

## 2023 Teacher/Staff Grant Recipient Post-Project Comments

### **Plant Science/Food Prep:**

"We started offering a new course at Denfeld last year, an elective plant science/horticultural course for juniors and seniors. The course is part of the agriculture and natural resources CTE (career and tech ed) pathway. Students are able to harvest produce from the nearby community garden, harvest salad greens grown in the classroom, study houseplant propagation, and start seeds for garden transplants. We also try to cook and prepare food using classic food preservation techniques."

Senior student in fall plant science class: "Wow, this salsa is actually really good! Usually I don't like tomatoes!"

"Thank you so much for supporting our students, especially about learning life skills that will help encourage healthy eating habits and practical cost-saving ideas for the future!"

Allison Wood

### **Denfeld Girls Soccer:**

"The Greater Denfeld Grant allowed our Denfeld Girls Soccer team to upgrade our equipment that we use every day during the season! New, quality soccer balls are expensive and this grant provided our team with 10 new Nike soccer balls that we can use for years to come."

Leah Hamm

### **Art Funds:**

"Personally, I could not teach certain painting lessons without the continuous help of Greater Denfeld Foundation grants. In the past, they have supplemented our art department with the funds for paints, brushes, and canvas along with other expensive supplies that our budget would not allow. Our students deserve to have the opportunity to use the proper tools to create their art. The Denfeld art department is extremely grateful for the continued support of the Greater Denfeld Foundation." John Hoban

### **Denfeld Sewing Club:**

"Even though we only have 20 sewers we have started a mending program that is free for both staff and students, we have mended 10 items since this was implemented in February. We have also helped with some costume and prop work in collaboration with the theater program and are working on a cover for the Robotics' team shirt throwing robot. This club is a joy for adults and students! We are excited to continue growing and reaching out into our community."

Keely Waechter

### **Diverse Classroom Library:**

"Denfeld High School has a variety of diverse learners. This grant supported students here by giving them an opportunity to relate to different types of literature. Students I specifically work with are more willing to read books that are relatable to their current situations and lives. I'm grateful that this grant has helped me become a part of a community that provides opportunities for our students to grow an appreciation for literature. This grant helped grow a library in my classroom that is accessible to the students I serve at Denfeld. I want all of my

students to feel included in my classroom. Students helped me pick out books that they would like in this classroom. I believe this helps build a safe and inclusive classroom environment for my students and I." Sawyer Jacobson

**Classroom Library:**

"It impacted my students because it gave them an outlet to inclusive books and reading styles that work for struggling readers. I bought the books from Zenith Book Store. Thank you for giving me this grant to expand my classroom library!" Julia Bianchini

**German Library:**

"DANKE für die Bücher! (Thank you for the books!!)" Denfeld German students

"I am really looking forward to reading the Namika book. She is a famous singer in Germany who is from a different cultural background and I am excited to hear about her journey as a woman and musician" Ayla Bjerke (Denfeld Senior)

"As a proud alumni and staff member, I am consistently in awe of the generosity of the Denfeld community! There is no place like Denfeld and I feel so fortunate that there are grants available that directly benefit the classroom and its students. Language is acquired through reading a compelling story and this grant has given our German library so many more options for students. We can't wait to get started reading the new stories auf Deutsch! VIELEN DANK (many thanks!)" Nicole Scharte

**Denfeld Debate/Speech:**

Denfeld Freshman Natylee Anderson stated: "Joining the Denfeld Speech Team was the best activity I could have joined. I had no idea that I would just completely fall in love with this activity, my team mates and my coaches. The overnight trip was a highlight. I got to know the upperclassmen so much better. We practiced our speeches in our hotel rooms and I got to get feedback from the varsity members and that really helped and gave me the feeling that they really cared about me and made me feel so much more a part of the team."

"We travel all over the state and represent our Denfeld community with great pride and spirit. The hotel overnight brought our team closer together and we bring this unity to our halls at Denfeld and we also try and encourage others to join our team. We traveled with 12 speakers, 2 coaches and 1 volunteer coach and judge (same person). Thank you for the grant and for the many ways the Foundation gives opportunity to our Denfeld students." Jill Lofald

**Little Spanish Library:**

"Books train your mind to imagination to think big" – Taylor Swift

"Students are able to choose a book to read in class. There is so much power in choice! And if they don't like the book they've picked, there's over 50 different titles to choose from! I was able to purchase 63 books with the grant money. I got 26 different titles for students to choose from and 1 classroom set of books to allow us to read as a class." Hailey Sigafus

**Beautifying the Library:**

"Thank you for your continued support of the Denfeld School through these financial opportunities to fund projects that would otherwise not be possible. This grant money was

combined with an Arrowhead Library Grant, to purchase wheels for the bottom of the tables in the library to make flexible groupings much easier and less time consuming for patrons that used the library for different events throughout the school year. The next phase of this grant process was to purchase and rehouse all the textbooks that had been stored on top of the book stacks in the library. This stage of the process took more time than expected due to facilities rules regarding furniture. After much research, rolling platforms (600 lbs cap.) and fit under the existing computer tables were approved. The dollies were assembled and books have been loaded on them. The next phase is to turn the newly created space into comfortable study areas and activity areas. Students have helped with all phases of these changes." Geraldine Davidson Staff quotes:

"For kids with anxiety, the clutter creates an uncomfortable environment. With the books being relocated and the spaces are now comfortable, clean, and inviting for all students." Aaron Gelineau

"I feel the space is open and appealing to invite a larger population of students that can come into a relaxing environment where they can focus and accomplish more. It's like if you look good, you feel good. When you're not looking your best, you don't feel your best." Brigette Eckwood

#### **Denfeld Guitar Purchasing:**

"Purchasing guitars would have gone well, but we found ourselves provided more instruments from other schools within the district. Therefore, with the blessing of the GDF Administrator, we switched to purchasing a full dry cleaning of all of our robes. They haven't been cleaned since 2016, so this was a badly needed resource. This went extremely well -- Dee Independent contracted the job for us, and the robes were used for graduation to send our seniors off with our clean, nice robes. Funds were used to pay Dee Independent Cleaners to professionally dry clean and hang roughly 150 choral robes. "Students can now participate in choral events at Denfeld while wearing professionally cleaned and stored choral robes. This honors Denfeld's tradition of wearing robes at several of our concerts, 7AA Large Group Contest, and graduation." Paul Christenson

#### **Re-Building Denfeld's Hunter Hut:**

"Being rewarded with a grant through the GDF has allowed us to supply our Denfeld Hunter Hut with more inclusive options for students seeking basic needs, clothes, and food. We've had the ability to provide higher quality hair and body products, family centered food support, and crisis support for 8 families within the first week of using funds. Denfeld as a community school aims to meet individual needs holistically and the GDF was able to support us getting closer to that goal." Saraiya Piantek

Funds used for a variety of:

Body Soap

Deodorant

Towels/Wash Clothes

Mouth Wash

Chap stick

Shampoo and Conditioner  
Products for fine to coarse hair types  
Underwear/Socks/Bras  
Facial Wipes  
Razors/Shaving Cream  
Toothpaste and tooth brushes  
\$100 SuperOne gift card for family in crisis  
Clothes and a pair of shoes for a student in need

“Receiving this grant has allowed us to jump start the process of restructuring the Hunter Hut. There was a lot of time put into problem solving how to ensure students get items that best meet their needs. Having the funds to fully stock our new separate section and mini items in the Hunter Hut keeps larger products in supply for students who are experiencing homelessness or other at home crisis. There were several highly requested items that we can now offer towels, wash clothes, q-tips, bras/underwear/socks, and small mouth wash and deodorants thanks to this grant.” Saraiya Piantek

**Labquests:**

“Students are able to use the LabQuests to collect lab data in a more precise manner than can be done with older equipment. For example, we can use a temperature probe to get a more precise temperature than using a normal thermometer. This enables the students to be able to see relationships and analyze data (calculations, errors, etc.) in a much clearer fashion, which greatly improves understanding of topics rather than just sitting in class listening to lecture.”  
Kevin Michalicek