



In The Classroom

TEACHER NEWSLETTER

NEWS & RESOURCES FOR D34 EDUCATORS

OCTOBER 2026

GLENVIEW EDUCATION FOUNDATION: YOUR GRANTS IN ACTION



One Idea. A Whole New Kind of Art Experience.

Art teacher Natalie Meek knows there are countless ways to create — and no one teacher can be an expert in all of them.

So when Natalie had an idea for her students to explore fiber arts and sustainability, a GEF grant helped her think bigger.

The grant allowed her to bring a resident artist into the classroom — giving students access to an expert in weaving and fiber arts while giving Natalie something equally valuable: a teaching partner who could bring expertise and techniques beyond what she could provide alone.

Together, they introduced students to weaving using recycled materials, combining lessons in sustainability with hands-on skills rooted in sewing and textile arts — skills rarely taught in classrooms today.



Henking art teacher Natalie Meek, pictured with resident artist Ellie Anderson, whose fiber arts expertise helped bring Natalie's GEF-funded vision to life.

But it didn't stop there. The project grew into a community event that invited families into the experience and will ultimately leave behind a collaborative art installation at Henking.

An educator had an idea. GEF gave her the resources to take it somewhere bigger.

What could you do with yours?
GEF Fall Grant Applications are open through October 21. 🌱



You bring the ideas. We help them grow.

D34 educators are at the heart of what makes our schools exceptional. GEF is here to help you dream bigger, try something new and bring innovative learning experiences to life.

Dream big. Teach bold. Apply now.



Check out our website for FAQs and more:
gef34.org/grants-new

GRANT CYCLE STATUS CHECK

GRANT CYCLE OPEN



READY TO GROW!

Applications are now being accepted

Applications are due:
October 21, 2026.

Do you, or a fellow D34 educator, have a GEF grant story to share?

We want to hear it! 🌱

Reach out:
communications@gef34.org

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Your school's GEF grant liaison can help you brainstorm, strengthen your proposal navigate the application process, and answer questions.

Henking:
Laurie Orenstein

Pleasant Ridge:
Christina Leong

Lyon:
Lauren Feldman

Glen Grove:
Tina Parekh

Westbrook:
Allie Dawson

Attea:
Laurie Orenstein

Hoffman:
Jessica Gebauer

Springman:
Lisa Pavic

Reach out anytime—we're happy to answer your questions and connect you with any of our GEF liaisons.



grants@gef34.org

Your school's IIS is also available to help:

Henking:
Caryl Doetsch

Hoffman:
Alex Virias

Lyon:
Matt Vitacco

Pleasant Ridge:
Kathryn Konieczka

Westbrook:
Jennifer Nelson

Attea:
Chrissy Harrold

Glen Grove:
David Banas

Springman:
David Ristow