



COURTESY HARFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Tony Palumbo, a board member of Harford County Education Foundation, presents a grant award to students and staff at William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School for their program "Units of Study Classroom Libraries Initiative." Pictured, front row from left, Stiven Makarov, Keastner Scott, Charlee Rappazzo, Kallee Ames, Isabella Galaviz-Cainzales, Olivia Johnson, Phillip Ndi and Isabella Gilson; second row from left, Caleb Brooks, Michael Yaffe, Natalie Berk, Lyric Lockett, Fahrah Hill, Tahrye Smith, Jacqueline Canonero, Madisyn Poncio, Sydney Ferguson, Makiyah Mack, Mikaelyn Gillespie and Mrs. Hammel; and back row from left, Principal Tammy Bosley, Tony Palumbo from the Harford County Education Foundation, and Lauren Hunter, reading specialist.

Grants to fund classroom enrichment

Harford County Education Foundation donates to teachers, students on Giving Tuesday

Harford County students and staffs were surprised and excited to receive grant funding for classroom enrichment and innovation on Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving.

Board members of the Harford County Education Foundation visited 12 schools and gifted more than \$16,000 for 15 different programs and/or projects to educators across the county.

Harford County Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides sustainable resources and builds community support to ensure every child, regardless of background, family structure or economic status, has the opportunity to achieve educational and personal success.

Since the Foundation's establishment in 2005, more than \$86,000 has been granted to Harford County schools through the Classroom Innovation Grants program, enhancing educational programs and student experiences.

William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School was among the many campuses that were awarded a grant. The school will use

the funds to purchase reading books to stock classroom libraries with high interest books and for their Take Home a Book and Read program.

"Students reading on lower levels are expected to read eight to 10 books per week and intermediate students reading chapter books should read one to four books per week. Meeting this requirement can be difficult if teachers do not have enough books in their classroom libraries," Lauren Hunter, the school's reading specialist, said. "We truly believe our students will grow as readers when they have access to a large number of quality, engaging books on their reading level and this grant from the Harford County Education Foundation will go a long way in helping us address this need for our students."

Principal Tammy Bosley said: "We are beyond grateful."

"Giving Tuesday is a great day to make a lasting impact on the lives of students," Deb Merlock, Education Foundation president and founder, said. "Our teachers are experts at using what they have, but thanks

to our generous community, they have access to the right resources for optimal learning. It is through these community partnerships that we were able to distribute our record dollar amount of funding for these worthy enrichment and innovation projects."

School and classroom innovative projects are made possible by the generosity of the Education Foundation's many community partners through special events, contributions and the foundation's annual sponsors: Bravura Information and Technology Systems, Harford Mutual Insurance Companies, Harford County Public Library, Cemetery Dance Publications, Women's Giving Circle of Harford County, APG Federal Credit Union, William O. Goldstein Fund and Oak Contracting LLC.

Lockheed Martin and Delmarva Power provided funding for several classroom grants through Harford Achieves! — an online platform where classroom programs/projects are posted for community engagement. Contributions support Harford County Education Foundation's School and Classroom Innovation Grants throughout the school district allowing the next generation of outstanding teachers to enhance local education and inspire future students.

"We truly believe our students will grow as readers when they have access to a large number of quality, engaging books on their reading level and this grant from the Harford County Education Foundation will go a long way in helping us address this need for our students."

—Lauren Hunter

The community is encouraged to participate in helping enrichment and innovative projects come to fruition by donating to a classroom project found on the Education Foundation's Harford Achieves! web page at www.harfordeducation.org/programs/classroom-grants/innovation or www.harfordeducation.org/donations.