

USD 303 Board of Education Approves the Formation of Foundation for Education

The USD 303 School Board has approved the formation of the Ness City Schools – USD 303 Foundation for Education. The Ness City Schools - USD 303 Foundation for Education is a fully operational charitable organization that was developed to help gather funding, materials, supplies, and service support for Ness City School's students, staff, and programs. As a full 501c3, all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Our mission is simply to gather resources for the schools of USD 303 – Ness City. To fulfill this mission, we will be applying for grants that are currently unavailable to the schools due to the lack of 501c3 status. We will also be reaching out to alumni and community members for donations. All moneys obtained by the Foundation will be used to help fund academic, athletic, and physical plant projects taking place in USD 303 – Ness City. These projects may range from but are not limited to: classroom supplies for students, curriculum supplies for classrooms, athletic equipment, professional development opportunities for teachers, athletic facility upgrades, and academic facility upgrades.

We accept donations in many forms:

Monetary Funds - will be invested back into the school system to help fund various projects.

Products - will be dispersed to the classrooms, organizations, and teams where they can best be used.

Property - will be used to grow funds and further develop educational opportunities.

Time - is also a very valuable resource for us. We are always in need of volunteers to help with fundraising, successfully finish projects, and reduce costs for the schools.

There are several different ways your donations can be used. You have the option of simply donating, or donating for specific reasons. If there is a program or opportunity you are passionate about, you can ask that your donation goes toward that specific project.

After School Programs and Camps – We are always looking for ways to extend learning outside of the school day and school year. These programs allow students to grow in areas that we are not always able to reach in the traditional classroom setting.

Facility Improvements – We are always working to provide the best possible facilities we can for our students and community. This process can often times become a tax burden for our patrons. Donations can help off set some of this burden. Naming rights to classrooms, gyms, and other improvements are a way that the school and community can publically thank you for your donations.

Scholarships – The Foundation offers individuals the opportunity to set up scholarship programs for USD 303 students. The Foundation can manage endowments, take care of disbursement of funds, handle candidate selection, and work with the scholarship creators to ensure funds are used in the manner they wish.

Classroom Needs – Often times, our teachers have different projects they are doing in their classroom, but funds are not available to make the project work. Donations can be given to support mini-grants that teachers can receive to make their projects successful.

Staff Development – We want to make sure our teachers have the opportunity to learn from and experience the best possible training available. There are many opportunities for teacher training, but funds do not always allow for our teachers to experience them.

Community Partnerships – We are interested in developing funds and opportunities that allow the school and community to work together.

Field Trips – Like our teachers, our students need the opportunity to explore the world around them. The school works hard to provide these opportunities for their students, but funds are not always available. Donations for field trips can be used to enhance these opportunities.

Organization Needs – We are proud of the many organizational opportunities our school district offers. Each of these organizations offers students the chance to grow and learn outside of the traditional classroom. Many times these organizations are the driving force behind a student's success.

Activity/Athletic Needs – Like our organizations, the different activity and athletic opportunities our students have are important for their success. These opportunities allow for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

We would like to thank Joby Henning, Pat Fellhoelter, Robyn Deines, Kevin Buetler, and Monty Pfannenstiel for serving as the founding board for the Foundation. The Foundation Board will be working to prioritize potential projects and working to fund those projects. If you would like to get involved, please contact Derek Reinhardt or any of the Foundation Board Members.