



Del Norte High School Foundation Newsletter - December 2023

Library Grant

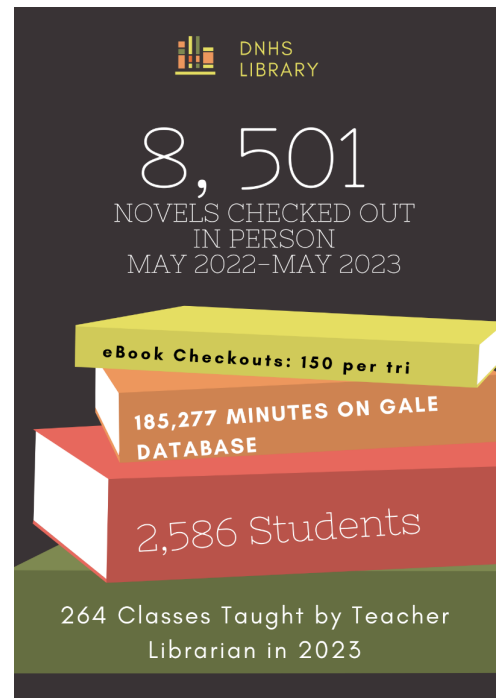
The Del Norte High School Foundation has funded various grants and activities this school-year, including materials and equipment for classrooms, conferences to support teachers' training, library books, Nighthawk tutoring, meals for teacher appreciation events, and much more. Here is a grant testimonial from Michelle Furtado, the Del Norte Librarian.

The Foundation's support of the library has been crucial in creating an environment that nurtures and supports all students. From the first infographic, you will see that we have the highest number of book checkouts in the Poway District by far, totaling over 8,500 nonfiction and fiction books not including core literature, e-books or textbooks! Teachers bring their classes to the library, and I teach students about books with themes they are studying for their units. I then work to help students find books to suit them. I do this with various lessons, such as book tastings (see the second photo below, with a Thanksgiving literature tasting on books with Romeo and Juliet themes). Research put out by the California Department of Education finds that schools with strong school library programs outperform those without (see link below). I am proud to match students with books to create lifelong readers whose reading ability helps them in all subject areas. One of the most important things the Foundation does is to allow me to quickly purchase books for students who want to read titles other students have chosen. I purchase from Amazon and get reimbursed. In this way, students can either join a literature circle group with others or get a book that we have run out of. My other classroom lessons involve databases and research using peer reviewed and reliable sources. To this end, I am researching the purchase of more databases, which may be purchased with Foundation funds.

*It's no surprise that our book club is popular! In this photo, students display their copies of Chloe Gong's *These Violent Delights*, all purchased with Foundation money. This book also fits with class units, (9th Grade Romeo and Juliet themes and Honors Humanities remade classic tales), so buying books for book club offers a vital opportunity to provide many students with much needed titles.*

We also foster reading amongst our DNHS Preschoolers, who come in every Friday for Preschool Storytime (see the picture below of our Hispanic Heritage month Storytime). We don't require many preschool books, but all the ones I do read are purchased with Foundation funds. Last year, the first round of our DNHS Preschoolers graduated from DNHS, so we truly nurture Nighthawks here! The Sesame Street gang photo is our Short Story Writing Club, who also meet in the library with me as their advisor at lunch.

Finally, one of the most impactful things the Foundation helps with is the creation of our meaningful library displays. The materials for these displays are purchased with Foundation funds, and our volunteers sometimes help create them. Several students have come up to thank me for these displays, because they create a sense of belonging while educating students about



Last school year's library results.



Turkey literature tasting



DNHS Book Club

various elements of American society. We currently have displays on Hanukkah books, Christmas books, and Kwanzaa. Pictured are these as well as our Diwali display. We are fortunate to sometimes partner with the Equity Team to build them, but the funding comes from Foundation.

Current projects include working with the Spanish Teachers to get books in Spanish for our students, working with the Chinese Teacher to get newer Chinese Language books, working on Law for Business resources, working with Technology and Innovation to create lessons on Artificial Intelligence and Research. I am investigating the purchase of a smart board that would help me to teach lessons in the main section in the library.

Thank you so much to all our Foundation donors as well as to our parent volunteers.



Short Story writing club

Dedicated Testing Center

Del Norte High School Foundation has generously funded the establishment of a dedicated testing center, which stands as a pivotal resource for students seeking academic success.

The testing center not only serves as a space for make-up tests but also extends invaluable retake opportunities for those classes where it is provided, fostering an environment conducive to learning and growth. The initiative, led by Teshona Bennett as a proctor, ensures that students are provided with a supportive and fair chance to demonstrate their understanding of the material. By offering such resources, the testing center helps promote academic achievement, enabling students to overcome challenges, showcase their knowledge, and ultimately thrive in their educational pursuits.

An Evening with the Principal

In October 2023, the Del Norte High School Foundation hosted an informative session at The Ranch House @ Del Sur featuring the newly appointed high school principal, Mr. Ty Eveleth.

This event provided Nighthawk parents with a valuable opportunity to acquaint themselves with Mr. Eveleth and learn about the school's achievements, successes, and his vision for the future of Del Norte. Mr. Eveleth engaged with the audience, addressing a variety of questions that spanned his top priorities for the year, the current challenges faced by students and staff, and the measures being implemented to tackle these issues.

The DNHS Foundation board also shared insights into how Foundation donations are utilized to support teacher resources & grants, Nighthawk tutoring, library funding, and classroom technology upgrades. These efforts align with the school's overarching mission of "Inspiring passion and preparing all students to be college ready."

