



# ELEMENTARY LEARNING FOUNDATION GRANTS

Awarded to **Emerson Middle School**

2000-2020

Year	Title	Description
2018	<b><i>Guest Conductor - Randy Sabien</i></b>	Randy Sabien is a jazz violinist, band-leader, clinician, and head of the string department at the McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, MN and the author of <i>Jazz Philharmonic</i> . This grant will bring Mr. Sabien's expertise to the middle school orchestra students from both Emerson and Lincoln, exposing them to jazz, blues, folk, and funk. Not only will students play and perform many genres of music, but Mr. Sabien will also cover proper rehearsal and performance etiquette and how to improvise. After his visit, a culminating performance will showcase the impact of the grant.
	<b>Creating A Flexible Workspace</b>	The students in a special education classroom have a variety of needs – both academically, physically, emotionally, and socially. This grant helps to develop a more flexible classroom environment which would allow students a work space more suited to their needs. The purchase of standing work desks and exercise ball chairs help enhance their focus, thus creating a more productive and individualized learning environment for all of the students.
2016	<b>Portable PA System</b>	This granted project provides the Physical Education Department at Emerson Middle School a means to encourage more physical activity and better performance to their classes by utilizing a portable PA System to play music and deliver instruction when outside without disrupting the classroom teachers. Students will then move to the music and take advantage of the latest technology.
2014	<b>Digital Media Lab</b>	The LRC Digital Media Lab will provide the space, equipment, and software for students to engage in a rigorous research process and express themselves through the creation of digital media (i.e., videos, music, photography, presentations).
	<b><i>Improve Executive Function</i></b>	Using training from the Rush Neurobehavioral Center, applies a research-driven approach to improve students' lifelong Executive Function skills, including managing time, managing materials, and knowing and implementing study strategies.
	<b><i>Social-Emotional Learning</i></b>	Sponsors community workshops on parenting emotionally intelligent children, led by Ed Dunkelblau, clinical psychologist and nationally known speaker on social-emotional intelligence, humor, and health.
2012	<b>Water Testing</b>	This grant will be used to purchase water testing kits for the 8 th grade science class. Students will apply their chemical water quality testing skills in the “real world” using The World Water Monitoring Challenge, an international education and outreach program.
2011	<b><i>Middle School Language Arts</i></b>	This grant will be used to purchase Sony Bloggie camcorders to enhance small group instruction in the Language Arts curriculum. Video clips of group discussions will provide opportunities for immediate feedback and will improve the student-teacher conference experience. Students will also use recorded group discussions to assess their growth, critique their responses and establish ongoing goals in a more efficient and immediate way.
	<b><i>North Shore Concert Band</i></b>	This grant will allow the Lincoln and Emerson Symphonic and Concert Bands to “sit in with the pros” from the North Shore Concert Band. District 64 students will have the opportunity to play alongside an experienced musician to discover the possibilities that their music holds when played at a high level of musical artistry.
	<b>Rachel's Challenge</b>	This grant will help the staff at Emerson Middle School further establish an environment of kindness, compassion and respect. Rachel's Challenge is an age-specific program designed to help students recognize their purpose in life. It provides a powerful

		partnership with educators and addresses bullying in the school environment. The program includes an impactful assembly, student and adult training, a student-led service club and a community event.
2010	<b>Mark Woods Instruments</b>	Money from this grant will be used to purchase an electric violin/viola (one 5-string instrument) and a cello to further enhance the musical experience which began with the Mark Woods Project performance. Students will be exposed to new kinds of music with these instruments and will also have the opportunity to play the electric instruments.
	<b>Study Island</b>	In partnership with District 64, funds from this grant will be used to purchase a one-year subscription of a web-based instructional program - Study Island. This program will be used to assess and provide differentiated instruction in the key areas of reading and math. All students in District 64 in third through eighth grade will have access to this program at school and at home.
2009	<b>Mark Wood</b>	Mark Wood is the leader of the Trans Siberian Orchestra, a fine violinist, clinician/creator of Electrify Your Strings, and all around rock star. He will work with students during the day on their repertoire at Maine South in the auditorium. During the clinic he allows students to use the electric instruments he frings. The day will end with a concert in the evening. Parents, friends, and community members are invited to attend.
	<b>Physical Activity and Learning</b>	Enhancing learning, memory, attention, and alertness through the use of specific physical activities drawn from such disciplines as yoga, Brain Gym, and development sequence. Students will incorporate specific movements twice a day. Additionally activities designed to enhance cardiovascular endurance and create brain/body connection as well as modifications to PE curriculum which will focus on endurance and postural strength. The effectiveness of these activities will be assessed through existing data collection.
	<b>Smart Music</b>	A music practice and assessment tool that will revolutionize the way students practice. Smart Music generates professional sounding accompaniments that help students learn how individual parts fit into context of composition, making practice more productive, enlightening, and enjoyable. It includes a built in assessment feature that provides students with immediate feedback.
	<b>Social Skills Video</b>	Filming students with autism demonstrating appropriate behavior and then having them watch themselves on film. Viewed in a natural setting within a familiar environment. Production and editing will be an interactive process with STRIVE students, staff, and regular education students (Best Buddies, peer models).
2008	<b>Art Exhibit</b>	Funding from this grant will allow forty works of art to be displayed in a new community exhibition at Le Peep restaurant. This project will create a sense of pride in our students, our community, and will also provide opportunities for children to learn and grow in the visual arts.
	<b>CPR Anytime</b>	Money from this grant will be used to purchase self-directed CPR training kits, cooperatively developed by the American Heart Association and Laerdal Medical. Research shows that students who use the kits perform at least as well as those trained in traditional classes. This grant will be introduced as a pilot at Emerson and Lincoln Middle Schools.
	<b>Partner Reading</b>	This grant pairs students with community members to be book buddies via e-mail. Students will pick from a short list of challenging books compiled by teacher at Emerson Middle School.
2007	<b>Follett's Reading Program Services</b>	This service will allow Lexile data to be added to our present library holdings.
	<b>Project RIDE</b>	Project RIDE is a software program and resource of supplemental materials to help educators and school teams address academic and behavioral challenges such as completing schoolwork, aggression, noncompliance, bullying, and other high frequency behavior and academic problems.
	<b>Soaring Eagles</b>	A student leadership program that empowers students to create positive change in their environment. The program provides student leaders the opportunity to set a positive tone at school, and to be positive examples for their peers.

	<b><i>Starlab II</i></b>	Starlab, the much loved, blow up planetarium that can be set up in any classroom. Students enter the bubble then stars, planets, and constellations are projected onto the ceiling. This system allows teachers to instruct students on the night sky in the light of day. This is the second one funded by ELF for the district.
	<b>Walk With Pedometers</b>	The students will participate this program which involves the use of technology, teaches mathematical conversions, and stresses the importance of healthy living.
2006	<b>American Decades</b>	Print and e-book series is a cross disciplinary resources that will comprehensively support the learning efforts of 7th and 8th grade students as they discover what has taken place in our country throughout the decades. As an internet based system, students can gain access on a school wide basis, while parents will have the opportunity to reinforce the use of reliable information thru home access.
2006	<b>Eighth Grade Service and Writing Program</b>	A service and writing project creating childrens' books using time in Language Arts to craft excellent writing and then give those books to the DCFS children as part of a holiday gift . The students' books will also be showcased at a "Book Fair" in the Emerson LRC.
	<b><i>Gretchen Courtney</i></b>	A workshop to assist the District 64 Curriculum Department to work with the staff to improve writing instruction and reading comprehension skill development throughout the district.
	<b>Photo Scrap Book</b>	Using photo scrap books for students with Autism Spectrum disorder.
	<b><i>Sue Ellen Fried</i></b>	Further advancing the District's initiative to create a culture of civil behavior. International speaker, Sue Ellen Fried, specializing in bullying and conflict resolution will be returning to conduct a 2 1/2 day Train the Trainer Session with social workers and teachers from across the district. It will serve as a comprehensive plan to change the culture of our schools and community and to help students, staff and parents better understand and resolve conflict.
2005	<b><i>"Think Time" Math Problem Solving Manipulatives</i></b>	Funding from this grant will be used to purchase manipulatives used during Wednesday's "Think Time" so children can solve academic and non-academic problems.
	<b>Chicago River Project</b>	This grant will provide a service/learning project, in which students study, research and visit the Chicago River over the course of the year to determine ways to positively affect the life in and around the Chicago River.
	<b><i>Creating a Culture of Civil Behavior</i></b>	Funds from this grant were used to bring speaker to Roosevelt School. SuEllen Fried has spoken extensively and co-authored two books on bullying prevention. She presented to Roosevelt's students, Roosevelt's staff and district-wide lunch supervisors. In addition an interactive district-wide parents presentation was held.
	<b><i>Expanding Your Horizons Conference</i></b>	Funding from this grant allowed for a day-long conference for girls in 6th-8th grade to encourage and support their interest in math, science, engineering and technology.
	<b><i>Opposing Viewpoints Database</i></b>	Funding from this grant will enable students to develop higher level and critical thinking skills. From Gale/Thomson, the database is an online website that presents both sides of current or controversial issues.
	<b><i>Scholastic Reading Counts!</i></b>	This grant will purchase a computerized reading program that supplies quizzes to test comprehension and vocabulary from books that students have chosen to read.
	<b><i>The Lindamood Auditory Conceptualization Test</i></b>	This grant will allow for the purchase of an assessment tool designed to identify children who have insufficient phonemic awareness, a key predictor of how well children will learn to read in the early years of school.
	<b><i>The Mind That's Mine Program Kits and Student Books for CFC</i></b>	This grant purchase a program designed to help students discover how their minds work and what they can do to make their minds work better.
2004	<b><i>Critical Friends Staff Development</i></b>	This grant will provide a professional development program for District teachers that facilitates collaborative teaching practices

		and the sharing of best practices.
	<b><i>Finger fun Kits for Occupational Therapy</i></b>	Money from this grant will be used to purchase lending library kits for home and classroom to improve students' fine motor skills.
	<b>Multimedia Magic</b>	Money from this grant will be used to purchase cameras and equipment for a middle school elective course in digital movie production, storyboard creation, and editing.
	<b><i>North Cook Consortium for Grant-Writing</i></b>	Funds from this grant will be used to support a consortium that will enable District 64 to join with 25 other districts in securing grant funds for Language Arts and Math initiatives.
2003	<b>A World in Conflict-Man vs. Man</b>	Comprehensive, differentiated materials (literature, videos, journals, etc.) will be purchased for the Emerson 8th grade social studies and language arts teachers. The unit is a culmination to their yearlong study of world conflict. The materials will assist the students in discussing issues of conflict.
	<b><i>Edutrac Web-Based Physical Education Assessment Software</i></b>	The purpose of this project is to utilize the Edutrac Software to allow PE teachers across the district to have individualized student physical fitness assessments. Students will set fitness goals and record them easily using this software.
	<b><i>Teaching Character Issues Workshop</i></b>	The purpose of this project is to bring Jim Garbarino, a nationally known author on the subject of bullying, civil behavior and teaching character issues in the classroom to the district to educate teachers/administrators in a staff development and parents at a workshop.
2001	<b>"Who Am I" Language Curriculum</b>	This grant will help in the development of an 8th grade Language Arts curriculum around the theme "Who Am I?" and "What Can I Learn About the People Around Me?" It will involve speakers as well as student input and assessment. The theme will be woven into the reading and writing objectives throughout the year.
	<b>Emotional Intelligence</b>	This project is to continue to support the development of an emotional intelligence curriculum at Emerson. It will be used to cover training, supplies, and building assemblies.
	<b><i>Expanding Your Horizons</i></b>	This grant will fund a daylong conference developed by a national association for 6th through 8th grade girls at both middle schools to encourage and support their interest in math, science, engineering, and technology.
	<b>Fabric of America</b>	This grant will fund an interdisciplinary unit in social studies, math and language arts through the creation of a personal quilt. Each student will create a story quilt; a geometric quilt or a documentary quilt based on his or her reading, math or social studies curricula.
	<b><i>Incorporating Reading Books into the Science Curriculum</i></b>	This project will incorporate picture books into the 6th grade science curriculum at both middle schools. This will support two goals of the District, reading in the content area and differentiation of curriculum. It will also assist 6th grade students in the transition from an elementary science hands on program to the textbook/hands on approach in 7th and 8th grade.
	<b><i>Manipulatives, Games, and Math Resources</i></b>	These funds will purchase math games, manipulatives and other resources to assist in reinforcing math concepts through a variety of learning styles at both middle schools.
	<b><i>Science Unit Libraries</i></b>	This project will fund the purchase of quality non-fiction books to enhance the District's science curriculum. Through reading, students are able to grow in their understanding of science concepts introduced through hands-on experience. The books selected will be at a range of reading levels to support the District's goal of differentiated instruction.
	<b>The Art of Storytelling</b>	This grant will provide a workshop and classroom activity to introduce the art of storytelling. It will include a storytelling year-end festival with a visiting local storyteller, as well as a club for interested students.
	<b><i>The Bereaved Child</i></b>	This grant will fund workshops for staff at specific grade levels K-8 to assist them in working with a child dealing with grief or loss. The Good Mourning Program, part of Rainbow Hospice, will lead the sessions.

2000	<b><i>Author/Illustrator Visit to the Middle Schools</i></b>	This project will involve a group presentation as well as student workshops lead by a visiting author/illustrator. The goal is to encourage and inspire enthusiasm in reading and writing by exploring the authoring process through an interactive presentation based on professional experiences as well as to underscore the differentiation aspect of our curriculum.
	<b>Picture Books to Enhance Math Learning</b>	The purpose of this project is to incorporate adolescent picture books and writing into the math curriculum. The belief is that by exposing students to literature and language development in this way, students will be better able to write and solve math word problems.
2000	<b><i>Starlab I</i></b>	Starlab is a portable teaching environment that can be moved from building to building. It consists of an inflatable dome, projector, and related projecting materials. Use of the StarLab will allow teachers to address seven of the Illinois State learning objectives in science. Unit modules can be purchased to cover Mythology, Earth Mapping, Weather, Plate Tectonics, Ocean Currents, and Cell Biology. It will primarily be used in third and sixth grade, although some available modules could be used to enhance the middle school curriculum.