

## How the Fund Works

- The **Fund for Academic Excellence** is an endowment: its principal will be held in perpetuity to generate annual earnings for the grants program and to be reinvested to grow the **Fund**.
- Grant applications from teachers are evaluated by a steering committee of alumni, parents, former teachers and administrators, and student representatives.
- Evaluation criteria include demonstrated need; benefits to students across the educational spectrum; innovation; and measurable outcomes.
- Funds will be distributed as equitably as possible across all grade levels, educational areas, and communities.

## How to Contribute

The **Fund for Academic Excellence** is a sub-account of the Mid-Prairie Community School District Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Gifts to the Fund are tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

Checks should be made out to **Mid-Prairie Foundation**; please indicate **Fund for Academic Excellence** on the memo line.

### Send contributions to:

Mid Prairie Community School District Foundation  
P. O. Box 389, Kalona, Iowa 52247  
Phone: (319) 646-2850

### Online contributions:

<https://www.mphawksalumni.org/Fund-for-Academic-Excellence>

### For further information contact:

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## Mid-Prairie Community School District Foundation

## Fund for Academic Excellence



*Learn, Earn, and Return*

## Our goal

We seek to create a permanent source of funding to meet the ever-changing educational needs of children in the Mid-Prairie School District. The **Fund for Academic Excellence** provides grants to teachers for new or expanded educational programs and extra-curricular activities (e.g., math and sciences; humanities and languages; vocational, performing, and fine arts, etc.).

The **Fund** was created by the Mid-Prairie Class of 1966, which raised \$66,000 as part of their 50th graduation anniversary. Their motto – *Learn, Earn, and Return* – highlights the special role alumni have in helping new generations of students.

A campaign is under way to increase the **Fund** to \$300,000, sufficient to give \$10,000 in grants to teachers annually. We are reaching out to alumni, community businesses and organizations, and individuals to ask for their support. Other classes are cheerfully challenged to help us meet this goal!

## Awards in 2016-2018

A pilot grants-to-teachers program was established at Mid-Prairie High School in 2016. The following year, the grants program was expanded to include middle school teachers.

In its first two years, ten grants were awarded, totaling \$5,800. Some examples: a real-world investment club to teach financial literacy to all juniors; a computer simulation “sandbox” on watershed dynamics for high school and middle school students; new tools for algebra students to help make abstract mathematical concepts more understandable; new training materials for middle school musicians; expansion of robotics and coding programs for middle school students.

Plans to expand the **Fund** to Mid-Prairie’s two elementary schools depend on the success of fundraising efforts to increase the endowment.

## How Grants are Selected

Grant applications are evaluated by a steering committee of alumni, current and former administrators and teachers, parents, and student representatives. The 2018-2019 steering committee members are:

- Gerry Beeler, former MPHS Principal
- Kitty Conway, MPHS student
- Ingrid Gingerich, MPHS student
- Brenna Goode, alumna and MP parent
- Cheryl Miller, alumna, Class of 1966
- Don Randol, former MPHS counselor
- Robert Stout, alumnus, former MPCSD Board Member
- Jeff Swartzentruber, MPCSD Business Manager

