



Date: July 15, 2026

To: Dr. Jon Graff
Saint Peter School Board

From: Darin Doherty
North Elementary Principal

Re: Acceptance of Grant Award - Flex Farm:
Fresh Food for Thought

I am pleased to inform the School Board that North Elementary School has been awarded a \$5,464.95 grant through the Mankato Area Foundation to support the implementation of the Flex Farm: Fresh Food for Thought project.

The grant application was developed and submitted by Karen Snay, District Media Specialist, and Rachael Schweigert. Although the proposal was originally submitted through the Mankato Area Foundation's Community Impact Fund, the project was ultimately selected for funding by a donor-advised fund whose philanthropic priorities closely aligned with the educational goals of this initiative.

Grant funds will be used to purchase a Fork Farms Flex Farm, an indoor hydroponic growing system that will provide students with authentic, hands-on learning experiences in agriculture, nutrition, environmental science, and sustainability. The Flex Farm will allow students to grow fresh produce year-round while integrating science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health standards into classroom instruction. The project will also promote healthy eating habits and provide meaningful opportunities for inquiry-based learning across multiple grade levels.

Karen Snay will coordinate the purchase and implementation of the Flex Farm so that it is ready for student use at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year. Staff will also provide the Mankato Area Foundation with project updates, photographs, and student stories to demonstrate the impact of the donor's generosity.

On behalf of North Elementary School, I would like to recognize Karen Snay and Rachael Schweigert for their initiative and dedication in securing this funding opportunity. Their efforts will provide an innovative learning resource that will benefit North Elementary students for years to come.

I recommend that the School Board accept the grant award of \$5,464.95 from the Mankato Area Foundation donor-advised fund.

Please let me know if you have any questions.