



**Press Contact:**  
[Laurie Pepitone](#)  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
Morris Educational Foundation  
(973) 683-0767

## **MORRIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$21K IN GRANTS TO THE MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SEPTEMBER**

*Funding Supported Academic, Enrichment, and Social-Emotional Wellness Initiatives for the 2025-2026 School Year*

**Morristown, NJ (October 1, 2025)** – Marking the first month of the 2025–26 school year, the [Morris Educational Foundation](#) (MEF), is proud to announce it has already awarded \$21,573 in grants and programs to the Morris School District. The MEF, a non-profit organization enhancing excellence in education in the Morris School District, provides funding for a variety of staff-requested programs, resources and experiences not covered by the school budget or tax dollars throughout the school year.

“The MEF’s mission is to enhance and enrich the educational experience of every student in the Morris School District every day,” said Ann Rhines, Morris Educational Foundation grants chair and former teacher and member of the Morris School District Board of Education. “Thanks to generous support from donors, community partners and District alumni, we can fund initiatives that help students learn, grow, and thrive throughout all 180 days of the school year. We look forward to supporting more opportunities in the upcoming school year.”

Five grants were awarded at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Morris School District Board of Education meeting as outlined below:

### **Advanced Telephoto Sport Lens for MHS**

This grant will directly impact the upper-level photography students in grades 10-12 by funding two advanced telephoto lenses to enhance their sports photography experience.

### **Equipment to Enhance the MHS Lab Experience**

This is a grant from the Novartis US Foundation to be used for cutting-edge materials to enhance the chemistry class and lab experiences for tenth-grade introductory students as well as eleventh and twelfth-grade AP chemistry students. This includes an updated inquiry program, complete with College Board pre-and post-lab questions, a blended learning program (FinnPrep), and upgrades to the department’s Chemistry lab equipment.

### **Footprints: A Mentorship Bridge Between Middle School and Kindergarten Students**

The Footprints program connects Frelinghuysen Middle School students and Hillcrest Elementary School Kindergarten students to foster mentorship, community engagement, and academic skill-building. Once each marking period, middle school students will visit Hillcrest classrooms to read age-appropriate books and lead related educational lessons.

### **Reading Readiness: Preschooler-Parent Shared Reading**

A monthly bilingual book club for all Morris School District preschoolers and their parents to help establish family reading routines for Spanish and English-speaking families. Meetings will occur from October through May at Lafayette Learning Center featuring literacy activities using age-appropriate, bilingual books.

Parents will learn how to use books to teach their children early literacy skills such as phonemic awareness, letter recognition, numeracy, colors, rhymes, singing, and vocabulary.

### **Tutoring at Frelinghuysen Middle School**

Funding for the after-school math and language arts tutoring program at Frelinghuysen Middle School. The grant covers the stipend for the program coordinator as well as snacks, supplies, small awards for students with excellent attendance and the end-of-the-year breakfast with students and volunteer community tutors.

The Morris Educational Foundation awards grants five times throughout the school year, in September, November, January, March, and May. District staff and administrators interested in applying for a grant can submit an application by [clicking here](#).

In addition to funding grants, the Morris Educational Foundation started the school year with further support for the District in other ways, such as providing crayons to all incoming kindergartners and partnering with Morristown High School's WJSV-FM to allow them to conduct a live broadcast at the Morristown Festival on the Green.

Over the past 33 years, the MEF has generated \$6.8 million in impact across academics, arts, athletics, and other activities. To view the full list of grants awarded in the 2024-2025 school year, please visit [www.morrisedfoundation.org/what-we-do/grants-awarded.html](http://www.morrisedfoundation.org/what-we-do/grants-awarded.html).

Founded in 1992 by local parents and business leaders, the Morris Educational Foundation works with District leadership, staff and donors to support the schools and the community in a partnership of lifelong learning to elevate education across STEM, literacy, the arts and social-emotional initiatives. To help create transformative experiences for the 5,700 students and 1,000 educators in the Morris School District, visit <https://www.morrisedfoundation.org/ways-to-give/donate.html>.

Visit the Morris Educational Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date on events and programs.

### **About Morris Educational Foundation**

The Morris Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, enhances educational opportunities for more than 5,700 students in all 10 schools of the Morris School District. Established to raise private funds for public education, the Foundation works to enrich and inspire the academic pursuits of all our students, from preschool through high school. For more information, visit [www.morrisedfoundation.org](http://www.morrisedfoundation.org).

###