



# RIVER VALLEY School District ENDOWMENT

Awards are given in the spring of each school year, for use in the following school year.

Year	Grant Title	Grant Description	Staff Involved
2014-15	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Outdoor Education</b>  <b>\$500</b>	While this program has been in existence for over 15 years, our contribution to the experience will help make it possible for all 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students in the district to participate. The purpose and goals of the program allow students to gain firsthand experience with adventure education activities, outdoor education pursuits, and environmental education knowledge to inspire students to continue a lifelong relationship with nature and physical activity. (Approximately 100 students will be impacted.)	Erin Blakley
	<b>Artist in Residence</b>  <b>\$500</b>	This project will involve all River Valley Elementary Lone Rock students in activities related to art, drama, architecture, literature, and art in nature, through exposure to local artists, with the goal of increasing awareness of art in all forms and appreciation for its value in the world. (Approximately 90 students will be impacted.)	Linda Kettner and Andrea Sullivan
	<b>Learning Seeds</b>  <b>\$500</b>	This project will enlist students, parents, community members and faculty in re-creating an outdoor learning center for middle school students adjacent to the middle school building. Students will learn about prairie plants and restoration, animal habitats, teamwork and ownership. At the end of the project there will be a clear design for the prairie, clean up and new planting will have occurred, and new birdhouses will be installed. (Students in grades 6-8 may be involved.)	Heather Meixelsperger
	<b>Techno Science</b>  <b>\$500</b>	Technology in education continues to grow exponentially and this grant will assist in providing more tablets for use by middle school students. The goal is for students to use technology to broaden their understanding of concepts, be exposed to new activities, i.e. geocaching, and record their learning in labs and outdoor activities. (Approximately 175 students will be impacted.)	Heather Meixelsperger

	<b>Apple TV/iPad Technology Integration</b>  <b>\$500</b>	Through the use of this technology, middle school students will be able to collaborate on projects and show their reading strategies through peer and teacher modeling. As the teacher presents information, he will be able to move around the classroom which will improve student engagement and classroom management. (Approximately 150 students in 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> grade will be impacted.)	James Russell
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<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Robotic STEM Project</b>  <b>\$500</b>	The purpose of this project is to increase science, technology, engineering and math initiatives in a multidisciplinary approach through the Technology Education, Science, and Business Education classes. The implementation of computer-programmed robots into these classes will foster a greater understanding of how computer science works. (The entire middle school population of 314 will be impacted.)	Jamie Licht, Heather Meixselperger, Jason Meixelsperger, Cheryl Ross
	<b>RVMS Blackhawk Outdoor Sculpture</b>  <b>\$500</b>	During the first semester of the 2016-17 school year, RVMS students will work in teams to create a drawing (plan/blueprint) and a 3-D scale model of a Blackhawk sculpture. The winning sculpture design will then be constructed by the high school student welders and Plasma CAM operators in order to showcase their craftsmanship. (Thirty to 100 middle and high school students will be impacted)	Sue Quale and Carla Carmody
	<b>K/3 STEM Educational Enrichment</b>  <b>\$500</b>	This project will provide a STEM experience pairing kindergarten and third grade students with the goal of increasing awareness, building interest and sparking enthusiasm and creativity while learning about engineering. (Approximately 28 elementary students will be impacted.)	Linda Kettner and Cindi Manske
	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Outdoor Education</b>  <b>\$500</b>	While this program has been in existence for over 15 years, our contribution to the project will assist in allowing all 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students in the district to participate. The purpose and goals of the program allow students to gain firsthand experience with adventure education activities, outdoor education pursuits and environmental education knowledge to inspire students to continue a lifelong relationship with nature and physical activity. (Approximately 70 students will be impacted.)	Nikki Hunter and Tim Coyle
	<b>High School Gardening</b>  <b>\$500</b>	The purpose of this project is to revitalize the high school garden to make it a more functional and utilized place for learning that fits the foundation's mission of environmental studies and multi-disciplinary instruction. The grant will be used to help cover the cost of many necessary tools and supplies. (Approximately 50+ high school conservation science and special education students will be impacted).	Erik Johnson
<b>AWARDED BUT</b>	<b>Smart Music in the Classroom</b>	This project utilizes the "Smart Music" app interactive program which provides individualized	Tony Cavagnetto and Matt Snow

<b>RETURNED; PROJECT CANCELLED</b>	<b>\$500</b>	and immediate feedback to students on pitch and rhythm and gives students immediate assessment for further growth and improvement. This application enhances the teachers' ability to integrate technology into a traditionally performance based classroom. (Approximately 200 students will be impacted.)	
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<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Conservation Field Trip</b>  <b>\$800</b>	This grant will be used for 130 high school agriculture and science students to provide a day of hands-on activities lead by Leopold Conservation Award recipient, Dick Cates, learning about forest and prairie ecology, rainwater, infiltration CWD in the deer population, native trout streams and managed grazing practices and the food chain. In addition, a service-learning component of this grant will have students either assisting with the construction of a trail system built by the Ice Age Trail Alliance while another group does work at a local nursing home.	Erik Johnson and Shari Graffunder
	<b>RV Broadcast Studio</b>  <b>\$734</b>	Reaching the entire K-12 population of students our district technology coach will create a permanent studio where both audio and video productions will take place providing opportunities for students to experience and expand their broadcasting and editing skills to produce a finished media project.	Mike McDermott
	<b>RV Elementary STEM Camp</b>  <b>\$1,000</b>	Led by teachers from our three elementary schools, this grant will help to fund the first RV elementary STEM Camp, which will be open to students across the district who have completed grades 2—5. This camp will expose students to various activities to practice using integrated problem solving skills that have lifelong applications.	Cindi Manske, Barb Ferguson, Lori Baryenbruch, Tera Hollfelder, Linda Kettner, and Michelle Weiss
	<b>Heart Zone Technology</b>  <b>\$1,000</b>	This grant will be used to enhance the Heart Zone System previously funded by Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation for use in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades by all students. As part of the Smart PE movement (technology driven), the grant will provide the technology needed for real time feedback from the “wearables” enabling students to monitor their progress as they build their fitness levels, understand their heart health, and combat childhood obesity, empowering them to pursue safe and healthy active lifestyles.	Jeff Johnson and Laura Stanton
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Robotics (Sumo Bots)</b>  <b>\$1,432</b>	Continuing the theme of exposure and experience with career oriented STEM applications, this project will allow eighth grade students to work in teams to design, fabricate, program and operate Sumo Bots. Beyond the STEM disciplines that are highlighted in the projects, students will have the opportunity to	Jamie Licht and Sue Quale

		develop their communication, collaboration, leadership and problem solving skills.	
	<b>LED Lighting and Coordinating Systems</b>  <b>\$550</b>	Watch for the results of this project in future programming throughout the district, as technology and engineering skills will be used to create exciting lighting effects at school events.	Phil Manske
	<b>Introduction to Video Game Design</b>  <b>\$1,185</b>	This will be a new elective course at the HS in 2018. Once again the STEM disciplines, plus artistic abilities will be incorporated to provide students with an understanding of the technological and creative components required to build and launch a new video game. The initial student interest in this class offering has been very high, and will provide another avenue for exploration of a future career direction in a technical college setting.	Lori Hoffman
	<b>STEM Lab</b>  <b>\$1,000</b>	This project will establish a Science/STEM/Gifted and Talented creative space at River Valley Elementary starting in the fall of 2018. The goal is to promote creativity using hands on innovative experiences related to Science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. The teachers will develop programming using these materials to enhance the experience of all students in grades 1-4.	Cindi Manske, Linda Kettner, Kathy Harris, and Jaime Hegland
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Living Wall</b>  <b>\$3,000</b>	While teaching practical life science, technology, and welding skills this project reaches students across several grade levels who will research, collaborate, and engineer ways to create a living wall of plants to be featured in the middle school.	Heather Meixelsperger, T.J. Wunnicke, Carla Carmody
	<b>Coding with Ozobots</b>  <b>\$1,200</b>	After attending a computer science professional development class, Lori added a computer science unit to her curriculum. This grant will allow her to take her students to the next level of programming Evo Robots to do specific tasks.	Lori Baryenbruch
	<b>RV Forest Trail</b>  <b>\$1,000</b>	With the goal of getting all middle school students involved in the outdoor, this grant will be used to further develop and utilize the school forest trail created during 2016/17. It will be used to improve the trail, learning spaces, and emphasize multidisciplinary instruction as well as professional growth for teachers on innovative educational techniques.	James Radtke
	<b>Tour Virtually Anywhere</b>  <b>\$364</b>	High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be able to view places they are studying as well as historical sites in 3-D.	Ryne Ponsler

	<b>Bluebird Trail</b> <b>\$216.90</b>	Students will create a habitat for bluebirds to raise their young while researching locations, building the birdhouses, monitoring, and maintaining the trail.	Tera Hollfelder
	<b>Get Your Code On</b> <b>\$600</b>	This grant will provide opportunities for hands on experience in coding and robotics to teach math and science concepts along with problem solving, collaboration, communication, perseverance, and sequencing. With application into several subject areas students will see how STEM concepts are relevant to their everyday life.	Cindi Manske
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2019-20</b> <b>AWARDED BUT RETURNED; PROJECT CANCELLED</b>	<b>Escaping the Classroom to Bring Life to Communities</b> <b>\$1,200</b>	This project involves all middle school students in a celebration of Earth Day with physical activities of help in each community of the RV District as well as speakers and STEAM activities.	Heather Meixelsperger, Jason Meixelsperger, Lori Baryenbruch, James Radtke
<b>AWARDED BUT RETURNED; PROJECT CANCELLED</b>	<b>Taliesin Passion Projects</b> <b>\$670</b>	This project focuses on a multi-disciplinary approach for students to tour the Taliesin Estate and then develop related passion projects over a 4-month period researching their areas of interest.	Kathy Harris
	<b>Renovation and Relocation of Janene King Fitness Trail</b> <b>\$1,250</b>	This project involves renovation and relocation of the Fitness Trail making it user friendly for all K-12 students as well as community use.	Lisa Roelke
	<b>High School Library Media Center: Interior Art and Commercial Design</b> <b>\$2,000</b>	This project is a collaboration between teachers, students, and community members involving a multi-disciplinary approach resulting in a redesign of the high school library media center and creating gallery space.	Dede Holverson, Kasey Maxwell, TJ Wunnicke
	<b>Endless Chickard Love</b> <b>\$975</b>	This project includes the research, development and construction of a bearded dragon tank, chicken tunnel with electronic door, and larger scale hydroponics.	Heather Meixlesperger, TJ Wunnicke, Robby Jacobson, Jason Meixelsperger, James Radtke
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<i>N/A During COVID (a COVID-19 Relief Initiative was implemented by the Endowment instead)</i>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>

<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Laser Engraver</b>  <b>\$1,720</b>	RVMS - This grant was for the purchase of a Laser Engraver Module to be used for grades 7-12 providing them an opportunity to become proficient in the use of equipment while utilizing the software, preparing and allowing for industry relevant skills.	Tim Wunnicke
	<b>Development of Frisbee Golf Course</b>  <b>\$1,850</b>	RVHS - The purpose of this project was to provide another outdoor lifetime activity promoting teamwork and exercise. It can be utilized as part of the physical education curriculum in grades K-12 as well as being open to community and family use.	Lisa Roelke/ Jackson Thier (student)
	<b>Multicultural/ Diversity Materials</b>  <b>\$3,768</b>	ELC (4K) - It is the goal of this project to have books and toys available for EL/4K students to help teach that everyone is accepted, welcomed, and valued regardless of differences as well as making students more globally and socially aware.	Rhonda Licht (writer), Elaine Frank, Lisa Miller, Melinda Mohr
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Climate Team - Choose Kind Initiative</b>  <b>\$2,000</b>	RVMS - This is a middle school initiative to promote kindness year round as an effort to help stop bullying and harassment. Incorporated into this project are t-shirts to be designed by students through a competition and worn by students and staff as a reminder on designated days throughout the year as a part of this project.	Dan Machovec
	<b>LMC Outdoor Design: Pergola and Landscaping</b>  <b>\$3,000</b>	RVHS - This is a vast outdoor project undertaken at the High School Library. It incorporates a community member sharing his landscaping expertise, Building Trades students, and Greenhouse Management Students and their teachers. The goal is to create a comfortable and sustainable outdoor space built by students and maintained by students.	Dede Holverson and TJ Wunnicke
	<b>New Age Fitness for All</b>  <b>\$807</b>	RVMS - The purpose of this project is to expose students to examples of fitness equipment utilized in real world exercise settings with 5th and 6th graders using Tumbling Stations and 7th and 8th graders using Fitness Stations units. The goal is to help students discover activities to keep them physically and mentally healthy for a lifetime.	Laura Stanton and Jeff Johnson
	<b>Welcoming Schools Class Library</b>  <b>\$593</b>	RV Elem - The goal of this project is to create a welcoming environment for families and students through read aloud books and discussion that reflects the rich diversity of our community. Lesson plans will be created to use these age appropriate books and stories throughout the school year.	Andrea Sullivan, Whitney Bindl, and Matt Kazimier
	<b>Elementary School Compost Tumbler</b>  <b>\$200</b>	RV Elem - This project will begin as part of the After School Program and will decrease food waste currently going into a landfill with composting. It is the hope that this will expand to other classes during the day (breakfast and lunch) and the compost eventually used for an elementary school garden.	Jennifer Moore-Kerr and Tera Hollfelder
	<b>Saving Nemo</b>  <b>\$300</b>	RV ELC - The project builds on the use of a saltwater fish tank in a kindergarten classroom where it is used to teach students about the care and respect of animals, taking care of the ocean, and also	Michelle Weiss

		as a calming and relaxation technique for students with special needs.	
	<b>Newspaper Exploration and Writing</b>  <b>\$750</b>	RVMS - Through a guest speaker who is a historian and will speak to similarities between historical newspapers and the social media of today, students will explore expository and informative text writing in their English class with the focus on a Supreme Court case being studied in their Civics class.	Lauren Walker
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Cooking Club</b>  <b>\$1,260</b>	RVMS - This is an after school initiative to teach students how to prepare healthy and delicious dishes with the hope of fostering a love for cooking and healthy eating habits that will carry over into their family dynamic.	Jaime Hisel, Food Service Director
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Robotics</b>  <b>\$1,795</b>	RV Elem - Funding this will allow more students to have access to creative learning, problem solving, collaboration, and innovative skills while helping to build a 4th Grade STEM program.	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Team: Tara Johnson, Tera Hollfelder, and Nicole Steigenberger
	<b>Outdoor Area Improvements</b>  <b>\$1,350</b>	RV Elem - The purpose of this grant is to help to create an outdoor area for creative play and relaxation for the after school program.	Jennifer Moore-Kerr, Director of Before/After School Program and Michael Mani, Elem. Phy. Ed Teacher
	<b>Teaching for Artistic Behavior Technology – Phase One</b>  <b>\$840</b>	RVMS - Students will experience the visual arts as artists responsible for their learning. Following introductions to available media, students will advance their individual artistic processes through exploration and discovery, inquiry and ideation, skill development and art making, reflection and revision, self-evaluation and presentation. This approach will help to ensure that learning in the Art Studio is rigorous, relevant, student centered, and collaborative.	Monica Kmak, MS Art Teacher
	<b>Electric Vehicle</b>  <b>\$13,000</b>	RVMS - This grant will fund the purchase of modular electric vehicle kits that will enable students to assemble and disassemble various design plans, read a design plan, and learn about mechanics, assembling, tools, braking systems and electric mobility. This will provide middle school students opportunities in auto mechanics and engineering building mechanical aptitude.	TJ Wunnicke, Technology Education Teacher



	<b>FarmBot Project</b> <b>\$3,500</b>	RVMS - This project is projected to bridge the gap between technology and farming. It will enable students to program and operate CNC robotics that will do everything from planting seed to weeding and watering. Technology used for this project will help students to learn about coding, automation, and manufacturing as well as being cross curricular into many areas.	TJ Wunnicke, Technology Education Teacher
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>STEAM on the Playground</b> <b>\$6,944</b>	RVMS – 5-8 Art This grant will provide for the purchase of a Rigamajig Basic Builder which will inspire collaboration, hands on free play, discovery, problem solving skills, and STEAM learning on the playground. It will foster developing the Design Thinking Process essential to arts, science, and technology education.	Monica Kmak
	<b>Art MOB (Making Ourselves Better)</b> <b>\$4,940</b>	RVMS – 5-8 Art To promote a culture of wellness and creativity for both staff and students through 5 after school workshops to include tie-dying, ceramics, jewelry making, glass fusing/mosaics, and painting is the goal of this grant.	Monica Kmak
	<b>Self-regulation through Pulse Oximeter and Grounding Mat</b> <b>\$490</b>	RV Elem – pre-K-4th grade Based on current research, this grant’s goal is to teach children how to self regulate based on their heart rate and also instruct teachers and staff how to use this information enabling methods to deal with stress and anxiety to better understand the mental health needs of students.	Stacy Hauden
	<b>Owls</b> <b>\$640</b>	RV Elem – 2nd Grade Fostering an integrated unit on study, this grant will include research, writing, art and science about owls. A presentation will be done by Hoo’s Raptor Center and include the dissection of owl pellets bringing the food chain full circle.	Kari Evenson, Shannon Shelton- Ganser, Elaine Frank
	<b>Laser Engraver</b> <b>\$954</b>	RVHS – 9-12 This laser engraver will allow students to convert a design to a CNC project learning skillsets as a benefit to future employment.	Robby Jacobson
	<b>Zen Den</b> <b>\$900</b>	RV Elem Special Education This grant will be used to establish a system and space to help students develop the ability to self regulate their bodies and minds enabling them to return to their regular classrooms.	Jill Bierman, Anna Pawlisch
<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
<b>2025-26</b>	<b>Birds of Prey</b> <b>\$636</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Fostering an integrated unit of study, this grant will include research, writing, art and science about owls. A presentation will be done by Hoo’s Raptor Center and include the dissection of owl pellets bringing the food chain full circle.	Marissa Anderson, Shannon Shelton- Ganser, and Gina Eastlick



	<b>Chicken Math, Friendship, and Responsibility</b>  <b>\$2,500</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> This project will serve to create an updated chicken coop at the junior high/high school. The 7th grade students will provide ideas to the high school Building Construction students in the design of the new coop for them to construct. 7th grade students will continue to utilize this project to discuss empathy, responsibility, and growth in addition to an emphasis on environmental issues such as reduce, reuse, and recycle. The chickens will also serve as support to students who struggle with friendships or just need some comfort. The new coop will be open to the community and staff.	Heather Meixelsperger and TJ Wunnicke
	<b>Rigamajig Basic Builder Set</b>  <b>\$4,425</b>	<b>4K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Art</b> The kit will allow students to create things to build that reflect what they are learning and involve skills such as collaboration, invention, creativity, and critical thinking skills. It is the hope that the kit can also be used by other teachers across curriculums.	Megan Quigley
	<b>Piano Lab</b>  <b>\$1,590</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music</b> Piano skills will help students internalize the concepts of melody, harmony, pitch, rhythm, and beat. It has been proven that piano skills have a direct and positive impact on student learning overall.	Nick Ehlinger
	<b>Robotics Unit</b>  <b>\$2,251</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> Additional units will allow more students to have access to creative learning, problem solving, collaboration, and innovative skills while helping to build a 4th Grade STEM program.	Tara Johnson, Nicole Steigenberger, Kari Evenson, and Monica Lovell
	<b>Family/School Partnership</b>  <b>\$1,200</b>	<b>PK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> The Family School Partnership offers three parenting sessions where parents learn better parenting techniques along with a family meal. Session 1 is based on family structure, boundaries, responsibilities and screen time. The second session is connecting with their children's brain development and redirecting big emotions. The final session is about helping the parents and children regulate their bodies when they are having big emotions.	Stacy Hauden
	<b>Flexible Seating</b>  <b>\$823</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b> The project is to expand seating options to allow student choices in seating to increase motivation of engagement in independent work. It has also been shown to increase students stamina.	Marissa Anderson, Shannon Shelton-Ganser, and Gina Eastlick
	<b>Happy Hen House</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b> Chicken coops provide multi-disciplinary instruction as well as school and community involvement. Students will be involved in hands on learning,	Olivia Fry, Rhonda Licht, Savannah Meligan and

	<b>\$3,000</b>	sustainability, integration of science, math, and social studies in addition to learning about responsibility and empathy. This project may also boost student confidence and engagement.	Loren Glasbrenner (grant author)
	<b>Axolotl Assistant</b>  <b>\$425</b>	5th Grade Special Education This project involves a computer generated and controlled pet... an axolotl salamander! The goal is to teach responsibility, enhance emotional regulation, encourage hands-on learning, foster engagement and curiosity, and build social/cooperative skills.	Simonne Starr and Susan Bindl