



Date: April 28, 2026
To: Dr. Jon Graff
Saint Peter School Board
From: Darin Doherty
North Elementary Principal
Re: "Winter Wings and Trails" DNR Grant

I am recommending the formal acceptance of the "Winter Wings and Trails" grant, which spans from June 1, 2026, through May 24, 2027. This grant provides funding to support outdoor learning experiences for students by purchasing winter recreation and exploration equipment.

Grant Details - The grant provides \$20,250 in state-funded resources to support student engagement in outdoor education. Funded items include:

- Snowshoes (66 pairs)
- Poles (45 pairs)
- Winter boots (20 pairs)
- Binoculars (30)
- Digital cameras (30)
- Storage racks and equipment supports
- Outdoor journals and student materials

These resources will allow for structured, standards-aligned outdoor learning opportunities connected to science, physical education, and environmental literacy.

Educational Impact - Acceptance of this grant directly aligns with our district mission to "*inspire a passion for learning*" by expanding hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. Specifically, this grant will:

- Enhance science instruction, particularly in life science and environmental standards
- Promote student engagement and physical activity during winter months
- Provide equitable access to outdoor learning experiences for all students
- Support cross-curricular connections (writing, observation, data collection)
- Strengthen student connection to our local environment and community resources

Implementation Considerations

- A formal contract will be issued by the Minnesota DNR in May or June.
- No expenditures or activities may begin until the contract is fully executed.
- All grant agreements must be finalized by June 30, 2026.
- The timeline is well-aligned with our school calendar, allowing for summer purchasing and preparation, with full student implementation beginning in Fall 2026.