



SALINA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

[salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://salinaeducationfoundation.com) 785-309-4729

Fall 2023

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

## Welcome New Trustees



**Julie Richardson** was raised in Inman, KS, graduating from Emporia State University with degrees in Business Administration and Marketing. She has been active in many different roles within the Salina community for over 30 years. Julie is the co-owner of Reflections Retirement Resort Independent and Assisted Living Community. She has her state Administrator's license and truly enjoys helping seniors in the Salina community enjoy the next exciting chapters in their lives. Julie and her husband (Brian) also own and manage multiple mixed-use

properties in Kansas. Julie has spent many years in the accountant role for a local church and the couple's own business interests. Julie and Brian have raised three children in Salina: Jera, Brogen, and Brooks. When not enjoying her work, you will likely find Julie somewhere spending time with her family.



**Tiffany Snyder** is originally from Linn, KS but has lived in Salina since 1999. She graduated from Bethany College with her BA in Elementary and Special Education, attended St. Mary's University and received a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, and Baker University where she received her Master's in School Leadership and then her Doctorate in Educational Leadership. She started her teaching career in USD 305 and has held various positions. Tiffany has been with the district for 25 years and

currently serves as the Director of Recruitment and Retention. She has three children. Destinee and Karsen are both in the workforce and her youngest, Kaden, is a sophomore at Salina Central. In her free time, she enjoys attending sporting events and spending time with family and friends.

**Retiring Trustees** At its annual meeting on August 16th, the board of trustees recognized the following retiring trustees: **James Lambert** and **Amy Stonebraker**. Salina Education Foundation's former executive director, **Michael Chambers**, expressed his thanks to both trustees. They have made a tremendous impact on the Salina Education Foundation and have worked hard to help support students and staff. We thank them for their dedication to the mission and vision of the Salina Education Foundation.



## GSCF Supports Sudden Opportunity Grants

Sudden Opportunity Grants provide a quick way to make great projects happen for our students. Awards are limited to \$200 and address a project or need that has come up suddenly and can't be planned for.

Sudden Opportunity Grants are very popular with teachers and other staff. This is another way people could support classrooms, by offering to fund a Sudden Opportunity Grant. There are opportunities that pop up throughout the school year, and sometimes these grants are how teachers can make those experiences happen. We're grateful for any and all contributions that help us support our students!

## From the Director



Greetings to all! I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Salina Education Foundation as the new executive

director. After retiring as the theatre director at Salina High School South, I'm excited to be back working for the education foundation with its focus on supporting teachers in providing the best care and education for students at Salina Public Schools.

As a former teacher, I've had first-hand experience with the impact the Salina Education Foundation makes on teachers and students. I've witnessed a theatre full of kindergarteners watching a favorite story of theirs brought to life and have participated in helping hundreds of students working with 305LIVE. The Salina Education Foundation helps bring dreams, aspirations, and creativity alive – for teachers and students!

I remember the joy I felt on my first day here when I was able to contact a teacher to let them know their Sudden Opportunity Grant request had been approved. I don't expect that feeling to go away! I am looking forward to this new role of helping teachers and students of Salina Public Schools. Thank you for the kind welcome and your continued support of the Salina Education Foundation. You make opportunities become realities for teachers and students across our school district!

Kate Lindsay  
Executive Director

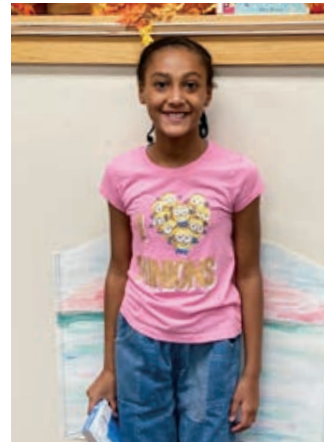


## Birthday Books at Sunset, an Outside the Box Grant

Having their own books is important for elementary students for several reasons. It promotes a sense of ownership and responsibility while allowing students to read at their own pace and revisit their favorite books whenever they want. Having their own books provides opportunities for independent reading, which in turn improves their vocabulary, comprehension, and overall literacy skills. Furthermore, having their own books helps reinforce the importance of reading as a lifelong skill.



Katie Lidgett, Library Media Specialist at Sunset Elementary, knows all of this to be true and loves to help get more books into the hands of students. A home filled with books can positively impact a child's academic growth. Adding to this is a special joy that comes with selecting your own books. She had this in mind when applying for an Outside the Box Grant.



The Birthday Book Program was implemented this year through an Outside the Box Grant. Each month, students who have birthdays that month are brought to the birthday books closet, where they are able to choose a book to keep forever.

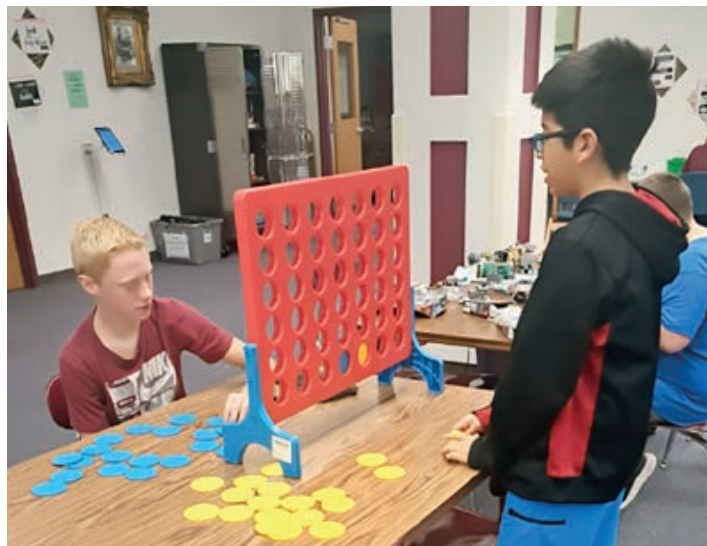


Katie Lidgett shares, "It's been a great time to build relationships with students, talking to them about how old they are turning (or just turned) and wishing them a happy birthday. Students have been very happy to be able to pick out a book for their birthday." These books help foster a sense of belonging while celebrating each student. This project helps empower them to become independent readers, enhances their reading skills, and nurtures a lifelong love for reading.



# 21st Century Grant, Lakewood's Library Makerspace

In today's digital age, where screens tend to dominate our leisure time, it's easy to overlook the value of board games provide a plethora of benefits for students, helping tend beyond the game itself. Elizabeth Kinion, the Library Media Specialist at Lakewood, recognized these benefits and knew that students needed more opportunities to these skills. That's where the 21st Century Grant comes into play. The grant to provide more Makerspace games in Lakewood's library allows more opportunities for students to build these important skills through games.



Just how do board games provide benefits for our students?

- Board games often require strategic thinking, planning, and decision-making. Students enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities by engaging in these activities. Analyzing different game scenarios, weighing options, and making informed choices contribute to developing logical reasoning and critical thinking in real-life situations.
- Board games encourage social interaction and collaboration among players. Students learn to communicate effectively and express their thoughts clearly, whether negotiating, discussing strategies, or engaging in friendly banter. These skills are crucial for building strong relationships, teamwork, and effective collaboration in academic and professional settings.
- Board games often involve competition, which can teach students valuable lessons in emotional intelligence and resilience. Winning and losing gracefully, managing frustration, and handling setbacks are all part of the game. By experiencing these emotions in a controlled environment, students learn to regulate their emotions, develop resilience, and cope with challenges in a healthy manner.

Board games are not just a source of entertainment; they offer a multitude of benefits for students. The Lakewood library offers Makerspace in the mornings from 7:10-7:40 and whole class Makerspace options. We thank Elizabeth Kinion for working on a 21st Century Grant, and all of the Salina Education Foundation donors who make these opportunities come to life for our students!

## Grant Partners

The work of the Salina Education Foundation is supported 100% through the generosity of individuals and business in our community. Your support of our programs demonstrates a strong commitment to healthy community. Local businesses need employees who implement critical

thinking skills and can meet ever-evolving business needs. Perhaps this is the year you fund a specific grant. We can help you match the topics that are important to you to projects happening in USD 305. Contact Kate at [kate.lindsay@usd305.com](mailto:kate.lindsay@usd305.com) or 785-309-4729.

## Our Mission

*To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.*

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Salina Education Foundation:

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

## Our Vision

*Uniting the community to support excellent public schools*

## Board of Trustees, 2023-24

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**YES!** I want the BEST for all students in the Salina School District! Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- \$3000 or more **21st Century Club**
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