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"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Creating Opportunities for Student Success

The MISSION of the Education Foundation is to promote excellence in education by providing opportunities and resources to Billings public school students.

At the Education Foundation we firmly believe "Together Everyone Achieves More". Join our team and become a fan of public education. Your support is an investment in our future. Your contribution will allow the Education Foundation to continue to invest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum, provide meals to students in need, connect local businesses with individual schools, and enable teachers to expand learning in their classrooms. These are just a few examples of the great opportunities you have provided for our students and teachers.

Your involvement is critical to the success of public education in our community. Our tax dollars provide for a basic education, but our children deserve an education that goes above and beyond the traditional expectations. By working together we can help to provide the involvement, support and funds needed to build a great education system in the Billings public schools. Your investment in education today will pay big dividends tomorrow. By joining our team of students, educators, and community members, you are not only strengthening the quality of our schools today and for generations to come, but you are fortifying the quality of our community as a whole.

Thanks to you we have made great strides in bettering opportunities in education for all our students in a variety of ways. Your support has been and will continue to be critical to the success of our students. Please provide a gift to education today.

Best wishes,

Pam Hofferber

Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools Board President



SCHOLARSHIPS Awarded \$52,600 in scholarships to students and educators for continuing education; student apprenticeships and **SATURDAY LIVE** K-3rd grade reading support Raised \$100,000 to support 64 school groups during the 23rd year of Saturday Live **SUSTAINABLE FUTURE** IN EDUCATION Granted endowed funds and **GRADUATION** legacy gifts of \$147,000 in 2015 to directly benefit education for all students now **READING ROCKS** and into the future Provided 2,847 books to children this summer and 476 hours of volunteer reading support **CLASSROOM GRANTS** Invested in teachers' creative ideas to support teaching and learning in 102 classrooms **DONOR DIRECTED GIFTS** Facilitated donor **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY** specific gifts to Engaged 5,500 students and 247 benefit innovative teachers in K-8th grade in STEM technology in the Education through Project Lead classrooms, robotics The Way curriculum programs, and a myriad of additional projects **HELPING STUDENTS IN NEED** Assisted, on average, 300 students with **COMMUNITY** Back Pack Meals each Friday throughout **ENGAGEMENT** the school year and supported items for Connected 150+ an average of 150 'tweens and teens in businesses to our schools our Teen Pantries through mentoring, volunteering, financial and in-kind support

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

READING ROCKS: Some of our best summer memories don't spring from actual childhood memories but rather are borrowed from the pages of our favorite books. While some children can turn to the bookshelf in their homes to foster reading, many children are less fortunate with little access to books, let alone a shelf full of them. The reading skills of students who don't read over the summer "slide" backwards. Reading Rocks aims to address this "slide" by providing books and reading support to low-income students in a convenient location while utilizing community volunteers.

CLASSROOM GRANTS: All of us can think back to that special teacher who motivated us, inspired us, and helped us learn important life lessons. More often than not, the difference between a good teacher and a GREAT teacher – our favorite – is that teacher's passion for the subject they teach and the creativity and energy they bring to the classrooms. Classroom Grants provide funding to support innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning opportunities that spark the passion for learning in our students.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: The gift of education immediately improves the life of a student. As the cost of education continues to rise and families struggle to afford tuition, scholarships can provide the extra financial support necessary for many students to continue their education. Scholarships encourage academic excellence and perseverance which allows students to continue to reach their educational goals beyond high school and climb the ladder to success.

EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIPS: Research shows that an innovative and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor for influencing student achievement. Support for continuing education for our teachers is often uneven or inadequate. Through named educator scholarships, our teachers are able to attend, lead, and take part in local, state, and national workshops to directly improve teaching and learning in our classrooms.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – PARTNERS IN EDUCATION: Beyond investing money, we must build relationships between our local businesses and schools. Often times it was the field trip to the local business, the person who shared their career with us, or simply the person who volunteered to read with us that impacted our future career choice. The goal of Partners in Education is to build mutually benefiting partnerships between our schools and our businesses that result in teaching excellence, student achievement, and an appreciation of common community goals. Strong public schools go hand in hand with a healthy, vibrant community.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: Project Lead The Way is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education program directly impacting teaching and learning in our classrooms on a daily basis. Through relevant, hands-on learning experiences our students are learning collaboration, communication, and innovative thinking skills to prepare them to enter society careerand college-ready. Project Lead The Way is preparing and inspiring life-long learners from kindergarten through graduation.

SATURDAY LIVE: Saturday Live is the biggest fundraiser for most schools in our community. Funds raised by the schools at Saturday Live go directly to support classrooms and student activities. The business and education communities take leading roles in supporting Saturday Live and the Education Foundation through in-kind, volunteer, and financial support. Each year Saturday Live provides a venue to celebrate public education in our community.

ANGEL FUND ENDOWMENT: The Angel Fund Endowment was established to create a long-term, sustainable funding source for struggling middle and high school students. These funds provide immediate assistance to students in need of clothing, transportation, school fees and supplies, in turn allowing them to stay in school and graduate.

INNOVATION IN LEARNING: Individual donors make a tremendous impact on teaching and learning in classrooms across our community. Donor gifts have made it possible for many teachers to elevate their level of teaching to provide the environment necessary to prepare our kids for careers in the 21st Century. Donor gifts have supported many investments in learning such as 1:1 devices to students, robotics kits, field trips, and many more tools which help our students be successful in the future.

BACK PACK MEALS: As weekends and holidays near, many principals and teachers are approached by students who are concerned where their next meal might come from when not at school. The Back Pack Meals program provides four nutritious meals for qualifying children to take home for the weekend.

TEEN PANTRY: There are over 350 homeless students in our schools on any given day. Many of our older students are on their own and supporting themselves. The Teen Pantry located in the school building provides funding to purchase shelf stable food, basic hygiene products, and other necessities for our middle and high school students in need. Through this additional support, students are able to stay in school and continue on their critical path of education.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE – ENDOWMENT & LEGACY GIFTS: Endowment and legacy gifts are part of the vision to provide sustainable funding for needed classroom support and teacher and student scholarships now and into the future. Our current endowment impacts thousands of students on a daily basis ensuring that our schools and teachers have the best materials and innovative programs needed to continue the tradition of excellence in education.



- Matching gifts: Does your employer have a matching gift program? Double the power of your donation with this easy option!
- Stock donations: Donating appreciated stock is easy. Call the Education Foundation for more information on how to do this.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- One time cash or credit donations: Donate with a personal check payable to Education Foundation or on-line via www.efbps.org.
- Recurring payments: Set it and forget it! Donate to the Education Foundation using convenient monthly payments.
- <u>Pledge now, pay later</u>: Pledge any amount and we'll send you an invoice by mail or email.
 Donate one time, monthly, or quarterly.
- Book donations: Donate or host a book drive to support Reading Rocks.

- Estate gifts: Support the Education Foundation and our schools in your estate plan. Contact the Education Foundation for more information on legacy gifts.
- Support Saturday Live: Become a sponsor of Saturday Live. We have corporate, business, and individual sponsorships. Attend Saturday Live to support the many school groups.
- Participate as a Partner in Education: Learn about how businesses and community organizations across Billings are volunteering in our schools.

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Thank you for your generosity and support of public education in the Billings community. You have made a direct difference in teaching and learning in my students' lives and our classroom. Your gift has allowed me to expand the opportunities I can provide to my students on a daily basis. Your generosity and gifts to the Education Foundation for BPS have purchased teaching tools and materials that have allowed my classroom to exceed expectations in student learning. Through the purchase of interactive technology, student devices, robotics kits, and curriculum materials, my students have transformed their learning and are excelling in ways we never thought possible. Thank you for being a fan of public education in our community!



Kerra Olson
Kerra Olson
1st Grade Teacher
Boulder Elementary



