

# Foundation Grants, Programs & Special Projects 2016-2017

The mission of the Educational Foundation is to provide private funding for exceptional educational opportunities and special projects that are not funded—or are funded only in part—by the District 203 Budget.

Twice a year (May and December), the Foundation seeks applications from faculty and staff for educational initiatives and opportunities that will enhance the student experience or their own professional development. These opportunities are not usually a part of the District budget so external funding is sought to make these initiatives happen. Capital projects come about through discussions with the Board of Education and the Administration. These are the programs that recently received funding support from the Foundation.

## ARCHIVES

### **Archival Outreach & Display—\$4,500**

The New Trier Archive has moved from the basement of Winnetka and been relocated to the Winnetka Library. Located just outside of this new area is a recessed space designed for display cases for archival materials. Due to budget constraints, funding was eliminated. The request is for two display cases. It was noted in the application that Principal Dubravec pledged 50% toward this project. The Grant Committee recommends funding to support one display cabinet in the amount of \$4,500.

## ART

### **Immersion in Glass Studies & Practice: Trip to Corning Museum of Glass—\$3,000**

The Glass Art 2 & 3 students will visit the most extensive collection of historical and contemporary glass in the world. The Corning Museum of Glass houses galleries that focus on the technology and aesthetics of glass. There is a research library and hands-on studio for blowing glass in hot shops, torch studios for working and kiln formed fusing areas. Students will experience all of this during the 3-day trip, dividing their time between hands on work, research and appreciation. The work they create at the Museum will be ready to take home on Sunday.

## KINETIC WELLNESS/DANCE

### **Climbing Wall Visual & Audio Technology—\$3,500**

Over 200 students participate in the Outdoor Education classes. The classroom in what was formerly a squash court, then converted into a Climbing Wall in 2001, is shrinking in size as more students enroll for this class. Outdated instructional equipment like video carts and speakers take up space and are antiquated. Skills-instruction is frequently supported using multimedia technologies. With the hope to update equipment and technology, a multimedia system would enable instructors and students to use their iPads, review student projects for peer evaluation, watch safety videos, and documentaries.

### **Dance Lab 2 Showcase, Chicago Performance—\$2,275**

This project provides the advanced dance students the opportunity to produce a professional dance concert and perform their original choreographed works in the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago. Funds will help in the facility rental cost, hiring of a professional lighting designer, costumes and publicity materials. Students will learn the many facets to producing a professional dance production – renting performance space, examining and completing contracts, designing professional marketing pieces and collaborating with professional lighting designers.

## MEDIA, SPEECH & THEATRE

### **All American High School Film Festival trip to NYC—\$5,000**

Video Production & Broadcasting students submitted films that they produced to this Film Festival. This event is the largest high school film festival in the country. A group of 10-15 students will travel to New York City to attend the film festival which includes workshops, peer-produced film screenings and attend a film shoot. The event offers exposure to the work of other young, talented filmmakers from around the world. Their work will be critiqued by peers and respected industry judges.

## MUSIC

### **Concert Choir Washington DC Kennedy Center Performance—\$2,500**

The Concert Choir has been invited to sing with an elite mass choir of adult musicians in April 2017 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. through *Music Celebrations International*. The major work being performed will be the *Missa Solemnis* by French composer, Louis Vierne. The trip will also include visits to the 9/11 Pentagon, Air Force & Iwo Jima Marine Memorials, Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Memorials, a tour of the Smithsonian Institute Museums, National Archives Building, home to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States as well as a tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story*.

### **Jazz Ensemble 1 Clinic w/ Vanguard Jazz Orchestra—\$2,000**

Jazz Ensemble 1 will travel in Spring 2017 to New York City for a week of musical immersion in its unparalleled jazz scene. The primary focus of this trip will be to learn from some amazing artists and educators, many of whom we have access to thanks to our strong relationship with the jazz community in NYC. The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, in residence at the Village Vanguard for over 50 years, and widely regarded as one of the most important jazz ensembles in the history of our music, will assemble on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> for a two-hour clinic and performance session with New Trier. Several of the most important composers of our genre, beginning with the band's co-founder, Thad Jones, have been the composer-in-residence for the VJO. In the span of a school year our jazz program routinely performs three or more of these compositions. We study the recordings of the VJO, work to understand the music decisions of the individuals in the ensemble, and endeavor to capture the essence of their unique ensemble sound.

### **SCIENCE**

#### **NASA's Search for Habitable Environments: Instilling Curiosity into Student Learning Symposium and Field Trip - \$1,400**

Science teacher Brittany Neptun was first selected by NASA back in 2011 for their "National Mars Education Conference – Bring Your "Curiosity" Into Your Classroom. Here, she participated in workshops led by head NASA scientists and attended the launch of the Mars Curiosity Rover. She was able to bring back interactive activities and ideas for the classroom to foster inquiry based learning about Mars. Now, 5-years later, NASA & ASU will host another Symposium to explore areas on Earth similar to environments on Mars. The Symposium will be led by NASA's Curiosity Rover's Chem Science Team and NASA Education STEM Specialists. Participation in this symposium will help Brittany and her colleagues redesign the existing Geoscience and Astronomy curricula which the department has been working on for the past several years in order to align with the state's newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

#### **Out-of-State Science Olympiad Team Competitions - \$5,000**

The Science Olympiad Team requested funding support for travel expenses to two out-of-state competitions – one to Dayton, Ohio, the other to MIT. Both involve transportation (bus/air) and hotel accommodations. These out-of-state competitions provide high level experiences which motivate students to realize their full potential. The Science Olympiad Team has won many State Championships, and has placed in the top 20 teams in the nation for the past ten years in a row.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

#### **Instructional Assistants Professional Development - \$4,750**

The Special Education Department is the largest academic department at New Trier supporting over 500 students. There are more than 40 teachers with an additional 60+ Instructional Assistants (IAs) who partner together to support the students. 2015-2016 was the first year where a professional development initiative was implemented exclusively for the IAs to expand their knowledge and skills. While successful, the efforts were hindered by associated costs with meetings, seminars and guest speakers. The funds requested here will fund the professional, skill development and team building for Special Education IAs in 2016-2017.

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES/CLUBS**

#### **Gaming Club: Xbox - \$500**

The Northfield Gaming Club was started to help find a social outing for kids who enjoy playing video games. It has evolved as a social group for students that meets on Friday afternoons with the hopes of spurring friendships outside of the club. Gaming Club provides that socialization for many students on the autism spectrum. The club currently uses equipment that is out dated and borrowed. Funds will be used to purchase a current Xbox system. The Grant Committee recommended increasing the grant amount so that controllers could also be purchased for the new Xbox. The Grant Committee recommends funding above the requested amount of \$300, to the award amount of \$500. It should also be noted that during the committee meeting, one committee member was so moved by this project that he wrote a check that evening to cover this grant.

### **OTHER**

#### **Principal's Discretionary Fund - \$5,000**

Established by the Foundation in 2011, this fund provides the two campus principals with money to support student need that is not covered by district funds, financial aid or other "Angel" funds. Students who receive support must be on the District's financial aid list.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION CHALLENGE—\$5,000**

##### **Raise \$15,000 Get \$5,000**

In recent years, the special education department has sought funding support from the Foundation for initiatives that enhance programming for students with disabilities. One donor offered a fundraising challenge to the Foundation in exchange for a \$5,000 gift. Funds raised would support Life Skills, Social Thinking, Yoga Therapy, PROMPT Therapy, Animal Assisted Therapy, Vocational Training and professional development for instructors. The Foundation accepted the Challenge by setting its goal at \$15,000. In doing so, \$20,000 will be raised for special education programs.

#### **GREEN ROOF PROJECT—\$100,000**

Inspired by a donation of \$100,000 from Girls Club and Tri-Ship to fund completion for one Green Roof included in the Winnetka Campus facilities project, the Foundation agreed to raise an additional \$100,000 to complete funding of the second green roof. Unforeseen construction issues caused funding for the completion of both to be postponed.

#### **NAEIR (National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources)**

The National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources is a nonprofit organization that collects donations from manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers then redistributes those goods to more than 9,500 nonprofit organizations like the Foundation. No seconds or damaged goods. It's all new, top-quality, brand name merchandise. *And all of the product is FREE to NAEIR members!* All we are asked in exchange is to cover the nominal shipping and handling costs. This school year alone, the Foundation has provided cost savings to the District of over \$90,000. The cost to the Foundation has been \$10,000. Departments taking the most advantage of this program are Practical Arts, Science, Art, Special Education and the Academic Assistance Center.