

Our mission is to enrich, extend, and deepen the educational experiences of East Penn School District students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, the five pillars of critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and problem solving.











We're Earning Your Commitment



Dear Friends,

One of our core values as an Education Foundation has to be transparency. Transparency fosters great long-lasting relationships for our donors and as well as our recipients. Our mission to the students of the East Penn School District can only be achieved if we have trusting relationships of those who support our mission. Our local community has and continues to step up and support the Foundation. As we continue to assist in the advancement of our education system here in the East Penn School District, we will gather even more support from our local community. Donations and other forms of support provided by our sponsors help provide opportunities for enhanced learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

We also value our transparent relationship with our teachers, who are the life blood of the District and the conduit that the Foundation has to our students. This year, the Education Foundation worked effectively with the teachers and the administration to accomplish aspects of our mission that will inspire our students for years to come. A classic example of this relationship is our inaugural Career Exploration Fair, which was held in the High School Gymnasium. We estimated that more than 350 people attended to engage with 60 + career exhibitors.

This year, we also expanded our Teachers STEAM Innovator Grants and funneled more than \$14,000 back into our schools. Our Foundation is committed to growing the grant program because we know that these specific programs help students gain skills in critical thinking and problem solving.

Our dynamic Board of Directors strategically continues to meet the challenges of a new Foundation. I couldn't have asked to work with a more professional and committed group of people.

The Foundation's goals can only be achieved if we earn the trust of our parents and the community. I assure you that we are and will continue to be great stewards of your generous donations and make you proud to be a part of the East Penn School District. I promise that you will not be disappointed in your contributions.

I want to thank each and every one of you who took a part in the success of the Education Foundation over the past year. You have already made a difference in the education of our students. For years to come, you have made a difference. You only have to visit our schools or talk to our wonderful teachers to find out for yourself what a difference you are making.

That is our commitment to you.

With Pride!

Salvatore B. Verrastro
EPSD - Education Foundation President

Full STEAM Ahead

Committee Members: Joshua Levinson Denise Brosky Michael Mauro

The Community Outreach Committee (COC) and STEAM Team promote the mission of the EPSD Education Foundation through engagement with the community and by enhancing the relationship between STEAM professionals and educators within the East Penn School District. In 2018, relationships were built and strengthened with district administration, faculty, and community members, by meaningful discussion about how to best serve the needs of the students in East Penn. Ultimately, the groundwork was laid for fantastic opportunities to enrich the lives of the students in our District.

Throughout 2018, the COC enjoyed success arranging opportunities to share in dialogue with faculty, staff, and parents while attending a number of events throughout the District. Foundation members visited faculty meetings held at each school to discuss the Foundation, its mission, and its efforts to provide STEAM resources for the classroom. A promotional table for the Foundation was set up at the District's Parent Camp, in recognition of the fact that families are partners in our students' success. Foundation members also attended and presented at both District Day and New Teacher Orientation, which were viewed as important opportunities to showcase and/or introduce the Foundation to the faculty, staff, and administration. Additionally, after obtaining School Board approval, a large vinyl sign was designed and created for display at EPSD Stadium at Emmaus High School to advertise the Foundation.

The STEAM Team focused its efforts in 2018 on creating a core set of ideas for bringing optional community-based STEAM resources to the classroom and also on developing relationships with members of the Administration and the building leaders at the secondary schools. The condensed list of ideas included hands-on demonstrations in virtual reality, presentations and activities on invention/innovation, introduction to robotics, monthly "brown-bag" or "STEAMed" lunch talk/discussion series, 3D design and production digital pipeline, "virtual-in-residence" inventors/scientists/engineers, fabrication projects (e.g., boat building), hour of code programming, and drone programs. These ideas were carefully articulated to the building leaders at the high school and at the two middle schools, and the Team received both favorable and constructive feedback on what/how these ideas could work in both the classroom and extra-curricular settings.

Moving forward, the COC and STEAM Team will be seeking to build upon the successes of 2018. The COC plans to continue its focus on bringing the message of the Foundation to our community by continuing to attend District events and by leveraging exposure provided by the various Foundation-sponsored activities and web site resources. The STEAM Team plans to further refine its core list of enrichment ideas and to bring them into a structured resource (accessible via the Foundation web site) where members of the faculty (at both the elementary and secondary schools) can locate and contact community members to support

and to augment classroom activities. As part of this effort, the STEAM Team will also be looking to actively recruit members of the community to serve these Foundation-supported resources by also leveraging outreach and web-based tools.

Keeping Things Moving

Committee Members: Jill Killo, Co-Chair Laura Groh, Co-Chair Heather Slatoff

This year the Foundation partnered with the Emmaus Guidance Department to host our Inaugural Career Exploration Fair. The goal of this event is to bring together community professionals and students to connect and engage in career conversations. The event brought together 60 community professionals and over 350 local students and families. We thank event sponsor Red Robin and VIP sponsors New Tripoli Bank, Christmas City Studios, Spillman Farmer Architects, Burkholders Heating and Air-conditioning, and Macungie Animal Hospital.

Thank you to all who participated and inspired students to reach for their dream careers.

In June, the Annual Grant Gala, "A Night For Innovation" hosted 150 guests to recognize, honor, and support our outstanding innovative teachers and their commitment to enhancing the educational experiences of East Penn School District students. The annual gala raises funds to support our talented teachers through our Innovator Teacher Grant Program while recognizing their time investments and talent. The success of our Gala is largely due to the continuing support of event and individual sponsors. We recognize and thank the following businesses and individuals that share our commitment to the success of EPSD teachers and students.

JetPay HR & Payroll Services, Better Homes Valley Partners, Barry Isett & Associates, New Tripoli Bank, Myers, Benner Corporation, Snyder Hoffman, Embassy Bank, Lehigh Valley Engineering, Schantz Funeral Home, Gross McGinley, Red Robin, Campbell, Rappold & Yursits, Don Juan Mex Grill, Wildlands Conservancy, Modernfold, Wesley Works Real Estate, Provident Bank, The Equinox Agency, WeDiscoverGeeks, Rory King Erie Insurance, Dr. and Mrs. John Hart, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Gorton, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Zayatiz, The Honorable Thomas Wallitsch and Mrs. Lauren Wallitsch.

This year also brought the addition of a very special grant, Mrs. Fehlinger's 2nd grade grant. As winners of an Innovator Grant in 2017, Wescosville students created artwork through coded robots. These works of art were then offered for sale at parents' night. Mrs. Fehlinger's class wanted to give the money raised from the sale of their Innovative artwork to the Foundation so other students in East Penn could have experiences like they did. This \$52.00 grant is available for a very special winner to follow the spirit in which this award is being offered.

The Foundation has raised \$28,052 for the Grant Program and awarded thirty-two Innovator Teacher Grants since 2016.

Our program provides \$14,500 in Innovator Teacher Grants each year.

One of the most exciting, inspiring, and motivating events the Foundation has the pleasure to participate in, is District Day. Each August East Penn teachers are welcomed back for a new school year. They walk through the doors with contagious energy, enthusiasm and excitement. Foundation Directors greet teachers with huge smiles, much gratitude, a small gift and an announcement of an opportunity to receive a grant. We are truly #EastPennProud.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Foundation continues to partner with the East Penn Chamber of Commerce to host a yearly mixer benefiting the Chamber's Scholarship fund and the Foundation's general fund. Community members, local professionals business owners, teachers and parents come together to support both causes while enjoying time spent together at local East Penn businesses. The House and Barn hosted our first mixer and Yergey's Brewery and Triple Sun Spirits- Emmaus were our gracious hosts this year. Event hosts donate 10% of the proceeds amounting to nearly \$1,000.00 divided between the Foundation and the Chamber.

The Foundation proudly celebrates graduates through our Senior Sign program. Parents can surprise and honor their graduate with a sign that marks this important accomplishment while supporting the Foundation. This program has raised nearly \$3,300.00.

The holiday season is a season for giving and gratitude. The Foundation's Holiday Teacher Tribute program is the perfect way for parents to honor their child's favorite teacher, administrator, coach, custodian, librarian, nurse, bus driver, or administrative assistant while supporting the Foundation's mission. Holiday Teacher Tribute honorees receive a student designed acknowledgement card and sweet treat from Josh Early Candies. With the support of parents this program raised nearly \$300.

The event committee looks forward to many future successful events that are consistent with and support the mission of the Foundation.

We're Putting Learning in Motion



Your Contribution in High Gear

Committee Members:

Chris DeFrain – Chair Salvatore Verrastro John Zayaitz

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) Funding:

The committee thanks Embassy Bank for their continued support of the foundation through their yearly EITC contributions. In 2018, People Security Bank & Trust also began supporting the foundation with EITC contributions. EITC funding is a great way for local businesses that pay Pennsylvania income taxes to use some of those tax dollars to fund STEAM education. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors if you would like to learn more about this tax credit.

Event Sponsorship:

Your company can sponsor one of our great yearly events that we hold. Your company can be the exclusive event sponsor of our Grant Gala, Career Exploration Fair, District Teacher's Day or our Chamber Foundation Partnered event. We held our first Career Exploration Fair in 2018 and it was a huge success. We expect this to get bigger and better in upcoming years.

Project Sponsor:

The committee, along with the school district, helped develop a Prototyping Lab Wish List for STEAM initiatives. Do you want to fund a specific project that closely matches what your business specializes in? Do you want to fund specific STEAM initiatives that match personal your educational values? If so, visit our website to see the project opportunities that exist. We thank The Goldenburg Group for supporting one of these projects in 2018.

Supporting Sponsor:

Our supporting sponsors contribute up to \$250. These sponsors allow us to fund many of our events, STEAM programs and other ongoing costs of running a foundation. We are thankful for all those that supported us in 2018.

Social Media Funding Opportunities:

Did you know you could support the foundation by choosing us as your supporting organization on Facebook? Create your own Facebook fundraiser campaign and ask your friends and family to support local education. It is quick and easy to do. You can also support the foundation by choosing us as your charitable organization on Amazon Smile. 0.5% of all your eligible purchases go to support the charitable organization of your choice. Please see our website for more information about supporting us through Amazon Smile.



New Faces and New Ideas

Committee Members: Stanley K. Landis—Chair Chris DeFrain Rodd Luckenbill

Four new members were recruited for election to the Foundation Board of Directors in 2018.

Michael Mauro, a teacher representative, and Dustin Grim, a community representative, were both elected to the Board in April.

In May John Hemak and Bryce Ruggieri, both community representatives, were elected to the Board. Two of the community representative positions were the result of a By-Laws revision which changed the number of community representatives from ten to thirteen.

As of this writing the Board has one vacancy – a community representative. The Nominations Committee will pursue filling this vacancy early in 2019.



STEAM Innovator Grants

Committee Chair - Heather Slatoff

The East Penn Education Foundation 2018 - 2019 STEAM Innovator Grant Program awarded fourteen grants to the teachers of the East Penn School District. They funded STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) focused programs in district classrooms K - 12. The grant expenditure was \$14,500. The program names, winners, and grades are listed in the table below.

2018 - 2019 Grant Program Awards

Grant Title	Grant Amount	Grant Leader/School
Vertical Farm Wall	\$3,000	Zack Labar/EHS
Robotics with Dobotics	\$2,000	Edward Anthony/EHS
Physics Labs	\$1,000	Laura Leiby/EHS
Signature Inspirations From Concept to Product	\$1,000	Anne Kukitz/Eyer
Social Assistance Through Art	\$1,000	Katie Pfenniger/EHS
STEAM Grant	\$1,000	Patrice Arnold/Shoemaker
The 9th Grade Experience Podcast	\$1,000	Chris Stuchko/EHS
Engineering Brain Grant Application	\$1,000	Kimberly Adams/EHS
3D Printing in Second Grade	\$1,000	Frank Meyers/Willow
OSMO- Educational Game System	\$ 500	Gail Cannon/Alburtis
OzoBot Mazes	\$ 500	Caitlin Shutte/Macungie
Building More Than Stories with Bloxels	\$ 500	Tracy Urban/Eyer
Problem Solving Through Play	\$ 500	Francine Confer/Alburtis
Tinker Boxes for a Soft Landing	\$ 500	Kendy Schiffert/Wescosville

Requests for Proposals were announced on June 8, 2018 to the East Penn School District staff. Applications were accepted through August 31, 2018. Twenty-seven (27) applications were submitted and received a blind reading and evaluation by twelve (12) members of reading team. Fourteen grants, totaling \$14,500 were awarded on October 15, 2018.

Grant implementation runs from October 2018 through May 31, 2019., beginning with foundation members visiting the winning teacher's classrooms with a "big check" and balloons.

The grant award winners will contribute pictures and complete a final report that will be due on or before May 31, 2019.

One hundred percent of the money awarded is spent on the budgets proposed at the time of the initial applications and will be reported on the final grant reports. All items purchased with the grants (non-consumable) will be used in the classrooms again in following years. The East Penn School District Education Foundation Innovator Grants reached over 1450 students in kindergarten through grade twelve.





2018 Board of Directors

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Salvatore Verrastro—President Spillman Farmer Architects

Heather Slatoff—Vice President EPSD Faculty

Jill Killo—Secretary

John Zayaitz—Treasurer Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits

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> Dustin Grim Schantz Funeral Home

> > John Hemak New Tripoli Bank

> > Stanley K. Landis Retired

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> Bryce Ruggieri Embassy Bank

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Rodd Luckenbill

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Ken Bacher

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Kristen Campbell

EPSD Community Liaison

Laura Groh

We See the Possiblity



We would like to thank the following organizations who's generosity made this past year possible:

Embassy Bank

Peoples Security Bank & Trust

Edward Jones

Red Robin - Lehigh Valley Restaurant Group

Robert P. Kelly Family (Kelly Automotive)

Buss Paints

The Erie Community Foundation

AT&T (Your Cause)
The Goldenburg Group

JetPay HR & Payroll

Better Homes Valley Partners

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PPL Electric Utilities



www.epsdeducationfoundation.org



Put Learning in Motion