

Enriching the Educational Experience through The Dayton Foundation



How You Can Help!

The THE NORTHBRIDGE POLAR BEAR FOUNDATION FUND
is an endowment with The Dayton Foundation that grants funds
for educational enhancements to benefit the students of Northridge Local Schools.



**THE DAYTON
FOUNDATION**

We help you help others.

Support the "Polar Bear Initiative" for 2021-2022

The last couple of years have been a challenge for the schools, with the tornado devastation in 2019, and the COVID-19 related setbacks and strains on the budget in 2020 and continuing throughout 2021. **The Northridge Optimist Club** and **The Dayton Foundation** are seeking donors to help sustain the kind of support that enriches the educational experience for the students. We are reaching out to friends of the Northridge Optimist Club, Northridge alumni, area businesses, and community members to help support these efforts for the coming school year, **and beyond.**



See donation information on the Northridge Optimist Club website at:

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/polar-bear-donation.html>

- Look for the blue donation button to transfer directly to The Dayton Foundation page for a secure credit card donation

A form to donate by check is also available for downloading from the Northridge Optimist Club website... (for mailing directly to The Dayton Foundation)

Why this Year is Important for the Future

The "Polar Bear Initiative" was begun in August of 2020. In previous years, the annual Northridge Optimist Golf Scramble had been the major source of income for the Polar Bear Foundation Fund, but the golf outing was cancelled due to pandemic concerns. Through the "Polar Bear Initiative", donors who had supported the golf outing in the past were contacted, and donated enough money to cover the grants for the 2020-2021 school year.

But with the **2021-2022** school year underway, and the golf outing again cancelled, support is still needed to continue with the three grant cycles, which adds up to about \$4500 per year. So the fund raiser initiative will continue for 2021-2022 and beyond, to keep providing programs designed for enriching the educational experience for Northridge students. Your help is still needed. Donation information is available on the "Polar Bear Donation" page.

Examples of Northridge Polar Bear Foundation Fund Grants

Since the fund's first grants in 2011, a total of \$53,210 in grants have been awarded to supplement various educational programs. For the last two school years of 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 these programs include the following:

- A "great books" program for 4th grade language arts students
- Books for a 7th grade classroom
- High school art projects
- Math study programs for grades 3 and 5
- Science projects for STEM students
- Social skills programs for K-4
- "Girls on the Run" programs for grades 3 and 5
- Books designed for special ed students
- Two Muse Machine performances at the school for grades 6-12
- Providing reading materials electronically to enhance, track, and evaluate their reading and writing skills.
- A "Climate and Culture Team project" to enhance the social-emotional competence of K-12 students.
- The replacement of math picture books that were lost in the Grafton Kennedy school destruction.

(In all three cases, funds received for the projects will provide educational benefits on an ongoing basis, beyond just this school year.)

These are typical of the types of programs that are supported - things that fall outside of what is provided by the school district curriculum, but that provide great enrichment and added scope to the student experience.

**Learn more about the
Polar Bear Fund
on the
club website.**

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org>

We hope to be able to support Northridge education with grants for the 2021-2022 school year at the same level as in the past.

With your help the "Polar Bear Initiative" can make this possible.