

EDUCATE. ENRICH. EMPOWER!

2019-2020 Fundraising Events

September 2019
KidStuff

November 2019
Dance With Your Son

March 2020
Dance WIth Your
Daughter

April 2020
10th Anniversary
Shining Light Gala

May 2020
Teacher Appreciation
Recognition Certificates

For more information about our
events, please visit our website at
www.foundation4mers.org

Follow Us On Social Media
@foundation4mers



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Regional Schools
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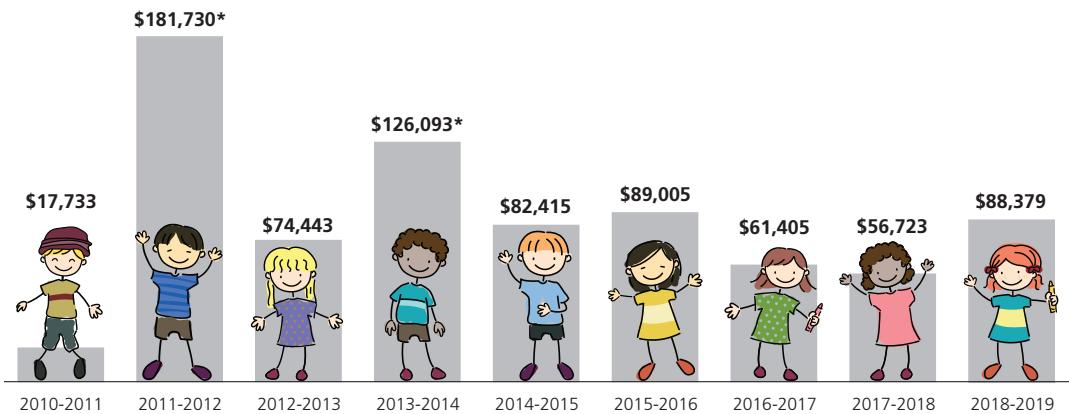
MEET THE FOUNDATION

Who We Are: The Foundation for MERS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in the 2009-2010 school year by dedicated parents and community members to enhance the education of the children in our district. We are managed by a board of volunteer trustees and operate independently of the Board of Education and Parent Teacher Organizations. We strive to collaborate with these organizations as well as district administrators and teachers to bring innovative educational resources to our schools that would not be possible through district funds alone.

What We Do: Since our inception, The Foundation for MERS has funded over \$775,000 in grants to K-8 schools in our district. We have provided state-of-the-art technology, creative educational programs and materials, teacher enrichment, and support of the arts to enrich each child's learning environment. The Foundation for MERS raises funds through special events, individual and family donations, community business sponsorships, and grants from private foundations that support education. We run two grant cycles per year where teachers and administrators have the opportunity to request funds for resources they feel would make a substantial, positive educational impact. These funds could be utilized for district-wide programs, school and/or classroom materials, or professional enrichment.

Our Mission: To ensure the highest level of educational innovation supporting students, faculty, and staff with community involvement in a partnership of lifetime learning.

Our Vision: That each of our schools has the educational opportunities for its students to reach their highest learning potential.



Note: No grants were awarded in the 2009-2010 school year, the year of The Foundation for MERS inception.

* Due in part by a donation from The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation.

*To learn more about our upcoming events or to make a donation,
please visit our website at www.foundation4mers.org*

2018 FALL Grants Awarded

Flexible Seating in the Classroom

Sharyn Fisher: Taylor Mills – 2nd Grade

Jen Walker: Taylor Mills – 4th Grade

(\$135 approved)

Standardized Testing Breakfast – Spring

Sharyn Fisher: Taylor Mills – 4th Grade

(\$341 approved)

Coop's Creators

Jill Cooperman: Lafayette Mills – 4th Grade

(\$499 approved)

OSMO Programs

Nicole Inskeep: Wemrock Brook – 4th Grade

(\$668 approved)

Ron Clark Academy

Greg Jusinski: Milford Brook – 3rd Grade

(\$895 approved)

Storyworks

Christine Schneiweiss: Clark Mills – 4th Grade

(\$953 approved)

High Noon Books

Heidi Lombardo & Pam Kleschinsky: Clark Mills –

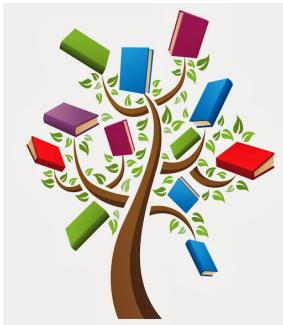
Special Education

(\$1,435 approved)

ManalaPANS

David Geltch: Lafayette Mills, Pine Brook & Taylor Mills

(\$10,070 approved)



High Noon Books

High Noon books are high interest low level stories that help struggling readers decode and comprehend readings. These books enhance reading lessons and provide special education students with the opportunity to read chapter books that

Coop's Creations

The Grant was used in the classroom by the students to develop a class published book using Student Treasures, a publishing company, and each student received a final book of publication. The book included 2 to 3 writing pieces to display how the students have grown as writers throughout the year. They learn that their goals of writing are to become better writers and it will enhance the current curriculum to improve student writing performance.



Pat Berger and Maria Mallamaci from The Foundation for MERS were present at Lafayette Mills when Miss Cooperman's students presented their complete books to their families.

The Foundation for MERS aims to fund resources that will make learning exciting for students and give teachers the tools to obtain the fullest learning potential of each child. For additional information about the grants, please visit our website at foundation4mers.org/grants

ManalaPANS Steel Drum Band



The grant was used to purchase high quality Steel Pan instruments to add to the group. The ManalaPANS are becoming well-known at the NJMEA Music Teacher's Convention and in school and community performances and in-district performances. The grant allows more students to be a part of the ensemble.

David Geltsch, Music teacher and Director of the ManalaPANS had this to say about The Foundation for MERS, *"Without the ongoing and generous support of The Foundation for MERS, I can truly say that the ManalaPANS and Manalapan Steel would simply not exist. The impact of their donation will reach generations of students and community members in the decades to come. I speak for myself and all of those students when I extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU!!"*



skills for early learners and spark creativity and problem solving skills. Osmo is a way for children to interact with technology through tangible play, strategic thinking and rigorous activities. Osmo provides the students with digital activities and real-time visual and auditory feedback to assist students with self-correction. The use of osmo, in the classroom, will provide data to increase student achievement and decrease achievement gaps. Osmo will provide both a rigorous and relevant addition to the areas of science and math, as well as technology, language arts and engineering through strategic thinking and authentic applications through tangible play. Osmo will keep children engaged in learning and build their confidence through hands-on play.



2019 SPRING Grants Awarded

Andy Sheehy Award

Robert A. Williams: MEMS – 7th and 8th grades
(\$150 approved)

Judy Freeman's Annual Winners! Workshop

Lisa Garnett: Wemrock Brook – 1st thru 5th Grades
Catherine Ferreiro: Taylor Mills – 1st thru 5th Grades
Margaret Piercley: Lafayette Mills – 1st thru 5th Grades
(\$627 approved)

Reading Institute at Teacher's College

Jackie Klask: Milford Brook – Multiple Grades
Marie Zofrea: Clark Mills – Multiple Grades
(\$1,700 approved)

Sensory Hallway for All Learners

Erin Heglin: Taylor Mills – All grade levels
Kendra Porta: Taylor Mills – All grade levels
Rebecca Seery: Wemrock Brook – All grade levels
(\$2,320 approved)

Library Resources for Growth Mindset Project

Catherine Ferreiro: Taylor Mills – All Grade Levels
(\$2,000 approved)

Reaching Diverse Learners Through Art and Graphic Novels

Lisa Garnett, Allison Hughes & Jen Romeo:
Wemrock Brook – All Grades
(\$2,000 approved)

Targeted Intervention Support

Karen Leder: Pine Brook – 6th grade
Christina Partyka: MEMS – 7th and 8th grades
(\$2,013 approved)

OSMO

Cami Savage, Kelly Strenkowski, Denise Wildman & Kelly Garze: Milford Brook – Kindergarten
(\$3,780 approved)

Makerspace

Stephanie Walden: Pine Brook – 6th Grade
(\$10,000 approved)

MEMS Media Center State-of-the-Art Technological Improvements

Robert A. Williams: MEMS – 7th and 8th Grades
(\$30,000 approved)

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Do We Have Your Email?



Never miss information
 about our upcoming events,
 fundraisers and current
 Foundation news.

Sign up for our newsletter today at
<http://foundation4mers.org>

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY AWAITS YOU



Make a difference in the educational needs of our students!

**Help minimize the impact of state budget cuts
 on our schools and our children!**

Be a part of the solution and collaborate with our team!

Ways to Get Involved: Volunteer – Flexible hours and various options
 Many of the below tasks can be performed from your home at your convenience:

- **Creative Artists** – Design marketing materials
- **Donation Dynamos** – Acquire donations from local businesses for events
- **Event Chairs** – Organize and oversee special event committees
- **Event Volunteers** – Help out at Foundation fundraising events
- **Fundraising Phenoms** – Recruit businesses to support the Foundation
- **Grant Gurus** – Research and draft grant requests from various entities
- **Legal Beagles** – Review contracts and risk management
- **Ready Writers** – Assist with drafting Foundation marketing materials
- **Social Media Mavens** – Promote the Foundation on Social Media

Become a Trustee: Join our team for a deeper commitment and collaborate with district administrators and staff to bring innovative educational resources to our schools.

Benefits of Involvement with The Foundation for MERS:

- You will be in the know of MERS District happenings and needs
- Volunteering provides a sense of purpose and social interaction
- Volunteering increases your connection to your community
- You will truly be helping the children of Manalapan and Englishtown

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For more information on any of the above opportunities or becoming a potential Trustee, kindly visit out our website at <http://foundation4mers.org/volunteer/> or contact Loren Scheck at lorens304@aol.com

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they have the heart!