

# ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

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## Foundation Grants iPads ([nwaonline.com](http://nwaonline.com))

ROGERS — Letters awarding money for puppets and picture dictionaries, kindergarten carpet squares and a host of iPads, were hand-delivered to teachers across the district on Thursday and Friday.

“That just made my day,” said Ann Fry, reading recovery teacher at Westside Elementary School, after receiving her grant.

The Rogers Public Education Foundation, in partnership with the Early Risers Rotary Club, awarded more than \$40,000 in grants to teachers in the Rogers School District last week. An educator of the year was honored in each building during the foundation visits.

“We do a lot of stuff, but getting to go in the classrooms and getting to see the teachers and the kids. This is the coolest thing by far,” said Keith Noble, foundation treasurer.

Last year, Fry was awarded a grant to buy books. This year she requested money for a pair of iPads.

“When I go into the classroom to get my kids they’re on the Smartboards or computers,” Fry said.

Now she can bring those same tools to students who need extra reading help.

Twenty-eight of the 57 grants awarded this week went for iPads or iPods and cases and apps.

“That is huge,” said Brian Anderson, a fifth-grade teacher at Grace Hill Elementary, as he received his award letter Thursday.

Having an iPad in the classroom is like having a mobile interactive board that students can hold in their hands, Anderson said. Cheryl Canfield, reading recovery teacher at Grace Hill Elementary, plans to use pictures and videos on her iPad with students who need to learn vocabulary words. Videos can add context for students who might not be able to put things like a roaring river into context.

“A picture wouldn’t help with the word ‘roaring,’” Canfield said.

Sometimes children who don’t read well aren’t excited by a book, even a picture book, Canfield said. Books represent a world they don’t yet understand. Those same children are familiar with smartphones and love to tinker with technology. When they can use an electronic device, their faces change.

“They’re going to be excited because they have a tool they actually understand,” Canfield said.

In blended classes that includes special education students, iPads will let eighth-graders listen to books and learn words they may not be able to sound out, said Shelley Emberson, special education teacher at Lingle Middle School.

“They can use the same books together,” Emberson said.

This year, she and Elizabeth Curington shared about 120 eighth-graders who attended classes between the two teachers and they co-wrote the grant. Students can use books above their reading level if they can hear the words.

Using multiple senses is important, said Mary Elmore, Lingle principal. If students can hear and see and even record themselves using new words they are more likely to retain what they read, Elmore said. The transition to the Common Core curriculum requires more reading in classes outside reading class and has shifted the focus of learning.

“It’s not just knowing the information, but being able to use it.” Elmore said.

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## **Students Learn About Nutrition ([nwaonline.com](http://nwaonline.com))**

SPRINGDALE — It was not just chefs in the kitchen Friday at Tyson Foods.

Food and nutrition classes visiting from Rogers High School made beef quesadillas, barbecue chicken, chicken wraps and baked apples with walnuts, raisins and cinnamon in Tyson test kitchens as a lesson in nutrition.

The highlight for Yazmin Zuber, a junior, was meeting the Tyson chef who selects the spices and ingredients for the wraps she sells at McDonald’s.

“I didn’t even know there was a McDonald’s chef,” Zuber said.

Tori Metheny, also a junior, made chicken and rice and some “pretty kicked up” macaroni and cheese with cayenne pepper and broccoli. Usually she makes quick things, but she might make this recipe again.

“This was actually surprisingly easy to make and it didn’t come out of a box,” Metheny said.

Katie Pedersen, a junior, liked the banana quesadillas, although she had her doubts when she heard the recipe name.

“I thought it was going to be gross,” Pedersen said.

The banana slices paired with peanut butter, cinnamon, cream cheese and honey reminded her of pudding.

The recipes were planned to allow students to use different pieces of equipment: the oven, microwave and stove. They also allowed students to experience food that is simple, nutritious and not overly expensive.

Friday was the first KNOW Hunger Workshop Tyson has held for high school students, said Amanda Rials, food safety and quality assurance manager for the Northwest Arkansas district of Tyson Foods. KNOW Hunger is Tyson's hunger awareness and education campaign. The company donates food, but this was a chance to give back time, Rials said.

Students learned about reading labels and shopping on a budget and discussed terms like "organic" and "genetically modified" food. They learned to hold a knife and cooked in the test kitchens.

"Some of these kids have never cut up an onion before," she said.

Students also toured the plant and discussed hunger issues.

Vicki Love, food and nutrition teacher at Rogers High School, said she has taught some of the same lessons, but the Tyson visit gave the idea of nutrition, comparative shopping and food safety a much bigger stage.

"Everything that they have been doing in class was brought to life here," Love said.

The Northwest Arkansas Food Bank partnered with Tyson for the event.

More than 40,000 students in Northwest Arkansas qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, said Jen Boyle, director of development for the Food Bank. Statistically, some of the students in the room would qualify and the workshop will leave them confident in food knowledge, she said.

"We can send out 6 million pounds of food every year, but at the end of the day, this education is going to last them a lifetime," Boyle said.