



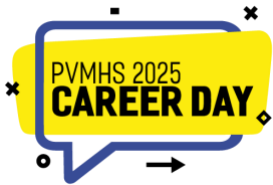
H.O.P.E
"Every Student, Every Day"

Peabody **EDUCATION** *Foundation*
P.O. Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

NEWSLETTER – February 2025

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

Career Day



Helping Students Choose Their Job Path

Held each spring at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, Career Day is an informal, non-threatening environment in which local businesses set up exhibit booths, allowing students to get informational materials and ask questions about possible future vocations.

High school students are allowed to explore the various trades and career paths represented in their community and are able to interact with representatives of those occupations throughout the day. Career Day helps create ties between the student body and the community at large.

- **Date:**
Thursday, April 10th, 2025
- **Time:**
Setup time: 8am-9am
Event time: 9am-11am
- **Location:**
PVMHS Field House
- **Register By:**
March 28th, 2025

We are currently looking for local businesses and nonprofit organizations to participate in our 2025 Career Day at PVMHS. This is a great opportunity to share what your job/profession entails, educational requirements and salary ranges with a group of individuals on the cusp of their future!

If you know of any businesses who would be interested in setting up an informational table for the event, please go to our website to register: [Career Day | PVMHS April 10th, 2025 | Peabody Education Foundation](#)

The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship



Do You Know a Student Interested in Pursuing a Career in Education?

Do you know of a student interested in pursuing a career in the field of education, possesses a strong work ethic, demonstrates excellent organizational and preparation skills, is engaged in the community, has achieved good academic standing, and is self-motivated?

The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Peabody Education Foundation as a way to honor our dear friend Cara's memory. On a yearly basis, we award a PVMHS senior with a scholarship to help with their college education. Cara was an active member of our Foundation where she spearheaded many of our programs and events.

Through this Scholarship, we hope to preserve Cara's dedication and commitment to the education of the school children of Peabody for years to come.

Please encourage them to apply for the Scholarship at:

<https://www.peabodyedfoundation.org/scholarship/>

The deadline is Friday, April 11, 2025.

PEF Grants Program



Thank you to all the teachers who applied for PEF Grants!

The deadline for applications for the PEF Grants Program has passed and 82 applications were received this year! The Grant Committed funded almost \$90,000! Applications were received from every school in the district!

We encourage teachers to start thinking about possible projects for next school year! Talk to other teachers in your school who have been funded and learn about the easy process of applying! And apply early! The application process opens in early August, and the earlier you apply, the earlier you can start your funded program!

Please check out the PEF Grants Program website page for a full list of the programs that were funded this year, along with lots of pictures submitted by the teachers who shared their classroom experiences with us!

<https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/pef-grants/>



PEF Books Programs



New “First Book Club” Program for Grades K-2 this year!

This year, the PEF welcomes a new program, the “First Book Club”, which is being funded by the Rotary Club of Peabody in conjunction with a District Grant from Rotary. The First Book Club will take the place of Birthday Books in Grades K-2.

The focus in this area is going to be on Dr. Seuss books which will be given as a gift to each child with a special reading day on Dr. Seuss’ birthday when Rotarians will join forces with our guest readers to celebrate reading.

Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Peabody for funding the First Book Club!





Birthday Books Program for Grades 3-5

Many children from within our City come from homes where books are not readily available. The objective of the Birthday Books Program is to help children and families see books as valuable treasures and treats that can be enjoyed as presents and shared with the entire family. The Birthday Books Program hopes to foster a love of reading and books, promote family time together and help families to realize the importance of having books in the home to read again and again.

Each elementary school has a member of the teaching staff who is coordinating the ordering of books for their school. Books ordered cover Grades 3-5 this year, are high interest and represent the cultures and diversity of the students. Books are distributed by each elementary school to their own students with a Happy Birthday sticker included inside each book.



Guest Reader Program



Students Love Guest Readers!

The PEF Guest Reader Program began on January 13 and will continue through the end of May.

This year we have 58 readers participating, the most number we have ever had! The committee is pleased to note that this year we have 13 new readers joining our program.

The program surpassed the highest number of participating classrooms (54) with 66 this year! Five readers are reading to two classrooms each, and one reader is reading to four pre-school classrooms, all on the same day!

Mental Wellness Initiative



First Student Leadership Summit A Success!

The Peabody Education Foundation recently sponsored the first Peabody Public Schools Student Leadership Summit. Thirty-four student leaders from the high school and middle school spent a full day working together in the GraVoc conference room. They identified numerous learning experiences to create a Sense of Belonging for all students. The feedback from all of the participants was overwhelmingly positive.

A very special thank you to GraVoc (Dave Gravel and Mary Bellavance) and Treadwell's Ice Cream (Tom Gould) for supporting this event. We are grateful to the facilitators (Deb and Trevor Hult, TRAD Leadership Group LLC) and the teachers (Molly Foster, Lauren Tansey, Mia Davekos, Lauren Burke) for their meaningful leadership and engagement.



New exploratory science program for 4th & 5th graders!

The PEF is funding the district wide program, [Science from Scientists](#), in the 4th and 5th grades in all seven elementary schools. This yearlong program is conducted by the SciSci staff in conjunction with our teachers and offers an immersive and experiential approach to exploring science. Students are brought together to work on various science activities in a group setting. The program addresses both STEM and mental wellness as students work collaboratively in a social setting.

Thanks to the JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, and The Gravel Family Foundation for providing funding for this innovative program!

Donations



We need your help!

The last few years have been a struggle for everyone, especially our younger generation. Academic normalcy remains out of reach for many students, educators, and parents. Students and educators continuously wrestle with mental health challenges, higher rates of violence and misbehavior, and concerns about lost instructional time. This has prompted the PEF to step up our efforts and work harder to provide as many additional programs and funding for our Peabody public school children as possible.

A gift from you will help us continue our work and we ask that you consider supporting the PEF in one of the following areas:

- Birthday Books Program
- Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship
- George Peabody Legacy Awards
- Mental Wellness Initiative
- PEF Grants Program

Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. 100% of all donations go directly to the programs that support our students. Our goal is to transform lives and build brighter futures. None of these programs would be possible without your support!

Donate to Peabody Education Foundation!

If you would like to donate to the Peabody Education Foundation, please visit our website by clicking below.
100% of all donations go directly to the teachers and students of
Peabody Public schools!

<https://peabodyedfoundation.org/contribute/>

PEF Board News



We are hard at work!

The Peabody Education Foundation would like to thank Natalie Maga for her many years of service to the PEF Board of Directors. This role carries immense responsibility, and Natalie has taken on the role with wisdom and integrity. Her dedication has been a driving force behind our success, and we want to thank her for her loyalty and hard work.

Our very best wishes for endless days of relaxation and joy in your retirement! Your smile and enthusiasm will remain with us always!

The PEF Board continues to work hard to bring programs and resources to our Peabody Schools. We meet monthly as a Board, but work goes on daily to assist our students and teachers.

We are currently fundraising, adding information to our website, working on newsletters, reaching out on social media, collaborating with community partners, and planning events.

Special thanks to all our Board and Committee members who donate their time and effort!

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook!](#)

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