

District 200 Education Foundation 2013 Mini Grant Recipients

Looking at the World in New and Different Ways (\$337.75)

All Elementary Schools

Mary Klos, Gigi Carlson, Mini Woodard

One of the major objectives in Challenge Corps is to encourage students to “Look at the World in New and Different Ways.” With the implementation of microscopic study, students will have the opportunity to examine both living and non-living specimens in “New and Different Ways.” Specific scientific skills will be developed by students as they collect data, analyze and compare specimens, as well as discuss results within the Challenge Corps class.

“App”lying Technology to Hearing and Listening Skills (\$109.81)

All District Schools

Carol Schnulle

iPad apps will be used with students that have a hearing loss to increase their knowledge of disability, auditory skill development, speech reading skills, writing skills, language and vocabulary development, self-advocacy skills and sign language acquisition. The use of this technology will support student IEP goals.

Woodstock CUSD 200 Special Olympics (\$385)

All District Schools

Jennifer Moskowitz, Cory Knopik

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

Berry Happy Students (\$219)

Clay Academy

Joan Grandrath

“Berry Happy Students” will allow students enrolled in Clay Academy’s summer school program the opportunity to visit McCann’s Berry Farm. Students will experience crop planting, care, and the chance to harvest their own strawberries to take home.

Language and Music (\$350)

Clay Academy

Elizabeth Donato

Students are typically exposed to musical instruments in their school setting. Currently Clay Academy does not have a music program and the young students do not have an opportunity to learn about music and associated vocabulary words. Exposing them to various music and musical instruments will improve their music vocabulary.

STEM Outreach Presentation (\$550)*Creekside Middle School*

Melinda Malo, Ryan Schmidt, Paul Petri

NIU's STEM Outreach Frontier Science Road Show provides exciting and engaging demonstrations that cover the eighth grade science curriculum. Students will be entertained while seeing real world applications of abstract physical science topics. The demo will leave students excited about the world of science, technology, engineering and math and the knowledge they gain will last a lifetime.

Extending Life Skills to Real Life (\$200)*Creekside Middle School*

Natia Hong, Jennifer Moskowitz, Stephanie Tate

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

Introducing Life Skills to Community Experiences (\$200)*Creekside Middle School*

Natia Hong, Jennifer Moskowitz, Stephanie Tate

The Introducing Life Skills to Community Experiences project allows our Life Skills students opportunities to visit community settings that they may not have the opportunity to visit with their families. It will help students learn the necessary functional skills needed to be contributing members of their community.

Teaching Functional Communication by Utilizing PECS (\$524)*Creekside Middle School*

Stephanie Tate

The Teaching Communication by Utilizing PECS will help our students to functionally communicate in the community, at home, and at school. This project will allow our students to be independent in multiple settings and in multiple instructional times by utilizing the PECS approach. The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a communication system designed to teach the following skills needed to effectively communicate: initiating communication, increasing length of utterances, discriminating and increasing vocabulary, and spontaneous requesting and commenting. PECS is both an augmentative and an alternative communication aid, which means it addresses the development of speech but does not take the place of a student's voice or decrease speech in any way.

Integrating Sensory Exploration Within the Classroom (\$700)*Creekside Middle School*

Jennifer Moskowitz

This project is integrating sensory exploration within the classroom to enhance academic performance by creating two areas in the room to meet the sensory needs of the students within the Life Skills Program.

Increasing Opportunities for Students to Functionally Control Their Daily Lives (\$500)*Creekside Middle School*

Katie Reilly, Jennifer Moskowitz

The purpose of this project is to obtain switches and devices that will enable students with profound communication and/or physical needs to interact with and control their environment more independently.

Dual Language Library Wing (\$150)*Creekside Middle School*

Daniel Aguilar

The D200 Education Foundation Grant for the Dual Language Library Wing is to provide Dual Language students with the resources and books to promote and encourage life long readers in the Spanish language.

Life Skills Related Art (\$200)*Creekside Middle School*

Lisa Czyz

We complete Art projects, Health, and Cooking. Art projects concentrate on both fine and gross motor activities. Health units are based on student needs (human body and functions, nutrition, exercise, community workers, etc). Friday Cooking utilizes recipes the students can do with minimal help to increase independence at home.

Best Buddies Middle Schools (\$400)*Creekside Middle School*

Julie Stone, Kat Mitchell, Joan Thomas

Best Buddies is an international friendship club designed to improve the school and community environment by promoting relationships between students with and without intellectual disabilities. In the last six years Creekside Middle School's program has grown to over 110 members. This successful program now continues at both Woodstock high schools.

GLAD in Literature Prep Classroom (\$150)*Creekside Middle School*

Julie Stone

I was trained last year in Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD). I really loved many of the strategies and thought that my lower level readers would benefit from the strategies. I would like to incorporate more of these strategies into my Literature Prep classes this year. My only problem is resources. I could not purchase the extra paper, clipboards, markers, or other supplies needed to create a Literature Prep GLAD classroom.

Life Skills & Target Related Arts (\$200)*Creekside Middle School*

Meg Coleman

The class is broken into four rotations: Art, Music, Health, and Culture/Foods. I would like to make this class meaningful for the students. Students will be exposed to more than just arts and crafts, letting them have an experience in Related Arts like their same aged peers.

Mosaic (\$500)*Creekside Middle School*

Jeriel McGinness

The Creekside Community Mosaic: Phase 3 is an all community (students, staff, family members of Creekside) mosaic installation in the main hall of Creekside Middle School. This mosaic will be created with the participation of over 800 community members creating ceramic tiles, cutting glass, and helping with the installation.

"SPEAKEASY III" (\$100)*Dean Street School*

Carla Voss

This project will utilize the iPad to promote speech and language skills with the bilingual students at Dean Street School. The iPad is an alternative for children with speech and language problems. Many young children are drawn to technology and are dependent upon it to succeed.

I'm Hungry, What's to Eat (\$100)*Dean Street School*

Pat Hackbart

This program is a hands-on program that will help children explore different types of foods and do basic recipes that they can use at home. This program is a continuation of the last year's program. The students enjoyed and learned a lot, however, still have much to learn about what foods can help them in school and what things they can make and eat at home to stay healthy.

Battling with Audio Books (\$242.23)*Dean Street School*

Rita Kaminski

Battling with Audio Books is a program that allows us to add the audio version of books to our program. Battling with Audio Books also allows students who read at a slow pace, and our bilingual students, to be part of a school program which asks the students to read 20 books and answer questions about those books.

Sensory Motor Kits (\$735.20)*Dean /Westwood Elementary Schools*

Pat Hackbart

Everyday tasks can be frustrating for children with sensory processing issues. They can be sensitive, active, distracted, clumsy, and disorganized. Using sensory strategies can help these students function in the classroom. The sensory kits will make available to 2nd through 5th grade teachers the sensory tools needed to help their students.

Pre-K Around The World (\$400)*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Beth Miller and Alyssa Di Guido

Pre-K Around the World promotes multicultural awareness. Preschool students will explore different cultures, traditions, and cultures as they participate in their early childhood curriculum. This includes diverse materials including posters of multiethnic families and people of different abilities. It also includes puzzles, dolls, and play people as dress up clothes representing the cultures of the world promoting diversity and acceptance of all people.

Increasing Multiple Skills Through Technology (\$475)*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Karen McPheron

With the generous donation from the District 200 Education Foundation, our Pre-School TARGET CLASS will benefit from new and innovative technology tools. These tools will increase skills, such as independence, pre-academics, vocabulary comprehension, language, auditory/visual attending skills and will provide support needed to complete the school's Pre-K assessment.

Around the World in 28 Days: A Cultural Book Study (\$245.70)*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Kelly Edge, Laura Bianchi, Kimberly Hansen

Around the World in 28 Days will provide a set of authentic multicultural books to be shared among all Dual Language Kindergarten classes. Purchasing books in both Spanish and English will help students learn about the cultures of their peers, while also meeting the Common Core standards.

Reading in the Real World (\$450)
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center
Phyllis Lesniak

Kindergarteners at Dierzen Early Learning Center will be reading more non-fiction books as mandated by the Common Core State Standards. Independent reading books with vivid, engaging photographs and themes will be purchased to meet the emphasis on informational text, and to motivate students as they read books to which they relate.

Animals 2x2 Trip to Petco (\$82.50)
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center
Toby Parker-Goad

Kindergarten students complete a unit of study in science about animals. Students compare and contrast animals brought into the classroom (bugs, worms and fish), focusing on structure and behavior. This trip will provide experience with other animals as well as further investigation into those studied in the classroom.

Interactive Nursery Rhymes on Smartboard (\$219.98)
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center
Lauren Boyle

The Interactive Nursery Rhyme Set of Books and Smartboard project is a way to bring nursery rhymes to a whole new level within a classroom setting. The exposure to the nursery rhymes and technology using the Smartboard will benefit the kindergarten students by promoting reading and technology all in one.

Building Fluency Through Partner Reading (\$85.00)
Mary Endres Elementary School
Diane Rodolfo

First graders love to read books with a partner. I would like to build fluency and love of reading using books written for two voices. This program will integrate into our Daily 5 Literacy Block. Students will increase sight words, vocabulary, and fluency by reading engaging texts written for two young voices to share.

African-American : Origins in Slavery (\$600)
Mary Endres Elementary School
Cindy Maire, Maria Aranda, Rosemary Kondritz, Amy Varys

African-American storyteller Momma Kemba gives an amazing portrayal of Harriet Tubman, one of the most famous conductors of the Underground Railroad. This performance helps our students have a greater understanding of our American history and the influences of the past on the present.

Help with Anxiety & Peer Relationships (\$187.84)*Mary Endres/Greenwood Elementary Schools*

Mary Schlichting

As a school social worker, I am a resource for teachers and students when specific needs arise that need to be addressed. This may include helping a student who needs to develop coping skills, friendship skills, address loss issues, or teach appropriate school behavior. I would like to build the library available to help children and teachers at all grade levels. These items would be used for both individual and group situations. Currently I am seeing an increased number of students for anxiety and need materials to help them apply concepts to manage their emotions at school.

Starlab (\$275)*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon, Marcy Buchannan, Fernando Medinilla

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.

Camp Timberlee Scholarships (\$260)*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon, Robert Rivera

The Education Foundation Grant would 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 Leather Craft, Wall-Climbing, Horseback-Riding, Canoeing, and many other activities.

Scrapbooking Club (\$200)*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon

Northwood Scrapbooking Club is a young after-school program for students to gather and use communal crafting supplies to create scrapbooks and other papercrafts. This club will be responsible for assisting in creating the Veterans Day Program Scrapbook for Northwood Middle School.

Advantage Northwood (\$500)*Northwood Middle School*

Sue Totz

Dual Language: Advantage Northwood is a team effort connecting Dual Language teachers and the Librarian of Northwood Middle School. It showcases a rigorous addition to the library collection. These books will give our Dual Language learners a linguistic advantage; the edge they need to improve their grasp of the Spanish language.

Outdoor Club (\$240)*Northwood Middle School*

Deborah Dechant

Our Outdoor Club allows students to engage in fun activities while teaching them how to take care of Earth. Last year, our first year as a club, we were able to put in a garden. This year we would like to expand that garden and continue teaching students about sustainability.

Veterans Day Assembly (\$435)*Northwood Middle School*

Gail Vanderpoel

Northwood students and staff invite local veterans to tell about experiences in the armed services. Students participate in a variety of writing, art, music history, and other activities to prepare them with a full understanding of our Veterans Day theme. An assembly honoring the veterans is the culminating activity.

Orchestra Field Trip to Elgin Symphony (\$357)*Northwood and Creekside Middle Schools*

Rebecca Blaho, Lyndra Tingley

The Orchestra Program is seeking financial assistance to send current 6th grade orchestra students to the Elgin Symphony in April. This would be an enrichment experience for these students who do not have the benefit of high school performance groups at this time.

Ready, Set, Read! (\$500)*Olson Elementary School*

Melinda Parrent

Ready, Set, Read! will bring a variety of chapter books to Olson Elementary School's library. This will allow even beginning readers and those learning a new language a choice in reading material.

From STEM to STEAM (\$200)*Olson Elementary School*

Melinda Parrent

STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is sculpted into STEAM with Art. New arts and crafts library books will provide Olson Elementary School students relevant reasons to follow directions, use math skills, and create.

Makerspace : For the Creator in Every Student (\$325)*Olson Elementary School*

Melinda Parrent

This grant funds the start of a makerspace for Olson Elementary School by providing magnetically joined functional modules that create circuits and a kit that turns objects into a touchpad. With repurposed and craft materials, students will be able to build inventions that light up, move, play music, and more.

Reading is Fun en Español (\$385.93)*Olson Elementary School*

Lauren Cisneros

As a 5th grade Dual Language teacher, I am constantly looking for ways to get my students excited about reading in Spanish. My “Reading is Fun en Español” grant will give my students access to high quality reading materials that will help them to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Vote Illinois Student Choice Awards (\$300)*Olson Elementary School*

Melinda Parrent

Providing funds to purchase necessary books, Vote! Illinois Student Choice Awards enables Olson Elementary School students to join their peers across the state in voting for their favorite books in the Monarch and Bluestem Readers' Choice Awards contests.

Mustang Big Give (\$291)*Olson Elementary School*

John Rigby, Laura Colangelo, Marivi Galera

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 \$6 (\$3 earned at home and a matching \$3 from D200 Foundation Grant) to a charity or organization of their choice.

Claymation Rules (\$259)*Olson Elementary School*

Amy Kuhn

Claymation Rules! will bring to life clay creations made by Olson Elementary fifth graders through the design, creation, and direction of short videos. The opportunity to express creativity through the introduction of this medium is sure to excite all who participate.

Write out of the Box (\$400)

Olson, Prairiewood, Mary Endres and Greenwood Elementary Schools

Stacy Keckhaver, Trisha Schoeneberg, Therese Schauer

Developmental readiness is essential for attaining high end writing skills. Many children enter Kindergarten with inadequate fine motor skills, poor pencil grasps, and unorthodox letter formation habits because they are writing before they're developmentally ready. These kits use simple, fun developmentally appropriate fine motor activities to foster efficient handwriting development.

Technology Access for All (\$450)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Allision Neff

I am requesting funding to purchase 2 iPads to use in the Life Skills classrooms at Prairiewood Elementary. The students I service in the Life Skills classrooms have varying levels of physical and cognitive disabilities. They have difficulty using a typical classroom computer, need most of their materials modified, and are significantly more engaged when technology is present, just like their similarly aged peers. This will be used as a teaching, learning, communication, and reinforcing tool.

Diversities Around the World (\$400)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Jeanette Letmanski, Cory Knopik

The students in the Pre-K and Kindergarten Life Skills programs would benefit from having multicultural items and materials in their classrooms. Cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity is important at all grade levels. The students with disabilities should have the same items available to them as their regular education peers.

Mimio Teach (\$799)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Sandy Bennin

The Mimio Teach is an interactive tool that can be utilized in any classroom. As classroom teachers, we are continually striving to engage our students in learning, to help them process and remember what they have learned and be able to transfer that learning to new situations. That is a challenge that can be accomplished, in part, by the use of technology such as the Mimio Teach.

Smart Board in Music (\$799)*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Dawn Firak

Using Smart Board technology in the music classroom is an innovative way to keep our students engaged and motivated to learn. It facilitates an interactive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to participate, collaborate, and take part in the activities regardless of their level of music development.

Adapted Playground (\$472)*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Kim Muschong

Gross motor experiences, including playing on the playground are an integral part of daily programming within the Life Skills Classrooms at Prairiewood Elementary School. The playground is the perfect opportunity for students in the general education and Life Skills classrooms to interact. Therefore, District 200 would benefit from an adaptive playground at Prairiewood Elementary.

It Will Only Take a Minute (\$79.96)*Westwood Elementary School*

Deb Fuller

The One Minute Reader app is a reading program for Apple iPads that uses the same research based strategy as other Read Naturally programs currently in place in D200. This is an additional attempt to get students excited about reading practice using one of their favorite tools, the iPad!

Increasing Collaboration Research (\$1000)*Westwood Elementary School*

Maggie Jensen

One goal of the English Language Arts Common Core Standards is for all students to “use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.” The goal of this project is to have collaborative teams use iPads for research and creation of presentations.

Enhancing Research for Emergent Readers (\$300)*Westwood Elementary School*

Maggie Jensen

First and second grade students will research and compile information about being a citizen and helping in their community utilizing current primary non-fiction text available in both English and Spanish.

Even more SMART Learning with our Classroom SMART Board (\$192.84)*Westwood Elementary School*

Courtney Deering

Even More SMART Learning with Our Classroom SMART Board™ is a grant designed to engage some of our district's youngest learners with learning through technology. Materials would be purchased to use with our classroom SMART Board™ to embed technology into our reading, math, and science curricula.

Great Learning for our Junior Students (\$302.89)*Westwood Elementary School*

Courtney Deering, Ashlee Jaeger, Wendy Wicker

Great Learning for Our Junior Students would provide two sets of Junior Great Books Read-Aloud materials to be used with Westwood first grade students. These materials will provide enrichment by bringing creative activities, quality literature (including poetry), and collaborative shared inquiry discussion to the classroom.

Naturally They Want to Read (\$634)*Westwood Elementary School*

Deb Fuller, Tammy Ortmann

Who doesn't want to be a good reader? Our project seeks to provide fluency, a skill that usually comes so naturally to children. Good readers enjoy it and want to read more. They read quickly and with understanding. Children who struggle find it frustrating and avoid it at all costs!

Best Buddies (\$400)*Woodstock High School*

Melissa Walters, Becky Aldridge

Best Buddies is an international program that helps students build and sustain relationships between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers. This happens through monthly chapter activities where the students have a chance to build and maintain friendships with peers and in turn creating a less judgmental and more accepting school climate.

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Carpe Diem (\$500)*Woodstock High School*

Jacob O'Hara

Carpe Diem is Woodstock High School's literary arts magazine, showcasing the talents of student authors and student artists. The magazine is published annually to reveal the year's best short stories, poetry and artwork.

Connections to the Community Through Public Transportation (\$350)*Woodstock North High School*

Nancy Schuette, Karla Nussbaum, Mike DeGrassi

This grant would 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.

Daily Living Cooking Skills (\$250)*Woodstock North High School*

Nancy Schuette, Karla Nussbaum, Mike DeGrassi

The Life Connections Transition Program views cooking skills and nutritional planning as an essential part of becoming independent in adult life. Each week 32 students in all four tiers cook, which includes planning the menu, shopping, and clean-up.

Theatre for Young Audiences (\$500)*Woodstock North High School*

Letitia Lyon, Sue Lewis

A new Children's Theatre program is coming to WNHS Theatre. Drama Director Tish Lyon will add a new program to her 2013-14 theatre season. Children's Theatre by children for children is aimed at all students and families in D200 and will be performed in February 2014.

Math Team (\$300)*Woodstock North High School*

Carol Koltz

The State of Illinois holds a statewide Mathematics competition every year at the University of Illinois Urbana-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.

Green-Garden Club (\$120)*Woodstock North High School*

Camden Harlan, Keni Rienks

The Green-Garden Club is a group of ecologically-minded students who have a passion for environmental responsibilities. They accept the following challenges to minimize environmental impact: waste reduction, water conservation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and an all-natural and educational approach to planting, harvesting, and consumption of vegetables from the school garden.

Sue Palmore Heritage Garden (\$550)*Woodstock North High School*

Camden Harlan, Keni Rienks

The Sue Palmore Heritage Garden benefits students, staff, and the community with innovative ideas, hands-on experience, healthy eating habits, creative thinking, and a life-long hobby. The garden provides food for the school cafeteria, culinary arts, and an in-house food pantry. It also reinforces every area of the school's curriculum.

Magne Trainer (\$172)*Woodstock North High School*

Kim Muschong

Students with special needs at Woodstock North High School, especially those who require the use of a wheelchair to access their educational environment have difficulty accessing strengthening/ cardiovascular equipment and can't safely transfer to the equipment in the strength/conditioning room. Therefore Woodstock North High School would benefit from a Magne Trainer-ER Mini Exercise Bike.