



The District 200 Education Foundation

proudly announces the

2010 Mini Grant Awards

November 17, 2010

“Making Things Happen That Ordinarily Would Not”

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District 200 Education Foundation 2010 Mini Grant Recipients

Fairy Tale Theatre (\$500)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly Hansen and Marcos Gomez

This is a theatre project in a 50/50 dual language kindergarten classroom. The students will be investigating theatres and performing a play in their second language. We focus on oral development at this age, which is the first step in order to become bilingual in the future.

"Back By Popular Demand.....The Polar Express" (\$250)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Lori Tillman

During the month of December, Ms. Tillman's kindergarten class will be reading the popular children's book titled *The Polar Express*. The children will bring the story to life by dressing in their pajamas and going on a train ride. We will pretend that we are going to the North Pole (to Harvard and back to Woodstock) on the Metra train. Once we arrive to Woodstock we will be greeted by Santa and have cookies and hot chocolate at the Trax Cafe. Santa will give each child a silver bell, just like the story. After our polar Express train ride adventure, we will create our own polar express trains out of milk cartons in the classroom.

Pilot Reading Program for Dean Street Special Education Students (\$339)

Dean Street Elementary School

Scott Becker

Up to 12 students who receive Special Education services will pilot a research-based, comprehensive, nationally recognized literacy program to increase their early literacy skills by being provided systematic, individualized instruction through the use of interactive, multisensory software titled *Earobics Connections*.

Way Back Then (\$715)

Dean Street Elementary School

Nancy Heitz

As the fifth grade studies this era in Social Studies, a field trip to Midway Village brings it to life. On behalf of the fifth grade team, I am applying for a grant to fund our field trip to Midway Village in Rockford for a program we call "Way Back Then". As part of the fifth grade social studies curriculum, students study about the colonization and expansion periods in the U.S. Nothing brings this historical period to life and links to what we have been learning in the classroom like a field trip to Midway Village.

Battle of The Books (\$134)

Dean Street Elementary School

Rita Kaminski

In the Battle of the Books project, 4th and 5th grade participants get to read new and exciting books and some classic books. They learn to work together as a team by sharing ideas, discussing books, and trusting others. They commit 4 months to this project, and it becomes a labor of love for them.

Kindle Buddies (\$625)

Dean Street Elementary School

Maureen K. Butler

Some of Dean Elementary School's students caught being good will choose a reading buddy and an adult to read with at school. They will then select one of three Kindles to use which will have downloads of leveled books of high interest. This is part of our school-wide behavior plan.

PebbleGo-Earth and Space (\$395)

Dean Street Elementary School

Rita Kaminski, Debra Yarc, Michelle Stilling, Kathy Powell, Robin Grover, Judy Foszcz, Kelly Mitchell, Araseli Garcia, Marie Nikitovich, Maureen Butler, Jane Wise, Lisa Czarny-Hyrkas, Nancy Heitz, Lauren Cisneros and Sue Oberman.

The PebbleGo-Earth and Space Project is an interactive technology tool that can be used by all grades and reading levels to help the students understand the properties of Earth and Space. It allows the students to use the same programs at home and school.

Activities to Enhance Reading Instruction: Phonemic Awareness, Sight Word Recognition and Word Building (\$465)

Dean Street Elementary School

Susan Oberman and Debra Yarc

Manipulatives are designed to enhance reading instruction by promoting activity-based learning. They can be used during whole group and small group instruction or as center activities during guided reading. These devices will help students hear the sounds in words, recognize high frequency words and learn word patterns.

Chapter Books for Champion Readers (\$200)

Greenwood Elementary School

Susan Bulicek

This project would supply my classroom with popular first grade chapter book series. This year in my new role as first grade teacher, I have six students whose reading levels are significantly above grade level. Having these books will keep my advanced reading students challenged and motivated.

Fantastic Phonemic Phenomenon (\$702)

Greenwood Elementary School

Patti Williams

Earobics is a computer software program that addresses the reading skills of phonemic awareness and phonics. This program will be used with at risk first and second grade students and special education students. Since it can be reused, as children progress and exit, other students can be added.

Readers' Theater All Around (\$400)

Greenwood Elementary School

Lauren Collen

Readers' Theater All Around provides Greenwood Elementary students with a program that integrates oral reading, literature, and the performing arts during our reading intervention block, "Talon Time." Using leveled scripts from many genres, students practice and refine their oral reading and comprehension skills using this research-based strategy.

Poetry Workshop and Literary Journal (\$265)

Greenwood Elementary School

Laura Summers, Sarah Sabo, Ted Hazelgrove

This second grade poetry program will include a workshop co-facilitated by a teacher from McHenry County College. The students' poetry and illustrations will be compiled in a literary journal and printed in color for each student. The project will culminate with a poetry reading for the parents.

Studying the Past and Contributing to the Future of Our Community (\$670)

Greenwood Elementary School

V. Gay Mather

A class of 4th and 5th grade students is studying the history of Greenwood Township and comparing the local history to that of our nation. Their goal is to present their research by submitting a nomination to the McHenry County Road Commission Committee of Historic Preservation in order that Greenwood Township would have a road designated as a Scenic Drive.

Learning Around The World (\$255)

Mary Endres Elementary School

Ann Vanderbyl

Project summary not available.

Mustang Big Give (\$315)

Olson Elementary School

John Rigby, Cindy Palmer and Bernadine Tracy

The Mustang Big Give is a service learning project where our students will be given the opportunity to make a difference by donating at least \$10 (\$5 earned at home and a matching \$5 from D200 Education Foundation Grant) to a charity or organization of their choice.

Hooping To Be Healthy Friends (\$200)

Olson Elementary School

Kelly Steele and Kim McLaughlin

Obesity is at an all time high. This is a growing concern for educators. Overweight children are at greater risk of having health issues. Hula hooping can burn over 100 calories in 8 minutes and build muscle. We have demonstrated hula hooping to our students and they loved it. Traditional store-bought hula hoops are too light and small in circumference to keep up on their waist and gain the desired benefits. We would like to make and use the hoops with our classes. This is a fun activity that students will enjoy and get healthy with.

Increasing Phonemic Awareness with Earobics for First Grade (\$600)

Olson Elementary School

Kevin Bremer and Diana Frisbie

Earobics is a research-based literacy program that can be used with small groups or individuals. The software program includes assessment tools, a professional development component, and multi-sensory student activities that increase in complexity to meet the needs of early learners. Earobics would be a powerful, effective additional intervention for our reading program.

Dancing With the Mustangs (\$200)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Etnyre

Dancing With the Mustangs will provide a variety of opportunities for students to learn and appreciate the art of dance and various dancing styles through the use of instructional videos.

Lea con sus corazones: Reading with your heart. (\$350)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Parrent

Grant funds will allow Olson Elementary School's Spanish-speaking students to do exactly that – read what they find interesting. Research shows that free voluntary reading in a student's native language helps the student learn English. With this grant, students will be excited to read!

The Monarch and the Bluestem: Reading with Purpose (\$400)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Parrent

Olson Elementary School students will have an opportunity to participate in The Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Readers' Choice Award and The Bluestem Award: Illinois' Grades 3-5 Readers' Choice Award. After reading nominated books, students will vote for their favorites.

Read Today with Playaway (\$300)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Parrent

This project will introduce circulating audio books to Olson Elementary School's library. Compact and complete with lanyard and earphones, Follett Playaways will motivate students to read more, expand their reading levels, offer a way for reluctant readers to experience books, and provide language modeling for English language learners.

Launch and Learn (\$551)

Olson Elementary School

Heather Collins, Renée Simes, Stephanie Plourde, Pablo Pomares

Third grade students will be construct and launch their very own rockets. In conjunction with our study of spaceflight, the students will apply the physics of flight and blast off over Olson field. It will be a learning experience they will never forget!

Interactive Education (\$799)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Kathy Rickard and Ashley Aldridge

The goal of the Interactive Education project is to pilot the MimioTeach Interactive Whiteboard System in a 1st/2nd grade classroom, with the intention of expanding this method of teaching and learning throughout the remaining five primary classrooms within two years, and throughout the entire school in the next five years.

Perfect Partners: Playaways and Books (\$400)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Ashley Aldridge

Perfect Partners will pair Playaway audiobooks and books for students and classrooms. Research shows audiobooks engage readers and increase language skills. This project will impact many learners, including special needs and ESL students, as well as reluctant and emerging readers at Prairiewood and throughout the entire district, via interlibrary loan.

Nuestra Biblioteca (Our Library) (\$450)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Susan Mancera

The Nuestra Biblioteca project will result in a student-run classroom Spanish library. To begin the project we need economical, interesting, and level appropriate Spanish books. The overall purpose of the project is to motivate students to read extensively in Spanish and share their reading with others.

Building My Community (\$150)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Shelley Corush

Project summary not available.

Let's Read Together!; Leamos Juntos! (\$600)

Westwood Elementary School

Margaret Jensen, Susan Mairet and Vicki Schmarje

This program will provide first and second grade students with leveled reading materials and writing activities to be completed at home with their parents or guardians. In addition, it will provide parents with resources to help develop enthusiastic fluent readers.

Everyone Can Write! (\$713)

Westwood Elementary School

Courtney Deering and Lynn Palek

Everyone Can Write! is a grant designed to help young students develop their writing voice. Our goal is to encourage first grade students as writers by developing their creativity and writing skills. Through the use of engaging, high-quality trade books and author studies, a love of writing will be born!

The PADS Project: Helping to Feed the Homeless (\$350)

Westwood Elementary School

Robert B. Teuber

Westwood 5th grade students, working in conjunction with the local Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) site, will plan, purchase, and assemble lunches for the residents of the local PADS site. The children will be experience a real-word lesson in helping others.

Westwood Wee Deliver (\$600)

Westwood Elementary School

Tammy Ortmann and Wendy Wicker

Wee Deliver is an important part of the Westwood School community. This unique program allows students to have an “in-school” work experience as well as provides leadership opportunities for students. We are asking for funding to purchase materials to support the Wee Deliver program and upgrade supplies in need of replacement.

March Math Madness – Instruction and Intervention (\$400)

Westwood Elementary School

Jodie McGovern and Diana Frisbie

“March Math Madness” provides a unique opportunity for a building-wide focus on increasing math fluency. The purchase of GREAT LEAPS, a research-based program with components for staff development, leveled lessons, student practice, and progress monitoring will allow us to implement an intense intervention to increase math fluency and support staff with motivational materials and strategies.

Improving Reading Scores in Low Lit. Prep. Using Phonics (\$800)

Creekside Middle School

Julie Stone

Recognizing that there is a need for a comprehensive middle school remedial phonics program, this grant will fund a program titled Phonics Blitz. This program is designed for use at the middle school level and works to improve foundational reading skills for struggling students.

Read, Dream, Succeed (Reading Club) (\$450)

Creekside Middle School

Maria Angeles González

Literacy is an essential component to any educational program, especially dual language, with students learning in two different languages. To encourage daily reading habits, they will join a reading club that will provide them with the resources, encouragement, and motivation to read and share their reading experience.

The Joy of Reading – with Audiobooks! (\$677)

Creekside Middle School

Lisa Werhane

I plan to purchase audiobooks and texts for my intervention reading class. Listening to audiobooks while following along in the book has been proven to develop fluency and comprehension and I believe that it will improve their attitudes towards reading so that they can, indeed, experience the joy of reading.

Life Skills Related Arts (\$350)

Creekside Middle School

Lisa Czyz

The Life Skills Program serves students with special needs in sixth through eighth grade. The program’s educational focus is on functional and vocational skills including cooking, health, art, and nutrition. Funds will be used for supplies such as craft kits, as well as basic art supplies, including paint, glue, glitter, paint brushes, modeling clay, and paper. In addition, funds will also be used to purchase food items for cooking projects.

Camp Timberlee Scholarships (\$300)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon and Robert Rivera

The Education Foundation Grant will allow several students full and partial scholarships to attend Camp Timberlee in East Troy, Wisconsin. Northwood takes its annual trip to Camp Timberlee to provide an outdoor education experience including Archery, Wall-Climbing, Horseback-Riding, Canoeing, and many other activities.

Around the World with Food (\$200)

Northwood Middle School

Gail Vanderpoel

"Around the World with Food" will incorporate social studies and math classes in cooking, shopping and research on foods from many cultures. Students will invite family members, staff and friends to partake in a variety of ethnic menus. This gives students an opportunity to work hard and learn in a unique manner.

Dual Language Research Partnership (\$625)

Northwood Middle School

Sue Totz

Project summary not available

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) – Taking PRIDE to the Next Level (\$500)

Northwood Middle School

Jake Wakitsch

PBIS – Taking PRIDE to the Next Level is an incentive/reward program at Northwood Middle School that helps to improve student behavior in the hallways and classrooms by teaching our Positive Behavior Matrix and by providing fun activities and rewards for our students for Making Good Choices.

Northwood Middle School Veteran's Day Program (\$600)

Northwood Middle School

Caroline Wienke and Gail Vanderpoel

Since 2001, Northwood Middle School has helped to honor our veteran's with our Veteran's Day program. This includes language arts projects, social studies projects, school-wide decorations, veterans as classroom speakers, a reception for the veterans and finally, the assembly celebrating those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

Starlab Comes to Northwood! (\$300)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon

Starlab instruction allows students to visit the nighttime sky in the middle of a school day. It is provided through the rental of Starlab equipment. It is irreplaceable for teaching sixth graders the fundamentals of star-hopping and basic astronomy, and instilling a love for the stars.

Don't Get Bored Get BOARD! Club (\$203)

Woodstock High School

Katherine Femal

Students are quite stimulated by all of the online technology we use. What also interests and stimulates students are Board Games. The WHS BOARD Club wants to go old school with gaming and bring back the competition and critical thinking skills of yore.

"The Garden" (\$700)

Woodstock High School

David Bliss, Sandra Brainard, William Donato, Helen Ledanski, WHS Green Club

The Green Club is excited to start a community garden on school property. This garden will consist of peaches, pears, fruits and vegetables. This garden will be utilized by the Green Club and science classes.

WHS Cartooning Club (\$250)

Woodstock High School

Elon Shaffer and Matthew Sullivan

The grant will fund expansion of the Woodstock High School Cartooning Club to include a role-playing component. Funds will purchase textbooks and guides for writing, drawing, and creating Dungeons and Dragons characters and worlds. They will also supplement diminishing art supplies and help fund low-income students' participation in events.

WHS Math Team (\$400)

Woodstock High School

Chelsea Baird and Marcy Wiebe

This grant will fund math team competitions throughout the year. The grant will also be used to fund food and lodging for those students who qualify for the State Math Team Competition on April 30, 2011.

Blue Streaks of Kindness (\$150)

Woodstock High School

Rebecca Aldridge and Melissa Toynton

The program we are seeking to implement is a service-learning project. The impact that a service-learning project(s) has on a student is valuable and beneficial to their overall sense of well-being. This is their opportunity to give something back and feel a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Carpe Diem (\$700)

Woodstock High School

Arthur E. Vallicelli

Carpe Diem is Woodstock High School's literary arts magazine, consisting entirely of student-submitted poetry, short fiction, and artwork. Carpe Diem has been in existence for 18 years, and with each year, develops a different visual and creative experience for the student body.

Puzzle Lunch Bunch (\$194)

Woodstock High School

Katherine Femal

This year we have had an amazing surge in puzzle use. Students are bonding over puzzles, and I want to encourage the camaraderie amongst the different social groups. Our club bolsters goodwill and spatial acuity skills! Puzzle building is calming and it brings about a sense of accomplishment.

Rifton Bike (\$875)

Woodstock North High School

Kim Muschong

The Life Skills Program is in desperate need of a Rifton Tricycle. This tricycle is an adaptive bike that provides a motivating means of improving leg and trunk strength, balance, lower extremity disassociation, and overall endurance. It is easily adjustable for various student needs and sizes. This bike comes equipped with an optional pull handle that would allow a caregiver to steer and pull the bike, while the student experiences the movement of the wheels and pedals.

Using an Audience Response System to Increase Student Engagement and Achievement (\$1000)

Woodstock North High School

Tonya L. Chambers

Using the system along with PowerPoint, students submit answers to interactive questions using a "Response Card" remote control that provides immediate feedback on the accuracy of each response. This system is a powerful, highly engaging data collection and assessment tool that has shown to significantly increase student participation and achievement.

Pilot E-book Program (\$796)

Woodstock North High School

Shana Van Grimbergen

This eBook project is designed to use technology to appeal to students and save costs. Using this system, students can not only read the text (available at both home and school) but also create electronic notes and share ideas in an online community of learners.

Garden Project (\$400)

Woodstock North High School

Amanda Harmer

As WNHS looks to a healthier future, the garden initiative will help teach students the valuable lessons of nutrition, environmental awareness, and teamwork through the development of the garden.

Science Olympiad/WYSE Competitions (\$845)

Woodstock North High School

Marianne Jahnke

Grant funds will be used for Science Olympiad/WYSE competitions. These are 2 academic competitions that will benefit not only Woodstock North students, but also the community. These funds will provide the opportunity for students to receive recognition in various academic areas through challenging but fun events.

Technology Based Mathematical Exploration with Graphing Calculators (\$735)

Woodstock North High School

Bernard Schmit and Carol Koltz

Woodstock North High School will implement a technology-based program using graphing calculators that will allow the various mathematics topics to be explored. The following areas are Geometry, Statistics, Probability, Graphical Analysis and Algebraic manipulations.

State of Illinois Math Competition at UIUC (\$400)

Woodstock North High School

Carol Koltz

The state of Illinois holds a statewide mathematics competition every year at the University of Illinois-Champaign on the first Saturday of May for all qualifying schools. The students will compete individually and on team events by taking very rigorous math exams.

Computer Integrated Manufacturing Materials (\$550)

Woodstock North High School

Matthew Sullivan

I am a career and Technology education teacher at Woodstock North High School, teaching a class named Computer Integrated Manufacturing which has a limited amount of material to manufacture. I currently have enough money to purchase machining material (steel) for either the CNC mill or the CNC lathe this year but not for both machines. The reason why is because there are minimal purchase amounts of material you can buy when purchasing steel bar stock or machinable wax bar stock. Giving students the opportunity to use both machines allows them to expand on their future endeavors.

Resource Room Reading Enrichment Program (\$232)

Woodstock North High School

Dan Michel

This project seeks to provide current periodicals for students to read when they are finished with school work in the Resource Study Hall, which is utilized by students with identified special education needs. The goal is to increase independent reading by providing material of interest to students for their leisure.

Cooking for Health and Independence (\$300)

Woodstock North High School Life Connections Transitions Program

Karla Nussbaum, Lorene Henning, and Sherrie Krzciuk

The Life Connections transition program views cooking skills and nutritional planning as an essential part of becoming independent in adult life. On cooking days we plan the menu, go shopping with our list, come back to the school and cook. After the meal is enjoyed we clean up our mess.

Connections to the Community (\$350)

Woodstock North High School Life Connections Transitions Program

Karla Nussbaum, Lorene Henning, and Sherrie Krzciuk

This grant will support our transition students in creating a partnership with the community. This includes public transportation training, jobsite and community resources exploration, independent skill practice and development, and self-advocacy training. Our goal is for this grant to support students in overcoming individual barriers thus helping them gain a higher level of independence.

Extending Life Skills to Real Life (\$300)

Prairiewood Elementary School and Creekside Middle School

Natia Hong, Jennifer Moskowitz, Cynthia Reynolds, Sarah Scholinsky, Jeanette Letmanski

The Extending Life Skills to Real Life project allows our Life Skills students to practice skills worked on in the classroom and incorporating them in real life situations.

Gross Motor Skill Enhancement Activities (\$600)

Prairiewood Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Olson Elementary, Mary Endres Elementary and Creekside Middle Schools

Cory Knopik

The Adapted Physical Education program offers students with special needs the same opportunities as their peers to develop gross motor skills in a Physical Education curriculum that is non-threatening and safe. These skills help to improve coordination, balance, flexibility, spatial awareness, and eye-hand/eye-foot coordination, cross lateral skills, cardiovascular and muscular endurance so they may participate in life-long sport and/or recreation activities. Developing these fundamental gross motor skills also helps the students to navigate through their environment. Participating in sport and/or recreation programs is an essential part of a student's opportunity to further develop appropriate social skills. The purpose of my project is to provide these opportunities to my students with varying physical and intellectual abilities. The Adapted Physical Education equipment in my project will help me to further my student's gross motor skills.

Chasing Vermeer (\$348)

Dean Street Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Mary Endres Elementary, Olson Elementary, Prairiewood Elementary and Westwood Elementary Schools

Mary Klos

Project summary not available.

Chicago Architecture, the Richness of our City (\$600)

Dean Street Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Mary Endres Elementary, Olson Elementary, Prairiewood Elementary and Westwood Elementary Schools

Mary Klos

Project summary not available.

Challenge Me! (\$714)

Dean Street Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Mary Endres Elementary, Olson Elementary, Prairiewood Elementary and Westwood Elementary Schools

Lynne Blumhorst

The 'Challenge Me' program goal is to improve and master grade level math skills. The after school Kids Club students will use the resources independently. They will work at their own pace increasing skill mastery.

Capture That (\$161)

Creekside Middle School and Northwood Middle School

Joan Grandrath.

"Capture That" will use digital camera technology to record and preserve projects initiated by D200's Junior Achievement groups from Creekside and Northwood Middle Schools. Students will be able to capture, edit and take ownership of photographs used in community service projects as well as District wide events.

Lab Ratz Present Science Snacks (\$400)

Creekside Middle School and Northwood Middle School

Jennifer Messmer

Eighth grade Challenge Corps students as "Lab Ratz" will present exciting physical science demonstrations to district sixth grade students.

Improving Adolescent Foundational Literacy Skills Through Phonics Instruction (\$800)

Creekside Middle School and Northwood Middle School

Courtney Havens

There is a need for a comprehensive middle school remedial phonics program, and these grant funds will go to a program titled Phonics Blitz. This program is designed for use at the middle school level and works to improve foundational reading skills for struggling students.

Recording Weekly Technique Assessment for Band Students (\$540)

Woodstock High School and Woodstock North High School

Cody Halberstadt

This project is designed to maximize the efficiency of individual performance assessment in band class. Students will use Zoom H2 recording devices to record their weekly individual technical etude in class to be assessed by band staff.

Woodstock CUSD 200 Special Olympics (\$500)

All D200 Schools

Jennifer Moskowitz and Cory Knopik

The Woodstock CUSD #200 Special Olympics Team allows our students with intellectual disabilities opportunities to participate in sport events that their same age peers are participating in.