



ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 2000

# 2022 Annual Report

## Grant Programs

The Maynard Education Foundation (MEF) funds proposals that bring innovative ideas to the Maynard Public Schools and provides opportunities for staff and students that are not typically covered by the district budget. MEF awards three different types of grants:

### Teacher Grants

For pilot programs, materials, resources, guest speakers, enrichment activities, conferences, and professional development opportunities.

### Student Grants

For student-initiated and student-led projects focused on improving the Maynard Public Schools (MPS). The student grant recipient works in collaboration with a MPS educator or staff member.

### Leadership Grants

For administrators seeking to make a difference throughout the school system.

[www.maynardeducation.org](http://www.maynardeducation.org)

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## Mission Statement

The Maynard Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that uses its philanthropic contributions to enhance educational excellence in the Maynard Public Schools by funding ideas and projects which promote and celebrate academic rigor and achievement, excitement about learning, and innovation in instruction.

## Letter from President

We are delighted to share this year's annual report with you that highlights the impact Maynard Education Foundation (MEF) grants have had in the Maynard Public Schools during the 2021-2022 school year. My hope is that you will see how your investment has made a real difference to Maynard students and staff. The enthusiasm of the teachers, staff, and students who apply for grants and the resulting projects is infectious. Simply sharing their stories has brought me much joy, and I hope that you feel it too.

We are committed to using MEF funds to enrich our students' experience, enhance the school curriculum, and fund continued learning for our educators. Behind each grant is a group of thoughtful and dedicated teachers, staff, and students who want to make a difference in our schools. We know this can be a big task in the current learning environment when days are already full for teachers and staff. MEF Board members, as stewards of MEF funds, carefully consider each grant request to ensure the maximum impact for the investment.

We celebrate when pilot programs are integrated into the general budget and have a broader impact on the school community. We swell with pride when we see grant funded initiatives hit the local and national media. We celebrate our seniors as they graduate, knowing that MEF has been part of their educational journey in Maynard.

We could not do this without you—our supporters, volunteers, and contributors. Your talents and treasures enable us to continue offering the grant program and other MEF activities such as the Student Amateur Photography Competition and the Annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning. Every ticket purchased to the Taste In Motion, commemorative brick installed, and every donation to the Teacher Tribute Program, Annual Appeal, or Giving Tuesday campaign makes a difference.

Businesses understand the value of a strong school system and the positive impact it has on the wider community. We appreciate our sponsors—long standing and new—and urge you to patronize their businesses and let them know how much you value their support of MEF.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to enhancing educational excellence in our community.

With gratitude,





## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

### Enriching our Students' Experience— Inside and Outside of the Classroom

MEF is proud to help Maynard Public School teachers and staff turn their vision and ideas into a reality for our school community. MEF grants enable teachers to use their creativity and imagination to identify materials and approaches that may not typically be included in the school budget. During the 2021- 2022 school year, MEF funded the following grants that focused on improving the learning environment inside and outside of the classroom:

- Ready or Not Tots: Psychology Experiential Learning (MHS)
- Sensory Classroom: Tools to increase learning, focus, and time on tasks (Fowler)
- Student Production Posters for Communications Program (MHS)
- Theatre & Performance Wireless Microphone System (Fowler & MHS)
- Tiger Garden Expansion (Fowler)
- Virtual Reality Technology in the Classroom (Fowler)

### Amplifying Student Voices!

Thanks to a MEF grant, Fowler School teachers purchased eight wireless headphone systems and related equipment for the theater program. As a result, audience members can hear student performances more clearly, students feel more confident in their performances as they learn and practice how to use earset microphones, and crew members are learning new technical skills. The system is being used as a resource for both the Fowler and the Maynard High School communities.

Students in the Tiger 1, Special Education Program, created a budget, wrote a business plan, built the garden beds, placed the soil, planted the seeds, and cared for a small garden at the Fowler School.

The students harvested the food they planted, using it to make salads, smoothies, and sauces. The garden has been so popular that students from other classes have joined in—helping to foster a greater sense of community at the school.

In addition to harvesting fruits and vegetables, last spring, students used the flowers they planted to create bouquets for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and flower arrangements for Administrative Assistants' Day. The students have not only learned about gardening and teamwork, they have also learned about giving back to their community and recognizing those who make a difference in their life.



"As a singer with no background in music, I don't know how I would have done everything I did without the new microphones. I cannot describe how much more confident I felt being on that stage in front of everyone that came to watch our show!"

7th Grade Student  
(Wireless Microphone System)

"Beyond caring for a baby, this [experiential learning opportunity] will give students an appreciation for the daily challenges primary caregivers face and might spark student interest in the field of early childhood education."

Jay Levine  
(Ready or Not Tots)

"Upcoming students will feel more motivated and desire to make productions of their own, that may someday also be memorialized in the hallways of MHS."

Charlie Stearns and  
John Ogden (Student  
Production Posters)

"We have connected the garden to our lessons in the classroom with math, writing, reading, science, and even history. Most importantly it is working on my students' life skills and social skills.

Sabrina Tiru  
(Tiger Garden)





## Enriching the School Curriculum

MEF supports teachers and staff looking to enhance the curriculum and their students' overall experience. At the high school, recent grants included a subscription to the Junior Library Guild which expanded students' access to different literature, as well as funds to kick off a Table Tennis Club Advisory. 4th and 5th Grade students at Fowler learned about the process that local author, Melissa Stewart, has used to write 180 science books.

- Junior Library Guild Subscription (MHS)
- Kindergarten Social Emotional Learning Assessment Pilot (Green Meadow)
- Melissa Stewart: Author Visit (Fowler)
- Table Tennis Club Advisory (MHS)

"The MEF grant money for the Junior Library Guild subscription has helped me build the MHS library collection with new, high-interest books. I've been able to add over 55 books in the areas of graphic novels, high-interest novels, non-fiction books, and books about sports."

Jean Labelle-Pierce  
Maynard High School Teacher

"The biggest lesson learned was that this assessment seems to do a good job of measuring what we hoped it would measure and that the data gleaned from it was super useful in supporting our students... The pilot was definitely the catalyst for what I hope to continue to implement and grow here at GM in the coming years."

Julie Danforth  
Green Meadow Guidance Counselor

## Meeting the Social Emotional Learning Needs of Our Students

One Green Meadow guidance counselor used MEF monies to pilot a social and emotional learning (SEL) assessment to determine program efficacy and whether the data generated could be used to identify counseling interventions.

The first assessment identified which students/classrooms were in need of additional support. The data was used to form lunch groups with school counselors that focused on helping students continue to learn and develop their social and emotional skills.

The pilot was so successful that the grant recipient solicited and received funding from the district to continue SEL assessments, purchasing the assessment for all grades K-3 students during the 2022-2023 school year.



"Melissa (Stewart) used her book, *Summertime Sleepers, Animals that Estivate*, as a mentor text to show students how she went through the process of conducting research, experimenting with text structure and voice, and worked her way through the revision process. Students were engaged and had lots of questions about the process."

Denise Hatch  
Fowler School Teacher

"The ping pong table has been a valuable asset for the high school; we have an advisory that meets once per month, and about 12 students are a part of it on a regular basis. This has been a wonderful way to build relationships with students outside of the classroom."

Jay Levine  
Maynard High School Teacher



ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Certifying Dyslexia Professionals

ALTA is the professional certifying organization for those trained in Multisensory Structured Language Education and Therapy.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



### Funding Continued Learning for Our Educators

Professional development grants help ensure that MPS teachers and staff have the skills and expertise to lead our students in the 21st century. During the 2021-2022 school year, MEF professional development grants were primarily focused on literacy and best practices for teaching reading.

- ALTA (Academic Language Therapy Association) National Conference (Green Meadow & Fowler)
- Wilson Certification for Elementary Literacy (Green Meadow)
- Melissa Stewart: Non-fiction Writing Workshop for Teachers (Fowler)

### Supporting Literacy for All Our Students

Thanks to a MEF Grant, a Green Meadow teacher was able to complete Wilson Language Training, and is now using her certification with a group of 2nd Grade students. As a result, teachers and parents are seeing positive growth and a change in their students' attitudes towards reading.

In addition, the grant recipient has been able to share the lesson plans at grade level team meetings, to provide teachers with a deeper understanding of Tier 3 literacy instruction and how it can be incorporated into their literacy instruction. She has also been able to share the updated instructional practices and materials with other teachers who are already using the Wilson approach with their students.

An important aspect of professional development grants is ensuring that grant recipients share their learning with their MPS colleagues. Each of the highlighted grants included informal and formal opportunities for the teachers and staff to share their new knowledge and skills with others.

"This Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) certification allows me to continue to teach Orton-Gillingham specialized reading to the students in Maynard. It also enhanced my ability to make important connections to others in the field and to learn new research on reading and language. Keeping up-to-date on the latest research in the field ensures that my students receive the best instruction possible."

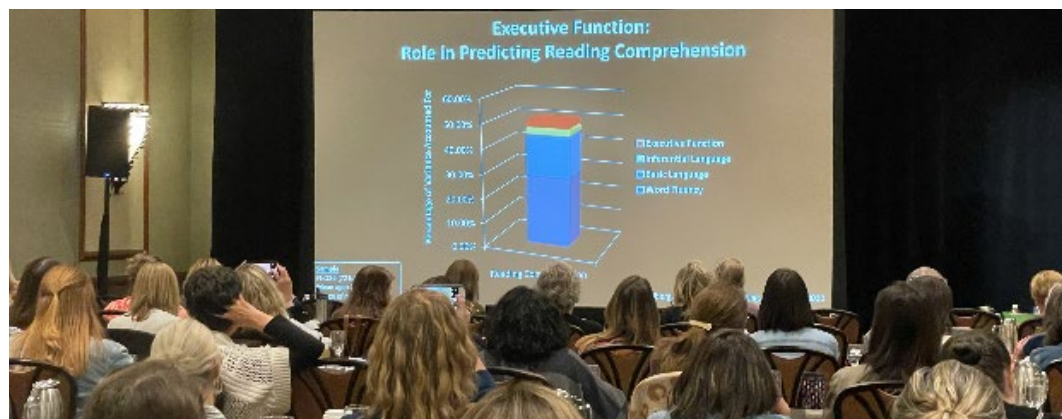
Lynda Muldoon  
Green Meadow Special Education

"Thanks to MEF funding a grant for Wilson Language Training, my daughter is receiving specialized reading instruction to help her grow into a capable, confident reader!"

Green Meadow parent

"Maynard Public Schools recently updated the literacy curriculum at the Green Meadow and Fowler Schools. We are very grateful to MEF for approving professional development grants to help staff develop new tools associated with this new initiative."

Mary Brannelly  
Maynard School Committee







## Helping Students Soar

The Student Grant Program gives MPS students an opportunity to seek funds for ideas they think will make a difference in their school. They work with a MPS staff member to apply and manage their grant, including reporting back on the projects' impact.

Student grants during the 2021-2022 school year included:

- Crispr Gene Editing Kit (MHS)\*
- DECA (MHS)
- Model of Nuclear Fusion Reactor (MHS)\*
- Runway Repurposed (MHS)\*
- Say Gay Picture Books (MHS)\*
- Senior Art Lessons & Art Show (MHS)\*

\*Grants were awarded for Maynard Senior Projects



## Maynard High Students as our Future Leaders

In 2021, Maynard High School Students received a MEF grant to start a chapter of DECA, a nationwide non-profit that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

MHS DECA Club members develop and practice presentation and problem solving skills, gain real world business experience through internships, competitive events and other challenges—all while working on their professional skills.

Thanks to generous sponsorship by Maynard High School alumni, Charlie Murphy, MEF supported a student grant in 2022 to expand MHS DECA club members' access to case studies, classroom instruction, practice scenarios, and interactive tools needed to prepare and participate in competitions. In late 2022, DECA members participated in a District Wide competition and advanced to the State Level Competition which will be held in 2023.

"The Maynard Education Foundation was crucial within the startup of the DECA Club. It impacted my life greatly and it will continue to impact and better students' lives and careers for years and years to come."

Adam Fowler  
Maynard High School  
Alumni and DECA Club  
founding member

"The MEF and Senior Project connection is vital to the success of our students! Students learn that grant writing is fundamental to many projects and jobs. They learn that funding is a key aspect of planning, and they learn how to pivot if they don't secure funding through their student application."

Jean Labelle-Pierce  
Maynard High School Teacher

## MEF's Legacy Supporting MHS Senior Projects

As part of his Superintendent's entry plan in 2003, Dr. Mark Masterson requested a "Community Conversation Grant" from MEF to invite residents to set community goals related to Maynard schools and subsequent Action Plans. One of the outcomes of the grant was the Senior Project Program. During the Spring 2004 semester, approximately 12 Seniors began independent study projects of their own choosing. The program has grown since then and continues to provide students with

opportunities to explore a variety of academic, creative, service, and career oriented projects. Effective with the graduating class of 2023, all Seniors will be required to take Senior Project I and II as part of the MHS Graduation Requirements.

MEF has continued to support Senior Projects through the Student Grant Program. In addition to seeking funds to help offset the costs associated with their projects, seniors learn new grant writing skills.

## Supporters

The Maynard Education Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following corporations, families, and individuals whose generous contributions funded innovative learning opportunities in the Maynard Public Schools in 2022.

Anonymous (12)	The Dunton Family
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### Corporate Sponsors

* Premier Sponsor	\$1,000+
~ Major Sponsor	\$500
^ Sponsor	\$250
• In honor of Lynn Kent Hales	

## NOTE

This year MEF has changed our fiscal year to align more closely with the school calendar. Our new fiscal year will be July 1st to June 30th. MEF will report our Year End Financials in July 2023. We will issue a special report at that time.

## Congratulations

To all MEF grant recipients in the 2021-2022 School Year!

Ned Banta, Technology & Latin Teacher, Fowler

Julie Danforth, Guidance Counselor, Green Meadow

Mary Finnegan, Teacher, Green Meadow

Jennifer Fioretti, 1st Grade Teacher, Green Meadow

Travis Hales, 7th Grade History Teacher, Fowler

Denise Hatch, 5th Grade Teacher, Fowler

Kevin Kozik, Band Director, Fowler & MHS

Katie Krasinski & Team 105A, 5th Grade, Fowler

Jean LaBelle-Pierce, Librarian & Senior Project Advisor, MHS

Jay Levine, Teacher & Senior Project Advisor, MHS

Lynda Muldoon, Special Educator, Green Meadow

John Ogden, Communications Teacher, MHS

Michelle Travers, 6th Grade Science Teacher, Fowler

Maria Soler, 5th Grade Teacher, Fowler

Sabrina Tiru, Special Educator, Fowler

Adam Steiner, Director of Technology, Maynard Public Schools

Students: 8 members of the Class of 2022, MHS

## MEF by the Numbers

Total # of Grants  
for 2022

18



Total # of Grants  
Since 2000

247

Total \$ of Grants  
for 2022

\$21,185



Total \$ of Grants  
Since 2000

\$311,658

Total # of Student  
Grants for 2022

6



Total # of Student  
Grants Since 2010

49

Total # of Staff  
Applying for Grants  
in 2022

17



Total # of Staff  
Applying for  
Grants Since 2000

328

Total \$ Raised During 2022  
The Taste in Motion

\$11,054



Number of Teachers, Staff, and  
Administrators who were honored as  
part of the Teacher Tribute Program

81







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