BEYOND THE BOOKS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

...is a not-for-profit corporation whose goal is to provide a long-term, self-sustaining financial base to fund innovative academic programs that are beyond normal tax support in Unit 5 and District 87 public schools. Organized in 1992, the foundation is a group of private citizens and is not part of either school district. The Boards of Education of both districts encouraged the Foundation’s formation and strongly support its efforts.

2019 ~ 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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2019 ~ 2020 GRANT AWARDS
Educators in District 87 and Unit 5 submitted 53 applications requesting a total of $103,120.
The Foundation awarded $49,805 to 26 projects.
Since 1992, $715,085 has been awarded to support 814 projects.

Elementary Schools
Benjamin, Glenn ~ Lauren Romero ~ $930 ~ Read, write and play, the Boomwhacker way!
Benjamin, Glenn, Oakdale, Carlock, Colene Hoose, Fox Creek, Grove
Lauren Romero, Kristyn Szwarzka, Blake Miller, Gabe Myers ~ $4,960 ~ Don't Fret....let's sing, strum and play....Uke can do it!
Kim Harmon, Crystal Larkin, Kari Fillingham, Bekah Arnold, Ashley Hull, Kathy Lowe ~ $5,000 ~ Beyond the Building
Hayley Mennenga, Angela Trask ~ $375 ~ Inquiry learning through Teaching Tanks and Stream Table Kits
Amanda Hunt ~ $872 ~ Kinship Kits
Kathie Brown, Kara Thompson ~ $3,500 ~ Expanding Robotics Club
Rhett Felix ~ $350 ~ It's a Small World
Erin O'Grady, Rhonda Toft ~ $1,473 ~ More Than a Box!
Karen Showalter ~ $100 ~ Word Surgery
Karen Showalter ~ $200 ~ The Great Barrier "Teach"

Junior High/Middle Schools
BJHS Marsha Veninga, Caryn Birchler ~ $700 ~ Adopt-a-tree: From Roots to STEM
CJHS Carissa Brandon, Janelle Learned ~ $4,800 ~ Bridges to Literacy: A Multilingual Library
EJHS Katherine Behrens ~ $1,340 ~ "Lore" Podcast Presentations
PJHS Shawn Schwerman ~ $400 ~ Rockin' the Global Read Aloud
**High Schools**

NCWHS  
Ali Akyuz ~ $200 ~ Photography: Blending Then and Now

NCWHS  
Lisa Tomlin ~ $241 ~ Let's Get Growing!

NCWHS  
Cathy Unsbee, Tracy Freeman ~ $375 ~ Civically Engaged Learning

NCWHS  
Tracy Freeman, Cathy Unsbee ~ $375 ~ Practice Makes Perfect

NCWHS  
Tracy Freeman, Cathy Unsbee, Jennifer Hamler, Anthony Berardi, Darren Hess ~ $375 ~ Economic IS ENGAGING

NCWHS  
Jennifer Hamler, John Bierbaum ~ $395 ~ Abnormal Psychology Case Study Kits

NCWHS  
April Schermann ~ $389 ~ Get Creative, Get Connected, Get Coding with Micro:bits!

NCWHS  
April Schermann ~ $3,294 ~ Innovate and Educate – Algebra 2 in Business

NCWHS, NCHS  
Jessica King, Mike Roller ~ $4,204 ~ Get the Red Out

NCWHS, NCHS  
Valentine Walker, Joel Swanson, Justin Steve ~ $4,957 ~ Increase in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide and Its Impact on the Earth

NCHS  
Brad Bovenkerk ~ $5,000 ~ Journalism: Providing Exposure to Professional Practice and Seeing the Story Through New Lenses

NCHS  
Brad Bovenkerk, Jennifer Kelly, Pam Witzig ~ $5,000 ~ Creating a Professional Workspace

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**BEYOND THE BOX**

_Monies for this award are provided by the Shirk Family Foundation_

Stevenson, Sheridan, Irving, Bent, Oakland, Washington Elementary Schools

_Matthew Crews, Leah Crews ~ $10,000_

"Just give me a minute!"

This grant will provide sensory paths in each District 87 elementary school. The goal is to create a space for students to use these paths either as a whole class (taking turns), or as a break for individual students when deemed necessary by their classroom teacher.

Students often have difficult times focusing in class. Sensory paths provide breaks to help students focus and reduce stress and often decrease negative behavior. Research has shown that sensory paths increases productivity, boosts brain function, and provides opportunities for children to learn social skills. Research also has shown that our brains aren't idle when we take breaks. They are working hard to process memories and help us make sense of what we experience.

By providing these sensory paths in our elementary schools, we are giving teachers a tool to use throughout the day to help students who need to "change their channel". We want students who are not engaged or who are over stimulated to have a space where they can go to take a break and then return to the learning.