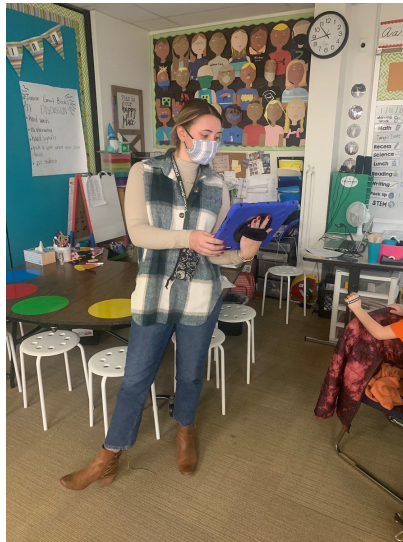




Spring Grants Deadline



For all of us at ZEF, this is an exciting time of year. Talking with teachers about grant ideas, receiving both Classroom and Imagine Professional Development Grant applications, and, ultimately, awarding grants to our hard working, amazing educators truly makes this time of year special.

YOU make these grants possible. Whether you donated during Back to School, supported ZEF Bash, attended ZEF's Sunset at Polo, made a year-end donation, or served as an event sponsor, YOUR SUPPORT is the reason we are able to offer these grants.

Classroom and Imagine Professional Development Grant applications are due on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 4:00pm and are open to ZCS teachers,

administrators, and staff. Guidelines and applications for both grants can be found on our website under the "How We Do It" tab or by clicking the links below.

CLASSROOM GRANTS

IMAGINE GRANTS

Read on to learn about:

- Michael A. Shafer Memorial Fund
 - ZCS Board Generosity
 - ZEF Grants in Action
 - ZEF Night!
-

Michael A Shafer Memorial Fund

"When I was first starting out in this business, I was often mistaken for a high school student. Mike Shafer took a chance on that youthful face with an order that was big for me at the time. His kindness and guidance helped launch my career. He was a mentor, a friend, and someone I greatly respected," said Greg McDaniel.

Mike Shafer, CFO of Zionsville Community Schools died unexpectedly in April 2021. His presence is still missed by those that knew and loved him.

At the suggestion of Mr. McDaniel and with the encouragement of Mr. Shafer's family, ZEF created the **Michael A. Shafer Memorial Fund**.

In addition to being an expert on school finance, Mr. Shafer was an accomplished musician and avid music fan. He loved sharing his passion for music with others, especially young people. Proceeds from the Fund will be used to pay for music-related programs, experiences, or projects within the Zionsville Community Schools.

We invite you to join us in honoring Mike Shafer by donating to the Memorial Fund in his memory. With a goal of raising atleast \$25,000, ZEF will be able to provide an annual music-related grant to ZCS



Click [here](#) or on the button below to make a donation to the Michael A. Shafer Memorial Fund.

If you have questions about the fund or your donation, please call Lyle Browne at 317.733.4805

SHAFER MEMORIAL
FUND DONATION

students in his memory.

Service and Generosity

On January 10, 2022 all five ZCS Board members announced their intention to once again donate their entire Board salary (\$2,000 each) to ZEF. This generous support enables ZEF to continue funding teachers' innovative ideas and creative projects across the district and underscores the Board members' commitment to educational excellence in our community.

We appreciate their service and their generosity to our schools in so many different ways. Please join us in thanking Debbie Ungar, Michael Coussens, Michael Berg, Jeff Papa, and Katie Aeschliman for their generosity and service!



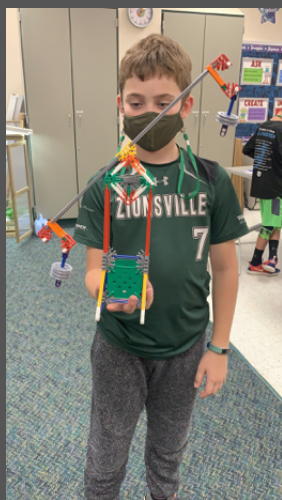
Thank you, ZCS Board members!

ZEF Grants in Action:

Levers and Pulleys and Gears...Oh, My!



Stonegate Elementary teacher Amy Knueven received a 2020 Spring Classroom Grant for her project *Levers and Pulleys and Gears...Oh, My!* This grant provided funding for 30 K'Nex Kits giving students hands-on experience building, using, and understanding simple machines.



Mrs. Knueven's grant was actually written before the pandemic but was funded during. The original intent of the grant was to split the sets among classes and have students work in small groups (which will still be possible in future years.) However, during socially distanced learning, there are enough sets for each student in a class to work independently, giving teachers an option for a fun, engaging hands-on STEM experience.

"These sets were an absolute life saver in a year that I was teaching from a cart and so many of the hands-on activities were not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. In third grade, we were able to learn about simple machines before beginning their Rube Goldberg projects. In fourth grade, we were able to review those standards in a fun and engaging way before ILEARN," stated Mrs. Knueven.



She also said that 91% of 3rd grade students improved their knowledge of simple machines through the use of the K'Nex kits, BrainPop, and classroom instruction.

ZEF Grants enable teachers to give students unique learning experiences and to try new things in their classrooms. These grants and experiences are only possible through the generosity of our donors. YOU made this grant possible...thank you!!

To learn about other grants ZEF has funded, click [here](#).

Join us for ZEF Night!

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ZCHS Basketball Game
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
7:30pm Tip



**Free ZEF Eagles t-shirt to the first fans
& a fun half-time competition.**



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