

Concord Educational Foundation Grant Recipients

In accordance with our mission statement, some community donations gifted to Concord Educational Foundation have been made available to district staff and school service organizations (i.e., student council) for development of activities to support and enrich learning for Concord students. When applications are received, awards are limited by funds available for distribution and by the number of creative project requests. The Foundation extends funds to as many students as possible.

We wish to recognize our grant recipients for completing grant applications on behalf of their students; our recipients' dedication to serving Concord students and to creating educational excellence is obvious. Based upon the Foundation's stated criteria regarding projects that enhance learning, priority has been given to projects that directly involve or immerse students in the experience.

Funds have been meant to supplement classroom units that advance learning and educational opportunities beyond the normal or usual curriculum lessons, but are not meant to be used for regularly planned, typical or customary classroom activities. Examples of projects or items that have not been funded include materials/texts typically budgeted, fund raising, staff costs, normal district operational expenses, awards or rewards for student performance, transportation or project costs not directly related to learning enhancement, and building maintenance or school improvement expenses.

Concord Educational Foundation has awarded grants since fall 2013; following are brief descriptions of grant projects that show the range of creative thought generated for educational excellence at Concord Community Schools.

Fall 2013 Grants

Concord Middle School Robotics Team (Rebecca Adams-Hutchinson)

The team works together to engineer, fabricate, and program a robot to prepare for competition. Beyond building a robot, the program teaches and requires students to rise to many challenges, take risks, and grow as individuals. Students must inventory parts, create lists of needs, create a budget, manage finances, and even involve themselves in marketing for the program.

iPods for 7th/8th Grade Math Classroom (Kristy Lefere)

Use iPod Touches to create searchable Internet-based electronic notebooks of math notes for reference. Also to utilize interactive math websites and applications to practice math skills, visualize math concepts, self-monitor math understanding, and differentiate math instruction.

Remodel the Kindergarten Classroom Kitchens (Kindergarten Teachers)

Replace our dramatic-play area furniture (30+ years old) with the goal of improving the social and emotional learning for kindergarten students. By providing materials, play opportunities, and social instruction, the teachers predict students will have a more positive adjustment to school and, ultimately, improved academic success.

Spring 2014 Grants

iPads for 7th/8th Grade Math Classroom (Kristy Lefere)

Use iPad Minis to enhance and improve student learning/understanding of mathematics, just as with the iPod Touches in a previous grant.

Proscan LED Android Tablets for High School English/Drama Class (Jennifer Couling)

The tablets will allow students to interact with the teacher and each other in the classroom for lessons and discussions. Students will learn technologies they will be using in college or in the work force. Kindle e-books and audiobooks can be made available to students who need accommodations.

LearnPad XD Student Bundles for Second Graders (Amanda Arbuckle)

The technology allows for the differentiated and blended learning environment in the second grade classroom. Students are grouped and regrouped with fluidity based on ongoing needs and curriculum requirements. With this technology, the teacher can engage some students in high quality tasks while delivering instruction to differentiated groups.

Fall 2014 Grants

Bring an Author to the Elementary School (Kathy Youmans and Melinda Spicer)

Funds brought Michigan author Johnathan Rand to Concord for a visit with all elementary students. The student response was very enthusiastic and increased interest in reading. Positive feedback came from students, teachers, and parents.

Concord Middle School Robotics Team (Rebecca Adams-Hutchinson)

The Concord Community Robotics Program continues to grow. In response to student interest, the program has expanded from one robotics team to three middle school robotics teams. Additional funds make it possible to support this interest.

Spring 2015 Grants

Chilling with a Book over Spring Break (Matt Lehman, K-8 Principal)

Students in grades K-8 were given learning packets to complete during spring break. The packet consisted of reading and math tasks to stay academically sharp while on break from classes.

Advanced Robotics for Middle School (Rebecca Hutchinson)

Funds provided to support more advanced robotics topics for the students: robotic arms, remote controlled vehicles, solar powered robots, robotic grippers, and robots in factories.

Fall 2015 Grants

Performance Poetry for Middle School (Robin Boswell and Matt Lehman)

An invitation will bring a guest speaker to all middle school English/Language Arts classrooms to perform the poems of famous authors, such as, Robert Frost and Ogden Nash. Time will also be devoted to discussion of the poems before a question/answer time. This project is designed to increase student interest in reading and writing, including poetry. This will give students a quality experience with poetry.

Jr. First Lego League for Elementary (Cindy Farrant)

This project is designed to bring science and technology to life for students in grades 1-3. Students will research a challenging topic and create a working Lego model representing what they learn. Eventually, students will have the opportunity to participate in an Expo with other teams to share what they have learned.

Explore Michigan Field Experience, Third Graders (Joan Herlein and Caroline Kloack)

Third graders participate in an overnight travel exploration of several significant locations in study of Michigan. This is a hands on, personal experience with the places and events previously studied in class.

Spring 2016 Grants

Kindergarten Book Club (Kathy Youmans)

Kindergarten students meet after school once a month for Book Club. Each student receives a copy of the chosen book. The book is read aloud to the group in attendance, and book related activities follow. The club experience has been received with enthusiasm, and the teachers believe funds will make it possible to continue next year.