

dream bigger achieve more

WINNETKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Pursuing Educational Excellence with WPSF

The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation (WPSF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization that works to enhance and enrich the educational mission of Winnetka District 36 beyond the means of conventional public tax funding and PTO contributions.

We fundraise with District families and the community, and then direct those funds to provide grants to D36 educators. These grants enable educators to achieve curricular objectives in innovative ways, support experiential and progressive teaching practices, and provide leading edge professional development for teachers.

Since our inception in 1995, the Foundation has provided nearly \$5 million in funding grants to the school District. Over the past 27 years, these grants have enabled teachers to foster growth and creativity in the classroom and have a significant impact across all five schools.

In 2021-2022, WPSF provided \$111,000 in grants to Crow Island, Greeley, Hubbard Woods, Skokie and Washburne. The Foundation has been widely supported by generous donations from parents of students and the community at large to help make our District a leader in educational excellence. *Thank you to our Donors!*

2021-22 Grant Summary

Creativity & Innovation Grants

- **Teacher Initiative Grants:**
\$20,000 to fund grants applied for by teachers, with a goal of innovating curriculum and learning in the classrooms. The most successful grants may lead to large scale adoption across schools.
- **Teacher Micro Grants:**
\$10,000 for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$500 for classroom or teaching needs that will directly impact the learning experience. During the 2021-22 school year, WPSF funded more than 40 Micro Grants.
- **Artist in Residence:**
\$25,000 across the five schools (\$5,000 at each school) to integrate the arts through programs such as author visits and working with various music, art, dance and theater groups.

Summer Institute Grant

- \$10,000 for teacher and staff professional development. For Summer 2022, two distinct Institutes were offered focusing on the Science of Reading for teachers in Grades K-4, and Project Based Learning for teachers in Grades 5-8.



Through a WPSF grant, Greeley kindergarteners experienced a hands-on chick life cycle study.



WPSF is funding a grant for teachers' professional development on the "Science of Reading".

**Support
innovation
in our schools,
donate now!
wpsf.org**

Core Plus Grant

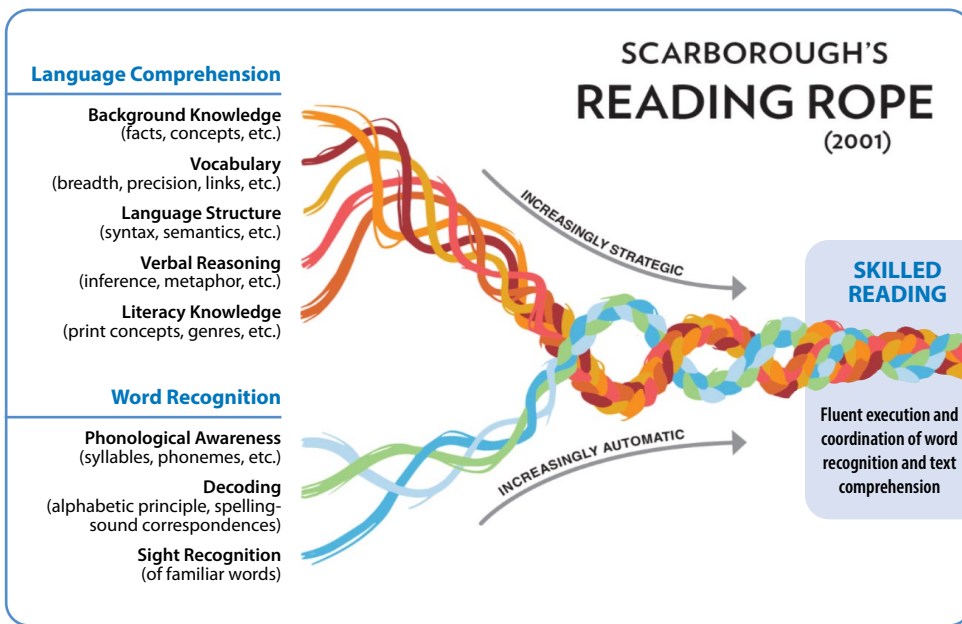
- \$40,000 to support one big idea on the leading edge of teaching and learning to benefit the core curriculum. This year's Core Plus Grant will provide additional training and deeper learning aligned with the Summer Institute programming on Project Based Learning with The Buck Institute, and the Science of Reading with The Reading League.

Summer Institute and Core Plus Grant: The Science of Reading

What does the latest research tell us about the best methods for students to learn to read?

Through an abundance of brain research, scientists have found that language comprehension times word recognition equals true reading comprehension. As illustrated by Scarborough's Reading Rope, many strands are woven together by teachers and students to create skilled readers.

WPSF is committed to supporting the science of reading within the district, with the goal of bridging the gap between research and practice. Partially funded by WPSF, the 2022 Summer Institute focused on reading education for Winnetka's K-4 teachers, staff and administrators. Attendees learned about the three major anchors that can guide them in making evidence-aligned decisions about assessment, data analysis, instructional materials and lesson planning. Educators for grades 5-8 will learn about the science of reading at the 2023 Summer Institute, along with professional development opportunities over the course of the year, also funded by a WPSF grant.



"The Summer Institute gave us the opportunity to revisit and also deepen our understanding of how a child learns to decode and establish reading acquisition over time. Understanding these nuanced aspects of our language equips us with the knowledge and tools needed to identify the specific word reading needs of our young readers."

— *Kathy Lee, 2nd Grade Teacher, Hubbard Woods Elementary School*

2021-2022 | WPSF Financial Highlights (unaudited)

	July 2021- June 2022	July 2020- June 2021
Donations Received	\$119,795	\$ 89,128
Fundraising and Administrative Expenses	\$ 15,698	\$ 13,859
Disbursements to District 36	\$111,000	\$111,377

"We are thrilled to be kicking off this school year with energy and passion for the work ahead as we continue to engage in work that brings our Strategic Plan to life and further exemplifies the quality of education we seek to provide our students. The Foundation continues to be a vital partnership that supports this work, allowing us to consider resources that we may not otherwise have immediate access to, while also continuing to promote the creative and innovative instructional design that our district has historically celebrated."



We are immensely grateful to the Foundation for its commitment to our schools, students and staff, and excited about the possibilities in the year ahead."

— *Dr. Kelly Tess, Superintendent
Winnetka School District 36*



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Current Teacher Initiative Grants

A few samples of the various grants students in each school are benefiting from this year.

GREELEY

A **chick life cycle study**, where Kindergartners successfully raise chicks from eggs, helps children learn first-hand about life cycles, egg development, and taking care of another species.



HUBBARD WOODS

A **large-scale loom for the art room**, where up to eight students can work together to create tapestries, rugs and mats made from recycled T-shirts, enables students to master weaving so they can move to more advanced fiber skills.



CROW ISLAND

A **new inventory of sensory materials** for classrooms give students a holistic opportunity for more structured and frequent sensory breaks embedded within their classroom environment.



CARLETON WASHBURNE

The transformation of an underused computer lab into a **dynamic, flexible multimedia space** for learners to create projects such as podcasts, movies and digital art allows students to reach the next level of collaboration and creation.



THE SKOKIE SCHOOL

The creation of a **more modern music room** where students enhance their performance capabilities and learn many aspects of production, as well as develop life skills through the experience of persevering through the iterative process of practicing and learning.



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