



**ROCK ISLAND-MILAN**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

*Enhancing Academic Opportunities  
for Student Success  
1986 - 2021*

[www.rimef.org](http://www.rimef.org)



**Fall 2021**

***RIMEF Awards \$90,000 in PRIME Grants!***



**Teachers** and administration started the 2021-2022 school year with over \$90,000 for new programs, technologies, and materials with the help of PRIME Grants! The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation presented its PRIME Grants at the opening day in-service meeting held on July 29 at the Rock Island High School stadium. 43 teacher, departmental/school, & multi-school grants totaling **\$90,214** were awarded to 46 RIMS04 educators throughout the district. Thousands of students of the Rock Island-Milan School District will benefit from these PRIME Grants with programs ranging from literacy, science, physical education, special needs, music, global understanding, and more!

**To obtain** the grants, teachers and staff submit their applications with program proposals in mid-June. Individual teachers may apply for up to \$1,500, departments or schools up to \$3,000, and multi-school grants up to \$5,000. A committee comprised of RIMEF board members, retired RIMS04 educators, and the Dept. of Teaching and Learning evaluate each application and determine the awards. The projects must be completed within the school year and a follow-up report with photos are sent to the RIMEF.

**PRIME** stands for “Promoting Rock Island Milan Education.” This critical program perfectly aligns with the RIMEF mission to “enhance academic opportunities for student success.” The program is made possible through funding from our donors and the generosity of Junior Board of Rock Island, the Rauch Family Foundation, and the Doris and Victor Day Foundation. The PRIME Grant fund is an excellent means for our dedicated donors to have a 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 for the 2022-2023 school year!

**\$50,000 Donated to Assist RIHS Students**

A new scholarship for students continuing their studies in a vocational/trade field and assistance for students wishing to take dual credit/enrollment courses is now available. Thanks to a generous \$50,000 gift to the RIMEF from Jerry and Sue Horton (Sue Farrow, Class of 1963), students enrolling in courses at Rocky that offer dual credit through Black Hawk College or Western IL University may receive a portion or all of their fee expenses. The RIMEF has also established the Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton Scholarship which will be awarded starting with the Class of 2022. The Hortons stated they were pleased to assist in helping students in need.

**Hass Gifts \$30,000 to Earl Hanson**

Electronic whiteboards for each classroom at Earl Hanson Elementary are made possible by a \$30,000 donation from RIHS graduate John Hass (Class of 1984.) The whiteboards will be placed in all certified teacher classrooms including those for EL, music, physical education, gifted program, intervention, and special education. This technology donation is another in a series of generous gifts from Mr. Hass who attended Earl Hanson in his youth and previously enabled the purchase of the Lexia program, an online supplemental and intervention resource used in the district. This generous gift will ensure equity throughout the school and all its programs.

*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. 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”*



# 2021-2022 PRIME Grant Awards

## Teacher Grants:

Kristen Adams, RICMS: **\$839.99** – Empowering Student Choice with Classroom Environment  
Cindy Arkebauer, Eugene Field: **\$1,500.00** – Making a Mark with Makerspace  
Danielle Blackwood, RICMS: **\$1,500.00** – First Grade Fixer Upper  
Katy Bohan, Eugene Field: **\$989.97** – Eagles Wobble, But They Don't Fall Down!  
John Dowdal, Thomas Jefferson: **\$1,440.00** – Flexible Seating  
Laura Erickson, Longfellow: **\$1,218.14** – Global Understanding for Global Citizens  
Brooke Greenwood, Frances Willard: **\$1,500.00** – Relaxed and Flexible  
Betty Hall, RI Academy: **\$1,500.00** – Flexing Our Minds with Flexible Seating  
Henry Hall, Earl Hanson: **\$957.00** – Empowering and Engaging Students with the Interactive Whiteboard  
Misty Judd, RI Academy: **\$1,500.00** – Cozy Classroom Library  
Ben Kirgan, RIHS: **\$715.44** – Future Storm Forecasters  
Jacqueline Krone Franks, RICMS: **\$1,475.45** – Flex & Store  
Kim Laingen, Washington Jr. High: **\$1,200.00** – Cooking and Life Skills  
Christopher LaRoche, RIHS: **\$1,338.00** – Round and Round It Goes (Where it stops only science knows!)  
Stacy Lofgren, RICMS: **\$1,100.00** – A Magnet for Success  
Meghan Miers, RIHS: **\$1,500.00** – The Cooking Life Skills Project  
Julie Pearson, RIHS: **\$1,004.58** – Classroom Library  
Shaya Smith, RICMS: **\$1,250.83** – Reading Renovation  
Venessa Taylor, RICMS: **\$1,500.00** – School to Work  
Tina Tyson, Thomas Jefferson: **\$1,500.00** – All About Science  
Bailie Vandygriff, Earl Hanson: **\$957.00** – Interactive Learning with Technology  
Laurie Vroman, RIHS: **\$717.00** – Studying Ecosystems with Eco-columns  
Chad Wickard, RICMS: **\$1,500.00** – For the Love of Learning III  
Logan Wynn, RIHS: **\$1,500.00** – Badminton/Pickleball Net Set

## Barbara Fackel PRIME Grant Recipient:

Kiley VanOpdorp, Longfellow: **\$790.00** – Lion's Environmental Pride

## Departmental/School Grants:

Diana Bush, Earl Hanson: **\$3,000.00** – Cultural Exposure Through Reading a Variety of Multicultural Literature  
Tia-Farrah Edwards, TMLC: **\$3,000.00** – Empowering Potential and Career Exploration via Kinesthetic Learning  
Kimberly Gardner, Frances Willard: **\$2,656.45** – General Music Makes a Comeback!  
Mara Goodvin, Ridgewood: **\$1,564.32** – Let's Hear You PLAY!  
Kristina Koos & Sara Marner, Frances Willard: **\$3,000.00** – Structured Teaching/Sensory Friendly Environment  
Nikki Melody, Frances Willard: **\$3,000.00** – On Target, On Time for Success  
Eric Nesbitt, Denkmann: **\$3,000.00** – Gymnasium Health and Safety  
Tara Niemeier & Mandi Stout, Longfellow: **\$3,000.00** – Perspectives Through Picture Books  
Angie Paprocki/Jennifer Knuth/Mary Justin, Denkmann: **\$3,000.00** – Hey Kindergarten - Let's Build!  
Andrea Parer, RIHS: **\$3,000.00** – Growing and Intervening  
Suzanne Rakestraw, Denkmann: **\$2,000.00** – Leader in Me 7 Habits Gardening Tools for Success  
Andrew Vogel, WJHS: **\$3,000.00** – Warrior TV - Publications  
Dennis Weiss, Eugene Field: **\$3,000.00** – Expeditionary Eagles Using Drones  
Logan Wynn, RIHS: **\$3,000.00** – Dungeon Exercise Equipment

## Multi-School Grants:

Ramona Dixon, District: **\$5,000.00** – School Supplies for the 1st Day...and Beyond!  
Mara Goodvin, Music K-6: **\$5,000.00** – Blue Sky Music Makers  
Jessica Matherly, District: **\$5,000.00** – Rocky Resource Room  
Krystall Trice, District: **\$5,000.00** – Family Engagement that Improves Student Achievement





# 1. Major Saver + PRIME Grants = Student Success

Since 2012, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has worked with Major Saver to raise funds for the teachers and schools of the district. Over the prior 8 years (no fundraiser was held in 2020), the program has generated over \$240,000 for the participating schools and our PRIME Grants. 6 schools successfully launched the program in 2012 and eagerly anticipated the return of the fundraiser in 2013. All of our elementary schools are now actively involved in the fundraiser along with both Edison and Washington Junior Highs.



Students safely sell the \$15 cards to family or friends; they can even encourage relatives living outside of the Quad Cities to purchase cards online – many in their own region. Those sales can then be credited back to the students' schools. The individual schools benefit from the direct sales made by their own students and all schools benefit from the thousands of dollars generated and given to their teachers through the PRIME Grants. The cards have great offers from popular local restaurants and entertainment venues and there are thousands of additional offers through the Major Saver App accessible with your card's number. This year, the fundraiser will be held from November 3 – 17 making the cards available as the perfect stocking stuffers!

Purchase a card online:

[www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com)



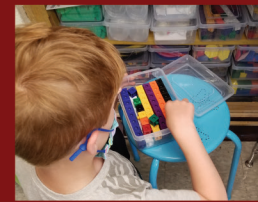
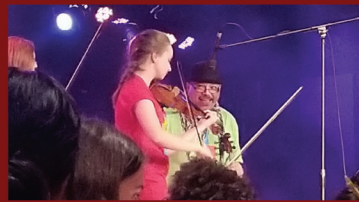
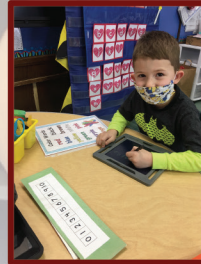
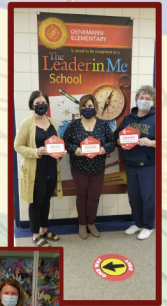
## PRIME TOTAL

### 2012-2019

SCHOOL	PRIME TOTAL 2012-2019
Denkmann.	\$40,012
Earl Hanson.	\$51,116
Eugene Field.	\$71,112
Frances Willard.	\$68,570
Longfellow.	\$40,702
RI Academy.	\$25,149
RICMS.	\$89,755
Ridgewood.	\$41,894
Thomas Jefferson.	\$43,858
Edison Junior High.	\$35,113
Washington Junior High.	\$48,440



**MAJOR SAVER**  
Foundation Fundraising You Can Trust



## A Few Thank You Notes from the Class of 2021!

"It is with great gratitude and appreciation that I thank each member for awarding me...I am beyond grateful to be a recipient of such distinction. Your generous award will help me accomplish more than ever before. Again, thank you."

- Say Say, AAAA English and Jumer's Casino & Hotel \$3,000

"Thank you so much for awarding me the Rosemary Woodward Scholarship. ...I plan to receive my associates in Liberal Arts. After that I plan to continue my education in Nursing to get my BSN. Thank you again!"

- Emily Pearson, Rosemary Woodward Scholarship

"...I am honored that out of all the potential applicants you saw me as the best fit to receive this award...I will be sure not to let your generosity go to waste. Thank you again for aiding me in my journey."

- Ashley Testa, Women's Computer Science, Math & I.T. Scholarship

"I will be studying (Nursing) at Western IL Univ...I will be the first in my family to go to college so I will do my very best to get that degree...I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity and a helping hand to further my education and making me one step closer to my goal."

- Sher Lei, Molly Montgomery Scholarship

"I cannot thank you enough...being able to pursue my major in music is fantastic! ...receiving this scholarship has shown me that the arts will always have their place at Rocky & in Rock Island."

- Calvin Banks, AAAA Fine Arts and INCubator - Best Business Potential

"It is a great honor to have been considered and accepted for this scholarship and I greatly appreciate it. This will be a great asset to further my education..."

- Ethan Hinds, AAAA Career & Technical Education



**RIMEF has Best Birdies Year to Date!** The RIMEF raised \$25,400 through Birdies for Charity this year! New donations of over \$6,000 from the appeal sent in late May were targeted for our Teacher Welcome Bags. Some donors directed their annual contribution through Birdies and the remaining donations were designated for individual scholarships, PRIME Grants, or the AAAA. The final check will be presented to the RIMEF at the end of October and we will receive a minimum 5% bonus on all of our 82 Birdies gifts. If you would like to donate through Birdies and increase your giving to the RIMEF, please contact us for more information. You can give towards our appeal, our general fund, or direct to the program of your choice. It's a great way to increase your giving!

Give online at: [www.BirdiesforCharity.com](http://www.BirdiesforCharity.com)



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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SHELLEE SHOWALTER, Treasurer  
STEVE ANDICH  
BRYAN BLEW  
ZACH EDWARDS  
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JERRY JONES  
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## The RIMEF says, "Welcome!"



New teachers and administration were given a warm welcome to the RIMSD from the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Over 70 "Welcome Bags" were assembled and personally delivered by RIMEF board and committee members to each of the new district employees.

Teacher's Aide to help with the out-of-pocket costs of setting up classrooms. Bags for junior high and RIHS teachers along with principals, social workers, and counselors contained gift cards from *Office Depot* to assist with their classrooms or offices. Every bag also included a welcome letter from the RIMEF, our latest newsletters, annual report, and gift cards courtesy of local favorites Whitey's Ice Cream and Cool Beanz.

Bags for pre-school and elementary teachers contained gift certificates from



The welcome bags were made possible by the generous gifts of donors responding to our 2021 Birdies for Charity appeal – the John Deere Classic fundraiser. The special welcome was very much appreciated and the information provided ensures an understanding of how we serve our students, teachers, and schools.

### Welcome to the District!



*New RIMEF  
Board Member*

*Rachel  
Gustafson*



Rachel is an Associate Director of Admissions at Augustana College. She has her BA from Augustana in International Business and French, and her MBA from the University of Iowa. Rachel lives with her husband Bill (Rocky graduate '80 and RIHS art/graphic design teacher) in Rock Island where they have three kids in the school district. As recruitment coordinator, Rachel has the pleasure of working with many college bound RIHS students. Rachel has served on the RIMEF Scholarship Committee for many years and now joins our Events Committee. She also has served roles on the RICMS and Washington PTAs and the Superintendent's Communication Council. In the community, Rachel is involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, First Lutheran Church and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Regarding her new appointment to the RIMEF Board of Directors Rachel states that she is "grateful to work with an organization that does so much for the students in our community."

*Welcome to the RIMEF Rachel!*