

## NEWS

### St. Charles Education Foundation gives \$41K for 20 grants

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Thanks to generous contributions from local community members and businesses, The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation has announced funding for 20 educational programs throughout Community Unit School District 303. Earlier in the month, the Foundation's board of directors approved spending \$41,528 of donated funds to support learning and teaching throughout the district.

“The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation continues to support District 303’s students and staff through its extraordinary generosity,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Schlomann, “We are proud of our partnership with this wonderful group of citizens, and grateful for their ongoing efforts on our district’s behalf.”

As in past years, the grants will help pay for a mix of technology, unique programs, teaching materials and musical instruments. The grants are awarded through a blind review process to ensure complete objectivity and fairness among all applications.

This year’s grants ranged from \$500 for partial funding for books for an elementary LRC to \$6,000 for full funding for DNA testing equipment for the science programs at St. Charles North and St. Charles East high schools.

Ten of the grant requests received full funding, and the remaining ten received partial funding which is one of the means the Education Foundation uses to give as much money to as many applicants as possible.

Over \$9,600 was awarded to teachers at Wredling Middle School and North High School to “pilot” the use of hand-held interactive response devices in the classroom. The hand-held units resemble a TV remote control and allow students to interact with the instructor, such as answering questions posed to the class. This technology actively engages students in the learning process while providing the teacher with immediate feedback, thereby improving the educational experience.

“We are always looking to fund innovative programs that later can be integrated into the curriculum” said Foundation Co-President Bob Walters, “We are anxious to see the results of these pilot programs.”

Since its inception in 1992, the private, nonprofit Foundation has contributed more than \$920,000 to support District 303. The Foundation annually raises money through private contributions and various fundraising events, such as the Jazz Event and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Great Western Freedom 4-mile run, and donates those funds to the school district through program grants, educational honoraria, college scholarships and special projects.

“The funded proposals represent a broad range of educational initiatives that will benefit students in all age groups and with varied interests and needs,” said Walters, “The Foundation is grateful for the community’s continual dedication to excellence in our classrooms through its support of The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation.”

For a detailed list of grants or to learn more about the Foundation visit [www.stceducation.com](http://www.stceducation.com).