



## WRPS Receives Ocean Spray Community Impact Grant

We are excited to announce that our WRPS Library Media Centers have been selected as a recipient for the *Ocean Spray Community Impact Grant*! With the \$5,000 grant, we were able to purchase over 325 books for our schools that will be enjoyed by all of our students and staff! Here's a little information about the grant from the company's website, "Ocean Spray is committed to growing and building healthy communities where we live and work. Giving back is part of our culture and passion. Through our Community Impact Grant Program, the Ocean Spray Community Fund (OSCF) provides resources to organizations that improve the quality of life in our farmer communities."

The idea to apply for the grant started with district parent, Heidi Slinkman. She and husband Brian live in Rudolph with their children who attend THINK Academy. Heidi is the Business Manager for Gaynor Cranberry Company, her family farm, which is also a grower-owner of the Ocean Spray Cooperative where she learned about the OSCF grant. Our Library Media Specialists, Tracy Hauke, Kirsten Johnson, and Jamie Jestadt worked together with Heidi to write a grant which addressed the changes in our current world. The team wanted to bring resources to our schools that address issues such as the racial divide and inequities among Biracial, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and their representation in literature in age appropriate ways. The books selected are a mixture of nonfiction, fiction, audio, eBook & print materials which highlight topics of social justice and responsibility, inclusivity, understanding racism, diversity & multiculturalism.

The goal of the grant is to enrich and support the lives of our children with books that create a sense of self, importance, pride, belonging and acceptance. "Books highlighting diversity are the language of life. We wanted to make a positive impact in our children's lives through literacy," said Slinkman, "and after reading just a handful of the literature selected, I know we will!"

**We appreciate** the Ocean Spray Community Fund's generous and meaningful donation!

