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Golden Apple Foundation Awards \$12,000
 for Local Classroom Projects

(12/15/2017) Golden Apple Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of eight educators who received a total of nearly \$12,000 for classroom projects. The teachers were recognized at the Golden Apple Foundation board meeting, Dec. 12, 2017. This total is twice the amount distributed in 2016. Projects selected focused on reading, communication and STEM skills, knowledge retention, student engagement and parental involvement. All projects feature creative ways to encourage student achievement.

| Project | Teacher(s) | School & District | Granted |
|--|-----------------|--|----------|
| One School, One Book program – Humphrey books in English or Spanish will be purchased for every family and staff member, along with prizes, a hamster and a hamster costume. The project encourages reading as a family to improve reading test scores and student achievement, while also uniting the school community. | Cindy Maten | Capron Elementary School/Dist200 | 1,348.00 |
| Book Buddies – Family members of special needs students will check out materials (hands on activities paired with books) covering the same concepts taught in school. Students will experience repetition of previously learned concepts. The project will help children with multiple and cognitive disabilities tackle the communication, social interaction and intellectual deficits they face. | Annika Voss | Nashold Early Childhood Center/Dist205 | 484.83 |
| Chromebooks –Increasing the number of Chromebooks available allows more flexibility for teachers to instruct and assign at levels appropriate to various reading levels in the classroom. More access to technology will increase student productivity and learning. More students will be able to benefit from the additional practice, support and review offered through educational apps online. | Amy Meier | Whitman Post Elementary/Dist140 | 1,500.00 |
| Physics 2 Final Group Project – Funds to buy parts for Physics 2 students to build a final project (an acoustical levitator) together as the culmination of the curriculum. The project would showcase students’ understanding of theories. It can be an ongoing student-led STEM program that increases interest in science, boosts teamwork and leadership skills. Students also gain confidence and the motivation to do well in school as they take the lead. | Sarah Schaefer | Roosevelt CEC/Dist205 | 675.00 |
| Classroom Re-design – Modernize first grade classroom with creative seating, a wireless listening center and adaptations to traditional chairs to help the limited size of the classroom better accommodate increased class size. Re-design will reduce congestion in certain areas and allow for the students’ need to move comfortably and safely. | Megan Hembrough | Loves Park Elementary/Dist122 | 1,055.56 |
| Special Education Science Library – Hands-on activities related to science topics and accompanying books will fill the gap between the written word and special education students’ understanding. Skills will be introduced to create vital reinforcement of capabilities. | Suzette Muck | Poplar Grove Elementary/Dist200 | 1,260.00 |



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| Number Corner – Daily number talks will meet third graders’ need for math to make sense. Engaging activities will focus on specific math strategies and build students’ confidence in math. | Carrie Norder-Pagan | Poplar Grove Elementary/Dist200 | 590.00 |
| Audio books – Audio books in the reading center that are specifically selected for developing readers will give students a positive interaction with grade level material while also being used for instruction in reading strategies and skills. Students will have the opportunity to hear and see words and grow into lifelong readers. | Laura Benkovich | Whitman Post Elementary/Dist140 | 1,474.78 |
| Hart to Heart Conversations – Students will meet their senior citizen pen pals through a shared experience at the Fireside Theater – a gift to seniors who committed to being a pen pal and a chance for students to see a live performance of a world they would otherwise never get to see. In the program, students use modern day semantics to help seniors connect with today’s lingo; seniors share historical information and experiences. Students read cursive handwriting and learn the importance of written communication skills in relationship building. When letters are read aloud, students also improve their listening skills. | Ann Hart | Stephen Mack Middle School/Dist140 | 1,400.00 |
| Audible Reading Program – Electronic readers and digital-audiobook subscriptions provide independent reading support for struggling readers in 4 th -6 th grades. They can select books of interest at their own reading level. Electronic readers allow students to read visually as well as out loud. The program eliminates the stigma of reading books obviously below the reading level of peers. | Julie Gibbs | Maria Montessori School/Dist205 | 1,379.26 |
| Reading with iPad Minis – iPad Minis purchased will be used by students in grades 1-3 to record their reading at individual reading levels. The project will increase parent involvement and student to student interaction, with the main goal of helping students become better readers through educational apps. | Tiffany Aurand & Kristen Schmidt | Marquette Elementary/Dist122 | 825.98 |

Golden Apple Foundation opened the application process to enhance the learning of PreK – 12th grade students throughout Winnebago and Boone counties for projects that would go unfunded by school budgets. Previously, the application process was open to just six class levels (PreK-5th or 6th- 12th grades in alternating years). Since its inception, Golden Apple Foundation has provided funding to 241 educators for 208 projects totaling more than \$124,000. Recipients will be recognized at the 22st Annual Golden Apple Banquet Friday, April 27, 2018, at Giovanni’s Restaurant and Convention Center.

Golden Apple Foundation inspires, celebrates and supports educational excellence in our community.

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