



Centaur Foundation News

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

2019 - 2020

COVID-19 Interrupts the 2019-2020 School Year for Centaur Foundation and District 286

Despite the arrival of COVID-19 in March, the Centaur Foundation awarded 31 grants worth \$16,101 during the 2019-2020 school year. Students at Brooklyn Center Middle & High School, Earle Brown Elementary and the Early College Academy benefitted from the grants listed below. These grants helped pay for programs, supplies, materials and activities that enriched student learning experiences. None of these grants would have been possible without the generosity of Foundation donors. The following grants were awarded during the past school year:

1. **Power Link-4** helped teach cause and effect; making choices; and communication skills to SPED students.
2. **6th Grade Orientation T-Shirts** helped kick off the 2019 school year as students were encouraged to begin developing pride in the Class of 2026.
3. **9th Grade Orientation T-Shirts** helped welcome students, as well as their parents, to BCS.
4. **Fourth Grade Class Rug** used so that each student has a regular spot in which to do lessons and activities.
5. **Interactive Science Notebooks** helped 2nd & 5th grade students organize, synthesize and evaluate class materials for information processing.
6. **Flocabulary** for 3rd graders is a learning program that used educational hip-hop music to engage students and increase achievement across the curriculum.
7. **Lego Robots** were built in SPED classes as students learned about production and cooperative skills.
8. **Math Manipulative Bags** were used by 1st grade students during math activities.



Earle Brown 1st graders made good use of their Math Manipulative Bags during the school year.

9. **Flexible Seating** created a classroom environment that helped establish a flexible, safe classroom for 2nd graders.
10. **Phonic Awareness** helped students learn letter names & sounds; rhyming; fluency; blending; and segmenting.
11. **Wireless Mic & Sound Mixers** for choir helped students self-assess their voices and gave teacher instant feedback for easier assessment.

Centaur Foundation Scholarships Awarded to BCS Seniors

Three \$1000 scholarships, renewable for a second year, were awarded to: Jack Falnes, Megan Falnes and Goajay Xiong. Awards will be given once the students complete their first and third semester of a post-secondary school program.

Centaur Foundation Thanks Generous Donors

The number of "Centaur Donors", those who have donated more than \$500 since 2007, reached 68. "Spotlight Donors", those whose donations exceed \$1000, number 22. Donations were received from 157 donors. Included in that number were 74 District 286 employees and a special donation of \$20,000 from a BCHS alumni. **Donors listed on the back.**

12. **Ramp Up to Reading Program** gave students opportunity to share books, respond to their reading, develop identity as readers and offer reading choices.
13. **Cookbooks** offered a way to connect a common activity with basic math and science concepts.
14. **Flexible Seating** allowed 2nd grade students to feel empowered by having some choice and control in their classroom setting by wobbling, rocking or standing.
15. **Breakout In Learning Kits** challenged students to work together to solve problems that use critical thinking and problem solving skills.
16. **ABC World Culture** website gave 8th grade students an opportunity to learn about a country's culture, food, government and economics.
17. **Alternative Communication Options** gave EB SPED students alternative ways to communicate by using communication stations throughout the room.
18. **English Somali Folktale Books** were placed into the EB Media Center through a grant.
19. **Noodle Tools** is a suite of online tools for creating citations, annotations, notes and outlines for research projects.
20. **BCS Musical** grant was unused because of COVID-19.
21. **Arioso Land Puppets** asked that K-2 music students use only their singing voices to communicate as they work to develop their singing voices.
22. **Special Phy. Ed. Equipment** was used with SPED students as they taught other students in class.
23. **For the Love of Reading** books were purchased through a grant that helped celebrate and promote reading for pleasure.
24. **Walker Art Institute** field trip grant was cancelled because of COVID-19.
25. **Festival of Nations** field trip grant was cancelled because of COVID-19.
26. **STEM Bins for Kids** supplemented the engineering design process used to build creative design skills and solve problems.
27. **9th Grade College Visits & Senior Career Day** helped build student readiness for their future.
28. **Star of the North Book Challenge** had 3rd grade students reading the same culturally responsive books, evaluating them and rating their quality.
29. **Science Museum** field trip was cancelled because of COVID-19.
30. **Calming Spaces for EB Students** consisted of an EB initiative involving sensory opportunities to promote self-regulation and positive social skills.
31. **Day Brightener plants** were delivered to 1st & 3rd grade students during distance learning this spring.

Loyalty Grants Twenty-one "Loyalty Grants" worth \$200 were offered to teachers who had been in the district for 15 years or more and had donated to the Foundation during each of those years. The grants could be used in their classrooms for anything that would benefit their students.

Donations should be sent to:
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6500 Humboldt Avenue North
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