



8
Educators
Honored



\$60K
Educator
Grants



2023-24 MEF CONNECTIONS REPORT

Promoting Excellence in Murray Schools!



25TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MEF's Annual Golf Tournament swung into play in August. The event links up a collection of compassionate community leaders with educator needs, netting more than \$431,000 in donations to support 1,532 grants over the years. The 2024 event is August 23.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

MEF partnered with school district foundations across Salt Lake and with ABC4 and Fox13 to organize a county-wide school supply drive in August that brought in thousands of dollars in cash and supplies.



UNIFIED SPORTS DONATION

In November, MEF donated \$3,000 to Murray's Unified Sports program to pay for uniforms, equipment, and other essential costs that help promote this amazing partnership with Special Olympics and opportunity for students.



ANGEL TREE DONATIONS

MEF partnered with Lakeside Dental, The Sports Mall, Reach Out Today, and several Murray church congregations to make Christmas just a little bit merrier for 135 Murray students in need.

EDUCATOR GRANT FUNDING RESULTS

Thanks to generous contributions, MEF was able to fund \$60,500 in grants to 139 Murray Educators, benefitting approximately half of all students in Murray. Here are a few examples of that funding in action.



MAKERSPAC'ING SOME BLING-BLING

MHS's Makerspace opens its doors to students as an opt-in FLEX period activity but also offers teachers curricular support for many different classes during instructional time. This innovative program allows students to explore a myriad of hands-on projects in safe and supportive settings. Thanks to a grant from MEF, Makerspace was able to add a jewelry-making and beading station to its options this year. This was a #1 request by students last year but also expands art curriculum choices for teachers.



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IS CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

Ms. Hardman (Riverview) is using her MEF grant funding this year to strengthen her special ed student's executive function skills through specialized cognitive strategy games. These have long been held as a standard for executive function development in all humans to govern our decisions and social interactions. Executive functions are like a flight tower within each of us – coordinating and organizing millions of choices and actions. The better our brains listen to the control tower the better we function.



A WILD ASSEMBLY AT PARKSIDE

Thanks to MEF funding, Parkside Elementary students were recently enchanted by the ever-popular Scales and Tales (SAT) team, giving kids hands-on experiences that reinforce important science curricula. SAT instructors skillfully reinforced with students the unique life cycles of animals (Science Strand 3.2). While traits are different, they follow a pattern of birth, growth, reproduction, and death. An organism's inherited traits are critical to its adaptability, and we humans can take actions to optimize their ability to thrive.



TUNING UP THEIR MOTO SKILLS

It's crucial in kindergarten for students to develop fine motor skills. Ms. Felt (Viewmont) knew one sure-fire method would be to implement daily fine motor centers in her classroom. During the centers, students participate in muscle coordination and strength activities that fire up their writing, cutting, and other basic motor skills. So she turned to MEF for funding to purchase writing and art materials such as sketch and drawing tablets, tracing boards, writing instruments, and adaptive scissors, and pencil grips. With daily practice, her students are revving up their skills and will be ready to race by the end of the year!



RENEWED ENERGY

Thanks to a grant through MEF, Ms. Wistisen's 4th graders at Horizon are learning to read the waves using good old-fashioned Slinky toys. These are great toys for illustrating the importance of waves, and how they are the mechanism for the transfer of energy. This is part of our student's core science curriculum.



OPTIMIZING THE MYTHOLOGY COLLECTION

Mr. Smith needed additional reading options for his Mythology Class. Thanks to some funding from MEF, he was able to acquire a set of two books from the acclaimed mythology author Rick Riordan. Kids now have the choice of the Red Pyramid and the Lightning Thief. Both stories follow young teens as they grapple with new powers given to them by being related to the gods. They are learning about heroes in class, exploring the hero's journey by reading these Egyptian- and Greek-themed publications.



2023-24 MEF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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2023-24 MEF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

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Village Inn
Wasatch Savings
Western States Lodging
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!



GOLDENWEST CU SPONSORS BIZTOWN

Goldenwest Credit Union paid for MCSD's entire 5th grade class to attend the popular Utah Junior Achievement BizTown events year. This support was huge for students who got to interact with a simulated economy and learn real-world concepts.



21ST ANNUAL PINNACLE AWARDS

Each year, MEF bestows the community's highest education recognition to Murray educators, personnel, and volunteers. In March, MEF honored:

- *Jessie Agiriga, MHS Teacher*
- *Jennifer Davies, MHS Volunteer*
- *Kayti Graham, Grant Elementary Teacher*
- *Jennifer Mackay, Riverview Jr. High Teacher*
- *Kristen Flower, Liberty Elementary Teacher*
- *Caroline Walker, Viewmont Elem. Support Profess.*
- *Blair Peterson, Horizon Elementary Teacher*
- *Laura Bigler, Riverview Jr. High Teacher*

THANK YOU, JEANNE HABEL

After more than 25 years of running Murray Education Foundation, Executive Director Jeanne Habel has decided to retire in June. To say her work was transformative for Murray would be an understatement. Driven by a passion to help each teacher and educator, Jeanne created a thriving MEF organization that has forever left a mark on the hearts of the Murray Community. Doug Perry will step into her role next year.



THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

Along with Jeanne, long-time board members Sheila Johnson, AnneMarie Nielson, Brian and Jo Winterowd will also be leaving. We so appreciate their service and countless hours of sacrifice. Special thanks go out to our many other volunteers and supporters who are too numerous to mention. Year in and year out, Murray proves over and over why it is a special place.

MORE EDUCATOR GRANT RESULTS...



THE SCIENCE OF LEADERSHIP

Giving kids opportunities to step into leadership roles is important – and looking the part strengthens that goal. So, Ms. Sanchez requested MEF grant funding to purchase lab coats for her “Lead Scientists.” When the lab coats are out, students know it's lab day and they get excited. The lead scientists ensure everyone participates and delegate different tasks.



STEPPING UP FOR THE TEAM

Ms Binggeli, Hillcrest JH Instructional Coaching stepped up this year to fill a couple of important teaching openings in the 8th grade – US History and Math. For years she had accumulated ample supplies to teach at Murray High. But her new assignment left her without a good stock of classroom Supplies. No problem – she applied for an MEF grant and got the funding she needed to ensure her 55 students this year didn't skip a beat in their learning.



NEW PERSPECTIVES

One point perspective is a type of linear perspective that uses angles and lines to create an illusion of space and form on a flat canvas. It earns that name because it displays a single vanishing point. It's a simple art concept, but Ms. Simpson (Grant) also needed a simple solution for teaching it, so she turned to MEF for funding to purchase rulers for her students to draw one point perspective starbursts and drawings of buildings and trees.



2023-24 MEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

A huge thank you to our Board, volunteers, and staff who make every year at Murray Education Foundation memorable and rewarding for educators and students.

- Blake Voorhees**, Board Chair
- Jeannette Bowen**, Vice Chair/Golf
- Sheila Johnson**, Past Chair
- Brian Winterowd**, Golf
- Jo Winterowd**, Golf
- Spencer Olsen**, Alumni
- AnnMarie Nielson**, Pinnacle
- Maren Patterson**, Pinnacle
- Richard Habel**, Financial
- Natalie Day**, Golf
- Belinda Johnson**, Business Partnerships
- Jeanne Habel**, Executive Director
- Doug Perry**, Associate Director
- Jennifer Covington**, Superintendent
- Richard Reese**, Finance Manager
- Jill Weight**, MCSD Board Member



Blake Voorhees
2024-25 Board Chair



Doug Perry
2024-25 Executive Director

Join Us! We believe in the power of connections. Our community partners with dozens of businesses and organizations to make Murray a special place to learn and grow.

MURRAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION
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