



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Enhancing Academic Opportunities
for Student Success
1986 - 2024

www.rimef.org



Fall 2024



PRIME Grants!

Students of the Rock Island-Milan School District will benefit from over a quarter of a million dollars in PRIME Grants for the 2024-2025 school year! 122 PRIME Grants were awarded by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation at the District's All-Staff meeting held on August 1 in the RIHS Auditorium. The \$256,240 in PRIME Grants will fund innovative projects and materials throughout every school of the RIMSD. 138 Educators were awarded grants for projects in literacy, STEM/STEAM, music, art, physical education, social-emotional learning, EL, cultural awareness, and many more!

Teachers/Educators submit their PRIME Grant applications with project proposals for the upcoming year by the deadline in 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 request 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 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 our donors, our Major Saver campaign, and the generosity of: Rauch Family I Foundation, Rock Island Art Guild, Alfaretta Young Foundation, Doris and Victor Day Foundation, the Barbara Fackel Fund. Contributing to the PRIME Grant fund is an excellent way for you, as a dedicated donor, to have a direct impact 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!

New teachers, educators, administration, and staff are hired by the

Rock Island-Milan School District every year. The RIMEF welcomes these new district employees with individual gift bags assembled and delivered by board and committee members at the start of the school year. For the 2024-2025 academic year, nearly 40 "Welcome Bags" were distributed to these very valued educators.

Elementary teachers receive bags with gift cards from *Teacher's Aide* to help with out-of-pocket costs of setting up their classrooms. Edison, Washington, and Rocky teachers along with principals and administrators are given bags with gift cards from *Office Depot* for their classrooms or offices. Every bag also contains a welcome letter from the RIMEF, our latest newsletters, and our annual report. To make the welcome complete, each bag included a gift card from local favorite *Whitey's Ice Cream* and our *Major Saver* card.

The bags - made possible through your donations - are greatly appreciated by those newest to our schools. Thank you for making their welcome so warm!



Donors Making a Difference: Jerry and Sue Farrow Horton



Jerry and Sue Horton give to make a difference. They like to support smaller non-profits and organizations; those that allow them to see what's being accomplished and their impact. The Hortons generously support the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, and they can see how their dollars are "making a difference" for the students and schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District.

Jerry and Sue grew up in Rock Island within just a few blocks of each other. Each started out at Rock Island's Grant School: Jerry then transferred to St. Joseph School and graduated from Alleman – Sue stayed at Grant, continued to Franklin Junior High and was a graduate of Rocky's Class of 1963. After graduating, Jerry initially worked at Farmall and in 1965, they were both hired by Bituminous Casualty in Rock Island. Despite growing up so close to each other and working for the same company, they didn't meet until years later after life and circumstances brought them to the Michigan branch of Bituminous. That fateful move finally brought them together – they married, moved to Florida, and Jerry founded a new company, USG Insurance Services.

USG Insurance Services, a wholesale/broker company, writes in all states, has 20+ branch offices, 200+ employees, and works with 400+ different companies world-wide. Jerry is CEO/Chair and Sue is Vice-President of Human Resources. When they are not working, they love to travel, golf, and the company of friends. The Hortons are active philanthropists who give back to their roots through the RIMEF, Alleman, and Friendship Manor. They also support two projects in the Florida area: research at Moffit Hospital in Tampa for a vaccine to prevent childhood leukemia and the *Foundation Fighting Blindness* which drives research to provide preventions and treatments for retinitis pigmentosa and the spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

Neither Sue nor Jerry graduated from college. As a very successful business couple, they wanted to support students going into the trades. With the Horton's gracious donations, the RIMEF established the Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton Scholarship. The Hortons strongly believe in the potential of any student and this scholarship supports those who will further their education/career pursuits via a trade school, technical school, community college, or as a CNA or Nurse. The Hortons have also provided funding to support students taking dual-credit courses and the RIMSD EL Dept's Seal of Biliteracy.

The RIMEF is tremendously grateful for Jerry and Sue Horton's generosity and how they are "**Making a Difference**" for Rock Island-Milan students.

The 2024 *Making a Difference Reception*



was held on September 18 at Bally's Quad Cities. The venue was filled with Scholarship Benefactors, RIMEF Endowment contributors, PRIME Grant recipients, INCubator volunteers, RIMEF current/past board and committee members, RIMSD Administration, and granting organizations all celebrating the impact our donors make in the lives of RIMSD students, classrooms, and schools of the district.



The evening kicked off with a video from the 2024-25 PRIME

Grant Awards presentation and included brief remarks from RIMEF Board President Bryan Blew, RIMSD Superintendent Dr. Sharon Williams,



recipient of three 2024 Scholarships-Ali Aljanabi, and PRIME Grant recipient-Ridgewood's Mara Goodvin. Mara's 6th grade students wrapped up the event with a great percussion performance! It was a wonderful evening to celebrate and say, "Thank you" to all those who are, in their own way, "Making a Difference" for the students and schools of the RIMSD!

Nine Rock Island High School students earned either the Seal of Biliteracy or the commendations towards Seal of Biliteracy!

In 2022-2023, RIMSD #41 implemented the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy and the Commendation toward Biliteracy for students who attain proficiency in English and another language.

**SEAL OF
BILITERACY**



The Illinois Seal of Biliteracy (SoBL) recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other world languages. This recognition is designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma. It also is a definite statement of accomplishment to future employers, colleges, and universities. Per Illinois State statute, colleges and public universities are required to award course credit to a student who has received a State Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy program is funded for the district through the RIMEF by a generous donation from Jerry & Sue Horton.

RIMEF Endowment Fund

- The *RIMEF Endowment Fund* supports major RIMSD41 directed campaigns.
- The fund will utilize only the interest/earnings received
- The fund's principle will remaining intact.
- Investment strategies will be regularly reviewed.
- Anyone may invest in the fund with a minimum \$5,000 donation.
- The contribution may be made in one or multiple payments
- The RIMEF Endowment is a permanently held fund.

The purpose of the RIMEF Endowment Fund is to impact the future by ensuring the academic success of Rock Island-Milan Education School District students for years to come.

YOU can help impact the future of Rock Island-Milan School District schools and students through your support of the *RIMEF Endowment Fund*.

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

Corporate Donors:



RIMEF Endowment Fund Donors

Individual/Family

- Harlan & Angeline Wiss
- Jerry and Sue Horton
- David & Ann Koch
- Stephen & Marla Andich
- Brian & Barb Cady
- Ken & Linda Cutler
- Chris Elsberg
- Ian & Monique Frink
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- Doug & Nancy Hultquist
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- Karen Habertur Leonard
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- Ray & Kitty Nolin
- Mike & Sue Oberhaus
- Ontiveros Family Fund
- Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds
- Gary & Randi Segel
- Cosette Shrader

"There is no greater return than an investment in a child's education."

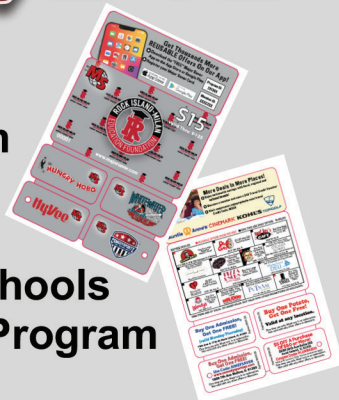


2012-2024

PRIME Dollars per School

\$306,241

Total raised from 2012-2024 with Major Saver to assist RIMSD schools & PRIME Grant Program



Purchase your 2024/2025 card at:
www.majorsaver.com

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PRIME TOTAL</u>
Horace Mann	\$52,079
Denkmann	\$65,613
Earl Hanson	\$87,133
Eugene Field	\$104,603
Frances Willard	\$88,270
Longfellow	\$63,550
RI Academy	\$83,833
RICMS	\$124,825
Ridgewood	\$85,578
Thomas Jefferson	\$92,054
Edison Junior High	\$67,650
Washington Junior High	\$66,841
Thurgood Marshall	\$19,865
Rock Island High School	\$254,491
District-wide	\$164,900



We believe 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 provided financial support for classrooms and students of the RIMSD since 1986: growing our starting assets from \$5,317 to over \$4,700,000 to date; 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 \$177,200 to the Class of 2024
- 51 named scholarships funding over 80 individual awards
- 20 Austin Academic Achievement Award scholarships

PRIME Grants – Promoting Rock Island Milan Education

- \$256,240 awarded for the 2024-2025 academic year
- Over \$1.5 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

Contact us at:
 (309) 581-2154
 rimef@rimsd41.org
 www.rimef.org

PRIME Grants in Action!

Educators 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 2023-2024 school year via PRIME Grants!



Ms. Mohr
RI Academy, 2nd Grade
“Creating an Inclusive Classroom”

“We were able to purchase materials to encourage concept development, such as early literacy and writing skills, counting, patterns, colors, and number recognition skills. We were able to add some interesting items to our science area to encourage children to explore their world.”

“Students participated in Lights on Program and had a Mindfulness & Craft Event.” Students learned about how stress impacts the brain & learned self-regulation. Affirmation necklaces/bracelets were created to boost students’ confidence. Students enjoyed playing CBT (cognitive & behavioral therapy) games that allowed them to share their emotions & experiences.”

Ms. Lathan, Science Department
RI Academy, 2nd Grade
“SEL Trauma Informed Yoga, Mindfulness, & Meditation”

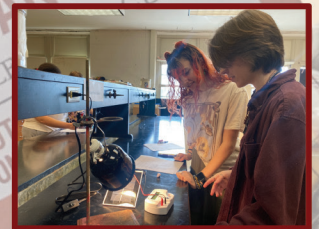


Ms. Niemeier & Ms. Stout
Longfellow, Kindergarten
“Explore Our Community”

“...wanted to provide students the opportunity to extend their learning to real life experiences in the Quad City Community. Students’ enthusiasm for learning has increased through the experience. Families were also more involved in the classroom.”

“The goals of the project were to increase AP test scores & increase understanding... Students learned about renewable energy through engagement rather than just reading about it. Students visited different stations around the lab to determine energy output (solar, wind, & fuel cells.) It was hands on learning and a great review... Compared to last year, the multiple choice scores improved by 10%... I think the models at the stations really helped the students understand the concepts.”

Ms. Vroman
Rock Island High School
“Energy of the Future”



Ms. Heald
Washington Jr High, 7th/8th Grades
“Full STEAM Ahead”

“Students were able to complete a dissection lab. During this lab, students dissected squid and were able to make comparisons to other mollusks and animals with similar anatomy. Students were engaged for two full days of work. They were excited and interested in what they were studying...it provided students with unique opportunities to engage in the science curriculum. The goals were to supply students with supplemental materials...(and)...provide unique STEM materials for students to engage with.”

“Students experienced art & creating with high quality materials and were able to enhance their knowledge and skills in Art. ...exposure to art techniques and supplies students otherwise would not have had with basic supplies. Through hands on experiences, creation technique and innovation, students met art goals this year.”

Ms. Salas-Mikaio
Edison Jr. High, 7th/8th Grade
“Soaring Artists”



“Your support has allowed us to purchase items to benefit not only the students of the 23-24 school year but for many years to come...Thank you!”

2024-2025 PRIME Grant Awards

Teacher/Administrator

Amount

Project (T) - Teacher, (D/S) - Department/School, (M-S) - Multi-School

Denkmann Elementary

Jeff Martin	\$950.00
Angie Paprocki	\$1,500.00
Janine Olsen & Bridget Taheny	3,000.00
Jennifer Sholl	\$3,000.00
Jessica Stockwell	\$3,000.00

Earl Hanson Elementary

Kimberly Dillender	\$1,200.00
Amanda Hollingsworth	\$1,500.00
Brandy Junis	\$1,000.00
Danielle Neneman	\$1,500.00
Beth Raygor	\$1,500.00
Renee M Williams	\$1,499.89
Melissa Barton	\$1,800.00
Alleena Blackwell	\$1,350.00
Henry Hall	\$3,000.00
Beth Raygor, Shelby Haars, Brandy Junis, Candace Vroman-Lopez	\$3,000.00
Ryan Scannell	\$2,999.00
Amy Verstraete	\$3,000.00
Michael Rockstroh	\$5,000.00

Eugene Field Elementary

Tyler Allison	\$1,500.00
Cindy Arkebauer	\$1,497.86
Angie Brownson	\$1,371.93
Cynthia Castro	\$1,136.54
Jessica Daves	\$1,499.67
Michelle Schneckloth	\$1,500.00
Grace Shepherd	\$1,500.00
Abigail Yodts	\$1,484.64
Angela Seys	\$1,600.00

Frances Willard Elementary

Brooke Greenwood	\$1,500.00
Brynn Pauwels	\$1,500.00
Amy Self	\$1,500.00
Carissa Boyd, Kelly Beale, Elisha Harksen	\$3,000.00

Horace Mann Early Learning Center

Patti Brooks	\$1,500.00
Emma Dayhoff	\$1,500.00
Elizabeth De Lille	\$1,500.00
Josie French	\$1,500.00
Kathleen Hernandez	\$500.00
Aubrey Keller	\$1,500.00
Amanda Mays	\$1,500.00
Michele McDonald	\$1,500.00
Jeanne Mueller	\$1,500.00
Monica Painter	\$1,500.00
Jennifer Robinson	\$1,500.00
Jennifer Smith	\$1,500.00
Linnea Sparacello	\$1,500.00
Jill Loter	\$3,000.00

Longfellow Elementary

Steven Inman	\$550.00
Eliana Aguilar	\$3,000.00
Steven Inman	\$1,700.00
Tara Niemeier & Mandi Stout	\$3,000.00
Kiley VanOpdorp	\$1,743.00

Ridgewood Elementary

Diana Bush	\$3,000.00
Alexis DeWilde, Chantill Colvin	\$3,000.00
Joey Dilulio	\$3,500.00
Mara Goodvin	\$1,500.00
Susan Lyon	\$790.00

Music from the Ground Up (T)
Don't Wait Another Chapter...Books are Magical! (T)
Girls on the Run (D/S)
Lego Club-Building Kids Up One Step at a Time (D/S)
Time to Recharge (D/S)

Differentiation and Enrichment for Gifted Students (T)
Tell Me a Story (T)
Meeting the Sensory Needs for Diverse Learners (T)
Classroom Furniture for Success (T)
The Sounds of the Classroom (T)
Calming Spaces for Reading, Mindfulness and Yoga (T)
All About Our Towns (D/S)
Developing Financial Literacy in the Upper Elementary Grades (D/S)
Empowering and Engaging Students with the Vocabulary & Nearpod (D/S)
Attendance Can Be the Key (D/S)

Putting Around/Golf (D/S)
Bringing Knowledge to Life (D/S)
Tuning in with Tubanos (D/S)

Under the Lens (T)
Enhancing Curriculum, STEM, and Cultural Experiences through Magna Tiles and Legos (T)
SELF Expression (T)
Chromebook Cubbies and Calming Classroom Vibes (T)
Empowering Students Success Through Dramatic Play and Sensory Centers (T)
Embracing Inclusion (T)
STEAM Steps (T)
STEM Extensions Extraordinaire (T)
Reading with the Sciences (D/S)

Literary Oasis (T)
The Incredible Intervention Initiative (T)
Sensory-Friendly Classroom Environment (T)

Taking Care of Our Pack (D/S)

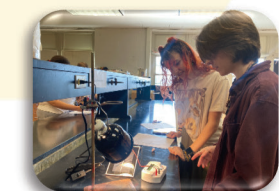
Building STEM in a World of Preschool (T)
ECSE Playground Improvement Project (T)
Preschoolers STEAMing into the Future (T)
Sensory Integration (T)
Look Who's Talking (T)
Take a Look at Our Classroom (T)
Welcoming Inclusion and Diversity (T)
Wow, that's cool! Science in Preschool (T)
Stream – building and shaping young minds of the future (T)
Fine Motor and Sensory through Instruction (T)
Getting Down with Science (T)
Circle Time Success (T)
Creating a Multicultural Preschool Classroom (T)
ECSE Playground (D/S)

Sensory Haven: Enriching Learning through Multi-Sensory Experiences (T)
Uke Can Do It (D/S)
Kids, You're Golden (D/S)
The Ultimate Kindergarten Experience (D/S)
RECYLCE THAT TRASH! (D/S)

Building an Updated Non-Fiction Section (D/S)
Building Book Relationships (D/S)
Blue Sky Music Makers (M-S)
Music, the Science of Sound (T)
Printing a New Tomorrow (T)



Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation
PRIME
 GRANTS



2023-2024 PRIME Grant Awards (cont.)

Rock Island Academy

Samantha Heath	\$400.00
Ashley Reeves	\$1,493.28
Jamie Ruberg	\$1,199.16
Kelly Vroman	\$514.56
Lisa Williams	\$1,500.00
Vickie Duiling	\$2,500.00
Amanda Hauger	\$2,077.00
Becky Lapp	\$3,000.00
Heather McCarty	\$3,000.00
Deborah Noble	\$1,100.00
Jamie Parkins, Amanda Schauerbroeck Tre'Chiondria Lathan	\$1,611.23
James Slankark	\$3,000.00
Amy Zero	\$3,000.00

Craftivities for Little Leopards (T)
Empowering Kindergarten Success (T)
Diverse Tools for Diverse Learners (T)
One Stop Shop: Pathways to Executive Functioning (T)
Read to Love, Love to Read (T)
Building Future Leaders (D/S)
Magnificent Moby Max (D/S)
MTSS Assistive Technology Lending Library (D/S)
Hygiene Heroes (D/S)
Book Nook for Parents (D/S)
Second Grade Scientists (D/S)

PBIS Leopards Roar (D/S)
Toys as Tools: Behavior Intervention (D/S)



Sensory Smart Reading Support (T)
Engaged and Excited II (T)
ELA Math Interventions (D/S)
Flexing Our Fluency Skills with Reflex Math (D/S)
Meaningful Intervention (D/S)

Moby Max (T)
No More Wire Headphones (T)
Wonderbooks (T)
LEAP with Ballet Quad Cities (T)
More STEM in the Classroom (T)
Awesome Attendance Celebrations (D/S)
Fine Arts Day (D/S)
Fantastic Freckie (D/S)

PCS (T)
Writing for SEL (T)
So Fresh and So Clean (T)
Raised Garden Project (D/S)
Soaring Artists (D/S)



Washington Resource Room (T)
Job Skills for a Functional Classroom (T)
Financial Literacy and Empowered Community with Classroom Economy (T)
Form and Function (D/S)
Warrior Wellness Clinic (D/S)

Rock Island Center for Math & Science

Deidre Dunbar	\$1,166.20
Chad Wickard	\$1,500.00
Sarah Andrus	\$2,513.67
Krista Lonian	\$3,000.00
Kelly Tyler	\$2,922.06

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

Mika Atkins-Jacobs	\$624.00
April DeGroot	\$500.00
Carrie Henderson	\$1,500.00
Emily Petrov	\$1,500.00
Susie Pittard	\$1,500.00
Attendance Committee	\$1,500.00
Giovanna Davila	\$3,000.00
Troy Porter	\$3,000.00

Edison Junior High School

Kristi Geisler	\$1,000.00
Tara Gonzalez	\$1,500.00
Melanie Martinez	\$1,500.00
Tara Gonzalez	\$3,000.00
Cassandra Salas-Mikao***	\$3,000.00

Washington Junior High School

Maggie Benevides	\$1,500.00
Kimberly Laingen	\$1,500.00
Jazmin Taylor	\$1,500.00
Emilie Heald***	\$3,000.00
Elizabeth Moyer	\$1,600.00

Rock Island High School

Lori Anderson	\$1,481.00
Caitlin Clough	\$1,500.00
Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh	\$450.00
William Gustafson***	\$1,200.00
Ben Kirgan	\$1,491.69
Jason Kitterman	\$1,462.00
Christopher LaRoche	\$1,429.00
Aaron McKay	\$1,500.00
Meghan Miers	\$209.99
Janna Miller-DeDecker	\$1,500.00
Demetryione Singleton	\$1,500.00
Courtney Stone	\$1,239.94
Sarah Vens	\$500.00
Jacob Vroman	\$1,500.00
Laurie Vroman	\$1,400.00
Wade Weber	\$1,500.00
Kyle Hoffman	\$3,000.00
Jason Kitterman	\$3,000.00
Christopher LaRoche	\$2,793.00
Stacey Morrell	\$300.00
Steve Rogers	\$3,000.00
Wade Weber	\$3,000.00
Logan Wynn	\$3,000.00

Body Sensing (T)
Empowered Learning (T)
Building My Own Family Tree (T)
Digital Drawing Screens Addition (T)
Better Measurement in Science (T)
Leg Up on Education (T)
There is More to Science than just Beer's Law: Getting Absorbed in Spectrophotometry (T)
Headphones for Computer Lab (T)
Reading Nook (T)
Learn to Earn (T)
ED/BD Classroom (T)
Explorations in Dissections (T)
Creating a Rocky Newsroom (T)
Studies in Comparative Analysis (T)
Sensational Science: Using Sensors to Collect Data (T)
Tool Time (T)
Weights for Fitness Center/PE (D/S)
Printing in a Third Dimension (D/S)
In Your Face, Interface! (D/S)
Mindful Moments (D/S)
Graphing Calculators for Classrooms (D/S)
Safety, Safety, Safety (D/S)
Cardio Equipment (D/S)



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.



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

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- ZACH EDWARDS, Vice-President**
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Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation
@Rock Island High School
1400 – 25th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
www.rimef.org (309) 581-2154

HONORARY BOARD:

- | | |
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| JODY LEIBY | DON WENTLER |
| JON LOQUIST | |

2023-2024 PRIME Grant Awards

Rock Island High School

Stephanie Dieudonne	\$5,000.00
Mike EENDORFER	\$5,000.00
Cameron Kotovsky	\$5,000.00
Kathy Lelonek	\$3,500.00
Mary Mendelin	\$5,000.00

- Let's Work Together (M-S)
- Fitness Center/Improving Equipment for Junior High & High School Students (M-S)
- Harmony in Organization: Orchestrating Efficiency in Music Filing (M-S)
- Rocky Resource Room (M-S)
- Tiffany D. Jackson Author Visit (M-S)

Thurgood Marshall Learning Center

Amanda Crecelius, Brittany Coopman, Darla Jones, O'Nita Watkins-Harris, Katie Reyhons	\$2,200.00
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TMLC Sensory Room (D/S)

Rock Island-Milan School District

Chris Beierlein, Bettina McWilliams, Dionne Lohman, Tami Kelley	\$5,000.00
Christie Blodig	\$5,000.00
Paulette Ridsen-Rice	\$4,156.00

- Small Shifts to Bring Big "Gifts" for Students (M-S)
- Spot Vision Screener (M-S)
- Drink More Water (M-S)



** Barbara Fackel PRIME Grant
*** Rock Island Art Guild PRIME Grant Recipient

**We thank all our
PRIME Grant Teachers, Educators and Donors
for providing new and innovative
"Academic Opportunities for Success"
for
Rock Island-Milan School District students!**

