



# Press Release

## **Eudora Schools Foundation Announces 2017 Teacher Excellence Grant Recipients**

**Friday, October 6, 2017; Eudora, KS:** The Eudora Schools Foundation (ESF) announced today the award of more than \$15,000 in Teacher Excellence Grants to 22 teachers in the Eudora school district. Teachers apply for grants for innovative programs that enhance students learning and success in the classroom. Since 2006, the Eudora Schools Foundation has funded more than 80 projects totaling more than \$50,000 in educational initiatives across the district.

"It is so important to acknowledge and appreciate all of the effort and thought our teachers put into helping students excel," said Lindsey Hoover, ESF President. "Everyone involved with the Eudora Schools Foundation knows how special and unique it is to be a part of the Eudora community, and is so grateful for the support which makes the Teacher Excellence Grants possible."

The chosen projects will have a beneficial effect on students from Kindergarten through 12th grade and Special Education. Examples of the grants proposed include STEM projects, books and advancement curricula, technical education, career and college readiness, and common core education. Thirty-seven applications were received and with the support of the Eudora School District grants were awarded to the schools in the following amounts:

Eudora Elementary: \$5,268  
Eudora Middle School: \$8,023  
Eudora High School: \$5,045

Individual school grants and award recipients are listed below:

### Eudora Elementary School

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade STEM Initiatives – allows 1<sup>st</sup> grade students the opportunity to explore and experience the world of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The students will be able to use the materials in their classrooms to develop an understanding of how the realms of STEM work. Introducing these concepts at a young age will help prepare our students for what they will need now, and in their future. We are providing our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students with a foundation to strengthen their skills in the STEM pathways as their school careers continue. Grant Recipient: Kaylyn Price
- Growth Mindset Books – provides a growth mindset resource library for teachers to use in their classrooms. The goal is to foster a mindset where students are not afraid to make mistakes or try new things. Encouraging elementary students to persist when faced with a challenge or hard work. Students will be encouraged to use the mindset tools of "I need to change my strategy" or "How can I make that better?" These resources will help teach students perseverance, taking on a challenge, and not giving up. Grant Recipient: Theresa Wilcox
- Inclusive Library – enables students and teachers access to engaging and child-friendly inclusive literature. These books will assist in creating a more understanding and encouraging environment for all individuals at EES. Students will gain a better understanding of one another and learn about the great qualities in one's differences. The overall goal is to cultivate a culture of empathy and understanding where all students can be successful. Grant Recipients: Hillary Brunin, Jill Dodge, and Allie Davis
- Kagan Cooperative Learning – provides elementary teachers the opportunity to enhance their classrooms by learning and implementing Kagan Cooperative Learning strategies. These strategies get students talking, interacting, thinking, moving, and engaging with the content at high levels. Engagement is the key to high student achievement. When students are expected to explain their thinking to peers using key vocabulary and built-in accountability, students enjoy interdependent, inclusive learning with peers. This teacher training will provide a large impact across EES. Grant Recipient: Kari Heide

- Music iPads – allows students to explore and create music in a hands-on-way. Students often struggle learning music notation because it is an abstract concept. This technology will help make the concept of music notation more concrete and tangible for students to understand. Students will use the iPads to listen to and watch professional performances, compose their own music, and reinforce musical concepts. In addition, this technology will make it easy for students to share their music creations at school and home, ultimately creating a time-capsule of student achievement from their time at EES. Grant Recipients: Kendra Temaat and Rebecca Killen
- Watchminders – provides special education students with a training tool to self-monitor their own behavior through prompting technology. The Watchminder is set to custom intervals to vibrate and display an individualized message reminding a student to pay attention, take a break, question themselves as to how they are feeling, or a myriad of other items as well. This tool will provide students with a means of self-monitoring their own behavior in the interest of creating lasting positive behavioral change, improvements in academic outcomes, increased levels of responsibility, and a means for self-advocacy training. Grant Recipient: Dave Powers

#### Eudora Middle School

- Global Read Aloud Project – enables 7<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to participate in the Global Read Aloud Project where students join with classes around the globe to learn about other cultures and their needs. Students will read and discuss this year's book choice, *A Long Walk to Walk* by Linda Sue Park. The book itself has global implication and is a springboard for students to become aware of situations globally as well as closer to home, including topics from the impact of hurricanes to the lack of proper drinking water. Students will learn about others in need, ways our own community can help, and develop an understanding of gratitude, caring and overall global awareness. Grant Recipient: Cynthia Andrews
- GoDirect Sensors – enhances the learning of all middle school students by providing them with probeware equipment in their science classes. Just like real scientists, students will have instant and accurate data collection and representation that will save time and increase lab accuracy. Struggling students will benefit because they will not be hung up on basic data collection and be able to focus on the conclusions they can draw from the lab. Advanced students will benefit because they can extend the lab beyond the basic requirements with additional measurements and experimentation to draw more complete results from the investigation. Using the probeware facilitates a deeper understanding of science concepts, supports student curiosity, and better prepares our students for advanced science study. Grant Recipients: Paul Kaldahl, Roberta LaFontaine, and Betsy Lawrence
- Language Arts Book Club – fosters students' ability to fluently read books, comprehend the text, respond to a work of literature, and to foster students' love of reading. Providing students with several genres thought the day in the form of book clubs, will help students develop critical analytical thinking skills through discussions Students who read more perform better in all subjects. The club will increase student engagement, competencies in all core classes, and confidence working with various curriculum when exposed to a variety of text. Grant Recipient: Cynthia Andrews
- littleBits – provides middle school students the opportunity work as a team of engineers using littleBits equipment to find solutions to problems. The kits specifically would be used while teaching electricity, forces and motion, and engineering. Kits would be used in 6<sup>th</sup> grade science and all students participating in the Cardinals STEAM Ahead after-school enrichment program. Students will use the equipment in teams and will gain a more realistic view of what engineers do day-in and day-out. LittleBits also allows the maker movement to be more easily accessible to students in the classroom. Grant Recipient: Betsy Lawrence

#### Eudora High School

- Culinary Video Equipment – provides high school culinary art students the unique opportunity to use video equipment to improve their kitchen learning experience. The tv display will allow for cooking demonstrations to be easily viewed by all students in the class regardless of limited space to view demonstrations. In addition, students will have the opportunity to create their own cooking demonstration videos. These videos will be made public for most people to view and learn. Allowing students to create videos in a *Food Network* or cooking show style, allows for more learning and demonstration of that learning. Grant Recipient: Jack Low

- **Electrical Programming** – allows physics students opportunities to develop skills in wiring electrical circuits and coding a small programmable electronics platform. These kits would allow students to get introduced to these types of skills and computational thinking. The projects can be open ended so that students can express their creativity by programming the units to carry out an endless number of functions. There are many career opportunities for those who understand electronics and especially computer programming languages and these kits would be provide that introduction and opportunity for learning. Grant Recipient: Joe Pickett
- **Electronic Scales** – enables all students in high school science to use modern electronic scales for hands-on lab experiments. This equipment will replace outdated scales that are no longer accurate or give error messages. The students love hands-on labs and this would provide a more engaging lab experience by providing up-to-date equipment. Students would learn to independently measure substances and record accurate lab information. Skills learned in a lab experience are priceless and will prepare EHS students for their post-secondary education. Grant Recipient: Julie Splichal
- **Music iPads** – enhances middle and high school vocal and choral music classes by providing students with technology to engage with music not just from the standpoint of a musician, but as a creator. Students would improve on a variety of skills and techniques such as: keeping a steady beat, creation, intonation, critical listening, arranging, music literacy, piano literacy, cooperation, transposition. Access to the myriad programs available on the iPad will help our students understand how music works, how it is arranged and created, and expose our kids to the technology on the forefront of the music industry today, allowing them to be twenty-first century musicians when they leave our program. Grant Recipient: Ashley Coffman
- **Señor Wooly** – enhances middle and high school Spanish classes by proving an online resource to students to augment Spanish curriculum: story-based songs and music videos, hundreds of activities in a 'gamified' platform, downloadable support materials, and embedded readings that are scaffolded to support student comprehensibility. Activity levels can be set for individual students or entire classes to differentiate instruction, depending on whether students are at beginning, intermediate, or advanced proficiency. The website can be accessed at school or at home for daily activities. Grant Recipients: Melanie McQueen and Kim Lancaster
- **Spanish Library** – allows middle and high school student enrolled in Spanish the opportunity to improve their literacy, vocabulary, comprehension, background knowledge, spelling, grammar, and writing. Students will have access to a variety of high interest, compelling, comprehensible books and other print materials from which students choose to read for their own pleasure. These resources will engage students with differentiated interests and varying proficiency levels, going beyond the limitations of textbooks. One of the lasting values of this grant is that college-bound students will enter their post-secondary studies with a strong reading background and be better prepared for required Spanish literature classes. Grant Recipients: Melanie McQueen and Kim Lancaster
- **Vision Simulation** – provides health career students with the unique opportunity to use low vision simulation kits. These kits provide students a hands-on experience that allows them to empathize with, while gaining skills, those who have impaired or low vision. There is no better way for health career students to experience what a patient may feel or face until the students experience it for themselves. The kit contains goggles with interchangeable visual acuity and visual pathology simulations, as well as peripheral field restriction simulations that allow those who work with individuals who have low vision, to better understand the affect that low vision has on mobility, learning, employment, and activities of daily living. Grant Recipient: Danielle Young
- **WEBS Hands-on Science** – allows middle and high school special education students the opportunity for hands-on science experiences. Students will have weather equipment, an indoor garden, an ant farm, general science kits, clay modeling, and clock kit to help provide activities for higher level of scientific knowledge. These resources will allow for students to do experiments and projects, which will improve math and analytical skills. Lastly, they will enhance the social and communication skills our students need for their future success as they communicate their findings. Grant Recipient: Kathleen McCall

The Eudora Schools Foundation is a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3) that generates resources, builds relationships, and champions public education in Eudora Public Schools. Founded in 2006, the Foundation exists to enhance the quality of education through partnerships with the community. Expenditures are primarily directed toward enhancing classroom instruction and impacting the broadest number of Eudora students.