

# You help advance excellence and innovation in education.

Celebrate Eastern Carver County Schools' 112th year.

SEE INSIDE HOW ALL SCHOOLS BENEFIT

## DISTRICT 112 FOUNDATION

Serving Eastern Carver County Schools



## Your gift supports great teaching

Great teaching is an inspiration to everyone — most of all our students. That is why for the past 10 years we have sponsored the District 112 Foundation Teacher of the Year Award. The most recent winner is Jake Jauert of Clover Ridge Elementary (above).

Teachers often do not receive the recognition they deserve and our award is one way to honor them. Past Teacher of the Year award recipients include: Edie Stearns, Tim Beckler,

Candice Galipo, Bob Downs, Michele Schnaare, Sarah Rother, Mary Perrine, Julie Myhr, Arlene Borner and Eric Songer.

Honorees receive a \$3,000 grant to use in their classroom and all finalists receive \$500 grants for their classrooms.

*If you want to honor great teachers, please consider a gift to the District 112 Foundation.*

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Serving Eastern Carver County Schools



### ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT 112 FOUNDATION

**We are separate from the school district.**

The District 112 Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to advance excellence and innovation in education.

The foundation focuses solely on Eastern Carver County Schools and is separate from the school district.

**Donations are fully tax-deductible.**

Our Board of Directors determines programs and initiatives for the foundation. District 112 Foundation sponsors the Teacher of the Year Award and directs grants to teachers and classrooms along with other programs.

[eccs.mn/foundation](http://eccs.mn/foundation)

## HELP MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

We are looking for people to help with the work of the foundation. Work on a committee that matches your interests and availability.

Public relations, marketing, finance, fundraising, grant reviewing, management, writing and graphics skills are welcome!

Contact Rick Ford at  
[fordr@district112.org](mailto:fordr@district112.org)  
or 952-556-6298

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Teacher grants: A closer look at what you make possible

Every year, the District 112 Foundation awards grants to individual teachers and classrooms. These projects are truly local and target very specific needs. Here's a look at just a few opportunities that were possible only because of your donations to the foundation.



## HEALTH & FITNESS

Personal Wellness teacher Kristin Weinzierl found that the old-school Presidential Physical Fitness Exam was lacking. It tended to emphasize competition instead of individual fitness goals. She knew students deserved better.

She wanted to try a program called FitnessGram. With a grant from the District 112 Foundation, she tested it last year and loved it. Students now track their fitness levels in several key exercises. They monitor progress from fall to spring and see that with a little effort, they can meet their goals.

Students leave middle school with a solid understanding of where they could improve, focusing on personal goals rather than comparing themselves to others. Donations to the District 112 Foundation are turned into opportunities for teachers to try something new.



## CREATING BROADCASTERS OF THE FUTURE

Chaska Middle School West is the only school to live broadcast its daily announcement program with parents/guardians regularly tuning in on YouTube.

The equipment was made possible by a District 112 Foundation grant and your donations. Students identified the equipment needed and teacher Carol Scheffler wrote the grant. The cameras, microphones, green screen and more brought the studio up to a level that made it possible to broadcast live.

Students manage the entire broadcast including writing scripts, creating graphics and running the production team. The opportunity appeals to a wide variety of students from tech-focused students to ones who want to be on camera. Thank you donors for bringing this dream to life!



## MONEY & FINANCE LESSONS

Where are the future entrepreneurs? Look no further than your local elementary school. BizTown is a Junior Achievement program where fourth- and fifth-grade students learn 12 core finance lessons including balancing a check book and applying for a loan. They apply these skills by developing and designing a business of their own first as a diorama. Later, students spend a day at Biz Town in Maplewood running a business.

BizTown got its start through a grant awarded by the District 112 Foundation to Anna Edlund, teacher at Bluff Creek Elementary. Now BizTown is a part of elementary school instruction across the Eastern Carver County Schools. This is just one way the foundation puts your charitable donation to work (literally)!

**Support excellence by  
giving to the District 112  
Foundation.**

## Our first major giving program

After 112 years of education in the area (Chaska High School's first graduating class was 1906), the District 112 Foundation is poised to bring even more opportunities to students. This year, the foundation is being reinvigorated with its first major giving campaign. We estimate that 90 percent of gifts will be spent on programs for schools. The remainder will cover administrative costs to operate a foundation. We need to grow our foundation in order to handle major gifts like bequests and to develop endowments and other legacy programs. Learn more in this newsletter on how we turn your gifts into opportunities for students.

## Why you should support the District 112 Foundation

You may look at your local schools and think "don't I already support the school district in other ways?"

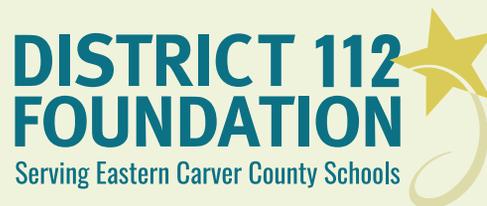
The basic, daily operation of Eastern Carver County Schools is covered by state and local taxes. **The District 112 Foundation exists so that you can support unmet needs.** The foundation seeks to make a great school district even better. Your gift advances innovation and excellence in education.

Grants for innovative classroom projects and support for student activities are just a few of the needs the foundation supports every day.

Voluntary, individual contributions from people like you make this possible.

The foundation is managed by a Board of Directors that is independent from the district School Board. The foundation board is a volunteer organization of your neighbors — parents/guardians and community members.

When there are gaps for which the school district cannot provide, the District 112 Foundation is there. But it's only possible with your support. Donations to the foundation go to services and programs for students, teachers and classrooms.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### CONTINUED

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### HAVE A MAJOR GIFT OR ENDOWMENT IDEA?

If you have a passion to make big ideas a reality for students in Eastern Carver County Schools, please contact Rick Ford directly at [fordr@district112.org](mailto:fordr@district112.org) or 952-556-6298.

# Neighborhood schools benefit

One way children in our community benefit from the District 112 Foundation is through teacher grants. Individual teachers and staff apply for funds from the foundation. Awards for these grants are truly local and target specific needs identified by school staff. Every year there are more needs than the foundation can support, which is why your support always makes a difference.

## Your support makes a difference!

### Recent Teacher Grants

- **Bluff Creek Elementary:** BizTown, Junior Achievement program for elementary students; standing student desks
- **Carver Elementary:** Phonological awareness (reading support); non-fiction reading materials
- **Chanhassen Elementary:** Phonological awareness (reading support); activities and materials for the school's Maker Space; non-fiction reading materials
- **Chanhassen High School:** Stream water study (Science Department), technology for students with disabilities, drama program support
- **Chaska High School:** A 3D printer; a "Creation Station" (digital innovation lab)
- **Chaska Middle School East:** Support for struggling readers; global literature, FitnessGram software for truly personalized personal wellness
- **Chaska Middle School West:** Equipment for the school's broadcast studio, support for the orchestra program; technology for students with disabilities
- **Clover Ridge Elementary:** Non-fiction reading materials, and an individualized reading program
- **East Union Elementary:** Advanced novels for students in grades 3-5, and a leveled reading library
- **Jonathan Elementary:** Classroom library books for balanced reading; books for independent reading area; support for a Maker Space for increased hands-on learning
- **Integrated Arts Academy:** audio and multimedia production equipment
- **Kinder Academy:** Creation of a Maker Space for increased hands-on learning
- **La Academia:** Creation of a Maker Space for increased hands-on learning
- **Pioneer Ridge Middle School:** Ridge Video creation station tools; musical instruments; support for students struggling in math; classroom audio systems
- **STAR:** Equipment for students with disabilities to create visual art
- **Victoria Elementary:** Support for a Maker Space for increased hands-on learning; books to teach empathy and prevent bullying behavior

# INVEST IN KIDS LIKE THESE WITH A GIFT TODAY



## Preventing food insecurity

Caring individuals pledge their support which allows Eastern Carver County Schools to coordinate with The Sheridan Story to provide backpacks filled with food. Every Friday during the school year, volunteers fill backpacks to give to students who cannot count on a meal over the weekend. It's one way we take care of our own. Your giving can help ensure this service continues.



## Supporting STEM education

Charitable donations support robotics clubs at Chanhasen and Chaska High Schools for several years. Over the past decade, hundreds of district students have built, repaired and improved robots that go into competition against robots made by students from other school districts. Robotics is a fun way to learn the design process and develop skills for a growing industry. Many students in robotics go on to study engineering and science-related fields in college.



## Building tomorrow's schools

Eastern Carver County Schools is regarded as a national leader in personalized learning. Innovation requires research, testing and development. If you have a passion for learning, your gift allows teachers to explore ways to improve education. The Studio at Chanhasen High School is an example of a public-private partnership with Staples to design flexible learning spaces. Students can work in groups, meet with a peer tutor and work independently, all within the same room.



## Providing for student opportunities

Eastern Carver County Schools provides students opportunities in theater, music, visual arts, speech, debate, quiz bowl competitions and more. Charitable contributions help pay for equipment, supplies and the cost of travel. Speech and debate teams at Chanhasen and Chaska high schools have been supported by charitable donations for several years. Now they're among the best in the state. The district sent nine students to the first-ever state speech competition in 2017. Your support today helps students continue their winning streak!