

2024 Annual Report



ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 2000

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

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MEF is governed by an all volunteer Board of Trustees dedicated to ensuring the success and growth of MEF.

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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

Do you remember your favorite teacher and the impact they made on your life? Mine was my 9th grade English teacher, who was also the director of the theater program. I credit him with teaching me to question and think critically. At his recent Celebration of Life, a former colleague remembered him as a prism—someone who captured the light of those around him and turned them into brilliant rainbows.

I like to think that this is what we do at MEF. Teachers, staff members, administrators, and increasingly, students share an idea with us through their grant application and we provide the funds to turn it into a rainbow to benefit from and for all to enjoy.

You—our benefactors, donors, sponsors, and MPS families—make the prism effect possible. We are grateful for your ongoing support. Without you, the rainbows wouldn't shine. Your dedication to MEF allows us to continue to fund the programs and projects that "enhance educational excellence" at Maynard Public Schools. Thank you!

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of Maynard Education Foundation. Throughout the year we will be remembering and honoring all of the volunteers, board members, teachers, students, grants, and fundraisers that have built MEF into what it is today. It's quite a list! We will also be introducing new initiatives to ensure our sustainability for the next 25 years. We invite you to join us in celebration!

With gratitude,

Amanda Hemm



  @maynardeducationfoundation

Grants: Year at a Glance

Enriching Our Students' Experience— Inside and Outside of the Classroom

- Green Meadow Storybook Mural – Robert Rouleau
- Exploration and Problem-Solving Using STEM Program – Robert Rouleau and James Duffy
- Expand Green Meadow HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) Sound System – Cheryl Feinstein and Elisabeth Kranz
- Tommie Mabry Program – Denise Hatch and Keith Kinney



Meeting the Social Emotional Learning Needs of Our Students

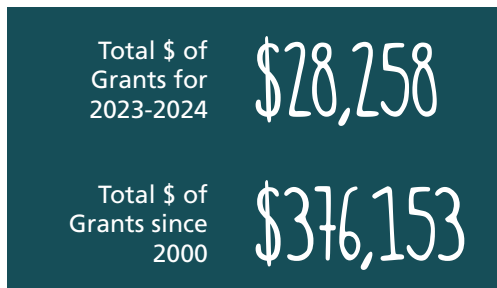
- Positive Printing Power Program – Brenda Sullivan
- Body Acceptance Project – Olivia Hull
- Fowler Summer Reading (Leadership Grant) – David Snyder

Supporting Literacy for All Our Students

- Structured Literacy Coaching Cycle with Crafting Minds – Karen Lindquist
- The Writing Revolution Introductory Workshop – Maria Soler

Funding Continued Learning for Our Educators

- AP Project Based Learning Series 2024 – Jean LaBelle-Pierce
- Fowler School Counseling Resource Library – Corey Nagel



Enhancing the School Curriculum

- Stonework Play in Our Classrooms – Preschool Team
- Anatomy of Happiness Exhibit – Valerie Cairns
- Classroom 3D Printer and Filament – Nate Thomas
- Utilizing Technology to Differentiate Student Instruction – Green Meadow Special Education Team

Helping Students Soar: Student Grants Program

- Participate in Local, State, and National DECA Competitions – Luke Pfleegor on behalf of students; Luke Pfleegor, Emily Pileeki, and Aidan Donahue; Sylvia Smith and Emily Pileeki, respectively
- Original WAVM/MHN Studio Posters – Evelyn Hickey and John Ogden
- Diversifying Middle School Extracurricular Involvement in the Arts – Monica Kells
- Cigar Box Guitar Workshop – Liam Llewellyn
- Raising Her Voice – Lily Waguespack
- Planaria Worm Lab for MHS – Lauren Alford
- The Value of School Illustrated – Evelyn Hickey
- Behind our Minds: 5 Mental Health Kits – Brianna Giunta
- Maynard Historical Scavenger Hunt – Megan Ray
- Diversity in Education Lesson for Green Meadow Students – Julia Kelly
- Art of Health Event – Sidney Antonio
- Floor Hockey Equipment and Tournament – Josh Weig
- Phone Free Friday – Daniel Terrell
- MHS Exchange Program Scholarship – Zoe Sullivan





Literacy

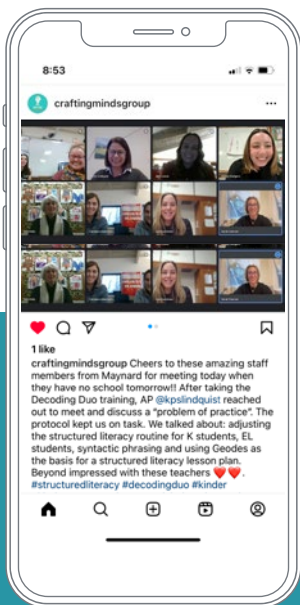
Literacy is the root of all communication. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are fundamental skills, but that does not mean students all learn them the same way. MEF funded a variety of grants that approach literacy in innovative ways.

In Green Meadow, our youngest learners are benefiting from microphones and speakers in the classroom. MEF funded a pilot project to use **Hearing Assistive Technology** in the classroom, which has resulted in less distraction and disruptions among students. It was so successful that the teachers applied for additional funds to expand the initiative. In another classroom, iPads are being used to **Differentiate Student Instruction**, so every student receives information in a way that they are able to process it.

Our teachers and administrators strive to integrate the most current teaching methods. Professional development grants provide MPS teachers with opportunities to learn and collaborate with other professionals in their field. A cohort of Green Meadow staff engaged in a **Structured Literacy Coaching Cycle with Crafting Minds** and teachers from Fowler—including a Spanish Immersion teacher—focused on writing skills with the **Writing Revolution Workshop**.

“There is no one way to teach a child how to read. Teachers need a variety of evidence-based strategies and instructional resources to support the diverse learning needs of their students.”

Karen Lindquist
Green Meadow Assistant Principal



STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics)

STEAM education is an integrated approach to problem solving and creative thinking. It sparks imagination and, for these teachers and students, joy.

Integrated learning started in Pre-K with a grant for **Stonework Play**, a curriculum that combined building, narrating, drawing, and sharing stories using natural materials. In 3rd grade, the STEAM education was more high-tech with a grant for a **3D Printer** to create engineering and design projects. The Maynard High School Science Club took an inside look at the human body with a field trip to the **Anatomy of Happiness** exhibit in Boston.

Senior Projects featured many STEAM based projects. Students received MEF grants to magnify their learning by teaching others including: a high school biology lab using worms; a community event highlighting Alzheimer's education through art; a workshop to build ukuleles from recycled cigar boxes; creating illustrations of the COVID experience with Fowler Students.



“Students are extremely excited any time that we use the printer. They were amazed when we began creating objects, and even more engaged when they were involved in the creation process.”

Nathaniel Thomas
Green Meadow 3rd Grade Teacher





Building Community

Building community in education creates a sense of belonging, encourages collaboration, and enhances the overall learning experience by creating an environment where students and educators respect one another.

Students at Fowler are taking part in a **Summer Reading Initiative** that will get them ready for the social emotional learning initiative in the fall. Earlier in the year, in collaboration with a DESE grant, guest speaker **Dr. Tommie Mabry**, motivated Fowler students and parents with stories of overcoming challenges while focusing on education.

The MPS Counseling departments were enhanced thanks to grants from MEF. **Behind Our Minds: Mental Health Kits** were compiled for each school as part of a senior project. Thanks to a MEF grant, guidance counselors at Fowler now have access to a new **Counseling Resource Library**.

Two grants focused on instilling and fostering students' self-acceptance. In the **Positive Printer Power Program**, students created t-shirts with original artwork promoting body positivity. At MHS, **The Body Acceptance Project** placed affirming messages on the bathroom mirrors.



beside them and pull others up alongside them."

David Snyder
Fowler Assistant Principal

"The summer reading initiative themes are empathy and community. This will launch work around making our Fowler community stronger, more inclusive, safe, and welcoming. We aim to grow an environment where students look

Innovation. Opportunity. Enrichment.

The Maynard Education Foundation strives to fund projects that have a large impact. This year we saw this play out in the number of grants that served multiple communities. The **Green Meadow STEM Club** and **Green Meadow Storybook Mural** collaborated with high school students. A Maynard High School student wrote a grant to purchase a soundboard for the **Middle School Extracurricular Arts** program and older students mentored the next generation of students.

MEF grants had a positive impact on our larger community with the **Maynard Historical Scavenger Hunt**, which showcased local historical artifacts, places, and the people who shaped our community. The **DECA Club** brought Maynard to a larger stage through business competitions at state, regional, and national levels.

MEF is proud to fund ideas that promote innovation, provide new opportunities to all learners, and enhance and enrich our students' educational experience.



"Everyday the students in our club would pass by me in the halls and say, 'Mr. Duffy, cannot wait 'til STEM today.' At the Graduation Ceremony, two students came up to me (tears in their eyes) wanting to know if they will have this next

year in Fowler, and if I would be the teacher."

James Duffy
Building-based Substitute
Green Meadow

(SPOILER: Those students WILL have Mr. Duffy and the STEM club in Fowler!)

Together We Can Make a Difference

Volunteer

From event planning to storytelling to board participation, MEF is powered by volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are available for one-time events, special projects, and board positions.



Attend Events

Join your friends and neighbors for MEF's largest annual fundraiser, the Taste in Motion. The Taste continues the tradition of bringing the community together to enjoy the best of our local restaurant community—while providing critical funds for MEF's Grant Programs. Follow us throughout the year on Facebook and Instagram and help spread the word about MEF.



Donate

Your investment in MEF will ensure that both current and future generations of MPS students benefit from innovative learning opportunities, materials, and programs that broaden their educational experience. Please consider becoming a sustaining contributor to MEF by donating today. Does your employer support local nonprofits? Invite them to become a corporate sponsor or participate in their matching program.



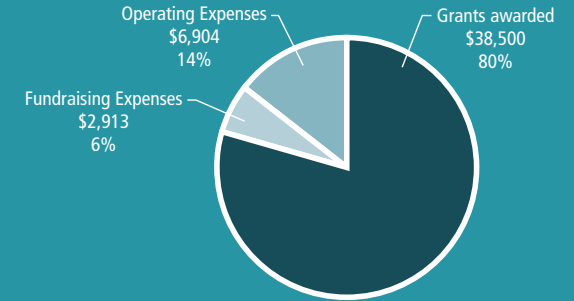
To learn more about volunteering and donating, email info@maynardeducation.org.

"MEF's contributions, whether it's providing grants for innovative classroom projects, scholarships for aspiring students, or funding for essential educational programs, have had a profound impact on our community. Your efforts not only empower individuals to reach their

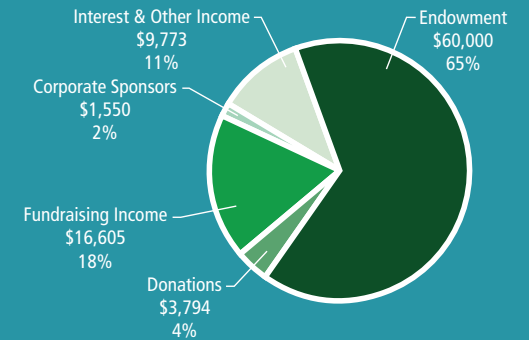
full potential but also contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of our society."

Brian Haas
Superintendent
Maynard Public Schools

FY 2024 Spending



FY 2024 Source of Funds



Our Generous Taste in Motion Sponsors

MEF gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and individuals whose contributions funded innovative learning opportunities.

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Special Thanks

MEF is grateful to Charlie Murphy and the Una Francis Murray Family Trust for their long-standing support. Their generosity will continue to leave a lasting legacy for years to come. Thank you!



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