

REAL IDEAS FROM REAL TEACHERS

BEF GRANTS



A CATALOG OF
BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION
GRANTS



Berkshire Therapy Dog, Murphy

We're here to help!

We know that you're busy. That's why we've developed what we're calling our "Grants Catalog". This catalog showcases grants that the BEF awarded last year, along with the details you would need to feel confident applying for a similar grant yourself. There are also helpful hints for applicants. So, browse the pages, borrow the ideas, and if you have any questions, get in touch. Our email is bef@birmingham.k12.mi.us.



BERKSHIRE ROBOTICS

The Details:

About the grant: Berkshire Robotics competed in FTC, a state sponsored robotics program. This program seeks to not only build the technical skills involved in robotics such as wiring, coding, CAD, and machining, but also the soft skills such as problem solving, budgeting, collaboration, fundraising, and much more.

Why we chose to highlight this grant: The Berkshire Robotics team is a part of district wide initiative to make Birmingham Public Schools a leader in STEM programming by working with both the high school and elementary school level robotics teams. This program promotes district-wide collaboration and STEM exploration.

School: Berkshire

Applicants: Philip Goeman

Budget:
\$750 – REV Robotics Control Hub
\$450 – Competition Game Pieces
\$170 – Robot Sensors
\$380 – Robot Construction Materials
\$250 – REV Driver Hub
\$160 – Competition Support Equipment

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: \$2,250

The Berkshire PTA contributes \$600-\$800 towards the robotics team each year. Berkshire robotics also held a bake sale to increase funding. The BEF covered the additional costs, resulting in a successful and enriching experience for every student on the team.

The Details:

About the grants: Over the years, the BEF has supported family learning nights at a variety of elementary schools. These nights focus on hands on learning in science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM. STEM is currently a focus across all Birmingham Schools. BEF funding allows groups such as the STEM Leadership Club from Seaholm High School and the Robot Garage to put on an exciting learning event for students and their families.

Why we chose to highlight this grant: The BEF trustees love the idea of supporting learning by bringing together students, parents, and teachers. These learning nights also brings the district closer, as high school students share their passions with elementary school students.

Schools & Applicants: Harlan (Kellie Bahri), Bingham Farms (Cindy Blakely), Greenfield (Cindy Sowle), Pembroke (Sarah Smith),

Budget: The BEF has granted between \$250-1,000 for the various family learning nights. Here is an idea of the costs associated with some of those nights:

Harlan's STEAM Night: \$500 to fund various learning stations run by middle and high school students from across the district.

Greenfield's STEAM Night: \$500 in support for the evening, allowing Cranbrook Institute of Science to bring 20 hands on learning stations.

Bingham Farms STEM Night: \$500 in support from the BEF. The Robot Garage brought multiple learning stations to strengthen the students' knowledge and love for science.

Family Learning Nights



DECA



The Details:

About the grant: Students with an interest in business from both Seaholm and Groves high schools competed in career focused DECA competitions that simulate the real-life business world. DECA focuses on preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Students can either compete individually or with a partner.

Students first competed at the district-level competition at Lawrence Tech University. Qualifying students advanced to the state-level competition at Huntington Place in Detroit. From there, a select few students advanced to the International Career Development competition in Orlando, Florida.

Why we chose to highlight this grant: Over 100 high school students district-wide participate in this career-oriented event, allowing students to discover their passion for business. The DECA program is quickly growing at both schools due to immense amount of positive student feedback.

Schools: Seaholm & Groves

Applicants: Amy Bowman, Haley Radin, Rob Yusko

Grant Amount: \$5,145 total for district, state, and international conferences





DSO Sectionals

The Details:

About the grant:

Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians visited Groves HS in February and April to work with different sections of the Groves Concert and Symphony Orchestras. Having the opportunity to work with world-famous DSO musicians was an extremely special experience for our students.

Why we chose to highlight this grant:

Each DSO sectional is prior to a large performance (Camp Concert, MSBOA Festival, Spring Concert). The DSO helps our students to reach their individual musical potential in time for the performances.

School: Groves

Applicant: Paul Shawver

Grant Amount: \$4,000



District-Wide Author Visits



The Details:

About the grants: Author Angela Dominguez visited each elementary school and shared a presentation on her books and experiences as an author. The purpose of these visits from professional authors is to inspire our students to write, read, and pursue their own dreams. With every author visit, students leave more passionate about their own ideas for writing. The experience also ignites their passion for reading the visiting author's work. Students left the event talking about the books and/or talking about their own story telling plans. Strategies shared by the author showed up in classroom writing.

The "One Book, One School Grant" was based around this author and her book, "Stella Diaz has Something to Say." With these grants, schools purchased the book during March is Reading Month for all students and staff. The main character struggles with reading, speaks Spanish at home, and has divorced parents. This book served as a connection for students who shared any of these life experiences and broadened the perspectives of students who have not had these experiences.

Why we chose to highlight this grant: This grant impacted every elementary student district-wide. The BEF is excited to support initiatives that promote creativity in the classroom.

Schools: All elementary schools and BCS

Applicant: Carrie Betts

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Seaholm Band Clinicians

The Details:

About the grant: Professional musicians from the Metro-Detroit area assisted our student musicians in preparation for festival season. The skill and knowledge imparted to our students serves the program immensely in future years and will transfer the information to future generations of band students.

Why we chose to highlight this grant: These professionals can truly focus on our individual musicians' needs while our band directors focus on the ensemble and program as a whole. There is a wide range of talent and proficiency in our band program and these professionals can help address both ends of that spectrum.

School: Seaholm

Applicant: Tim Cibor

Grant Amount: \$4,000





Greenfield Merge Cubes

The Details:

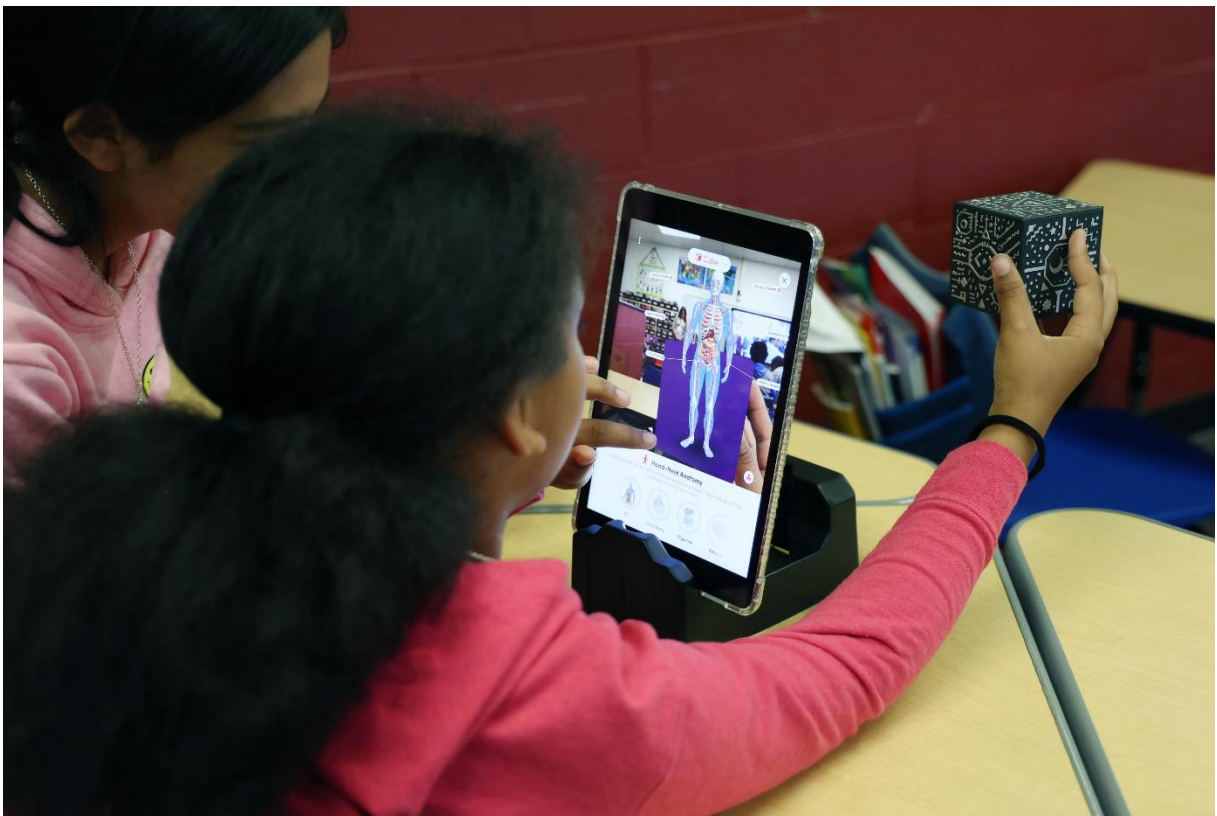
About the grant: The Merge Cube is a light, small cube that can be used with an iPad to view 3D models. When a student rotates the cube in their hand, the 3D item is rotated. For example, when viewing a digital image of a skull, the student turns the cube to see the skull turning on the iPad. There are a variety of uses for the cube in curricular areas across the grade levels.

Why we choose to highlight this grant: The Merge Cube interacts with Merge Cube apps using iPads the school already owns to transform the cube into a digital canvas, whether that entails the solar system, the body, or a pocket aquarium.

School: Greenfield

Applicant: Sherri Levitt

Grant Amount: \$995



FIRST Robotics STEM



The Details:

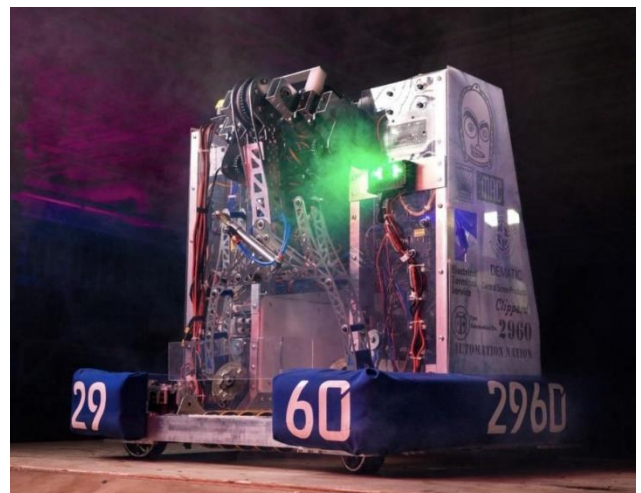
About the grant: The FIRST robotics competition is an opportunity for our students to use their STEM skills to design, build, and operate a robot as part of the competition. The team also has roles for web site builders, community outreach, and presentations about their efforts. It is an enriching activity for all students.

Why we choose to highlight this grant: Our students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Our students get to measure their skills against those from Michigan and the World.

School: Seaholm and Groves

Applicant: Bernie Simms

Grant Amount: \$9,500





5th Grade Trip to Cranbrook Science Center

The Details:

About this grant: Fifth graders in our district took a field trip to Cranbrook Science Center providing an opportunity to experience their science content in a "real life," authentic way.

Why we choose to highlight this grant: Our hope is that this grant inspires students to love science and build authentic connections between the classroom and real world.

School: Elementary schools district-wide

Applicant: Sara Cibor

Grant Amount: \$3,534

Hints for Applying for a BEF Grant

Types of Grants:

Small but Mighty Grants - Requests for \$250 or less. The goal is to fund these grants within 2 weeks.

Staff members are eligible for one Small but Mighty grant each year.

Great Idea Grant - Requests for any amount are reviewed by the BEF grant committee on the second Monday of each month. (The average amount is about \$1500.)

Foundation Grant - These are meant to provide ongoing funding to programs that align with the mission of the BEF and those which reach a large number of students. These grants are by invitation only.

Who can apply?

Any BPS staff member can apply for a BEF grant. Just make sure to have your grant application signed by an administrator.

The Basics:

What do I need to know about the grants? BEF grants aim to directly support the education of students in meaningful and lasting ways by supporting things that fall outside of the district budget.

Are there things I shouldn't apply for? BEF grants do not pay for transportation, professional development for staff, salaries or stipends for staff or coaches, individual student scholarships, consumable goods, events that have already taken place or items that have already been purchased. If there is something you want to apply for, but you're feeling uncertain about this, contact Kathy Zanolli by email or phone.

I want to apply! Where do I find applications? Visit our website (www.SupportBEF.org), hover over the "Teacher Grants" option on the top right side, and then click on "Grant Applications" to find additional information and to download the latest applications.

Remember Your Audience:

The BEF grant committee is comprised of educators, parents, and community members. When writing your application, keep in mind that not everyone is a professional educator, and therefore is not as familiar with content standards, educational terminology and acronyms as you are. For example, it is less important for you to link your application to specific standards than it is that you explain how it fits into the units that you are teaching.

For example, rather than talking about which standards are addressed by the addition of a collection of books, talk about how they will be used in your classroom and how they will impact the education of your students. If you are applying for funding for an experience, explain how that experience fits into the lessons that you are teaching, and the activities that you will do related to the experience.

After you've written the application, read through it one more time as if you are not a teacher. Make sure that you've explained it in a way that anyone who is not familiar with your classroom can fully understand what you're asking for, how it improves learning, and how it fits into your lessons.

Where do I send my application?

You can send the application through the intraschool mail to the EAC, attention Kathy Zanolli or BEF.

What happens after I apply?

If you apply for a Small but Mighty grant, the application will be sent to the committee the week it is received.

Great Idea Grants are reviewed on the second Monday of each month.

I got a grant! Now what?

Complete and submit the check request form included in your grant award letter along with any invoices/receipts as backup. Grant reimbursement checks are sent to each school to be deposited. You may also request that a vendor be issued a check directly from the BEF.

There is one exception to this: technology. Grants for technology related items will go through tech services. Kathy Zanolli will work with grant applicants and tech services to get items ordered properly.

Reporting back to the BEF about your grant. It's important that we hear from you about how things went! This helps us to make decisions about future grants. What does that reporting look like? Here are a few examples:

If your grant was for an experience, send us pictures* of students taking part. Send us a few paragraphs about the experience. This can include things you heard from students during and after the experience, your observations about the impact that it had on students, stories about how one child or a whole class benefitted, or anything that you think helps us to understand the impact of the grant.

If your grant was for items, send us pictures* of the items in use. Share information on how the items have improved learning for students, or stories of the items being used in your classroom.

This reporting is vital to both the grant process, as well as reporting back to our donors on the impact of their donations. Additionally, we do check that grant recipients have reported to us about past grants when considering new grant applications. It helps everyone when we know how things went!

*Please check the Do Not Photograph List at your school prior to sending photos of students to the BEF.

THANK YOU, BPS TEACHERS & STAFF

The BEF Board of Trustees would like to say a huge THANK YOU to every BPS teacher and staff member. Your dedication to providing our children with the best education possible is inspiring. We love seeing your creativity expressed through the amazing grant applications that you send to us and we are incredibly grateful to you for supporting the BEF each year during our Annual Fund drive and Staff Giving campaign.

