



The District 200 Education Foundation

proudly announces the

2018 Impact Grant Awards

September 26, 2018

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District 200 Education Foundation 2018 Impact Grant Recipients

Flexible Seating During Whole Group Instruction-\$275

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly O'Brien

Primary students often spend a large portion of their day sitting on a hard floor during whole group instruction, which is anything but comfortable. With this grant, kindergarten students in Mrs. O'Brien's class will have the option to get comfortable during whole group instruction with knobby ball seats, scoop chairs, mini bean bags, and stools.

Building Bilingual Literacy-\$460

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Amanda Shaffer, Jessie Justice

Scholastic's "Let's Find Out" magazines in English and Spanish will provide students in four kindergarten dual language classes access to engaging, nonfiction, developmentally-appropriate texts. The content of the weekly issues aligns with our curriculum in the areas of ELA, science, and social studies, and even includes a technology component.

Meeting Sensory Needs of Young Learners-\$325

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Ilyse Palomo, Debra Ducommun

Verda Dierzen's young students benefit from sensory tools to help them learn. Tools such as fidget toys, weighted lap pads, sensory bins, noise cancelling headphones, and oral motor tools can help children focus on activities, calm down when upset, keep their bodies regulated, remain seated when appropriate, and improve their overall availability for learning.

Expanding Words, Expanding Minds -\$186

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Bree Kusz, Alyssa Di Guido

By specifically teaching different ways to describe objects, students are better able to organize their thoughts and provide more in-depth descriptions about familiar objects, while also learning new vocabulary. Having tangible objects to explore helps tactile and kinesthetic learners take their vocabulary to the next level, improving children's vocabulary.

STEMtastic Kindergarteners-\$200

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kristin Giacinto, Kelly Edge

Funding for "STEMtastic Kindergarteners" would help us introduce our young students to the concepts of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The grant would allow us to purchase a variety of supplies needed to create problem-based activities for students to complete in small group and whole group learning environments.

Kim Norman -Author Visit-\$750

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Christine Huffman

Still A Gorilla, I Know A Wee Pig, Puddle Pug... Author Kim Norman will come share her story and vision with our students. She will share her experience as an author in a way that is relatable to our littlest learners.

Community Bucket Filling-\$177

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly O'Brien

Students at Verda Dierzen learn to be "bucket-fillers" (people who do and say nice things). With this grant, kindergarten students in Mrs. O'Brien's class will go out into the community and "fill buckets." They will visit residents at Hearthstone Manor Nursing Home in December to read stories and sing holiday songs. They will also collect and deliver supplies for Helping Paws Animal shelter in April and read to the dogs and cats.

Let's Vote for 2019 Monarch Awards-\$264

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Christine Huffman

The kindergarteners will participate in the 2019 Monarch Awards by listening to, comparing, and voting on the Monarch book they enjoyed the most.

Dierzen's Little Chefs-\$200

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Carla Voss

This grant will allow me 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 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.

Flexible Seating Grant-\$500

Dean Street Elementary School

Shari Hilliard

Research shows that flexible seating allows students to have a choice, it offers collaboration within the classroom, and gives students sensory input. I would like to purchase wobble chairs, step stools, and small stools.

Motivational Speaker on Perseverance-\$750

Dean Street Elementary School

Renee Walker

Our school-wide theme is to never give up and to persevere, along with becoming respectful members of our community. We would like to bring in a motivational speaker who can bring energy to a young crowd to instill perseverance, kindness and respect.

Making Math Accessible to Special Education Students -\$989

Dean Street Elementary School

Heather McCarter

I have many special education students who struggle with mastery of basic math skills. To better meet their needs, I would like to purchase touch math programs that will help support their math development. Touch math is a great program to make math accessible to students with special needs.

Creating a More Sensory Accommodating Learning Environment-\$616

Dean Street Elementary School

Scott Becker

By using a wide variety of sensory integration tools, students with emotional and behavioral difficulties will be better able to focus, attend, work more cooperatively, decrease anxiety and show academic growth.

Experiential Learning-\$494

Dean Street Elementary School

Vicky Mayer

Our 4th graders will enhance their geological and literary connections that they studied in the first trimester, by exploring the exhibits at The Burpee Museum of Natural History.

Battling Other Schools for Reading Knowledge-\$138

Dean Street Elementary School

Rita Kaminski, Amber Kling

Battle of the Books is a challenge where teams of 4th and 5th graders read 12 books and then compete in a public battle to see who has the most knowledge about the selected books.

Sensory Solutions-\$417

Dean Street Elementary School

Jaimie Banke

Within the primary ED classroom, our students require additional supports in order to stay focused throughout the day. As each student has a different sensory need, it would be of great benefit to have a variety of tools available to our students throughout the day.

Ready to Read!-\$150

Dean Street Elementary School

Jaimie Banke

As my students grow into stronger readers, our stamina is increasing with independent reading time. I would like to add additional books to our classroom library based on interest, reading level, and emotional needs.

Mobile Laptop/Chromebook Stands-\$360

Greenwood Elementary School

Thomas Krieger, Marla Cherry

We would like to purchase 12 mobile laptop/chromebook stands (6 per classroom) so that our fourth grade students have the flexibility to change up their "work areas" from floor work, sitting desk work to standing desk work, as they work independently or with partners/groups to complete assignments.

Graphic Texts for Small Groups-\$200

Greenwood Elementary School

Andrea Cabrera-Miller

Trying to increase the interest in reading for some students can be difficult. Graphic texts are a form of literature that allows students to become enthusiastic about reading. In small groups, students will delve into rich content and narrative structure. This form of literature can help a student become a lifelong reader.

Everyone's a Musician - Part 2-\$530

Greenwood Elementary School

Allison Neff

The students in our Early Childhood Life Skills classes do not have typical motor skills that allow them to participate as other typically developing peers. Our students require adapted or modified instruments to be an independent musician. A secondary benefit of being able to access instruments is an increase in their communication skills.

Artz for All-\$475

Greenwood Elementary School

Cory Knopik, Jeanette Letmanski

Creative expression is a primary human need, necessary for self-fulfillment and self-esteem. Art is a form of creative expression in which individuals with disabilities can excel, given the opportunity. Artz for All will allow the students from the life skills program along with general education students to participate in inclusive projects together.

Elmo for My Classroom-\$159

Mary Endres Elementary School

Margaret Eaheart

An ELMO will allow for more modeling and scaffolding in the classroom. This provides students with the techniques they need to succeed and encourages their learning. It can also be used to show how students have mastered their skills as they become the teachers and use the ELMO to model and scaffold for their peers.

Visibility, Flexibility, and Accessibility with ELMO-\$300

Mary Endres Elementary School

Lillian Hayes

I would like to bring an ELMO camera to my classroom to really improve students' abilities to visualize and follow along with me more effectively in class. This type of camera will better allow students to share their own work with the class and access more ideas. It would also allow us to better show real life objects more effectively and with more flexibility.

Alternative to Written Morning Work: Brain Teaser Morning Bins and STEM Bins-\$510

Mary Endres Elementary School

Cristin Shade, Cristina Aguilar

We are asking the District 200 Education Foundation for funding to allow us to purchase materials to develop Morning bins for our classrooms. Dual language students will be exposed to STEM and Brain Teaser bins that foster collaborative learning, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

Anti Bullying Presentation by Matt Wilhelm-\$750

Mary Endres Elementary School

Keri Pala, Amanda Baunach

Matt Wilhelm has appeared on America's Got Talent and is a three-time X-Games medalist and two-time National Champion for BMX biking. He weaves his personal story around kindness, anti-bullying, respect, responsibility, and safety. He will perform 2 back to back shows, each 45 minutes long for our younger and older grades. We believe his BMX tricks and positive message will relate well with our students and decrease the number of referrals.

Wild About Graphic Novels! -\$232

Olson Elementary School

Lauren Cisneros

My 5th grade students adore graphic novels! They absolutely devour them, one after another! Our school library has so many options available in English, but many fewer in Spanish. With additional funding made possible by a grant, we can help these pre-teens keep reading what they love, in Spanish!

Lightning Strikes Again-\$600

Olson Elementary School

Maggie Jensen

Computing programming, basic engineering processes, STEAM skills, collaboration, and critical thinking all come together when students participate in the Olson SPRK+ Club. The Sphero Lightning Lab of twelve robots was purchased in part with D200 Foundation funds two years ago. We want to take our experience to the next level with traction covers and ramps.

Seeing the Sun, Moon, and Stars-\$260

Olson Elementary School

Crystal Christensen, Kelly Steele

As a culminating activity to their inquiry of the Sun, Moon, and stars, Olson first grade students will have the opportunity to experience what they have learned while exploring and discovering in a portable planetarium.

The Mustang Big Give-\$291

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 earned on their own and a matching \$3 from D200 Foundation Grant) to a charity or organization of their choice.

CLASS (communication, language acquisition and social skills) in the Community -\$505

Olson Elementary School

Kathy Wakitsch, Leslie Staniszewski

This project allows students in the Target program to participate in a more extensive, Community Outing while using the CLASS (communication, language acquisition, and social skills) skills we have been focusing on in classrooms.

Yes, Of Course, You Can Wiggle in Your Seat-\$500

Olson Elementary School

Laura Gould Colangelo

As our student population and our teaching methods evolve, our classroom environments should also evolve with them. This proposal is for funding to transform my Dual-Language Fourth Grade Classroom at Olson Elementary School into an alternative classroom setting.

Standing Desks for Engaged Learners-\$500

Olson Elementary School

Rebecca Helm

The goal of this proposal is one standing desk per classroom, for 1st-5th grade. They provide a physically-engaging workstation in a classroom. These are adjustable in height and working angle, and can be placed on any desk or table.

Today's Readers are Tomorrow's Leaders-\$380

Prairiewood Elementary School

Jennifer Bigler, Jennifer Malecke

After looking at building data, we determined that our dual language students need more opportunities to read short, high quality fiction texts. These genre kits from Fountas and Pinnell are researched based to meet each reader at their level. These kits will increase students' understanding of fiction texts.

"Feeling at Home" at Prairiewood-\$300

Prairiewood Elementary School

Carol E. Cerny

Since Prairiewood opened in 2007, it has been the home school for Turning Point students. These children often miss out on owning spiritwear, receiving yearbooks, and other extras that make a school year special due to financial hardship within the family. With grant approval, these items could be provided to these "homeless" students so they will be "Feeling at Home" at Prairiewood!

Coding in the Classroom-\$390

Prairiewood Elementary School

Allison Thompson

This grant would give students the opportunity to build and code their own robot! This engaging experience will promote critical thinking, team building, perseverance, and engagement in the classroom!

Calm Down Kits for Classroom-\$784

Westwood Elementary School

Cathy Riley, Kristin Thurow

Each classroom at Westwood Elementary will be provided a kit of tools to help students calm themselves and focus when needed. The kits items have been chosen with input from specialists and teachers. They are designed to coordinate with our Second Step social emotional curriculum which teaches problem solving skills.

Yoga Ball Seating-\$500

Westwood Elementary School

Robert B. Teuber

Westwood offers students alternate seating options. We'd like to offer a variety of sitting options by purchasing yoga balls with rings. It will help with core strength, balance, and focus. We'd like to request 24 sets so each class can have 6 in each of the four 5th grade classrooms.

Westwood Pollinator Garden Monitoring-\$740

Westwood Elementary School

Kathleen Lacey-Anderson

Westwood Elementary planted a pollinator garden in the spring of 2018. We are developing curriculum for each grade level so that students can use the garden as a living tool to learn about the natural world. We seek to purchase two digital microscopes to be used for studying the insects, plants and seeds in our garden, and purchase texts related to pollinators in both English and Spanish to add to our school collection.

Introducing Life Skills to Community Experiences-\$300

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

Libros en Español-\$1,097

Creekside Middle School

Jenna McCoy

The library would like to add more books in Spanish to current collection. They will be read by our ELL, ESL and Dual students. It is proven that leisure reading in your native language increases memory, focus, vocabulary, concentration and analytical thinking skills.

CMS Best Buddies-\$350

Creekside Middle School

Julie Stone, Stephanie Tate, Morgan Hetterman

Best Buddies is a program that matches kids with a disability with a student without a disability and they become friends. We are asking for money to purchase supplies and snacks for our events.

Functional Vocational Task Equipment-\$465

Creekside Middle School

Trisha Schoeneberg

The Target and Life Skills classrooms are working on developing vocational skills. Shredding paper is a functional task that students of varying abilities could participate in that would address independent work skills, task completion, along with improving fine and visual motor skills.

We Are Flexible-\$374

Creekside Middle School

Deb Yarc

Each day when students enter their sixth grade math classroom they will have the opportunity to choose their preferred seating. Whether it be a traditional chair with a fidget band so they can move their legs and feet or a stool in which they will sit upright and build core strength. They can also use an ottoman or cushioned floor seat to build posture and increase brain activity.

Science Club - Engineering division -\$700

Creekside Middle School

Felix Gancedo-Menendez, Blanca Fernandez

In the first year of the CMS Science Club the Engineering division wants to introduce the students of Middle School the 3D printers and the possibilities they represent. They will have to build, prepare and calibrate the printers, install the software to control them and design their own products.

Ergonomic Seating in Math 180-\$500

Creekside Middle School

Karen Frawley

The majority of the students in Math 180 do not participate in physical education do to schedule constraints. Ergonomic seating strengthens the body's core and legs and improves posture. Various seating options will provide the students choices including standing desks, balance stools, balance ball chairs and wobble stools.

SOB! Save Our Backs! Again!-\$500

Northwood Middle School

Jessica Brown

Last year, we received an Impact Grant for 25 Wenger Posture chairs, to make a complete classroom set of 35. The program has grown and we need more of this appropriate furniture that encourages correct posture and enables the students to have better musicianship skills, as they continue to be proud members of the Northwood band program.

A Circuit Path-\$99

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Pairing science and art, students will create a lighted card or illustration using copper foil, LEDs, and coin cell batteries in a fun way to learn about circuits.

Spreading Our Wings-\$550

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Students will have access to a camcorder, an easily shared and Chromebook friendly tool to produce videos.

Water Works at NMS!-\$298

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon, Melanie Meyers

Water Works at NMS! is a project where teams of sixth graders complete a “citizen science” project as an exploration into teamwork, collaboration, and creativity. Sixth graders also explore the role of clean water in real-time data taken at Silver Creek.

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.

I "Wheely" Love Math!-\$125

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon

“I Wheely Love Math!” will finance alternative seating options for students working in a digital math curriculum. Offering an exercise-bike-desk option for students allows their feet to be as active as their minds.

It's Greek to Me! -\$300

Northwood Middle School

Betsy Iversen, Katie Spaldon

“It’s Greek to Me,” is an interdisciplinary unit scheduled for January where coordinating lessons across subject areas enlighten students to the influence the Greek on our modern society, with focus on the development of the democratic process. Students will hear about the legends of the Greeks in the Starlab.

Dissolved Oxygen Probeware-\$910

Woodstock High School

Jarrold Ragusin

Vernier dissolved oxygen probes will enable students to use 21st century skills to conduct water quality tests at locations throughout Woodstock. Water quality is an issue throughout the world. By promoting more engaging and accurate testing, students will be armed to take action to promote sustainable water use and protection.

Kindness Closet-\$1,220

Woodstock High School

Anne Rogers, Mariah Koleno

The Kindness Closet will provide items to help our students feel healthy and confident and allow them to put their best foot forward to learn and grow. We will offer items like clean clothes, toiletries, and food with no questions asked to any student as the need arises.

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.

3-Dimensional Learning: Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration-\$480

Woodstock High School

Kimberly Slaughter, Helen Ledanski

Students will use biotechnology to engage in authentic scientific inquiry that will allow them to explore the concepts of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.

Sensory Motor Experience-\$613

Woodstock North High School

Roxanne Monti

Students with special needs learn through a multi-sensory approach. By providing them with a variety of controlled sensory regulating experience, Occupational Therapists and teachers are able to afford them a better learning experience in school.

Enhancing Instruction through Student-Made Videos-\$325

Woodstock North High School

Marcy Wiebe, Steve Buchs

This green screen will allow the students to record and make videos for presentations and for classes. The electrical power stations will enable students to be working at various locations throughout the room as they work on recording and producing.

Traveling for Transition-\$285

Woodstock North High School

Nancy Schuette, Julianne Pacan

The district's 18-22 Life Connections Transition Program provides special education post high school students with opportunities to develop their independence and increase their awareness and ability to access their community and vocational opportunities. This grant would supplement the classroom teaching we do on public transportation by allowing the students to use PACE and the Metra Train to go to their internships, shopping or recreational/leisure activities.

Cooking for Independence -\$500

Woodstock North High School

Mike DeGrassi, Julianne Pacan

The D200 Life Connections Program is a transition program for 18-21 year old special needs students. This proposal is asking for help in reaching target goals in the transition program related to higher level independence for our students in their daily living skills. The key goal that the students will acquire is the ability to plan, shop, prepare, eat, and clean up a simple healthy meal.

Digital Circuits in the Hands of Students-\$300

Woodstock North High School

Stephen Buchs

Technology requires the adoption of new tools, techniques, and processes to prepare students for the future especially in digital electronics. This project is going to purchase equipment and material to print digital circuit straight out of an ink jet printer that can be soldered and fully functional.

Making Measurement Feasible-\$300

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School

Erich J. Parpart

This grant will fund the purchase of enough professional grade tape measures to allow each student in woods and trades classes at both high schools to have access to their own tape measure. This will help students to work efficiently and effectively on their building projects in the wood shop.

Future Latino Leaders College Visit-\$750

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School

Amanda Harmer

Stepping foot on a college is life changing. This visit allows first-generation, Latino students in our schools the chance to see the possibilities that await them for their future.

Zuma Rockers- Move to Learn-\$400

Clay Academy

Stacy Keckhaver, Mary Stewart

Zuma Rockers are a form of flexible seating. Flexible seating is shown to increase engagement in the learning environment by satisfying the student's sensori-motor needs/supporting emotional regulation. At Clay, Zuma Rockers have been successful with allowing subtle movements while learning, without disrupting the learning of surrounding peers.

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.

Alternative Seating for Kids Club-\$459

Kids Club

Courtney Fejedelem

Kids Club is the after school recreation program that is offered through the school district. During the program children sit at desks, tables and on the floor to play games, do art/science projects, read and complete homework. Offering the options of alternative seating will allow the children movement and flexibility when seated.

Break of Reality-\$750

All Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

Lyndra Bastian, Cara Fulcher, Stacie Savittieri, Jillian Forbes

The famous string group, Break of Reality, is coming to D200 this Spring to perform, clinic, and put on a concert WITH our students. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I've been fundraising for so that our D200 orchestra students can participate in this amazing opportunity.

Ellyn Wrzeski Grant

Each year, a grant is selected to be the Ellyn Wrzeski 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.

Outside Prairie Mosaic-\$1,526

Prairiewood Elementary School, Creekside Middle School

Jeriel McGinness, Charlie Jones

Utilizing the back of their existing sign, Prairiewood and Creekside students are creating a 6'x16' ceramic and glass mosaic. This project will allow over 1,000 students to play a role in the creation of this piece of public art depicting prairie wildlife.

25th Anniversary Grants

In honor of the Foundation's 25th Anniversary, the foundation offered a special \$2,500 grant that would benefit an entire school. With two worthy Gaga Ball grants, the committee decided to reward two anniversary grants.

Going "Gaga" Over Recess-\$2,500

Prairiewood Elementary School

Julie Joslyn

As the rate of childhood obesity continues to rise, it is imperative to provide our students with opportunities for fitness. Gaga ball is a high energy, fast-paced sport that has recently swept our nation. This sport engages all levels of students of various ages all while promoting social competence.

Gaga Ball-\$2,500

Westwood Elementary School

Robert E. Mecklenburg

GaGa Ball develops multiple physical skills and abilities and is great for children in Elementary through Middle School ages. Fast-paced, high energy game with quick turn-over to keeps everyone active and involved.