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 **Early Childhood and Family Education**

**Building Readers—Literacy Beginnings**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Ann Ricketts**

**Summary:**  This grant provides books three times a year to school readiness and scholarship students. The purpose is to promote a culture of literacy within homes by providing books to families, which will hopefully encourage meaningful experiences through which children can engage in the process of acquiring early literacy skills. Families will receive the books, questions to engage conversation about the books and information about pre-literacy education.

***Awarded: $327***

**Clear Springs Elementary School**

**Take a Look at a Book**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Joan Larson**

**Summary:** Incorporating lessons studied by 5th grade in the Architecture unit, students will incorporate the theme of "needs influence design" into the final product(s). They will expand their vocabulary by learning buttresses, arches, corbel, arcade, and other terms related to architecture. Using practical approaches to solve real world and/or classroom problems allow for empathy toward the problem and differences of student perspectives.

***Awarded: $400***

**Two Countries – One Classroom**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Delette Lemon**

**Summary:** For four school years, students have connected with schools, students and staff from Awutu Mannkessim, Ghana. This grant provides supplies that will enable both schools to work on projects simultaneously and then to discuss the project via Skype. This helps to further develop the relationship between the students at each school and build more cultural awareness.

***Awarded: $1,000 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

**Qball**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jaime Bolanos**

**Summary:** Qball Microphones assist in student communication and language skills as well as student engagement. The Qball is a microphone embedded in a soft, foam ball. The intent is students will use this microphone when it is their turn to speak and their voices will be projected around the room. The ball, which is designed to be passed or tossed around, will also help students follow the conversation visually, track the speaker and stay engaged in the discussion.

***Awarded: $1,074***

**Calming Kindergarteners**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Rachel Kehagias**

**Summary:**  This grant will provide Yoga Calm curriculum to Kindergarten classrooms, with the intent that after the initial weeks with the instructor, the teachers can then refer to and utilize the strategies learned. The curriculum was developed by a veteran elementary school counselor and aims at meeting the physical, mental and social-emotional needs of kindergarten students. Students will learn techniques to focus, self-regulate, develop confidence and enthusiasm for learning and working together.

***Awarded: $2,400***

 **Deephaven Elementary School**

**Social and Emotional Learning Boost**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennissa Schommer**

**Summary:** Social and emotional support curriculum and corresponding materials will be purchased for use in a 1st grade classroom to provide enrichment to current Social Thinking and Bullying Prevention curriculum. The ultimate goal is for children to develop a healthy sense of self and positive peer relations that will continue throughout their lives. This will happen through lessons on emotions, empathy, friendship, respect and other related topics.

***Awarded: $128***

**Reading Enrichment Materials**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennissa Schommer**

**Summary:** Funds from this grant will purchase Ready2Read, a fun hands-on Reading Program that will get kids excited about reading! It is an interactive packet with word families and sight words—commonly used words that kids will learn to recognize instantly instead of having to decode them. Coupled with phonics, this helps to build strong, confident and fluent readers.

***Awarded: $287***

**Lights, No Camera, Action! Light Table Learning**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennissa Schommer**

**Summary:** This grant will fund a light table, sensory tray and play materials to be used in a first grade classroom, to incorporate play along with academic objectives in reading and math. Students will be able to use the materials to count, add and subtract as well as to manipulate the materials to create words. Its use will help students learn important foundational skills for future learning.

***Awarded: $500***

**Guided Math**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Chelsey Skogerbo**

**Summary**: Guided Math resources and curriculum provided by this grant use research-based instructional strategies to teach “just right” math to each and every student thereby reaching more students so that each can achieve his/her next skill level.

***Awarded: $630***

**Guided Math for Second Grade Students**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Rachel Norton**

**Summary:** Guided Math enables personalization of students’ learning in math. Students will be placed in small groups with differentiated instruction to meet individual needs. This grant will provide materials—games, counters, manipulatives and other resources to engage and motivate students, allowing the teacher to meet with and teach small groups, while other students are using these materials to master math skills.

***Awarded: $650***

**Speed Stacking—Brain and Body**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Samantha Bauchle**

**Summary:**  This grant will provide equipment for Speed Stacking for use in physical education instruction and in classroom settings for brain and motor breaks. In addition to being great fun for students, there are many positive outcomes of speed stacking, including increased self-esteem, improved hand-eye coordination, improved bilateral coordination, increased brain/body connection and improved reading scores!

***Awarded: $700***

**Excelsior Elementary School**

**First Grade STEM Station**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Kristie Remick**

**Summary:**  This grant will provide materials to create a classroom STEM station. Students will have opportunities to design and build bridges, vehicles and houses and then will be able to test their structures. The STEM station will also provide hands on learning experiences with objects in motion, magnets, ramps and buoyancy. Life-long skills, such as discovery, team-work, communication and creative thinking will be utilized.

***Awarded: $1,500***

**Musical Rainbow**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Catherine Harding**

**Summary:** J.D. Steele has led various music residencies at elementary, junior high and high schools throughout the country. Students will learn ways to incorporate movement, clapping, rhythm and singing. They will also learn vocal exercises. The learner outcomes are reflected in increased self-confidence and individualism as our students learn to perform in ways they didn't know they could. J.D. will devote two weeks of his time to the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade levels.

***Awarded: $4,000***

**Groveland Elementary School**

**Little Idea, Big Difference**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Grace Mevissen**

**Summary:** This grant will use critical literacy to promote social justice through book clubs. Students will participate in book clubs, reading and discussing humane-centered books. They will then move to “solutionary” next steps, creating solutions to problems they have read about. Students will try to persuade each other of the economical, practical and beneficial reasons their proposal should be chosen. The top group(s) will then have seed money for their solution to be carried out by the community.

***Awarded: $1,000 from the Youth Citizenship Fund***

**Minnewashta Elementary School**

**Student Well-being Library: Supporting the Whole Child**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Mandy Mattke**

**Summary:** This grant will fund a social emotional learning (SEL) library accessible to teachers for use with their students to increase positive social behaviors and attitudes, empathy, teamwork and academics. This will be accomplished using calming tools and read aloud books for classroom libraries and classroom lessons. In addition, supplementary curriculum targeted toward SEL learning needs is included for whole group and small group intervention.

***Awarded: $1,165***

**Art Room on Wheels**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Christin Congdon**

**Summary:**  This grant will provide a mobile art room for Minnewashta, allowing students to learn to set up, take care of and put away materials, teaching self-reliance and responsibility. It will allow the traveling art teacher to have all supplies in a specific, portable, space that can be wheeled to multiple classrooms in a day.

***Awarded: $1,500 by the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment***

**Scenic Heights Elementary School**

**Improving Executive Function (EF) Skills in the Classroom**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Qingling Mendenhall**

**Summary:** This grant provides tools to enable teaching of Executive Function (EF) skills to students and the training of other teachers. Academically, EF skills facilitate memory, decision-making, planning and prioritizing tasks/steps in larger projects, and maintaining focus to complete said tasks/steps/projects. Attending to and facilitating growth in EF is thereby associated with both short- and long-term learning and academic performance. Research has also shown that EF promotes the development of stable/positive personal- and interpersonal-workings (in individual mental health and peer relationships).

***Awarded: $400***

 **Chinese Character Stroke Order Practice App**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Hui Yu**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase an app for use in K-2 Chinese immersion classrooms. It will allow students to practice stroke order in forming 300 high frequency characters in the Chinese language in a game play format. This practice will help lead to mastery which will give them a solid foundation for writing in higher grades.

***Awarded: $540 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

**Social Emotional Learning Library**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Angie Elliott**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase books, updating the library of social emotional books at Scenic Heights. The new titles will address current social emotional issues, represent the current teaching language and support and expand the social emotional lessons currently being used in all classrooms, both English and Chinese.

***Awarded: $958***

**IPen with Chinese reading materials and social emotional learning Chinese reading materials for the K-3 Chinese immersion program**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Hui Yu**

**Summary:** This grant provides K-3 immersion students language support in reading fiction, non-fiction and pinyin texts in different levels. The materials foster independent reading by providing a tool to help students overcome their lack of vocabulary and pinyin skills, thereby helping to build lifelong learner reading skills and whole-child development.

***Awarded: $1,200***

**Pedal to Success!**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jeanne Krake**

**Summary:**  Objectives are to teach reading, writing, and math in small groups or with individuals while students are pedaling. The students will be encouraged to build social skills and friendships during breakout times while doing science experiments, playing thinking games, or creating projects together while pedaling on a daily basis. Staff could bring individual students or small groups of students into my classroom for motor breaks, instruction, or student learning time when my students are at specials, recess, and lunch.

**Awarded: $2,800**

 **Multiple Schools**

**Colored Choir Hand Chimes**

**Schools: Clear Springs and Scenic Heights**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Kimball**

**Summary:** These hand chimes expand the curriculum of reading music and provide a new experience that is student engaging and fun. All students will read from left to right on a score (as they do when reading a book) and see their colored note on the Smart board and play at the accurate time. They will hear the correct sounds when they play their pitch and it will create a choir that all students can be a part of, which inspires teamwork and musicality. Students will share their musical product with others and will be able to self-critique their performances.

***Awarded: $1,440 from Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment***

**Putting The “Play” Back in Playground**

**Schools: Clear Springs, Excelsior, Groveland and Minnewashta**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Erin Michael**

**Summary:** Meaningful “play” with peers teaches a child how to move their body (due to the physical movement involved in play), how to communicate (due to the expressive and receptive language needed to converse with peers) and how to socially engage (due to the dynamic back and forth nature of play with peers) with others. This project provides a “To-Go Play Pack” that will include a variety of adaptive play equipment and games that can easily be taken outside by staff members supervising recess. During recess, students with special needs are able to choose which item/game they would like to use and then invite their peers to play with them. The adaptive play equipment includes items that are easy to use (even by those students with physical disabilities) and the adaptive games necessitate peer-to-peer interaction in their use.

***Awarded: $5,940***

**Chinese Immersion Author Event featuring Ying Compestine**

**Schools: Excelsior and Scenic Heights**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Erin Carcamo**

**Summary:** Author and chef Ying Compestine has written over 20 books for children, young adults and adults including cookbooks. Compestine will present to grades K-2 her inspiration for her picture books, highlights of her life as a writer, and her story growing up in China (emphasizing the rich culture and delicious food that are main themes in her work). Ying will present to Excelsior Elementary and Scenic Heights Elementary Chinese immersion students. She will present to students in Mandarin offering our immersion students a much needed and unique experience. In addition, a private cooking class with Ms. Compestine will be provided for the parent population.

***Awarded: $3,460 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund* and *$4,040 from MPSF***

**Minnetonka Middle School East**

**PE Journals for MME Staff**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Kieran Monaghan**

**Summary:** The intent is to subscribe as a department to SHAPE AMERICA, which allows staff to examine current trends and practices in PE and use these ideas to develop new or modify existing content areas. They publish two journals (*Journal of PE and Dance* and *Strategies*- *A Journal for Physical and Sport Educators*) that would help the PE department grow and progress, for a total of 15 publications per year. The journals could provide ideas to develop, similar to those that might be found at workshops or conferences. Staff can read and discuss these articles as a department and formulate ideas that will help our curriculum develop and move forward.

***Awarded: $264***

**Fitness Equipment**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Stacie Olson**

**Summary:** Physical activity brings a sense of purpose and value, a better quality of life, improved sleep and reduced stress. By providing a weight room at MME, offering equipment for both students and staff to utilize, we can promote living a healthy lifestyle. With equipment that is safe and usable we are able to teach students the benefit of living a healthy lifestyle. Students will be able to identify safety issues, explain methods of monitoring levels of intensity during aerobic activities, set goals and learn the basic fundamentals of weight training and conditioning.

**Awarded: $3,500**

 **Minnetonka Middle School West**

**Microscope Mounts: Take a Closer Look at the Microscopic World**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Todd Noel**

**Summary:**  This grant will purchase cell phone microscope mounts to be used in 7th grade science classrooms. The advantages of this kind of mount are that they improve viewing, provide a larger viewing area and allow students to record images/video from under the microscope. The photos/video can then be used for lab assessments and to share their findings with other students. Better viewing will likely increase student engagement and their learning experience.

***Awarded: $400***

**NA Robotics Drone Experience**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Fred Stock**

**Summary:**  The purpose of this grant is to give students engaging and innovative exposure to real world STEM ideas and to connect them to possible careers in the field. NA Robotics will bring a pair of industrial drones, rigged with special sensors, to MMW and will fly a mission over and around the school. Students will be able to observe on a large monitor what happens on an inspection mission.

***Awarded: $500***

**Manikin Mania**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jen Syverson**

**Summary:**  The American Heart Association has updated their requirements for certification to include compression feedback. This funding provides manikins that give compression depth feedback. This allows the students taking CPR to know if they are pushing hard enough to circulate oxygenated blood to the brain in the event of an emergency.

***Awarded: $1,800***

**Minnetonka High School**

**Guest Speaker Honorarium**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Sonia Labs**

**Summary:** This grant will allow us to bring in guest speakers to supplement the study of drama and literature. Students in these courses will hear from and interact with practitioners -- authors, actors and directors -- about their craft. Having the opportunity to interact with professionals in the field of literature and drama will give students insight into the world of artistic creation.

***Awarded: $500***

**Histology Update for Human Anatomy and Physiology**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Amy Sommers**

**Summary:**  The intent of this grant is to update and increase the collection of prepared microscope slides for Human Anatomy and Physiology classes. Students will use the microscope slides during every human body system unit, allowing them to visualize cells, tissue and organs. This will facilitate increased understanding of the functions of the specialized cells and the organization and interdependence of organ systems in humans.

***Awarded: $510***

**Hands on Electricity in Physical Science with Snap Circuits**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Joe Cossette**

**Summary:**  This grant will be used to purchase components for custom circuit kits that support content standards in physical science and physics curriculums. These materials will provide students with hands on experiences, creating and analyzing the circuit designs they are studying.

***Awarded: $1,100***

**Intercultural Competence Training**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Sarah Strauss**

**Summary:**  The intent of this grant is to implement the Intercultural Development Plan in the Spanish 5 curriculum. It will help to facilitate differentiated curriculum to increase cultural competency, part of the Global Learning Instructional Framework goal. The tools gained with this material will also be shared with the rest of the World Language program and the International Studies and immersion travel programs.

***Awarded: $1,210***

**Geiger Counters for 9th Grade Physical Science, Physics, and Chemistry**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Russ Durkee**

**Summary:** This grant will purchase Geiger Counters to help students learn more effectively about radioactivity. Geiger Counters can identify and measure the amount of radioactivity in common everyday materials such as food, rocks or antique china and to compare the ability of paper, aluminum or lead to shield the three types of radiation.

***Awarded: $1,942***

**Books for Breakfast**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Ann Kaste**

**Summary:**  B4B will provide a welcoming forum for all MHS students to read and discuss selected high interest young adult titles. This grant will purchase books for the participating students. The goals for the program are to inspire lively conversation around book themes and to promote the pleasure of reading a book for enjoyment and enlightenment, something that high school students do not often make the time to do.

***Awarded: $2,000***

 **All Schools**

**Park Nicollet Growing Through Grief Stress Reduction Tool Kit**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Donna Dahl**

**Summary:** The grant funds a Stress Reduction Tool Kit for the Minnetonka Grief Counselor to use in peer support groups, during individual sessions and while supporting crisis events, such as a death of a classmate. The kit is used by a trained counselor to teach students alternative ways to manage stress while navigating the emotions related to grief and loss.

***Awarded: $759***

**Design for Learning**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Nicole Snedden**

**Summary:** The Design for Learning district-wide innovation project empowers Minnetonka students, staff, and community to transform teaching and learning through the design of the learning environment. Now in the third year of fund allocation, Design for Learning promotes the exploration of physical spaces and how we utilize them for learning and is now exploring the Human Centered Design process as it pertains to innovation and District priorities.

***Awarded: $5,000***