



EPAK teachers often request grants to provide their underserved students with first time opportunities: first time to use a microscope, first time to hold a musical instrument, first time to own a book, first time to visit a museum. **Kindergarten teacher Ruth C-S from Los Robles McNair Academy wrote in her fall grant application:**

***Today's students are visual learners. A field trip lets them touch, feel and listen to what they're learning about. They build on classroom instruction, gain a better understanding of topics, and are exposed to worlds outside their own. Field trips to farms are great places to bring school subjects such as science, math, language arts and nutrition to life through engaging hands-on activities. A trip provides students with the ability to learn by doing instead of just passively listening to the information being taught in class. Students are exposed to new experiences that, hopefully, broaden their horizons.***

Ruth's Fall '23 EPAK grant provided the opportunity for her class to visit Lemos Farms in Half Moon Bay. Attesting to the success of the experience, Ruth wrote recently:

***Going on the field trip helped our students to understand their environment a little better. Spending time in nature was a real opportunity to help with both their mental and physical health. The farm was a great way for kids to experience their connection with the natural world first-hand. For some students, this kind of field trip was their first chance to see live animals and interact with them. Our trip to the farm facilitated the growth of our students' sense of self, as they made sense of their relation to the wider natural world.***



EPAK continues to fund a wide variety of learning needs identified by our teachers in the twelve schools we support in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. We trust teachers to tell us what they need. **Your support ensures these “first time opportunities” for eager learners continue.**

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For 30 years, we have provided grants to teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) and public charter schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

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