



The District 200 Education Foundation

proudly announces the

2017 Impact Grant Awards

September 27, 2017

“Making Things Happen That Ordinarily Would Not”

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District 200 Education Foundation 2017 Impact Grant Recipients

Wayne's Lanes Bowling (\$480)

Clay Academy

Travis Mohr

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.

Laminate, Laminate, Laminate (\$275.17)

Clay Academy

Cara Krzeski

The laminator will be used to prepare materials for the students. We will use it for visual cue cards, file folder tasks, and binder work. It will also be used to create handwriting worksheets that can be used multiple times. Since we are in a special education setting, the thickness of the lamination lasts a lot longer with the students.

Atmospheric Explorers (\$558.50)

Clay Academy

Mary Stewart

Students will explore the Earth's atmosphere through a highly engaging field trip to the Rockford Discovery Museum.

WHS Orchestra New York String Jazz Clinic (\$500)

Creekside Middle School

Lyndra Bastian

The Woodstock High School Orchestra students will be taking a trip to New York City this February. The students have the opportunity to perform, and attend a clinic at the world renowned Lincoln Center with highly regarded jazz educator Todd Stoll. This would be an amazing opportunity for our students!

Introducing Life Skills to Community Experiences (\$200)

Creekside Middle School

Jennifer Moskowitz/Stephanie Tate/Natia Hong

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.

Extending Life Skills into Real Life (\$300)

Creekside Middle School

Stephanie Tate/Natia Hong/Jennifer Moskowitz

The Extending Life Skills to Real Life project allows our Life Skills/DHH students to practice skills worked on in the classroom and incorporate them in real life situations. They will practice making/packing/delivering lunch or special treat orders to staff at CMS. They will practice social skills as well such as greetings, manners, making eye contact, etc.

CMS Cooking Club (\$300)

Creekside Middle School

Candice Learman

I am seeking financial support to renew the Cooking Club that I started here at Creekside Middle School last year. Cooking Club teaches students about healthy eating, food safety, skills needed in the kitchen, foods from other cultures, and how to cook nutritious meals. In addition, this program teaches students food preparation skills that they will be able to use not only now but into adulthood as well. It allows students to participate in fun learning activities about food, nutrition and food safety. Lastly, the program also teaches students the social skills of working together to prepare a meal and then enjoying it together.

Historian In Residence Project (\$800)

Creekside Middle School

Eric Schleutermann/Tom White

The Historian In Residence Program is an innovative opportunity for the CMS 7th and 8th grade history teachers and students to connect their classrooms to a professional historian. This will be done through the use of distance learning presentations via Google Hangouts, an Ask the Historian Blog, and a year-ending culminating presentation.

Handy Learning (\$142)

Dean Street Elementary School

Jaimie Banke/Patricia Hackbart

The Handy Learning Grant would provide the resources to buy fine motor activities for the classroom to help develop the basic hand skills needed for typical classroom skills of writing, coloring, cutting, and drawing.

Fine Arts Experience (\$402)

Greenwood Elementary School

Kelly Carlson/Regan Maltese

Greenwood Elementary 1st Grade Fine Arts Experience

Developing Language through Storytelling (\$400)

Greenwood Elementary School

Lindsey Mortell

This project will increase language development through the use of literacy and manipulatives. The unique needs of the students in the early childhood Life Skills program will benefit from manipulatives to go along with thematic stories within the curriculum. Students will be provided the opportunity to participate in the literacy lessons at their own levels, using the storytelling kits to help in developing their language skills and expanding their vocabulary. The storytelling kits will provide an opportunity for buddy reading experiences in which all students can participate at their own level.

Swing Therapy & Sensory Integration for Students with Special Needs (\$321.94)

Greenwood Elementary School

Cory Knopik

Students with special needs within the early childhood Life Skills program will benefit from swing therapy/sensory integration in each of the three classrooms. At times throughout the school day students require a quiet, calm place to receive vestibular input for their sensory needs. After they have received this input they are much more ready to participate in the school day activities. Sensory swings provide many benefits, such as encouraging motor planning, improving balance reaction, increasing core stability and hand strength, supporting students with low muscle tone, supporting students with sensory processing disorder, and increasing imagination. We have chosen three different swings to accommodate the various student needs within the program. Each swing requires a base and they are interchangeable.

Arts for ALL! (\$500)

Greenwood Elementary School

Jeanette Letmanski

Kids love creating art. The company Zot Artz designs and creates adaptive art tools so that children with disabilities can create amazing art masterpieces and interact with materials similar to their peers without disabilities. With the aid of their wheelchair, walker, or other assistive adaptive equipment, the students can fully participate in an inclusive project. These products can be integrated into therapy, educational lessons, and recreational programs throughout the district.

On-Site Community Educational Hands-on Experiences for the Early Childhood Life Skills Program and Buddy/Partner Classrooms (\$975)

Greenwood Elementary School

Jeanette Letmanski

The Early Childhood Life Skills Program at Greenwood Elementary School would like to invite outside community programs to come to school and provide hands-on educational experiences to students in the Life Skills program along with their Buddy/Partner classrooms. This would be an inclusive opportunity for students to learn and participate in a new experience together.

Mosaic Tile Legacy Mural (\$991.96)

Greenwood Elementary School

Marisa Cincola

I hope to create a mosaic tile mural for the walls of Greenwood School. I will involve ALL students, staff, families and community members to take part in this tile mural project. All will work together creatively to design, make and execute this mural so it can be admired for years to come.

Camp Greenwood with Special Guest: Jim May (\$1,500)

Greenwood Elementary School

Tom Krieger

Jim May, a renowned and respected author/storyteller, will spend a day capturing the imaginations of hundreds of kids while revealing sacred secrets of the writing process behind his stories. Parents will be invited back to "Camp Greenwood" to gather in the classroom campsites where teachers will interact with Greenwood families and share their love of literacy, too. Families will have a chance to hear the stories told by Jim May.

Everyone's a Musician (\$600)

Greenwood Elementary School

Allison Neff

Students with significant impairments need a way to participate in and access instruments. By providing students with adapted instruments, they can participate in highly motivating activities the same as their regular education peers.

Character is Cool - Skillastics Activity Kit (\$330.34)

Kids Club

Courtney Fejedelem

The Character is Cool Skillastics Activity kit is an oversized board game that incorporates physical movement, communication and cooperation while focusing on character traits. This “grab-and-go” activity kit can be used at all of the Kids Club after school program sites and would enhance and add variety to daily activities.

Mobilize Those Guitars! (\$1,185)

Northwood Middle School

Carrie M. Filetti

Northwood’s Guitar Program is growing! In addition to 6th grade general music, we have added a guitar club for 6th and 7th grades, and will be offering one for 8th grade next year. Our guitars are stored in the choir room, but our classroom is at the other end of the school. A portable guitar rack would eliminate our daily march to and from the choir room, saving 12 minutes per class. This rack would also allow us to easily perform for assemblies and school functions, as well as possible community outreach performances, and minimize potential damage to the instruments as a result of transportation. Playing guitar can be an accessible and affordable lifelong outlet for creativity and expression, and would reach out to students who might not be involved in band, chorus or orchestra.

Northwood Middle School Veterans Day Assembly (\$509)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon/Jen Wiegel

Sponsorship of the NMS Veterans Day Assembly allows veterans, students, and community members to celebrate patriotism and honor the contributions area veterans have made.

Northwood Scrapbooking Club (\$182)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon

Northwood Scrapbooking Club is an after-school program for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades to gather and use communal crafting supplies to create scrapbooks and other paper crafts.

Camp Timberlee Scholarships (\$150)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon/Melanie Meyers

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.

Water Works at NMS! (\$404)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon/Marcy Buchanan/Luis Ardon

Water Works at NMS! 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. Sixth graders also explore the role of water in these air conditioning units and in real-time data taken at Silver Creek.

Escape Room In a Box (\$500)

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

This project provides four Breakout EDU kits for the library to loan to teachers. Breakout EDU games require students to work collaboratively, problem solve, and persevere. Breakout EDU games can be designed for every content area. Students are highly engaged as they review content or are introduced to new topics.

Get the Word Out! (\$31.60)

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Purchasing a microphone will allow students to record podcasts. Shy students and those practicing a new language are sometimes more comfortable recording audio than video. Staff can also create podcasts for students and families. At times it is possible to listen to a podcast, but not to watch a video.

More Pi, Please (\$107.35)

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

That is more Raspberry Pi! An additional Raspberry Pi, a very small computer, and accessories will provide opportunities for more students to learn how to program.

SOB! Save Our Backs! (\$2,100)

Northwood Middle School

Jessica Brown

Chairs that promote good posture, enable better musicianship and protect valuable instruments will enhance the students' classroom experience and foster excellence in music education. The Northwood Middle School band room will be equipped with 25 additional Wenger chairs so all students can benefit from appropriate seating during band.

Light Up Learning! (\$850)

Olson Elementary School

Maggie Jensen

Using a digital multi-media content called Lightbox, students increase their interest in the subject matter, leading to more independent research and engagement as well as their own higher academic expectations, so let's light up learning!

Play is a BIG Deal (\$600)

Olson Elementary School

Amy Tures Zeh/Amanda Fosnaugh

PLAY is a BIG deal! Through PLAY students develop creativity, problem-solving, and curiosity. Language skills are developed, social negotiation is involved, and research shows that there is a positive impact on academic skills, too. This grant would make JUMBO GAMES available for Olson students to engage in PLAY at school.

The Mustang Big Give (\$207)

Olson Elementary School

John Rigby

Students will be given the opportunity to make a difference by donating at least \$6 (\$3 earned at home and a matching \$3 from a D200 Education Foundation Grant) to a charity or organization of their choice.

CLASS in the Community (\$420)

Olson Elementary School

Justine Lunzer/Kathy Wakitsch

Community outings are an integral part of the primary and intermediate Target classrooms. Students in the Target classrooms struggle with social skills, communication, and language. Community outings allow us to work on skills that are essential to our students, but that can be difficult to use in unstructured community settings.

Bring our Bat Unit to Life! (\$325)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Allison Thompson

This year in first grade we will be learning all about bats to tie into our literacy unit about *Stellaluna*. We have two Dual Language classrooms and one Monolingual classroom. Many of our students do not have much background knowledge of bats. So I wanted to really bring this unit to life by incorporating a live educational bat show. Incredible Bat Shows bring live bats to educational programs such as schools, churches, camps, and scout groups. They travel across the country doing shows with a variety of fruit bats, as well as some other animal options. This will benefit the students by creating meaningful and memorable learning experiences. This unique opportunity could give the students access to animals and information that may otherwise be unavailable. For the Dual Language classrooms and English Language Learners, what better visual support than the animal itself? I believe it would create an in-school field trip that students would never forget!

Corner Chair for Prairiewood (\$785.17)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Kim Muschong

Several students within our Life Skills Classrooms have physical impairments, including limited flexibility. This decreased flexibility can impact a student's mobility, independence, posture and tolerance to positioning without pain. These students would benefit from a corner chair which could improve their flexibility and overall ability to participate in the classroom.

Sensory Tent (\$250)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Kim Muschong/Karen Burns

Many students are able to filter sensory stimuli with which they are bombarded. Others have a difficult time integrating this stimuli and ultimately are unable to function in the classroom. These students would benefit from a brief retreat to a safe, quiet space – a sensory tent – to reorganize themselves.

Full STEAM Ahead in Second Grade (\$508.99)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Courtney Deering

Full STEAM Ahead in Second Grade will provide our class with hands-on activities that will enrich the students' learning with science, technology, engineering, art, and math experiences. The STEM Stories Hardcover Library will foster key STEM concepts such as the value of hard work, determination, and creativity.

Strike Up the Band!: Enabling Music Devices for Students with Special Needs (\$690)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Dawn Firak

Learning and experiencing music is an important developmental experience for every child, and all children should have the same opportunities to have a high quality, purposeful music education. The purpose of this project is to provide students with special needs the proper music instruments necessary to access our district's music curriculum. The purchases of these instruments are vital to providing all students with a rich, engaging music experience.

Bluebee Communication Buddy (\$79.43)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Linda Schwarz/Nora Porrovecchio

Through collaborative groups, OT/PT/Speech, we have seen increased participation, motivation, and interaction with the use of a mascot or stuffed animal that makes auditory noise responses. A Bluebee Pal would be more interactive and could provide verbal models from someone other than the adults in the room. Through the use of the apps that already available to the students, the Bluebee Pal can greet, ask/answer questions, provide verbal directions, and even read, play music, or play games with the students. Our students in the Life Skills classrooms often have difficulty maintaining focus, eye contact, and motivation in a given activity. The Bluebee Pal would engage their attention and encourage novel interactions without additional adult prompts.

Steamroller for Sensory Regulations to Increase Academic Performance (\$529)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Nora Porrovecchio

The Steamroller is a device designed to provide deep pressure input to students with self-regulation difficulties, disruptive behaviors and those seeking sensory input. It can assist students with motor planning and provide sensory input needed for a student to calm, refocus and better attend to their academic environment.

Phonological Awareness Lab (\$279.86)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Carla Voss

This project will increase kindergarten students' phonological awareness skills. Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize the sounds in words. This is one of the vital skills that children need to read and is invaluable for learning a language. This grant will provide the kindergarten teachers with an app that the students will be able to use independently. Each student's progress is monitored, and mastery is required before moving on to the next level.

Dierzen's Little Chefs (\$265)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Carla Voss

This grant will allow us to take the students to Jewel to explore all of the food items at the store, visiting all of the various departments in the store, and will give us the opportunity to purchase food supplies that will be used throughout the year during our weekly cooking activities. Cooking with the students will increase their literacy, speech/language, and social skills.

Bringing Community to the Classroom (\$317.83)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Courtney Fisher

The idea behind Bringing Community to the Classroom began with our new literacy curriculum in 2016. We read a story about a little boy whose teacher gave each student in her class a speckled notebook. The purpose of the notebook is for each student to interview all the different people they encounter in their community. My students asked if they were going to receive their own speckled notebook because we were learning about our community as well. It was great connection! I was not able to provide the notebooks that year, but I did purchase 50 with my own money the following year. This activity was the highlight of their year! It was wonderful to see the students and their families actively participate in education and community togetherness. In an effort to make this unit even more age appropriate and include classroom participation, I would like to purchase Community Helper Costumes. The students would be able to use the costumes and explore our community in the classroom through dramatic play. They would be able to interview each other and practice what they have learned. This unit from our curriculum is one of the children's favorites, it is also our final unit that serves as a culminating point in our academic year. I look forward to making their learning as interactive as possible if the D200 Education Foundation is able to fund Bringing Community to the Classroom.

From Seed to Pumpkin, A day at the Farm (\$800)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Alyssa Di Guido/Beth Miller

From Seed to Pumpkin, A day at the Farm encompasses many units of Creative Curriculum such as Trees, Transportation, Farm, Buildings and Insects. It allows students to utilize their knowledge from the classroom in a real life situation and provides them a culminating event that will be built upon throughout the school year. This field trip also allows students to build upon their vocabulary and allows students to use all five sense to explore the topics we are teaching them. A day at the farm provides them with memories, not only to learn about their specific unit of study at the time, but also for all units throughout the year.

Community Bucket Filling (\$110.49)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly O'Brien

Students are learning how to be “bucket fillers” who say/do nice things and help others. My class will collect books to donate to nursing homes and deliver them while singing holiday songs to the residents. They will also collect supplies for Helping Paws Animal Shelter and deliver them while reading books to the animals

Modeling and Scaffolding in the Classroom (\$267.91)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Cristina Aguilar

An Elmo document camera will allow for more modeling and scaffolding in the classroom. Students would greatly benefit from being able to see what I am doing while I am working on a class project. It will also be used to foster student learning and accountability as students become the teachers and use the camera to model and scaffold for their peers.

Spanish-English Dictionaries (\$60)

Westwood Elementary School

Stacy Weber

I hope to provide my students with a necessary and extremely helpful resource in the Dual Language classroom – Spanish-English dictionaries. My class currently has no bilingual resources to use, and I think that having these available to use during lessons will make my students' learning much easier.

Literature to Support Math Instruction (\$207.98)

Westwood Elementary School

Sarah Wargaski/Julie Feldsien

The unit framework for elementary math instruction in D200 includes a component area entitled "Focus and Motivation." This component of content instruction is tied directly to district initiatives (Project GLAD and AIM4S3). One strategy used at the start of each math unit K-5 is a "Listen & Sketch" which is used to help focus students' attention to mathematical applications by sharing a story tied to math content. The titles requested are aligned to the 2017-2018 district scope and sequence.

Keeping the Spanish Classroom Moving (\$253.14)

Westwood Elementary School

Brett Fankhauser

A Westwood Fourth Grade Dual Language classroom will be equipped with stability balls, chair discs, tote bags and Spanish literature. Studies on movement and the power of the core show that equipping a classroom with core strengthening devices will increase learning potential!

WHS Garden Bench (\$600)

Woodstock High School

David Bliss/Sandi Brainard

The WHS Green Club is looking for funding for a bench for the WHS Garden. Over the past year, the WHS Green Club has been creating a garden that is on the west side of the building outside of the lunchroom. Working with various groups and grants we have had the space designed by a professional landscape designer, mulched the area, and installed four garden boxes and three benches. This space, when complete, will be a shared area in the school for classroom use; a contemplative area; and different clubs and classes will sign up to take care of the garden boxes. This space impacts all the students in the school. In the next year, we are going to be planting plants in the unmulched areas. We anticipate the garden area to be in use 2018-2019. There is a larger circular area where we have a spot for larger groups. In this area we are putting seating areas. We currently have two benches there but two benches are not enough for a group of 30.

Educational Visit to the Shedd Aquarium (\$655)

Woodstock High School

Gina Moreno

An educational visit to the Shedd Aquarium for the WHS Blue Planet Club would allow the students to take part in a learning lab to investigate imbalances in an ecosystem. The students would learn how to incorporate data collection and analysis into the scientific method to solve problems.

***Carpe Diem* at Woodstock High School (\$800)**

Woodstock High School

Victoria Phillips

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.

Future Latino Leaders College Visit (\$1,042.75)

Woodstock High School

Amanda Harmer

Future Latino Leaders is a group of 20 seniors from each high school who have been identified by administration, teachers, and counselors as potential leaders of our community. Over the past five years, we have been developing and expanding the Future Latino Leaders program. In this group, we develop leadership skills, help with the college selection and application process, provide a resume-writing workshop, and assist with financial aid and scholarship information. On October 12, 2017, we would like to take these 40 students to the University of Illinois Chicago and Loyola University Chicago. For the majority of them, this will be the first time they have stepped foot on a college campus. Without a doubt, this college experience (the sounds, sights, and smells) would be life-changing, and one which joins together students from both high schools in the pursuit of higher education.

Enhancing Business Professionalism at Woodstock High School (\$200)

Woodstock High School

Steven R. Thompson

This grant would provide funds for the WHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) officers to attend the National FBLA Leadership Conference and help develop a National Business Honors Society for Woodstock High School. Both events allow students to acquire leadership skills and a new level of professionalism that will benefit more future business students.

Cooking for Independence (\$350)

Woodstock North High School

Mike DeGrassi/Nancy Schuette

The District 200 Life Connections Program is a transition program for 18-21 year old special needs students. This program covers the core area of transition and is designed to support special needs students in acquiring basic life skills so they can reach the highest possible level of independence in their adult life. This proposal is asking for help in reaching target goals in the transition program related to a higher level of independence for our students in their daily living skills. The key target goal that the students acquire is the ability to plan, shop, prepare, eat and clean up a simple healthy meal. Other target goals the students will acquire are healthy meal planning, consumer shopping skills, and the opportunity to apply classroom lessons to real life. Our hope is that in the future, many of our students will be living as independently as possible, either in a group home or with roommates. They will need these important skills for a better quality of life after they leave our program.

Travel Training for Independence (\$285)

Woodstock North High School

Nancy Schuette/Karla Nussbaum

The program that would be funded is the District 200 18-22 Life Connections Transition Program. This program provides special education post-high school students with many opportunities to develop their independence and increase their awareness and ability to access their community and vocational opportunities. Because many of our students do not drive, this grant would allow our students the opportunity to experience training in the use of public transportation. Providing classroom instruction on the use of public transportation would be part of the training but our students learn best when they experience actual and concrete activities. The students would experience taking MCRide to their work internships and the Metra train to explore leisure/recreational opportunities in McHenry County. Our students want to be contributing members of our community, and having the opportunity to take public transportation to navigate their way around will allow them to do just that.

Global Fest 2017-2018, A Celebration of World Languages & Cultures (\$525)

Woodstock North High School

Deborah Guild/Bart Labuz

GlobalFest is a one-day Celebration of World Languages and Cultures held every year at a different high school in the broad Central Illinois region. District 200 students have benefitted from activities such as immersion classes in many world languages, cultural discovery programs presented by International Exchange students, and competition in a scholastic quiz bowl.

Driver Education Situational Intersections (\$728.95)

Woodstock North High School

Becky Goers

This magnetic, dry erase board will feature common types of traffic intersections allowing a teacher to start discussions about right-of-way situations, signs, roundabouts, railroad crossings, turn lanes, etc. This teaching tool will let students interact with peers through driving scenarios that they have experienced while practicing in their permit stage.

Sensory Room (\$844.95)

Woodstock North High School

Roxanne Monti

Sensory rooms provide a calm and controlled sensory environment for special needs students. Multisensory experiences enhance the individual's sense of well-being and help change behavior. It aims to maximize our students' potential to focus and appropriately engage in their school environment.

Vernier Melting Stations (\$998)

Woodstock North High School

Pam Burton/Darlea Livengood

Vernier melting stations would be used to study concepts such as: compounds versus mixtures, properties of substances, intermolecular forces, types of volcanic rock and other natural phenomena. This would let students use equipment similar to those used in college laboratories and would increase students' inquiry and lab skills as required by Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Ellyn Wrzeski Impact Grant

Each year, a 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, there are two Ellyn Wrzeski Impact Grants:

There is So Much To Discover (\$673)

Mary Endres Elementary School

Nancy Menge/Keri Pala

Inspired by the book, *Only One You* the students will help install a personally decorated rock into a visual pathway throughout a common area of the MEES backyard. This outdoor art installation will be an elaborate and maturing reminder that our work experiences have much to offer if we embrace the opportunities of wisdom and the possibilities of goodwill.

There is Only One You (\$757.96)

Westwood Elementary School

Deb Fuller/Katie Wagner

There is Only One You offers Westwood Elementary students and families an opportunity to add something unique and beautiful to the landscape of our school. This project combines an inspirational book with the creative sides of our brains reminding us all that there is *Only One You!*