

Ridgewood Education Foundation awards grants

Over the past year, the Ridgewood Education Foundation has funded a number of initiatives in the Ridgewood school system.



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The Ridgewood Education Foundation helps sponsor Super Science Saturday, which will be held this year on Feb. 27 at Ridgewood High School.

Once again, the Foundation has helped to sponsor Super Science Saturday, with a grant of \$3,400. Super Science Saturday, now in its 28th year, is an annual, half-day, noncompetitive event providing a showcase for the variety of scientific explorations and applications that are alive in our local community. Professionals and students present their projects alongside each other at this event held at Ridgewood High School this Feb 27. For more information about the event go to supersciencesaturday.org.

The Foundation has also sponsored the George Washington Middle School Archery Program with a grant of \$2,500 to purchase equipment. The archery program, run by the Physical Education Department in both middle schools, is credited with helping athletes and non athletes learn critical skills such as improving focus and concentration, learning patience, enhancing self-confidence and improving sportsmanship.

Lastly, The Foundation has cosponsored a speaker series on student mental health and wellbeing with a grant of \$5,000. This community event includes eight parent education evenings with different speakers on various topics focusing on finding balance in life and reducing stress and anxiety. Additionally the grant includes a full of day training for teachers and coaches to help them assist students to find balance and emotional well-being. There remain four more speaker events in the evenings ending in May.

In the past few years, the Foundation has made major and minor grants to the school system and community, including but not limited to, purchasing Google Chrome Books for each student in the high school and middle schools (\$250,000), updating and enhancing the Ridgewood High School Library, now called the Learning Commons (\$110,000), and funding improvements in both Ben Franklin and George Washington Middle Schools to enhance the science curriculum (\$85,000).

The Foundation relies on donations from Ridgewood residents, Ridgewood school alumni and local companies. To learn more about the Foundation or to donate to the Foundation, go to their website ridgewoodeducationfoundation.org.