**Literacy, and Nursing, and Civics OH MY!**

**Spring 2015 Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation Grant Awards**

The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation announces Spring 2015 grant recipients and projects that support wide-ranging initiatives from social justice to mental health and fitness to literacy.  The Foundation was able to support 85% of all request this funding cycle will impact each of our 21 schools. Please join us in congratulating:

**Lisa Lederach (District Wide for elementary schools)** expanded Elementary Literacy, a phase two roll out thanks to the extraordinary support of the Game Day event.  This effort expanded the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment system to allow one per grade at each of our 12 elementary schools along with the accompanying professional development.

**Angel Myers (NBE)** launched Second Steps, a yearlong character education program designed to empower our youngest learners with the skills to be successful emotional and academic learners.  The curriculum envelopes four critical areas for student development: basic learning skills, learning about empathy, emotion management, and problem solving.   Impacts 300 students.

**Emily Mitchell (RJH)** with E Commerce Cards – proposed a program to help prepare students with cognitive disabilities for adulthood by providing them with functional academic skills, independent living skills, and community and vocational skills.  Expected to be self-sustaining and benefit up to 19 students annually.

**Kristin Patrick (BSE)** presented Windows and Mirrors which brings the #WeNeedDiverseBooks campaign to HSE schools by recognizing that to learn children need to both see themselves (mirrors) and others (windows) in the picture books they select. More than just a book list, Kristin ties the test to resources and provides training and exposure for use by other faculty members. Benefiting 715 students annually.

**Jennifer Pope (FHS)** offered Why Try which is aimed at addressing the skills needed by our special education students to address daily life challenges specifically by giving them tools to guide decision making processes. Expected to serve over 200 students.

**Beth Garrison (District Wide Nursing)** with Emergency Trauma offered a proactive plan to keep our nearly 21,000 students safe by equipping all school nurses offices with emergency trauma kits needed to manage traumatic injuries.  This project was also endorsed and supported by the Fishers Fire Department.

**Kathy Seitz (District Wide)** proposed Fitness Fuels Destination Imagination which supported all HSE Schools Destination Imagination teams as they traveled to global competition and explored the connection between a healthy body and a healthy mind.

**Heidi Stan (RJH)** expanded Stability for the Stanimals, a successful pilot to replace traditional seating with stability balls. The balls have been shown to increase academic focus and are expected to benefit up to 970 students annually.

**Vince Lidy (HSEHS)** is piloting Improving Performance to introduce an immediate feedback system for student athletes to track real time velocity and power, helping participants reach their maximum potential.  Impacting potentially 200 students daily.

The final three recipients represent two new community partnerships.  These programs are truly philanthropic in that every dollar donated is returned 100% to our schools.  It requires vision and commitment on the part of the donor company and organization and allows the foundation to leverage additional community support.

I am pleased to announce the first recipient of the Church Church Hittle & Antrim fund is **Janet Chandler (HSEHS).** Civics Education offers students an in-depth study of the Constitution and its application to today. 36 students are expected to participate in regional and possibly state competition as well as be matched with a community mentor.

Fishers Tri Kappa Organization funded two projects during their inaugural year.  **Steve Baney and Kim Beaulieu (FJH)** developed an Organic Garden to integrate hands on gardening, peer mentoring, and technology through the development of a 2,500 square foot plot of land at FJH.

**Crissy Pogue (FHS FOCUS)** supported Studio of Opportunity which found that students in the FAP and Life Skills classroom might meet academic potential but still require vocational skills for independent living.  This award purchased curriculum and manipulative to do just that and is intended to be self-sustaining.

Thank you to our donors and sponsors for supporting grants that impact all HSE schools and students at all levels of learning.  And to our faculty who identify opportunities and implement solutions!