

A NEWSLETTER  
CREATED TO KEEP  
OUR COMMUNITY  
UPDATED ON  
RECENTLY AWARDED  
GRANTS

# BROOKFIELD

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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### Winter 2017

Welcome to 2017! It seems like just yesterday I was writing the President's letter for 2016. When I look back at 2016, I am in awe of what the Brookfield Education Foundation accomplished in one year.

To recap, the BEF had a successful Fund Drive (please look for the letter and social media campaign in February, 2017), we celebrated teachers, administrators and community volunteers via our popular "Honor an Educator" program and then ended our year with our most successful Gala in our history! On behalf of the Brookfield Education Foundation, thank you to our community for your support and shared passion to better our schools and town.

In 2016, the BEF awarded seven grants, including a Math Lab at Whisconier Middle School, educational signage for the Still River Greenway and the Mobile Makerspace at Brookfield Library, just to name a few.

Being one of the few Education Foundations in the state that provides grant to town programs as well as schools, the BEF is proud of what we were able to provide the residents of Brookfield. We look forward to another successful year in 2017!

Sincerely,  
Susan Queenan

### School Major Grant

#### *Math Lab at Whisconier Middle School*

A major grant has been awarded to Whisconier Middle School for a math lab and math coaching tools. Championed by WMS Math Coaches, Jim Fitzpatrick and Caitlin Cincotti, the technology awarded will be used as an educational tool offering students more individualized instruction, which will allow them to learn at their own pace and also help students stay focused. The grant also provides for standing desks in the lab. Research has shown that standing desks can help students be more engaged, enhance their creativity and improve educational scores.



### Community Major Grant

#### *Interpretive Signs for the Brookfield Still River Greenway Project*

The Brookfield Education Foundation has awarded a major grant for the creation of four environmental signs for Brookfield's Still River Greenway Walkway. Brookfield Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commission will work with the Northwest Conservation District to create these self-guiding signs, which will help community members of all ages learn about the historic, geological and environmental features of the Still River.



### Recently Awarded Grants-Over \$31,000 Awarded!

Math Lab  
Mobile Makerspace  
Climbing Wall  
Breakout EDU  
Sea Perch Club  
Music & Mentors  
Still River Greenway  
Signage

Whisconier Middle School  
The Brookfield Library  
Center Elementary School  
Whisconier Middle School  
Brookfield High School  
Whisconier Middle School  
Brookfield Parks and Recreation &  
Northwest Conservation District

*Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you  
will never cease to grow.*  
~Anthony J. D'Angelo

**School Major Grant**  
***Climbing Wall at***  
***Center Elementary School***

A major grant from the Brookfield Education Foundation has allowed for the provision of a traverse climbing wall for Center Elementary School. Championed by Physical Education teacher, Joe Genovese, the project will focus on improving students' physical fitness, strength, confidence, listening skills, and communication skills. Brain-based learning through physical activity will also be emphasized via collaboration with classroom teachers, providing opportunities to integrate classroom activities in a fun, innovative manner.

**Community Major Grant**  
***Mobile Makerspace at the Brookfield Library***

The Brookfield Education Foundation has awarded a major grant to the Brookfield Library for the creation of a Mobile Makerspace. The grant will allow for the provision of a 3D printer, a computerized sewing machine, a Dell Inspiron PC laptop, a MacBook Pro laptop, and 6 Arduino starter kits. The Makerspace will expose the community to new technologies, foster project collaboration and participatory learning, supplement small businesses, and promote STEAM education. The library will be holding classes and programs to teach adults, teens and kids how to use the equipment, positioning the library to act as a community center for people to gather, learn and work together.

**School Mini-Grant**  
***Breakout EDU at Whisconier***  
***Middle School***

The Brookfield Education Foundation has awarded a mini-grant to Whisconier Middle School for the innovative "Breakout EDU". Championed by media specialist, Sue Crean, this program combines problem solving with teamwork and technology by requiring students to gather information and decode puzzles in order to find combinations to locks and open a box within the allotted time. Breakout EDU will be implemented in the 21st Century Skills classes and made available to all WMS teachers for use in their classrooms.

**School Major-Grant**  
***Sea Perch Club at***  
***Brookfield High School***

A major grant from the Brookfield Education Foundation is providing an interactive opportunity for students interested in STEM fields by supporting the formation of a Sea Perch Club at Brookfield High School. Championed by three senior students, the Sea Perch program introduces students to basic engineering and physics principles through an underwater robotics competition. The grant will fund the robot kits necessary for the program, allowing Sea Perch to continue as a club available for competitive, STEM-minded students at the high school.

**School Major-Grant**  
***Music & Mentors***  
***at Whisconier Middle School***

This grant, championed by special education teacher, Nicole Forstrom, will provide a mentor structured program incorporating music, movement and social interaction between students. Special needs students at WMS will have the opportunity to learn from other students in areas such as following directions, imitating motor/hand sign movements, and following a rhythm just to name a few. In addition, this program will help spread acceptance and awareness into the Brookfield community and beyond.



Show your support for the **BEF** when shopping online!  
Use **[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)** and select **Brookfield Education Foundation.**  
Same great shopping, same pricing and support for a great cause!

**Have an Idea for a Grant?**

The Brookfield Education Foundation welcomes projects that fit with our mission to marshal and provide resources for lifelong learning by Brookfield residents of all ages. Both our major and mini-grants can have a community or school focus.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website at **[www.brookfieldducationfoundation.org](http://www.brookfieldducationfoundation.org)**

***Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. ~Chinese Proverb***