



Dear Benjamin School District 25 Parents:

The Benjamin Foundation for Educational Excellence is an Illinois nonprofit charitable organization created to enhance the quality of education in Benjamin School District 25. The Foundation is independent from the school district and is governed by a volunteer board of trustees who are business leaders, parents and community leaders. The money we raise goes directly to the classrooms with 94% of our funds awarded to teachers and the remaining 6% spent on administrative and fundraising costs. Our two major fundraisers are the annual Fall Fest held in October and Trivia Night held in late February.

It is the mission of the Benjamin Foundation to support, enhance and enrich educational opportunities for our students that go beyond the normal limits of the school district operating budget. In support of that mission, the Benjamin Foundation created a teacher grant program which awards teachers funds to implement innovative and creative educational programs and projects in their classrooms. Through this program, the Benjamin Foundation has awarded more than \$156,000.00 in teacher grants since its inception in 2000.

In order to remain successful, the Foundation needs your help! There are many ways in which to show your support, however, one of the most important and beneficial ways is by donating your time. The Foundation is always looking for additional volunteers and Trustees, and no amount of help is too little. Your level of commitment is up to you! Volunteering with the Foundation is the perfect way to get involved in your child's school and is a great way to meet new people.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Benjamin Foundation for Educational Excellence, please make your selection on the school registration form. You may include your payment with your registration information. If your employer has a matching gift program, there is a form on the district website under the Foundation drop screen, please complete and sign your employer's matching gift form and submit it with your contribution.

Tomorrow's business and community leaders are sitting in our classrooms today. With your help, we look forward to assisting the school district in providing our students with the best educational opportunities possible to prepare our students for the 21st century workforce. We hope to see you at these events, and if you would like to assist with planning these fundraisers and/or serving as a trustee on the Foundation Board, please contact us at (630) 876-7800.

Questions regarding the Foundation's efforts can be emailed to foundation@bendist25.org or check out our webpage which is part of the Benjamin District 25 website at www.bendist25.org.

Sincerely,

Jenni Engstrom
Co-Chairman and District Parent
Benjamin Foundation for Educational Excellence

Tracy Szajda
Co-Chairman and District Parent
Benjamin Foundation for Educational Excellence

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018 TEACHER GRANT AWARDS

Funded by:
BENJAMIN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Secured equipment to adapt Benjamin PE program to enhance and develop skills of special needs students.
- Obtained materials for the Star Bengal Coffee Shop run by CORE students at Benjamin.
- Acquired 6 kit bundle of forensic lab materials including books and resources for Benjamin students.
- Purchased 40 pieces of music to build a solo and chamber ensemble library for the Benjamin Band.
- Procured 5 iPads for the Evergreen art program, allowing students to upload and edit all artwork digitally.
- Obtained 3 heavy duty equipment carts to hold balls and other PE equipment to increase organization and class efficiency at Evergreen.
- Purchased additional items to continue the Movement in the Classroom program for the 3rd Grade classrooms, including 3 wobble stools and a Poäng chair.