

Cobleskill-Richmondville Education Foundation

2021-2022 in Review

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded to support, enhance and promote exceptional education opportunities for students in the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District that are *innovative* and *supplemental* to the school budget. The foundation was established through the inspiration and guidance of Samuel A. Shevat, who served as superintendent of schools from 1987 to 2007.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Foundation awarded just over \$12,890, including 57 rapid access grants totaling \$4,233.37, larger grants (\$6,300), and the student-initiated Quality of Life Grant Program (\$2,160+), plus the CREF Leadership Scholarship (\$500) – all of which brought several exceptional opportunities beyond the school budget and reaching all grade levels of C-R students. Projects that were funded include:

- **English Language Learner Classroom Library** Funding was provided to Francesca D’Amico-Bailey in order to collect fiction books to support ENL students' learning of academic vocabulary and basic interpersonal communication skills.
- **Harry Potter Enrichment** Funds for this were awarded to Laura Gagnon at Golding Middle School in order to host students for a Harry Potter themed week. The objective is to foster a culture of connectivity, friendships and bonding over all things Harry Potter. This project also encourages students to visit the library regularly to participate in various activities supporting creativity and team building.
- **Next Generation Project-Based Learning** This grant was awarded to Joseph Powers at C-R High School serving Physics and Engineering students in grades 11 and 12. Students are challenged to develop problem solving skills in a competitive environment where they review and analyze real-world performance. This project has potential to expand to elementary and middle school students and encourages STEAM curriculum and inquiry-based learning across grade levels.
- **Osmo** Funds for Osmo were awarded to Fred Reynolds at Ryder Elementary for kindergarten students, offering them adaptive learning activities in reading, math, and art, while allowing students to progress at their own pace. This encourages and supports diverse learning within the classroom.
- **Life Skills Therapy** This grant was awarded to Wanda Ruenes at Golding Middle School in order to provide direct instruction to Speech and Language students with specific receptive and expressive language learning disabilities. A functional life skills approach to therapy reinforces skills and strategies learned during therapy and helps students apply them to their daily routines and environments, thereby building students’ confidence and communication skills.
- **Raising Ryder’s Readers** Funding for this grant was provided to Anna Winters at Ryder Elementary to begin to build a collection of library books appropriate for younger readers. After an analysis of the Ryder Library collection, which used to serve students K-5, it was found that much of the current collection is appropriate for students reading at a much higher level than the current population of our youngest students.
- **Screenfree Engagement and Social Development** Money was awarded to Deb Henry at Golding Middle School to purchase games for Connectivity days and downtime. The objective is to provide 6th graders with face-to-face opportunities to build communication and problem solving skills after they have experienced increased screen time due to the pandemic.

- **Reinvented at Ryder** This grant was provided to Kathleen Lumley and Shannon Knowles in order to establish Reinvented at the Ryder School, as was done at CRHS, GMS, and Radez. Just like the other schools, this free “Thrift Store” will provide for students in need of clothing and hygiene products obtained by donation.
- **Multicultural Night** Applicants for this grant included Golding Middle School members of Family and Consumer Science, Social Studies, Languages Other Than English, Music, and Library Departments. Golding students and their families will be invited to engage in other cultures that are both in and outside of our community with the goal of highlighting community and world diversity.
- **Honda Mini Trail Restoration** Funds for this project were awarded to Anthony Esposito for Golding Middle School’s Tech Club. Prior to COVID, this trail bike was purchased in pieces as a restoration project. Students were only able to partially complete it due to the COVID closure. Through project completion, members of the Tech Club will learn how engines and transmissions work, to assemble wheels and suspension, to do body work and paint. The resulting restoration will be housed at the middle school for demonstration purposes in the future.
- **Functional Skills Group** This project was funded for Karalee Johnson and specific students with individual education plans (IEPs) at the high school. This is a new interdisciplinary approach that includes speech, physical, and occupational therapies and tasks students with working at the school store, in the kitchen, and a mock apartment/bedroom. This will allow students to begin to prepare for life after school, while addressing specific goals on their IEPs.
- **Board Games** Money was awarded to James LaMena at the high school to purchase board games.

Student Choice Initiative- This new project was launched in March 2021 and provides C-R students in grades K-12 an opportunity to write grants under the mentorship of faculty members. More than \$1,800 was awarded to fund projects and events designed by students. Projects include but are not limited to:

- **Ryder All Stars:** The ABC countdown. All Ryder students celebrated the end of the year by counting down the 26 letters of the alphabet. Each day and letter was accompanied by specific learning and celebratory activities, serving all students in grades K-2.
- **Golding Team 6 and 7 Semi-formal dances** Most expenses were covered by Golding, but students were provided with additional funding to make their grade level dance more memorable and fun. Students did research and presented a proposed budget.
- **Basketball Nets:** Students were awarded funding to purchase new basketball nets for the outdoor hoops at Golding Middle School.

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Education Foundation is excited to have funded these innovative projects and events, thereby fostering the intellectual, socio-emotional, and physical growth of Cobleskill-Richmondville students.

For more information about the Education Foundation at Cobleskill-Richmondville Central Central School District and/or to make a tax deductible donation, please visit https://www.crcsd.org/district/education_foundation.