



MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EST. FOUNDATION 1986
Teacher Grants

2019 – 2020 Teacher Grants

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Early Childhood & Family Education

Supporting EL Students and Families

Teacher Name: Christine Breen

Summary: This grant will help prepare students and families for kindergarten by providing parent education targeted toward English as a second language (ESL) families and student testing for identification of language difference or disability. Both of these programs will help ensure students are placed in the programs that will most accurately fit their needs, leading to improved likelihood of success in elementary school.

Awarded: \$ 2,500

Deephaven Elementary School

Keep Calm and Learn On

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jane Sladky Valley

Summary: Provides equipment for student kits to manage anxiety, stress, and other big emotions, helping to teach students how to stay calm so they can continue to participate in learning. Students will learn how use each item to help manage their emotions and calm down.

Awarded: \$ 260

Library for Littles - Supporting Our Newest

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kelli Whiteside

Summary: Providing “good fit” media center resources to develop K-3 students into successful readers, including books for emergent readers plus items for book organization and display. This project connects directly to the Making Meaning Language Arts curriculum for elementary students, which requires students to read a

variety of texts at their level.

Awarded: \$785

Fostering the LOVE of READING Together: Take Home Reading Club

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennissa Schommer

Summary: Provides books that support the early reading success of first grade students and reading at home. All first graders will bring home quality literature in English and/or Spanish, for families to create an at home reading system and foster the love of reading together.

Awarded: \$2,500

Excelsior Elementary School

People Colors

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jayna Rafferty

Summary: By providing crayons and markers in a wider variety of skin tone colors, all of our students will see themselves represented in school and will feel equal, empowered and included. Providing these colors also increases cultural competency in students.

Awarded: \$410

Fit & Fun Playscapes - Indoor Large Motor Movement Tracks

Lead Teacher/Staff: Laura Nelson

Summary: This provides indoor large motor opportunities for students using Playscapes, which are stenciled hallway floor patterns. The Playscapes provide student movement intervention body breaks for individuals or groups. On indoor recess days, the Playscapes will provide tracks, paths, and courses for students. Many of the paths are designed to use letters and numbers to reinforce academic skills learned in the classroom.

Awarded: \$4,000

Groveland Elementary School

Make & Do: Connecting the Media Center to the HUB

Lead Teacher/Staff: Colleen Small

Summary: This grant will provide books that encourage design and prototyping using basic household items. These books will support and be resources for The Hub, adding to the current "Make and Do" collection already in the Media Center. Additional books will be added to this high demand collection, providing meaningful activities for families to do together.

Awarded: \$ 1,001

Minnewashta Elementary School

Google Read and Write for Struggling Writers

Lead Teacher/Staff: Amanda Mattke

Summary: Increased access to Google's Read and Write program, an assistive technology program for students who struggle with aspects of reading and writing. This grant will help increase student written output for struggling writers by up to 30% on average.

Awarded: \$ 360

Spanish Non-fiction Classroom Library

Lead Teacher/Staff: Daniela Moscoso-Donoso

Summary: This grant enhances the classroom library with printed Spanish non-fiction resources connected to the Science, Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum so students can research, read, discover, and create. The classroom library program enhances students'

learning experience while acquiring the target language.

Awarded: \$ 800

Indoor Safari Jungle Gym

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sarah Becher

Summary: These indoor Safari® Jungle Gym wall-mounted adventure elements provide a low-threat challenge, fun and fitness. The new items will enhance the traverse wall in both east and west gymnasiums at Minnewashta, enriching the student experience by developing upper body, core strength, balance and coordination.

Awarded: \$ 4,200

Scenic Heights Elementary School

Teacher Tuesdays!

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jeannine Adair

Summary: Students who have graduated from speech therapy will serve as Speech Assistants on "Teacher Tuesdays" for 10-15 minutes on Tuesday mornings. The children selected would be working on articulation skills with 4th-5th grade mentors who have graduated from speech and worked on the same targeted sound. Each child will have a 3 ring binder of words/sentences or an activity to practice with their mentor.

Awarded: \$ 150

Wilderness Wednesdays Gear and Equipment

Lead Teacher/Staff: Amy Altenburg

Summary: Regular outdoor learning helps students activate all of their senses, builds understanding that learning can happen anywhere, and delivers earth science, nature, physical science, life science and nature of science curriculum in a real world, natural environment. This grant provides appropriate gear and apparel for year-round, active outdoor learning.

Awarded: \$ 250

Readers With Character - SEL in the Classroom

Lead Teacher/Staff: Heidi Roehl

Summary: Providing character education through weekly units focusing on one social/emotional/character goal, so the students have time to digest and understand the message. There are 40 specific outcomes from the weekly lessons, such as respecting personal space, flexible thinking, and personal actions.

Awarded: \$ 569

Multiple Elementary Schools

Draw the Future with 3D Pens

Schools: Excelsior & Scenic Heights

Lead Teacher/Staff: Allison Wachutka

Summary: The addition of 3D Pens will provide students with authentic opportunities to create and the tools to bring those visions to reality. All 2nd/3rd grade Navigator students will use the 3D pens for projects such as novel engineering, J-term inquiry, monthly vocabulary projects, post-reading projects and other creative pursuits.

Awarded: \$450 from Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment

Remo West African Drums

Schools: Clear Springs & Scenic Heights

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Kimball

Summary: These drums will be used along with the West African drums received six years ago from a Foundation Teacher Grant. The additional drums will accommodate larger and simultaneous music classes, especially when participating in a drum circle. All the drums are used every year for a variety of class lessons, concerts and a student drum circle mini-unit during World Culture Week.

Awarded: \$ 1,195 from Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment

Elements of Arts for Centers for RSK/K

Schools: Clear Springs & Minnewashta

Lead Teacher/Staff: Heather Knigge

Summary: Materials from this grant will teach the elements of art in such a way that allows students to learn them through discovery and play. With 4-5 centers for each element of art (line, shape, form, color, value, space, texture) and using lots of different manipulatives and instructional strategies, the art centers will allow for less directed instruction and more freedom and creativity for the students' art making.

Awarded: \$ 1,200 from Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment

Sensory & Fine Motor Supports: Tools for the Classroom

Schools: Excelsior & Clear Springs

Lead Teacher/Staff: Alyssa Engdahl

Summary: Provides classroom tools to help meet general education students' fine motor and sensory motor needs. Occupational therapists will also provide teachers with education and training to successfully implement these tools. Teachers are able to use these simple, tier 1-2 tools in the classroom, resulting in better student outcomes and fewer special education needs.

Awarded: \$ 2,000

Kids Build then Code!

Schools: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland & Scenic Heights

Lead Teacher/Staff: Melinda Barry

Summary: Media specialists teach computer science skills to all fifth graders including teaching the parts of the computer. This program is a hands-on approach where students can learn computer parts, and put them into action by constructing an actual working computer in which they can open applications for coding and other learning.

Awarded: \$ 3,360

Minnetonka Middle School East

Creating with a Crayon

Teacher Name: Kimberly Smith

Summary: With this grant, all Reading Skills students will be able to use a Logitech Crayon during class. As students are taught reading strategies, the Logitech Crayon will be used to increase the annotation and interaction with the text, increasing comprehension, vocabulary learning, and the marking of phrases to improve fluency.

Awarded: \$ 750

Headphones with Microphones for Spanish Immersion

Teacher Name: Joel Newman

Summary: Headphones provided by this grant will equip teachers with the technology needed to: increase student exposure to speech of native speakers, enable greater autonomy through access to self-paced listening exercises, expand capacity to assess student speaking abilities, and foster more effective, individualized feedback to students in a timely manner. Students will be able to use the headphones for self-paced, level-appropriate listening activities.

Awarded: \$ 900

21st Century PE at MME**Teacher Name: Stacie Olson**

Summary: This grant will fund updated sports equipment focusing on life-long fitness versus competitive team sports. The new and safe equipment will allow students to challenge themselves physically and provides a learning environment that excites students about being active.

Awarded: \$ 2,000

Minnetonka Middle School West**Student Requested Materials for Intervention Class****Teacher Name: Jennifer Furness**

Summary: Provides a classroom set of a book which has been requested by several students. By providing students reading material which they have interest in, there is higher probability that reading comprehension will increase and there will be a positive impact on developing life-long readers.

Awarded: \$ 250

Enhancing Well-Being and Reducing Anxiety through VR Experiences**Teacher Name: Paula Erbisch**

Summary: Provides Oculus Go Virtual Reality (VR) devices utilized by counselors, social workers, health staff, student support staff and social-emotional learning teachers as a tool to help students experiencing anxiety, panic, and emotional distress. This tool can be used with a variety of relaxation apps and can be set up in various locations throughout the school, which gives flexibility to meet the needs of a wide range of students.

Awarded: \$ 1,434

Dynamic Digital Design Unleashed**Teacher Name: Andrea Pautler**

Summary: By adding in the Logitech Crayon to the art classroom, every art student will experience enhanced creative opportunities in the realm of digital drawing and virtual art-making by pairing their artistic knowledge and real-world art-making with digital creative tools. Students will be able to craft digital drawings and renderings with increased precision and improved artistic features.

Awarded: \$ 1,985 (shared)

Providing iPad Accessibility Support for Special Ed Students**Teacher Name: Sara Hunt**

Summary: Logitech Crayons purchased with this grant will allow special education students more precision with their iPads. Students will be able to learn about how the Logitech Crayon integrates into the apps they use and learn efficiency and accessibility features that will support them with all of their learning products for class.

Awarded: \$ 1,985 (shared)

Using Apple Pencils to improve 3D Modeling and Design**Teacher Name: Dustin Michel**

Summary: Provides Apple Pencils to be used in the technology education department. By giving students the tools to access 3D modeling software through their iPads, students will learn and demonstrate basic knowledge of 3D modeling and its role in modern engineering and design.

Awarded: \$ 3,000

Multiple K-8 Schools

Hands-on Project-based Chinese Cultural Activities

Schools: Excelsior, Scenic Heights, MME & MMW

Lead Teacher/Staff: Xue Han

Summary: Provides more hands-on project based activities for Chinese teachers' cultural teaching in addition to the basic dry reading instructions, giving students more opportunities to use, apply and present their Chinese language. Students in grades 1-8 Chinese immersion will experience increases in language learning enthusiasm, confidence, interpersonal communication, interpretative reading comprehension, presentational writing and presentational speaking skills in the target language.

Awarded: \$ 2,000 partially funded through the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund.

Augmented and Virtual Reality Headsets: Taking Learning Beyond the Classroom

Schools: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta, Scenic Heights, MME & MMW

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sara Hunt

Summary: The intent of this project is to bring virtual and augmented reality experiences to our students district-wide. ClassVR uses engaging curriculum aligned content along with structured lesson plans to help spark the imagination of students of all ages. The lessons leave students with memories and experiences that help visualize and understand even the most complex of educational subjects, and engages and motivates them like never before.

Awarded: \$ 9,210

Minnetonka High School

Accessory Materials for YES! Vantage Greenhouse

Lead Teacher/Staff: Dawn Norton

Summary: This grant will be used toward building a Net Zero/Early Season Greenhouse and Plant Aquaponics Grow Tower for education and research at MHS, educating students about how greenhouses operate and how to grow food while being environmentally friendly. The greenhouse will be used for labs and research projects and/or growing food for consumption or donation.

Awarded: \$ 598

Fractures Puzzles Models for Human Anatomy

Lead Teacher/Staff: Gwynneth Wacker

Summary: Students in human anatomy related courses will benefit through interactive lectures and puzzle exercises designed around action-fraction puzzles. Students will be able to explore the various ways in which bones can fracture and how the location and pattern of fracture can provide information about the forces involved in causing the injury. This will allow students real-life experiences around concepts of force, motion, structure and function.

Awarded: \$ 847

Virtual Reality in Math and Counseling

Lead Teacher/Staff: David Surver

Summary: Math students will be exposed to the cutting edge technology of virtual reality (VR), learning the math used to create VR. VR will also be used when studying 3D geometry, where students can construct structures digitally in 3D and virtually observe them from all sides. The VR device will also be used by the counseling center, where students will be able to use it to help calm and de-stress, allowing them to relax and refresh more quickly.

Awarded: \$ 1,199

Stem Based Theatrical Experiences**Lead Teacher/Staff: Charlie Swanson**

Summary: Chemistry students will have the opportunity to attend the musical “Curie Me Away”, a cross-disciplinary experience about the discovery of radioactivity (which has dramatically changed scientific study and revolutionized the understanding of the atom). The performance will bring together science, history and the fine arts, opening students’ eyes in new ways to communicate ideas in all realms of their studies. This play may be the inspiration allowing students to find their passion at the crossroads of art and science!

Awarded: \$ 1,500

iPad Pencils for Art**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jonathan Maki**

Summary: iPad Pencils are real world tools that will enable students to create contemporary digital art including comics and animations, storyboards for video production and digital photography editing. These tools will equip students for creating digital art, preparing them for future careers or experiences in art and design. There is no limit to what students will be able to design with the iPad pencils and their creativity.

Awarded: \$ 2,100

Design for Learning**Lead Teacher/Staff: Nicole Snedden**

Summary: This grant will provide funds toward design spaces at the high school which will benefit teachers and students. MHS students on the Student Innovation Team have completed research and engaged other students and staff, investigating current opportunities and challenges in their space and exploring possible design solutions.

Awarded: \$ 2,500

Wireless Data Collection in Physics with Sensor Carts**Lead Teacher/Staff: Curtis Geldert**

Summary: Sensor carts allow students to quickly and easily collect position, velocity, acceleration and force data during experiments, which can then be transferred directly to their iPads. The accurate and versatile ease of use will allow students to run more trials and test more scenarios, providing more time to analyze their own data and increasing their engagement in physics’ lab activities. Sensor carts also allow students to use their own creativity to design and test their own experiments.

Awarded: \$ 2,750

Chemistry Inquiry**Lead Teacher/Staff: Sean Holmes**

Summary: Provides new and expanded data collection tools that will be used to obtain and increase the number and variety of inquiry-based and/or real-world learning opportunities for students taking MHS chemistry courses. These tools incorporate more open-ended experiences for students in project- or challenge-based settings, addressing energy consumption and production as it relates to atmospheric science and global climate. Students will also engage in inquiry based lab experiences that focus on real-world applications of chemistry content.

Awarded: \$ 3,800