



Teacher Grants Summary

2020– 2021

Early Childhood & Family Education

Helping Students Find Their Path Toward Success in The Classroom

Teacher/Staff: Erin Michael

School: MCEC

Summary: Research shows that when children move frequently, they are more likely to learn better because a moving child is a more regulated child who is in a better place to learn. Implementing the use of sensory paths into our early childhood programs provides a unique teaching tool that will meet the needs of all students while enhancing their individual learning.

Awarded: \$1,095.00

Clear Springs Elementary School

Authentic African Music Learning

Teacher/Staff: David Davis

School: Clear Springs

Summary: Authentic Gahu (African Music) instruments will be used by band students in order to more deeply understand global musical perspectives and cultures other than their own.

Awarded: \$850.00

Impulsivity Tool Kits

Teacher/Staff: Amy Horning

School: Clear Springs

Summary: Impulsivity tool kits will expand staff's ability to support students that have difficulty with impulsivity, attention, and organization skills.

Awarded: \$757.00

I Can See Clearly Now

Teacher/Staff: Joan Larson and Cindy Stevenson

School: Clear Springs

Summary: This grant will fund a portable microscope that projects onto a smart board allowing all students to see things that they couldn't see with just their eyes, unleashing curiosity and discovery. Students can see the hair follicle, fibers on their sweater or cells on a butterfly wing.

Awarded: \$420.00

Learning to Code with Dash Robots

Teacher/Staff: Andy Lundheim

School: Clear Springs

Summary: The Dash robot will provide students with creative experiences and critical thinking through coding. By using the district provided iPads and a growing suite of free apps, the Dash robot makes difficult computer science concepts engaging and fun.

Awarded: \$856.00

LightSpeed Multimike System

Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Kimball

School: Clear Springs; Drama/ Musical afterschool Community Education Groups

Summary: The Multimike System enables teachers and students to add wireless microphones for multiple presenters to your audio system. This system will allow students to use handheld microphones in class at the same time as the teacher or director of the group uses their flexmike that they wear around their neck. Students will be able to practice with a handheld cordless microphone before the night of the concert, or drama performance.

Awarded: \$1,571.00

Deephaven Elementary School**Grade 3 Guided Math Resources (English and Spanish)**

Teacher/Staff: Stephanie Glaser

School: Deephaven

Summary: The grant will provide resources for third grade teachers in English and Spanish to implement guided math. This includes station/center ideas and games to help students meet the standards.

Awarded: \$500.00

Native Aquatic Studies Connecting Students to the Environment of Lake Minnetonka

Teacher/Staff: Mike Borgendale

School: Deephaven

Summary: A large aquarium will be set up in the classroom to hold native fish and plants to connect learning about the local lake and its ecology.

Awarded: \$1,630.00 from the Draayer Fund

Fun with Math!**Teacher/Staff:** Jessica Rojas**School:** Deephaven**Summary:** This program will allow students to have fun while learning by providing more options to play and practice math through games.**Awarded:** \$670.00**Excelsior Elementary School****Art Therapy****Teacher/Staff:** Kelly Pederson/Julie Knight**School:** Excelsior**Summary:** The art therapy program will give DCD students the opportunity to practice important life skills including: communication, social etiquette, fine motor skills, self-regulation, and direction following.**Awarded:** \$1,000.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund and the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation**Minnewashta Elementary School****Literacy Centers Enrichment****Teacher/Staff:** Judith D. Ortega**School:** Minnewashta**Summary:** Literacy center materials will help students engage in the Senderos Curriculum and allow them to work independently while solidifying concepts more quickly.**Awarded:** \$702.00**Classic Starts Book Sets****Teacher/Staff:** Cathy Arriola**School:** Minnewashta**Summary:** "Classic Starts" are abridged classic books for high-achieving readers. These books are invaluable for supporting students' love of reading, new genres and critical thinking skills that come with these amazing stories.**Awarded:** \$382.00**Emergency Response Team Supplies****Teacher/Staff:** Diane Severin**School:** Minnewashta**Summary:** Additional Heimlich vests and CPR manikins will allow school nurses to practice more emergency response drills & provide education to students as part of their health units.**Awarded:** \$824.00**Recording "phone" booths****Teacher/Staff:** Daniela Moscoso-Donoso**School:** Minnewashta**Summary:** Recording "phone" booths will facilitate audio student posts in Seesaw, confidence when inputting audio on a presentation, privacy when reading and recording for academic/assessment purposes, and the possibility of creating a high-quality hearing experience for their audience.**Awarded:** \$950.00

Scenic Heights Elementary School

Tactile & Auditory Coding!

Teacher/Staff: Melinda Barry

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: Unruly Splats are a tactile, auditory interdisciplinary coding tool. Students connect splats (electronic disks that light up and make noises based on coding) to an iPad using the Unruly Splats application. They can code with the splats to create high energy games that could be used during physical education or program the splats to use with math or science.

Awarded: \$2,000.00

Shoot for Stars: Constellations

Teacher/Staff: Ali Wachutka

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: The "Constellations" board game is a great addition to curriculum as it teaches students about constellations and different categories of stars.

Awarded: \$140.00

Mentor Texts

Teacher/Staff: Ali Wachutka

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: Mentor texts are "read alouds" used by teachers to model skills and concepts for students. These texts benefit students as it shows them a skill in a tangible way and allows them to make meaningful connections to guide their learning and development.

Awarded: \$100.00

Balance Buddies

Teacher/Staff: Amy Altenburg

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: Kindergarten classrooms will provide balance/stability equipment and resources to help support students with focus, strength and stamina while learning.

Awarded: \$500.00

Newbery Book Sets

Teacher/Staff: Jackie Hjelden

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: The award winning Newbery book set will provide students with high quality literature to read and engage in related and meaningful work. They will construct deeper meaning, collaborate with other readers, and create a film.

Awarded: \$280.00

Promoting Student Well-being through Virtual Reality

Teacher/Staff: Qingling Mendenhall

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: Oculus Go is an innovative tool designed to assist students in reducing stress and anxiety. We expect outcome data to show considerable improvement for students, alongside easy usability for school personnel.

Awarded: \$720.00

Minnetonka Middle School East

New Physical Education Trends 2020

Teacher/Staff: Stacie J Olson

School: MME

Summary: Physical education classes at MME are also concentrating on healthy lifestyle and benefits of lifelong physical activity. The game of pickleball, and equipment, will be promoted as a long-term physical activity option.

Awarded: \$1,100.00

Shining a Light for All

Teacher/Staff: Kimberly Smith

School: MME

Summary: Shining a light for all will incorporate more books in the classroom library that are reflective of all students' backgrounds

Awarded: \$300.00

Minnetonka Middle School West

Enhancing Well-Being and Reducing Anxiety through VR Experiences in SEL Special Education

Teacher/Staff: Mary Callahan/ Special Education Teacher

School: MMW

Summary: Oculus Go Virtual Reality (VR) devices are used 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: \$1,000.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Ipad Music Ensemble

Teacher/Staff: Heidi Bunde

School: MMW

Summary: Using the iPad as an instrument to create music and perform in a small ensemble is a new and innovative means to engage students in the music classroom and expose them to a non-traditional music ensemble. By using a mixer and powered speakers, it will allow multiple iPads to be plugged into a mixer and amplified to an audience.

Awarded: \$699.00

Minnetonka High School

STEM Based Theatrical Performances

Teacher/Staff: Charlie Swanson

School: MHS

Summary: Curie Me Away is a STEM based theatrical experience about the life and works of Marie Curie. Students will attend a 60-minute musical and then break out into groups to discuss some of the important themes and ideas that came up during the performance. This performance fits nicely into our curriculum as the 10th grade students will be learning about radioactivity and nuclear decay at that time.

Awarded: \$2,500.00

Navigating Program Experiential Learning Unit

Teacher/Staff: Jenna Falconer

School: MHS

Summary: The MHS Navigating program encompasses students that are experiencing challenging life situations. Students will be able to utilize their experiences to research and generate a "call to action" that can be available to their classmates, school, and even the community.

Awarded: \$500.00

Minnetonka Art Banners

Teacher/Staff: Paul Olson

School: MHS

Summary: Artwork from various classes will be showcased on banners and displayed in the parking lot at Minnetonka High School. Art students will have the opportunity to show their work, and other students, family, and community will be exposed to the incredible work done at the school.

Awarded: \$3,800.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund and the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation

MHS Counseling Office Redesign

Teacher/Staff: Ann Kaste and the Student Innovation Team.

School: MHS

Summary: The Student Innovation Team is continuing to create a more welcoming environment in the MHS counseling office for both students and staff by incorporating sound, décor and lighting in the office.

Awarded: \$1,200.00

Optics Benches for Physics and Astronomy

Teacher/Staff: Russ Durkee

School: MHS

Summary: This equipment will allow students to use and apply science and engineering practices that align more closely to the new science standards. An optics bench is a perfect tool in physical science, physics, and astronomy classes for students to complete prescribed labs and more open-ended investigations that are encouraged in the new science standards.

Awarded: \$1,000.00

Human Genome and Ecology Documentaries

Teacher/Staff: Gwynneth Wacker/MHS Biology Department

School: MHS

Summary: This grant focuses on the purchase of a 3-year license to show Human Nature, a CRISPR documentary, and the film, The Biggest Little Farm documentary. The former focuses on the biotechnology and ramifications of the CRISPR gene-editing tool while the latter addresses the need to change our approach towards farming and land reclamation. Important Ecology concepts are addressed as fallow fields are turned verdant and productive by focusing on smaller farms, diversity and the ecological interactions of many species in our ecosystems.

Awarded: \$435.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Heat Vision for the Classroom with iOS Thermal Cameras

Teacher/Staff: Joe Cossette

School: MHS

Summary: Access to thermal cameras that easily interface with the iPads will allow students to investigate infrared waves by exploring the unseeable.

Awarded: \$850.00

Multiple K-8 Schools

Class VR: Virtual Reality Making Learning Stick

Teacher/Staff: Sara Hunt

School: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta, Scenic Heights, MME, and MMW

Summary: Class VR is immersive, easy to use and access, meaningful, and adaptable. When using Class VR, teachers focus on creating conditions for exploring, rather than providing ready-made knowledge.

Awarded: \$15,090.00

Bubble Wand Algebra Project

Teacher/Staff: Cindy McGlasson and Jon Westmeyer

School: MME, MMW

Summary: Students will get the chance to use their skills writing linear equations to create a design for a bubble wand. They will use the graphing calculator app, Desmos, to create the design. Once the design is complete, students will export the design for it to be printed from a 3D printer. The goal is to donate the bubble wands to hospitals, nursing homes and preschools.

Awarded: \$975.00

Highly engaged kinesthetic STEM activity sets for Chinese immersion classrooms

Teacher/Staff: Xue Han

School: Excelsior; Scenic Heights

Summary: Kinesthetic STEM math activity sets not only develop math and fitness skills at the same time, they can also improve math teaching from being abstract to being more specific as well as being one-way teacher lecture to being student-teacher interactive learning.

Awarded: \$3,735.00

Dominoes for the HUBS

Teacher/Staff: Julia Antonsen

School: All elementary schools

Summary: Dominoes are back! This highly engaging activity is giving students the opportunities to collaborate, design, build and create. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to use the dominoes in the HUBS.

Awarded: \$240.00