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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Engagement, Focus, and Fun Learning are Themes of HEF Grants

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) has just awarded \$54,512.64 in the form of 17 grants to Hopkins Public Schools staff, for a host of exciting learning initiatives. Dedication to students is apparent in all of these projects, which range from enhancing curriculum through best-practices, to enriching the community through gatherings, food preparation, and pickleball.

Several grants hone in on the importance of reading: **Science of Reading** at Glen Lake Elementary; **Learning with Heart** at Tanglen; **Literacy Centers** at Eisenhower; and **Personalized Literacy** at Hopkins High School. Also, **Book of the Month Club** for every K-6 student at Eisenhower, will promote the ten different attributes of a strong learner - such as well-balanced, inquiring, principled, thinker - found in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Profile.

Hands-on learning are the focus of many of these grants: **Designing for Sustainability** explores practical solutions to climate change at both junior highs; **Nature in a Courtyard** is an outdoor investigation lab at North Junior High; **Building Thinking Classrooms in Math** at Tanglen and **Building STEAM** at Eisenhower Community School, XinXing Academy, and Juntos, both offer an engaging twist on the current curriculum. **Play Based Learning to Deepen Enquiry** at Meadowbrook proves learning can be fun, and **Playground Pickleball** at Tanglen introduces all students to the fast-paced fitness craze they can play with their parents and grandparents.

**Jazz Cooks!** at Hopkins High School and **Flex it Like 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** at North and West Junior Highs, are reinvigorating the band programs at the secondary level and opening up access to many more students.

**Beautiful Education** offers an exciting opportunity for HHS students to learn to care for textured hair; **Cultural Recipes and Food Science**, offered through Hopkins Online Royal Academy, combines science with family recipes and heritage; and **Family Engagement** is a Community Education endeavor hosted at Gatewood and Alice Smith Elementary Schools, to help parents navigate the complexities of our modern educational system.

Rounding out this grant cycle, **Vestibular Sensory Training and Spin Boards** provides a new tool in the toolbox of the District's Occupational Therapy team, to be used at all elementary schools, and **Lizard of Love** will teach multiple lessons of responsibility and communication to the young adults in the Transitions Plus program.

In addition, HEF's **The Awesome Fund** for student clubs has awarded grants to the **Video Production Club** to purchase equipment and props for their exciting and often irreverent endeavor into news production; and to the **Speedcubing Club** to purchase equipment to share (think Rubik's Cube on steroids) as they work toward entry into World Cube Association events.

For more information on any of these projects, as well as all past grants, visit [Hopkins EducationFoundation.org](http://HopkinsEducationFoundation.org).

Sidebar: HEF is excited to announce a HYBRID Royal Bash fundraiser for February 26, 2022. An in-person party will be accompanied by a live broadcast for supporters who choose to participate from home. To learn more, visit [HopkinsEducationFoundation.org](http://HopkinsEducationFoundation.org)

## Photos Included

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## About the Hopkins Education Foundation

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) has awarded more than \$3.2 Million, through 550+ 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 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, Chinese and Spanish immersion programs, two junior highs and one high school.