

SUPPORT BEF
ANNUAL
FUND BIRMINGHAM

Please join me in supporting the BEF. Innovative programs like those the BEF funds prepare our students to compete both locally and globally.

Sincerely,
David Larson, Ed.D.
 Superintendent, BPS



Dear Friend of Birmingham Public Schools,

Plant a seed with the Birmingham Education Foundation.

It all begins with a seed, the glimmer of a great idea, a new way of looking at things. The BEF works with BPS teachers and staff to nurture those seeds and help them grow into programs that help students learn. And we need your help to plant and nurture more seeds.

Because they're ours.

Our students, our schools, our communities. Budget cuts at the state level continue to erode education funding for our students. Through the BEF, we can continue to fund innovative programs that make every school in our district a great place a great place to live. But how much impact can the BEF really have in BPS classrooms?

Young readers flourish.

In 2006 the BEF funded a pilot program to purchase literacy libraries for a handful of kindergarten and first grade classrooms in the district. Based on the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention system, these literacy libraries put a wide range of enticing stories into the hands of students and teachers. Teachers use these high interest books to challenge students, grouping readers of similar ability and guiding them through books just above their independent reading level. *(over, please)*



for students and our communities

Yes, I'd like to help grow innovative programs for our students.

Name _____

(as you would like it to appear in donor recognition listings)

- I would like to learn more Employer Matching Gift form enclosed
- Check enclosed *(made payable to Birmingham Education Foundation)*
- Charge my credit card *(please turn over this card to fill out your credit card information or donate online at www.supportBEF.org)*
- I would like to remain anonymous

The first 100 donors to make a gift of more than \$126 will receive a \$25 gift card to Toast.

Contributions of any size are welcome.

Giving Categories

- \$26 – \$125 Donor
- \$126 – \$250 Supporter
- \$251 – \$500 Advocate
- \$501 – \$1000 Champion
- \$1001 – \$2500 Partner
- \$2501+ Faculty Circle
- Other

Please direct my/our gift to the following area of interest:

- Where needed most Technology
- Academics Athletics
- Arts Hoeffler Endowment

Donate online at: www.supportBEF.org



Studies have shown that leveled literacy programs improve reading proficiency for both remedial and advanced students.

Since that first grant five years ago, the BEF has seen the literacy seeds we planted flourish. With help from donors like you we've been able to fund eighteen literacy libraries and placed them at every elementary school in the district, helping hundreds of students grow through reading.

Technology feeds curiosity.

Remember the television show *The Magic School Bus*?

The students climbed on the bus with their teacher and visited all sorts of amazing places together. That's what an electronic whiteboard can be in a classroom – a portal to other worlds that teachers and students can explore together.

In 2008 three sixth grade social studies teachers from Berkshire Middle School hatched a plan to create a 21st Century Learning environment for their students and electronic whiteboards were a key tool in that plan. BEF helped grow their ideas by funding three Promethean Boards.

Since then the BEF has partnered with the district and with school PTAs to purchase nearly fifty Promethean Boards for use in classrooms at the high schools and middle schools and even a few elementary schools. Whether they are used to show a YouTube video about quadratic equations or access a Spanish-language website for a whole class to explore together, the Promethean Boards have engaged our students and fed their curiosity.

Grow the impact.

Literacy libraries and Promethean Boards are only two of the many programs the BEF has funded over the years that began as small seeds but grew exponentially. Of course there are so many more seeds we would like to plant, but we need your help to do it. A gift to the BEF goes straight to classrooms and directly impacts our students.

While donations of any size are welcome, the first 100 gifts of \$126 or more will receive a \$25 gift card from TOAST Restaurant. And making a gift is easy. Simply complete and mail the form at the bottom of this letter or make an online donation by going to www.supportbef.org.

You can also learn more about the grants we've awarded over the years at our website.

Please give today!

Sincerely,

Gerald T. Rito
President, Board of Directors
Birmingham Education Foundation

Laura T. Couger
Executive Director
Birmingham Education Foundation

P.S. Please make your gift to the BEF Annual Fund before December 31, 2011 and take advantage of the tax benefit.

Yes, I'd like to help grow innovative programs for our students.

Please charge my credit card: MasterCard Visa

Card number

Exp. Date

Signature

Security Code

Daytime phone number:

(In case there are questions during credit card processing.)



Donate online at: www.supportBEF.org

Birmingham Education Foundation, 550 Merrill Street, Birmingham, MI 48009

The Birmingham Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts are tax deductible as provided by law. Tax ID 38-3214599.