



Teacher Grant Summary 2021 – 2022

Early Childhood & Family Education

Buddy Buckets for Junior Explorers

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sarah Hennes

School: MCEC

Summary: This grant will be used to create 12 buddy buckets for the Junior Explorers classrooms. Each buddy bucket consists of specific toys and a visual play plan. Students will be given opportunities to practice peer interactions, solving social problems and using their imagination while exploring the materials.

Awarded: \$525.00

Social Thinking

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ashley Peterson

School: MCEC

Summary: The We Thinkers! series helps children build fundamental social competencies and improve their social and academic performance. Teachers, clinicians, and parents give it rave reviews! We Thinkers! Volume 2 Social Problem Solvers provides the structure, curriculum, storybooks, and support materials to teach executive functioning and social problem solving while building on the core social concepts and Social Thinking Vocabulary introduced in We Thinkers! Volume 1 Social Explorers.

Awarded: \$498.00

Promoting Diversity, Inclusion and Social Emotional Intelligence through Books

Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Zimmerman

School: MCEC

Summary: Promote diversity, inclusion, relationship development and social emotional intelligence by adding age appropriate books to help support and meet the goals set forth by Minnetonka Schools and specifically align with Preschool and Minnetonka Community Education initiatives.

Awarded: \$700.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Little Spot in the MCEC Classroom**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Sarah Davis**School:** MCEC

Summary: This grant would provide the "Little Spot" social/emotional learning books and curriculum to the students at MCEC. Beginning early in life, social and emotional learning is highly important for helping preschool children to understand and manage their emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, and make responsible decisions. Effective social/emotional programming starting at the preschool level will promote the successful development of social and emotional skills that will lead to future healthy interpersonal relationships and improved academic achievement. The Little Spot series touches on the 5 core areas of social emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

Awarded: \$750.00**Deephaven Elementary****Building Math Thinkers****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Jennissa Schommer**School:** Deephaven

Summary: Empower every student to grow their love of math. Kids interact with math stackers(blocks) as they create, order, measure, build and of course, knock down to try again! Kids discover the relationships between the properties of math through stacking and comparing our mathematical blocks. Hands-on learning has never been so fun!

Awarded: \$350.00**Groveland Elementary****Hands On Language Arts****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kristie Remick**School:** Groveland

Summary: This grant will provide students with hands on learning materials for language arts. This engaging material will help with phonemic awareness, word building, vocabulary and writing. It will create opportunities for small group work, independent work and individualized learning.

Awarded: \$1,020.00 from the Don Carruth Memorial Fund**Puppet Theater for Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Tara Murphy**School:** Groveland

Summary: This grant asks for a puppet theater and several hand puppets for the children, as well as a larger ventriloquist style puppet for teacher instruction. Young students learn through play and imagination. These items will enrich their learning and opportunities to practice social emotional learning concepts in a safe way.

Awarded: \$421.00 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Excelsior Elementary

Chinese Culture Enrichment for 2nd grade Chinese Immersion Students

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jieming Jin

School: Excelsior

Summary: Our 2nd grade Chinese immersion team members are planning to modify some of the target culture ideas from the books "Chinese Treasure Chest" (Vol.3 & Vol.4) and build connections with our current 2nd grade Chinese curriculum which is lacking Chinese culture enrichment. These cultural enrichment lessons will adapt well for both the in-person and online learning environments.

Awarded: \$750.00

Special Education Social Skills Games

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kristen Spilane

School: Excelsior

Summary: We are requesting a grant to purchase new games for our special education resource students. We often play games during social skills groups to discuss and teach habits of playing with peers, turn taking, accepting losing, etc. All special education students will benefit from this grant.

Awarded: \$200.00 from the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund

2nd Grade Immersion Math Center

Lead Teacher/Staff: Xian He

School: Excelsior

Summary: The 2nd grade Chinese immersion team at Excelsior is applying for this Grant to build a math center in each of our classrooms. The purpose of this application is to help meet the needs of diverse learners, and to engage and challenge students at all math levels.

Awarded: \$355.00

Interactive Powerful and Purposeful Word Games Made Easy

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jing Zhao, Xian He, Jieming Jin

School: Excelsior

Summary: This grant will fund the online resource <https://wordwall.net/>. This on-line based tool with printer friendly features will definitely help all teachers to create their own teaching resources based on their pace and teaching objectives. Teachers will be able to easily make customized activities for classrooms. Interactive quizzes, match ups, word games, and much more can be done with the help of this website! Multiple languages are applicable for this tool, and both immersion and non-immersion teachers can use it!

Awarded: \$291.00

Scenic Heights Elementary

building PLUS inventing PLUS creativity

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ali Wachutka

School: Scenic Heights

Summary: I am looking to get PLUSPLUS building components for my classroom. We would use these to synthesize learning, model inventions, and explore creativity. The simple and uniform structure of these blocks make them ideal for classroom creating and collaboration.

Awarded: \$130.00

Make Yourself Heard**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ali Wachutka**School:** Scenic Heights**Summary:** This grant would purchase a class set of little "mini microphones" that we could plug in to ipads. This would allow us to better capture sound and boost student confidence.**Awarded:** \$80.00**Minnetonka Middle School East****Life Long Activities – Racquet Sports Edition****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Stacie Olson**School:** MME**Summary:** Racquet sports are a surefire way to improve one's fitness and overall physical health. Running around the tennis/pickleball/badminton court greatly increases one's aerobic activity, improving heart health and resulting in a myriad of health benefits.**Awarded:** \$746.00**Minnetonka Middle School West****Refreshing MMW 6th Grade Independent Reading Classroom Libraries****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Margaret Ruffino, Rebecca Freeman, Harrison Schmidt, Katelyn Schreder and Jane Zins**School:** MMW**Summary:** The monies from this grant would help 6th grade MMW Language Arts teachers to be able to purchase novels and other books to update their classroom student book collections. Our PLC group reviewed our current classroom libraries and found some of our garage sale, hand me down books were not so attractive to young readers and were also showing their age. In today's digital world, motivating students to read for pleasure has become a real challenge. Providing new titles would be one way to encourage and motivate our students to read!**Awarded:** \$1,000.00**Minnetonka High School****Arduino Programming in Physics****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Tom Tomashek**School:** MHS**Summary:** This project will allow students in AP Physics C E&M to learn programming and coding. The Arduino units can interface with computers and iPads and contain a number of built-in sensors for collecting data. The Arduino units are the next step in learning electrical circuits.**Awarded:** \$476.00 from the Draayer Youth Citizenship Fund**Quad Copters for Principles of Physics****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Dana Severson**School:** MHS**Summary:** I'm asking for \$600 in funds to cover the cost of 16 beginner-friendly quad copters, extra batteries, and charging stations to more fully engage seniors during the first months of the

motion and forces curriculum at start of each school year in Principles of Physics, a highly hands-on course.

Awarded: \$600.00 from the Draayer Youth Citizenship Fund

Multiple K-8 Schools

Learning through play with Osmo for Elementary DCD

Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Gifford, Caitlin Williams

School: Clear Springs; Excelsior

Summary: Osmo for ipad is an interactive tool developed to work with any ipad that will provide DCD students the ability to learn using technology and hands on learning. This grant is requesting one Osmo elementary package for each elementary DCD classroom (4 total).

Awarded: \$1,076.00 from the Don Carruth Memorial Fund and the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation

Three Minutes can make a Big Difference: Innovative Methods in Supporting Students' – and Teacher's Well-being

Lead Teacher/Staff: Qingling Mendenhall

School: Excelsior, Scenic Heights

Summary: COVID-19 has brought with it a myriad of challenges to conventional elementary education. Being effectively responsive to these challenges requires simultaneous attention to both teachers and students' everyday functioning. Innovative methods advanced by Calm Classroom show considerable promise across both academic- and social/emotional- arenas. This proposal will facilitate the integration of this empirically-proven resource in a manner that is not disruptive to standard curriculum, teaching-time, and/or classroom preparation efforts. Its techniques and exercises require only three-minutes (avg.) to advance.

Awarded: \$550.00 from The Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Recognition of Chinese Immersion Learners' Academic Achievement

Lead Teacher/Staff: De Zhang, Xue Han

School: Excelsior, Scenic Heights

Summary: This grant aims to evaluate and recognize 5th grade and 8th grade Chinese immersion students' academic achievement and nominate good students for the honor of Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS) National Junior Scholars for Excellence in Chinese.

Awarded: \$408.00 from The Minnetonka Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Culture as a Content in Chinese Immersion Education

Lead Teacher/Staff: De Zhang

School: Excelsior, Scenic Heights

Summary: This grant will be used to purchase a series of 10 Chinese culture picture books for Grade 3-5 Chinese immersion classes. The 10 books cover 10 important topics of Chinese culture which can and will be integrated into our Chinese immersion curriculum.

Awarded: \$1,799.00

Middle Level – Tools for Connecting Virtual Learners to the Classroom

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sara Hunt

School: Scenic Heights, MMW

Summary: The mobile iPad/webcam stand, bluetooth remote combination in this request are to support the seamlessness teachers and students want when learning remotely. Teachers want to show close physical items in their classroom, they want students whether in person or at home to feel connected to the community and able to connect with the teacher as they are

teaching. This not only supports the school board goal for belonging but also multiple modalities as teachers can use these supports for their cameras to provide multiple ways to learn content.

Awarded: \$1,700.00

Minnetonka Schools Diverse Library Collections

Lead Teacher/Staff: Colleen Batz, Melinda Barry and all K-8 Media Specialists

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

Summary: After completing a thorough analysis of print fiction collections in the schools, we have determined a need to provide library materials that reflect the diversity of our world. Students need to have a window into other worlds. Books are very expensive, but their reward is priceless when a child and the right book are connected.

Awarded: \$24,000.00

All Minnetonka Schools K-12

Black History Month Speakers

Lead Teacher/Staff: Anelise Peterson, tech support and communications

School: All Minnetonka Schools

Summary: This grant proposal is to request funds for an impactful speaker for Black History month for our students. Using one or two of the proposed speakers from the company, Leading Authorities, Inc. (LAI), which has been around for several decades matching talented speakers with audiences in different fields of work. Idea is to bring powerful messages to our students and align with the School Board goal #2 regarding belonging.

Awarded: \$5,000.00