



## 2022 – 2023 Teacher Grants

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### Early Childhood & Family Education

**Grant Title: Buddy Boxes**

**Grant #7**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Laura Nystrom

**School/Building:** MCEC

**Summary:** The supplies from this grant would restock and replenish buddy boxes that are used to build and promote social skills in preschool students.

**Awarded:** \$403

**Grant Title: Multi-Cultural Materials at MCEC**

**Grant #28**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Maddie Schinke

**School/Building:** MCEC

**Summary:** We are looking to expand our multicultural resources in all early childhood classrooms at MCEC. Through this grant we are looking to purchase a variety of multicultural materials that would benefit all students and families accessing early childhood programs at MCEC.

**Awarded:** \$3000

**Grant Title: Preschool "SMART"s****Grant #45****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Erin Michael**School/Building:** MCEC

**Summary:** The overall goal of this grant is to help develop each child's school readiness skills. The SMART program is a fun, innovative and research-based program that promotes children's learning in the preschool classroom. When children have foundational school readiness skills they are better prepared to engage in learning in the classroom.

**Awarded:** \$1665**Grant Title: Outdoor learning****Grant #50****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kendra Voigt**School/Building:** MCEC

**Summary:** Minnetonka Preschool will now be offering an outdoor preschool option during the next school year. Books, manipulatives, and other supplies are requested to meet the nature focused curriculum of the class.

**Awarded:** \$725 by the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund**Clear Springs Elementary School****Grant Title: daVinci Hall****Grant #16****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Joan Larson**School/Building:** Clear Springs

**Summary:** We have made progress with the former curvy hallway now called daVinci Hall but there is more to be done.

**Awarded:** \$1000**Deephaven Elementary School****Grant Title: Math Fact Tool Box****Grant #10****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Becky Johnson**School/Building:** Deephaven

**Summary:** 4th and 5th grade students work hard to learn their math facts in a variety of ways. Many students are successful with tools available online on their iPads, teacher lead games, apps, flashcards, and other tools. However, for some students who take more time to make progress, practicing math facts repeatedly on their iPads can get boring and repetitive. A variety of self correcting toys, games, and manipulatives can help keep all students motivated in stations or small groups throughout the school year, and will require little preparation or management by the teacher.

**Awarded:** \$673**Grant Title: TODO Math App for first grade classes****Grant #15****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Karen Clepper**School/Building:** Deephaven

**Summary:** I am requesting a math app for our first graders called TODO Math. I am requesting it for all of first grade and hopefully 2nd grade, too. Our students are very motivated when they use this app and it is helping grow their math minds.

**Awarded:** \$1200

**Grant Title: Geodes Classroom Decodable Library****Grant #20****Lead Teacher/Staff:** LeAnne Smith & Kristi Bruckschen & Kristi Bruckschen**School/Building:** Deephaven

**Summary:** We are requesting grant funds to purchase decodable books for the special education students at Deephaven Elementary School. Geodes, a classroom library of decodable books, are 80% decodable and follow the scope and sequence of the Wilson Foundations reading program. The funds requested would buy Geodes Level K and Geodes Level 1. The classroom set also includes implementation support materials for each level.

**Awarded:** \$4028**Excelsior Elementary School****Grant Title: Boosting Executive Function Skills!****Grant #9****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kristin Peterson**School/Building:** Excelsior

**Summary:** This grant is to provide school staff and students with tools they can use to build and strengthen student executive function skills. Some examples of executive function skills include: task initiation, time management, organization, self-control, focus, perseverance, and flexibility. These are foundational skills which will support students in all of their learning tasks.

**Awarded:** \$1081**Grant Title: Math manipulative and Science materials****Grant #33****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ai Ai Lin Johnson**School/Building:** Excelsior

**Summary:** Math manipulative for small group activities. The topics involves: volume, capacity, area, perimeter, polygons, 3D shapes and net, math fact. For example, Liter cubes, triangle ruler sets, Equivalent Fractions tiles, Area and perimeter tiles, Geoboard, folding shapes, mini calculators for math fact self check and other activities Rock samples for teaching science.

**Awarded:** \$380**Grant Title: Reading and Writing Skill Enhancement in Navigator Chinese Class****Grant #38****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Jieming Jin**School/Building:** Excelsior

**Summary:** In order to provide Navigator students more opportunities to develop their Chinese reading and writing skills, the teacher is planning to create a brand new unit about "famous people". Students are all very familiar with "Who was" series in English. This unit will build connections between students' background knowledge and all the famous people stories that they are going to learn in Chinese. The teaching toolbox website will help to create the reading and writing learning activities and games related to this unit.

**Awarded:** \$500

## Groveland Elementary School

**Grant Title: Assessment-driven, Engaging Reading Materials for 3-5 Spanish Readers at Groveland**

**Grant #5**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Erin Kopischke

**School/Building:** Groveland

**Summary:** To support students in various levels of their reading development, Groveland Spanish Immersion teachers in grades 3-5 request leveled engaging reading materials that align with the ENIL: Estructura para la evaluación del nivel independiente de lectura (Independent Reading Assessment Framework) from the American Reading Company. Classroom teachers will administer word lists to place students at reading level and will watch their growth throughout the year, coaching them in ENIL strategies along the way. This will increase student growth as students are using targeted materials and strategies, and as they see their own progress.

**Awarded:** \$4800

## Minnewashta Elementary School

**Grant Title: Code with Cubelets**

**Grant #22**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Shelly Traver

**School/Building:** Minnewashta

**Summary:** Cubelets are screen-free way to explore robotics, STEM, and computational thinking.

**Awarded:** \$4589

**Grant Title: Clay Slab Roller**

**Grant #41**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Melanie Mazingo

**School/Building:** Minnewashta

**Summary:** The grant would include a Clay Slab Roller (24" with 14 gauge steel table), canvas materials, and wagon wheel handle to roll clay for student clay projects. Here's an introductory video on how a clay slab roller operates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuf48yFDvCQ>. There is a great variety in the kinds of of clay slabs that can be created on this kind of slab roller (NorthStar 24") including thin translucent porcelain slabs and thick, heavily textured architectural slabs.

**Awarded:** \$1051 by the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund

**Grant Title: Recording "phone" booths II**

**Grant #48**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Daniela Moscoso-Donoso

**School/Building:** Minnewashta

**Summary:** The mentioned equipment 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:** \$715

## Scenic Heights Elementary School

**Grant Title: Representation Matters in Classroom Libraries**

**Grant #23**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ali Wachutka

**School/Building:** Scenic Heights

**Summary:** This grant is to enhance my existing classroom library. All the books listed on this grant were specifically selected to enhance representation. My goal is for all students to have "mirror" books that show pieces of themselves and "window" books that allow them to experience new perspectives.

**Awarded:** \$275

## **Tonka Online School**

**Grant Title: 4th Grade Tonka Online Curriculum Supplement**

**Grant #32**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Tim Ketel

**School/Building:** Tonka Online

**Summary:** I am requesting funding to purchase supplemental materials to support the fourth-grade online learning experience. Online learning does not naturally lend itself to all the same teaching methods that make sense in a physical classroom, and supplementing the material with quality resources will enhance the student learning experience.

**Awarded:** \$168

**Grant Title: The Tonka Online Toolkit**

**Grant #37**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Grace Mevissen

**School/Building:** Tonka Online

**Summary:** The Tonka Online Toolkit Grant will equip students with physical and virtual tools to meet the unique needs of our K-5 Tonka Online scholars. The toolkit includes items such as: digital subscriptions, physical books, virtual field trips and Tonka Online t-shirts.

**Awarded:** \$1000

**Grant Title: Streamable Learning: Enrichment Opportunities for Tonka Online**

**Grant #31**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Tim Ketel

**School/Building:** Tonka Online K-8 Students (all classes)

**Summary:** This grant will allow us to purchase a 1-year school membership to Streamable Learning, which provides unlimited online live learning experiences through partner museums and other locations around the country for students of all ages, which will support and enhance our curriculum.

**Awarded:** \$1000

## **Multiple Elementary School**

**Grant Title: Sonor SMART Series Xylophones**

**Grant #52**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Jennifer Kimball

**School/Building:** Clear Springs, Any students using this room afterschool- District Choir, MAM Choir, Musical

**Summary:** The quality German company Sonor has created a SMART Xylophones set that is smaller and easier for younger students to use and will replace our 8 step bells that are not lasting the test of time due to our heavy use of them during the pandemic. This 3 set SMART series stands for: Stackable; Mobile and Multifunctional; Acoustically Optimized; Refined and Trail blazing with Space Saving for bars.

**Awarded:** \$1480 by the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund

**Grant Title: The Impact of Words**

**Grant #17****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Jill Browning**School/Building:** Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta, Scenic Heights**Summary:** Word choice is an important component of writing and speaking and an essential part of the language arts curriculum. Words have power to motivate and inspire. The right word can influence and guide an individual as they navigate through the world throughout his or her lifetime, especially young learners who have only ever attended elementary school during the Covid pandemic and who can benefit from building healthy mindsets and strong social and emotional skills.**Awarded:** \$621**Grant Title: Academic Extension (AE) Coding Extension- Turing Tumble - Build Marble-Powered Computers****Grant #18****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Lisa Dutton**School/Building:** Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta, Scenic Heights**Summary:** Students use "Turing Tumble" sets to create and build marble-powered computers. Turing Tumble allows students to build mechanical computers powered by marbles to solve logic puzzles. Students discover how simple switches, connected together in clever ways, can do incredibly smart things. This would be an extension to AE's Hour of Code unit.**Awarded:** \$992**Grant Title: Enhancing Content for Online Learners****Grant #35****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kelli Whiteside**School/Building:** Deephaven, K-5 Tonka Online**Summary:** If awarded, this grant provides instructional materials for elementary students learning online as well as in person. Ebooks have become essential and somewhat expected formats for both online and in person learning models. Acquisition of more digital content would help support the curricular needs of the new K-5 Tonka Online program, and because of the software infrastructure would also be available for students at Deephaven Elementary.**Awarded:** \$3000**Minnetonka Middle School East****Grant Title: State of (floor) Hockey****Grant #4****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Stacie Olson**School/Building:** MME**Summary:** Hockey is one of the most popular sports in Minnesota. Many kids in Minnesota grow up playing casual hockey and many will continue playing in their adulthood. Our PE department has the floor hockey unit as a part of our curriculum, but lack the equipment and the ability to provide our students with safe floor hockey equipment.**Awarded:** \$1600**Grant Title: Shining a light on Eclipse Ball****Grant #14****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kieran Monaghan**School/Building:** MME**Summary:** We would like to purchase equipment so that we can introduce and develop this activity to all students in all grades in PE classes.**Awarded:** \$420

**Grant Title: 8th Grade Choices Curriculum: More Student Engagement and Critical Thinking****Grant #27****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ginna Schultz**School/Building:** MME

**Summary:** Purchasing the Choices curriculum for use in 8th grade Global Studies classrooms takes students to the center of debates on a variety of contested international issues. Students consider multiple perspectives and various policy decisions on immigration, climate change, terrorism, genocide, and human rights as well as the United States' involvement with Afghanistan, China, Iraq, and Russia.

**Awarded:** \$1555**Grant Title: Intergenerational choral collaboration****Grant #36****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Seth Boyd**School/Building:** MME

**Summary:** 8th grade choir students at MME will enter into a year long exchange and collaboration with Alive and Kickin', a choir of people aged 65 and older. Each choir will choose a song for the other to perform. We will also perform a song together. There will be a series of panels/discussions where members of each choir will have the chance to ask the other questions.

**Awarded:** \$2500 by Draayer Youth Citizenship Fund**Grant Title: headphones for Chinese Immersion Classroom****Grant #40****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ann Kubusek**School/Building:** MME

**Summary:** I would love to have a classroom set of headphones to offer to students. I record myself reading text aloud so students can listen to the text being read to them. This is similar to a function in the English online textbook, TCI. However, many of my students do not have headphones needed to listen to the recordings.

**Awarded:** \$450**Grant Title: American Visual History Timeline in Chinese****Grant #51****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Ann Kubusek**School/Building:** MME

**Summary:** I want to have a visual timeline around my classroom in Chinese. Each poster would have the time period and essential question of the chapter in Chinese. These posters would be denoting the linear progression of American history.

**Awarded:** \$900**Minnetonka Middle School West****Grant Title: Middle School Woodshop Next-Gen Race Track****Grant #3****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Dustin Michel**School/Building:** MMW

**Summary:** Minnetonka West woodshop needs a new CO2 car race track in order to continue a cornerstone of the curriculum. The old track is barely functional and unsafe. It will need replacing by next year.

**Awarded:** \$1595**Grant Title: Meaning Through Memoirs**

**Grant #29****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Clare Latterell**School/Building:** MMW

**Summary:** This grant will help the 8th grade Language Arts department at MMW update and enrich the offerings available for memoirs connected to Independent Reading. By using any awarded funds, we can provide materials that reflect the rich diversity of our world, build social-emotional intelligence, and aid in relationship development through offering engaging and motivating materials to pick from!

**Awarded:** \$1000**Grant Title: Portable Sound System****Grant #46****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Carol Carlson**School/Building:** MMW

**Summary:** This grant will fund the purchase of a portable sound system. With fantastic sound quality and “effortless portability”, (along with other “goodies” such as bluetooth connectivity), this system will allow our students to “shine” wherever (Senior Citizen Home across the street, in class, outside etc), however, (vocals, instrumentals etc), and whenever! This system will not only be used for its microphone capabilities - Students’ creativity, curiosity and engagement will soar as they try their hands at other options such as creating, amplifying and collaborating on an iPad Air Band, Being a DJ etc!

**Awarded:** \$1047**Grant Title: Innovative Tools to Enhance Video Creation****Grant #47****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Sara Hunt**School/Building:** MMW

**Summary:** Innovative Tools to Enhance Video Creation supports teachers and students with the ability to create video content in a more agile professional manner. This tool allows for the visual tracking and accurate zooming to create videos of active demonstrations, showing a process, capturing something real time like music or drama presentations as well as guest speaker presenting to a large group. Using these tools adds the layer of professionalism and real time video that teachers and students would envision for their projects.

**Awarded:** \$312**Minnetonka High School****Grant Title: CS Software for MHS****Grant #1****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Nick Bahr**School/Building:** MHS

**Summary:** The computer science department at MHS would like to invest in new software and curriculum for a couple of classes. The purchase would be for Repli.it. This is an online tool that allows students to collaborate in real time with coding activities.

**Awarded:** \$1000**Grant Title: The National Parks: America's Best Idea DVD****Grant #6****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Gwynneth Wacker**School/Building:** MHS

**Summary:** Ken Burns' documentary on the national parks highlighting 5 beloved parks in the United States addressing concepts of history, ecology and democracy and the indigenous peoples of North America.

**Awarded:** \$215 by the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund



**Grant Title: Urban Mapping****Grant #13****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Quinn Montgomery**School/Building:** MHS**Summary:** This grant will provide a set of physical street maps for students to analyze as part of their Cities and Urban Land Use unit.**Awarded:** \$317 by the Minnetonka Alumnae Association Endowment Fund**Grant Title: MHS Commons Art Gallery Frames****Grant #25****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Jonathan Maki**School/Building:** MHS**Summary:** The MHS Art Department would like to install permanent frames called, "Dynamic Frames." These frames make it easy to switch artwork, therefore more students can have their work on display.**Awarded:** \$1117**Grant Title: High School Biology Electrophoresis System****Grant #34****Lead Teacher/Staff:** James Finch**School/Building:** MHS**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase the MiniOne Electrophoresis System Classroom Set. This would include all equipment needed to carry out hands-on gel electrophoresis labs (additional consumables to be purchased every year using department funds). Students will explore how genetics is currently used in modern animal conservation efforts.**Awarded:** \$2919**Vantage Program - Minnetonka High School****Grant Title: VANTAGE Inclusion Expansion****Grant #26****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Roger Andre**School/Building:** MHS, VANTAGE Facilities plus off-site meetings and site visits**Summary:** We are actively encouraging students from underrepresented communities (immigrant, BIPOC, other) to enroll at VANTAGE. Some of these students will need assistance with the professionalism requirements (primarily professional dress requirements) at VANTAGE. In prior years we have helped isolated cases through private donations. We expect greater need if our outreach efforts are successful.**Awarded:** \$2100**Multiple Elementary, Middle & High School****Grant Title: Wheelie Fun****Grant #42****Lead Teacher/Staff:** Kristin Goeser**School/Building:** MME, MHS**Summary:** Students with disabilities are 5x less likely to meet the CDC's physical activity recommendations than their same age peers. An adapted bicycle makes a lifetime skill accessible. Grant funds would be used to purchase one or two adapted bicycles of different sizes for students who need intensive support.**Awarded:** \$3614

**Grant Title: Digital Word Wall – Building K-12 Students’ Chinese Vocabulary Fluency**

**Grant #30**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Qingling Mendenhall

**School/Building:** Excelsior, Scenic Heights, MME, MMW, MHS

**Summary:** The past year proved that digital transformation is no longer just important – it is absolutely essential. How do we harness the power of digital technology to build a solid foundation in Chinese vocabulary fluency? Word Wall pro-account is a student-centered choice. It can turn one set of vocabulary words into 33 interactive games, allowing students to study the same words in a variety of engaging ways while progressing toward fluency.

**Awarded:** \$1360