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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEF's Mission Continues – Achieves \$3 Million Benchmark

Undaunted by the current pandemic and the shift to distance learning, Hopkins Public Schools staff and students continue to innovate and generate BIG ideas. Consequently, student growth is the focus of the Hopkins Education Foundation's (HEF) spring grant cycle, which includes a \$50,000 COVID-19 inspired boost to HEF's *Pathways to a Healthy Future*, the HEF district-wide initiative in support of the whole student (more here: <http://bit.ly/2ussXhc>).

A total of \$19,588 for four individual HEF grants has just been awarded for the 2020/21 school year: all 500 Pre-schoolers will be introduced to the Second Step social emotional curriculum already in place in grades K-6 (taught in Spanish in Hopkins' new Spanish Immersion program); *Girls Taking Action*, Dr. Verna Price's mentorship program, will be funded at HHS to focus on the vast potential of our young women of color; Feelings 'Check-in' Boards will be placed in each Eisenhower Elementary classroom as a way for students to self-assess, regulate, and generate empathy; and XinXing Academy 4th and 5th graders will have a poet in residence in both Chinese and English. <http://hopkineducationfoundation.org/spring-grants-2020/>

Also recently awarded, \$3,184 for four HEF *Awesome Fund* grants to student clubs currently in various stages of planning and implementation, thanks to innovative students. Green Halls is busy purchasing supplies and growing the plants they will use to beautify and enlighten HHS. TampAction will provide menstrual supplies at HHS when school resumes, and in the meantime, continues to prepare for presentations to both junior highs regarding period stigma. Kendama Club members are practicing their game as they work to schedule an inspirational speaker to share with fellow students their on-point message of transforming adversity into growth. Gender and Sexuality Alliance had to cancel the spring Qrom (Queer Prom) but look forward to creating future empowering events for teens from across Minnesota. More about each of these grants – by school or by topic - here: <http://hopkineducationfoundation.org/grants/>

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About the Hopkins Education Foundation Hopkins Education Foundation

(HEF) has awarded more than \$3 Million, through 490+ grants, to enhance education in the Hopkins Public Schools. The non-profit Foundation, independent from Hopkins Public Schools, is dedicated to providing resources to engage, innovate and energize students, staff and curriculum. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Foundation is supported entirely through community contributions, including:

- parents and other community members
- corporate contributions
- fundraising events and projects
- gifts of stock, cash and securities
- a beneficiary of wills and estates

Each year, grant applications from teachers, staff - and even student clubs - are rigorously reviewed by HEF's Board. Funds are allocated to individual schools, to pilot projects, and to broad initiatives incorporated across all schools.

About Hopkins Public Schools

Hopkins Public Schools is an award-winning school district with a K-12 population of about 6,800 students, serving the city of Hopkins, most of Minnetonka, about half of Golden Valley, and portions of Eden Prairie, Edina, Plymouth, and St. Louis Park. It has six elementary schools, one magnet Chinese immersion school (XinXing Academy), two junior highs and one high school.