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The Laker Educational Foundation

Our mission is to encourage Creativity, Innovation and Excellence in Education



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Letter from the Foundation Board

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Because of your generosity and commitment, it has been a successful year. We are truly blessed to live in a community that has always placed a tremendous value on the education of its children. Your allegiance to continue the strong tradition of educational excellence and outstanding student achievement has been overwhelming.

We would like to take this time to highlight our year and to let you know what is in store for 2016. We have had two grant cycles, spring and fall. We were fortunate to be able to approve funding to fulfill the following grants: Library Makerspaces were purchased for Grainwood and Redtail Ridge; in our tradition of inspiring innovation, we were able to fund a DSLR camera to create high-quality images to recreate using Fab Lab technology at Prior Lake High School; we were part of the Raptor Data Integration program at the two middle schools, we helped with the Sandwich Project; we purchased exercise balls for 7th grade math classes; we were able to contribute to an outdoor classroom for nature-based kindergarten; read and ride and read and pedal bikes were purchased for a few elementary and secondary classrooms. Additionally, we were able to fund a fishing program for seniors in our area through the Let's Go Fishing program partnering with Scott County. We will be helping to create a 21st century flexible learning environment for students as a pilot project at Glendale Elementary, provide audio support for secondary class assessments, provide educational tools for active learners at St. Michael's and purchase digital balances for 8th grade science classrooms so that students will be able to take measurements in a wide variety of labs. A wireless document camera and a F.L.I.R. camera will be purchased and Scholastic Math magazines will be provided for Twin Oaks Middle School. The foundation also approved funding for weighted tools for creative play in the early childhood/preschool environment which provides organizing sensory input for special needs students to help them focus and build their school readiness skills.

What an exciting time to be connected with the Laker Educational Foundation!

The LEF Board of Directors

The Laker Educational Foundation is launching a strategic planning process to revisit the mission, priorities and focus areas of the foundation in the next 2 to 3 years. The board is inviting LEF's founders and advisory members, ISD 719 staff and others interested in providing input into the future directions of the foundation to be a part of the planning process. If you are interested in being part of this process, please call 952.226.0063 to receive the specifics.

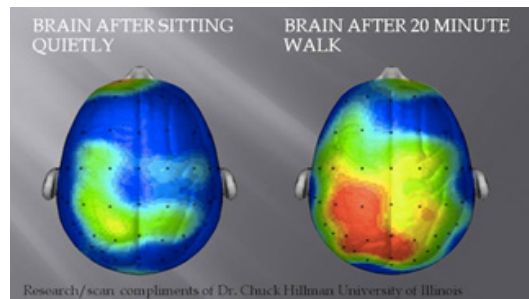
Featured Grants

The following are examples of how our foundation gives back to the students in the community.

“Educational Tools for Active Learners”

Kirsten Morgan, Lanugage Arts Teacher at St. Michael Catholic School, was recently awarded this grant.

“At the start of each school year, Mrs. Morgan asks her Language Arts students to complete a short learning style inventory. As the weeks progress, she engages them in discussions about how they learn best and learn how to study using techniques for their primary learning styles. Once students learn whether they are auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learners, they begin to assess what is and is not working for them as students and try additional learning techniques. This year, 46% of her students are kinesthetic learners. Though she offered Silly Putty, stress balls, and raised desks for those students to keep their hands busy or have the flexibility to move while they learned in class, she wanted to do more. She conducted research regarding students, learning, and brain activity, and discovered that more and more, current educational research is reporting that students benefit from being physically active while learning. The Laker Educational Foundation awarded Kirsten a grant to purchase additional learning equipment for the classroom including ball chairs, Bosu trainers, balance disks, balance boards, and bouncy bands. Each day in class, names are drawn and students choose the learning tool that best fits their needs. Students report they feel calmer, focus and listen better, feel more patient, and are not as “antsy” during class time as a result of the new equipment. Over the next months, assessment data will be collected with the expectation of higher achievement for all students, no matter their learning style, as a result of the new equipment. Mrs. Morgan is extremely grateful to the Laker Educational Foundation for allowing her this opportunity to serve her students in this way and is looking forward to seeing how these tools transform learning.”



Comments from Students

- *I enjoy the balance rockers, it helps me to focus during class and improves my learning -Ella*
- *Thank you for the ball chairs, balance discs, balance rockers, and bouncy bands. I choose the balance rockers most often because they help me best. - Katie*
- *Thank you for the learning tools, each day we draw names for who gets them and I am sad when I don't get one. - Laura*
- *Thank you so much for the learning tools. I have noticed that I do much better on tests, they help me focus better. - Grace*
- *I have noticed a difference in my learning because I can concentrate better. - Ashley*
- *Every day I enjoy using a different tool, thank you. - Sam*
- *I enjoy the balance boards and the Bosu ball the most. I like how they give our class the opportunity to move during class. We appreciate your generosity! - Mrs. Morgan's Students.*



If you shop at Amazon, you can now help support the Laker Educational Foundation simply by shopping on Amazon through AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time at no cost to you.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to LEF. Directions and link can be found on our website: www.lakerfoundation.org

With your support we were able to fund the following in 2015:

Hidden Oaks & Twin Oaks Middle Schools

- Raptor Data Integration
- Sandwich Project
- Exercise Balls for Math Class
- Read & Ride
- Wireless Document Camera
- Digital Balances
- Audio Support for Classrooms
- Scholastic Math Magazine
- FLIR Camera

Prior Lake High School

- Audio Support for Classrooms
- Inspiring Entrepreneurship and Innovation

District Elementary Schools

- Educational Tools for Active Learners
- Library Makerspaces
- Outdoor Classroom - Nature Based K
- Flexible Furniture
- Ready Bodies, Learning Minds

Scott County and Community

- Let's Go Fishing

Spring Grant Deadline is Thursday, March 31, 2016...Details at www.lakerfoundation.org



"Elementary Flexible Furniture"

Tom Deris, Third Grade Teacher at
Glendale Elementary was recently awarded this grant.

The grant request was submitted to transform our classroom into a flexible learning space. I've been researching flexible furniture for several years and I am eager to try this new format. My hope is that this will start conversations for more collaborative learning spaces in PLSAS elementary schools.

Other Approved Grant Requests

Audio Support for Secondary Classroom Assessments submitted by Maureen Hoodecheck - School Psychologist

The intent of this pilot program is to create audio versions of social studies and science tests at the secondary level. Audio versions will be shared with testing centers, resource rooms, and guidance staff in order for students to listen to the test. These students have been identified as needing this resource. However, until now, this resource has been partially covered by support staff or guidance staff who are not always available. Our premise is that we will have better indicators of students learning in these content areas, as well as to be able to meet needs more consistently and at an individually based pace.

Digital Balances submitted by Becky Stark – Middle School Science Teacher

Digital balances will be incorporated into several projects and labs throughout the 8th grade curriculum. These investigations are all designed to help students meet a variety of state standards relating to the nature of science as well as specific topics such as metric measurement, density, natural resources and engineering and design.

They will be used to meet MN Science Standards.

Scholastic Math Magazine submitted by Amber Corcoran – Middle School Math Teacher

These magazines are bi-monthly. The examples given are relevant to the student and are in student friendly terms. Scholastic Math magazine makes math meaningful and accessible to students by applying core math concepts to high-interest, real-world topics. Every issue is designed to meet the Common Core Standards, with rigorous practice problems modeled on upcoming assessments. MATH is a complete print and on-line math-teaching program.

The foundation is located in Prior Lake and Savage, and its mailing address is P.O. Box 840, Prior Lake, MN 55372. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity under the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions are tax deductible, subject to limitations in applicable law. No goods or services are provided to any donor in exchange for contributions. Unless otherwise specified, contributions to the foundation will be used for its general charitable purposes and endowment. This disclosure is made under Minn. Stat. 309.556.

Our 2nd Annual Blue Jeans Ball was held in October 2015



We held our 2nd Annual Blue Jeans Ball on a rainy fall evening but inside it was warm and inviting. Our event was held locally this year at the MN Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake.

Our fun-filled evening featured a live and silent auction, games including heads & tails with a grand prize from D. Copperfield's, and even a "Dessert Dash".

The Horse & Hunt Club provided an excellent dinner concluding with nationally renowned comedian John Bush.

It was an awesome evening that was enjoyed by all. Planning is already underway for our third annual event. Stay tuned for details!

Thank you to all who attended and gave so generously. It was a perfect night!

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Stay tuned
for an
announcement
in 2016!

