

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEAM Kit Handouts a Success!

MDUSD Education Foundation funds provide more than 1600 science and art remote learning kits to students during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Concord, CA. On May 6, 2020, the MDUSD Education Foundation (MDEDF), in collaboration with the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) CARES, handed out more than 1,600 hands-on science and art kits to students during lunch distribution at five school sites. These STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) kits were funded entirely by community donors' generous response to the foundation's "Coronavirus Remote Learning Fund." In less than three weeks, the fund collected more than \$30,000 to promote distance learning throughout the district.

In addition to the kits, the foundation is funding the purchase of Chromebooks to be lent to MDUSD students who do not have ready access to a computer. "Our donors make this happen!" said Matt Lovett, MDEDF treasurer, "It was moving to see the excitement on the faces of the students as the science and art kits were distributed."

The STEAM kits, Colors of Light, Tongue Depressor Harmonica and Art Stamps, included materials and instructions in English and Spanish for students to hand assemble and experiment. The easy to build Colors of Light spectroscope, a physical science project, creates a rainbow pattern (spectrum) by separating incoming white light into its component colors. The easily built Tongue Depressor Harmonica encourages students to change the sound and to explore wave properties, energy, combining life science, physical science and art! The Art Stamp Kit included supplies to design and craft block stamps and creatively explore art. Each kit's instructions includes detailed information about the science or art concept behind the activity and identifies the curriculum content standards met.



First grader Elianna Simone, Holbrook Arts Magnet School in Concord, shares her Art Stamp Kit.



Staff members from CARES and Bel Air Elementary School, Bay Point, CA, display the three STEAM kits.

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MDUSD EDUCATION FOUNDATION is a volunteer-led, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 2017 “to promote excellence in the educational experience of students who attend schools governed or authorized by the Mount Diablo Unified School District.” The foundation’s objectives are to sponsor educational opportunities that foster a culture of excellence and inclusion in all MDUSD schools; provide funds and resources for K-12 educational activities beyond the standard curriculum including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math); and collaborate with businesses and/or trades for alternative educational or vocational career technical experiences for students. The foundation provides STEAM-related enrichment opportunities to more than 30,000 MDUSD students. MDEDF works in close collaboration with teachers, principals, and the school district while engaging the community at large to help bring new opportunities to students both inside and outside the classroom. Learn more at <http://www.mdedef.org/>

MT. DIABLO CARES is a unique collaborative between the Mt Diablo School District, City of Concord Parks & Recreation and Bay Area Community Resources, who all serve overlapping youth populations. As part of the state-wide initiative, Healthy Behaviors Initiative (HBI) which identifies exemplary practices in nutrition in After School Programs, CARES is supported by grants from both state and city initiatives and a non-profit charitable foundation. CARES operates from the end of the school day until 6:00 pm. There is no cost to students for program participation. Homework Help, Academic Intervention Program, ASPIRE Supplemental Educational Services, Nutrition Education and Cooking, Dance, Arts and Crafts, STEM, SPARK & CATCH program, Gardening and Field Trips. Daily nutritional snack & supper provided in partnership with Food Services Department and the USDA. A Middle School Sports program is offered at the three Middle Schools with the CARES After School Program. Annually CARES serves more than 2175 students at 17 school sites, grades TK-12. Learn more at www.mdusd.org/departments/afterschoolprogram

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