



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North Gwinnett Schools Foundation Announces 2015 Educational Grant Winners

\$30,000 in Grants for 21 Projects at 6 Schools

SUWANEE, Ga. (December 10, 2014) – The North Gwinnett Schools Foundation recently announced at the American Education Breakfast held at North Gwinnett High School, that the six schools of the North Gwinnett cluster would receive more than \$30,000 in educational grants. The funds are requested by teachers for innovative programs that further the education of their students.

“We champion the efforts of teachers who are passionate about giving every student the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential, and we do this through funding from community members and business sponsors by providing enrichment tools and academic support that directly benefit students in all six of our schools,” said Eddie Long, NGSF President.

This year 21 grants will be made as a result of the Foundation’s fund raising efforts through the Big T’Do event held this past October. Each school has the ability to submit grant requests that are reviewed by the Foundation’s Allocations Committee before being presented to the full Board for approval. 53 applications were received and grants were awarded to schools in the following amounts:

<i>NG High School</i>	<i>\$6,191.00</i>
<i>NG Middle School</i>	<i>\$7,627.90</i>
<i>Level Creek Elem</i>	<i>\$5,208.60</i>
<i>Riverside Elem</i>	<i>\$1,621.20</i>
<i>Roberts Elem</i>	<i>\$6,890.00</i>

Suwanee Elem

\$2,560.45

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 and advancement curricula, entrepreneurship, and common core education.

Individual School Grants which were presented in a ceremony at each school including the Principal and winning teachers, are:

North Gwinnett High School

- Photography in Action - provides pocket wizard radio transmitters to give students ability to sync shutter and flashes above the standard 1/250 of a second.
- North Gwinnett Community Garden - involves building raised garden beds to teach students hands-on techniques and benefits of a garden incorporating STEM principles into the culinary arts and food science curriculum.
- Java Dawg Cafe Expansion - allows for expansion of the student run cafe which teaches business and life skills to Special Education students.

North Gwinnett Middle School

- Advanced SLR Video and Photography - allows for the purchase of 5 SLR cameras to teach students advanced photography and video skills, and will be used by students to produce higher quality morning news videos and for taking pictures of student life for the yearbook.
- Understanding Electricity through Hands On Learning - enables 8th grade science students to collaborate and investigate basic functions of electrical circuits and understand Ohm's law, current and voltage.
- Who Was/Were Book Series - promotes research and creative writing through the purchase of books on literary figures, biographies and historical figures.
- Team21 Technology Upgrade - integrates technology into projects and presentations with purchase of a Mobi portable device.
- Stand Up for Music - provides music stands for all students in the growing Guitar Ensemble.
- Document Based Writing - enhances teaching of new evidence-based writing format of the GMAP tests through purchase 6 Mobi tablets to share between teachers.

Level Creek Elementary School

- Invertebrate Dissection - enriches the 5th grade science curriculum through

- Invertebrate Dissection bringing the study of animal classification to life.
- Lego Therapy Club - fosters the teamwork and communication skills of students in Lego Club and allows for additional supplies.
- Active Touch Smart Boards - enriches classroom learning using technology to provide a variety of lessons in all subject areas with purchase of an active touch panel/smart board with accessories.
- Easels 4 Ed - promote daily small and whole group time, work activities, poetry and math time in "Reading/Writing Centers" through purchase of easels for the kindergarten classrooms.

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.
- Sensational Science Centers - enriches the hands-on science learning experience by facilitating centers for an inquiry based lab approach.

Roberts Elementary School

- Common Core: College Begins in Kindergarten - enhances reading instruction to kindergartners through purchase of grade level specific author study books to meet the changing curriculum with Common Core.
- Writing Rocks - improves writing skills for students who struggle putting ideas to paper by introducing units that assist with answering comprehensive questions.
- Serious About... - promotes fiction reading in the media center by purchasing newly released books in a series for various reading levels.

Suwanee Elementary School

- Brain based learning Techniques - stimulates brain activity by providing "brain breaks" with purchase 33 small exercise bicycle pedal sets, 1 for each classroom.
- Language Arts Game Cabinet - provides a shared library of educational games to support curriculum in language arts K-5.
- Merging Picture Books, Language Arts and SS - teaches language arts concepts and promotes social studies through picture books.

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 200 projects totaling nearly \$500,000 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):

Dr. Dion Jones (Roberts ES); Daniel Skelton (Level Creek ES); Wanda Law (North Gwinnett MS); Dr. Michelle Smith (Suwanee ES); Ben Pope (Riverside ES); Nathan Ballantine (North Gwinnett HS); Eddie Long (NGSF President)