



ZEF Fall Update

ZEF Supporters,

As we wrap up our 25th year at ZEF, we celebrate the \$1.5 million in grants awarded to ZCS educators that brought their innovative ideas to life. We also look towards a bright future. A quarter century of strong fiscal management and visionary leadership by previous board members, staff, and volunteers has put ZEF in a position to grow with our district. The next 25 years will continue to bring change to the Zionsville and Whitestown communities, and ZEF is poised to deliver on our commitment to educational excellence today and in the future. Our work continues to make a vital impact in our schools.



Last year, ZEF awarded more than \$127,000 in grants to ZCS teachers and classrooms. These grants helped teachers in the beginning days of the pandemic by providing much-needed materials for new social distancing guidelines and classrooms that had to be redesigned on every level. They also sparked creative projects such as an outdoor STEM space, new wellness materials for teachers and students, and the ability to move students' 3-D designs from paper to reality.

We have many exciting events coming up this fall and I hope you can join us! Whether it is our new family-friendly **Polo at Sunset** event on September 17, **State of the Schools** discussion and Q&A with ZCS Superintendent Dr. Scott Robison on September 29, or our annual fall fundraiser (and my favorite event of the year!) **ZEF Bash** on November 6, we look forward to having fun with old and new friends in our community while we raise funds in support of our schools.

Thank you to those that have supported ZEF over the past year. YOU make ZEF Grants possible. YOU enable teachers to dream big for their students. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the ZEF events this fall!

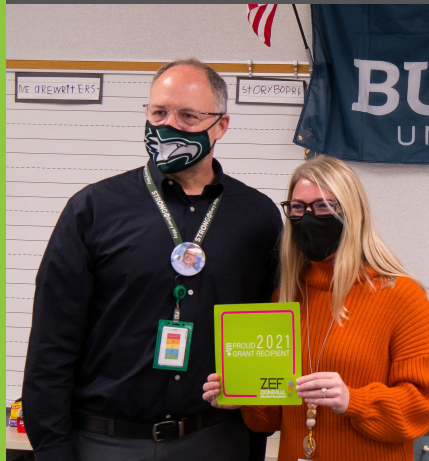
With gratitude,
Challis Imes
ZEF Board President

DONATE TODAY

Read on to learn about:

- Grant Application Deadline
 - ZEF Grants in Action - ZCHS S.O.A.R.S.
 - Three Events You Won't Want to Miss: Polo, State of the Schools, ZEF Bash
 - Silent Auction Donations Needed
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Fall Classroom Grants Deadline



ZEF is excited about our Fall Classroom Grants cycle! ZEF Classroom Grants support educational excellence by funding teachers' innovative ideas for their students.

Applications (found [here](#)) are open to all ZCS teachers, administrators, and staff and are due on **Monday, September 13, 2021 by 4:00pm**. Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to Lyle Browne at x11500 or lbrowne@zcs.k12.in.us.

ZEF Grants In Action: ZCHS S.O.A.R.S.



ZCHS teachers Spencer Cassin and Amanda Lucas recently talked with our Board of Directors about two impactful ZEF grants. They work with the Zionsville Community High School (ZCHS) Student Opportunities to Achieve Real-life Success (S.O.A.R.S.) and Functional Academics classes at ZCHS and consistently find creative ways for students to experience real-life situations that promote independence, leadership, job skills, and social development.

In 2018, Mr. Cassin and Natalie Sarcona were awarded a grant entitled *Grow Well Initiative - School Tower Gardens*. The initial grant provided tower gardens to grow edible plants sustainably year-round in the classroom. The towers were successfully

used that way for several years. Today, the impact of those gardens has expanded to help provide jobs for students as caretakers for these gardens and others in our community. They provide interaction with mainstream classrooms and help students work towards independence after high school.

Mr. Cassin and Ms. Lucas received a 2021 Spring Classroom Grant for *Finishing Carts*. This project gives students that finish class work before their peers access to independent work tasks that help with fine motor, academic, and vocational skills.

These two grants demonstrate the lasting impact of ZEF grants and the exponential positive impact creative teachers have on student learning every day at ZCS.

How can you help? The S.O.A.R.S. program is always looking for partner businesses or groups to assist with providing student experiences that help develop job skills and independence after high school. If you have a project involving tasks such as assembly, sorting, packing, minor repairs, deliveries, animal care, etc. with which you need help, please reach out to scassin@zcs.k12.in.us to learn more.



Three Events You Won't Want to Miss!



Friday, September 17, 2021
Hickory Hall Polo Club

POLO AT SUNSET

A family event benefitting:
Zionsville Education Foundation
Boone County 4H
Isenhower Family Education Fund

\$40 per car load (first come, first served)

Reserved boxes available

Gates open at 5pm

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

ZIONSVILLE TOWN HALL

1100 W OAK ST, ZIONSVILLE, IN

8 - 9:30 AM

BREAKFAST
PROVIDED BY
STIFEL



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DISCUSSION AND Q&A WITH DR. SCOTT ROBISON AND OTHER ZCS LEADERS

QUESTIONS WILL BE TAKEN IN ADVANCE

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ZEF Bash 2021

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Golf Club of Indiana
5:30pm VIP Reception
6:30pm Event Begins

Show Your School Spirit!

Join us for a fun night in support of our teachers, students, and schools as we raise funds for ZEF. Dinner, a silent auction, dancing to the sounds of Dave & Rae, a gift card pull, and more will help make this a fun evening with friends! Your favorite school spiritwear is perfect for this casual night out.

ZEF Bash Silent Auction

Do you have a business or group that is a fan of education in our community and would benefit from a little extra exposure? We are looking for items for our ZEF Bash silent auction and would love to include yours! Simply contact Julie Bradley at jbradley@zcs.k12.in.us to learn more!

Last Chance!

We have just a few of this limited edition ZEF hat left! The hat is our gift to you with your donation of at least \$50. Donate today before they are gone!

Our next ZEF hat will be unveiled at ZEF Bash on November 6th!



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