

Foundation Grant Descriptions
School Year 2024-2025

Nature Club Garden (BR)

A Nature Club is being established at Braeside to provide students with opportunities to connect with nature and learn about sustainability by caring for their own garden. Meeting weekly for 30 minutes, primarily for K-2 students, the club aims to help students understand the gardening process, even during winter months. *This grant will cover the costs of consumable materials to go along with a previously purchased tower garden setup.

STEAM Day SkyDome Planetarium Assembly (BR)

K-5 students will have a chance to learn about the planets and our solar system through 45-minute sessions geared to each age group with this traveling planetarium. The inflatable planetarium will allow students to learn how to identify every planet in our solar system and introduce them to Greek mythological characters found in the stars.

Convergence: Healthy Equity in a Changing Climate (EW)

All 6th-graders will participate in a performance workshop by Black Moon Trio focusing on the intersection of health, wellness, nature, and equity in access to each. The interdisciplinary project teaches our students about equity and the environment - how everyone deserves the opportunity to get outside, to experience nature, and how to care for the environment so it can be around for everyone. Topics will include access to nature, climate change, and also access to the arts. Following the performance, students will discuss and connect what they learned from this experience to their own personal experiences and set health and wellness goals for themselves.

Model Club (EW)

This grant request is to fund a model-building club at Edgewood. The club would provide space to students interested in exploring a new hobby and would provide an opportunity for students who do not participate in typical after school activities like sports, student council, or theatre. The innovative aspect of the club would be that the club was proposed by a group of students who are curious and eager to collaborate with one another in an activity that is not the "status quo" activity. The goal is to enhance communication, decision-making, personal goal-setting, competence with accessing resources, and other SEL standards. This club will be student directed, organized, with a sponsoring teacher for assistance.

Eagle Brew Crew (Edgewood)

This grant helps students in the ILP (Independent Learning Plan) program run a beverage/coffee business for teachers at Edgewood by providing some of the supplies not covered by the costs of the drinks.

SAIL Garden (Edgewood)

This is a grant request for a gardening program specific to the Edgewood kids in the SAIL Program. This daily class is specific for executive functioning and life skills. Building and caring for the garden will provide opportunities for emotional regulation and demonstrating the life skill of caretaking. The garden will also allow students to work on fine motor and visual-spatial skills, supplement math and science standards, and participate in a meaningful way in the Edgewood community.

Lost Boys of Sudan (EW/NW)

This grant proposal is for an assembly that would bring tangible context to an ELA unit on refugees. The speaker(s) would be from a group of real-life refugees, The Lost Boys of Sudan. Together with a book on refugees the 6th-graders would engage with the speakers on what it is to be a refugee and how our community should respond to refugees.

French Café (EW/NW)

This project is a 30-year tradition designed to give students an authentic real-world experience in which to speak French and explore culture. Instead of simply practicing French in the classroom, the project is designed to give students the opportunity to speak French with people other than just their immediate classmates. The project is creative in that the students prepare all elements to create a real café. From designing the menus to preparing the food, to interacting with customers, students must actively use the French that they have been studying in the classroom. They also have the chance to explore culture in a meaningful manner.

The French Cafe experience lasts an entire school day, however the preparation leading up to the cafe day begins approximately in January and continues for an entire quarter. Teachers are asking for supplies to replenish their materials from a grant awarded in 2013.

Musical Masters - A day at the MSO (EW/NW)

The 6th-grade band and orchestra students will visit the Milwaukee Symphony in Wisconsin. Although tickets for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra are the primary goal, Milwaukee Symphony tickets are a backup option. This experience will expose students to top-tier musicians, providing inspiration and education. The performances are conveniently scheduled during the school day, ensuring minimal disruption to the students' academic schedules.

Roots Fest (NW)

Northwood students participate in a day-long celebration of world cultures by attending workshops and performances. The purpose of Roots Fest is to embrace our incredibly diverse population of students, staff and family members here at Northwood. Additionally, the purpose is to educate students and staff on the many different types of people in the world. Roots Fest encourages the atmosphere of cultural appreciation and the positive power of diversity.

Broadway in Chicago Master Class (NW)

This grant is for Northwood students participating in the school musical. About 80 students would be able to participate in the one-day class (cast and crew). Students at the school will have the chance to learn from a professional musical theater actor. The grant committee supported this grant because of the number of kids participating, the access to theatre in the school which may be the only access to Broadway productions for some kids and the life skills taught during the class.

Literature With Laughter: Griffin's Tale (OT/RO/SW)

Griffin's Tales is a special way to mix literature with laughter for all students at Oak Terrace, Red Oak School, and Sherwood School. By the end of October, any students interested in writing a short story with a creative tone are invited to submit their stories for this special opportunity. Students are welcome to write their stories through dictation, using illustrations and in written form in either English and/or Spanish. The stories are submitted to a unique philanthropic group of performing art majors from Northwestern University. The students from Northwestern read through all the stories and then select several of them and "bring them to life"! They perform skits, plays, songs, and raps based on the students' ideas. In May they will perform for the Oak Terrace, Red Oak School, and Sherwood School student bodies.

Welcome, Monarchs! (OT)

The project involves the creation of a Monarch Butterfly garden at Oak Terrace School. Currently, there are three raised unused garden beds in the green area in the front of the school. The intention is to turn the three beds into a garden area filled with native plants, including milkweeds, to attract and help the conservation of Monarch Butterflies. This butterfly garden will provide a unique learning opportunity. The students will learn about native plants restoration initiatives and Monarch Butterfly conservation.

¡Viva la Danza! (RO)

This project aims to expand children's cultural horizons, awareness, and knowledge through music and dance while emphasizing the importance of health, wellness, and culture. In alignment with the District 112 Mission, exposure to la danza folklórica helps promote a world-class education and provides students with opportunities to become more well-rounded individuals while further developing their global identities. Thematic concepts related to identity, community, and traditions will be reinforced through this project. Students will further increase knowledge and concept development of patterns through rhythmic movements.

Creating Calmness: Making Mindfulness Jars (RO)

Red Oak School has been participating in the Knowtice SEL program, resulting in positive behavioral changes observed by staff and parents, with students reporting feeling calmer. They plan to expand on one of the program's strategies, the calming/mindfulness jar, by having each student create their own during a school-wide project. This project aims to engage students' creativity while reinforcing the lesson of maintaining a calm mind.

Board Games Club (Expansion of Program) (RO)

This grant enhances the previous grant funding the Board Game Club. It provides a teacher-led enrichment activity using board games. Each semester during 14-week (2, 7-week sessions) students engage in a new board game or card game. The students learn about the type of game as it relates to the genre, the skills it helps develop and the rules necessary to play successfully. As weeks progress, students learn how to modify and adapt rules to create new gaming experiences. Open to students grades 1-5.

Finding Voice & Power Through Podcasts (RO)

Students will create a podcast during inquiry (social studies) about a topic of their choosing related to what we are learning in class. Each episode will be approximately 3 minutes long. Students will go through the stages of podcast production: conception, pre-production, production and post-production. The student choice and voice allows them to be creative. Additionally, the use of technology (recording/editing equipment/software, graphic design software, and the Cricut) are innovative tools that allow students to develop real-life skills. This project will allow students to become invested in their own learning.

Parent/Child Book Club (SW)

This program for multiple adult/kid book clubs for 5th grade families (up to three clubs) The purpose of the book club is to (1) foster a lifelong love of reading. (2) encourage a special adult/child reading connection/bond. The experience encourages parents to spend one-on-one time with their fifth-grade child, reading, discussing and sharing a common book. It also fosters a connection with other families in the school community, coming together to read a common book in a social setting.

Maglev Regatta (WT)

This grant allows 4th graders to design their own boats with sails to be outfitted with heavy-duty magnets which will allow the students to race their boats along a special track. Students will learn more the science of magnetic levitation with this hands-on approach. Project includes all WT 4th graders.