



Foundation Newsletter

... because education is a shared experience

District 279 Foundation-11200 93rd Avenue North-Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Phone 763-391-7118

district279foundation.org



Our Mission

We are citizens in partnership with Independent School District 279 to support and enhance the district's dedication to learning for all.

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A Letter from the District 279 Foundation President

As a parent and member of the community I am asking you for your help. The District 279 Foundation is in need of your financial support to ensure that we can continue to enhance the learning opportunities for all District 279 students. Separate from the school district, the 279 Foundation is funded only through donations and grants; the Foundation does not receive regular school district dollars to support its programs.



Without your generous support many of the programs supported by the 279 Foundation simply would not exist. Some of these key programs include:

Reading Initiative: Ensuring every child has the opportunity to have a book in their home so they may experience the joy of reading outside of the classroom. This type of access to reading materials is critical to support the goal of having all children read at grade level. The Foundation was able to provide over 42,00 books to 14,200 student in 20 District 279 schools through the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program.

Classroom Grants: Supporting interactive projects that creatively enhance our children's learning. Last year the District 279 Foundation, with help from a grant from the Prudential Foundation funded 81 grants in the amount of \$83,400 to support District 279 students.

The District 279 Foundation plays a unique and creative role in ensuring that our children have every opportunity to develop into well-grounded and productive members of our community and businesses. You have an opportunity to play a part in this by making a tax-deductible contribution to the District 279 Foundation. Please take a moment to consider making an investment in our youth of today and leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Shelly Korby
District 279 Foundation President
District 279 Parent



Last year at Park Center, a two year chemistry course was offered for the first time as part of our International Baccalaureate program. IB focuses on interdisciplinary connections and looking at the big picture when studying any topic, so I started searching for a way to show chemistry's interconnections with the world around us. Being an active aquarist, I thought a saltwater reef would be a perfect system to establish and explore with my young chemists. Because the Foundation funded my grant, my classroom now has a 6 foot long, 125 gallon ecosystem. We have sea anemones, fish, snails, and star fish thriving in their new home. Not only are my students fascinated by this example of chemistry up close and personal, but I have numerous students (and sometimes classes) stopping by to see the reef. Thanks to YOU the Park Center Senior High Chemistry students have a thriving ecosystem to monitor and observe. The 2nd year students are learning a lot about the delicate balance of life and having great fun teaching the younger 1st year students.

Marilyn Trouth Park Center Senior High



District 279 Foundation classroom grants bring learning to life, and that has been very apparent for many years in music classes across the district. Each year, classroom grants have made it possible for literally thousands of K-12 students to attend diverse performances or work with artists-in-residence. In November 2010, a classroom grant helped support a special performance at Orchestra Hall that brought together more than 600 student-musicians from all three of our high schools. Reflecting on that concert one student wrote, "I thought this experience benefitted not only our singing but our friendships with, and opinions of, the other schools. Because we are usually in competition with one another, we never get a real chance to be around or appreciate the other kids in our district – even those with similar interests. Bringing us together somewhere so powerful really helped us to understand a lot about our district's hopes for us and our students' potential as a whole, no matter the school."

Dr. Wendy Barden K-12 Music Coordinator



For the last five years, Tammie Epley has taken fifth graders from six of our elementary schools to Arizona and Mexico with school supplies. In this program, "Students Connecting through International Service", the students are involved from the beginning to the end: They lead school supply drives in each of their schools, develop pen-pal relationships with bilingual students in southern AZ who serve as their interpreters, and then deliver the school supplies to the students of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico. In Sasabe the children are required to provide their own school supplies to attend school, and most can't, so our fifth graders directly help these Mexican students to get an education. Our students benefit too, they learn about another culture, gain a deeper appreciation for their communities and schools, and find out first-hand that their individual efforts can make a real difference in the world. After the trip, they share this knowledge, through video, pictures, and stories, with each of their schools and communities. Thanks to the Foundation, every year another group of our fifth graders has been able to "contribute to community" in a big way, and has taken a giant step towards become successful, contributing global citizens.

Tammie Epley Students Connecting through International Service



Palmer Lake students, through the generosity of the District 279 Foundation, were given the opportunity to attend The Children's Theatre the last two years. Last year we saw The Christmas Story. The students at Palmer Lake come from diverse cultures and backgrounds and have little exposure to the arts. These culturally enriching learning experiences expose our students to the wonderful world of the arts and fantasy. This type of experience teaches our students to find the courage and faith to achieve their goals and dreams. Also, it gives them an opportunity to practice their social skills. Students are required to do follow up activities that tie into the curriculum we teach. A few examples are:

- Compare and contrast the book and the play.
- Unleash creativity with pictures and stories about the play.
- Fluency practice using passages from the play.

These types of experiences inspire and prepare our student with the confidence, courage, and competence to achieve their dreams!

Bonnie Capper-Eckstein Palmer Lake Elementary

District 279 Foundation Reading is Fun Run/Walk



The District 279 Foundation hosted their inaugural Reading is Fun 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, September 24 at Elm Creek Park Reserve.

There was close to 300 participants for the day. It started with a Fun 1K run/walk for the kids, a competitive timed 5K run and concluded with a fun 5K run or walk.

Proceeds from this fund raiser were donated to all 25 media centers to purchase educational materials that can be accessed by all students.

Planning is already beginning for next years Reading is Fun Run/Walk to be held in September 2012.

Some of the photos courtesy of Emily Lien Photography and Rich Melvin.

Yes, I/We want to *Invest in Our Children - Our Future*

Name(s): _____
Please print name as it should appear for recognition purposes

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email address _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$500.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 Other _____

Method of Payment Check (Please make check payable to District 279 Foundation)
 Visa Mastercard Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____
 Expiration Date ____/____/____ Customer Code _____
 (The three digit code on the signature side of the card)

Name as it appears on my card _____

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I would like my gift to the District 279 Foundation to go towards:
Classroom Grants Reading Program All Programs 279 Endowment Fund
My company has a matching gift program, the appropriate form is enclosed.
I wish my gift to be anonymous.

Please mail this form in the envelope provided or to:
 The District 279 Foundation • 11200 93rd Avenue North • Maple Grove, MN 55369



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You can't Take It with You, but...



We've all heard the above expression, but it would be nice to know that "it" would go where one wished. As we, Carol Heselton (Osseo Junior High) and Robin Gillispie (Rice Lake and Birch Grove) retired teachers, were dealing with the estates of our own parents, we had to make decisions about amounts to go to various charities. No notes had been left for us as executors. That experience was the impetus to finalize our own end-of-life planning. When we are both deceased, any leftover money will be divided by percentages instead of exact amounts. The documents contain the names and addresses of relatives and organizations, **including the District 279 Foundation**, along with a percentage that should go to each. Life is even better for us because we know that the executor of the final estate will have direction.

You can Make A Plan...

Planned giving (or "charitable gift planning"), refers to the process of making a charitable gift of estate assets to one or more nonprofit organizations, a gift that requires consideration and planning in light of the donor's overall estate plan. Such plans usually include legal documents and often require the assistance of a qualified professional advisor to complete. Because of the size and potential impact of such gifts, a donor should consult with his or her professional advisors before completing the process.

Planned gifts are usually deferred, meaning they are arranged now and fulfilled later. For example, a person could include a provision in his or her will to make a bequest to a charitable organization. That arrangement would be a "planned" gift.

There are numerous planned giving vehicles and combinations that allow a gift planner to tailor-make a gift plan. Contact Brian Siverson-Hall, Director, District 279 Foundation at 763-391-7115 for more information.

District 279 Foundation Classroom

Grant applications are accepted three times a year. Grants are read by Foundation Trustees and it is a competitive process. Last year, with help from a grant from the Prudential Foundation, the District 279 Foundation funded over 81 classroom grants enhancing over 15,600 children's learning opportunities.