



122 E. College Ave., Suite 1-B, Appleton, WI 54911  
Phone: 920-832-1517 • FAX: 920-832-1301

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FOUNDATION GRANTS MORE THAN \$15,000 TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING**

The Appleton Education Foundation has approved grants totaling more than \$15,000 to support creative programs and projects that enhance the education of Appleton Area School District students.

The following schools/organizations received grants for projects that will begin or continue when school convenes this fall.

Appleton Area School District – \$1,500 to support the development of web-based video clips as a tool to help students and their parents understand the connection between school course offerings and students' future career paths.

Arc Fox Cities – \$1,500 to support special programming focused on disability awareness and education for AASD elementary school children.

Badger Elementary School – \$1,000 to create mobile resource libraries with information related to early child development and learning. Materials will be available at Badger and Columbus schools, two of five AASD schools with Birth-to-Five site resource coordinators.

Columbus Elementary School – \$620 to fund a new approach to helping identified "at-risk" readers improve their skill level. Parent involvement and a student buddy system are key components of the program.

East High School – \$800 to implement *Real Men Read*, a new strategy to encourage male students to read and use the school's library resources. Posters featuring male role models from the school and community, book talks and reading groups will be part of the initiative.

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Ferber Elementary School – \$517 to implement a summer parent involvement program that provides bags of literacy materials to first- and second-grade struggling readers. The literacy bags also will be used as supplementary materials for first-grade students during the school year.

Houdini Elementary School – \$1,500 for start-up materials to implement the *Daily 5* program, an approach to fostering independence and more reading in the school’s six first- and second-grade classrooms. During *Daily 5*, students are able to choose from five activities that build on reading skills while teachers pull small groups of students together for guided reading instruction.

Johnston Elementary School – \$1,500 for *Peaceful Playgrounds*, a research-based program that addresses bullying prevention, playground utilization and consistency in conflict resolution strategies for students.

North High School –

- \$1,500 to bring Manuel Scott, one of the original “Freedom Writers” to the school for a presentation to North students, especially those who are at-risk. As a youth, Scott was labeled “unteachable” and “unreachable” but found his way and now shares an inspiring message of determination and resilience.
- \$430 from the Co-Curricular Education & Training Fund to support the school’s Rocket Competition Team during a time of transition.

Renaissance School for the Arts – \$750 for *Conversations Around the Table*, a collaborative effort between Renaissance students and dancers from Makaroff Youth Ballet to develop and offer a free dance performance to the community.

Richmond Elementary School –

- \$1,500 to pilot the use of WittFitt stability balls in a classroom setting and in the Physical Education classroom. Use of the balls in the classroom is expected to keep students sitting quietly while engaging their sensory systems, their core muscles and their concentration. They also will allow the movers and fidgeters a chance to be moving in a manner that is not disruptive to the rest of the class.
- \$425 to implement Watch D.O.G.S., a national program with a focus on increasing parental involvement by increasing the number of fathers, uncles and grandfathers that volunteer in the school on a regular basis.

A professional development grant also was awarded to allow AASD staff members to participate in a day-long Love & Logic training session with expert Chris Peterson. The Love & Logic method teaches adults how to interact and communicate with students positively, reducing behavior problems in the classroom, increasing student motivation and building assets that contribute to life-long respect, accountability and resilience.

*The Appleton Education Foundation, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, has awarded more than \$1.3 million in grants since its founding in 1997. Grants provide accessible, flexible funding for educational programs not covered by the school budget. For more information, please call (920) 832-1517 or visit [www.appletoneducationfoundation.org](http://www.appletoneducationfoundation.org)*

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