



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

*Enhancing Academic Opportunities
for Student Success
1986 - 2020*

www.rimef.org



Fall 2020

RIMEF Donations Fund PRIME and Digital Equity

Donor contributions to the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF) provided \$58,438 in PRIME Grants for the 2020-2021 school year and \$40,277 to sustain digital equity within the Rock Island-Milan School District (RIMSD.) New times present new challenges for our teachers and schools - students in the RIMSD left school on March 6 to enjoy the third intercession break but did not return for the remainder of the school year. With the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff top of mind, the district started the 2020-2021 school year with remote learning. Teachers had to adapt their classes to an entirely new type of online instruction and students and their families had to adapt to online classrooms at home.

PRIME Grants Due to COVID-19, our PRIME Grant timetable was delayed to give teachers more time to develop projects well-suited to teaching online. As a result, interactive proposals for science, reading, math, and music were submitted such as “Interactive Learning in Kindergarten,” “Music Making at Home,” “Inquiry-Based Online Science Simulations Using Gizmos,” and “Virtually Reading: A Digital Classroom Library.” In-school project proposals, funding for First Day, and the Rocky Resource Room were submitted as well. In all, the RIMEF awarded the over \$58,000 to 33 teachers providing funds for 27 innovative programs and new materials to benefit our K-12 students. The grants will fund projects and materials both facilitating online learning and anticipating a return to the classroom later this fall. A complete list of all PRIME Grants awarded for the 2020-2021 school year can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



Digital Equity The RIMSD carefully prepared both remote and blended learning plans for the fall as the previous school year wound to a close. While teachers and administration developed lesson plans for remote instruction, the district and its IT department were faced with the challenge of ensuring that all students had internet access. Federal and state funding through the CARES Act provided resources to purchase the main equipment necessary to establish the network and the software to manage that network safely. The goal for the district’s technology, however, was a sustainable approach reaching beyond the current COVID-19 crisis. The RIMEF will provide that sustainability with funds for 26 indoor/outdoor antennas and 3 years of internet service for 28 Cradlepoint cellular routers currently placed throughout Rock Island and Milan. This technology is part of the District’s ROCKfi (Reaching Our Community’s Kids with fidelity) network allowing any RIMSD student to connect through their district-issued Chromebook or personal device.



Support of the Digital Equity program is made possible through two \$5,000 grants from the Doris and Victor Day Foundation and the Rock Island Community Foundation. Another \$2,000 grant was received from the Rauch Family Foundation. The total from these great charitable organizations was added to over \$6,000 the RIMEF received from its targeted Birdies for Charity appeal and \$28,000 from the RIMEF’s annual distribution. “The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is very grateful to our generous donors. Their contributions have allowed us to help our students and their families during this difficult time,” said an appreciative John Phillips, RIMEF Board President.



Birdies Donations Top \$22,000!

COVID may have cancelled the 2020 John Deere Classic Golf Tournament this summer but it did not cancel the Birdies for Charity program! 61 pledges translated into over \$22,000 raised for the RIMEF! This year’s appeal was directed to technology and digital equity funding, accounting for over \$6,000 of the total raised. The final check will be presented to the Foundation at the end of October and we anticipate a 5% bonus on all our Birdies donations. If you would like to donate through Birdies and increase your giving to the RIMEF, please contact us for more information and pledge form. You can give to our appeal or direct to the program of your choice. It’s a great way to increase your giving and help us support the RIMSD even more!

2020-2021 PRIME Grant Awards



Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation

PRIME

GRANTS

PROMOTING
ROCK ISLAND
MILAN EDUCATION

Teacher Grants:

- Cindy Arkebauer, Eugene Field: **\$1,500** – Learning from Anywhere with STEM
- Brin Arnold, RICMS: **\$1,500** – Interactive Learning in Kindergarten
- Angie Brownson, Eugene Field: **\$1,500** – STEM-tastic Learning
- Giovanna Davila, Thomas Jefferson: **\$850.00** – Music Making at Home
- Rita Entsminger, RICMS: **\$1,445.75** – Scholastic News Digital plus Science Spin and Technology
- Kris Hays, RICMS: **\$1,333.57** – Investigations & Explorations – The Learning Continues
- Monica Hughes, RIHS: **\$1,500** – iJAG Room Upgrade
- Amy Moffit, RICMS: **\$821.60** – 2020 Teacher Survival Kit
- Heidi Nerud, RIHS: **\$875.00** – Inquiry-Based Online Science Simulations Using Gizmos
- Leah Quintana, Frances Willard: **\$1,349.41** – Kinesthetic Classroom
- Michelle Schneckloth, Eugene Field: **\$1,000** – Increasing Building-wide Social Emotional Awareness
- Haylie Selhost, Eugene Field: **\$1,312.03** – Flexibility for Cognitive Thinking
- Shaya Smith, RICMS: **\$1,245.12** – Technology and Text
- Jennifer Trimble, RIHS: **\$1,338.95** – Dem Bones, Dem Bones Need Help Walking Around RIHS Again
- Chad Wickard, RICMS: **\$1,493.72** – For the Love of Learning II



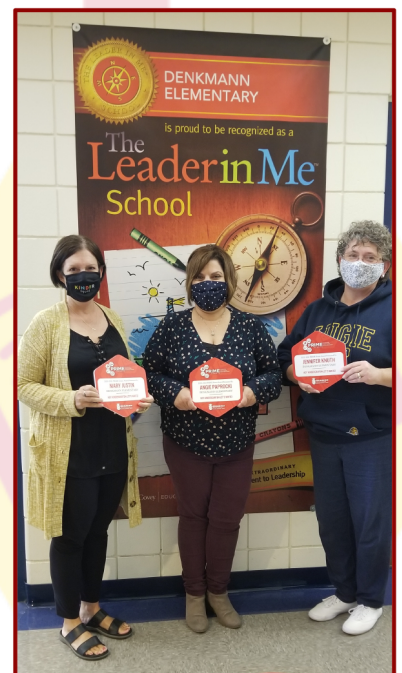
Departmental/School Grants:

- Julie Churchill, RIHS: **\$1,188** – SimpliCollege
- Alexis DeWilde, Ridgewood: **\$2,468.12** – Virtually Reading: A Digital Classroom Library
- Julie Hansen, RICMS: **\$2,950** – Brain Pop/Brain Pop Jr. Subscription
- Elizabeth Hughes, Ridgewood: **\$2,000** – Sensory Room
- Angie Paprocki, Jennifer Knuth, Mary Justin/Denkman: **\$3,000** – Hey Kindergarten-Let's Write!
- Beth Raygor, Earl Hanson: **\$2,811.45** – A Better Space to Work, Read, and Collaborate
- Ruth Sherrard, Alannah Alexander/Edison Jr. High: **\$2,955.70** – Trauma Sensitive Classroom Environment Implementation
- Christie Varnes, Edison Jr. High: **\$3,000** – Projecting Our Learning through Tactile Engagement



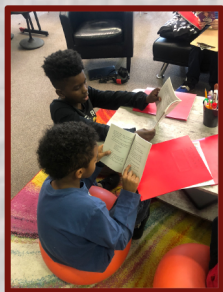
Multi-School Grants:

- Giovanna Davila, Grades 4-6 District-Wide: **\$4,000** – Instrument Kits for Remote Learning
- Ramona Dixon, District: **\$5,000** – School Supplies for the 1st Day...and Beyond!
- Jessica Matherly, District: **\$5,000** – Rocky Resource Room
- Krystall Trice, District: **\$5,000** – Family Engagement that Improves Student Achievement



PRIME Grants at Work!

All teachers receiving a PRIME Grant are asked to provide a summary report upon the completion of their project or at the end of the school year. The report is to include a grant recap with goals of their project, benefits to their students, how their project was implemented, and any success stories. We also ask for photos of their classrooms showing their grants "in action." Here is a small sampling of how your donations enhanced classrooms and schools through the PRIME Grants!



Ms. Burns, Mr. Turnipseed, & Ms. Wilmington
RI Academy, 3rd Grade

Flexible Seating for a 21st Century Classroom

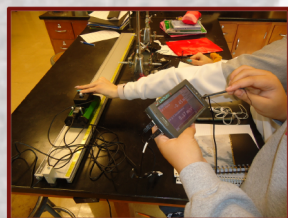
"Students loved all of the seating options. It built morale...knowing they were lucky enough to be a part of this project. Students' behavior improved... Flexible seating gave students options to use so they could maintain focus while sitting, rocking or standing instead of traditional class seating."



Ms. Hudnall
RICMS, K-6 PE

Stack It Up

"Stacking of cups using the different patterns is great for hand eye coordination and moving across the midline of the body. Each day we would learn a new pattern, practiced, and then played an activity using that pattern. We had an after-school stacking tournament...Parents came and watched and the kids were supporting each other. It was a lot of fun."



Mr. LaRoche

Rock Island High School

Getting Probed: Force and Motion Interactions

"They (probes) have been invaluable to my students in understanding the physics and science around them. They will likely still be in use 10-20 years from now. An absolute great investment the RIMEF has made."



Ms. Niemeier & Ms. Stout
Longfellow, 1st & 2nd Grades

Brain Bins

"Students absolutely loved Brain Bins! We started our day with Brain Bins. Students looked forward to coming in every morning and getting started with their day...(they) also wanted to earn additional Brain Bin time for different goals they reached!"



Ms. Benson & Ms. Erikson
Longfellow, 3rd & 4th Grades

Social-Emotional Learning through Art and Literature

"Our classroom was filled with 90 books and a vast variety of art supplies. The students were thrilled with the new additions. We painted giraffes from *Giraffes Can't Dance* to coincide with the Family Reading Night with the Quad City Ballet...They designed paper molas for Hispanic Heritage month and dragons to celebrate the New Year. Thank you so much for the generous contribution to the students...It is greatly appreciated."



Ms. Benson & Mr. Manweiler
District Orchestra, 6-12

Learning About Latin American Culture and Music with Jesus Florido

"The recent Jesus Florido artist program gave our students an immersive experience building friendships learning about Latin culture. Jesus, one of the top Latin musicians in the world, led workshops and a performance that celebrated Hispanic culture through its music. Our students learned about music, art, language, and traditions in Latin America... This cross-cultural experience would not have been possible without the generous support of the Prime Grants and the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation!"

Class of 2020 Grads Say "Thank You!"

"Thank you for your generosity which allows me to attend Coe College and major in physics. I appreciate your investment in students like myself and in our education. Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift!" - Nils Empen

"I want to thank you... I am very grateful and can't wait to continue my education in the fall at St. Ambrose here in the QC!" - Margaret Honeycutt

"Words cannot describe how appreciative and happy I am to be able to receive such support. Your contribution has lightened my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies without guilt. Thank you for your generosity." - Olivia Panegos

"...thank you for organizing all of these scholarships and giving so many kids the opportunity to help pay off college...you are helping my dreams come true!" - Ashley Johnson

"Thank you for granting me an Austin Academic Achievement Award scholarship to contribute to my future education in Des Moines. I appreciate your consideration and support in my future endeavors." - Henry Thompson

"Thank you so much for the scholarship! I am looking forward to continuing my education at Monmouth College where I will major in English and History ...I really appreciate your support of this next step in my educational journey!" - Larissa Pothoven

"This will truly be helpful as I continue my education... Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Rock Island students. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated!" - Bianca Brown

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was formed in 1986 to solicit and receive funds to support academic programs in the Rock Island-Milan School District. A board of directors, comprised of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the foundation.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!

Dr. Bryan Blew: Dr. Blew graduated from RIHS in 1990. He left to attend college and dental school, returning to RI in 2000. Bryan is now a dentist practicing in Moline. Bryan and his wife Michele (6th grade teacher at Denkmann) have two children, Eleanor, who is a senior at Rocky, and James, who is a sophomore. They are the fourth generation to attend RIHS. Dr. Blew serves on our Scholarship and Allocations Committees.

Zachary Edwards: Zach is a proud member of the RIHS Class of 2001. He attended Illinois State University double majoring in Finance & Insurance. He has worked in the financial services industry since 2005 joining Waddell & Reed in 2011. His wife Leigh is an Advisor Assistant for Waddell & Reed. Zach works closely with the INCubator Class as a judge and as a mentor. He serves on our Fundraising and Events Committees.

Chris Elsberg: Chris has owned/operated a State Farm Insurance office in RI since 1988. She is a 1980 graduate of Augustana. Chris has two daughters who graduated from RIHS – Jillian ('12) and Julianna ('14.) Chris is a member of the RI/M First Day Fund, worked with the RI PTA for 14 years, and a member of the RI Booster Club. Chris serves on our Allocations, Events, and Fundraising (as Chair) Committees.



“Welcome to the District!”

For the second year, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation welcomed new teachers and staff to the RIMSD. At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, “Welcome Bags” were delivered to 34 new employees including 21 teachers, 1 principal, 2 psychologists, 1 social worker, 8 paraprofessionals, and 1 school nurse. The bags for elementary teachers included a gift card from *Teachers’ Aide* to help with out-of-pockets costs. Junior high, RIHS, or administrative employees received *Office Max* gift cards. Delivery of the bags was done safely for the health and well-being of our important new members. All were excited to receive their gifts! We are just as excited that you have joined the RIMSD41!