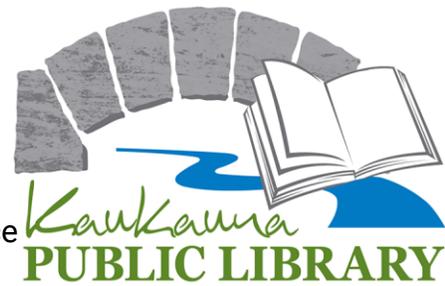


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustee
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 2/19/2026
Re: Grant from Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce



President Neumeier brought a local grant from the Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce to my attention in January.

I applied for the grant and found out that our request had been granted. We are very excited to announce that the Library will be getting our very first Playaway Launchpads, a new material that we have been interested in procuring for a number of years. Launchpads are preloaded educational tablets, which do not require internet to operate. The product, because it is a tablet, is quite expensive, which is why we have not yet been able to introduce them into the collection.

However, with help from the Chamber, we will be adding two, specifically for learning phonics and pre-reading skills. With the state-wide reading curriculum change in Wisconsin, we need to be adding more decodable readers and phonics-based learning opportunities to our collection for the community. Without this grant, we likely would not have added any Launchpads into the collection this year. Launchpads cost between \$125-\$199 each. The libraries that currently circulate Launchpads report that they are rarely available on the shelf due to popularity.

Eventually, we would like to have more Launchpads. Playaway has added a significant amount of Launchpads since we last viewed them. They now have Launchpads for adults, specifically brain games to help seniors, and even launchpads that teach math for teenagers. We hope to continue to build these offerings in the future.

