looking to utilize board games to enhance her students' educational experiences, specifically in the areas of social emotional growth. Board games encourage so much in the areas of social growth, language development and reciprocal conversation. Many young students never have anyone who plays games with them and thus it is harder for them to learn the basic social skills of sharing, turn taking, following directions, waiting your turn and being a good sport. Additionally, many students who may be reluctant to talk or open up, are more likely to do so through play-based activities. It can make students feel more at ease and is developmentally appropriate.



Since receiving the Mini-Grant award, Ms. Bryan says that she has seen growth in her students–groups practicing turn-taking and friendly game play. She is able to use games with students who need practice in reciprocal social language and can facilitate more effective one-on-one sessions with students by allowing them to choose new games which they would like to play during meetings. Ms. Bryan says that she is looking forward to using these new games for many years to come!



MEET AN IEF BOARD MEMBER

Rob Martin, Board Member

Rob is currently the Head Coach of the Interboro High School Baseball Team and he has authored the children's book *Walking to Happiness in Prospect Park.* He grew up in Prospect Park and attended elementary school there, 7th grade in the Tinicum School, 8th grade at the old Intermediate School, and was the first 9th grade class in what was then the *new* High School. He was a proud Prospect Park Termite and played football for Interboro. Unfortunately, due to a tragedy in his family, he was moved away to be with other family in 10th grade and did not get to graduate with his class.

Rob has been a career Law Enforcement Officer, and for the last 27 years a Chief of Police in Susquehanna Township, Harrisburg. He served 10 years in the Military, United States Navy/Navy Reserve. Some of his achievements are as follows:

He graduated from the Valley Forge Military College, doing so Cum Laude and Phi Theta Kappa. He was also a Platoon Sergeant there, and received the Colonel Merrow Sorley Medal as outstanding criminal justice student. In addition, he was a member of the Anthony Wayne Legion Guard. Following this time, he obtained his Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College. In 1985, Chief Martin graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy as a municipal police officer, where he was class valedictorian. In 1988, he joined the Susquehanna Township Police as a patrol officer. During his time there, Chief Martin served as a detective, traffic safety officer, and platoon commander. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1996 and to Chief in 1998. He is an original member of the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team (SWAT) and is currently the team's commander. In 1996, he was named Officer of the Year by the American Society for Industrial Security.

Chief Martin's training resume consists of various schools. To include some very notables, in 1999 he attended the FBI National Academy at Quantico, VA. This is considered the benchmark for executive development for chiefs of police. He furthered his leadership training by attending the Princeton University FBI Executive Development Program in 2002. Chief Martin has also been to the Baltimore City SWAT School, U.S. Marine Corps Law Enforcement Scout Sniper School and Close Quarter Battle School, Virginia Beach Scout Sniper School, and the U.S. Secret Service Firearms Instructor School. In 2006, he graduated from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program. Chief Martin is a veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve, having served honorably for ten years. His assignments included the Naval Security Force in Washington, DC and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for six years. He was awarded Sailor of the Year for his command group, and for the Harrisburg Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center. His military awards consist of two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, the National Defense medal, Meritorious Service medal, Armed Forces Reserve medal, Joint Meritorious Unit ribbon, and expert Pistol and Rifle medals.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MISSION

We're energized by the support we've received, but there is still more to light up!

Let's brighten the path for Interboro's learners together!

venmo

IEF is a registered 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Member, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

FOLLOW FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Interboro Education Foundation

@interboro_education_foundation

interborosd.org/IEF

GET INVOLVED!

Reach out to us via email

InterboroEF@gmail.com

Interboro Education Foundation

P.O. Box 315 Glenolden, PA 19036

Interboro Education Foundation
Mini Grant Process

Fostering Bright Futures

1. Start with a Bright Idea!

We are here to bring your great ideas to life! Think of how we can help you with funds to support and/or enhance your current ISD curriculum. When you have that great idea, think of us!

2. Fill Out a Grant Application

Frontline Form Applications, via My Learning Plan, will be available **beginning Monday, September 15**, and will **close on Friday, October 10, 2025**. Applications will be accepted for grants up to $1,000.

3. Review & Approval

All applications are reviewed by ISD Curriculum & Instruction and the respective building Principals.

Approved applications are then forwarded to the IEF board for judging.

4. Judging & Announcing Awards

IEF board members will plan to select and announce the Awardees of this Grant Cycle by October 24, 2025.

5. Ordering Materials

Respective school office personnel will order materials requested by Awardees.

Detailed information & instructions for this process will be provided to Awardees.

Final orders must be placed so that all materials are received by January 31, 2026.

6. Photographs, Posters, Labels!

Plan to send us photos of your students with their new materials so we can celebrate them in our Newsletter - Watt's Going On?

Highlight your Bright Ideas by hanging a Poster outside your classroom and affixing Labels to your materials! (We'll provide these for you.)

7. Final Reports

A Final Report in the form of a Google Questionnaire will be provided by IEF.

We appreciate completion of this Report as it assists with learning about the effectiveness of the Mini Grants.

HTTPS://WWW.INTERBOROSD.ORG/DOMAIN/848

REACH OUT TO US - INTERBOROEF@GMAIL.COM - IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS!