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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hopkins Education Foundation Spring Grants Showcase Teachers' Love for Students

The past two+ years of pandemic pivoting have been tough on everyone, teachers included. That hasn't stopped Hopkins Public School staff from innovating, creating, and pushing limits to help their students to do better. Passionate educators have applied for grants to Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF), and the result is \$38,481 for 10 forward-focused, student-driven ideas.

From preschoolers to elementary-level Spanish Immersion students and junior high scientists, learners across Hopkins Public Schools will benefit from these spring 2022 grants. Dedication to students is apparent in all of these projects; here are a few examples. **TEACCH Model Kits** are durable tools to enhance a wide range of skills for special education students, readying them for self-sufficiency and employment. **Anti-racist curriculum** for early learners and their families teaches inclusivity and addresses biases. Gatewood Elementary students will get hands-on learning and a huge sense of accomplishment when they **build camp chairs** for their Outdoor Education School. West Junior High students are **raising butterflies** as they learn about the ecosystem and life cycles. **Royal Voices** is a project to collect, display and share the published works of Hopkins alumni – and there are many – to offer aspiring writers some examples of what they may someday accomplish. North Junior High is purchasing **novels laser-focused on engaging students** through intriguing, relatable characters and subject matter.

In addition, HEF's *The Awesome Fund*, a separate pool of funds directed towards Hopkins secondary school clubs, has recently given the go-ahead to intriguing student-driven projects. **For the Culture** is a club dedicated to learning about and appreciating the many cultures represented in Hopkins Public Schools. The \$600 award funds Culture Night in late May at Hopkins High School, an exciting inclusive event showcasing dancers, singers and foods representing Somalia, the Philippines and some Hispanic cultures. All students are invited to attend. **VAL** is the Esports (electronic sports) club, 40 students strong, who will use the \$800 Awesome Fund award to purchase gaming mice and mouse pads to increase player abilities. 'Val' is short for Valorant, the 5-on-5 game that the club focuses on, and part of a growing billion-dollar industry, offering big money and scholarships for players. And finally, The Awesome Fund was happy to contribute \$1,600 to the **Hopkins Technocrats Robotics Club**, to assist in their amazing journey to the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston, Texas, where they competed admirably with stellar teams from around the world.

For details about any of these grants, as well as all past grants, visit [Hopkins EducationFoundation.org](http://HopkinsEducationFoundation.org).

Photos Included

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About the Hopkins Education Foundation

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) has awarded more than \$3.3 Million, through 560+ 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.