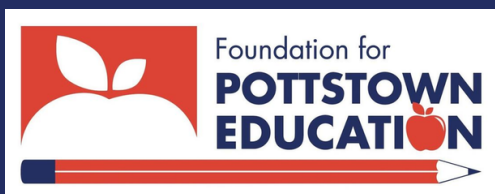


A photograph of graduates in blue and white gowns and caps walking on a red track. In the background, spectators are seated in bleachers under a clear sky.

2025/2026 IMPACT REPORT

YOU ARE
KEYS
TO THEIR SUCCESS





Our **MISSION**

The mission of the Foundation for Pottstown Education is to raise funds for and support life-changing educational opportunities for students and teachers in the Pottstown School District promoting the enhancement of our community.

Our History

In 1985, the Pottstown School Board established an education foundation called Partners in Pottstown Public Schools or PIPPS. Over the years, this non-profit Foundation has helped Pottstown students and the surrounding community by providing funds for scholarships, athletic equipment and facilities (such as the Bobby Shantz baseball field), books, and award winning academic programs such as PEAK (Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness) and Dual Enrollment at Montgomery County Community College. Generous contributions to the Foundation from individuals, alumni, faculty, community organizations, and corporations have made this progress possible.

In 2009, under the guidance and leadership of a new Executive Director and Board of Directors, the Foundation was reorganized and renamed as the Foundation for Pottstown Education to more accurately describe its mission and vision. With renewed focus and enthusiasm, the Foundation continues to support Pottstown while expanding its efforts by seeking additional resources such as federal, state and local grants as well as corporate and community partnerships.

The Pottstown School District is celebrating over 130 years of education excellence. The Foundation for Pottstown Education looks forward to continuing the tradition of POTTSTOWN PRIDE!

A message from the Board President

Dear Friends,

This was my first year serving as your Board President, and it taught me something I did not fully appreciate when I said yes: this Foundation does not run on any one person's effort. It runs on yours.

I thought I understood our mission when I took this seat — leveling the educational playing field for the 3,300 students of the Pottstown School District. A year in, I understand it differently. Leveling a field is not one grand gesture. It is a thousand smaller ones, repeated year after year. A bus that carries a class somewhere they have never been. Lab supplies. An instrument. A college course taken while in a high school. A scholarship that turns “maybe someday” into “this fall.”

The pages that follow will show you the numbers, and they deserve your attention. What I want to add is the part that does not fit in a chart. Behind every line item is a student who discovered she was good at something she had never tried, who stood on a stage for the first time, who will be the first in her family to carry a college degree. You gave them the door. They walked through it.

As we look to the year ahead, your Board is focused on three commitments. We are reaching out to the alumni of the Pottstown School District — thousands of people who walked these same halls, many of them long before this Foundation existed to support them, and who now have the chance to give the next generation what they did not have. We are broadening the path after graduation, so that students entering the workforce find as much opportunity waiting for them as those heading to a campus. And we are expanding early college access, so more of our students arrive at college with credits already earned and costs already lowered.

None of that is possible without the people who make this work every day: our Executive Director, Joe Rusiewicz, whose steady leadership carries this organization; my fellow board members, who give their time freely and their judgment generously; the teachers and administrators of the Pottstown School District, who tell us honestly what their students need; and you, our donors and partners, who answer.

Serving as your Board President is one of the great privileges of my life, and I do not hold it lightly. Thank you for trusting this Foundation with your generosity — and for trusting all of us with our students' futures.

With deep gratitude,

Leticia J. Santiago, Esq.
President, Board of Directors
Foundation for Pottstown Education



Leticia J. Santiago, Esq.
President, Board of Directors,
Foundation for Pottstown Education

2025–2026 Board of Directors Executive Committee

Leticia Santiago, President
Joe Cavallo, Vice President
Stephanie Ziegler, Treasurer
Jenn O'Donnell, Secretary
Joe Rusiewicz II, Executive Director

Board of Directors

<i>Jenna Armato</i>	<i>Kenil Patel</i>
<i>Amy Auwaerter</i>	<i>John Robertson</i>
<i>Scott Detar</i>	<i>Stephen Rodriguez</i>
<i>Andrew Green</i>	<i>Alison Scott</i>
<i>Hailey Heimbach</i>	<i>Hannah Shankle</i>
<i>Gerald Koran</i>	<i>Frank Strunk</i>
<i>Lisa Lightcap</i>	<i>Cindy Whitley</i>
<i>David Miller</i>	

Staff

<i>Lori Pence</i>	<i>Emily Overdorf</i>
-------------------	-----------------------

A note of Thanks

***"We hope you are as proud of what you have provided,
as we are of you."***

Thanks to all of our supporters, the fiscal year 2025/26 was a tremendous year! Your support of our mission is truly the "key" to leveling the educational playing field for the students in the Pottstown School District and I am very grateful to each and every one of you.

YOU have made possible many programs, purchased much-needed equipment, taken the classroom learnings and enabled our students to have hands-on experiences with the lessons on field trips, provided scholarships and the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. In the pages to follow, we are excited to share some of these highlights with you.

While we are excited about what YOU have accomplished, we are even more excited about what the future brings to our organization. We are working hard to make a strong connection with the Alumni of the Pottstown School District, to increase opportunities for our students who may want to enter the workforce after graduation by offering workforce training, and by increasing the opportunities to those students who want to get a head start on their college courses. These are just a few projects that you will see happen in our new fiscal year.

We hope you are as proud of what you have provided as we are of you. You are making the educational experiences of 3,300 students even greater each year. Thank you again for your support of our mission, of our school district but most importantly our students.

Sincerely,
Joseph W. Rusiewicz II
Executive Director

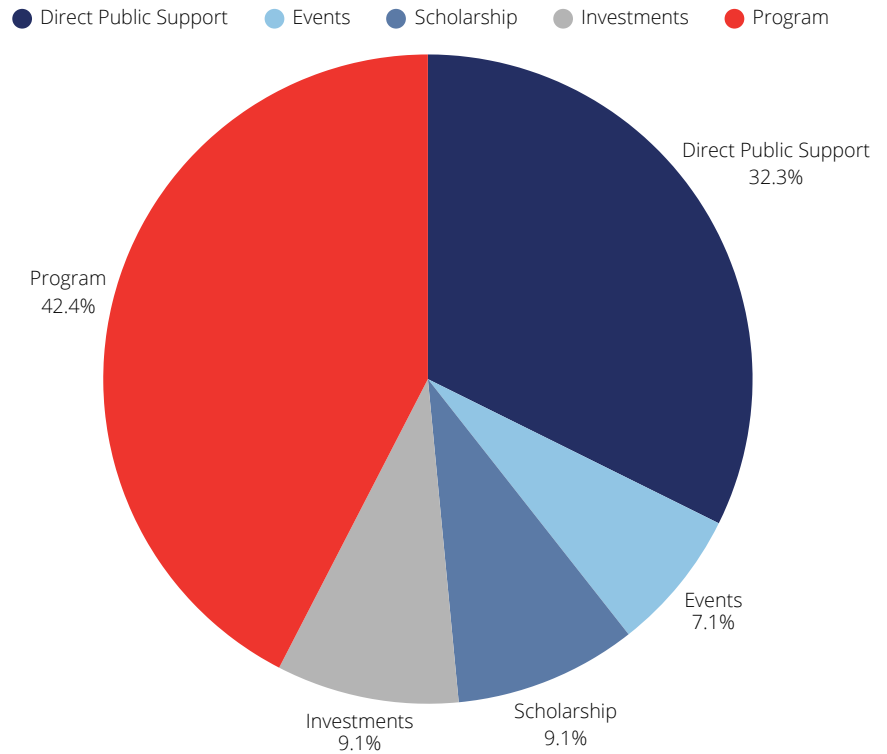


Joseph W. Rusiewicz II
Executive Director, Foundation for
Pottstown Education



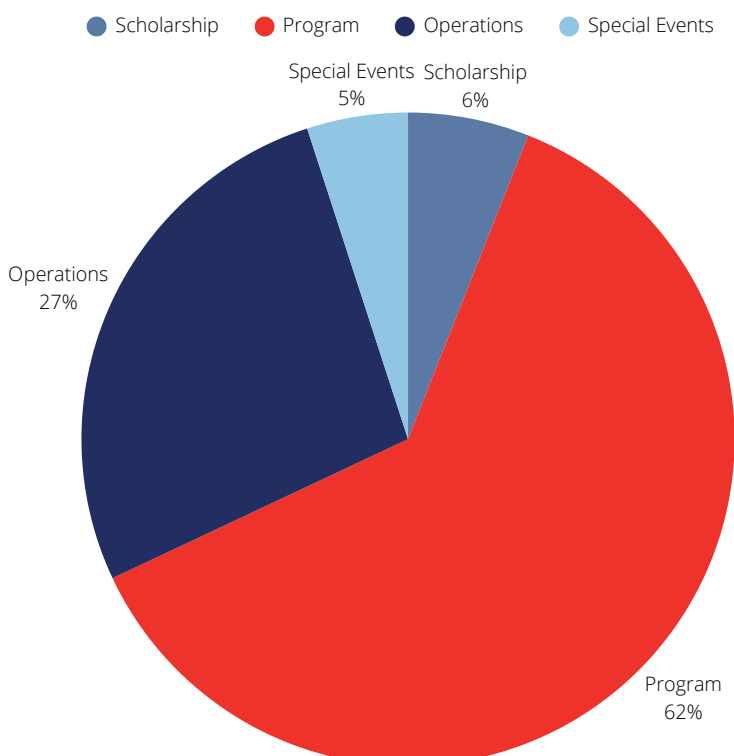
FY 2025/26 Financials

Foundation for Pottstown Education
FY 2025/26 Income



TOTAL INCOME
\$485,414

Foundation for Pottstown Education
FY 2025/26 Expenses



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$440,011



3,300 students **IMPACTED**

During the past twelve months more than **\$242,100** has been awarded to unlock educational opportunities for the students in the Pottstown School District.



42

Funding requests approved.

91

Scholarships provided.

100%

Requests received
APPROVED.

Grants were awarded to:

- PHS 11 grants 54 scholarships
- PMS 8 grants 2 scholarships
- Barth 6 grants 8 scholarships
- Franklin 6 grants 8 scholarships
- Lincoln 4 grants 10 scholarships
- Rupert 7 grants 9 scholarships



Automotive Technology

29

students in the Automotive Technology program visited manufacturing plants in Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

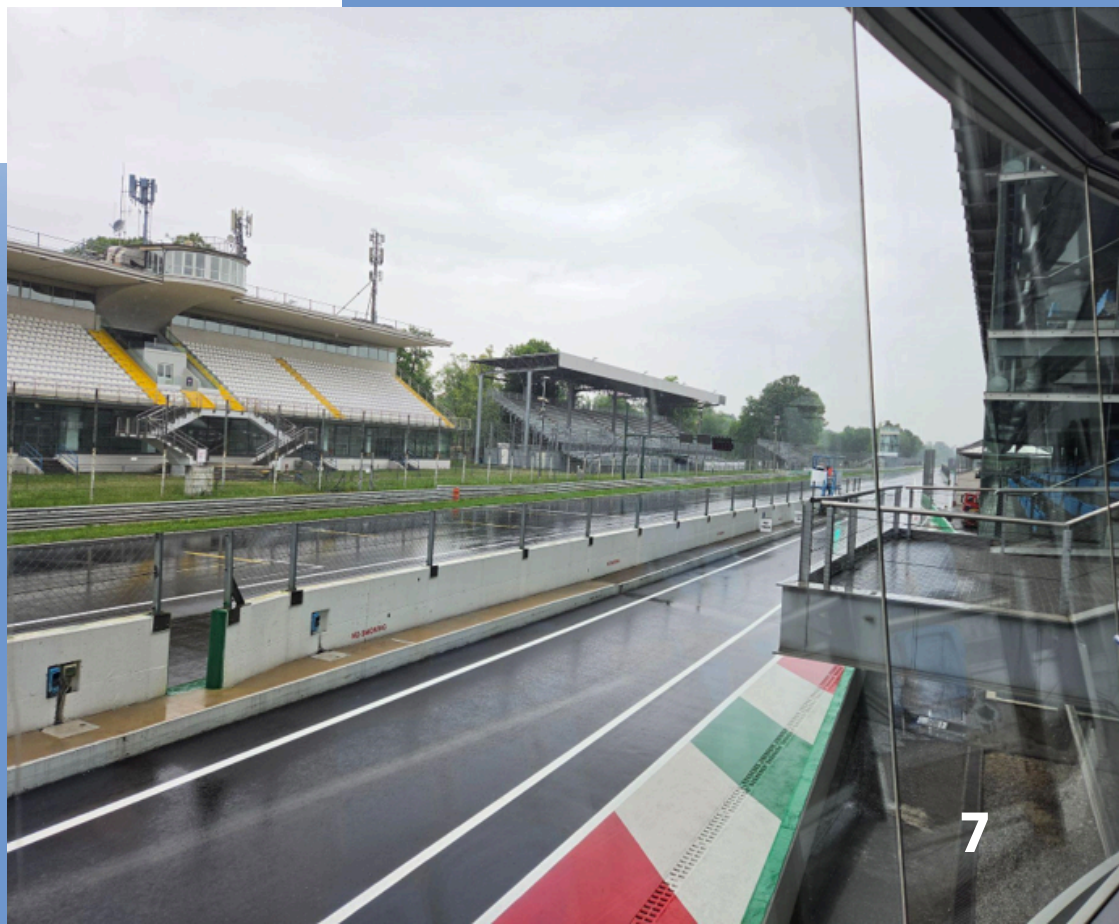


Tour Visits Included:



- Munich- BMW Museum and tour of truck producing facility
- Milan-tour of Alfa Romeo and the Autodromo Nazionale Monza

- Turin- Italy's Automobile Capital; Museo Nazionale dell'Automobile
- Stuttgart Region-tours of the Porsche and Mercedes-Benz Museums





Field Trips

*Field Trips were the most requested items for this year. Through our supporters, **16 field trips** were provided to:*

- 
- A background photograph of a group of diverse children and young adults. They are holding up various protest signs and symbols. Visible signs include 'FREEDOM', 'JUSTICE', 'Secure', 'EQUALITY' (with a globe), 'LIBERTY', 'Faith', and 'SUPPORT'. One child is holding a blue peace sign. The children are dressed in casual clothing, and the scene appears to be an outdoor gathering or protest.
- Colebrookdale RR
 - Constitution Center
 - Crayola Factory
 - DaVinci Center
 - Environmental Trips
 - Franklin Institute
 - iFly
 - Legoland
 - New York City Theater
 - Philadelphia Zoo
 - Pottstown Children's Discovery Center
 - Reading Phillies Ed Days
 - Reading Royals
 - Spirit of Philadelphia
 - State Capitol
 - Stretcher's Low Ropes



Where learning is an adventure.

All four elementary schools were provided with teacher-led activities for students in kindergarten, first, and second Grades.



730
students total.





Environmental Education

Funding was provided for two environmental educational experiences. Pottstown High School students from the Environmental Science classes explored the local ecosystems and habitats at Green Lane Park.



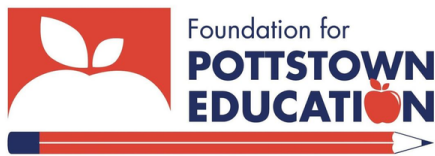
The Pottstown Middle School Environmental Science Club spent three days/2 nights at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. They learned about sustainable living and gained an appreciation for nature through hands-on experiences within the Delaware Water Gap.





Workforce Development

A Sterile Processing Technician Program certification course is now being offered to the community, including several students from the Pottstown School District, thanks to a collaborative initiative between local education and healthcare leaders and local foundations. The program was developed through a partnership between the Pottstown Hospital -Tower Health, Montgomery County Community College (MCCC), and the Pottstown High School Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program. The funding for the Pottstown students is provided through a grant from the Justamere Foundation and the Pottstown Hospital Community Engagement Department and secured by the Foundation for Pottstown Education. It aims to prepare students for careers in the high-demand field of sterile processing and surgical services.



CRCST
CERTIFIED REGISTERED
CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN





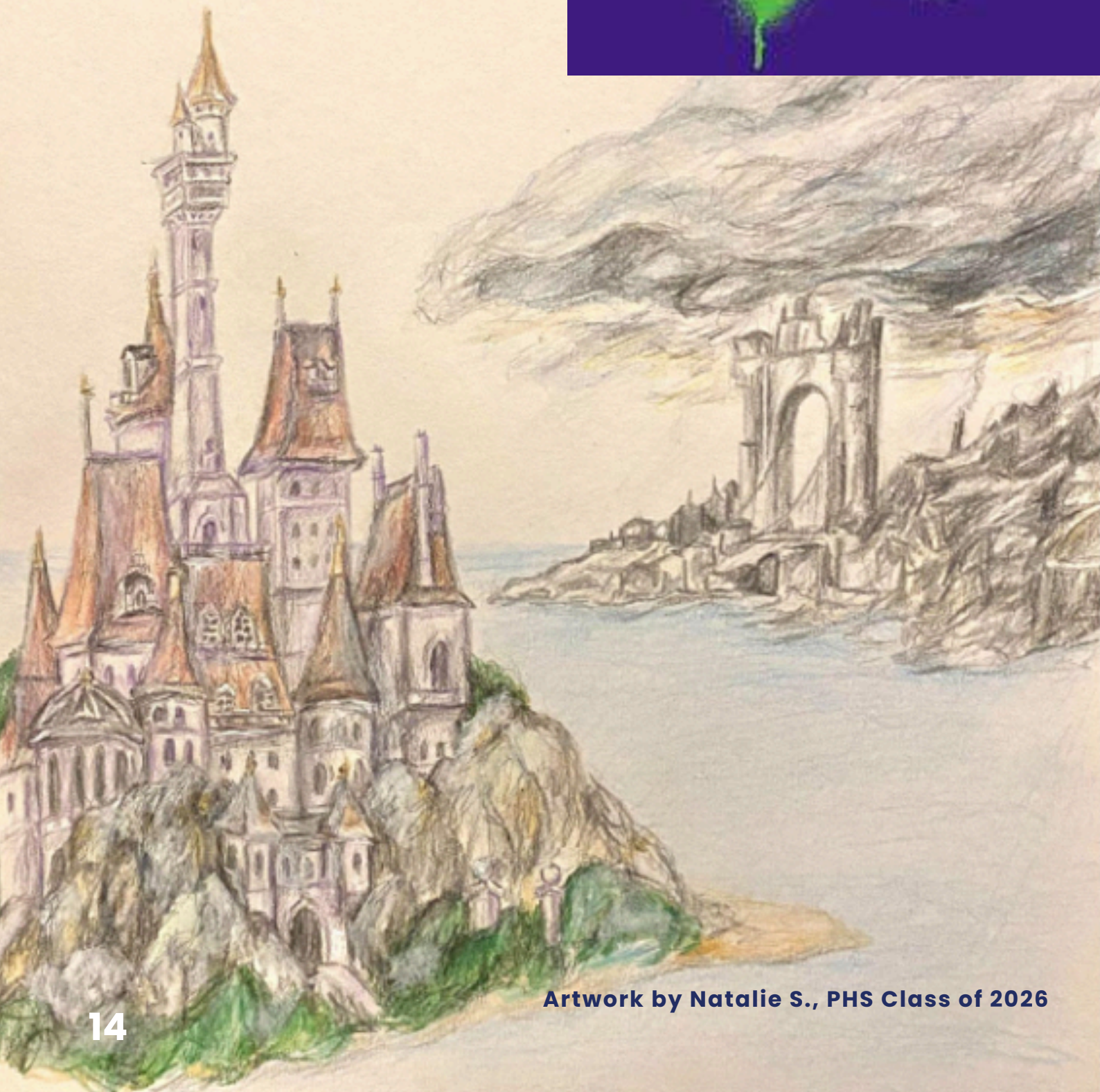
Scholarships **Awarded**

94 Scholarships totaling
\$48,400 awarded in 2026





Theatrical Arts







Student Designs

Artwork by various middle school and elementary school students



Happy Holidays!



Thank you



THE FACTS ARE CLEAR: YOUR SUPPORT **UNLOCKS** STUDENT SUCCESS

Together, we are opening the doors of opportunity for more than **3,300** students in the Pottstown School District.

Your support ensures that every student – regardless of background – has access to experiences that inspire learning, build confidence and create brighter futures.

Thank you for being **KEY** to their success!

145

Since 2014, this represents the number of PHS students who graduated earning an average of **24** college credits each.

2,700

updated books and digital learning resources students have access to.

10

students earned certification as Equipment Sterilization Technicians this past year.

65

students attended hands-on environmental science learning trips to the Schuylkill River and Pocono Environmental Education Center.

2,200

students participated in **14** educational field trips.

3,300

students engaged in visual arts, music, theater, and digital media programs.

80+

students each year receive **\$46,400** in total scholarships.



We Value Our Commitment to:

Positive Impact
Resourcefulness
Integrity
Diversity
Education

FoundationPottstownEd.org