

Encouraging Innovation and Achievement



The Foundation

Our children are the leaders of tomorrow, so it's essential that they're prepared to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Readington Township Public Schools play a vital role in shaping our children to be conscientious contributors to society, but they can't do it alone. To be successful, parents, businesses and other local groups must collaborate with teachers and administrators to lay the path for success.

Our Mission

The Readington Educational Foundation, or REF, was created to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. It is dedicated to attracting private, supplementary resources to fund innovative school programs. The Foundation doesn't replace government support or programs financed by the Home and School Association. Instead, its resources are used to develop forward-thinking approaches to teaching and learning beyond what is funded by local tax dollars. Through its fundraising activities, the Foundation strives to increase student accomplishments and establish a reputation for excellence in our schools. The bonus is that our community image and property values will be enhanced, too.

The Foundation, which is administered by local business, civic and educational leaders, is an autonomous, non-profit corporation recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is distinct from the Readington Township Board of Education.

How We Give

The REF seeks applications from teachers and administrators for grants to support groundbreaking ideas that anticipate the future educational needs of students across the district. Trustees award grants based on merit. Primary funds have been created to encourage achievement in six areas:

- **Scholastic Enhancement** • **Technology and Learning** • **Arts and Education**
- **Cultural Enrichment** • **Health and Fitness** • **Professional Development**

THE SCHOLASTIC ENHANCEMENT FUND

The key to scholastic excellence is to develop an enduring love of learning. To achieve this, the Foundation encourages programs that look beyond the walls of the school building. The Scholastic Enhancement Fund stimulates the exploration of bold ideas, questions and concepts outside the core curriculum.

Do your children fail to see the connection between the social studies they are learning at school and critical issues such as increasing tensions around the world? Grants awarded in this area can help students in the district draw connections by exposing them to thought-provoking programs on a variety of complex topics. Potential projects could look at how humans have transformed the planet through industry and agriculture and ways students can contribute to a sustainable future. The goal is to encourage students to challenge what they are learning and search for new solutions to problems.



“I cannot teach anybody anything.
I can only make them think”

- Socrates

THE TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING FUND

In the past 30 years, technology has radically changed nearly every field – from communications to space exploration to medicine – and will continue to significantly impact our world. Students with a strong understanding of how technology drives innovation will have an edge in their academic and professional careers. The Technology and Learning Fund supports programs that promote the use of emerging technologies in the classroom, with the aim of providing experiences that prepare students for the workplace of the future.



For the Foundation, this might mean something as simple as purchasing new technology that allows elementary-level teachers to better demonstrate difficult concepts in a visual way. Or it could involve something as complex as developing video communication technology in the schools that allows students to talk to archaeologists in the field about their findings and view artifacts as they are uncovered.

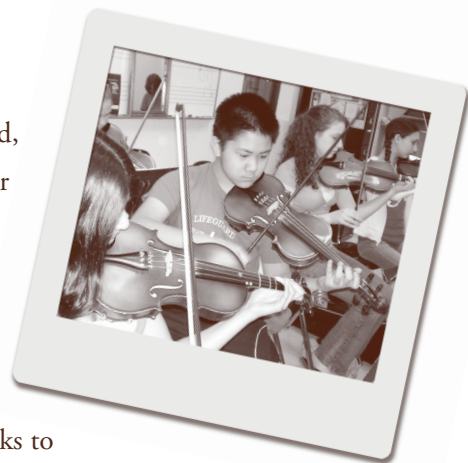
“Education’s purpose is to replace
an empty mind with an *open one*.”

–Malcolm Forbes

THE ARTS AND EDUCATION FUND

As technological advances thrust our civilization forward, the arts keep us grounded, providing the glue that connects our cultures. Whether it's a traditional art class or the theater, the arts give children a deeper understanding of other subjects, such as social studies and world languages. Yet these programs are often the first to be cut in tight budget climates.

Through the Arts and Education Fund, the Foundation seeks to provide experiences in the fine, visual and performing arts that will enhance the district's existing programs, promote greater student participation and lay the groundwork for lifelong enrichment through the arts. This might mean financing a creative ceramic project that visually communicates the major themes of a social studies unit, or purchasing sound equipment to help a school band or orchestra create and distribute its own CD.



“I saw the angel in the marble
and carved until I set him free.”

-Michelangelo



THE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

In a global economy and an ever more diverse society, understanding other cultures can be a key to success – in life as well as in business. As a result, schools are learning they must adapt, as well. The Cultural Enrichment Fund sponsors projects and partnerships that examine the impact and evolution of world cultures. Its programs expose students to a wide variety of cultural experiences to better prepare them for our increasingly complex and global society.



The Foundation could potentially fund a project to teach Asian languages in middle school, using links throughout the curriculum. Or it could fund a project to look at cultural norms, behaviors and manners across different parts of the world in order to give our children a better sense of potential pitfalls and opportunities.

“While we try to teach our children all about life,
our children teach us what life is all about.”

-Angela Schwindt

THE HEALTH AND FITNESS FUND

Healthy minds require healthy bodies. With childhood obesity on the rise, schools are challenged more than ever to provide health and fitness programs that are both fun and build stamina. And yet, in the face of rising costs, it is even tougher for schools to prioritize new gym equipment and health programs that incorporate the latest research.

The Health and Fitness Fund sponsors programs that address shifting health issues and reach out to children through a variety of fitness activities. At schools across the nation, many physical education instructors are incorporating more diverse activities – such as climbing walls, pedometers or blood-pumping dance video games – into their curriculum. The goal is to engage all students in activities that promote fitness for life.



“Education is not filling a bucket
but lighting a fire.”

-William B. Yeats

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Inspiration is contagious, and an inspired classroom can open new doors for learning. To help students discover and fulfill their potential, teachers need ongoing training in how best to use pioneering tools to lead students through complex subject matter. Whether it's learning to impart a spirit of adventure or finding better ways to draw links between what's studied in class and the careers of tomorrow, teachers benefit from refining their skills and developing new teaching methods.



The Professional Development Fund provides grants for teachers and administrators to pursue professional training experiences often not available through traditional resources. Possibilities might include programs that instruct teachers in how best to recognize and help students with psychological disorders or workshops that provide new technology training. With ongoing growth, good teachers are motivated to become exceptional teachers.



“ If your plan is for one year, plant rice.
If your plan is for ten years, plant trees.
If your plan is for one hundred years,
educate children.”

-Chinese Proverb

HOW YOU CAN HELP

At the Readington Educational Foundation, our goal is make Readington Township Public Schools among the best in the nation. Through its fundraising, REF aims to provide students, teachers and administrators with the tools they need to be successful. By achieving educational excellence, we not only help local children succeed in their future careers but also make Readington a more desirable place to live.

With the generous financial support of our community, we can make it happen. Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and may be given in the form of cash or property, or through planned or deferred gifts such as bequests, trusts or charitable life insurance. Donations may be made in honor of a favorite teacher, administrator, parent or student or may be directed to a particular fund.

MATCHING-FUND PROGRAMS

Many organizations match charitable donations by their employees. Please obtain the matching gift form from your company's human resources department. Complete your section of the form and enclose it with your gift, and we'll do the rest.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**To make a donation or for more information about how you can help,
please contact:**

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