

Foundation announces more than \$35K in spring grants

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education recently announced more than \$35,000 in grants for programs and initiatives within the Grosse Pointe Public School System for spring 2021. GPFPE Vice President Christie Scoggin presented the grants to the GPPSS Board of Education at its April 26 meeting.

Grant recipients are as follows:

- ◆ Early Childhood Hands-On (E.C.H.O.) Library and Resource Center (preschool) Trombly Early Childhood Center (\$2,000)
- ◆ Engaging Preschoolers in Movement (preschool) Barnes (\$2,319)
- ◆ Moving to the Beat of My Own Drum (Y5-grade 4) Defer (\$2,775)
- ◆ Richard Elementary Playground Replacement (Y5-grade 4) Richard (\$10,000)
- ◆ Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine (grade 5) Parcels (\$5,050)
- ◆ Harmony Directors to Help Retrain Ensemble Skills (grades 5-12) Brownell, Pierce, Parcels, South and North (\$4,775)
- ◆ iPad Cart and 20 iPads (grades 9-10) South (\$8,359)
- ◆ Peer to Peer Program Funds (grades 9-12) North (\$500)

Scoggin also announced a new initiative for the GPFPE — funding grants focused on social emotional encouragement and development, or SEED. The GPFPE will launch fundraising for this specific category of grants at its upcoming benefit June 3, and students, teachers and parents will be able to apply for grants year-round for programs that support the social and emotional health of students and teachers in the district.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured front row, from left, are Kathy Fisk, GPFPE board member and grants committee co-chair; Courtney Kliman, Defer Elementary School; Karen Gallagher, Parcels Middle School; Erika Stout-Kirck, Parcels; and Christie Scoggin, GPFPE vice president and grants committee co-chair. Pictured back row, from left, are Tom Torrento, Parcels and Grosse Pointe North High School; Richard Elementary School Principal John Kernan; and Nicholas Symonette Jr., Parcels.

“After a year-plus of pandemic-related issues and beyond, the GPFPE feels there is a real need to directly support programs that fit the SEED profile,” Scoggin said. “The Peer to Peer program, awarded a grant this spring, is a great example of an initiative that would fall into this category and we look forward to supporting existing mental health programs, as well as aiding in the development of new ideas to support our school community in this essential way.”

More information on the grant recipients is below. The first four grants were funded through the Lois J. Warden Fund, established to support early learner programs.

◆ **E.C.H.O. Library and Resource Center at Trombly Early Childhood Center (\$2,000)**

This grant partners with the district and many other resources in helping fund learning supplies for preschool teachers and young families to use at Trombly. E.C.H.O. Library and Resource

Center will become the district's first early childhood resource center and will provide a safe and nurturing environment for ages 2.5 to 5 to explore and learn using hands-on materials, manipulatives and age-appropriate books.

Submitted by *Betina Davis and Cate Williams*

◆ **Engaging Preschoolers in Movement at Barnes (\$2,319)**

This grant will provide hands-on materials to promote movement and help preschoolers with motor skills. Research indicates that 80 percent of all children entering kindergarten will present with delays in motor skill development. In this grant, occupational therapy equipment like stepping stones and balance beams will entice movement and balance, which in turn accelerates cognitive and social/emotional development.

Submitted by *Kelly Vess, Victoria Armenio, and Michelle Satler*

◆ **Moving to the Beat of My Own Drum at Defer (\$2,775)**

This grant will benefit all of the students at Defer Elementary as a result of their creative PE teacher and her idea to keep the kids physically active, getting their heart rates up while keeping a rhythmic beat. The DrumFIT program provided by this grant gives each student during PE class a fitness ball, a stand and two drumsticks to follow the teacher's lead and move to the beat of the different levels.

Submitted by *Courtney Kliman*

◆ **Richard Elementary Playground Replacement at Richard (\$10,000)**

The GPFPE joins many businesses and donors committed to replacing and updating the 26-year-old playground equipment at the school. The funds gifted here will aid in the purchase of a variety of playground equipment used for recess, extracurricular supplies and to give the community a place to interact, play, build cooperative skills and spend time with each other.

Submitted by *Dr. John*

Kernan

◆ **Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine at Parcels (\$5,050)**

This grant funds a vending machine that will hold 150 grade-appropriate books that will be available to students earning credits for good work and behavior. A creative incentive program, tying in with the Parcels PBIS, reading goals and Leader In Me, will help build excitement and enthusiasm for reading. The teachers requesting this grant hope the vending machine program can eventually be run by the students, adding real-life experiences in running a business, economics and fundraising to their learned skill sets.

Submitted by *Karen Gallagher, Kim Hool, Erica Stout-Kirck, Christine Porada and Nicholas Symonette*

◆ **Harmony Directors to Help Retrain Ensemble Skills at Brownell, Pierce, Parcels, South and North (\$4,775)**

Connecting with existing classroom technology, this grant will provide musical instrumental instruction at the middle and high school level to better teach tone, intonation, rhythm and ensemble blend with the use of Yamaha Harmony Directors. As instrumental students return to face-to-face ensemble instruction, this technology will facilitate working together, building confidence and performing at a high level for years to come.

Submitted by *Tom Torrento*

◆ **iPad Cart and 20 iPads at South (\$8,359)**

This technology grant coordinates with the Next Generation Science Standards, approved by GPPSS last year. The teacher requesting iPads for her high school science students envisions

them using multiple free apps and programs to interact and manipulate simulations, explore labs and document their work through images and videos. This inquiry-based instruction will use technology to allow students to have a new experience with science and engineering practices.

Submitted by *Claire Sobolak*

◆ **Peer to Peer Program Funds at North (\$500)**

As cited on a University of Michigan website, “The Peer to Peer program was built on the premise that many mental health disorders first present themselves during adolescence, and teens are more likely to listen to other teens than well-meaning adults.” Funding this grant will allow North's mental health team to expand outreach, raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote social/emotional health at North. Led by 24 students, this mentoring program will bring in pertinent speakers to address good emotional health, engage the student population through social media and interaction, and promote the value of counseling and/or help available to students.

Submitted by *Kelly Osborne*

“The GPFPE grant cycle allows us to address areas of need and interest throughout the public-school system,” said Bob Bury, GPFPE board president. “Despite the challenges over the past year, the GPFPE is pleased to continue to be able to provide robust support to our school system. We are grateful for the community's continued support of the GPFPE, so that we can continue to fund programs and initiatives that support our students, despite these challenging times.”

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

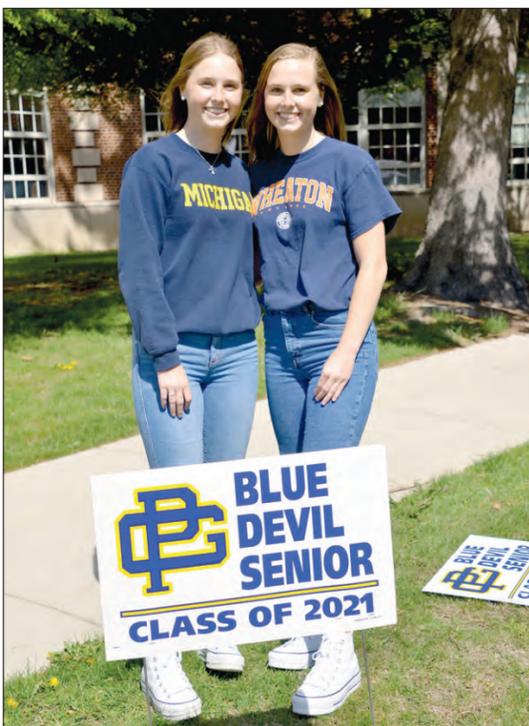


Anna Johnson

Anna Rose Johnson of Grosse Pointe Park earned the prestigious Martha Bell Sanders Excellence Scholarship offered by The Cleveland Institute of Music and will begin her journey toward a Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance this fall.



Gavin Hamilton of Grosse Pointe Park, a sophomore studying at Iowa State University's College of Engineering, ranked among the top 2 percent of students at the college.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South seniors Claire Beardslee is going to Michigan and Kate Beardslee is going to Wheaton.



National College Decision Day for high school seniors is May 1, a day they make public their decision of the college they'll attend in the fall. Part of a long-standing tradition, seniors wear the T-shirt or sweatshirt of the school where they plan to spend the next four years or more. Grosse Pointe South seniors Nina Simon is going to Kings College London; Daphne Irby, Michigan State University; Katie Bennert, University of Michigan; Jacquelyn Wang, Cornell.

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