



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North Gwinnett Schools Foundation Announces 2015-2016 Educational Grant Awards

\$33,163 in Grants for 16 Projects at 6 Schools

SUWANEE, Ga. (December 16, 2015) – The North Gwinnett Schools Foundation (NGSF) recently announced each of the six cluster schools will receive a combined more than \$33,000 in educational grants for innovative programs designed to enhance academic achievement for students in the North Gwinnett cluster. Schools receiving grants are: North Gwinnett HS, North Gwinnett MS, Level Creek ES, Riverside ES, Roberts ES, Suwanee ES. Official announcement was made at the American Education Breakfast held at North Gwinnett High School in November, followed by individual presentations held at each school.

“The NGSF is the education booster club for our six cluster schools and our mission is to enhance the quality of public education for all students of the North Gwinnett cluster. Working together, we help fund innovative learning projects and programs that allow students and teachers to reach their full academic potential. The grants we fund are requested by teachers to improve learning, engage students, and extend educational opportunities. Through community support, we provide tools and resources that directly benefit students and programs across all six of our schools,” said Marc Cohen, NGSF President.

This year over \$50,000 was raised for grants, endowment, and operations as a result of the Foundation’s fundraising efforts through the Big T’Do event held this past October. Each school had the ability to submit grant requests that were then blinded and reviewed by the Foundation’s Allocations Committee before being presented to the full Board for approval. Of the 22 applications received, 16 full or partial grants were awarded to NG Cluster schools totaling more than \$33,000.

The chosen projects each will have a beneficial effect on students across the board from K-12 and Special Education. Some of the grants proposed include funding for STEM projects, the Arts, books, advanced reading/writing curricula, career and public speaking opportunities, technology, and Common Core education.

Individual School Grant Awards are as follows:

North Gwinnett High School

- Mock Trial Academic Team - the school's award-winning mock trial program, which exposes students to explore the legal field in a real trial environment, and provides an understanding the Legal system and applying it to core curriculum - Government, American History, Language Arts, Reading, Writing, and Listening/Speaking skills.

North Gwinnett Middle School

- Kindle My Reading Passion - 7th grade reading language arts comprehension competency through use of Kindle Reading Stations
- Audio Recording and Podcasting - Working with audio equipment and to improve video production through the use of audio recording techniques.
- A Picture Paints a Thousand Words - foster English Language Learning through reading, writing, and comprehension using technology

Level Creek Elementary School

- Invertebrate Dissection - enriches the 5th grade science curriculum through Invertebrate dissection bringing the study of animal classification to life.
- Story Starter for the Autism Classroom - (in conjunction with Roberts ES)- an innovative, hands-on and multi-sensory approach to Language Arts and Writing for students on the autism spectrum
- Read and Ride Program - (in conjunction with Roberts ES) - Promotes reading proficiency, improved reading comprehension and reading interest. Incorporating a fun physical fitness activity.

Riverside Elementary School

- Dissecting Cow Eyes and Sheep Hearts- increases hands-on science learning by purchasing cow eyes and sheep hearts for 5th graders to dissect and explore.
- "Annie" for the Drama Club - licensing rights to play Annie Kids to help to gain confidence in speaking and performing in front of groups of people.
- Creating with Cubelets: Robotics Engineering - A STEM initiative that provides ongoing inquiry based projects in which students integrate critical thinking

skills and technology in order to work collaboratively to solve problems.

Roberts Elementary School

- Advancing our Readers - The Jr. Great Books Program
- Bookroom Books - provides students with guided reading and comprehension programs, and provides staff development in the area of reading comprehension and guided reading groups.
- Read Naturally - research based and proven intervention techniques to improve reading skills and help students become successful readers through a multi-sensory approach.
- Story Starter for the Autism Classroom - (in conjunction with Level Creek ES) - an innovative, hands-on and multi-sensory approach to Language Arts and Writing for students on the autism spectrum
- Read and Ride Program - (in conjunction with Level Creek ES) - Promotes reading proficiency, improved reading comprehension and reading interest. Incorporating a fun physical fitness activity.

Suwanee Elementary School

- Music Technology Keyboard Program - cultivates interest and exposes students to music technology, prepares students for similar activities at the Middle School and High School level. Reading, notating, composing, arranging, and exploring music opportunities.
- Units of Study for Teaching Reading K-5 Workshop Curriculum - provides a reading curriculum for teachers based on the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading and Writing program. Proven to improve teaching methods and student success.

North Gwinnett Clusterwide School Grant

Writing Education - a cluster-wide staff development and training program for teachers to strengthen the NG Cluster and provide vertical alignment in the areas of writing and responding to non-fiction texts. Facilitated by Dr. Kevin Raczynski from the UGA Assessment Center, and this Grant will directly impact every student, at every grade level, at every school throughout the cluster.

ABOUT THE NORTH GWINNETT SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The North Gwinnett Schools Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that serves as the “Education Booster Club” for the elementary, middle, and high schools in the North Gwinnett Cluster. The Foundation is dedicated to funding academic grants that benefit the students of the North Gwinnett cluster: North Gwinnett High School; North Gwinnett Middle School; Level Creek, Riverside, Roberts, and Suwanee Elementary Schools.

The Foundation provides financial grants to enrich and extend educational

opportunities to our students. Since inception in 2001 the NGSF has funded over 225 projects totaling more than \$550,000 in teacher and school requested projects.

For additional information contact the NGSF at info@northgwinnettschoolsfoundation.org or (404) 984-0832

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Attached photo - Principals receiving award at the American Education Week Awards Breakfast (l-r):
Emily Keag (Suwanee ES); Ben Pope (Riverside ES); Dr. Dion Jones (Roberts ES); Daniel Skelton (Level Creek ES); Wanda Law (North Gwinnett MS); Nathan Ballantine (North Gwinnett HS); Marc Cohen (NGSF President)



