

MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

WWW.MARSPLANETFUNDATION.ORG - ADMIN@MARSPLANETFUNDATION.ORG



OUR HISTORY

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

OUR MISSION

We focus on awarding Teacher Grants throughout the year, to inspire Teachers to bring innovative new ideas and programs to their students which ultimately enhance their learning capabilities. Scholarships help to enrich our graduating Seniors as there are a growing number of them that we steward and award at the annual Academic Banquet.



Flexible seating inside select classrooms funded by the Mars Planet Foundation

2020 SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDEES

The Mars Planet Foundation awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships to the Mars Class of 2020

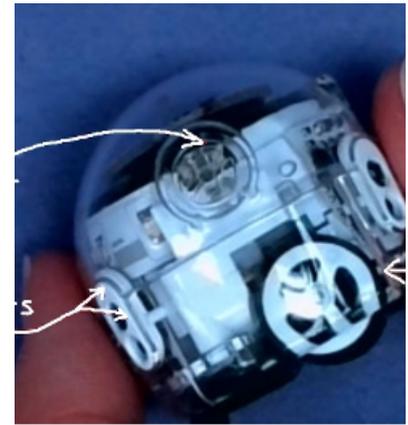
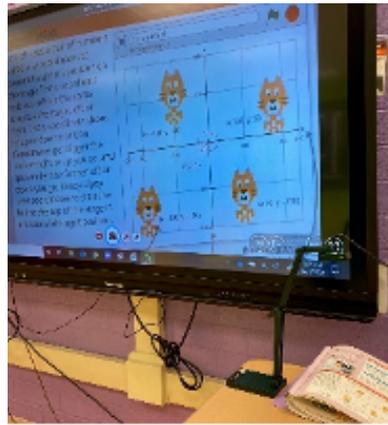
BC3 Pioneer- Bridget Hill
Belinda A. Terzich Memorial- Jenna Sutton
Kean Arts Scholarship- Adrian Zugehar
Kean STEAM Scholarship- Adrian Zugehar
Edward Choura Memorial- Jesse Kutchko
Kristine Schindler Memorial- Olivia Williams
MAHS Chemistry, Engineering, & Math- Jenna Sutton
Planet Foundation Educational Scholarship- Grace Kearney
Ross McConnell Memorial- Roshan Nunna
MAHS Swim/Dive - Grace Huff
Lefcon Technology - Jenna Sutton & Conner Bird
William “Beel” Neel Scholarship - William Allison
Manerino Family University of Pittsburgh Scholarships- Caroline Barnet, Will Allison, Grace Huff, Brad Astbury, Matthew Gourash, Jenna Sutton, Katie Castello, Alyssa Machi, Victoria Saylor, Amayah Klein, Jacob Luedy

TEACHERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

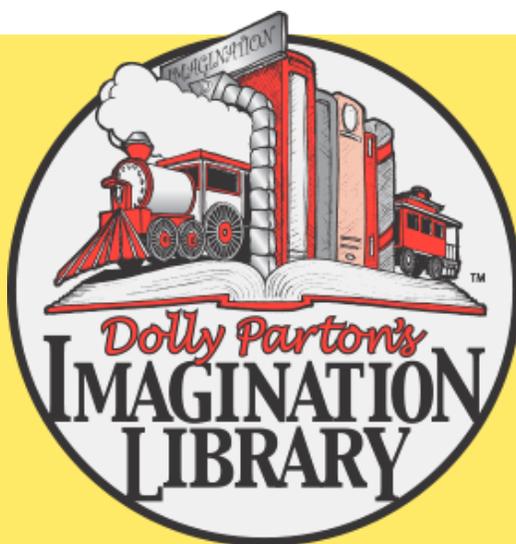
TEACHER GRANTS

**IPEVO Document Camera
From Colleen Hinrichsen
STEAM Teacher, Elementary
& Centennial Schools**

We are so grateful for our IPEVO Document Camera! I use it daily with my students in STEAM. Some of our learning resources are very small, like little robots or wire connections. By digitally capturing the up-close live-view, I can show those things on our large Promethean panel in the room! Students can get a better understanding of how to operate the different objects.



Rather than having to ask me to show them again individually (up close), students can see those details from the start and begin the learning challenge immediately. I can annotate over the video or pictures so I can label specific parts for students. Some of our robots are programmed through an app on the iPads. I am able to use the document camera to show the robot and the iPad programming at the same time. Students also love having a chance to present their robot programs in action to the class on the “big screen” by using the IPEVO! Any chance they get, no matter the project, they love showing their unique projects on the “big screen” for all classmates. Now, more than ever, it is especially treasured. If we have an object in the room to show, students seated (spaced apart) at the back of the room can see it, all while students at home can see it! Due to it being digitally captured, I can share the screen with LSI students. The overhead camera would be unable to capture those small details. This little gem has gone above and beyond for us, and we certainly cannot imagine a day of school without it! On behalf of my students and myself, we thank you!



The Mars Planet Foundation is the proud sponsor of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family. Countless parents have shared how excited their child is when their new book arrives each month. Many groups and individuals work hard behind the scenes to make that special moment possible for each child. To sign up, go to <https://marsplanetfoundation.org/dolly-parton-library>.

MARS ATHLETIC COMPLEX SIGNAGE AVAILABLE

Support the Mars Planet Foundation AND showcase your business to the community with a MAC Scoreboard sponsorship. There are currently three (3) open positions for annual sponsors.

Contact admin@marsplanetfoundation.org for details.



Support the Mars Planet Foundation Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)

The Mars Planet Foundation is an approved Educational Improvement Organization that can receive donations through the state's EITC program. The Foundation applies annually to be an approved organization and works with the Mars Area School District to submit approved projects that can receive funding from EITC donations. Some of the approved programs include:

STEAM-Related Initiatives - Provide funds to purchase equipment and/or supplies to supplement learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts or Math for all students.

One-to-One Technology – Education without Limits - Provide funds to improve and/or replace technology used to enhance learning for daily instruction of students.

For more information regarding Pennsylvania's EITC program, please visit their website (<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>).

SAVE THE DATE

MARS PLANET FOUNDATION ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

August 13, 2021

Pheasant Ridge Golf Course



TEACHER GRANTS

Whiteboard Tables

From Melissa Badger

6th Grade Teacher

The purpose of this project was to increase understanding and concept mastery among my students when tasked with a problem or situation that requires perseverance, collaboration, and a larger space in which to express their solutions, thoughts, and ideas. Student engagement is extremely high when using the tables and many creative ideas and solutions are generated. Enabling students to collaborate in colorful and creative ways is a lot of fun for the students, but more importantly I have seen greater participation from students who normally remain quiet or disengage during classroom activities. I've also seen students feel freer to generate and share "outside the box" solutions to problems that allow their peers to potentially find alternative ways to solve problems which they may not have come up with individually. Whether the task requires independent work, partner work, or small group work, these tables allow my students to express themselves fully and creatively. I am so thankful to the Planet Foundation for making this interactive learning available in my classroom!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



GILLILAND VANASDALE SINATRA LAW OFFICE, LLC

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 www.marsplanetfoundation.org

