



BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TRUST

Become a Supporter of BEST

Each year, BEST donates an average of \$20,000 to our elementary schools, to fund grants written by our teachers. These teachers are looking to deploy innovative teaching tools and methods that have been tested and proven in other school districts, but they need financial support to bring them to Boxford. In the past, we raised all our funds through events and other fundraising programs. We are reaching out directly to you, to ask you to become a supporter of BEST. Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to fund grants for the coming school year.

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____

- I will donate: \$100 become a **Friend of BEST**
- \$60
- \$40
- \$20
- Other Amount: _____

If each family donated just \$20 per child, we would be able to meet our funding goals for the school year.

I will **double my donation** by including my company's **Matching Gift Form**

Friends of BEST will be listed on the BEST bulletin boards at each school (for example: The Smith Family or In Memory of Nanna Jo). If you have donated \$100 or more, what name would you like us to list? Leave blank if you would prefer your donation to be anonymous:

You can send your payment to the school office in your child's backpack or mail it to:
BEST, P.O. Box 176, Boxford MA 01921

Or you can use our online donation form: bestforboxford.org/donate

What kinds of grants does BEST fund?

Here are some examples of recent grants that BEST has been able to fund, thanks to your support:

\$1,000: Materials for a **Greenhouse** at the Spofford Pond School, to be used by the Grade 6 team. This included soil, planting trays, grow lights, seeds, books and course materials, and gardening tools.

\$3,680: **6 iPads for a Grade 1 classroom** so that students can work on projects in small groups, to enhance learning across the curriculum, and to teach students to use the device safely and effectively.

\$897: **Sound systems for two Grade 5 classrooms:** these sound systems have provided the classrooms with much needed speakers, so that students can hear videos and materials from the SmartBoards. The sound systems are a pilot program to test a classroom voice amplification system in our schools, since evidence in other school systems have shown improved attentiveness and higher test scores.

\$1,134: **Professional Development** for teachers to attend a conference on **executive functioning**. The attendees came away with a deeper understanding of executive functioning and its implication in everyday life along with the knowledge to build tools and skills that apply across all curriculum areas for many students. The team shared what they learned with all Spofford Pond teachers, in order to help them identify and implement relevant educational strategies.

What kinds of grants does BEST fund (continued)?

\$2,659: **4 iPads for Special Education Students** to meet the needs of individual education plans (IEPs) for students while providing multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement. Funds for this grant were acquired from the *John Thomas and Special Friends Fund* by BEST, which also provided the funds for the cases and applications for the iPads.

What about grants for the Enhanced Learning Initiative (iPad pilot program)?

The goal of the Enhanced Learning Initiative is to provide an iPad for every child in six of Boxford's elementary school classrooms, as part of a Pilot program. Other school districts around the state and the country are embracing a one-to-one iPad model where each child has a dedicated iPad to use as a personal learning tool throughout the school day (the Burlington school district, for example, is using one-to-one iPads for Grades 1 through 12). We have received Grant requests from 14 teachers who are interested in piloting this model in our schools. We have selected six classrooms to receive iPads and have been actively fundraising to fulfill the requests. Last year we funded:

\$18,087: **iPads for each student in Ms. Thaya Puglisi's Grade 2 classroom.** This is the first one-to-one iPad classroom in the district. Some of the funds for this grant were generously donated by the *Perley-Parkhurst-Cole Trust Fund* and *New England Biolabs*. We thank them for their support. Ms. Puglisi is planning to use the Stanley travel log project, Educreations, Doodle Buddy, and Show Me to allow students to create presentations and demonstrate their learning in cooperative ways. She also will use Tell Time, Splash Math, and Learn Money to extend mathematical learning, and applications like Sock Puppets in ELA to enhance comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary development.

\$47,814: **iPads for each student and a Television for the classroom** for the Art rooms at both Cole and Spofford schools. The iPads are used to teach Digital Painting, to view art references and examples, to take photographs and make videos, and to build a digital portfolio of their work. The high definition LED television is colorful and clear, even in a bright sunny classroom, making it possible for students to really see the art. These grants were paid for through the *Harriet Ernst endowment*, which is managed by BEST.

We are continuing to raise funds for the Enhanced Learning Initiative so that we can fund the next classroom, which will be at the Spofford Pond Elementary School. If you would like to fund a classroom or support any of our other projects, please consider becoming a **Friend of BEST** with your donation of \$100 or more.

You have questions? We have answers!

What happens if BEST don't raise enough money through this outreach? We may not be able to fund grants and support our schools to the extent that we'd like to. While we also look at alternative funding sources, it's likely that some grants may not be fulfilled.

What is the Harriet Ernst Endowment? Harriet E. Ernst was one of Boxford's exceptional educators. For 32 years she taught second grade at Harry Lee Cole School, touching the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Mrs. Ernst passed away in 1995. In her memory, BEST established an endowment fund in 1997.

How can I learn more about what BEST is doing? You can visit our web site www.bestforboxford.org and you can LIKE us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BESTforBoxford to see photos and read stories about our grants in action!