

PSFTC



Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County



2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Greetings from PSFTC!

For 40 years, the Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County has embraced our mission to promote excellence in education and encourage classroom innovation. It is more than our responsibility; it is our honor.

It is with deep gratitude that we reflect on our founders who started conversations in 1985 about forming a not-for-profit foundation that could raise private funds for public school teachers. In 1987, our Seeds for Excellence Grant Program was unveiled and we have held strong to our commitment to amplify innovative teachers and their classrooms.

In this report, we share some of the moments that have enriched our 40-year history and will help guide us into the future. Included are snapshots of the work being done by our grant winners and the youth that have been part of the grant coming to fruition. These teachers work tirelessly to improve the quality of their classroom and promote clever thinking in a dynamic, engaging environment. As you read through these pages, we hope you see the positive outcomes, creative ideas, unconventional thinking, and time-honored practices.

As we move into another year, we remain steadfast in our grantmaking commitments to the educators who strive to create lasting positive change in their classroom. Our PSFTC board continues to advocate for a larger scale of reach and depth of impact, while further strengthening our mission. Since inception, we've distributed over \$850,000 in grants to teachers in Tippecanoe County to enrich their curriculum. Our sincerest THANKS to our esteemed PSFTC partners and donors! Achieving our mission takes sustained funding and your continued support.

With appreciation & blessings,

EMILY DOWNEY, PSFTC President



HATS OFF TO THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS FOR WRITING AWARD-WINNING GRANT PROPOSALS!

STEVE ELWOOD

**Microbit Magic:
Unleashing Creativity
in Coding and Robotics**

East Tipp Middle School

MELANIE SIETSMA

**Stories of the World:
A Lending Library Celebrating
Language and Culture**

Wea Ridge Elementary

AMANDA BECK

**What's the Big Dill?
Pickleball for All!**

Harrison High School

PATRICK ROE

**STEM Coding with
TinkRworks Tech-a-Sketch**

West Lafayette Intermediate

Made possible with financial support from Primient

MEGAN TREVELYAN

Stories Told Through Music

Miami Elementary

STEPHANIE SALMON

**Books, Clay and Tangible
Learning: A Multisensory
Approach to Literacy for
ELL Students**

Hershey Elementary

EILEEN GILLETTE

Uke Can Do It!

Thomas Miller Elementary

ALLYSON ANTHROP

**Starry Night Adventures:
Fifth Grade Constellation
Project with Star Lab**

Hershey Elementary

Made possible with financial support from Tate & Lyle

DEBBIE SMITH BECKETT

**A Whale of a Tale - A Visit
from the Whalemobile**

Burnett Creek Elementary

BETH HASSENPLUG

Raising the Bars

Burnett Creek Elementary

MONICA GOLDBERG

**Microscopic Scientific
Research in the Special
Education Science Classroom**

Battle Ground Middle School

Made possible with financial support from Tate & Lyle

ERIN PIERSON

Stop-Motion Animation Storytelling

West Lafayette Intermediate

SAMUEL SPINA

**Comprehension, Culture, and
Confidence: German Readers
for German Students**

Harrison High School

GINNIE SHEETS

If You Build It, They Will Come

James Cole Elementary &
McCutcheon High School

Made possible with financial support from Primient

OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGE CLASSROOM INNOVATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY THROUGH OUR SEEDS FOR EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Grant Spotlights

MEGAN TREVELYAN | Miami Elementary Stories Told Through Music

This grant project helped purchase one soprano xylophone, one alto xylophone, two soprano glockenspiels, one alto glockenspiel, four sets of yarn xylophone mallets and two sets of glockenspiel mallets for the music classroom allowing all students to participate at the same time. Another goal of this project was to dispel the notion that “books are boring”. I want to change that mindset and add ways to make reading more exciting and instill a love of reading at a young age. Adding chants, melodies and/or accompaniments with our percussion instruments while we read will help achieve my goals. In addition to adding equipment to my music classroom, I also invited 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students to stay after school on Tuesdays, and we formed a music group now known as the Miami Music Makers. During our after-school time, we used the new instruments (and instruments we already had) to add music to the book *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. On May 6, 2025, the Miami Music Makers concluded the project with a performance in front of a standing-room-only crowd of their teachers, families and friends. We plan to continue this program and feature a new book each year.



I was able to witness the students' creativity come alive in a whole new way while they were working together on this project.



AMANDA BECK | Harrison High School What's the Big Dill? Pickleball for All

As one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States, pickleball can be played with little instruction or equipment by people of any age. When a group of enthusiastic Harrison students asked me to sponsor a new club they wanted to form, I was happy to accept. Their goal was to get kids of all ability levels and from all corners of the school out on the courts for some fun, interaction and physical activity. This grant helped provide the start-up equipment needed, and having supplies has made a difference for keeping the Pickleball Club going strong. More students have become involved and enjoy friendly competition and meeting new people. There have been at least eight meetups this spring that have utilized our new equipment, and the club leadership is looking forward to using our equipment in the future.

PATRICK ROE
West Lafayette Intermediate School
STEM Coding with TinkRworks Tech-A-Sketch

My project involved purchasing TinkRworks Tech-A-Sketches for my students to learn block coding. This coding project is highly engaging and a way for me to maximize the interest and skills of my high-ability students. We completed all 14 coding lessons, and my students loved it! They built all the devices by hand and learned terminology such as loop, argument, and algorithm. They are using math to place shapes on the X and Y axis and further developing problem-solving skills. It is an ideal project for early finishers to work on. This grant is such a worthy investment because I will be able to re-use the resources again for many years to come.



“ Getting to attend the award ceremony for my grant was a great privilege. My principal, superintendent, assistant superintendent and a school board member all came to support me.



LOOK WHAT OUR DONORS ACCOMPLISHED IN FALL 2024 AND SPRING 2025



14

PROJECTS FUNDED



\$23,468

DOLLARS AWARDED



72

TEACHERS COLLABORATING



2,187

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING

Will Run for Cupcakes!!

Our ninth annual Cupcake Run was held on September 22, 2024, at Cumberland Park in West Lafayette. Over 750 walkers, runners and volunteers participated and helped raise \$22,261 for our Seeds for Excellence grant program. We are so proud of the success of our signature event that brings together classrooms, community and, of course, cupcakes!



Congratulations to Harrison High School, 2024 school participation champions! Special thanks to Mary Lou Donuts for baking and delivering over 900 cupcakes to the park! Yes, Mary Lou Donuts does cupcakes!



And continuing with our cupcake theme...

In January and February of 2025 culinary students at Greater Lafayette Career Academy, Harrison High School, and McCutcheon High School spent time in the kitchen developing and testing original cupcake recipes for entry in the Cupcake Bake Off competition.

Representatives from Primient, a local producer of food and industrial ingredients made from plant-based, renewable sources, visited classrooms to share information about careers in food manufacturing. In addition, classes from Harrison High School were able to visit the Primient plant in southern Tippecanoe County to see food manufacturing processes first hand.

Cupcake entries were presented at the Bake Off & Tasting Party on February 13 at GLCA. A record crowd attended and helped select the People's Choice winner: Harrison High School and their Honey Apple cupcake.

A panel of culinary experts evaluated all the entries and awarded Best in Show and a \$1,000 prize to Greater Lafayette Career Academy Second Year Team.

Their winning recipe was titled "Apple Cinnamon Cupcake" and included an apple filling and sweet cinnamon frosting.



Want to try your hand at making them? The recipe card is provided to all PSFTC donors. Hop online today to make a donation and receive a recipe card.

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