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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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In support of Hopkins Public Schools' trajectory from Great to World Class, Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) is pleased to announce eleven grant awards, propelling HEF's total contribution past the \$2.7Million mark.

HEF-funded projects spark excitement as they offer authentic learning opportunities. This cycle, they range in scope from a Facility Dog at West Junior High; a sensory path at Tanglen Elementary school; boat building at Alice Smith Elementary; as well as an afterschool class at North Junior High that will combine math assistance with mental health coaching.

Life-long skills are offered through most of these projects, in addition to reinforcement of the curriculum. Repairing bicycles at West Junior High and building hydroponic gardens at Transition Plus both instill pride and self-confidence through tool handling, as well as a practical end-product. Stage lighting and light boards will add hands-on technical classes at West Junior High and engage students in the world of math, circuits, electricity, and theater.

A class at Hopkins High School will help students cross a long-standing ACT opportunity gap; STEM enrichment kits at Alice Smith Elementary offer fun engineering quandaries for K-2 students; a new plan at Harley Hopkins Family Center for very early interventions will teach families to head off speech difficulties in our youngest learners; and finally, also at Harley, a simple upgrade that will make a world of difference to families in search of educational and reference materials, including the Autism Library.

All 435 of HEF's grants and long-term initiatives are chosen for their ability to engage students, energize learning, and enhance the curriculum. To learn more, visit [HopkinsEducationFoundation.org](http://HopkinsEducationFoundation.org).

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