



EPAK
FOUNDATION

NEWS
Fall 2024

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
Every dollar you give touches a student, a teacher and a family.

FALL GRANTS:

EPAK awarded 189 regular teacher grants and 67 new teacher grants, for a total of \$163,227 awarded so far this fall. Additional special grants will be awarded later in October.



Since 1993, EPAK has been a community based, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to promote educational opportunities by awarding grants to teachers in the classrooms of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

EPAK BOARD MESSAGE

The 2024-25 school year is off and running! The start of this term highlighted the dedication, imagination and creativity of EPAK teachers. Fall grant applications include a wide range of requests to support student learning. An East Palo Alto Charter School science teacher needs funding for pig dissection kits to deliver “hands-on learning experiences.” A Cesar Chavez special education teacher seeks interactive learning tools to “increase literacy rates and improve math proficiency.” An All Five preschool teacher requests basic building blocks to “improve spatial awareness and problem solving skills.” These teachers from East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park write passionately about the importance of EPAK’s support, made possible by the generosity of our donors.

After a very successful pilot program last year, EPAK has expanded the Special Grant application to all twelve of our schools. For the first time all EPAK schools will be eligible to “Dream Big” and request a larger grant for cross school, cross curriculum high impact programs. The goal of this program is to inspire collaboration among teachers to conduct larger-scale and longer-term projects to benefit students. Last year these grants of up to \$5,000 each funded an instrument-based music program and a refurbished campus garden. Another special grant extended the classroom walls to include families through “Family Nights” in support of the instructional program.

EPAK is addressing basic inequalities in the classroom and beyond.

Our teachers may not enjoy the resources of highly funded districts, but our dedicated teachers have high aspirations for their students.

Together with your generous support we will continue to help our students, our teachers, and their families to DREAM BIG!

These students are our future! —The EPAK Board



Not getting our digital newsletter? Here’s what you missed!

February: “Music as World Language”
- East Palo Alto Charter School teacher Christell B. applied for a special grant to purchase musical instruments to replace “the few instruments we have that are beginning to fall apart” and launched a successful music program for her students.

March: “First Time on a Farm”
“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.” Kindergarten teacher Ruth C-S from Los Robles McNair Academy utilized her EPAK grant to take kindergarten students to Lemos Farm in Half Moon Bay.

July: “Students Learn How to Train a Dragon”
-“We learned about the evolutionary relationships between living things in our last

science unit. We researched the first birds that evolved from dinosaurs and wrote news articles presenting our findings. Our principal purchased a bearded dragon for us as our class pet as a result of observing that student project. The students have been making lots of real-life connections with science concepts as we learn how to properly care for Ivy, our bearded dragon,” wrote Cesar Chavez teacher Sarah R. An EPAK grant supported her science program.

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT

READ, READ, READ
David C., Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School
“Thanks to your support, this grant has helped me to enrich and replenish my classroom library for my students! We now have plenty of materials both fiction and nonfiction to continue to improve students’ reading skills and to learn about the lives of different characters of historic relevance. We were able to buy a number of arts and crafts materials necessary for the Newcomer Club, where students speak about their experiences coming to this country, adapting to their new life situation, and moving forward with their lives while enjoying a variety of arts and crafts. Thank you, EPAK!”



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