



**HIGHLAND PARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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435 Mansfield St, Highland Park

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

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To Whom it May Concern:

The Highland Park Education Foundation (HPEF) began in 1996 with the desire to help Highland Park public schools achieve high academic goals and build for the future. HPEF grants have enriched the curriculum, inspired students and educators, and expanded community interest in public education. Since 1996, over 330 grants in excess of \$375,000 have been awarded to our district's schools.

Within the last 12 months, two grants that support sustainability education are: The "Getting the Dirt on Eating Healthy" grant provided much needed gardening materials and supplies to all four High Park School gardens (established in 2010) to sustain its year-to-year operation. After 3-4 years, some of the wooden garden beds and supplies (storage box, tools, seeds) needed to be replaced and the HPEF grant helped us do that. In addition, many students and teachers participate in planting, maintaining and harvesting the gardens. Much of the vegetables and herbs are donated to the Highland Park Food Pantry by the high school environmental club members.

Another grant is in support of Camp Bernie: HPEF is a long-time supporter of the annual 5th grade trip to Camp Bernie, subsidizing approximately half of the cost. Students take a three-day, two-night trip to an environmental education center in western NJ. There they spend educational and fun-filled days exploring nature, sustainability, understanding our impact on Earth, and team building. For many of our students it is their first time in the country and the first time away from their families! Students return richer in both knowledge and maturity.

Through the years, there were many HPEF grants that supported sustainable projects, the two mentioned are the most recent.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Hoefele

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary