



Hammond Education Foundation  
41 Williams Street  
Hammond, IN 46324  
219-933-2400 ext. 1044

DATE: July 29, 2022  
CONTACT: Roxanna O'Rourke, Interim Director  
EMAIL: [hef@hammond.k12.in.us](mailto:hef@hammond.k12.in.us)  
PHONE: 219-933-2400 ext. 1044

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hammond Education Foundation Announces Its 2022-2023 Acorn Grant Recipients**

Hammond, IN – The Hammond Education Foundation (HEF) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the award of five Acorn Grants to extraordinary educational projects planned for the 2022-2023 academic school year at the School City of Hammond. These Acorn Grants include:

Unlimited Potential-Community Partnership Program will be funded in the amount of \$5,000.00 and is headed by Ms. Lisa Jameyfield, teacher at O'Bannon Elementary School. Unlimited Potential is based on a community partnership with neighborhood churches. It provides after school tutoring one day a week for 1.5 hours at O'Bannon, Hess and Jefferson Elementary Schools. The target population is determined by the data collected by teachers and is focused on basic skills for kindergarten and first grade students. Parents are included and participate in an orientation. The community partners provide trained tutors, materials and organization. Schools will also utilize sixth grade students who will be trained as peer mentors and receive incentives based on attendance. All participants will be involved in social/emotional character building lessons as well.

PLTW Medical Detectives will be funded in the amount of \$2,191.00 and is headed by Ms. Kimberly Kennedy, teacher at Eggers Middle School. In the Medical Detectives (MD) unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. This project offers students the opportunity to think about the career choices available to them, giving those students interested in going into the medical field the opportunity to experience a side of it.

Hands on Learning for Differentiation will be funded in the amount of \$450.00 and is headed by Ms. Diane Anderson, teacher at Burns-Hicks Elementary School. Differentiated project based learning will aid all learners to master essential foundational skills. This form of learning will also give students an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in a unique way. As a result, students will be more invested in their learning journey. This program applies project based learning in order to present performance tasks and show academic growth and be able to apply differentiated foundational skills in order to present differentiated performance projects and show their academic growth.

Freedom Locker Museum Exhibit will be funded in the amount of \$1,794.58 and is headed by Mr. Jeff Swisher, teacher at Morton High School. The Freedom Museum Exhibit will allow students the

opportunity to demonstrate how freedom has been represented and how it has changed over the course of American History. Each exhibit will focus on one of the four aspects of freedom; What is freedom, how is it defined or changed in that Era, who has access to it, and what are the barriers to freedom? The exhibits will be formatted to fit on students' lockers throughout the school. The goals for students are to demonstrate the ability to work well in project groups, resolve conflict and work towards a larger goal, to demonstrate freedoms they have today and the historical lineage of that freedom, and to participate in "The American Protest" event at Morton in the Fall of 2023.

Enconto: The Magic of Family will be funded in the amount of \$500.00 and is headed by Ms. Renee Whelan, teacher at O'Bannon Elementary School. Technology in the right hands can be magical. Facilitating a connection between students and their families, this project will involve students traveling around the world learning about art with hands-on learning and finishing with them downloading, scanning, and documenting their travels by placing them in a digital forum. This will be a showcase of the art and talents of O'Bannon art students through the end of the year art show. One of the most important parts of the program is a survey asking families where their ancestors came from, in order to include some of these locations into art projects throughout the year. This program is designed to enable students to create art and then capture it with technologies and bring it to the digital world, while learning about themselves, each other, art and technology.

The Hammond Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and philanthropic partner of the School City of Hammond. Since its origin in 1983, HEF has generated more than \$1.5 million in scholarships, classroom grants, programs and other support for extraordinary learning experiences and opportunities to help Hammond students succeed – in school and beyond.

###