



# 2022 - 2023 Teacher Grants

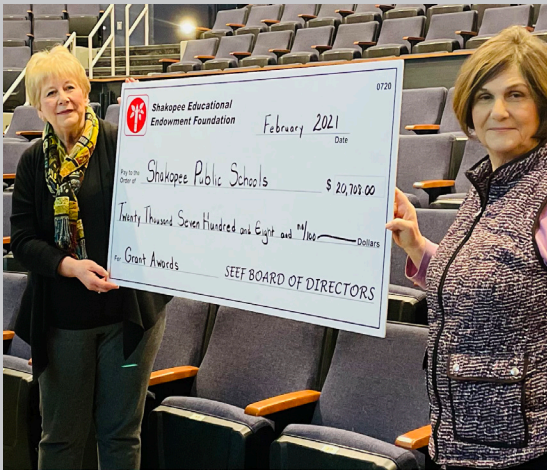
[www.shakopeedfoundation.org](http://www.shakopeedfoundation.org)



## Mission of SEEF

SEEF's mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of education in the Shakopee School District by funding projects that provide innovative learning opportunities for our students.

## About Us



The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation (SEEF) dedicates itself to preserving and enhancing the quality of education in the Shakopee schools by funding cutting-edge technology, best practice programs, and innovative instructional materials for our students. We believe in and support the excellence that has consistently highlighted the Shakopee School District. Through our Teacher Grant Program, SEEF enables educators to test new ideas, attempt creative programming, or incorporate new technology that otherwise would not receive funding – all of which support valuable educational experiences for Shakopee students.

SEEF awards grants across all schools and curriculum areas. Each year, district staff are encouraged to submit proposals up to \$2,500. Thanks to our donors, the Foundation has awarded 568 grants totaling nearly \$466,784 since 1991. Funds to support grants come from businesses, service organizations, community members, and alums.

## Supportive But Separate

While contributions to the Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation enhance programs in the Shakopee Public Schools, the Foundation operates independently of the school district. We are a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of parents, community members, and alums passionate about the quality of education in Shakopee. The Foundation board of directors reviews grant application submissions, and we independently fund projects that align with our guidelines and criteria.

## The Future Depends on our Community

Donor contributions continue to be the force behind SEEF's ability to fund outstanding grant proposals that engage students and enhance the curriculum. Donations of any amount are appreciated and vital to the Foundation and its mission. We rely on support from area businesses, service organizations, community members, school district staff, and alums. Challenges due to the global pandemic and district financial constraints make contributions to SEEF even more critical. SEEF invites cash contributions, annual pledges, matching gifts from employers, donations of stock, memorial gifts, and planned gifts from a will, estate plan, life insurance policy, or charitable trust. Donations are tax-deductible, and contributions of \$1,000 or more appear on the donor plaque at the Shakopee High School.

## **Grant Criteria**

- Grants of up to \$2500 are awarded to support innovative projects that will enhance education and benefit Shakopee Public School students.
- Rarely a unique project will be considered for a more significant award. Applicants must discuss a request for special consideration with a SEEF board member before applying.
- To keep projects in line with the general direction of the district, the applicant's principal or supervisor must sign all grant applications.
- Projects which include technology must obtain the approval of the Director of Instructional Technology to ensure the school district supports the equipment.
- Within 12 months of the award, applicants must spend grant funds. Any balance remaining after that time is no longer available to the grantee.
- All purchased equipment becomes the property of Shakopee Public Schools, not the grantee.

## **2022-23 Grant Awards**

The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation is proud to announce over \$23,000 in teacher grant awards for the 2022-23 school year. This year's grant program awarded 16 grants to eight schools in the Shakopee School District, benefiting approximately 125 staff members and over 3,000 students during the 2022-23 school year alone. Funding will increase the creative use of technology, expand book collections available for students, and enhance learning in science, math, and language arts classes. Additionally, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of SEEF, the board of directors awarded a \$3500 grant to build an outdoor smudging space at the Shakopee High School.

## **QR Code for SEEF Website**

To learn more about SEEF, please follow us on Facebook or scan the QR code to visit our website.



## **Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation Board**

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Richard Luis  
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Paulette Rislund  
Jack Trimbo  
Pamela Wilger  
Kristi Peterson (ex-officio member)



## District-Wide - Special Education

**Project Title:** Let's Play and Learn

**Teacher:** Julie Phillips

### **Project summary:**

The Let's Play and Learn project will provide the students with cognitive and physical disabilities throughout the school district with a new inventory of games and activities. These toys and devices will help with social and life skills, promote cause-and-effect lessons, and help them participate with their peers in various activities – the play-to-learn concept. Since we have a growing population of students with physical and cognitive impairments in our center-based classrooms, we need to provide our staff and students with up-to-date toys and activities to keep them engaged and expose them to new learning experiences.

We want the students to be as independent as possible while having fun and using new equipment to make our inventory more well-rounded and motivate our students with cognitive and physical needs.

## District-Wide - Special Services

**Project Title:** Core Vocabulary Book Bags

**Teacher:** Debbie Arterbury, Speech Language Pathologist/Assistive Technology Consultant

### **Project summary:**

Core vocabulary Book Bags will combine core vocabulary (communication framework used district-wide for students with complex communication needs) and literacy. Students with complex communication needs often have difficulty attending, engaging, and demonstrating an understanding of content during literacy activities.

Each bag will contain a book, manipulatives, and core vocabulary sentence strips. These bags will be available to any student receiving special education. This project aims to increase the engagement and understanding of a literacy activity. The addition of manipulatives to the book bags encourages hands-on learning. Research indicates that hands-on learning engages both parts of the brain. By combining multiple learning styles (tactile, visible, and auditory), the brain forms stronger overall connections and can store more relevant information ([www.byf.com](http://www.byf.com)).



## Saber Online Program

**Project Title:** A Passport to the World of Reading! Where can reading take you?

**Teacher:** Danielle McCloskey

### **Project summary:**

Passport to the World of Reading gives students from Saber Online, grades 2-5, the opportunity to participate in rich and diverse literature each month through shared reading. Each student will have a copy of the book as they learn about different cultures, time periods, genres, and places world-wide. Shared Reading is a crucial element of reading instruction that provides success for struggling readers as they experience some of the same books as their classmates. Students will benefit from vocabulary and decoding support, hearing fluent reading, and building their comprehension as they enjoy and engage in reading discussions and experiences with the entire group.

As each book begins, we will start with the guiding question of “Where will reading take us?” Along the way, we will track text connections, make predictions, find evidence in the book to support our thinking, and learn to embrace different cultures as we open our eyes and mind to the world around us. Students will reflect on their learning and the understanding of where the reading took them in each book by completing a page in a passport reading booklet. Students will also listen to read-aloud tales from around the world and be able to compare these tales and discuss their comprehension of what they heard in a rich classroom discussion.

## Pearson Early Learning Center

**Project Title:** Story Courses

**Teacher:** Sarah Edberg, Physical Therapist

### **Project summary:**

Story Courses is an exciting new opportunity for the Pearson Early Learning Center students. Story Courses will combine a series of books with fun and challenging gross motor activities, selected by the school’s physical therapist, into short obstacle courses that all programs at Pearson Early Learning Center can access. The courses will provide opportunities to practice skills that the students otherwise have limited options to practice, particularly going up and down the stairs, as Pearson is a single-story building. Story Courses will be designed to support the development of skills necessary for our students as they graduate from Pearson and transition to multi-level elementary buildings.

Each Story Course will be available for a limited time and includes a small flight of stairs and other obstacles and challenges. For example, a Story Course will be developed to pair with Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins, a story about a hen who unknowingly leads a fox into a series of silly disasters. The Rosie’s Walk course will include a walk across the yard (over a balance beam), around the pond (along a curved line), over a haystack (up and down the stairs), through the fence (balancing with one leg in front of the other) and under the beehives (under hurdles). Story Courses will be available for staff of any program to bring their students to for a movement break, allowing an opportunity to work on the stairs, practice additional gross motor skills, and enjoy a book in a fun new way.

## Pearson Early Learning Center

**Project Title:** STEAM Play Boxes

**Teacher:** Steph Kaste, Occupational Therapist

**Project summary:**

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Play Boxes are intended for preschool students to use during their school day to engage with learning materials that can be used individually or with a partner during their classroom partner play. This aligns with Pearson's Pyramid Model Innovation, a framework for social-emotional skills in partner play, sharing, taking turns, and following the group plan.

Currently, Pearson has a STEAM room that all classrooms go to weekly. With this grant, boxes will be able to be checked out by the teachers to use specifically in their classrooms. All preschool students at Pearson will have access to these boxes. Teachers and related services providers (Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing) will also be able to check out the boxes to use with individual students to encourage the development of language and fine motor skills.

## Eagle Creek Elementary

**Project Title:** Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Focused Targeted Time Activities

**Teacher:** Jeff Dietz, 2nd Grade Teacher

**Project summary:**

This grant aims to provide opportunities for 2nd-graders to engage in a year of social skill-building and peer interaction during targeted times. Using the games received from the grant, students will exemplify the ABCs of Eagle Creek with practice in turn-taking, clean-up, fair play, and friendship. After multiple years of social distancing, students need these opportunities more than ever. These games will allow the opportunity to build targeted activities while building social skills resembling Eagle Creek's ABCs. Everyone in the class can and will benefit from the rich conversations during gameplay, especially students who are multi-language learners.

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**Project Title:** Sensory Integration

**Teacher:** Kim Neu, Kindergarten Teacher

**Project summary:**

Objects in the sensory bins will enhance learning experiences for all students and reach various learning styles. All students can use the activities, but we will provide opportunities to integrate our special education students into targeted time with sensory-based skill bins. We will use the specialized objects to increase hands-on experiences and sensory input. Students will have access to tools that stimulate their senses and give them an opportunity for fine motor practice. Moving items with tweezers and touching soft, rough, and smooth objects provide a tactile experience as we pair phonetic learning and vocabulary with the bins. At times water may be used with the items to stimulate the senses. This grant project will enable us to meet the needs of various learning styles within the general education classroom.

**Project Title:** Cultivating Confidence, Communication & Cooperation

**Teacher:** Merie Elise Silkey, 5th Grade Teacher

**Project summary:**

This project is born from what we seek in the classroom today, which is the need for students to have more out-of-the-classroom experiences that mimic the use of necessary skills crucial to their success in all areas beyond elementary school. These skills include working effectively on teams, communicating clearly with others, and developing confidence both as individuals and as peers. Students need many chances to learn leadership skills and build trust with others – this day-long program will provide that chance. All 5th-grade students will get the opportunity to be a part of this program at a beautiful camp in Excelsior, spending the day in nature and learning more about themselves and each other. We hope that every student will walk away from this day with lasting memories and a solid feeling of triumph after working hard with others to achieve something that would be much harder on their own!

## Red Oak Elementary School

**Project Title:** Zones of Regulation Emotional Learning Initiative

**Teacher:** Elisabeth Ammerman, Social Worker

**Project summary:**

Red Oak Elementary School has committed to the equity goal of decreasing office-managed referrals from 37.9% to 33% during the 2022-23 school year. To support this goal, the Red Oak intervention team sought a research-based approach that benefits the entire student population. The Zones of Regulation is a framework that approaches emotional learning with compassion, inclusion, and structure.

Using the Zones of Regulation will shift the overall mindset in our school environment from a behavioral lens to a universal skill development lens, fostering a healthier school climate and a general sense of community. Students using the Zones of Regulation will better understand their emotions and be able to access tools to self-regulate in situations of heightened emotion.

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**Project Title:** Customized Visual Schedule and Supports Station

**Teacher:** Elizabeth Koonst, Speech Language Pathologist

**Project summary:**

A Customized Visual Schedule Station aims to create access for all staff to create visual schedules specific to any student needing extra support throughout their day. This station would be in a central area of the school. It would be accessible to special education and general education staff in the building, making it available to all students at Red Oak. Many students (general education and special education students) can benefit from visual schedules.

The school day is full of unexpected changes and can often adversely impact a student's readiness to learn and function within their day. Visual schedules allow students to understand their day/expectations and process any changes. A Customized Visual Schedule Station can help students be more successful and independent during their school day.



## Red Oak Elementary School

**Project Title:** Let's Play!

**Teacher:** Molly Thomas, K-5th Grade Math Intervention Teacher

**Project summary:**

The Let's Play project aims to foster more family involvement and engagement with math intervention students. Students can learn new games, play them in class with their peers, and then check them out to take home and play with their families. Various games that would be highly interesting for kindergarten through fifth grade have been chosen. Many of our students need access to quality games at home and require more experience playing games. Access to these games also contributes to our district's goal of equity.

There are many benefits to playing games. Students can practice their math skills; they can improve their problem-solving and work on using strategies. Playing games also helps students work on social/emotional skills such as taking turns, learning how to win/lose respectfully, and having fun! Over the years, parents have asked what they can do to help their children at home. Playing games is a great way to work on math and other skills and for families to connect positively.

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**Project Title:** Light it Up

**Teacher:** Shelly Schanen, Kindergarten Teacher

**Project summary:**

The Light it Up project provides kindergarten students at Red Oak Elementary with multisensory opportunities to develop fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, pre-writing skills, problem-solving skills, spatial awareness, inquiry skills, and working with a partner.

A light table with letter, number, and shape manipulatives will reinforce academic concepts learned in kindergarten. Students need a real-life, hands-on 3D experience that engages the senses versus touching or dragging on a screen. This light table project will offer an inclusive, fun, and engaging experience for all students to enhance their learning!





**Project Title:** Literacy Footprints Intervention Partner Readers

**Teacher:** Liz Bloom, Special Education Resource Teacher

**Project summary:**

Literacy Footprints Intervention Partner Readers by Jan Richardson are designed for educators teaching children to read and write independently. Utilizing this guided reading system enables teachers to increase curriculum options to support the growing population of learning-disabled students. Many of these students struggle with reading and will benefit from access to various interventions to support positive learning outcomes for reading and writing skills.

A wide variety of exciting texts in many genres are provided in this curriculum, offering students materials at their level with the hope of instilling lifelong learning and a love of reading. These readers give different opportunities than in literacy instruction and materials available in their general education classroom. The curriculum moves students through reading levels as they reach mastery, allowing them to look at, decode, read, and discuss story details to find meaning in the texts – increasing student growth for students reading below grade level.

## West Middle School

**Project Title:** The Power of Active Reading

**Teacher:** Sarah Koch, 8th Grade Special Education Teacher

**Project summary:**

The Power of Active Reading is designed for middle school-aged students who have struggled to succeed in reading and writing and qualify for reading, writing, and focus skills services. This program is designed to increase reading fluency, vocabulary, and interest in reading. The students who will benefit from this program are reading below what is typical for their grade level. It can be challenging to find books that appeal to an eighth grader who reads at a third or fourth-grade level, and this program will provide new high-interest books for struggling readers.

A wide selection of High Noon and High Interest/Low Readability books will be available for students. The books look like typical books for a young teen; however, they are written at a reading level for a much younger student. These books provide exciting and engaging stories with interesting themes and topics while providing exposure to the most common high-frequency words (the 300-1000 that form most English sentences.) By reading these books, students can improve their reading and see themselves as capable learners. The students will discover the joy of reading good literature by putting these materials in their hands.

## Shakopee High School

**Project Title:** Multicultural Book Kits

**Teacher:** Shawna Wilson, 10th-12th Grade Teacher

### **Project summary:**

The Multicultural Book Kits project seeks to create opportunities district-wide for students and staff. This project will provide authentic opportunities for 10th to 12th-grade students in the high school education pathway to make multicultural book kits with activities, and engaging lesson plans that elementary teachers can check out to use with their students. The goal is to provide opportunities for all students to see themselves in the books they read, thus validating their identities and increasing their self-esteem.

As the demographics of our community have changed over the years in Shakopee, so has our student population. While our libraries have books by diverse authors with diverse characters, this project seeks to offer additional books and accompanying learning activities that all students in all classrooms across the district can experience.

## SEEF 30th Anniversary Grant

*\* The 30th Anniversary Grant funds an innovative project that incorporates collaborative efforts between more than one grade/age level, department, or school site – awarding one grant up to \$5000.*

**Project Title:** Outdoor Smudging Space – Indigenous Learning/Meeting Space

**Teacher:** Kathryn Tabke, 11th-12th Grade Teacher

### **Project summary:**

The mission statement of Shakopee Schools is to promote opportunities for students to learn and provide a wealth of diverse experiences in partnership with our community partners. A vital component of our community history is the awareness of and respect for our indigenous communities. By providing a dedicated outdoor space for the practice of smudging, Shakopee will become one of a select number of districts to honor our indigenous students with a place to see themselves and celebrate their unique experiences, culture, and stories.

Even more, the Academies of Shakopee focus on providing authentic learning opportunities. This anniversary grant will be used to create a space designed by our indigenous students; students will collaborate with our construction programs, and our construction class will assist in the design and building of the space. This will allow an exclusive experience for several students to create a permanent and lasting addition to the Shakopee High School campus.

Ultimately, our schools are more vital and vibrant when they help all students feel seen, appreciated, and welcome. This only increases when those supports and systems are also made available for all to learn about our growing and diverse community; to explore our rich cultural heritage and complex history; and to promote our deep abiding love for our students and city by creating dynamic spaces.



## Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation 2022-23 Annual & Anniversary Grant Awards

School	Name	Grade	Project Title	Amount Funded
District Wide	J. Philips	Gr. K-12	Let's Play and Learn	\$1,260.00
District Wide	D. Arterbury	Pre-K-Gr. 5	Core Vocabulary Book Bags	\$2,500.00
Saber Online	D. McCloskey	Gr. 2-5	A Passport to the World of Reading!	\$2,434.00
Pearson ELC	S. Edberg	Pre-K	Story Courses	\$2,500.00
Pearson ELC	S. Kaste	Pre-K	STEAM Play Boxes	\$1,442.00
Pearson ELC	M. Schmit	Pre-K	Open Ended Materials	\$833.00
Eagle Creek Elem.	J. Dietz	Gr. 2	PBIS Focused Targeted Time Activities	\$230.00
Eagle Creek Elem.	K. Neu	Gr. K	Sensory Integration	\$310.00
Eagle Creek Elem.	M. Silkey	Gr. 5	Cultivating Confidence, Communication & Cooperation	\$2,400.00
Red Oak Elem.	E. Ammerman	Gr. K-5	Emotional Learning Initiative	\$1,800.00
Red Oak Elem.	E. Koonst	Gr. K-5	Customized Visual Schedule & Supports Station	\$210.00
Red Oak Elem.	M. Thomas	Gr. K-5	Let's Play!	\$490.00
Red Oak Elem.	S. Schanen	Gr. K	Light it Up	\$2,480.00
Sun Path Elem.	L. Bloom	Gr. K-5	Literacy Footprints Intervention Partner Readers	\$2,187.00
W. Middle School	S. Koch	Gr. 8	Active Reading	\$350.00
High School	S. Wilson	Gr. 10-12	Multicultural Book Kits	\$2,000.00
<b>Annual Grants Total</b>				<b>\$23,426.00</b>
High School	K. Tabke	Gr. 9-12	Outdoor Smudging Space (Anniversary Grant)	\$3,500.00
<b>Annual &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Total</b>				<b>\$26,926.00</b>

Additionally, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of SEEF, the board of directors awarded a \$3500 grant for a Smudging Space (Indigenous Learning Meeting Area) at the Shakopee High School.

Since 1991, the Foundation has awarded 568 grants totaling more than \$466,000 for teacher initiatives across all district campuses. Funds to support grants come from generous donations made by area businesses, service organizations, school district staff and alumni, and community members. Learn more at [ShakopeeEdFoundation.org](http://ShakopeeEdFoundation.org).



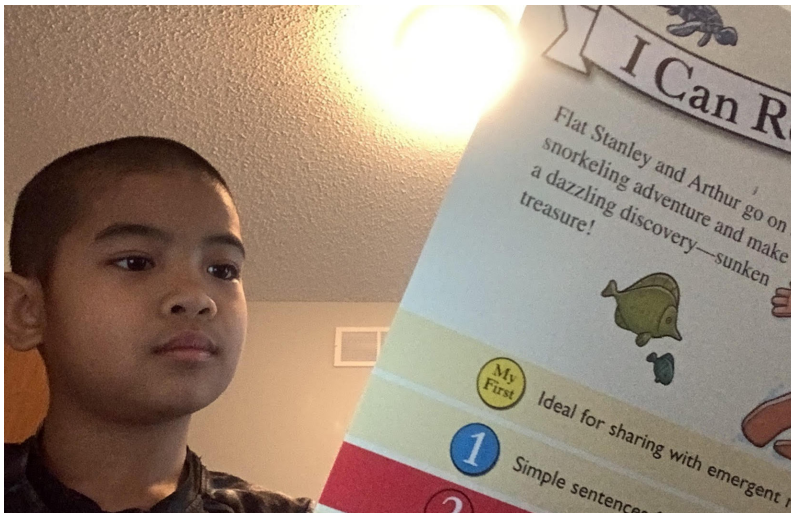
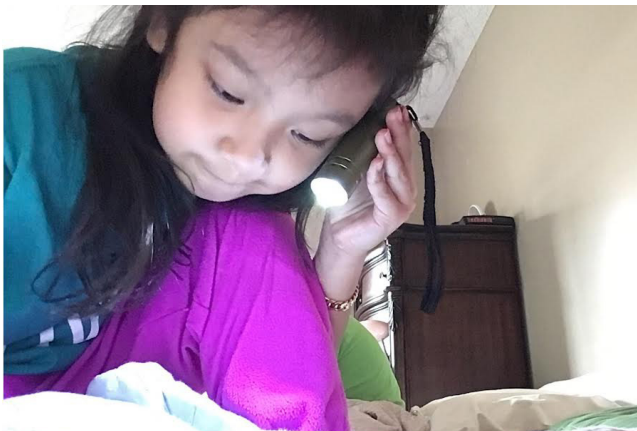
## Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation 2021-22 Grant Awards

School	Name	Grade	Project Title	Amount Funded
District Wide	D. Arterbury	Pre-K thru Gr.12	Low Tech Communication Devices	\$1,992.00
District Wide	J. Phillips	Gr. K-12	Boardmaker 7 Standard Software	\$1,921.00
Shakopee Online	V. Coydendall	Gr. 1-5	Virtual Learning = Hands-On Learning!	\$944.00
Shakopee Online	D. McCloskey	Gr. 1-5	Lighting Up Literacy for Online Learners	\$1,433.00
Pearson ELC	S. Dehnk-Turpin	Pre-K	Loose Parts Play in Early Childhood	\$1,245.00
Pearson ELC	E. Grove	Pre-K	Document Camera for Adult ESL Level 2	\$250.00
Pearson ELC	S. Kaste	Pre-K	Buddy Boxes for Partner Play	\$1,400.00
Eagle Creek Elem.	J. Busselman	Gr. 3	Meeting the Standards IXL Program (subscription)	\$1,500.00
Jackson Elem.	S. Flatness	Gr. 5	Native American Shoulder Bags	\$250.00
Jackson Elem.	R. Keller	Gr. 1	Decodable Texts for First Grade Readers	\$894.00
Jackson Elem.	S. Reiersgord	Gr. 3	Scholastic News (subscription)	\$600.00
Sun Path Elem.	P. Saterdalen	Gr. K-5	Literacy Footprints Intervention Partner Readers	\$1,836.00
Sun Path Elem.	N. Yun	Gr. 4	High Interest Book Library for Low Level Readers	\$516.00
Sweeney Elem.	B. Lake	Gr. 5	Look at all "uke" can do! Part TWO!	\$1,192.00
West Middle School	J. Lissick	Gr. 8	Rollerblading into a Life of Wellness	\$2,000.00
West Middle School	T. Orstad	Gr. 7	Minnesota Trout in the Classroom Program	\$890.00
High School & Middle Schools	R. Hafermann	Gr. 6-12	Personal Development Resource Library	\$846.00
High School	C. Brown	Gr. 9-12	FLEX Art Curriculum Resources (subscription)	\$499.00
High School	M. Gaugler, (student led)	Gr. 12	Teddy Bear Clinic	\$400.00
High School	M. Sario	Gr. 9-12	iPad Pencil to Create Interactive Presentations	\$100.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,708.00</b>

Since 1991, the Foundation has awarded 551 grants totaling nearly \$440,000 for teacher initiatives across all district campuses. Funds to support grants come from generous donations made by area businesses, service organizations, district staff, community members and alumni. Learn more at [ShakopeeEdFoundation.org](http://ShakopeeEdFoundation.org).



# Highlights from the 2021-22 Grant Awards







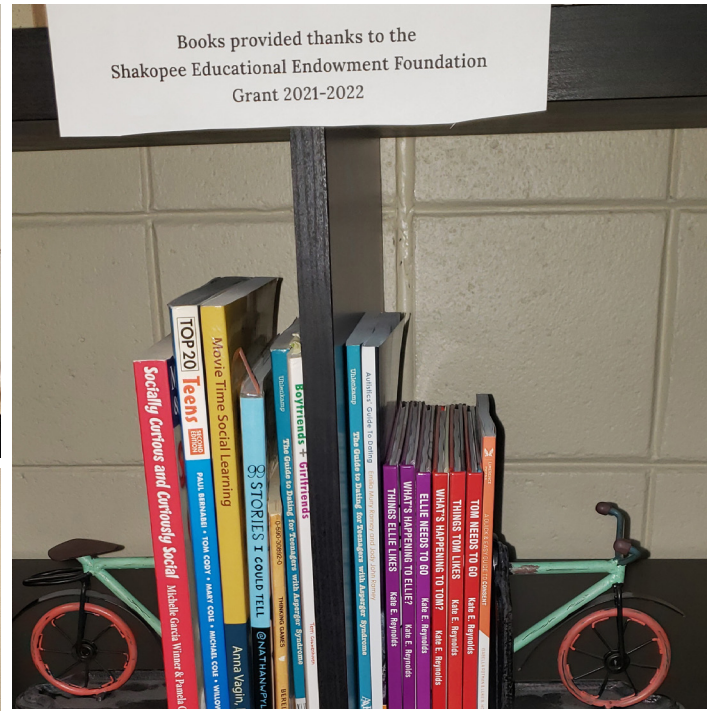
**Steph Rice Kaste**

February 28 at 3:39 PM · 🧑

One thing that I love about my job is being able to combine my passions for fine motor development and social emotional skills. This school year, I applied for and received one of the Shakopee Education Endowment Fund (SEEF) grants to create Buddy Boxes for Partner Play. The activities in each box is geared at fine motor skills and by sharing the items with a partner we learn valuable social skills (sharing, turn taking, problem solving). This grant is amazing and the boxes have already been put to use! I am so thankful they chose to support this idea! ❤️🙏







## Thanks to SEEF!

Sending a BIG THANK YOU to the Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation!! Earlier in the year, the first grade teachers and I wrote a grant for decodable books that we could use during guided reading time.

We were so lucky to have been awarded the grant! We received the books and have teaching with them ever since. Thank you, SEEF!!!

This is their mission statement:

The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation (SEEF) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of education in the Shakopee School District by funding projects that provide innovative opportunities for our students.





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