



Issue 4 July 2022

MCSEEF 2022 Newsletter

A Little History...

The Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation (MCSEEF) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization with the purpose of supporting the teachers of Mercer County Schools with educational grants to enhance their classroom instruction and activities. In December 2015, seven community members volunteered to form the MCSEEF board of directors and began to define the goals of the foundation. A checking account was opened to be used as a current use fund and the directors began to focus on fundraising efforts. In November 2017, the first classroom grants were awarded to 7 Mercer County teachers. In December 2017, an endowment fund was started with the Quad Cities Community Foundation to build a safe, stable source of funding for MCSEEF for years to come.

Finances

Like many other non-profit organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges for MCSEEF and fewer donations were received during 2020 and 2021. Prior to that, a large hole was left in the board of directors with the passing of Stephanie Braucht and Nancy Watkins. They are both deeply missed. However, the directors have pushed through and are proud of where the foundation is today. The current use account, which is used to fund the grants for Mercer County School District teachers, is currently at \$28,125 (as of July 31, 2022). The Quad Cities Community Foundation manages two endowment funds for MCSEEF with a total of \$24,596 in deposits.

As mentioned above, the current use fund is used solely for funding grants for the school district. As this account continues to grow, the board hopes to possibly fund student scholarships as well as teacher workshop/training opportunities when needed. To date, all office and publicity expenses have been donated by the board of directors, so you can be sure that 100% of your donation will be used for grant funding.

The endowment funds are long-term investment accounts to ensure funding for MCSEEF for many years to come. An annual investment return deposit is made to the current use fund from each endowment fund.

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Grants Awarded to Mercer County Teachers, Fall 2021

On September 16, 2021, MCSEEF awarded \$4,250.00 in classroom grants to the following Mercer County teachers. To date, MCSEEF has awarded 39 grants for a total of \$15,976.75! Awarding grants to enhance teacher classroom activities remains the primary goal of the foundation.

Grant Awards

Alison Lafever

Apollo Elementary, Ramped Up Read Aloud set of 101 picture books

Natalie Nelson

MCIS, materials & books to supplement ELA curriculum

Kathy Olson

Apollo Elementary, STEM bins

Ariane Call

New Boston Elementary, instruments, music & materials

Amanda Carson

K-8 Math Coach, Digi Blocks

Amy Molburg

New Boston Elementary, Apple iPad mini & Apple TV

Samantha Duncan

New Boston Elementary, Apple iPad mini & Apple TV

Staci Sharp

Apollo Elementary, activity sets

Kristen Reick

Apollo Elementary, set of drums to implement Full World Drumming Unit.

Ashley Stice

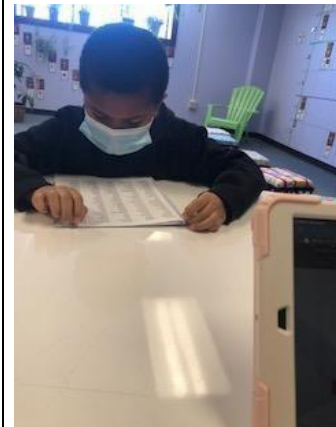
New Boston Elementary, Apple iPad mini & Apple TV



Sam Duncan uses the iPad and Apple TV in her classroom every day. On this particular day, her 2nd grade students are doing a STEM activity using the Lego Wedo 2.0 kits.



Kathy Olson incorporates the STEM bins into Friday STEM challenges for her 1st grade students.



One way Amy Molburg uses her iPad is to assess a student's reading.



Some of Alison Lafever's 1st grade students showing off their new books. The students do lessons and activities with a different book each week.



Elementary students having fun dancing with scarves in Ariane Call's music class.

Looser-Flake Foundation Challenge

In November, 2021, the MCSEEF board of directors accepted an endowment building challenge grant of up to \$20,000 from the Looser-Flake Foundation for 2022. All monetary gifts received by MCSEEF in the calendar year 2022 will count toward the challenge. All donations will be matched on a one-to-one basis as follows:

- For up to \$10,000 received and placed in the endowment fund, the Looser-Flake Foundation will grant an equal amount to MCSEEF's endowment fund; and,
- For up to \$10,000 received for any purpose (current usage or endowment), the Looser-Flake Foundation will grant an equal amount to MCSEEF's endowment fund.

The Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation was established by two sisters, Roberta Looser and Dorothy Looser Flake, who grew up in rural New Boston. Both, now deceased, graduated from Western Illinois University and became teachers. The Quad Cities Community Foundation is the administrator of the Looser-Flake Foundation which promotes educational, cultural and economic opportunities in Mercer County.

As of July 31st, MCSEEF has received over \$11,000 in donations towards this matching grant.

Now is the perfect time to support MCSEEF and double your donation amount!

Yes, I would like to support the Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation*.

Please use my donation for the current use fund
 endowment fund

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Please mail this with your check to: MCSEEF, 100 NE 5th St, Aledo, IL 61231

OR

Click the MCSEEF link on the mercerschools.org home page to donate by debit card, credit card or PayPal.

*We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. All contributions are tax deductible.

Alternative Support

AmazonSmile

Another way to support MCSEEF is to shop at AmazonSmile which donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations. Go to smile.amazon.com and type in Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation to support MCSEEF every time you shop.



We Are Online

Mercer County School District Website

Click the MCSEEF link on the www.mercerschools.org home page to keep up with current information and to donate by check (using the donation form), credit/debit card or PayPal.

Facebook

Visit our new and improved Facebook page! “Like” Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation to keep up with current news and share the page with your friends.

Our Generous Donors

Thank you to the donors who have supported MCSEEF from the beginning. Many of you are repeat donors and we appreciate you. The classroom grants awarded each year would not be possible without your continued support!

Our Donors



Golden Eagle Donors (\$2500 or more*)

Betty Beer Franklin
Anonymous
Cargill Ag
W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation
Victor Johnson

Gold Donors (\$1000 - \$2499)

Zach Frick, Frick & Fell Home Sales
Starr Fell, Frick & Fell Home Sales
Richard Allen
Daryl Epperly
Michael Bridgford
Verla Thompson
Kent & Connie Gerber in memory of Verna Gerber

Blue Donors (\$500 - \$999)

James R. Conway, Jr.
Harold & Shirley Mills
Paul and Mary Flint

Blaine Braucht
Essig Motors
Mercer Township

New Boston Township

White Donors (up to \$499)

Mercer Co. Retired Teachers	Dennis Henderson	Barbara Chiles	Randy Dunn
Tom & Nancy Watkins	Chuck Clawson	Stephanie Braucht	Deborah Ness
Mary Flint	Ron Kiddoo	Pam Truman	Eva Bull
Dave & Sharon Relander	Dan Louck	Marlene Sloan	Susan Schenkel
J. Scott Bogguss	June Lindorfer	Michael Conway	Todd Baldwin
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Kelly Matlick	Tiffany Holz	Barb Knobloch	Jodie Andress
Terri Jared	Suzanne Fitzpatrick	Priscilla Koser	Chris Reid
Deb McGrath	Stacey Boruff	Marty Johnson	Dawn Rhodes
Liqui Grow of Joy	Eliza Township	Keithsburg Township	Jennifer Felt
Gerald and Iris Paulson			

In Memory of Linda Beguelin:

Diane Prill	Tracy Bigham	Judith Swenson	Karen O'Hearn	
Cathy Gibbs	Amy Duncan	Kathleen Whitehall	Dale & Melanie Teel	Christine Armentrout

*Donation Levels based on donation amount in one calendar year

Continued Support Needed

As of last fall, MCSEEF has awarded 39 grants to benefit Mercer County students for a total of \$15,976.75 and we are just getting started! We appreciate the support we have received from our donors and hope you will consider supporting our efforts and investing in an important cause, the improvement of our children's education.

MCSEEF Board of Directors
Victor Johnson, President
Stacey Hank Boruff, Secretary
Barbara Chiles, Treasurer
Todd Baldwin
Julie Hessman Wagner
Sarah Perkins Dixon

