Zionsville Education Foundation
2025 Imagine Professional Development Grants

Special thanks to the Barth Family Fund for generously supporting this grant cycle.

Julia Cassel, Katie Sarpa, Lisa Mueller, Chelle Smitson, Emily Sigmund, & Emily Parker – Trailside Elementary School ($8,932.32)
Arts Integration and STEAM Conference
A Trailside Elementary team of K-4 teachers will attend the Arts Integration and STEAM Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. They will learn new teaching strategies, bring back innovative practices for a positive impact on students, and share knowledge with their school community.

Christopher Hindsley – Zionsville West Middle School ($1,890)
Collaboration & Community: Attending the 2025 ACTFL Annual Convention & World Language Expo
Provides the opportunity for Christopher Hindsley to attend the American Council on the Teachers of Foreign Languages Annual Convention and World Language Expo held in New Orleans, Louisiana. He will have the opportunity to network with fellow world language educators, to further develop teaching techniques and practices, and to reflect on current teaching practices.

Laura Dyer and Avory Freund – Zionsville West Middle School ($6,000)
Innovate, Navigate, Elevate: Strengthening Our School Counseling Program
School Counselors Laura Dyer and Avory Freund will attend the American School Counselor Association annual conference to explore best practices, resources, and evidence-based materials for enhancing the school counseling program. This four-day event will provide opportunities for professional development, networking, and learning from industry experts.

Katie Gordon, Shawn Wooden, Ramsay West, Mitzi Macaluso, Craig Callahan, and Blair Williams – Zionsville West Middle School and Zionsville Middle School ($10,321.20)
Leading the Middle Way: Empowering Teacher Leaders for Student Success
Teacher leaders from both Zionsville Middle School and Zionsville West Middle School will participate in the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This conference is the only one dedicated to advancing best practices in middle-level education. It will provide valuable opportunities to enhance instructional leadership skills, engage with the latest research in middle-level education, and bring back innovative strategies to support both schools and students.

Meagan Brown, Will Doublestein, Rebecca Hampton, Lauryn Tooley, Andie Wentz, Emily Zucker – All ZCS Elementary Schools ($9,040)
American Orff-Schulwerk Association Conference
The ZCS elementary music team will participate in the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) conference in Lexington, Kentucky to enhance elementary music education for all ZCS students in kindergarten through fourth grade. The conference will help deepen pedagogical knowledge, provide hands-on learning, give exposure to new resources, and advance team cohesion. By engaging with

leading music educators, they will acquire new techniques and processes to improve instruction and maximize the use of their high-quality instruments and resources.

Susanna Outcelt - – Zionsville Community High School ($3,000)
Camryn Bader – Zionsville Community High School ($3,000)
Building Thinking Classrooms Annual Conference
Attendance at the Building Thinking Classrooms Annual Conference will provide these high school math educators the opportunity to learn more about desired instructional strategies researched in Peter Liljedahl's book Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics. The conference includes many strands of professional development including sessions on fostering leadership and community, launch practices, cultivating leadership, and assessment practices in Building Thinking Classrooms.

Candi Granlund – Zionsville West Middle School ($3,000)
World Adult Wind Orchestra Project
This professional development project is a one-week immersive experience in the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project in Schladming, Austria. Ms. Granlund auditioned for the opportunity by submitting playing samples showcasing her skills on the bassoon. She will rehearse and perform alongside top conductors and musicians from around the world at the Mid-Europe Music Festival. The experience will help enhance her musical skills and participate in a group of musicians from diverse backgrounds and languages gathered to communicate and connect through their mutual love for music.

Sharon Davidson – Eagle Elementary ($3,000)
Immersed in Spanish
This grant provides the opportunity to participate in the Agualivar Spanish Immersion School, a full immersion Spanish language program and homestay in a small, rural town in Spain. The experience includes living with local teachers, 3 hours of personalized Spanish classes each day, and experiencing the cultural aspects of the area. Ms. Davidson will improve all aspects of her Spanish language, engage in authentic experiences in a small town, and gain perspective on how it feels to truly be immersed in a language and culture.

Total Awarded: $48,183.52

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