

What is the Foundation?

The Brewster Education Foundation, founded in 1984, is a non-profit education foundation dedicated to supporting public education for all Brewster students through recognizing achievement, encouraging teaching initiatives, appropriating grants for hands-on, meaningful learning opportunities, and awarding scholarships.

History of the Foundation

The concept for a foundation originated in 1983 and was supported by dedicated community leaders and the Brewster Board of Education. It was the first such public school foundation in New York. Independent of the school district, the Brewster Education Foundation raises funds for projects beyond those supported by regular school resources. This additional funding helps fill the gap between the programs the district would like to have and those available to them through regular budgeting. Thus, the Foundation has established itself as a part of the support system for public education in the Brewster community, and involves the community in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Programs

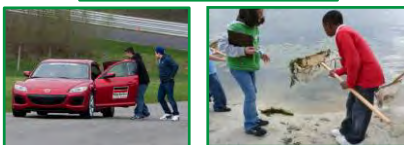
Awards

The Foundation **annually awards over \$50,000 in cash scholarships** at Senior Award Night. Most of the awards are funded through permanent endowments, however, the *Seven Year Scholars program*, awarding \$500 to each graduating senior who maintained high honor roll status throughout grades 7 through 12 is also funded by the Foundation.

Grants

The Foundation Grant Program offers teachers the opportunity to request funds for unique, innovative, or creative projects that are not normally funded through the regular school budget. **Approximately \$24,000 in grants is awarded annually** by the BEF to teachers across the district. Some of the noteworthy proposals that have been funded over the years by the Foundation include:

- 9/11 Never Forget Memorial Mobile Museum to Brewster
- 3rd Grade Butterfly Study Project
- Revolutionary Encampment Day for 4th graders
- 4th Grade Colonial Fair
- C.V. Starr Brewster Education Foundation Library Media Center
- 5th Grade Aquatic Study
- Empathy in Action - Integrating "Wonder" book In to the 6th grade curriculum
- Writer in Residence
- Safe School Ambassador program
- Brewster High School Humanities Symposium
- Nation to Nation: Researching Countries of the World
- Bridge Building/Engineering Club at BHS
- Skip Barber Safe Driving Experience for BHS students
- Chromebooks for Kids
- Microscope Project for CVS
- Modular Art Display Panels
- CPR & AED training for 8th grade students



Class Field Trips

In 2016 the Brewster Education Program sponsored and funded the first field trips for students in grades 2 and 5. The second graders headed to the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT, while the fifth graders went into New York City to the Museum of Natural History. These educational experiences could not take place without the generosity of the community and the donations provided through our Foundation's fundraising efforts. The Foundation is planning to make these class trips a permanent part of our program.

Class Gifts

Two years ago the Brewster Education Foundation began a new *Class Gift* program that provides graduating gifts for students in the second, fifth and eighth grades. Teachers, school administrators and BEF Board members collaboratively decide on appropriate gifts that acknowledge the academic accomplishments of the students as they graduate and move to the next level and school building. This past year the second graders received notepads and pens, the fifth graders received stainless steel water bottles, and the eighth graders received sports sacks.



Grade 2



Grade 5



Grade 8

The Brewster Education Foundation is always looking for dedicated individuals to join our Board. If you are interested in making a difference in the educational well-being of all students in the Brewster Central School District, please contact us through our website at www.bef.org