



OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ready for the World

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Cook Family Foundation Donates \$1.1 Million to Owosso Public Schools

Owosso, MI – On April 23, at the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education meeting, The Cook Family Foundation announced their donation of \$1.1 million to support the performing arts in Owosso Public Schools by converting the multi-purpose performance space in the new secondary campus into a true auditorium. This means that the multi-purpose performance space that the Owosso community voted for as part of a school bond in November 2017, will be upgraded at no additional cost to taxpayers, to meet the high standard of performing arts excellence that students, staff, and community have come to expect from Owosso Public Schools.

For decades, The Cook Family Foundation has supported Owosso Public Schools' innovative curriculum endeavors such as the implementation of Owosso's International Baccalaureate Programme; providing at least 150 scholarships to Owosso High School graduates to attend the University of Michigan; ensuring the performing arts are integral to Owosso elementary students' educational experience through the Performing Arts Committee; the integration of the theatrical arts more specifically drama, into the English Language Arts curriculum at Owosso High School; and supporting cutting-edge environmental initiatives such as the Owosso High School Rain Garden.

The following upgrades will be funded by The Cook Family Foundation in order to create a true auditorium for Owosso Public Schools' students and the community: enhanced theatre rigging, arbor pit, theatrical drapery, orchestra pit with cover, enhanced theatrical lighting, orchestra shell and towers, and an enhanced audio-visual system.

With the conversion of the multi-purpose performing space to a true auditorium, Owosso students will have daily accessibility to a space that will foster cross-curricular learning and the development of real-life skills that enhance communication, technology, and public speaking skills. A true auditorium, complete with the amenities highlighted above, will not only provide Owosso drama students the opportunity to prepare for state of the art performances but equally important, it will afford Owosso students the chance to engage in theatre experiences while meeting the state-wide academic standards for a variety of subject matters such as construction trades (set

construction), technology (light and sound board operations and strategically using digital media and visual displays to express information and enhance understanding), engineering (CAD set design), and English (knowing your audience, public speaking, and knowing your voice).

“Owosso Public Schools are able to provide numerous unique 21st century learning experiences for our students because of the generous and ongoing support from The Cook Family Foundation,” Dr. Andrea Tuttle, Superintendent, shared. “Owosso continues to offer superior opportunities for our students and this state of the art auditorium will be one more amenity that sets Owosso apart from other districts. I am humbled and grateful for this exceptionally generous donation that will benefit Owosso students and the Owosso community for generations.”

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