

## 2023-24 Teacher/Staff Donation Recipient Post-Project Comments

### Robotics Class Expansion Supplies - 2023

"Students were so excited to have additional motor capabilities for their robot designs in the Robotics 2 class at Denfeld. Sincere thanks to the Greater Denfeld Foundation for helping make this possible!"

"I would like to note that this was the first year running the Robotics 2 class, so we did not have many students who had already gone through the Robotics 1 class to take it yet. This expansion to our robotics kits will be an ongoing benefit to the class, and will impact many more additional students in future years. Thank you so much for the help providing students with things they need, not just for my class, but for all the classes you provide funds to assist!"

-*Andrew Gunderson* (Engineering, Manufacturing & Robotics Instructor at Denfeld High School)

### Lunch Sports Balls 2023

"We had much success. We were able to provide the time, space and equipment for 60-75 kids to use their free time at lunch in a positive and healthy environment. Every single donated ball was used every day, to the point of some of them already wearing out by the end of the year."

I'm paraphrasing assistant principal, Tanya Jackson. "It's so fulfilling to see the kids just having fun being kids." (Referencing the positive impact a break like this has on their school day.)

*Richard Roseth*

### Practice Room Sound Panels

The impact of the practice room sound panels has made practicing music more enjoyable. The rooms are much quieter than before. This will impact future Hunter band members for years to come! Thank you so much for offering these grant opportunities. Your organization has been a great help to the band program at Denfeld, as well as other school groups. Thank you."

*Josh Lehigh--Band Director*

### General Classroom Necessities

"I greatly appreciate the opportunity to apply for these funds, as they are essential for maintaining an effective and engaging classroom environment. The donation process has been straightforward and supportive, which I truly value. What went well was the clear communication and timely updates throughout the application process, ensuring transparency and ease.

Overall, your support significantly impacts our ability to provide quality education, and I am grateful for your consideration of my request. Thank you for investing in our students' learning experiences and helping us create a productive and well-equipped classroom."

*Hailey M Sigafus*

### A Growing Art Department at Denfeld

"The grant from the Greater Denfeld Foundation was such a blessing for a growing art department this year. With an abundance of tools and supplies, students were optimistic to dive right in! Thank you so much from all our students. Thank you so much! Art is just so important to every aspect of our lives. This year I spent way too much time showing students how to tie a knot. Students are missing such important skills up to this point. I plan on inviting professionals from industry to explain the importance of these hands-on skills in their career choice (plumber, construction, sheet metal) even though they are not direct artists."

*Stephanie Brenning*

### Free Write and Journalism

“The generous donation by the Greater Denfeld Foundation allowed me to offer helpful learning opportunities for my students. The writing journals provided my freshman English students an opportunity to enhance and improve their handwriting skills for communication and reflection. For my journalism students, it allowed for the use of technology to help produce professional videos for the WIN announcements. Here is a link to one of the WIN videos that we produced with the technology purchase with the grant money:

[https://youtu.be/\\_sbaLHpN7UM](https://youtu.be/_sbaLHpN7UM) “

*Wade Petrich*

### **Classroom Reading Nook**

"This book is one that I have been waiting to read! It's never available at the library." Magen Colt

"I've really wanted to read this book, but I haven't had the money to purchase it yet." Faith Hanson

This donation of books was so helpful to engage students in my classroom, I don't know how it could be improved. Thank you!

*Susan Kratsch*

### **Lab Quests**

“This donation has enabled the Denfeld Science department to upgrade some older equipment to a more modern form. This enables the students to collect more accurate data, better analyze the data to match the concepts learned in class and achieve greater understanding of the Chemistry and Physics they are learning.”

*Kevin Michalick*

### **Citizen Science and Student Research Equipment**

“I am pleased to write that the new tools and smart tech have been successfully used by students for both independent and classroom projects. I was able to purchase the bird feeders and different sensors and probes. My biology students used the carbon dioxide sensors to measure the rate of photosynthesis while shining different colors of light. My plant science students used a number of different probes to test the water in our self-designed hydroponic units. My Intro to Ag Food and Natural Resources students installed three different bird feeders at various locations around the building. An unexpected result of the feeder outside the courtyard classrooms was bird sightings by various other teachers in the building.”

From the bird feeder project "The hardest part was having to wait and see birds come to the feeders. It's interesting to observe why different birds go to different sides of the school. Perhaps the location of the bird feeder plays a role, as the one hanging from a tree may attract more colorful birds while the one on the windowsill next to a classroom seems to only attract darker colored birds. Our goal was to try and figure out why the more colorful birds went to the tree in the courtyard and the darker birds came to the one on the windowsill. We are very appreciative to all the other teachers and students who have said what kinds of birds and other animals that they have seen. One thing that surprised us were the variety of birds." Brooklyn Halder and Jayda Hendrickson, AFNR students

I am so grateful that grant opportunities like this exist so that I can provide more hands-on science experiences for the students. Thank you to the whole committee. The proposal process is easy to complete and the funds are easy to access.

*Thanks again!*

*Alison Wood*

### **Student Supplies and Incentives**

“Having school supplies available to students whose families may not purchase specific things bridged a gap. For these students to have things available that they can come and get in a comfortable environment makes it more comfortable. Being able to provide a few alarm clocks and teach students how to use them helped these

students get up on time and make it to school. Planners have given students the ability to track their assignments and progress in classes. Folders help keep students organized and the papers free from wrinkles.”

*April Howard*

#### **Fit 4 Life**

We used the pickle-ball, lacrosse sticks and floorball sticks to expand the variety of new games for our students.

The students got to learn about floor-ball a new game in our curriculum. We also got to advance our pickle-ball games to include students and staff at WIN.

We used the lacrosse sticks for a Native American Games’ Week in WIN.

All sports units included history of the game.”

We would like to thank you so much. Our students love the new equipment and the opportunity to play the new up and coming games.”

*Stacia Marsolek*

#### **Nursing Students**

“We are becoming medical professionals and have HUNTER PRIDE by our 100% passing rate for knowledge and skills state testing at LSC, becoming State Certified Nursing Assistants! Helping the community in volunteer work, and service at North Shore Estates doing clinicals for 18 hours, the scrubs help students who can't afford their own to feel and look the part of a health care professional. In this class our main focus is helping others and becoming our best selves. These scrubs have helped us beyond the classroom and into the medical fields as Certified Nursing Assistants. I am happy to have this class as an opportunity at Denfeld and am proud to be a Hunter as well as a new CNA.” -*Evan Bulthuis, Junior*

“Thank you so much for the kindness and giving my class the opportunity to feel successful and professional.”

*Kimberly Olson*

#### **Student Response Alternatives**

“I applied for funds to purchase items for assessment alternatives including mini white boards, erasable markers, and cleaning cloths. The items allowed me to gauge student knowledge, play test prep games, and get immediate feedback about what students know. This allowed me to create lessons appropriate to the needs of the students. As a recipient of a Greater Denfeld Foundation donation, I was able to engage students in creative and fun learning activities. I purchased the items listed above and used them to engage students in learning by creating games and other learning activities that required hands on work and stimulated thinking. Students were able to assess their own understanding of the subject matter individually, with small groups, and as a class. Thank you for the generous donation. Grants like these allow teachers to improve their practice, add a fresh element to instruction, and fulfill goals of our school community.”

*Carla Harrold*

#### **Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Tools**

“We were able to purchase six Social-Emotional Learning Balls and six packs of "Conversation Starters" and other packs of "Critical Thinking Skills", "Essential Coping Skills", and "Positive Relationship Skills" to support our SEL library at Denfeld High School. These tools are an interactive way for young people to explore their thoughts, feelings, and values as they develop their social and emotional maturity and awareness. The ball contains 48 open-ended questions that are designed to break the ice, promote discussion, and help young people better understand how to value themselves and build meaningful relationships with those around them. Questions on the ball deal with a variety of social and emotional health topics, including bullying, online safety, developing self-esteem, building positive relationships at school, dealing with feelings in positive and productive ways.”

Our Denfeld DASHboard (After-School Youth Leadership Group) uses the SEL balls and conversation starters at our weekly meetings. They have become an essential part of our programming and way to teach leadership, critical thinking, and listening skills. The DASHboard has used these SEL tools (the balls and questions) during meetings with school administrators and community experts like St. Louis County Public Health. It went very well! These tools have helped support our collaborative work with St. Louis County Public Health on a "Empathy Begins with Self-Care" campaign. The tools helped to guide our meetings and added structure and created "traditions" for youth.

*Anne Parish, Duluth Community School Collaborative*

### **Denfeld Eco Club Recycling**

"...we purchased cardboard lids for our recycling bins at Denfeld. We invited students and staff to compete for two different prizes, respectively -- best decorated lid (student) and best recycling plan (staff). We will get formal data next week, but early indications are that awareness increased along with involvement. Informal reports were that we had fewer contaminated recycling bins when they were being collected.

This donation impacted Denfeld by providing the opportunity for students and staff to increase their awareness about correct recycling practices at school. As a result, more students are thinking about sustainability in new, concrete ways.

GDF's grant was foundational -- both in helping Eco students better understand the grant process, and in providing a canvas on which we could invite our school to be part of the bigger picture regarding recycling. While we did spend time educating students passively (through slideshow slides, tabling during lunch, etc.), I think we could have improved our outreach effort by including more students (e.g. "Reach One, Teach One"), having a longer public awareness campaign, etc."

*John Hotaling*