



The District 200 Education Foundation

*proudly announces the*

# 2015 Impact Grant Awards

September 30, 2015

***“Making Things Happen That Ordinarily Would Not”***

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## **District 200 Education Foundation 2015 Impact Grant Recipients**

### **Language Expression through Big Books and Puppets (\$215)**

*Clay Academy*

Elizabeth Donato

Students with speech language delays benefit from reading along with the adult from Big Books. Using puppets also encourages language expression if the child is hesitant to talk on his/her own. Language skills, such as turn taking, perspective and listening are all part of big books and puppets.

### **Where is the Sears Tower? (\$500)**

*Clay Academy*

Joan Grandrath

The author and illustrator of “Where is the Sears Tower?” present their modern day fable which guides students to recognize beauty in diversity, and to celebrate one’s individuality. Facts about historic Chicago landmarks woven within the text, and illustrations of each chapter, will captivate students and staff alike.

### **Wayne’s Lanes Bowling (\$480)**

*Clay Academy*

Travis Mohr/Mark Tschappat

Wayne’s Lanes is a bowling alley within walking distance of our school and is a great culminating activity to wrap up our bowling unit. By going on this trip our students will get to apply the skills and knowledge they have learned in class to a real world setting.

### **Immigration, Culture and History... Oh My (\$450)**

*Clay Academy*

Mary Stewart

None Provided

### **Star Lab (\$225)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Megan Thomas

The Star Lab is an inflatable planetarium for students. It aligns with the 6th grade science curriculum of planets, stars, constellations, and even brings in cross-curricular content such as Greek Mythology. It allows students to experience the night sky while at school.

**Introducing Life Skills to Community Experiences (\$400)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Natia Hong/Jennifer Moskowitz

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 do with their families. It will help students learn the necessary functional skills needed to be a contributing member of their community.

**Readers' Workshop (\$200)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Julie Stone

None Provided

**CMS Best Buddies (\$500)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Julie Stone/Kat Mitchell/Joan Thomas

Best Buddies Middle Schools is a friendship club designed to improve the school environment by promoting friendships between students with and without intellectual disabilities. State membership at the middle school level is free. At Creekside, three advisors volunteer their time to plan, purchase supplies, and host monthly events during the school day for all members of Best Buddies.

**Steamroller for Sensory Regulation (\$596)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Trisha Schoeneberg

The Steamroller is a device designed to provide deep pressure input to help students with self-regulation difficulties calm and focus so they can attend and be successful in their academic environment.

**Library Resource Center Support Materials (\$400)**

*Greenwood Elementary School*

Jeanette Letmanski/Cory Knopik/Lindsey Ahrens

None Provided

**Nonfiction Content Classroom (\$175)**

*Greenwood Elementary School*

Rebecca Adams

I am looking to provide an additional connection to the content that we are teaching in social studies and science with our literacy instruction. The integration of nonfiction audio CDs and books allows our students to further their learning while still being exposed to material that is on-topic, relevant and of a nonfiction variety. The content connection is present as well as the connection between what they are practicing and studying in their guided reading groups with the extension activities they are doing within the listening center. I would like everything to be connected.

**Building Tactile Awareness & Vocabulary Skills Through Sensory Exploration (\$465.23)**

*Greenwood Elementary School*

Cory Knopik/Jeanette Letmanski/Lindsey Ahrens

This project will allow students with sensory processing, physical, and cognitive delays the opportunity to learn through organizing their tactile, proprioceptive, and vestibular input systems. Through sensory experiences the students will be able to better organize their bodies and learn new vocabulary, academics, fine motor, and gross motor skills within their environment. Overall, this project is focusing on benefitting the unique learning needs of students in the life skills program.

**Finger Fun – Enhancing Fine Motor Skills & Independence (\$350)**

*Greenwood Elementary School*

Jeanette Letmanski/Cory Knopik/Lindsey Ahrens

Starting with the 2015-16 school year, the Early Childhood Life Skills Program was moved to Greenwood Elementary School. All of the students receive occupational therapy. The students would benefit from fine motor kits to practice skills and work independently. Each day the classrooms have centers and independent work time. These kits are specifically designed to meet these needs and to improve fine motor skills.

**Learning Language Through Cooking (\$380)**

*Greenwood Elementary School*

Allison Neff

Students with significantly delayed language skills need to be motivated to communicate. Food is one of the best, most naturalistic ways to do that. By incorporating language learning into cooking lessons, my goal is to increase their speech and language development.

**The Core Classroom** (\$511)

*Mary Endres Elementary School*

Linda Gabrielson/Kiera Parpart

Mary Endres 5th grade classroom will be equipped with stability balls and chair discs. Recent studies on movement and the power of the core show that equipping a classroom with core strengthening devices will increase learning potential.

**Star Lab** (\$225)

*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon/Marcy Buchanan/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.

**No Pre-Reader Left Behind** (\$500)

*Northwood Middle School*

Melinda Parrent

Preschoolers in the four classes at Northwood will have more books available in the library. This grant will add to Northwood library's preschool collection started last year by the generosity of the District 200 Education Foundation.

**Art Display Panel** (\$1,089.56)

*Northwood Middle School*

Virginia Rice

None Provided

**Friendship Matters: An Inclusion Club** (\$150)

*Northwood Middle School*

Gail Vanderpoel/Lisa Mathelier

None Provided

**Veterans Day Speakers Program** (\$500)

*Northwood Middle School*

Gail Vanderpoel

None Provided

**An Afternoon of Writing Dangerously!** (\$158)

*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon

*An Afternoon of Writing Dangerously!* is a program which helps support amateur novel writers in meeting their word count goals to produce an entire novel between November 1 and November 30 while developing a community of writers at Northwood.

**Enter the World of Programming: Raspberry Pi** (\$156.85)

*Northwood Middle School*

Melinda Parrent

This grant will provide a Raspberry Pi for student use. The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that students can use to learn how to program in a number of computer languages. Students can then use the Raspberry Pi in digital projects of their own design.

**A Certain Point of View** (\$609.95)

*Northwood Middle School*

Melinda Parrent

This grant will provide a GoPro camera with head/hat strap and a hand grip for students and staff to use. Various points of view will be able to be captured and shared, such as a student's point of view during school and sports practice. Underwater experiments can also be filmed.

**Music to your Ears: *littleBits* Synth Kit** (\$135.15)

*Northwood Middle School*

Melinda Parrent

This grant will expand the library makerspace *littleBits* collection. This popular collection is reserved by students weeks in advance. The Synth Kit will allow students to explore and make music while experimenting with electronics.

**Camp Timberlee Scholarships** (\$150)

*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.

**Northwood Scrapbooking Club** (\$110)

*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 paper crafts. This club will be responsible for assisting in creating the Veterans Day Program Scrapbook for Northwood Middle School.

**Help NMS Beat the Heat** (\$288)

*Northwood Middle School*

Katie Spaldon/Robert Rivera

Help NMS Beat the Heat! is a project where teams of sixth graders build their own versions of air conditioners as an exploration into teamwork, collaboration, engineering, and product design.

**Lights, Camera, Learn!** (\$277.99)

*Olson Elementary School*

Margaret Jensen

Visual literacy is the ability to interpret, use, appreciate, and create images using both conventional and 21st century media in ways that promote communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Using green screen technology, students will participate in their learning as well as teaching others.

**Roll to Relax** (\$596)

*Olson Elementary School*

Kathleen Wakitsch/Justine Lunzer

None Provided

**Scrapbooking to Communicate** (\$250)

*Olson Elementary School*

Kathleen Wakitsch/Justine Lunzer

None Provided

**Let's Communicate with our Hands** (\$159.50)

*Olson Elementary School*

Margaret Jensen/Deborah Brown

Olson Elementary School has a diverse population of students. Besides being a predominant dual language school, we have the wonderful opportunity to share in our learning experiences with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. As these students and their interpreters work within our mainstreamed class settings, many of their classmates are interested in being able to communicate with their deaf friends using sign language. In fact, there has been such an interest, that our teacher and interpreters have even held an after-school signing club to assist in teaching our students. The Olson Learning Resource Center has a very small number of books on this language so we are requesting funding to purchase additional sign language books to enhance our collection and meet the needs of our patrons.

**The Mustang Big Give** (\$246)

*Olson Elementary School*

John Rigby

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 or more earned at home/school and a matching \$3 from D200 Education Foundation) to a charity or organization of their choice.

**Opera for the Young Comes to Olson** (\$790)

*Olson Elementary School*

Daniel Beetstra/Diana Frisbie

Opera for the Young is a Madison, WI based organization that brings the art of Opera into our schools. This unique opportunity for children to participate in this treasured art form is an enriching experience and helps foster a love for the arts in our students at Olson Elementary.



**Art is for Every Body** (\$680.80)

*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Charles Jones/Julie Jennett

A significant percentage of our student population at Prairiewood consists of children with special needs. Although I am able to provide, for these children, lessons in art class which hold gravity and contain meaning, I lack the equipment specifically designed to allow them to indulge in the creative process on an independent level and with minimal need for adult assistance. Zot Artz produces equipment which can offer our special education students the opportunity to express themselves in their own unique and individual styles. In some instances, it completely removes the need for hand-over-hand assistance by classroom associates, thus opening the door to discovery through creation. Art, being an area of academia which holds therapeutic value, is of great benefit to our children in special education. Art allows these students to exercise fine motor skills, express emotion, and share a common area of study with their typically developing peers in a general education setting. The pursuit of visual expression is among the highest of human endeavors. It is of special importance to those who lack the ability to communicate verbally or through body language. Art has been made accessible to the entire student population of District 200. That's a great thing. With the Foundation's generosity, we can incorporate art as a tool to empower those who were born with special needs.

**Interactive Accessibility** (\$319)

*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Ashley Stoxen

Interactive Accessibility is a request for a MimioPad, which will function as assistive technology with Life Skills students. The MimioPad provides access to the interactive whiteboard for students with special needs, and will be used with all students as a teaching tool and student manipulative during independent inquiry.

**More Marvelous Math Stations** (\$220.88)

*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Courtney Deering

More Marvelous Math Stations will provide materials for math stations and learning activities for my first grade class. The purchase of these materials will allow students to be actively engaged in meaningful math activities, which will reinforce a variety of math topics, every day.

**We like to Move It, Move It!** (\$792)

*Prairiewood Elementary School*

Courtney Deering

We Like to Move It, Move It! will provide Prairiewood first grade students with Hokki stools to use in the classroom. Hokki stools are a type of alternative classroom seating that encourages movement which will lead to increased brain activity which, in turn, will lead to better academic results.

**C Is for Cooking** (\$300)

*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Beth Miller/Julie Zay

We want to provide cooking experiences for our 3-5 year old students to make real life connections to each curricular unit. Cooking is not only a fun and engaging activity, it also addresses all areas of the Illinois Early Learning Standards.

**Giving Back** (\$450)

*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Amy Mock

This project focuses on giving back to the community in three different ways. The students will raise money to donate to the local Christmas Clearing House, collect canned goods to donate to the local food pantry, and collect items to bring to the local animal shelter.

**Seeds, Soils and Life Cycle to Products they Produce** (\$304.08)

*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Kim Beystehner

Students have the opportunity to take classroom learning and apply it at Von Bergen's Country Market, a working production farm. Students will experience first-hand the results of being knowledgeable of the land, applying hard work, taking care of the soil, irrigation and the work of the seeds that take root to final production.

**Big Fun** (\$623)

*Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Jamie Schroll/Debbie Ducommun

This grant provides access to three giant games for the 800 students at VDEL. These can be used during indoor recess, teacher-directed motor time and therapist-led activities. Participation in these activities promotes growth in academic, social, motor and communication skills, in a fun, motivating and exciting way.

**Exploring Emricson (\$430)***Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center*

Kimberly Hansen/Katia Hage

We are proposing a field trip to Emricson Park to explore the trees, animals, and natural habitats for all Kindergarten Dual Language classrooms. Our science units in Kindergarten encompass the study of trees throughout the seasons, animal homes, five senses, and much, much more. We feel that this trip will build background to help students make connections with things they have learned and will learn at school. This will also be a great way to connect to our new ReadyGen literacy curriculum. This experience will make our lessons more memorable, stimulate their minds, and increase their vocabulary more than a textbook, flash card, or a picture would do. This trip would benefit our second language learners in a wide variety of ways. Most importantly it is a powerful way to connect vocabulary to their learning of the language. It will also give them the opportunity to explore a familiar place with a different perspective. Some of the activities that the students will do include: scavenger hunt, leaf rubbings, and observations, take pictures and videos with iPads, and make reports back in the classroom.

**Balance Ball Chairs (\$480)***Westwood Elementary School*

Robert Teuber

Many children today have difficulty focusing and sitting still in class when needed. The balance ball chairs can be used by a variety of students to help them focus on the tasks at hand. Having two chairs in each classroom allows access to the balance ball chairs to the entire class of students.

**Westwood Chess Club Wooden Chess Boards (\$250)***Westwood Elementary School*

Robert Teuber

Westwood Chess Club was started two years ago by interested 5th grade students. Our first year we had over 60 grade 3-5 students. Parents donated chess sets, but unfortunately the cardboard chess boards have fallen apart. We wish to use the grant money to buy wooden chess boards that will last for years to come.

**Resident Storyteller (\$500)***Westwood Elementary School*

Jason Eggert

Research supports that storytelling strengthens students' oral language, written language, and listening skills. This program will bring Emmy-Award winning storyteller and former D200 teacher, Mr. Jim May, back for a second year at Westwood to visit classrooms each month and start a Writing Club for our students.

**Cultural Art Displays/Role Models** (\$140)

*Westwood Elementary School*

Elizabeth Instefjord/Brett Fankhauser

We want both parents and students to feel welcome when they come to our school. Multicultural artwork and displays throughout the hallways would show our community that we value the diverse makeup of our school. Featuring role models that students can culturally identify with will show that they too can succeed in the world around them.

**Culture Reflected in Literature** (\$278.17)

*Westwood Elementary School*

Elizabeth Instefjord/Amy Blalock

It is important that our students see their culture reflected and valued in the books they read. Adding Pura Belpré Award-winning books to our classroom library will do that. This award is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

**Carpe Diem** (\$500)

*Woodstock High School*

Victoria Zaplatosch

*Carpe Diem* is a student-created literary arts magazine that showcases the talents of student authors and student artists. The magazine is published annually to reveal the year's best short stories, poetry, and artwork.

**Applying Hydroponics Using an Aeroponic Tower** (\$525)

*Woodstock High School*

William Donato

Students in life science classes and Green Club will grow vegetables on the roof of the high school using an Aeroponic Tower. Students will apply the seven science practices of the Next Generation Science Standards as they experiment with vertical farming.

**Future Latino Leaders** (\$500)

*Woodstock High School / Woodstock North High School*

Amanda Harmer

With support from this grant, we would like to take 25 Hispanic high school juniors from each high school on a college tour to 3 different colleges/universities so they can experience the sights, sounds, and opportunities that college has to offer. This college experience would be life changing and one which joins together students from both high schools in the pursuit of higher education.

**Illinois Math Competition** (\$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. State qualifiers are selected from the Regional Competition held at Rock Valley College in February.

**Cooking for Independence** (\$350)*Woodstock North High School*

Karla Nussbaum/Nancy Schuette

The Life Connections Transition Program views cooking skills and nutritional planning as an essential part of becoming independent in adult life. We cook once a week; students participate in deciding on the recipe, prepare the food, and clean up the mess.

**Community Connections** (\$400)*Woodstock North High School*

Nancy Schuette/Karla Nussbaum

The program that would be funded is the District 200 18-21 Life Connections Transition Program. This program provides special needs post-high school students with training, experiences, opportunities, and support in acquiring the highest level of skill development and independence in preparation for their adult lives. By giving the students the opportunity to apply and practice classroom and vocational training in their community, we give them the best chance to be successful when they leave our district at age 22. This in turn helps them have more choices and chances to lead a happy and productive adult life and this also benefits the community they live in as they are more likely to be contributing members of society. The source of this concept is the very real need for our students to use concrete and actual experiences to absorb information and be able to perform tasks, as well as navigate their community independently. These skills are ones they will need in their adult lives to be as successful and independent as possible.

**FVC Leadership Conference** (\$300)*Woodstock North High School*

Steven Rick/Jenn Spear

The FVC Leadership Conference is an opportunity for Woodstock North students to engage in discussions and curriculum designed to enhance student leadership skills, promote positive student interactions, and attend keynote presentations from an outside leadership agency.

**North Athletic Advisory Committee (N.A.A.C. ) (\$725)**

*Woodstock North High School*

Brady Stromquist

The goal of the NAAC would be to offer student athletes a leadership opportunity. Representatives from each athletic program would focus on important topics. Student athletes will examine our current climate and use their ideas to improve our climate. Student athletes will have opportunities for character development.

**Sustainable Lampworking (\$717)**

*Woodstock North High School*

Michael Wargaski

I would like to provide the students with a sustainable and professional lampworking setup. This would also allow the students to further their skills and make it cost effective for the students to get more time working with glass, and would allow for professional level work in their portfolios. This would affect the following classes: Glass, Metals and Jewelry; 3D Studio Art; and AP Studio Art. The potential student impact is over 100 students per year.

**Ellyn Wrzeski Impact Grant**

Each year, one grant application is chosen to be honored as the Ellyn Wrzeski Impact Grant. This award is given in honor of retired former Superintendent Ellyn Wrzeski, in recognition of her many years of service to District 200. The grant exemplifies the innovation, originality and passion for education that Ellyn brought to our district.

This year's Ellyn Wrzeski Impact Grant is:

**Sensory Garden (\$1,700.50)**

*Creekside Middle School*

Jennifer Moskowitz/Stephanie Tate

The creation of a Sensory Garden at Creekside Middle School will not only teach the students about different plants and introduce them to a variety of plants, but it will also be a great calming area for students and staff. It will be a place that encourages the use of the five senses and invites students and staff to explore nature in a different way.