



SALINA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Spring 2020

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Owen E. Hodgson
Gabriella Fischer
Robyn Logan

Class of 1940
Caleb Kline

Class of 1933
Amalia Michaelis

Reuben Montoy
Concha Campa
Blaque Brin

Miss N Scholarship \$500
Madeline Paradis

Judy Wright Scholarship
David Ollenberger

Loan T. Nguyen Scholarship
Sophie Nelson

**James and Helen Maupin
Scholarship**
Lindsay Brown

Teacher Scholarships

**Mary and A. Jay Andersen
Teacher Scholarship**
Taylor Urban

NEA Salina Educator Scholarship
Taylor Urban
Tina Donnelly

Miss N Teacher Scholarship
Jenny Davis

2020 LIFT Recipients (LOAN INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS)

The SEF is thrilled to announce the LIFT (Loan Initiative for Future Teachers) Recipients for 2020. The LIFT program awards up to \$5,000 each year that a student is working toward an undergraduate degree in teaching. For every year they teach in USD 305, \$5,000 is forgiven. The SEF is growing our own teachers!

Hannah Caswell is a 2016 graduate of Salina South High School and is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in music education.



Mason Frost graduated from Salina South High School in 2017 and is a Secondary Math Education major at Wichita State University.



Ashley Matthews will graduate from Salina Central High School this May and will major in Secondary Education and English at Baker University in the fall.



Kati Rivera will graduate from Salina South High this May and will attend Ft. Hays State University in the fall where she will major in Secondary Education and English.



Sierra Snethan is a Salina South High senior who will graduate in May and attend Wichita State University in the fall where she will major in Mathematics Education.



Chambers Named Executive Director

Michael Chambers has been named the Executive Director of the Salina Education Foundation. Michael grew up in Lindsborg, KS and graduated from Bethany College. He has lived and worked in Salina for the past 25 years. Most recently, Michael served as the Executive Director of the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank. His job duties will begin July 1, 2020. Welcome Michael!



A Time for New Beginnings

After nearly twenty-four inspiring years, my tenure as executive director of the Salina Education Foundation is coming to an end. What a joy and a privilege to support the students, teachers, and staff of Salina Public Schools! I end my career at the Salina Education Foundation working from home in my small dining room with my ever-present cat buddies, Jack and Gregory. Never have I been more impressed by our USD 305 family than now, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resolved to provide “Learning for All, Whatever it Takes,” USD 305’s staff embraces the challenge of continuing educational services for Salina’s students remotely. I am filled with gratitude but unsurprised that USD 305 staffers face these unusual times with such grace and goodwill.

And to you, SEF donors, thank you for resolutely supporting exceptional teachers in our classrooms and for encouraging those teachers to create innovative projects that make

learning more engaging, meaningful, and fun. Our LIFT and grant programs will continue to set a standard for collaboration, innovation, and excellence, and I hope that each of you will support the SEF for years to come.

I am proud of what we have accomplished during my time as SEF’s executive director. On a personal note—thank you for your friendship. Twenty-four years of memories: the absolute joy on the faces of 305 LIVE performers, the excitement of new LIFT recipients and their moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas who know that their beloved child will be a teacher in USD 305, and all the pictures I have received over the years from grateful teachers who share the excitement of an SEF grant—these and many others I take into retirement. I treasure them all.



305 LIVE Happened!

We are so grateful that we were able to give our middle and high school students the remarkable experience of performing with Joe’s Pet Project in 305 LIVE. At 7:00 pm, the evening of February 22, student musicians, teachers, and audience members were part of a fundraiser for the SEF that has become a biannual tradition. True to our mission of collaborative, project-based learning, students were involved in every aspect of creating a rock concert. Go to www.salinaeducationfoundation.com to view student photographer Kati Rivera’s pictures.



SEF 2020-2021 Grants

The SEF is pleased to announce the grants for next school year. Our grant awards focus on creative and innovative project-based initiatives. Why project-based? Students are active, not passive; a project engages their hearts and minds and provides real-world relevance for learning. Students not only understand content more deeply but also learn how to take responsibility and solve problems, work collaboratively, communicate ideas, and be creative innovators.

Outside-the-Box Grants

Reward creativity aimed at expanding students’ understanding of their community and the world.

Recipients:

Jane Maresch, Central High

High school students will meet once a month from October through April to read and share their observations about the “Book-of-the-Month.” All books are previewed and selected by Mrs. Maresch, Central High’s librarian, after students express their interests in what they would like to read. Students are encouraged to share ideas and question each other in a non-judgmental setting where all opinions are valued.

Susan Gaskill, Lakewood

Students will tour the “Lands of Salina,” starting with the Land Institute where they will interview plant scientists, observe controlled experiments with perennial plants, visit test plots, and study seed collection. Back at school, students will work with Lakewood Discovery Center to collect and plant native prairie seeds. Next, students will visit the landfill to see the end of the waste stream. Back at school, they will conduct a waste audit with the goal of reducing school waste.

Gina Turner, Meadowlark Ridge

Students who read a required number of books will travel to Emporia to meet the authors who win the William Allen White Children’s Book Award. With Mrs. Turner’s encouragement, many students read 20 or more WAW books during the course of the year. While in Emporia, students will also visit the White home (Red Rocks), drive past the Emporia Gazette, which White owned, and visit Peter Pan Park, the land White donated to the city of Emporia. Students from other schools who read the required number of books will be included in this wonderful trip.

Patricia Bandre, Reading Instructional Specialist

Students in the residential carpentry and cabinet making classes at South High and Central High will build “Little Free Libraries” using mostly scrap lumber from other projects. The libraries will be registered with littlefreelibrary.org, and Mrs. Bandre will work with administrators and building operators to select an appropriate site for each library. The libraries will be stocked with gently used or new children’s books. Providing students with reading materials 24/7 will help ameliorate the phenomenon of summer reading regression.

Jackie Ingram, South Middle

The South Middle Garden Club will expand the size of their garden, which was started last year with a grant from the SEF. Students in the Garden Club will plant and care for a vegetable garden. They will learn and talk about agricultural practices and the impact on the environment, the importance of pollinators, and sustainability. One goal is to create less food waste by using a composting system. Students will plant seeds, learn how to identify and repel common weeds and pests, learn the

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benefits of companion planting, and learn when and how to harvest. Other classes (art classes will use the garden for sketch ideas) will be encouraged to engage with the garden.

Dustin Dooley, South Middle
Bonnie Wellty, Lakewood Middle

All 7th graders will participate in the Cultural Crawl, which is offered through the participating members of the group Salina Cultural Educators. Students will be bussed downtown to visit arts and cultural locations and learn about what each organization offers through activities that have been specifically geared to their interest level. Regional cultural educators will provide direct instruction. Students will eat lunch with their peers and close out the crawl with a performance by hip-hop artist cash hollistah. Connections are made among the arts, creative expression, and language arts.

21st Century
Advantage Grants

Support creative and innovative classroom projects.

Recipients:

Kylee Flaherty, Heusner

Kindergarten and first grade special education students who dislike reading will be motivated to read books that are engaging and exciting. The leveled readers are important because they are geared toward students' reading levels. Students will be able to take the books home to read to their families, further increasing their reading skills and comprehension. Having books that suit a child's reading level is critical in sparking the desire to read and in encouraging the love of reading.

Susan Gaskill, Lakewood

Students will learn the concepts of matter, energy, and passive solar house design. Using a thermal imaging camera, they will see heat "transfers" in buildings, making the invisible world of energy visible. Students will then use the information they have learned to design a house that maximizes solar gain in winter. Displaying their projects at the Lakewood Science Fair, held annually in March, students will explain and defend their projects.



Student Readers love their Emporia Trip.

Corey Ritter, Meadowlark Ridge

Kinesthetic movement has been shown to increase test scores for students who exercise prior to taking tests. One such movement is pedaling. At risk students will use DeskCycles to help engage with reading activities. A pilot DeskCycle, purchased by the school's PTO, has shown great success. Tracking reading scores from the guided reading and intervention groups each month will document the success of exercise as it relates to reading proficiency.

Kay Barriger, Oakdale

Twenty-two students in the before-school STREAM Club will use their creativity to learn engineering and coding systems for Spheros and robotic Legos while collaborating and problem solving with other club members. Following instructions is an important part of the various stations that students can work on. Origami and sewing are also popular activities. Students are of varying ages (K-5), so the STREAM Club creates a family atmosphere.

Elizabeth Burke, South High

South High library will continue to promote curiosity and a love of learning through the Overbooked Book Club and "Make and Take" events which are designed to promote lifelong learning and engagement in community service. The innovative nature of the library's programming encourages both students and staff to collaborate and enhance their learning experience. The goals are to continue the twice-a-month book club meetings and host daily and monthly programming activities to increase student and staff involvement with the library.

Eddie Creer, South High

Students will be taken from any point in their development in musicianship to higher levels of proficiency. Using the cloud-based software suite, "musicfirst,"

students can access three programs: Sight-reading Factory, PracticeFirst, and Classroom. Each of the three programs helps to develop a student's musicianship and mastery of many fundamental concepts, allowing Mr. Creer to delve even deeper into the concepts while differentiating instruction. Vocal solos and guitars will particularly benefit from the programs.

Melanie Hammond, South High

South High's Science Department will benefit from a swivel camera that can be used for activities like recording students as they explain how to solve a complex math problem, how a compound Rube Goldberg machine works (while pointing out all the simple machines), how a molecular model is structured, and how a molecule connects to its function. The device can also be used by teachers as an instructional tool to record a lesson so that an absent student can watch later or to differentiate learning so that a student can work at his/her own pace.

Kirsten Bruce, South High

South High will launch a small food bank for students 9-12. The goal is to ensure that all students have access to the food they need so that they can participate fully in their education. The cupboard that will house the food will be placed in a convenient hallway, next to the social worker's office. The cupboard will be a discreet distance from the main traffic pattern. The social worker will monitor usage and will work with school groups, staff, and community resources to ensure the food bank remains stocked. *(This grant request will be forwarded to the Salina Regional Health Foundation as part of the SEF's annual grant request.)*

Total SEF Funding for 2020-21:
\$28,600.00

Our Mission

To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Salina Education Foundation:

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

Our Vision

Uniting the community to support excellent public schools

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We are going to the Land Institute!