

The Mars Planet Foundation

Summer 2024 Newsletter

marsplanetfoundation.org

THE HISTORY

Founded in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization, the Mars Planet Foundation serves the Mars Area School District by providing opportunities to enhance and enrich the learning endeavors of each student in the District.



In this edition:

[Foundation Hosts Academic Excellence & Scholarship Awards Ceremony](#)

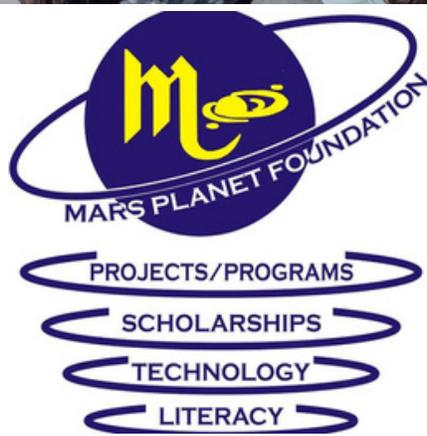
[Light Night at MAE](#)

[Thank you to our Scoreboard Sponsors!](#)

[2023 - 2024 School Year Teacher Grant & EITC Building Grant Recap](#)

[Save the date - June 14, 2025!](#)

[Find ways to be a part of Mars Planet Foundation](#)



MISSION

The Mars Planet Foundation focuses on awarding teacher grants throughout each school year to inspire teachers to bring innovative new ideas and programs to their students which ultimately enhance their learning opportunities. We also oversee scholarships that help to enrich our graduating seniors at the annual Academic Excellence and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

Mars Planet Foundation Members:

Board Members -

Beth Ziegler - President
Doug Wolf - Vice President
Kim Vandall - Treasurer
Tricia Holland - Secretary
Maura DiGioia
Kevin Hagen
Carol Knox
Liz Porco
Amy Riggio
Aaron Rose
Vickie Zaccari

Ambassadors -

Heliana Galvis-Orr
Robin Parsons
Lee Ann Riner

Summer 2024

Foundation and High School Guidance Office Host 32nd Academic Excellence and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Scholarship Winners

- BC3 Pioneer Education Scholarship - Karlee Olinger
- Don McCleary Trade Scholarship - Brian Yurek
- Edward R. Choura Vocational -Technical Automotive Tech/ Baseball Scholarship - Charles Bickel
- Helen Werner Anderson Memorial Scholarship - Ryan Schnitgen
- Jake Cooper Memorial Scholarship - Jacob Maple
- Katie Marie Nelson Memorial Scholarship - Addison Girdwood
- Kean Foundation Scholarship for the Arts - Cassandra Cannon
- Kean Foundation STEM Scholarship - Peyton Randall
- Kimberly Young Memorial Scholarship - Riley Mayer
- LEFCON Technology Scholarship - Remi Black & Kaitlyn Lawless
- Mars Area High School Backstop Club Baseball Scholarship - Jacob Maple
- Mars Area High School Cheer Boosters Scholarship - Kelley Kozesky & Samantha Arnold
- Mars Area High School Girls Basketball Scholarship - Ava Day
- Mars Musical Theatre Boosters Marlin Clay Memorial Scholarship - Nicholas Ferrari & Lauren Karg
- Mars Aquatic Club Scholarship - Peyton Randall
- Mars Planet Foundation Education Scholarship - Nora Solich
- Mars Planet Foundation School Spirit Scholarship - Trevin Hammerbeck
- Ross McConnell Memorial Scholarship - Madison Reinhart
- William R "Beel" Neel Scholarship - Mayson Kennedy

Every spring, the Mars Planet Foundation works with the High School Guidance office to host a senior awards ceremony and reception to award scholarships and honor outstanding seniors. A special thank you to Just In Thyme catering for once again making this year's reception special by providing hand-selected appetizers, sweets and tables to help make the evening as outstanding as each of the seniors!

If you have a rising senior, check out the various scholarships available on our website: <https://marsplanetfoundation.org>



Thank you to our Scoreboard Sponsors!

Support the Mars Planet Foundation

The Mars Planet Foundation relies on the generous donations of the community and local businesses to provide teacher grants, student scholarships and overall support to the growth of students. There are many ways in which you can get involved. Please consider volunteering your time, making a personal donation, or making a corporate donation.

To donate please go to marsplanetfoundation.org

Give a little. Help a lot.

Parents, alumni and friends can maximize personal contributions to the Mars Planet Foundation with corporate matching gifts. By taking advantage of a company's matching gift benefit, you may be able to double or even triple the amount of an individual contribution. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please check with your HR department.

At the conclusion of this school year, our MAC scoreboard fundraising efforts reached record-breaking status, raising \$35,500 thanks to our sponsors! All that we do would not be possible if not for the continued community and business support. The Foundation graciously thanks its scoreboard sponsors for their support. Please join us in patronizing their businesses and thanking them for supporting the Mars Planet Foundation.



Foundation Finishes Strong

The Mars Planet Foundation awarded \$24,637 in Teacher Enrichment Grants this past school year. Grants awarded impacted students of all grade levels - from the Primary Center through High School. The Foundation also conducted a survey of the District's teachers to gauge how it could better serve the teachers, and thus the students, through the Teacher Enrichment Grant process. The Board Members of the Foundation look forward to implementing what we learned through the survey responses in the coming year to better serve our teachers and students!

End of Year EITC Fund Distribution

The MPF was pleased to provide end of year building grants of \$2000 per District building. The funds for these grants came from donations made by businesses that use the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) to both their benefit and ours. Contact the Foundation today to learn more about the EITC!

Primary Center	Jim "Basketball" Jones assembly to kick off the School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support initiative	\$2,500
High School	Wallop's Island Marine Sciences Field Trip	\$8,000
Elementary School	Light Night Art & STEAM Showcase	\$2,606
Primary Center	Educational Insights Wireless Eggspert interactive game systems	\$332
Primary Center	Various supplies for STEAM classroom, including Magna-Tiles, Microscope kits, and Electrical Circuit Play Dough kits -	\$2,000
Elementary School	Various supplies for STEAM classroom, including Dash Robots, 3D Pens and Hummingbird Bit Controllers	\$2,000
Centennial School	Sphero RVR+ Robots	\$2,000
Middle School	Contribution to Hummingbird Premium Robotics Kit and MakeCode programming software	\$2,000
High School	Contribution to Raise 3D E2 Industrial 3D Printer	\$2,000
District-wide	Luncheon for District teachers and staff to celebrate successful results of audit of Special Education Department	\$1,199



Save the Date!

Marty has something
colorful in store -

June 14, 2025 -

Adams Township Park



*stay
tuned!*

Board Member Opening

Upcoming Mars Planet Foundation Board Meetings

All MPF Board Meetings are held in the MASD Board Room starting at 6:30pm.

- August 19th
- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- January 15th 2025

Ambassadors Wanted

The Mars Planet Foundation is seeking individuals interested in volunteering with the Foundation. Ambassadors are non-voting members who assist the Foundation Board at their level of availability and interest. This role is perfect for those who want to be involved but need flexibility in terms of their commitment.

Ambassadors are vital to the Foundation's success!

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at admin@marsplanetfoundation.com

ARE YOU A MASD RESIDENT WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT EDUCATION AND IS LOOKING TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?

Then the Mars Planet Foundation is for you! We are currently seeking a new Secretary to join our amazing team!



MARS PLANET FOUNDATION SECRETARY

We are looking for someone who can help the Foundation document monthly meeting minutes, draft acknowledgement and thank you letters, and maintain files and documentation for the Foundation.

In addition, you'll have the opportunity to shadow the Foundation's current Secretary, which will enable you to learn how the role is presently managed before being responsible for managing it on your own.

For more information about the Foundation, or if you are interested in submitting your name for consideration, please contact us at admin@marsplanetfoundation.com.

All interested applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume. Once submitted, a Mars Planet Foundation board member will contact you promptly.