

Oak Ridge Public Schools  
Education Foundation  
*Enhancing public school education*

## Dear Donors, Parents, Teachers and Friends:

Please join us as we celebrate 15 years of enhancing public school education in Oak Ridge. In the enclosed report, you will see a timeline of progress made possible through the generous contributions by donors such as you. From the establishment of the Education Foundation in 2000 to today, your generosity continues to enable us to faithfully fulfill our mission of "enhancing, promoting, and supporting the public schools of Oak Ridge and their students."

As you scan the timeline, you will be reminded of the role the Foundation played in advocating for and raising over \$8,000,000 to contribute to the rebuilding and renovation of Oak Ridge High School. You might recall the launching of our current grants campaign and perhaps some of the other milestones noted.

During the life of the Foundation, Oak Ridge School's have experienced growing challenges in meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. The importance of the Education Foundation's part in enhancing public school education in Oak Ridge has never been more evident than it is in today's world of increasing expectations and challenges.

As you read the report, you will see the critical difference your donations have made and will continue to make for teachers and students of Oak Ridge Schools through our grants program, which has awarded over \$662,000 to date. You will learn of the impact that has been made in the lives of students via scholarships made possible through our donor-sponsored scholarship program.

The progress we have made and goals we have set are only possible through the continued generous support of businesses and individuals like you. The Foundation is setting future goals to support the growing educational needs of Oak Ridge Public Schools. We believe in the benefits of a superior public education. We hope you will continue to partner with us to extend our proud history of contributing to excellence in public education. Your donation is an investment in education of the highest quality for our children.

Sincerely,

*Jessica Steed*

Jessica Steed, Executive Director

*Thom Mason*

Thom Mason, Board Chairman

To make a donation, simply visit our website at [www.orpsef.org](http://www.orpsef.org) or complete and detach the form below and mail to:

Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation . P.O. Box 117 MS-22 . Oak Ridge, TN 37831

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### Yes, I want to continue our excellence in education!

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Please contact me about including ORPSEF in my estate plan.

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I wish to donate anonymously.



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# 2015 Report

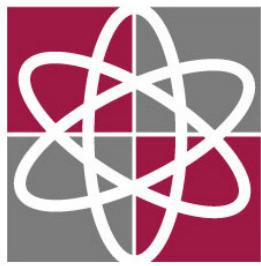
*"The Foundation's generous efforts and commitment to  
excellence in the lives of Oak Ridge students are invaluable."*





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Quote on cover: Leigh Monger, Robertsville Middle School Special Education Teacher

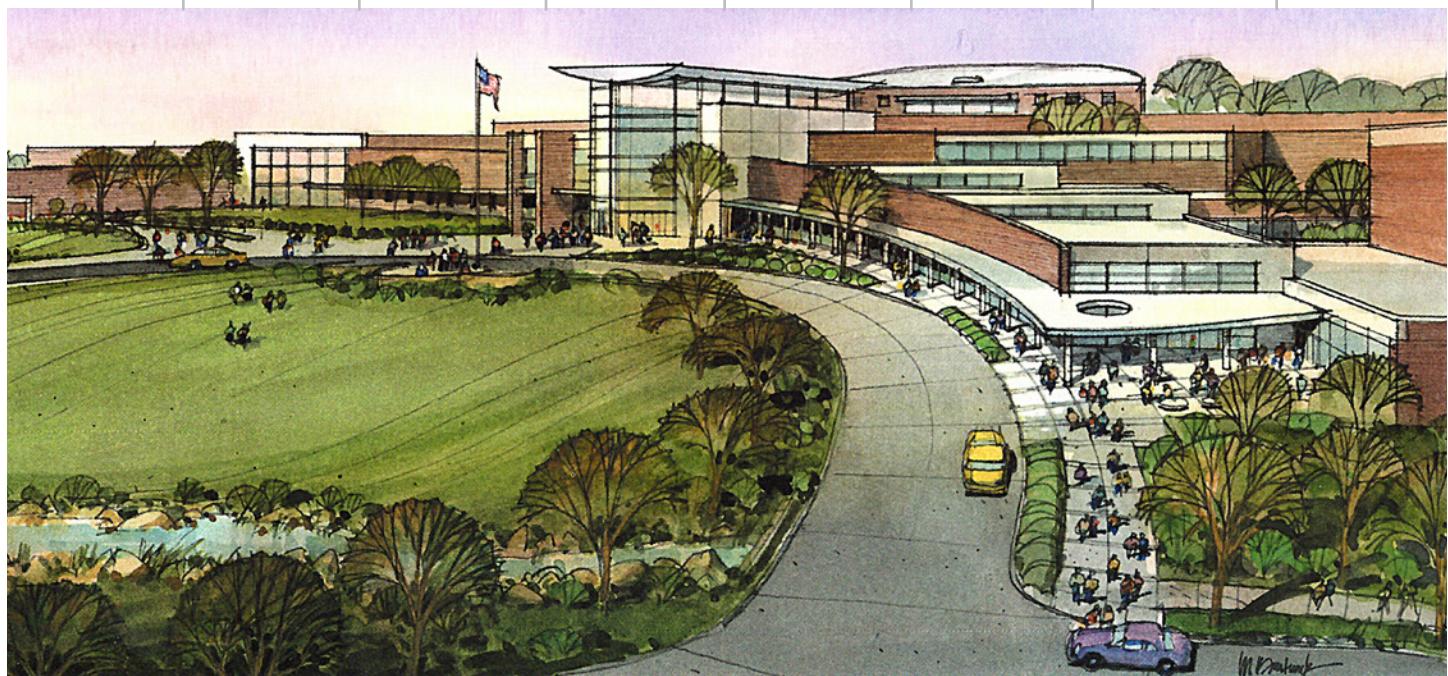


# Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation

*Enhancing public school education*

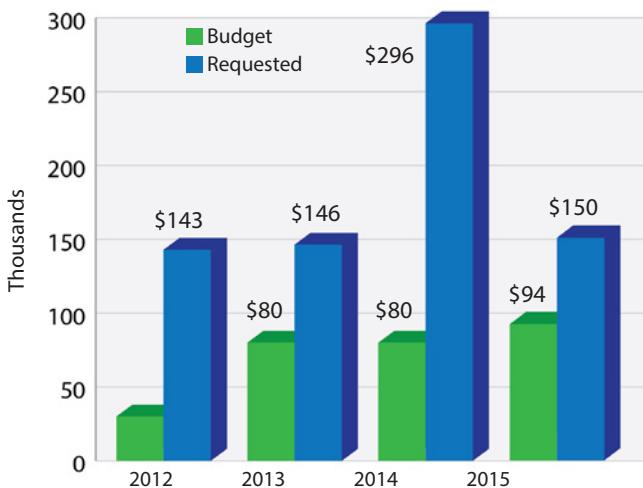
## Celebrating 15 years ... a timeline of progress:

2000	2002	2005	2005-2008	2010	2012	2013	2015- to present
Foundation is formally established as a non-profit organization (23.3% of Oak Ridge Public School's students are considered economically disadvantaged)	Foundation provides seed money to establish the AP Summer Institute at Oak Ridge High School	Foundation launches the Teacher Grants Program	Foundation advocates for and raises over \$8,000,000 for the Oak Ridge High School renovation through unprecedented community support	Foundation purchases Data Warehouse and Assessment Software for Oak Ridge Schools two years ahead of the requirement in TN	Foundation launches the "Making the Critical Difference" Grants Campaign with the goal of awarding \$100,000 per year in Teacher Grants	Dr. Adrian Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship endowment was established	The Foundation has awarded over \$662,000 in Grants to support the Oak Ridge School system (52.7 % of Oak Ridge Public School's students are considered economically disadvantaged)



# Making the Critical Difference

In the spring of 2012, the Foundation began a campaign to raise \$500,000 in donations over five years to enhance public school education by providing \$100,000 in grants, annually available to all teachers in all of Oak Ridge's Public Schools. The campaign provides one-time grants to teachers for resources designed to enhance learning for students in Pre-K through high school. The grants, most of which are in the range of \$3,000 - \$4,000, are awarded each spring on a competitive basis in response to proposals submitted by teachers and approved by the school administration and the Foundation Board.



The Foundation's grant program has generated infectious interest among teachers. They feel the grants provide them additional resources which enhance student learning and performance. Although the Foundation has provided more than \$662,000 in grants since 2005, this amount has funded only about one-third of the submitted proposals.

Education is Oak Ridge's most valuable asset. Helping our teachers make the critical difference for their students is one of the most important things we can do to sustain the quality of our schools.

## What Critical Difference Did Your Donation Make?

**(\$93,895 awarded in 2015)**

## Glenwood Elementary School

### STEM Camp (Amelia Bell, Lauren Blair, and Gwen Harrell)

"This has been the greatest week of my life!" exclaimed one 3rd grade scientist. His excitement was mirrored by 97 students in 1st through 4th grades and twenty teen volunteer teaching assistants this summer during STEM Camp. Students and teachers formed a learning community focused on problem-based and project-based learning which included building solar powered cars, designing functional windmills, planting a school garden, and learning code for computer programming. In addition, members of our STEM Camp learning community have served as peer mentors and lead teachers during STEM activities since returning to school, and they will continue in leadership roles throughout the year. Responding to the Foundation, Ms. Bell stated, "The grant you provided has had a positive impact on learning for the entire Glenwood school community."

### Gifted Education Equity of Adequate Resources for Instruction (Terri Lloyd)



"Now we really have a gifted classroom!" declared an excited 4th grade student referring to the new Promethean Board provided by the Foundation. Ms. Lloyd shared, "As each student joined the classroom, the excitement grew as we learned together with top quality visuals and interactive learning. This technology has helped me keep up with the fast pace of my students' learning, model skills and strategies more effectively, and provide digital resources." Ms. Lloyd continued, "Novelty is very important for gifted students, and this Promethean Board provides our Gifted Education class with an important tool to help bring new information and experiences right into our classroom. I am excited to see where my students will go this year with the help of this important learning tool."

## **Put On Your Listening Ears! (Marlene Sumner)**

Approximately eighty 2nd graders put on their listening ears in Ms. Sumner's class each day. Students benefit by using educational headphones to listen to and read along with the latest eBooks while Ms. Sumner works with small reading groups. Ms. Sumner says, "Without background noise, the students are able to comprehend better, increasing their test scores and enabling them to be more successful in writing book reviews and doing research."



## **Linden Elementary School**

### **Camp Invention Scholarships (Lisa Downard)**



"Camp Invention is the best thing my child has ever done! We can't wait for next year," remarked a parent regarding Camp Invention, which encourages creative thinking, problem solving and teamwork. Throughout each module students work together to create an invention that will solve a given problem.

They are given the opportunity to explore various areas of science and put them to the test. Ms. Downard shares, "Camp was held in June, but I'm still receiving messages from parents whose children attended Camp Invention. In one instance, for a student's 9th birthday, she asked for a Kinex set to 'invent' things. She is inventing things at home all the time and has set her sights on being a scientist when she grows up. That is what Camp Invention is all about." Ms. Downard goes on to say, "Thanks to the grant provided by the Foundation, we were able to provide full scholarships to students who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend this fabulous camp."

***"I would like to personally thank the ORPSEF. You are truly making a difference in education in Oak Ridge."*** - Michelle Scott

## **LNBC (Linden Broadcasting Club /TV Studio) (Nancy Witick)**

Tune into LNBC! Linden is in the process of going live with its own TV studio. This grant enabled Linden to purchase a digital encoder, making previously donated studio equipment functional. The encoder has made it possible to complete an operational TV studio where events and news can be broadcast with live video streaming. Ms. Witick says, "We have students and teachers with marvelous ideas to share; who are eager to work hard writing and producing interesting, informative programming."

## **Willow Brook Elementary School**

### **Bee Bots class pack (Linda Weitz-Bell and Christopher Bruce)**



Coding in Kindergarten? Ms. Bell and Mr. Bruce are teaching their students how to code via use of Bee Bots flashcards. They reported, "We used the Bee Bots with the plastic grid floor mat to find and read our classmates names. It was exciting to see each group of children figure out how to make the Bee Bots move to the correct space on the grid. We are looking forward to using them to practice literacy and math skills. All the children thought the Bee Bots were very 'cool' and were excited and engaged while using them!"

### **Moving through Math (Lynn Draper)**

Jump! Jump! Jump! Jump your way into fluency with foundational math skills. At the heart of math is the understanding of numbers and their relationships with each other. Math and Movement™ mats are an engaging avenue for building math fluency and understanding through physical activity. Ms. Draper reports, "Daily, students ask to work with the mats. At one point, sixty students (and one teacher) were eagerly jumping toward math skill acquisition. Through the grant funding of the Foundation, we have been able to use the mats in multiple classrooms. We look forward to upcoming Family Nights where parents can have the fun of jumping and learning with their children."

## Maker School / Maker's Club (*Andrew McDonald*)



"A Maker's School is a dream that is becoming a reality block by block," says Mr. McDonald. While picture engineering books are currently being checked out for grades K-2 the 2nd nine weeks will initiate Girls of Pride using Goldie Blocks materials designed to encourage girls' confidence in themselves. "Our

biggest success is the creation of a STEM after school club," says Mr. McDonald. "It is amazing to hear students collaborate as the architect, builder, planner, and materials manager." A STEM closet has been created for all the teachers to share additional enhancement materials for class lessons.

## Wireless Headphones for Kindergarten (*Deborah Nall*)

Enjoying listening to e-books has cranked up a notch thanks to technology. Kindergarten students now read along and listen to their favorite books on the Promethean Board without disturbing the small group instruction in another part of the classroom. Wireless headphones let the children sit comfortably anywhere in the room while they are tuned in to the Board, or listening center, while following their book on tape. Ms. Nall reports, "In this classroom, reading is definitely FUNDamental."

## Woodland Elementary School

### Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Intervention Gold System (*Barbara Krushenski and Kathy Sanderson*)

Did you know that dinosaurs had fleas? Do you know any revolting recipes, such as a peanut butter sandwich with onions and anchovies? Our students are exploring the



answers to these engaging questions and more, and they will for many years to come. Ms. Sanderson reports, "these high quality, engaging books grab the students' attention and are critical for increasing student motivation and progress in reading." The LLI Gold kit consists of 900 books, organized into 150 reading leveled sets of six books each with accompanying lesson plans. These books include both fiction and non-fiction, and although they are intended for 4th graders, students from several other grade levels have already begun reading and enjoying them too!

## Jefferson Middle School

### Transforming Writing Brick by Brick (*Norma Franco*)



"Legos are fun at any age! I love telling stories with them," says a 5th grade student. Students benefiting from this grant have created their own rendition of a story, and they have compared and contrasted various versions of a story tale. Ms. Franco says, "My 5th grade students have been creating Lego scenes and writing stories about their scenes. They have taken it further by taking photos of their visuals and creating slideshows using iPads and presenting their stories to the class. We are in the process of learning iMovie, stop-motion animation and publishing with the Lego interactive software. I see great potential in my 5th grade students' writing and creativity thanks to this grant. I am excited to see what else they can create!"

### Creating a Makerspace (*Emily Haverkamp and Heather Henderlight*)



Fascinating? Yes, students are fascinated by the capabilities of the library's new 3D printer, and they watch with enthusiasm as the machine shows them something previously inconceivable. The Makerspace concept as part of school libraries continues to grow across the country, a place where students

are welcome to explore, dream, think, design and create. Ms. Haverkamp reports, "The Microsoft Surface Pro 3 computers are used daily by students visiting the library." Ms. Henderlight adds, "The Makey-Makey devices are used by students to design and experiment with alternative computer inputs. The Little Bits sets and Snap Circuits kits challenge students to design electrical circuits and solve problems. The Cube 3D printer has been the most exciting equipment to learn and implement. Currently two test prints are complete, a set of jumping frogs and a robot toy. The next trial will be using Google SketchUp software to complete a 3D design which can be sent to the Cube for printing."

## Minecraft Edu in the Social Studies classroom (*Chris Layton & Heather Henderlight*)

What is a wildly popular game that allows students to build, design, and collaborate in a digital world, and can be described as modern day Legos? Answer: Minecraft. Thanks to the Foundation's grant award, Mr. Layton is able to use Minecraft as a tool to dig deep into history and have students become producers of ideas and content. Minecraft is a tool that students have high interest in using and it promotes the four C's of STEM (Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication). Mr. Layton reports, "Our efforts focus around the formation of civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient China, India, Greece and Rome. Students are working in groups to recreate these civilizations in detail in order to show a visual that will be used with all classes as a "virtual museum". Each group will recreate their civilization and produce a video tour. There will also be various Minecraft EDU Missions which pertain to Social Studies, Math, Science, and Language Arts."

## First Lego League (*Janie Shanafield, Lexie Scott, and David Hundermark*)

Champions? You bet! The Atomic Eagles, Cyberbrix, and JMS Master Builders competed and placed in regional, state, and even international level robotic competitions. The Atomic Eagles, the East Tennessee State Champions,



competed against 31 states and 13 countries earning the Rising Star Award, an honor given to a team from which the judges expect great things in the future. "Without the support of the Foundation, this would not have been possible," said Mrs. Shanafield. She goes on to say, "Students learn how to build, program, communicate, present, and research while following the core values. It covers the whole person."

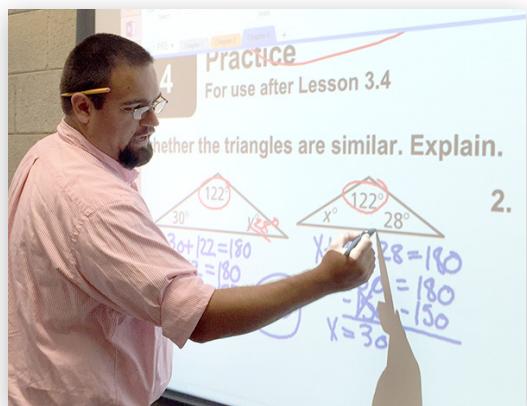
## Mapping Literacy (*Brian Smith*)

"The drastic change in this year's social studies standards would have been very difficult to address without the pull down map sets we purchased with our grant." reported Mr. Smith. The maps have been custom designed to directly reflect the new standards and are helping to improve literacy in social studies. Students are using these maps to integrate visual information, to determine central ideas, and to cite evidence. These classroom map visuals promote literacy efficiency for all levels of learners. According to Mr. Smith, "A student was able to make the following connection while using the African Kingdom Map: 'A Mesopotamia map clearly shows that people lived next to the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Also, Egyptians lived close to the Nile River. However, the map shows that the Songhai Empire was centered around the valuable resources of gold and salt. Trade routes crossed the Sahara to cities like Timbuktu. These cities allowed the Songhai Empire to prosper due to its location to resources and trade routes."

## Robertsville Middle School

### Board to End Boredom (*Michelle Brown*)

Engaging students can be challenging! With Ms. Brown's new Promethean Board, she has noticed that students are "very excited to use the Board and



are getting much more out of instruction. Increased student participation leads to increased student achievement." They are using the Board on a regular basis in math. It is proving to be especially helpful in reaching kids that struggle with math concepts. Students in Ms. Brown's after-school MATHCOUNTS program are benefitting from the Board too.

### Motivation-Engagement-Learning (*Sandra Burnette*)

Ms. Burnette looked for ways to get her students motivated to participate and engage in learning. She was awarded a grant for a Promethean Board. She reports, "When I first started teaching, I somewhat tried to avoid teaching vocabulary because there just didn't seem to be a way to make it fun and engaging. However, having the Promethean Board has made a world of difference in teaching a lesson, such as vocabulary, that is often dreaded by students and teachers alike." She goes on to explain, "The vocabulary books used for the eighth grade English Language Arts class have an array of online activities. Through these activities, students race against a timer to choose the correct word or letter, depending on the game in use. Students complete this activity by using the Promethean

Board. Two students, from opposite sides of the room, are given an ActivPen and each races (safely) to the board to select the correct word or letter for an activity. Once the word or letter is selected, they race back to hand the ActivPen to the next set of students. While students are selecting words or letters, other students in the classroom are actively participating by offering help to each student trying to select the right word or letter. Seeing my classroom excited and eager to participate in learning new vocabulary reinforces that the Promethean Board is playing a vital role in bringing vocabulary to life, which will ultimately improve comprehension."

#### **Intervention for All (Leigh Monger and Jackie Laney)**

Materials that help struggling students-yes! These intervention materials have enabled students to gain decoding, fluency, and multiple levels of reading comprehension support as well as explicit instruction in computational skills and complex areas of math. According to Ms. Monger, students have been able to "monitor and track their own progress and are gaining confidence and are increasingly motivated by their results!" Ms. Laney reports that, "Through these interventions and their hard work, students are closing the achievement gap, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts." Ms. Monger goes on to say, "It is so wonderful to have a systematic, explicit, research-based program that has a proven history of helping students who struggle with basic skills in the areas of reading and math."

#### **Listen Up! (Mardee Miller)**



AfterShock High Performance Stereo Headphones for all 6th grade Reading Language Arts and Special Ed classrooms at Robertsville Middle School are making a huge impact. Students have been getting daily use out of the headphones as they work on various devices and programs that support classroom instruction. The headphones have a nice quality and are durable, making them very nice for classroom use. The headphones are also equipped with a built in microphone that has been a great addition for working on reading fluency. Students are able to self-record a reading

passage, work on it over and over, then re-record the passage. Students are able to self-evaluate and chart their own progress. Ms. Miller shared, "Something as simple as headphones is making a great impact on how our students are able to utilize technology to improve their reading!"

#### **Up Close (Michelle Scott)**

Six Promethean Boards for 7th grade? Absolutely! Students are using the Boards as an interactive way to better learn curriculum standards. Teachers are implementing the Boards into classroom instruction on a daily basis. Students who struggle with attention are able to be up and active while using the Board. According to Ms. Scott, "Increases in students' scores on vocabulary assessments have been documented." Ms. Scott continues, "The Boards are a fantastic tool for teachers to demonstrate skills and have students come to the Promethean Board to demonstrate the skill themselves. The students are able to highlight on the Board the specific parts of a paragraph reinforcing critical writing skills. The Promethean Boards will be a great classroom asset with the implementation of the 1:1 technology initiative. Using the new learning management system, the Boards will be a tremendous enhancement to classroom instruction in a new and exciting time in education."

#### **FIRST TECH Challenge (Rodney King and Lisa Buckner)**



The Ninjineers FIRST Team 8837 graduated from FIRST LEGO League and enjoyed their debut as a FIRST TECH Challenge team during the 2014-15 season. They competed at a qualifier tournament in Huntsville, AL in January 2015, and they earned the 2nd place Rockwell Collins Innovate Award at a competition in Georgia. According to Mrs. Buckner, "Learning a new operating system and programming language was a challenging and yet incredibly rewarding experience. We are already looking forward to next season!"

**"Thank you for supporting our children!"**

- Amelia Bell

## Oak Ridge High School

### All I EVER See Are My Eyelashes, Microscopy for the 21st century (*Sharon Thomas*)

Laptops, digital cameras, and microscopes can be used together as an invaluable tool to science teachers and students alike. The new laptops are being used almost daily by chemistry, biology, and physics teachers. Ms. Thomas reports, "The biology teachers have used the laptops, microscopes, and digital cameras to analyze plant cells soaked in different solutions and to solve a 'murder mystery' by identifying microorganisms in various bodies of water."



Having the field of view on a computer screen makes these lessons much more engaging and collaborative. My favorite part of the 'murder mystery' lesson was watching the faces of my ELL students who speak little or no English light up when a rotifer swims by on the screen." Also, teacher Heather Haynes was able to bring the laptops to her room where she had students create PowToons based on the results of chemical analyses of soil samples from the campus garden. Ms. Haynes remarked, "The students were able to perform the analysis and create the PowToon without leaving the classroom saving valuable time and allowing students to start working on the presentation as soon as the lab experiment is completed." Other teachers have checked out the laptops for remediation and other online activities in their rooms. "The laptops have been heavily used since we got them, and the entire science department is appreciative," remarked Ms. Thomas.

### TALK the TALK, WALK the WALK: Applying Real-World Math and Science (*Elaine Vaughan*)

"The students' enthusiasm in their classes when using the Vernier technology and software has not only connected them with everyday life experiences in math, science, and technology but also inspired them to engage and achieve what they thought couldn't be accomplished," reported Dr. Vaughan. She goes on to say, "The first time the Vernier technology was incorporated into a math lesson, one student exclaimed, 'This is so cool. It's like we are acting it

out and are a part of it (the mathematics)! Can we do this every day?'" Students used a motion detector sensor to analyze relationships of distance and time by matching a given graph when walking a specific path. They also worked with a TI-graphing calculator and Logger Pro software to record and explain collected data. Other learning experiences are provided with the pressure, temperature, or a PH sensor. Dr. Vaughan says, "The grant has definitely created an enhanced, positive learning experience in math."

### Robotics (*Frank Wood*)



The ORHS Secret City Wildbots, FRC Team 4265, enjoyed an extremely successful season! The Wildbots embarked on a mission to attend, for the fourth straight season, the FRC World Championships and set a lofty goal to compete this year on the Einstein Championship fields. At championships, their win in the Hopper division allowed their alliance to advance and compete on the Einstein Championship fields against winning alliances from seven other divisions. The Wildbots advanced as the number one ranked alliance with an average score of 270 points and competed in the 2015 FRC World Championship finalist matches. While their performance fell short, they are proud of their 2nd place finish!

## District Wide Grants

### Torrance Test of Creative Thinking Training (*Terri Lloyd*)

Who are the gifted among us? "Having another tool to gage student creativity will help us find students who may be overlooked with our traditional screening process," explains Ms. Lloyd. She continues, "Some students, like Albert Einstein for instance, don't demonstrate their giftedness in traditional ways. This test will help us find these students and help them to succeed in school." Initial training has been completed, but the process for learning to score the test is extensive and currently ongoing. Administration of this test will begin by January and will be added to the screening process for gifted education. Ms. Lloyd remarks, "Every student should be enabled to learn to their potential. With this test we have another tool to help us make sure that happens."

### Literacy Conference (*Lynn Tschaplinski*)

In February 2016, six staff members will attend a national literacy conference. Due to additional funding provided by the Foundation, several teachers in positions of literacy leadership will have first-time opportunity to access some of the most up-to-date research, thinking, and products. The knowledge gained by participants from the

conference sessions will benefit other staff in the months and years to come. Ms. Tschaplinski reports, "Research has shown that teacher expertise is the most critical factor in students' in-school achievement. Increased knowledge of effective literacy instruction will directly impact all of our students' proficiency in reading and writing."



was designated for ORHS Science Department grants and \$10,000 for scholarships for Environmental Science students. The gift provides a \$1,000 scholarship to an Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science student each year for 10 years.

A science teacher, noting his concerns for the environment and energy savings during rebuilding of the high school, invited him to come in as a volunteer teacher in an AP Environmental Science class once a week. Myrick actively participated giving lectures, participating in field studies or discussing ongoing environmental management projects in the AP Environmental Science course at Oak Ridge High School until his death in 2014. Noticing that teachers' needs in the classrooms and labs were often greater than budgets provided for, and that some high-caliber students needed help with college expenses, he and his wife decided to make the gift to the Foundation.

For more information about the Myrick Scholarship, please visit our website at [http://www.orpsef.org/myrick\\_scholarship.html](http://www.orpsef.org/myrick_scholarship.html)

### 2015 Myrick Advanced Placement Environmental Science Scholar



Alondra Barrera Garcia did not have Myrick as a guest lecturer, but she said she did hear of "the wonderful impact he made on some of my friends' lives." Alondra, a May graduate of Oak Ridge High School, plans to attend Berea College in Kentucky this fall, where she will major in environmental science and sustainability. She was a student in Deni Sobek's Advanced Placement Environmental Science class at the high school. "The class assured me that this is what I wanted to dedicate my life to," Alondra said. "I would like to use my interest in the environment to aid it and solve the problems that affect it, and hopefully make the world a more sustainable planet, to ensure that it will be safe and healthy for future generations."

## Donor-Sponsored Scholarships

Oak Ridge High School has many intelligent, determined, and motivated students who yearn for a college education. Unfortunately, about half the student population reside in homes requiring free or reduced lunch. Only one thing makes obtaining a college degree impossible for them - funding. Even with Tennessee Promise, the ever increasing costs of college along with textbooks makes earning a four year degree unmanageable for many. It is our desire to expand our donor sponsored scholarship program to provide more students who seek to acquire a four year degree the assistance they need to reach their goal. As you will read next, Tim and Teresa Myrick took notice of this need through Tim's volunteer work in the classroom. The donor-sponsored scholarships program will only grow through the contributions of caring, generous people like you.

### Tim and Teresa Myrick Support Grants Campaign and Scholarship Program

Tim Myrick's work in the Oak Ridge High School renovation and rebuilding project led he and his wife Teresa to contribute in support of academic studies dear to his heart. The couple made a \$25,000 pledge to the Foundation's Making the Critical Difference Grants Campaign. Of that amount, \$15,000

## Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship Endowment

Dr. Adrian R. Lawler wanted to offer students opportunities to gain tolerance and understanding of people from other cultures, just as he had as an American Field Service international exchange student from Oak Ridge High School in 1957. In 2008, he chose the Foundation to administer the Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship for international study. Available to students in Oak Ridge schools and recent graduates who are attending college, the scholarship assists in study abroad programs. He designed the scholarship to continue in perpetuity, and a bequest in his will endowed the scholarship after his death in 2013.

The Lawler scholarship has helped ten Oak Ridge High School students and graduates pursue studies in Hong Kong, India, Tunisia, Germany, Japan, France, South Korea, London and Italy. Scholarships range of from \$500 to \$2,000. The scholarship will not usually provide total funding, but instead encourages students to earn part of their funding as a life lesson. "This experience was part of the foundation of my independent nature and thinking," Lawler had said in establishing the scholarship. He was 16 when he stayed with two families in Göteborg and Stockholm, Sweden, and traveled independently while there. "That gave me first-hand experiences in other cultures, making me more tolerant and understanding of others. I went to Sweden as a teenager and came back more mature, as a young man."

For more information about the Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Scholarship, please visit our website at [http://www.orpsef.org/lawler\\_scholarship.html](http://www.orpsef.org/lawler_scholarship.html)



## Fall 2014 Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Scholar

Daniel Colburn, a 2013 graduate of Oak Ridge High School and a junior at the University of Tennessee, absorbed history and archeology as he studied thermodynamics and circuits during an engineering study program in London this summer, his first experience abroad. In the Chancellor's Honors Program, Colburn is majoring in mechanical engineering, with a minor in business and maintainability and reliability. "We partnered those academic experiences with some real world experiences outside the classroom," Colburn said of the London study abroad program. While taking two classes, one in thermodynamics and another in circuits and electromechanical components, he immersed himself in the city's history and culture and learned of the technological advances that originated there. The British Museum of Science, Bletchley Park, where the Allies cracked the German Enigma code during WWII, and the Greenwich Royal Observatory, location of the Prime Meridian, were among highlights of his experiences outside the classroom. Colburn also had the opportunity to visit Rome, where he toured the Coliseum with

an archeologist unearthing artifacts there. Colburn said he is undecided on where his degree will take him, although he is considering a MBA to combine his engineering and business interests.

*"It is extremely difficult to secure the funding necessary to meet the instructional needs of all students and staff. The Education Foundation does an excellent job helping in this area. A prime example can be found in the interactive Promethean Boards at Robertsville Middle School. Due to the financial support of the Education Foundation, all regular Education Core Classes now have a Promethean Board. This offers all teachers and students the benefit of colorful and interactive visuals that is so essential in providing engaging and quality instruction. Due to the financial support of community members and the vision of the Education Foundation, Promethean Boards are now a reality at RMS, which is a benefit to our current and future students. I am thankful and appreciative for the concern and support our Education Foundation provides." - Bruce Lay, Executive Director of School Leadership*

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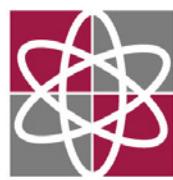
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