

# St. Croix Prep Foundation

School Board Update | April 28, 2026

*Investing in Teachers. Celebrating Students. Strengthening Prep.*

# Foundation at a Glance — Spring 2026

The Foundation Is Delivering Across Every Level of Prep



**\$5,770**

**Teacher Grants Awarded**

6 grants funded — Upper, Middle, Lower School & Athletics

**\$17,000**

**Senior Scholarships**

11 scholarships for the Class of 2026 including two new awards

**\$5,000**

**Donor Gifts Stewarded**

Science lab projector microscope & Athletics/Theater program support

**\$20,000**

**External Grant Pursued**

ECMC Foundation GO! Program High School Reading Intervention

The St. Croix Prep Foundation is actively funding innovation in the classroom, stewarding donor generosity into meaningful resources, recognizing outstanding student achievement, and pursuing external resources to close learning gaps.

# Prep Fund Teacher Grants

Teacher-Led Ideas Are Transforming the Classroom

## About the Program

The Prep Fund Teacher Grant Program provides funding for innovative ideas that go beyond the general operating budget, empowering teachers to bring new tools, enriching experiences, and creative solutions directly to their students.

### Grants are available in four areas:

- ▶ Academic Enrichment
- ▶ Arts & Music
- ▶ Athletics
- ▶ School Facilities

Applications open twice per year — Fall & Spring



## Spring 2026 Cycle

**\$7,000**

Total funding available

**Up to \$1,000**

Per individual grant

**7 Applications**

One applicant withdrew

**By Division:** Upper School 3 | Middle School 2 | US/MS 1 | Lower School 0 | Athletics 0

**By Designation:** Academic Enrichment 5 | Arts & Music 1 | Athletics 0 | School Facilities 1 (represented Facilities and Arts & Music)

After review of initial submissions, grant applications accepted from Athletics and Lower School

Idea → Principal Approval → Application Portal → Review Committee → Award Announced → Impact Report

# Spring 2026 Teacher Grant Recipients

Six Ideas. One Mission: Elevating the Student Experience.

Grant Project	Teacher	Division	Award
Math Department Calculator Upgrade	Erin Richgels	Upper School	\$1,500
Blu Track EDU Advanced Force & Motion STEM Kits	Gretchen Tiede	Middle School	\$1,020
Intervention Seating & Sensory Tools (Focus/Anxiety Support)	Joann Karetov	Lower School	\$1,000
Oscillating Irrigation for Barker's Alps Athletic Fields	Keven Seim	Athletics	\$1,000
Visualizing Genetic Information Through 3D Molecular Models	MacKenzie Bilunas	Upper School	\$750
Middle School Weather Station	Lindsey Schutte	Middle School	\$500
<b>Total Awarded</b>			<b>\$5,770</b>

By Division: Upper School 2 | Middle School 2 |  
Lower School 1 | Athletics 1

By Designation: Academic Enrichment 4 | School Facilities 1 |  
Athletics 1

Communications efforts to internal and external  
audiences underway week of April 27

# Senior Scholarships — Class of 2026

\$17,000 Invested in Prep's Graduating Class from 11 Scholarships

## 11 Scholarships = \$17,000 in Awards

Two new scholarships added for 2026

### **NEW | First State Bank & Trust Community Impact Award — \$1,000**

Recognizes a senior demonstrating meaningful community service or volunteer work, with aspirations in business, finance, economics, or public service.

### **NEW | Anna Maakestad Visual Arts Scholarship — \$1,000**

Honors a senior who demonstrates exceptional depth in studio work, intellectual curiosity about art history and criticism, and a commitment to pursuing visual arts at the college level.

**60 Applications from 31 Students**

## Scholarship Portfolio

St. Croix Prep Foundation Pillar Scholarships

(Academics, Character, Leadership)

Jessica Ducklow Scholarship for Academic Perseverance

Rich Dippel Legacy Scholarship

(2 awarded — one male, one female)

Gutierrez Family Scholarship

(2 awarded — one male, one female)

Lakeview Health Foundation Scholarship

**Anna Maakestad Visual Arts Scholarship ★ NEW**

**First State Bank & Trust Community Impact Award ★ NEW**

**Scholarships awarded at the Awards Ceremony & Senior Reception**

### \$5,000 in Donor Gifts | Purposefully Directed to Where They Matter Most

#### \$4,000 Gift | Science Department

##### Trinocular Projector Microscope with 4K Camera

Funded through donor generosity, this new trinocular projector microscope with 4K camera allows for real-time projection, image capture, and precise measurement of student discoveries.

It transforms classroom engagement today while building the laboratory skills students will carry into college science programs tomorrow.

- ▶ Real-time projection to the full class
- ▶ 4K image capture of student discoveries
- ▶ Precise measurement tools built in
- ▶ Bridges K–12 lab experience to college readiness

#### \$1,000 Gift | Athletics & Arts

##### Track & Field — Throwing Program

##### Items ordered for throwing athletes:

- ▶ 5 pairs of Look-up glasses
- ▶ Portable throwing circle (indoor/outdoor use)
- ▶ Premium resistance training bands (10 total)
- ▶ Ankle cuff resistance bands for leg training (5 total)
- ▶ Specialized medicine balls w/ rope — shot put & discus sizes

##### Theater Program

Support items currently being determined. Details to follow.

# ECMC Foundation GO! Program

The Foundation In Collaboration With The School Is Pursuing External Funding to Close Learning Gaps

## About ECMC Foundation GO!

The ECMC Foundation's GO! Program — Generating Outcomes: Impacting Education in Our Communities — is an employee-driven grant program that awards funding to local organizations working to improve higher education outcomes for underserved populations.

### How It Works:

- ▶ ECMC employees nominate local organizations
- ▶ Nominated organizations submit a grant proposal
- ▶ ECMC employees vote on the submissions

### Priority Focus:

Projects that close educational achievement gaps — including academic supports, tutoring, mentoring, technology enhancements, and teacher training.

### Our Connection:

The St. Croix Prep Foundation was nominated by St. Croix Prep parent alum Heidi Johnson, a testament to the community's belief in Prep's mission.

# \$20,000

## Grant Nomination

ECMC Foundation GO! Program

### Nominated by:

Heidi Johnson, St. Croix Prep Parent Alum

### Notification Date:

On or around May 12, 2026

*Learn more: [ecmcgroup.org](http://ecmcgroup.org)*

# ECMC GO! Submission: High School Reading Intervention

Addressing a Critical Gap in Literacy Support for High School Students



## Submitted Project: High School Reading Intervention Support

### The Gap

K–8 students at Prep receive dedicated literacy intervention services. High school students currently lack this same support, leaving critical reading gaps unaddressed for 9th–12th graders who need it most.

**Especially impactful for the 20% of incoming students new to Prep's high school each year.**

### The Solution

The grant would fund a 0.2 FTE high school interventionist to serve 9th–10th grade students and newly enrolled students in grades 9–12 reading below grade level.

Using Lexile measures, the interventionist will assess each student's comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking, then deliver targeted instruction.

### The Impact

By focusing on comprehension and metacognition, students will not only decode text, they'll understand and apply it. These are the key skills for college readiness and success across all academic subjects.

**Closing the literacy gap at the high school level is a direct investment in Prep's mission of academic excellence.**

**Grant Decision Notification: On or around Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

# Ignite Prep 2026 — Event Recap

A Night of Community, Generosity, and Record-Breaking Support

Ignite Prep 2026 delivered an outstanding night — with gross revenue up 18% vs. 2025

**+18%**

**Gross Revenue Growth**

vs. 2025

**~2x**

**Sponsorship Growth**

Sponsorship nearly doubled vs. 2025

**+75%**

**Auction Revenue Growth**

Live +69% | Silent +81%

**303**

**Attendance**

vs. 2025 reported 160

## What Worked Well

### Sponsorship

Community and business support nearly doubled — a sign of growing confidence in the Foundation's mission.

### Live & Silent Auctions

Both categories saw significant increases, reflecting strong donor engagement and competitive bidding.

### New Revenue Streams

Online donations, Plinko game, bar, and Band Karaoke Fundraiser added meaningful incremental revenue.

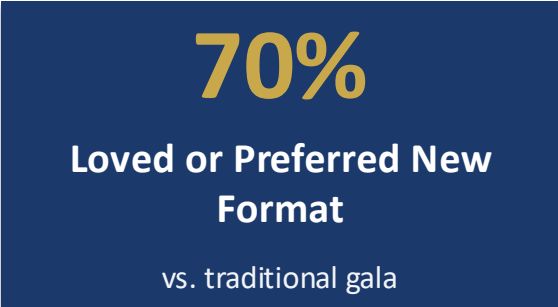
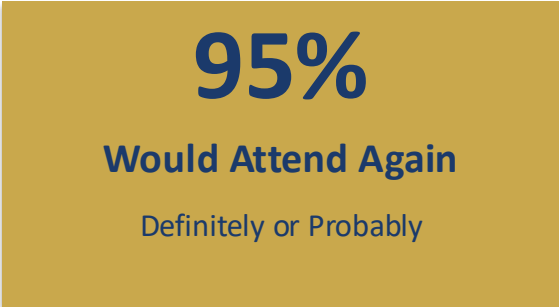
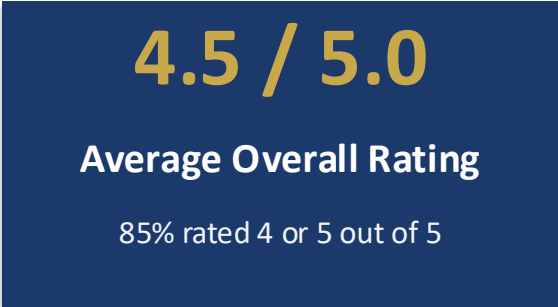
### Ticket Sales

Attendance and ticket revenue grew, bringing more community members into the Prep fundraising family.

Full recap meeting to be held with Jenn Fuchs and Terri Gulbransen

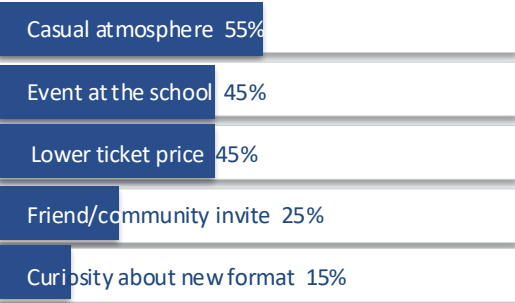
# Ignite Prep 2026 — Attendee Survey Highlights

20 Responses | The Feedback Is Overwhelmingly Positive

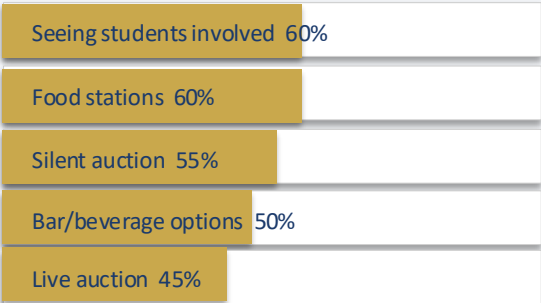


## What Brought Them & What They Loved

### Top Attendance Drivers



### Most Enjoyed Elements



### Return Intent



## Format Opinion & Return Intent

### New Format Opinion

