

PRIME Grants Award Record \$158,404!



The 2022-2023 School Year began with \$158,404 in PRIME Grants awarded to the teachers, departments, and schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District. The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation presented its PRIME Grants at the opening day in-service meeting held on August 2nd in Augustana College's Centennial Hall. 76 projects from 94 educators were funded for programs, technologies, and/or materials to be used this year. Every school in the district had at least one teacher or educator receive a grant.

Over 6,100 students of the Rock Island-Milan School District will benefit from these PRIME Grants with innovative projects in literacy, science, physical education, special needs, music, global understanding, and more! This year through new gifting, the RIMEF was excited to add multiple "Rock Island Art Guild" PRIME Grants specifically aimed to encourage and support art projects in all grade levels K-12.

Teachers and other educators submit their PRIME Grant applications with project proposals in late May. Individual teachers may apply for up to \$1,500, departments or schools up to \$3,000, and those applying for programs affecting multiple schools may as for up to \$5,000. The PRIME Grant Committee comprised of RIMEF board members, retired RIMSD educators, and a representative from the Dept. of Teaching and Learning evaluate each application and make the final determination for the awards. All projects must be completed within the school year and a follow-up report with photos must be sent to the RIMEF.

PRIME stands for "Promoting Rock Island Milan Education." The RIMEF believes that every student is entitled to a quality education and this critical program perfectly aligns with our mission to "enhance academic opportunities for student success." The PRIME Grant Program is made possible through funding from you, our donors, and the generosity of Junior Board of Rock Island, the Rauch Family Foundation, the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, and the Rock Island Art Guild. The PRIME Grant fund is an excellent way for our dedicated donors to have that direct impact in our schools and on student achievement throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District.

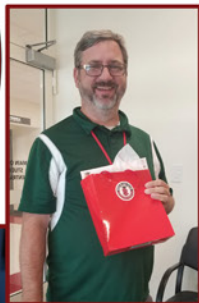
Please consider adding your name to those supporting this worthy program!

Welcome to the District!

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation welcomed new teachers, administrators, and staff to the district at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Over 50 "Welcome Bags" were assembled and delivered by RIMEF board and committee members to every school for the new hires.

Bags for the elementary teachers contained gift cards to *Teachers Aide* to help with the out-of-pocket costs of setting up their classrooms. Bags for the junior high and Rocky teachers along with principals/administrators included gift cards to *Office Depot* for classrooms or offices. Every bag also held a letter of welcome from the RIMEF, our latest newsletters, and annual report. For a welcome treat – each bag held gift cards from both local favorites *Whitey's Ice Cream* and *Cool Beanz Coffeehouse*.

This special welcome, made possible through your donations, is greatly appreciated by those newest to our schools. We appreciate these dedicated educators being a part of our district and want to ensure they know the RIMEF supports their efforts in and out of the classroom!



Donors Making an Impact:

Earl Hanson Playground Built with Huiskamp Collins Donation

"Heidi changes lives and charts destinies. We need SO MANY more just like her!!! It would make such a difference in our community!!!"
 - Lynda Sargent, Heart of Hope Ministries

Students at Earl Hanson have a new, purple playground thanks to the generosity of a donor who works to effect change in her community: Heidi Huiskamp Collins. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on August 26 to the delight of the students who were allowed to climb, slide, and hang from the equipment after waiting since the start of the school year. The \$150,000+ gift to construct the playground was made through the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation.

A new, safe playground for the students was a high priority item on Principal Sarah Leonard's wish-list. Earl Hanson's PTO started reaching out to some of its community connections to find a donor. One parent got in touch with Heidi who then contacted the RIMEF. After some work by the district to obtain bids and approval by the school board, the construction work began in June and was completed in August.



Ribbon-Cutting on August 26



Students enjoying the new playground

MLK Community Center Director & RIMEF Board member Jerry Jones - "Heidi stands as an inspirational leader... as a visionary philanthropist, successful entrepreneur, and advocate for social justice. She shines as an example of an authentic woman stepping into her power to positively impact a community."

"Heidi has created a legacy of lifting up youth in our community...we witness her generosity and compassion first-hand. She relentlessly gives of her time, talent, and treasure to provide children of all backgrounds a more enriched life and promising future." - Mike Wennkamp, Two Rivers YMCA



"I am very blessed and so feel a deep responsibility to do what I can to lift up those who have not been as fortunate. As a woman, I also have a deep desire to model for other women the act of stepping into their power and showcasing how we can impact our communities through philanthropy.

Heidi Huiskamp Collins

Annual Gift Increases with Birdies for Charity

A generous \$100,000 donation to the RIMEF was made through our 2022 Birdies for Charity appeal! Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton made the substantial annual gift earlier this year to take advantage of the John Deere Classic's fundraiser. By donating via Birdies for Charity, the Horton's gift to the RIMEF will increase by an additional 5% or more.

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation believes every RIMSD#41 student is entitled to a quality education.

Thank you to Jerry and Sue Horton for their Birdies gift and thank you to all our amazing, generous donors who help us to "Enhance Academic Opportunities for Student Success." You make a difference with every dollar you give.



MS MAJOR SAVER

Foundation Fundraising You Can Trust



The RIMEF just wrapped up a successful Major Saver Campaign in August. This ended the 10th year for the discount card fundraiser which has now raised nearly \$275,000. Approximately \$100,000 of that total has been returned directly back to the participating schools with the remaining earnings supporting our PRIME Grant program benefitting all our students and schools. Elementary students throughout the district sold the \$15 cards with every card they sell being credited to the students for prizes and to their schools for projects or items they elect.

School	PRIME TOTAL 2012-2022
Denkmann	\$41,212
Earl Hanson	\$54,833
Eugene Field	\$75,014
Frances Willard	\$79,270
Longfellow	\$49,057
RI Academy	\$49,642
RICMS	\$95,432
Ridgewood	\$55,788
Thomas Jefferson	\$50,858
Edison Jr High	\$46,321
Washington Jr High	\$54,741

You can still purchase your card online at:
www.majorsaver.com



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION



INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT



We believe that every student is entitled to a quality education.

Our mission - *To Enhance Academic Opportunities for Student Success*
The RIMEF is committed to enriching the educational environment of all students.

The RIMEF has grown tremendously in 36 years: growing our starting assets from \$5,317 in 1991 to nearly \$3,700,000; compiling a database with over 6,600 names of alumni and supporters; and hosting two major programs – the PRIME Grants and the Austin Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night.

Major Programs

Austin Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarships

- Awarded \$137,200 to the Class of 2022
- 47 named scholarships funding 70 individual awards
- 20 Austin Academic Achievement Award scholarships

PRIME Grants – Promoting Rock Island Milan Education

- \$158,404 awarded for the 2022-2023 academic year
- Over \$1 Million in PRIME Grants (originally Teacher Grants awarded to date)

Other Programs of Support

INCubator Class
HAVlife
Reynolds Returning Rocks

Bright Ideas Awards
New Teacher Welcome Kits
Extracurricular Funds



PRIME Grants in Action!

Teachers who receive PRIME Grants provide reports upon the completion of projects or at the end of the school year. The reports include a grant recap with goals of the project, benefits to their students, how the project was implemented, and any success stories. They also provide photos of their classrooms showing their grants “in action.” Here is a small sampling of how your donations enhanced classrooms and schools in the 2021-2022 school year via PRIME Grants!



**Ms. Niemeier & Ms. Stout
Longfellow, 2nd Grade
“Perspectives through Picture Books”**

“We used these books to open discussions about the differences and similarities between the new students and existing ones. We found that the students were more open to conversations about things they haven’t experienced before. They were full of questions and brimming with excitement to learn more about different cultures.”

“The students were able to express and enhance their learning creating 3 dimensional illustrations and entering codes that dictated the movements of what they built. At the beginning of each lesson, learners were assessed for prior knowledge to determine each students’ learning style.”

**Mr. Gbenyo
Thurgood Marshall Learning Center
“Empowering Potential and Career
Exploration via Kinesthetic Learning”**



**Mr. LaRoche
Rock Island High School, Physics
“Round and Round It Goes
(Where it stops, only science knows!)”**

“We used these books to open discussions about the differences and similarities between the new students and existing ones. We found that the students were more open to conversations about things they haven’t experienced before. They were full of questions and brimming with excitement to learn more about different cultures.”

“In publications we create school media. Specifically, a school news program: Warrior TV. ...Mr. Vogel showed his students how to set up sound equipment, lighting, how to properly shoot a scene, edit videos, etc. We also learned the importance of news & media. Discussions ...follow what a reliable source is, what scenarios to report. These skills have taught us how to be more effective journalists and how to create better writing pieces.” Written by a student

**Mr. Vogel
Washington Jr. High, 8th Grade
“Warrior TV Publications”**



**Ms. Vroman
Rock Island High School, AP Env. Science
“Studying Ecosystems through Eco-columns”**

“Olivia: I learned that without a balanced environment, a lot of things will begin to die and it has a domino effect on the rest of the ecosystem. For example, when our fish died, our plants were starting to die so we knew something was wrong and we had to make a change. I liked how we could be independent and we’re responsible for the care of other organisms”

“One of our success stories was when we were reading about how difficult it was for some students to get books to their part of their country, students were able to brainstorm ideas and then take their ideas into conceptual forms to solve this problem. Another...was when we read about people needing clean, fresh water in an African country. Students had to devise a way to get water from the ground to help stop the famine and promote growth in these areas. In both cases, students then presented their ideas to the class for constructive feedback. Students would then go back to their project and make modifications based on feedback they received.”

**Ms. Arkebauer
Eugene Field, 3rd Grade
“Making a Mark with Makerspace”**



“Thank you so very much for supporting our students and myself!”

RIMEF Endowment



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

In 2022, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF) Board of Directors approved the establishment of a unique endowment fund to support major Rock Island-Milan School District directed campaigns for our Rock Island-Milan Schools. The newly established “RIMEF Endowment Fund” will utilize only the interest and earnings received with the fund’s principle remaining intact. Careful and regularly reviewed investment strategies will increase the RIMEF Endowment Fund’s impact and create sustainable growth. Any individual, family, business, or corporation may invest in the fund with a minimum \$5,000 donation. The gift may be made as a one payment or in equal installments of two and up to five years. Investors in the RIMEF Endowment Fund will be recognized once the full minimum donation has been received. The RIMEF Endowment is a permanently held fund.

Impact the future through your support of the RIMEF Endowment Fund. Giving now will help ensure the academic success of future generations of Rock Island-Milan School District students.

For more information or to make your investment in the RIMEF Endowment Fund, please contact the RIMEF at (309) 581-2154 or rimef@rimsd41.org



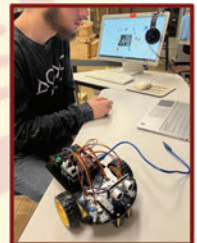
YOU can make a lasting impact in the life of a child by investing in their education. With your donation to the RIMEF, you are investing in the education of thousands of children throughout our district now and in the future. Your dollars make a difference when purchasing resources to increase literacy, initiate a STEAM program, fund an innovative approach to learning, or provide the encouragement to further education through a scholarship. Your investment helps “enhance academic opportunities” for the success of Rock Island-Milan District students now and in years to come.

The Education Foundation has many options to support our students, teachers, and schools. You may donate to one of our established programs, our general fund, or to an endowment. A gift of any size makes a difference. If you’d like to include the Education Foundation in your estate or long-range planning, please consult your tax, legal, or financial advisor to help determine what option would be best for you:

“There is no greater return than an investment in a child’s education”

2022-2023 PRIME Grant Awards

Teacher/Administrator	Amount	Project (T) - Teacher, (D/S) - Department/School, (M-S) - Multi-School
<u>Denkmann Elementary</u>		
Jessica Stockwell	\$1,200.00	Denkmann Safety Patrol (Department/School)
<u>Earl Hanson Elementary</u>		
Maria Bandera-Taber	\$1,491.53	Feed the Need (Teacher)
Candace Vroman-Lopez	\$775.00	Any Place Any Time Learning (Teacher)
Beth Raygor	\$1,449.61	Sensory to Win (Teacher)
<u>Eugene Field Elementary</u>		
Cindy Arkebauer	\$1,494.31	Improving Growth Mindset and Social Emotional Learning through STEAM (Teacher)
Peggy Canning	\$2,407.52	Kinesthetic Learning through Brainball & Steppers (Department/School)
<u>Frances Willard Elementary</u>		
Emilie Carriere	\$1,500.00	Sensory Friendly Classroom Environment (Teacher)
Donna Manning***	\$2,000.00	Expressive Art (Department/School)
Nikki Melody & Valerie Matson	\$3,000.00	Reviving Rebecca Caudill at Willard (Department/School)
Gabby Pepping	\$1,200.00	Kinder Space to Support Social-Emotional Learning (Teacher)
Michelle Weckerly & Carissa Boyd	\$3,000.00	Updated & Upgraded 4 th Grade Classroom Library (Department/School)
<u>Horace Mann Early Learning Center</u>		
Nicole Berry	\$2,893.80	Sensory Interventions for Preschool (Department/School)
Aubrey Keller	\$1,500.00	Sensory and Inclusive Learning (Teacher)
Linnea Sparacello	\$1,500.00	Science in the Preschool Classroom (Teacher)
<u>Longfellow Elementary</u>		
Dave Knuckey	\$3,000.00	Peaceful Playgrounds (Department/School)
Sallie Konrardy	\$2,355.00	SEL at Lunch! (Department/School)
Tara Niemeier & Mandi Stout	\$3,000.00	Explore Our World (Department/School)
<u>Rock Island Academy</u>		
Adam Beck	\$2,506.33	Uke Can Do It at the Academy (Department/School)
Matthew Claude & Laura Irish	\$2,198.72	Organization for Success (Department/School)
Samantha Heath	\$2,857.36	Little Leopards, Big Emotions (Department/School)
Jamie Pilichowski	\$666.26	A Little Spot of Social-Emotional Learning: Feelings, Thoughts, Actions (Teacher)
Ashley Reeves, Lisa Hagen, & Jessica Daves	\$2,278.08	Project Kindergarten – Building a Foundation for Future Learners (Department/School)
Susan Scudder	\$1,485.64	Ultimate Reading (Teacher)
Kelly Vroman***	\$1,500.00	Art Mindfulness (Teacher)
Amy Zero & Kelly Vroman	\$3,000.00	Presence Counts: Motivating Positive Attendance & Behavior Choices (Department/School)
<u>Rock Island Center for Math & Science</u>		
Kristen Adams	\$1,142.84	Promethean Projects & Small Group Resources (Teacher)
Kris Hays	\$945.43	The Promethean Project (Teacher)
Jacqueline Krone Franks	\$945.43	Interactive Learning for Kindergarteners (Teacher)
Shaya Smith	\$1,142.84	Operation Cool Stuff (Teacher)
Susan Thompson	\$1,500.00	Activities Across the Curriculum (Teacher)
<u>Ridgewood Elementary</u>		
Alexis DeWilde, Kati Montford, Mara Goodvin	\$2,000.00	Building Empathy through Teamwork (Department/School)
Mara Goodvin	\$5,000.00	Blue Sky Music Makers (Multi-School)
Kati Montford, Alicia Sigel & Elizabeth Hughes	\$2,928.56	Inclusive Technology and Supplies for Students in Functional Skills Special Education (D/S)
Toni Moore & Meg Klocke	\$3,000.00	Everyone is a Reader (Department/School)
Alicia Sigel	\$965.51	Fine Motor Fun without Tears (Teacher)



*** Rock Island Art Guild PRIME Recipient

2022-2023 PRIME Grant Awards (cont.)

Teacher/Administrator	Amount	Project (T) - Teacher, (D/S) - Department/School, (M-S) – Multi-School
<u>Thomas Jefferson Elementary</u>		
Giovanna Davila	\$3,000.00	More Xylophones, Less Space (Department/School)
Olivia Frantzen	\$3,000.00	Celebrating Attendance (Department/School)
Christine MacDonald	\$1,000.00	Graduation Bookends (Teacher)
<u>Edison Junior High School</u>		
Lindsay Anderson	\$2,850.00	Going Green in the Classroom (Department/School)
Lauren Bisgard	\$770.00	Social Emotional & Culturally Responsive Classroom (Teacher)
Sylvia Cooper	\$1,488.10	Moby Max Subscription / Manipulative for Math & Math Projects (Teacher)
Kristi Geisler	\$600.00	Eagles Next Café (Teacher)
Rita Jett	\$1,500.00	Sensory Board (Teacher)
Melanie Martinez	\$1,500.00	Calm / Sensory Room (Teacher)
Cassandra Salas-Mikaio	\$2,500.00	Art 2.0 (Department/School)
<u>Washington Junior High School</u>		
Emilie Heald	\$3,000.00	Enhancing STEM Instruction (Department/School)
Kim Laingen	\$1,500.00	Cooking and Life Skills (Teacher)
Andrew Vogel	\$1,800.00	Warrior TV Publications (Department/School)
<u>Rock Island High School</u>		
Julie Churchill	\$1,000.00	HS Counseling Dept Scheduling / Data Collection (Teacher)
Katie Dennis	\$3,000.00	Computer Tables that Fit! (Department/School)
Stephanie Dieudonne & Wade Weber	\$3,000.00	Let's Try This (Department/School)
Christopher Gabany	\$920.00	Enhancing STEM Learning Through Virtual Science Experiences and Simulations (Teacher)
Bill Gustafson***	\$1,325.00	Digital Drawing Screen Addition (Teacher)
Ben Hammer	\$3,000.00	Rock Island Fitness Center Upgrades (Multi-School)
Maria Schrup Hanrahan	\$3,000.00	EL Newcomer Vocabulary & Sentences Unit: EL Study Skills (Department/School)
Jason Kitterman	\$1,500.00	Clothing for Kids (Teacher)
Christopher LaRoche	\$1,500.00	May the Force be with You! (Teacher)
Sean McCollum	\$1,500.00	Drone Coding (Teacher)
Andrea Parer	\$5,000.00	Rocky Resource Room (Multi-School)
Yvonne Grandberry Pugh	\$2,400.00	Motivating Students (Department/School)
Lance Riccio	\$1,500.00	Alternative Seating for High School Special Ed Students (Teacher)
Science Department at RIHS	\$2,995.65	Days of Dissection ("Days of Our Lives") (Department/School)
Courtney Stone	\$940.00	Biology I Dissection (Teacher)
Venessa Taylor, Briana Nelson	\$3,000.00	Safe Space / Locker Room (Department/School)
Jennifer Trimble	\$1,401.69	Back to the Future in Biology (Teacher)
Wade Weber	\$1,500.00	Keep on Welding (Teacher)
<u>Thurgood Marshall Learning Center</u>		
Christopher Britton***	\$1,400.00	Urban Art Aesthetics (Teacher)
Amanda Crecelius, Darla Jones & Kate Reyhons	\$3,000.00	Developing Social-Emotional Resilience in Students with IEP's (Department.School)
Janice Gbenyo	\$1,350.00	Digital Microscope Lab (Teacher)
Koffi A. Gbenyo	\$1,500.00	STEM and Hands-On Activities (Teacher)
Steve Van De Walle	\$415.00	Learning Advantage: Opening the Doors of Opportunities (Teacher)
Julie Vermiere	\$3,000.00	Student Success: Attendance Incentive Program (Department/School)
<u>Rock Island-Milan School District</u>		
Chris Beierlein & Dionne Lohman	\$4,521.04	Coaching for a Change (Multi-School)
Matthew Manweiler & Madison Penn	\$4,995.00	Realizing Diversity through Rhythm and Groove with Tracy Silvermann (Multi-School)
Sarah McCoy	\$3,250.00	Family Engagement Volunteer Recognition (Multi-School)
Krystall Trice	\$5,000.00	Family Engagement that Impacts Student Achievement (Multi-School)



*** Rock Island Art Guild PRIME Grant Recipient

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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ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation
2101 6th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
www.rimef.org (309) 581-2154

“Thank You” from Class of 2022 Scholarship Recipients

“I want to personally thank you as the recipient of the Austin Academic Achievement Awards Scholarship. I am very appreciative and honored to be a recipient from the math department. This will help lessen the financial burden on myself and my family and allow me to focus on my education. ...My ultimate goal is to have a rewarding career where I can make a positive impact in my field and in my community... Thank you again for your generosity, this will help me achieve my goals.” - Alaina Muller

**“Austin Academic Achievement Award - Rock Island-Milan Foundation. Thank you for the scholarship. It will assist me during my first year at Illinois State University.”
- Jacob Stribling**



“Thank you very much for the generous scholarship and recognizing my dedication to the performing arts in theatre and music during my high school career. I plan to use this scholarship to further my future career in vocal performance! Thank you again.” - Georgi Feigley

“I am very honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Austin Academic Achievement Awards Scholarship for the Math department. Thank you for your generosity, which allows me to afford to attend Augustana College. I appreciate your investment in students like myself and in our education. Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous award.” - Ian Empen

“Thank you so much for awarding me with the Austin Academic Award and the 2-yr Junior College Scholarships. The two scholarships will be great help to getting me the degree I will be pursuing. One day I hope to own my own construction company in the area.” - Eli Boeye

