



WINTER 2021

# NEWSLETTER

THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BEREA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## JOIN US ONLINE FOR OUR 21ST ANNUAL AUCTION!

The 21st Education Foundation Annual Auction is moving online this year to continue our mission of investing in our students. For the past 20 years, The Education Foundation for the Berea City School District Auction has raised funds for classroom enrichment grant projects and building the Foundation.

Auction attendees can participate in games like the new 50/50 raffle and the familiar wine pull as well as bidding on silent auction packages. Items up for bid include artwork by local artists, fun and stylish jewelry and accessories, restaurant gift cards, a personal chef for an evening and many unique gift baskets. Families of Baldwin Wallace University students can bid on a \$1,000 tuition voucher. Other high bidders will compete for an Apple Watch in Titans colors.

The Auction kickoff event will be held on March 5 and bidding will conclude on March 11. To make sure that you receive an email invitation with instructions for registering and previewing auction items, join the Foundation's mailing list at [EducationFoundationBerea.org/Auction](https://EducationFoundationBerea.org/Auction). Follow The Education Foundation on social media (Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram) for Auction updates, short videos on Foundation projects, and item posts.

## PAYROLL DEDUCTION COMMITTEE AWARDS GRANTS

The Education Foundation's Payroll Deduction Committee directs the distribution of staff-donated funds to cover opportunities not available elsewhere in the budget. All members of the committee are BCSD staff members. Teachers and other district employees are often recipients of Payroll Deduction Grants, but these grants may also be requested by students.

This year, a student did request funding for a special project. Matthew Bachie, a Berea-Midpark High School Junior, was awarded up to \$320 to help with expenses for his Eagle Scout project: building a classroom storage caddy. The storage unit, once completed, will be used to hold books and other supplies in Mrs. Piesen's second grade classroom at Grindstone Elementary School. Mrs. Piesen said, "I was so fortunate to teach Matthew when he was a 2nd grader and I am extremely proud of the young man he has become!"

Two staff members were also awarded Payroll Deduction Grants during this round. Sheryl Medvetz was granted \$200 for the Scribble Stones project to support the social-emotional wellbeing of her 5th grade students. Funds will be used to purchase a Scribble Stones book for each student and craft supplies.

Christopher Scott, Executive Director of Boys2Men Inc., was awarded \$800 for personal finance educational programming. Boys2Men is a Berea area mentoring organization that helps educate and guide teenage boys toward successful futures. This grant will fund software and educational materials on topics such as budgeting, credit, debt, and paying for college.

## **ENRICHMENT GRANTS AWARDED IN FALL OF 2020**

Enrichment Grants are usually awarded in early summer to give recipients time to organize the projects before school begins in August. 2020 was such an uncertain year, though, that a good deal of planning couldn't begin before the fall. Over the summer, \$26,000 in Foundation Enrichment Grant money was used to extend a literacy program for K-3 students throughout the district. Later in the year, applications were made available for "named" Enrichment Grants, which are earmarked for specific types of programs. The Enrichment Grant committee awarded funds from four separate named grants to the five projects below.

### **College and Career Promotional Materials - \$400**

IMAGINE! EXPLORE THE ARTS grant in memory of Joanna Pusti Grant  
BMHS - any students who wish to participate in the school-wide competitions  
Staff: Dawn Ruebensaal

Mrs. Ruebensaal, College & Career Readiness Counselor at BMHS, identified the opportunity for students in the Polaris SignPro Shop program to create and produce exciting college and career materials. Students in Mrs. Burchett's design classes created infographic posters about various careers in a competition for the best designs. The top students will work together to make a complete collection of posters that include career potential, pay, training requirements, and other information. The full collection of posters will be displayed in BMHS.

### **Buckets Galore! - \$200**

IMAGINE! EXPLORE THE ARTS grant in memory of Joanna Pusti Grant  
Brook Park Elem. - approx 400 students  
Staff: John Chapman

Mr. Chapman requested this grant to institute a bucket drumming unit with students in grades 1-4. Bucket drumming is a fun and motivational way for students to read, write, and perform a variety of rhythms alone and with others. He hopes to improve students' skills in reading and performing rhythms by giving them the opportunity to play their rhythms on drumming buckets. This program will help students in mastering music academic content standards in rhythm performance and creation. In addition, it will help students to see that materials can be repurposed in order to create music in a fun and motivating manner.

## ENRICHMENT GRANTS AWARDED IN FALL OF 2020

### **Action Scholastic Magazine - \$105**

HESCHE WRITING/READING & PHYSICAL ED. Grant

BMMS - 10 special needs students

Staff: Emilee Brightman

Funding from this grant purchases an eight-issue digital and print subscription to the Scholastic magazine, Action for ten special needs students taught by Mrs. Brightman. Access to Action provides engaging and differentiated socially appropriate materials to students with high learning and social needs. This magazine's feature "Teen of the Month," will be utilized for social/emotional education in English Language Arts and Social Skills classes. Students will see themselves reflected in these high interest reading materials and hopefully engage in more meaningful learning.

### **Life Skills Student Enterprise: Titans Dog Treats - \$200**

BHS CLASS OF '72 Grant

BMMS - 25 special needs students interacting with gen. ed. students throughout the building

Staff: Denyse Fissel

Mrs. Fissel identified a need for 7th and 8th grade students at BMMS to improve their adaptive living and job-readiness skills. She sought to build those skills using real-world activities through the development of a student-run dog treats "business." Students will collect orders, make treats, cook treats, bag treats, collect money and deliver treats to teachers in the building. This is a "student enterprise" that is not intended to be for-profit but instead money earned will be put back into the business for supplies and additional equipment. This program will address living skills, communication skills, money handling/math skills, adaptive living skills, functional reading, following a schedule, following procedures, attendance, working together, planning, time management, and baking.

### **Brook Park Elementary Library Story Time & Theater - \$890**

SLUMBER PARTY LIBRARY Grant in memory of of Dottie Bowers & in honor of Rhoda Rosen Brook Park Elem. - approximately 900 students

Staff: Katina Anagnostou

Mrs. Anagnostou, library media specialist for Brook Park Elementary school, wanted to provide creative experiences for students. She requested funds to purchase various books, puppets, plush characters, and a theater to enrich students' creativity. The library theater is being used to share stories with students in the library and to encourage the use of imagination.