

## **What is the Tolland Education Foundation, and how does it directly benefit my child?**

The Tolland Education Foundation is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization created in 2004 for the purpose of stimulating innovative education in the Tolland Public Schools. When a teacher has an idea for a new and creative learning opportunity to enhance students' learning experiences, that teacher can apply to TEF for a grant. Since 2004, TEF has provided over \$250,000 in grants to preschool to grade 12, regular programs, as well as enrichment and special needs programs!

The Tolland Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that relies entirely upon contributions in order to successfully support innovative educational opportunities in the Tolland Public Schools. You can contribute in a variety of ways:

- Attend our upcoming Fundraiser on Saturday, November 19 at the Lodge at Crandall Park. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at <http://www.TollandEducationFoundation.com>.
- Make a donation online <http://www.TollandEducationFoundation.com>, or by check, mailed to 58 Hartford Turnpike, Tolland, CT, 06084.
- Link your Amazon Prime account to Amazon Smile, which will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to TEF, no cost to you. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-1690006> and choose Tolland Education Foundation as your charity.

TEF has made student outcomes possible in all subject areas including donations for a rock climbing wall, Hovercraft, smart boards, e-readers, iPads, document cameras and musical instruments. Check out some of the most recent grants in just the past year (2015-2016):

### **Family Hiking Backpacks for Birch Grove (\$1,300)**

Along with promoting an active lifestyle, the backpacks encourage family activities and provide links between literacy, science and physical education. The child size backpacks are small enough for the youngest child to carry and contain books and other printed resources to get hikers on their way, help them identify what they have discovered, and tools to keep even the most reluctant hiker engaged. Families may borrow the backpack for a one-week loan period.

### **iPads for Eaglets for Birch Grove Media Center (\$9,500)**

Birch Grove students are now accessing more of their literary material electronically through a pod of 12 iPad mini tablets, software and accessories. The grant provides students access to many library collections including the library catalog, eBooks, ePeriodicals, audiobooks, reference resources, presentation tools and other productivity tools. Prior to the grant, Information Literacy Instruction was reinforced solely with print materials.

### **Ukuleles for Tolland Intermediate School (\$3,500)**

All Tolland Intermediate School students will learning to play the Ukulele as they take grade five general music, and will have opportunities to play during concerts, visits to the Tolland Senior Center, and other musical venues. “Across the nation, the Ukulele is fast becoming to the grade 5 music curricula what the recorder is for grade 3 students, but much more. The ukulele is an individual instrument and students learn to read and improve their reading of standard music notation. It also provides students with an instrument which plays chords and harmonies and they can learn more advanced musical concepts such as chord progression,” says Judy Baker, TIS music teacher. “The Ukulele is a lifetime instrument that students use far beyond the classroom.”

### **Recording Studio for Tolland Middle School (\$2,500)**

Students at Tolland Middle School are now able to write, record, share, edit, listen and revise their own music in a new recording studio that integrates music, electronics and technology. The studio and equipment will motivate students and help them understand that learning music isn’t just about playing and practicing; it can involve tapping into higher level thinking skills to experiment and analyze music. “A recording studio will broaden learning experiences by giving students the opportunity to learn by doing,” says Matthew Pater, a sixth-grade student and the grant originator.

### **Traversing Wall Protective Matting for Tolland Middle School (\$3,200)**

The protective matting system is to be used with a rock climbing/traversing wall, which was already purchased by the school and will soon be installed. According to former principal Dan Uriano, “The importance of an active lifestyle is paramount to a healthy life, and physical wellbeing promotes a sense of self, personal ownership and confidence in students. Tolland Middle School is moving away from the traditional modality of “gym class” where students participate in the traditional team sports and integrating more high interest fitness-based, life-long activities. With the funding of the mats, the students will have a new and exciting activity that could promote a life-long healthy hobby.”