



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

## **MORRIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$47K IN GRANTS TO ENRICH LEARNING ACROSS THE MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Morristown, NJ (April 7, 2026)** – The [Morris Educational Foundation](#) (MEF) is proud to announce that it has awarded six grants in March totaling \$47,365 to enrich the educational experience of students in the Morris School District. These grants reflect the MEF’s ongoing commitment to providing meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that inspire creativity, academic growth, and community connection throughout the 180 days of school.

The MEF plays a key role in supporting educational opportunities that are not covered by the school budget and tax dollars. With this latest round of grants, the Foundation has awarded over **\$151,000 to date this school year in classroom grants alone**, thanks entirely to the continued generosity of donors.

The following grants were approved at the March 16<sup>th</sup> Morris School District Board of Education meeting:

### **Cooking Up Language Skills**

Second-grade multilingual learners at Alfred Vail, Hillcrest, and Woodland elementary schools will engage in hands-on cooking experiences with a visiting chef, strengthening their social and instructional language skills, while applying key literacy concepts and creating take-home recipe books.

### **Expanded Mallet Percussion**

Thanks to the generosity of Caren and David Olander, long-time residents of Morristown and Morris Township and MHS alumni parents, the MHS Music Department will add a marimba and vibraphone to their instrument library. These new instruments will expand access to high-quality resources for students across concert bands, orchestras, percussion programs, and the marching band for years to come.

### **Science Day**

Each of the District’s seven elementary schools will receive funding to support interactive Science Day programming, providing supplies and experiences that bring science learning to life.

### **Second Grade Author Event**

Building on the success of past author visits, a generous donor is funding an engaging, two-day visit with author and illustrator, Mike Ciccotello. Also known as “Mr. Mike,” he will speak to all second graders in their respective schools, sharing an interactive, confidence-building presentation. Every student, classroom, and media center will receive a signed copy of his book, “Leonard Grows a Haunted Garden.”

### **Senior Signs**

Thanks to a generous donor, commemorative yard signs will again be gifted to all Frelinghuysen Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders and all Morristown High School seniors to celebrate their graduation. Distribution is scheduled for May 16.

### **Theatre Microphones**

The Morristown High School Theatre Department will purchase 20 new, industry-standard microphones to elevate the quality of student performances in dramas, musicals, concerts, and other auditorium events.

“These grants demonstrate the meaningful impact of community support on our students’ educational experiences,” said Ann Rhines, MEF Grants Chair and former teacher and member of the Morris School District Board of Education. “Each grant is designed to engage, inspire, and provide lasting value in and beyond the classroom.”

Through strategic partnerships and the generosity of donors, the MEF continues to fund innovative programs that enhance education in all ten Morris School District schools. Highlights and updates from these programs are shared on the Foundation’s social media pages, celebrating the real impact of community support.

The final grants of the school year will be awarded in May of 2026. The MEF encourages community members to contribute to its 180 Days of Impact campaign, where every donation, large or small, delivers transformative opportunities, inspiration and growth.

For more information about the Morris Educational Foundation or to make a gift, please visit [www.morrisedfoundation.org](http://www.morrisedfoundation.org).

#### **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).

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