

2019 Classroom Grant Summaries

Not in any specific order

Cuatro Esquinas

Walden Middle School Amy Holliday

The Larry Gardner Excellence in Education Grant

Cuatro Esquinas will break my classroom into stations to allow hands-on learning in a smaller setting.

- ¡Musica y tú! A station filled with music and instruments to help students learn to speak Spanish by first singing Spanish.
- ¿Donde en el Muendo? A hands-on discovery of Spanish speaking countries and their culture.
- ¡Amor a Leer! A reading station filled with picture books for students to use to learn Spanish culture, history and vocabulary.
- ¡El drama de la llama! A mini dialogue station where kids will act out situations in Spanish to practice vocabulary and fluency.

Sim City

English Landing Elementary Leah Peters, Kevin O'Connor, Cody Sanders

This project will teach students economic concepts through a cross-curricular, hands-on learning experience. Fifth grade classes will participate in a "Simulated City" at school. Students will design their own business, create a business plan, select and order products to sell, and develop knowledge of the concepts of business expenses, pricing, scarcity, and supply/demand. Students will act as consumers and producers throughout the program.

Celebrating Multicultural Literature by Providing Books

Prairie Point Elementary Kay Sharbono, Sarah Severn, Lyndsay Ryan

In an effort to promote Cultural Diversity in our classrooms, we hope to build libraries that include main characters from a variety of ethnic origins. We believe building a classroom library that celebrates all cultures, will be very motivating for our students. Students that see themselves in the stories they read, are more inclined to read more, and thereby, have the potential to develop stronger comprehension and fluency skills.

Panthers for Equity

Park Hill South High School Andy Schuerman

The Panthers for Equity team will be comprised of Park Hill South students who are trained and motivated to develop and implement a plan to address gaps in achievement and opportunity for students of color and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. By working in concert with similar efforts taking place with PHS staff members, synergy will be created to create a more inclusive and equitable school. This grant would help pay for student training to kick start these efforts along with materials needed to implement their plan, one that unifies and galvanizes Panthers for Equity!

Consciously Calm

Chinn Elementary DeNae' Bush

Sensory calming stations on each pod will be set-up to allow students who need a sensory based break to leave the classroom, choose an option, utilize it and return to the classroom. Hopefully, this will allow for students missing shorter periods of time from the classroom and to learn strategies to increase their ability to better manage their emotions and bodies.

French 4/5 AP Trip through Napoleon's Past!

Park Hill High School Hope McPheeters

We start preparing our students in French 4 & 5 for AP classes. This grant will allow these students to go to The Nelson Art Gallery on a teacher led tour of Napoleons's life through art- almost entirely in French. Beauty and Art is one of the six major themes on AP tests and this gives the real-world application these students need.

Literature as Windows and Mirrors in my Classroom

Prairie Point Elementary Sarah Mustoe

The grant funds will be used to purchase more diverse books to have available for my students as they independently work and apply skills taught in lessons. Having the texts readily available in my class will help build a culture within my classroom that shows I BELIEVE in the lessons and characters presented in the texts. I know my students come from a wide and beautiful variety of backgrounds and experiences, and I want to do all I can to celebrate them.

Graphic Novels for Young Readers

Renner Elementary

Kristine Shuey

My mission is to prove that all kids can love reading! I am building my classroom library to include more highly engaging graphic novels for young readers to help close the reading gap of struggling readers while the gap is the smallest in First Grade.

Panther Voice

Park Hill South High School

Barb Kauble, Jennifer McLaughlin

The newly re-imagined Park Hill South High School Library Media Center believes today's library media center is more than just books. Our goal is to leverage technology which allows for students to find their authentic voice on endless topics and ideas. Students will plan and produce engaging projects through authentic learning experiences that reinforce skills needed by today's global students.

Task Boxes

Russell Jones Center

Jean Cruse

Task boxes are a structured system allowing students to work independently on a task in a supportive environment. The system begins with work tasks set up on a schedule based learning to let the student know what to do first and next. Depending on the student's level, this schedule can be done using icons or a checklist. Individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities frequently spend a great deal of time with high levels of support throughout their school day. This system will promote their ability to independently complete the tasks which is a critical component for preparing the students to be life ready.

Motivating the Reluctant At Home Reader

Prairie Point Elementary

Megan Brown, Amy Heckenbach, Angie Timm, Shannon Carroll

Research indicates intermediate age struggling readers are reading 5 times less than their peers. Why? It is difficult for them to find texts they can read on topics that interest them. They select texts much too difficult for them because they want to have books that look mature like their peers. Chapter books with age appropriate interests and low readability text, for home and school, are perfect for students to bridge the gap that exists in their reading and ultimately impacts all other content areas.

A Sensory Path to Success

Tiffany Ridge Elementary Lauren Franklin, Anne Miller

A sensory path is a physical activity made up of vinyl stickers that would be placed in one of the upstairs pods at Tiffany Ridge. The path of stickers consists of various activities for students to complete, such as jumping, clapping and balancing. The goal of the sensory path is to provide a quick, simple gross motor activity for our students at Tiffany Ridge with sensory needs so students can be more successful during their school day.

Finding Our Geographic Place in the World

Lakeview Middle School Kurtis Werner

The 7th Grade Bridges will be studying Geography next year and we want interactive (not just technological) items such as political wall maps, world atlases, and laminated desk maps to help illuminate young scholars minds about their place in the world. Students will be able to use maps to develop comprehensive knowledge of global viewpoints on social, political, and economic reasons for changes across the world. Students will use the atlases for perspectives on natural environment, major economic activities, social interaction based on location, and even climatic change.

Motivating Readers for a Successful Future

Prairie Point Elementary Pam Carver

Research indicates struggling readers are reading 5 times less than their peers. Why? Because these students usually select texts much too difficult for them. They want to have books that look like their peers. Chapter books with age appropriate interests and low readability text, for home and school, are perfect for students to bridge the gap that exists in their reading and ultimately impacts all other content areas.

Fostering Social and Emotional Learning

Walden Middle School Christy Weymuth

Research suggests that allowing students to have choices in the books they read helps them become more engaged readers. Introducing new books that relate to teen social and emotional learning is important in today's world. Book club libraries that incorporate books including social and emotional topics is a way to personally connect students with experiences that further foster their academic and social learning.

Dash into Coding

Line Creek Elementary Kari Holub

Computational thinking affects all areas of student learning. While not all students will become computer programmers, coding helps to develop computational thinking strategies in fun and exciting ways. What better way to teach concepts of computational thinking and coding than with robots. This grant will equip the Makerspace with Dash robots for the use of all Line Creek students.

Inquiry Learning in the Math Classroom

Lakeview Middle School Sarah Majors

Manipulatives are hands on tools and games that allows students to visualize difficult math concepts. Learning becomes both fun and relevant and the use of manipulatives supports students in building the important math foundation needed for further success at both the high school and college levels.

Uncovering Our LEAD Emerging Leaders

LEAD Innovation Center Niki Scott, Kelsey Jury

As Emerging Leaders facilitators at LEAD, we have partnered with Uncover KC (a non-profit) to give students hands-on leadership experiences through the lens of community and service. Students identify their passions and then put those passions to work by partnering with local businesses and organizations. All freshman at the LEAD Innovation Studio take Emerging Leaders. Through this partnership students have communicated they have a better understanding of social issues, feel more connected to their community, and report feeling more confident about their leadership skills.