



Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of "Imagine"...

We have often heard that "our children are our greatest resource and our future." But our children today face a world that is so rapidly changing it is difficult to keep up, let alone stay ahead of that change. Innovation and leadership, in addition to good academic programs, are important for the well-rounded education and development of our children. Kentwood Public Schools has a history of strong schools and teachers. The socioeconomic, ethnic and racial diversity of our community provides both an opportunity and challenge for our school leaders, teachers and students. Kentwood has consistently stayed ahead of the curve in the performance of our students. Yet we find that Kentwood Public Schools, like so many other school districts, is often without the budget to support those special programs, projects and

scholarships that can be added to make our schools an even better place for our children to grow academically, culturally and competitively to become our future leaders in the years ahead.

Over the years, the Foundation has invested tens of thousands of dollars into programs, projects and scholarships for our children. The support of parents, teachers and other individuals as well as many local businesses, provide the cornerstone for our annual giving, it is through their support and generosity that the Foundation can now aspire to reach larger goals. Your education foundation provides a way that we can make a tax deductible investment back into our children and our community. In addition, in 2010, KPSEF was certified as a Michigan State Education Foundation, one of only a

handful of foundations in Michigan to receive that recognition. That designation provides businesses with a potential business tax credit for contributions to the foundation's endowment. We now have a way through which businesses may be able to realize a tax credit for money invested back in to our schools.

Thank you for your generosity and concern for our children. Your investment today in our children is a wise investment in all of our future.

Scott Melton
President
Kentwood Public Schools Educational
Foundation



2011

The Kentwood Public Schools Educational Foundation is a community funded, volunteer driven organization. Our mission is to increase the value in our community's public education through...

- Educational Grants to Kentwood Public Schools Faculty
- Scholarships for Kentwood Graduates
- Corporate and Memorial Scholarship Opportunities
- Partnering Business Giving with Classroom Needs

Fall 2010 Grants Awarded!

1. Dance Residency Program

Glenwood and Meadowlawn have an innovative music and dance program benefitting 3rd and 5th graders.
GRANT \$1,500

2. Orff Barred Instruments

Brookwood's Music Instruments needed significant help.
GRANT \$1000

3. Art Resource Library

Challenger, Endeavor and Townline building a better resource art library.
GRANT \$500

4. Freshman Academy Library

The EK Freshman Academy is building an Academy Library to serve our at-risk students.
GRANT \$448.40

5. Level Reading Library

At Challenger, a leveled reading library is in the process of being built. The grant will assist in that effort.
GRANT \$495.17

READ MORE ABOUT EACH GRANT ON THIS, AND THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

Did You Know?

The Kentwood Public Schools Education Foundation was founded in 1986.

Your financial support is tax deductible subject to your individual tax status.



Dance Residency Program - Glenwood & Meadowlawn

Glenwood and Meadowlawn have received a \$1,500 combined grant to help fund an innovative Dance Residency program in both schools. This award matched a \$1,500 amount raised by the PTC's in both buildings.

Grant requestor, Nursun Redmon shared that this program would benefit students in the 3rd and 5th grades by increasing their exposure and involvement in music. Students will be exploring creative movement through kinesthetic experiences and will be engaged in creating and performing dance.

According to Redmon, "Dancing is about creating an atmosphere that allows introverted and reserved students to step out and shine. The focus is on physical energy and better health through the joy of movement. Dance builds self-esteem and interaction social skills. It improves their confidence and helps them relate to each other at a higher level."

It is well understood that involvement in music and the arts has a great effect on students and their ability to learn and excel in core curriculum areas.

Orff Barred Instruments - Brookwood

Brookwood has received \$1,000 to supplement an almost non-existent collection of Orff Instruments. This grant will enable Brookwood to both purchase 2 new instruments and repair those currently there.

Grant requestor Rebecca Sneller shared, "Music lessons involving hands-on ensemble playing to enhance tonal and rhythmic development is a basic part of Kentwood's music curriculum. Orff (instruments) provides an effective means for all the grades, K-5, to reinforce musical concepts from sound exploration for the youngest to improvisation in the upper grades.

Orff offers music students a wide range of benefits."

This grant will allow the purchasing of an alto met-allophone and a larger metal-barred xylophone.





Art Resource Library - Challenger, Endeavor, Townline

The elementary art staff is in the process of revising the elementary art curriculum. A grant of \$500 has been given to aid in the process.

The revision of the curriculum is a 3 year plan. It incorporates looking closely at core curriculum subjects as well as 21st century skills that our students will need. As art budgets are quite limited in today's financially challenged times, the supplies needed simply were not possible until this grant.

The funds will be used to purchase consumable supplies that will enable the our staff to provide the expected support to the core curriculum. Over 1,170 students will benefit in these three buildings. Thank you to grant requestor Chris Hondorp for taking time to share the opportunity.

Classroom Library - EKFC

\$448 has been given to the Freshman Academy at the Freshman campus.

The Freshman Academy has been an hugely successful program that works with at risk students and re-engages them in their learning.

Lisa VanZegeren, Freshman Academy teacher shares the funds will be used to purchase books for a classroom library. Each of the books has been written by authors who were also labeled as "at-risk" when they were in school. By sharing their stories and their work, today's students will be inspired to engage and to stay in school.

Leveled Reading Library - Challenger

Challenger has received \$495 to purchase new books for their library.

Lois Nickels, the grant requestor shared that our Language Arts School Improvement goals states "All students at Challenge will be proficient readers, writers, listener, and speakers." New books will provide our students with a wider variety of reading materials at various levels. As a result reading proficiency will be impacted.

In addition, special attention will be paid to purchase books that support students who are behind in grade level reading while also providing support for our increasing English Learning Population.

Foundation Scholarships

2011 Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

General Foundation Scholarships
General Foundation Scholarships
\$1,000 each, 10 to be awarded

Teklele Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000 Awarded to a senior who has been accepted into a computer technology related field.

Johnson Controls Scholarship
\$2,500 to a senior who has been accepted into a scientific, technical or engineering related degree.

John & LaVonne Montgomery Memorial Scholarship
Minimum \$1,000 awarded to a senior who has been accepted to study in the math, life or biological science, medicine or nursing fields.

More information and applications are available in the High School guidance office and on the Kentwood Public Schools website on the Foundation pages.

Did you know...

When you are applying for a grant from the foundation and have an individual or business who is willing to support part of the funding they can be listed on your grant application as a monetary supporter and if the grant is awarded they can donate the funds specifically for your project through the foundation and receive the benefits of a tax deduction.

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Other News...

Grant Limit Lifted

The Education Foundation is excited to announce that we are lifting our mini-grant dollar cap of \$500. We realized that there are many exciting and innovative projects that educators and support staff are looking to accomplish in Kentwood and we want to help you make them happen.



Therefore we are lifting our mini-grant dollar cap

of \$500. Beginning with the April 2011 mini-grant applications you can apply for any dollar amount for your project. We do appreciate those of you who seek additional funding to support large projects and like working with PTCs, other foundations, and individuals who support specific projects in Kentwood. We will consider all applications for projects - big or small, with or without additional supporters.

As always we look for projects that have longevity and support as many of our students as possible.

We are excited to be able to lift our original dollar cap in order to better support you and our students in Kentwood. We look forward to hearing about your exciting projects in Kentwood.

Interactive White Boards

Last year, we embarked on a project to raise funds to install interactive white boards in all core classrooms. Through the efforts of our district and our donors, we were able to realize the achievement of that objective. In every elementary, middle school and high school core classroom, this technology has been installed making Kentwood Public

Schools among a very small number of districts where this has been done.

That's off to you, our donors, for helping make this happen!

Would you consider supporting the Foundation?

The work of the Foundation can only happen with your support. We are a non-profit organization that depends on gifts from individual donors, corporate donors and fundraising events.

We are also working on providing a means for "Legacy" giving where one can provide for support of the Foundation via Estate Planning.

Kentwood Public School team members can support the our efforts via payroll contributions. Over 70 team member are doing so today. For more more information, or to have a form sent to you, drop a note to our treasurer, Jim Swoboda at jameswoboda@comcast.net



KEY DATES:

Senior Scholarships

Applications are due *March 1* for consideration of a scholarship award. Applications are available in the High School guidance office and on the KPS web site under the Foundation's page.

Spring Grant Requests Due April 1, 2011

If you have a special need or project, grant requests are due April 1, 2011 for awards affecting the fall 2011 school year. Forms are available for download on the district website, www.kentwoodps.org. Please type the requests and submit as indicated.

2011 Falcon Charity Classic

The Falcon Charity Classic will be held on Monday, June 20 at Stonewater Country Club. This will mark the 3rd year of the revamped event designed to serve as a Kentwood Public Schools fundraising activity supporting the Foundation and various school groups and organizations. More information will be forthcoming.

