



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

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

## NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2025

[PeabodyEdFoundation.org](https://peabodyedfoundation.org)

***It's been an exciting and busy year for the Peabody Education Foundation!  
Have a great summer and we will see you in the Fall!***

## George Peabody Legacy Awards



### Nominations Now Open!

We are currently seeking nominations of worthy candidates for our 13th annual George Peabody Legacy Award! Please tell us why you are nominating this person for the George Peabody Legacy Award. Recipients will be selected by our GPLA Committee and will be honored at our annual award ceremony in the fall.

#### Nominees should meet the following criteria:

- Has had a lasting impact on education
- Effects change for the good of the people over a significant period of time
- Is (or was) an active member in the Peabody community
- Acts as a tireless advocate for the betterment of Peabody students
- Lives or works in Peabody

The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2025. Visit <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/> to submit your nomination!

## PEF Grants Program



### \$90K Awarded This Past Year; 2025–2026 PEF Grant Applications Open in August

During the 2024–2025 school year, the Peabody Education Foundation funded nearly \$90,000 in PEF Grants. We received more than eighty applications from across the Peabody school district.

The PEF Grants were used to fund classroom materials and resources such as Scholastic News Magazines, NoRedInk Writing, and Everyday Speech; field trips to places like the North Shore Music Theater, the Boston Tea Party Museum, and Salem Sound Coastwatch; and in-school programs such as the traveling S.T.E.A.M. Museum and a Haitian dance group.





A full list of funded programs is on our website.

The application process for the 2025-2026 school year will open in early August.

We encourage teachers who are interested in applying to visit our website, <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/pef-grants/>, to review guidelines, FAQs, and a sample application.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis starting in August and continuing through January of the following year, and funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Guest Reader Program



### Thank You, Guest Readers!

This year's Guest Reader program was a huge success, with 57 readers in 65 classrooms. While we were so happy to have 13 readers who were new to the program, we also had people who have been readers for 10, 20, and even a few 25-plus years!

Here's a sample of the many comments we received from readers and teachers.

#### Teachers:

*It is a terrific program to have for the students!*

*Thanks! As always, I enjoyed my time reading, especially since the teacher was one of my former second graders!!!! Time marches on!!*

*My students and I really enjoyed the program! Our reader was a fabulous addition to our routine! Thanks for organizing this program!*

#### Readers:

*Thank you for all of the work your organization does! I loved my time reading and will join again next year.*

*Thank you, PEF. I LOVED being a guest reader. I'm definitely interested in next year.*

*I really enjoyed my time reading in the class. Thank you for the opportunity.*

**Thank you, PEF.  
Another great year!**

**Thanks so much for this  
wonderful opportunity!**

**Love the children and  
teachers. Had so much fun.**

We don't normally hear from students, but we were so pleased to see a yearbook posting from a 2025 elementary school graduate. Under Favorite Memory, he wrote: *"Dr. Higgins reading books."*

From January through late May, community members visited Peabody's elementary school classrooms as part of the PEF's Guest Reader program, which aims to introduce students to the pleasures of reading and reinforce the idea that reading is fun for everyone. Readers spend 20 to 30 minutes each week reading aloud to the children, acting as positive reading role models.

If you'd like to participate next year, visit our website for more information and to apply.



## Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship



### Congratulations, Victoryia Carter!

In May, the Peabody Education Foundation presented PVMHS student Victoryia Carter with the 2025 Cara E. Murtagh Scholarship. The PEF established this scholarship in Cara's memory to honor her work as an educator, her passion for teaching, and her love and dedication to Peabody's students. The scholarship is awarded each year to a Peabody senior who plans to pursue a career in education.

In her application, Victoryia wrote that *"becoming a teacher is a dream that I have nurtured for years. It is not just a career choice; it is a calling that resonates deeply with my values and aspirations."*

At Peabody High, Victoryia took classes in early childhood education and worked at a local daycare. She plans to study either early childhood education or elementary education at college next year.

Congratulations to Victoryia, and best of luck with your future endeavors!





# Science From Scientists



## Exploratory Science Program for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

The PEF funded this district-wide program for 4th and 5th grade students across all seven elementary schools. This yearlong program, conducted by the SciSci staff in collaboration with classroom teachers, offered an experiential approach to science through hands-on, exploratory learning.

Students met weekly in a social setting to engage in exciting science activities, promoting both STEM learning and mental wellness through collaboration and teamwork. We provided \$80,000 to run this program, which impacted over 400 fourth-grade students across the district!

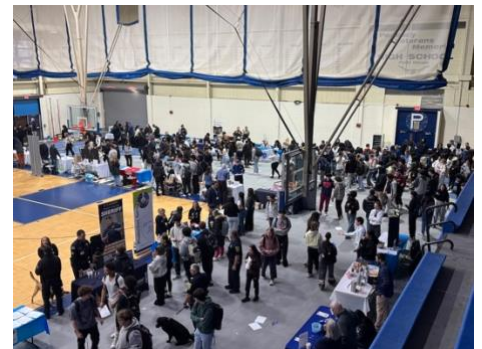
## Career Day



### Thank You Career Day Attendees!

In April, the Peabody Education Foundation once again hosted Career Day at PVMHS, with 56 vendors and local businesses participating. Career Day allows students to explore the various trades and career paths represented and interact with the representatives of those occupations.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and gather informational materials about possible future vocations. The event also helps create ties between the student body and the community at large.



# 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. One hundred percent 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/>

## Summer FUNdraising – August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025



### Save the Date!

This summer, the Peabody Education Foundation will be hosting a Family Fest at Emerson Park, featuring games, food, music, obstacle course, face paint, a beer/wine garden and more.

Join us on Saturday, August 9 from 1–4 PM (rain date: Sunday, August 10) for this special event! Admission is \$10, with all proceeds benefiting the PEF and our mission to enrich Peabody's public schools.

To learn more or to purchase sponsorships, visit: <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/family-fest-2025/>

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

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