

March 14, 2022

Caledonia Community Schools community,

We are sharing the information below on behalf of the Caledonia Education Foundation (CEF).

**CCS** Administration

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Strong schools build strong communities. The <u>Caledonia Education Foundation</u> (CEF) has been committed to supporting our district schools by providing academic resources and funding programs for students at **every** grade level in **every** school throughout the district.

Each year, CEF funds grant requests for books in the classrooms and the school libraries. Over the course of the last 10 years, CEF has given over \$40,000 for updated book purchases. Recently grants were awarded to two high school English classes for their classroom libraries and book clubs.

Often what limits students' intentionality to read books is their frustrations with the length, context, or vocabulary of the available options. The most reluctant readers have likely had negative or very few experiences with books in general. This is why fostering a love for reading by building classroom libraries full of a wide variety of high-interest young adult novels written at various literacy levels is so important. New books keep students engaged resulting in higher reading fluency, stronger reading stamina, a broader vocabulary, and a newfound enjoyment in reading. Reading the same novel in a book club simultaneously allows students to share ideas of the author's intent, character development, and plot progression while drawing connections to their own lives and the modern world.

Check out this <u>video</u> to see why it is critical to have relevant books from our Caledonia High School English students and teachers.

Will you help us continue to fund grants like this that enable our students to improve their reading skills? Consider a gift to CEF!

Thank -you!

## **Denise Blunk**

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