



District 200 Education Foundation

proudly announces the

2019 Impact Grant Awards October 1, 2019

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2019 Impact Grant Recipients

Ellyn Wrzeski Impact 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.

Building-wide Calming Areas \$2,500

Greenwood Elementary School

Jackie Paulsen, Julie Smith

To create quiet areas in Greenwood classrooms that children can go to voluntarily and calm their bodies; returning them to an emotionally regulated state where they are calm and ready to learn.

This grant is also the recipient of the Foundation's \$2,500 School-Wide Grant Project Fund

Accessible Communication is Cool! \$375

All Schools

Allison Neff

Students need accessible communication in all learning environments. My goal is have communication board banners printed to hang on playgrounds and gyms in the district schools so that communication is accessible for all students.

GEMS- Parent & Student STEM Challenge \$350

Creekside Middle School, Northwood Middle School

Melinda Malo, Marcy Buchanan

We will be hosting a one-day GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science) event. The GEMS program is designed to be a collaborative event encouraging middle school girls along with their parents, community members, and teachers to explore and learn about careers in the STEM fields.

Sensory Based Yoga \$800

Olson Elementary School, Prairiewood Elementary School, Creekside Middle School

Matt Hopkinson

This project will provide more materials to utilize during yoga instructional time to enhance calming effects for students with autism and to assist in positional quality for students in the Life Skills programs. Materials of this quality will increase the likelihood of students receiving full benefits from the intended purpose of yoga practice in Adapted Physical Education.

Everyone Smiles in the Same Language \$600

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center, Greenwood Elementary School

Gina Abruzzo, Beth Miller, and Mary Kawalski

Multicultural awareness is an important part of our educational curriculum, as teaching about the diverse cultures that make up the world helps to promote peace and equality. We hope to do that by providing diverse dress up clothes to explore different cultures in our classroom.

FLL College Tour \$768

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School

Amanda Harmer

The majority of students in Future Latino Leaders (FLL) will be the first in their family to go to college. Without a doubt, this opportunity to step foot on a college campus will be life-changing. This year we hope to visit both the University of Illinois - Chicago and Roosevelt University. This grant will allow me to show them the difference between a large, public university and a small, private university.

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.

Life Skills/ TARGET Adapted Play Production \$400

Creekside Middle School

Stephanie Tate, Natia Hong

Life Skills/Target Adapted Play Production will provide our special education students an opportunity to participate in a production, adapted to their abilities. This production gives our students a chance to showcase their individual talents, utilize various communication modalities and adaptive equipment, and interact with general education students.

Tributary: A Literary Magazine \$400

Creekside Middle School

Morgan Pigott, Melissa Miller

This grant will fund publication of the Creekside Middle School literary magazine.

Noche de Baile \$770

Creekside Middle School

Bayza Senbetta

Noche de Baile at Creekside is an event for students and families to watch a professional salsa performance and then learn from the experts. Dancers from Chicago will teach salsa, bachata and cumbia. This is a fun opportunity to involve all members of the school community and share Latino culture.

World Drumming at Creekside Middle School \$1,850

Creekside Middle School

Carrie Filetti

I am seeking funding to expand the 8th grade music curriculum to include a world drumming unit. This would both increase and diversify the 8th grade use of instruments in class, as well as offer more options for differentiation in the 6th and 7th grade curricula.

Historian In Residence \$900

Creekside Middle School

Eric Schleutermann, Tom White

The Historian In Residence Project is a project that will connect the District 200 Seventh and Eighth graders from Creekside Middle School to a professional historian and storyteller. This project will give the teachers an additional resource to utilize and take learning in the classroom to a deeper level.

Independent Reading Books \$385.63

Dean Street Elementary School

Shari Hilliard

Students utilize their independent reading book boxes on a daily basis. This funding would provide a variety of fiction and nonfiction books at each student's instructional reading level. These books would be available for students to add to their boxes to read during independent reading.

Tools for Incorporating Social Emotional Learning in Our School \$356.15

Dean Street Elementary School

Marci Plumb, Renee Walker

More than 2/3 of students age 16 say they have endured trauma during their childhood. Exposure to trauma causes anxiety, anger, sleep disturbances, reduced concentration, social difficulties, etc. These materials will help foster healing and acceptance in the ever growing population of students faced with trauma.

Book Exchange Box \$250

Dean Street Elementary School

Amber Kling

I would like to have a book exchange box built to have at Dean. This would allow students to get new books often, pass along books they no longer need, and also allow all students to have access to books at home to enjoy and foster their love of reading.

Social-Emotional Learning Community Outing \$276.80

Dean Street Elementary School

Jaimie Banke, Kelli Trebes

As a smaller sized classroom, we have spent the last three years really focusing in on skills such as: following directions, showing empathy, making and maintaining relationships, and other social skills. Being some of their strongest advocates, we would like to see these skills being implemented in real life situations. We would like to extend their learning environment through a field trip to a seasonal option of the pumpkin farm.

Promoting Students' 21st Century Skills with Engaging, Challenging Activities \$347.03

Dean Street Elementary School

Scott Becker

The grant will provide students with a variety of engaging activities and games that will promote their critical thinking, problem solving, sequential and deductive reasoning, logic, strategic and visual thinking skills, as well as social skills through teamwork and collaboration.

Lasting Lamination \$100

Greenwood Elementary School

Allison Neff

Seeking funding for a laminator that allows us to use stronger laminating sheets for our items to last longer, can stay outside on the playground, and are washable for our students in Life Skills and PreK. This will also decrease the amount of colored ink we use as we will not print again as the regular lamination gets "well loved."

Discovering the World Around Us.... Let's Go on a Safari! \$500

Greenwood Elementary School

Jeanette Letmanski, Lindsey Mortell

We would love to have the opportunity to take the students on an extended field trip to the Lake Geneva Safari. We will be doing a Community Helpers unit in April and a Down on the Farm unit in May. We would have the opportunity to take a safari and interact with a variety of animals.

Let's Move! Let's Learn! \$400

Greenwood Elementary School

Julie Zay

Music plays a very important part in our culture. It is in our everyday life, and is present in a variety of social and educational activities. Participation in things like clapping to music or jumping in time to a beat can stimulate brain function and helps organize thoughts and behaviors.

Field Trip to the McHenry County Historical Society \$350

Mary Endres Elementary School

Karen Petersen, Jennifer Tufte

At Mary Endres our end of the year literacy focus is on historical events and citizens. We do a simulation of Ellis Island that provides students a real life experience of what it felt like to be an immigrant. The Historical Society trip connects with our curriculum and would really benefit our students.

Growing Future Farmers -Plant Life Cycle Fieldtrip \$260

Mary Endres Elementary School

Nancy Briscoe

One of our Ready Gen Literacy Units is the life cycle of plants. This grant will fund a trip to Countryside Nursery to experience hands on activities, learn about various plant life and take home our very own plant.

Culture through Dance \$700

Mary Endres Elementary School

Cristina Aguilar

Dance is a great way to bring culture into the community! This grant will allow students to view the beautiful performance of the traditional style of Mexican Folkloric Dance.

Chapter Books en Español \$420.07

Mary Endres Elementary School

Lillian Hayes, Cristina Aguilar

Our students come with a wide range of reading ability. The books will be ones that all students find enjoyable and offer a wide range of interests. Our students feel great satisfaction when they graduate from beginning readers to a good chapter book. We hope you will consider funding our proposal.

2nd Grade Outdoor Education/Fishing Trip \$700

Mary Endres Elementary School

Stephen Ryan

All second graders learn about fishing, water safety, and the environment in their P.E. classes. They also learn about changing the world in unit 6 of their reading curriculum. This field trip to the Hollows in Crystal Lake will allow students to go out into the real world and teach them about life long hobbies, such as hiking and fishing.

Qball Microphone \$194

Northwood Middle School

Megan Thomas

This classroom tool allows kids to have whole class discussions in a fun way. Students throw the ball, which projects their responses over the audio system so that all students can hear the responses. It will give confidence to the quiet learners, and be engaging and interactive for all learners.

Don't Hold Your Breath \$300

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Students are seeking mystery and suspense fiction books. This grant will help students get a clue with the solution of increasing the number and variety of mystery and suspense books in the library.

An Arm Up \$225

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Students will collaboratively build hydraulic arms out of cardboard.

Wild Rides \$135

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

Students will build a K'nex roller coaster and then apply what they learned about forces and motion in building their own paper roller coaster. They will also build a K'nex swing ride and use it to learn about velocity through experiments.

World Drumming at Northwood Middle School \$1850

Northwood Middle School

Carrie Filetti

I am seeking funding to expand the 8th grade music curriculum to include a world drumming unit. This would both increase and diversify the 8th grade use of instruments in class, as well as offer more options for differentiation in the 6th and 7th grade curricula.

Watch Us Get Fit \$1300

Northwood Middle School

Jennifer Koeser, Greg Spende

Watch Us Get Fit will provide all Northwood students an opportunity to use technology while giving them immediate feedback on their heart rate and fitness levels.

8th Grade Theater Performance Trip \$1,272

Northwood Middle School

Kelly Healless

All 212 8th grade students from Northwood Middle School will be given the opportunity to experience six live stage productions through an engaging performance at the Hemmens Theater in Elgin.

Laughing All the Way \$250

Northwood Middle School

Melinda Parrent

An expanded humorous book section of the library will have students laughing all the way to lifelong reading.

I can read, too! \$500

Olson Elementary School

Teddi Salas

This year our Olson students have accepted the “40 Book Challenge”. This grant will allow us to purchase additional beginning Spanish readers so our youngest readers have new books and a variety of genres from which to choose. Students love going to the library and we want to create “browsing baskets” of easy to read Spanish books so they can say, “I can read, too”!

40 Book Challenge For All \$300

Olson Elementary School

Crystal Christensen

Dr. Seuss states it perfectly; “ The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.” We hope to purchase easy reader books to help early readers complete a school wide 40 book challenge. These high interest books will help kick start a lifelong love of learning.

A Visit to the National Museum of Mexican Art \$850

Olson Elementary School

Lauren Cisneros

Fifth grade dual language students will engage in a hands-on experience with Mexican culture and art as they participate in a guided tour and create an art project at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The experience will be conducted entirely in Spanish, further enriching this cultural experience.

LISTEN, SPEAK & SHARE \$400

Olson Elementary School

Ivan Cisneros

Build listening skills through music, no video, speak and share in podcast format.

Start with Hello \$330

Olson Elementary School

Amanda Fosonaugh, Kelly Steele

Start with Hello stems from the Sandy Hook Shootings. It is a program that supports kindness and belonging in the school environment. Our vision is to build a culture of belonging and empathy within our schools.

House System: Student Leadership \$140.69

Prairiewood Elementary School

Nikki Kunde

Ten student leaders will get the opportunity to have their own copy of “What do you Stand For? For Kids: A Guide to Building Character” by Barbara Lewis. They will use this in a training with teachers to become strong leaders in our House System, our school and our community.

House System Assemblies \$1,395

Prairiewood Elementary School

Nikki Kunde, Jen Bigler, and Sandy Bennin

The 2019-2020 school year has kicked off a new initiative at Prairiewood Elementary - School Houses! Each student and staff member has been randomly placed in one of five houses. Each house will have monthly meetings where students and staff will build strong, positive, lasting relationships and come together to make our school and community a better place.

Enriched Literacy for Interactive Read Alouds \$1,188

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Amy Mock

Kindergarten level kit of Interactive Read Alouds (IRA) that connect students with text through discussion, promote the joy of reading, increase vocabulary and increase a child's ability to think, talk about and write about texts. With this IRA set, teachers will have access to 25 text sets (120 Titles) that promote a global perspective with diverse characters, settings and topics.

Supporting Co-Teaching in Early Childhood \$500

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Taylor Cobb, Ilyse Palomo

VDELC has recently implemented co-teaching in the Kindergarten setting. Students with disabilities are included in the general education setting more fully. Many of these young students benefit from visual supports and sensory tools to help learn and stay engaged in the classroom setting. Weighted lap pads, fidget toys, visual timers and tactile sensory bins help students stay engaged, regulate emotions, and regulate their bodies.

Community Bucket-Filling \$177

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly O'Brien

Students at Verda Dierzen learn to be "bucket fillers" who are people who say and do nice things for others. 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 and read books, sing songs, and spread holiday cheer. In April, they will collect and deliver donated supplies to Helping Paws Animal Shelter and read to the dogs and cats.

Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners \$1,000

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Jessie Justice

Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners will provide Verda Dierzen ELC students opportunities to be immersed in various cultures from around the world. Purchasing literature and artifacts will help teachers transform their classroom into another country, thus allowing students to learn about the cultures of their peers.

Woodstock, IL : A Community Adventure \$240

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Courtney Fisher

Dual Language Trip to Woodstock Square for 48 students and their parents. We will bring along our Community notebooks to write about the places we go and the people we meet. Places of interest include: bank/post office, bakery, luncheonette, city hall, barber shop, bookstore, taqueria, and the gazebo.

Providing Access to Exceptional Books in Spanish and English \$492

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Laura Bianchi, Vanessa Velazquez

We want every student at Verda Dierzen to have access to the same exceptional books in Spanish and English. Language should not be a barrier when selecting literature. This grant will help build a library where students find high quality books that they can see themselves in.

#CampusConnection \$1,000

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Tricia Bogott, Cristina Mazzanti

#CampusConnection is a collaborative effort with Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center, Mary Endres, Northwood, and Woodstock North High School. These schools work together to provide families much need items such as: clothes, personal items, books, and much more. Kindness Closets have been created at Mary Endres and VDELC where families are able to receive basic necessities, such as clothing, personal items, books, toys, and many other items free of charge.

Career Week Extravaganza \$400

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Christine Huffman

Our kindergarten students explore careers and people in their community for two weeks in the Spring. I would like to update our career week explorations and provide books about those jobs that have parents visiting and explaining.

Young Author Kick Off \$750

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Christine Huffman

As Kindergarteners embark on their young author journey they have many questions about writing a book. I would like to bring an author and illustrator to Verda Dierzen (virtually or in person) to discuss the process and explain how they write a book.

Citizen Scientists: Crayfish Monitoring \$325

Westwood Elementary School

Kathleen Lacey-Anderson

Westwood Elementary 5th grade students will engage in a citizen scientist project in cooperation with the Illinois Natural History Survey and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, sampling for crayfish in the creek behind Westwood Elementary School. The purpose of the activity is to detect populations of invasive crayfish so they can be managed by the state.

Day of the Dead: Stories and Songs from the Heart of Mexico \$1,200

Westwood Elementary School

Kathleen Lacey-Anderson

Westwood Elementary will host bilingual storyteller Valentina Ortiz for a day of stories in both English and Spanish related to the celebration of the Day of the Dead. All Westwood students will have the opportunity to hear Ms Ortiz tell stories of the Aztecs, accompanied by traditional instruments.

Mission Imagination! Pete the Cat \$635

Westwood Elementary School

Elizabeth Instefjord

Students will travel to the Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake to view a musical based on the beloved book series, Pete the Cat, by Kimberly and James Dean.

Qball - Hear and Be Heard! \$374.28

Westwood Elementary School

Elizabeth Instefjord, María Ines Ocampo

Qball is a throwable wireless microphone system, shaped like a ball, that is meant to be thrown around the classroom. This microphone gives every student the opportunity to hear and be heard, even the most soft spoken!

Westwood Beautifying Project \$286

Westwood Elementary School

Shanon Laidig, Heidi Galloza

Beautifying our school will encourage a positive, happy, and healthy learning environment. We will lead a project to add positive, encouraging messages and quotes to our 5th grade bathrooms and nearby hallways. Our quotes will be displayed in English and in Spanish and will be designed using colorful paints and stencils.

New Chess Club Materials \$500

Westwood Elementary School

Lauren Boyd, Kecia Griffin

We are asking for grant money to help fund new chess materials for our after school Chess Club. The chess boards and pieces that we are currently using have been used for numerous years and are beat up, broken, mismatched, and really need to be replaced.

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.

Live from the morgue forensics \$300

Woodstock High School

Tressa Sharma, Shelly Burgett

This project would allow Forensics II, AP Bio, Psychology, and AP Psychology students to view a live autopsy as well as interact with the physician conducting the autopsy. They will have the opportunity to participate in a cross-school/cross-cultural student-centered activity related to the medical field and real world applications.

Educational Visit to the Shedd Aquarium \$639

Woodstock High School

Gina Moreno

An educational visit to the Shedd Aquarium for WHS's Blue Planet Club would give the students an opportunity for a hands on experience exploring fish pathology. Using scientific methods including a necropsy and the use of laboratory equipment, they would learn to diagnose health problems in their specimen.

Centripetal Force Exploration Utilizing Technology and Modeling Based Approaches \$550

Woodstock North High School

Kris Carter

A Centripetal Force Apparatus allows students to design circular motion experiments using their Chromebooks and collect/analyze very accurate data. Students excel when they have good data from an experiment they designed themselves. A solid understanding of centripetal force is essential to exciting physics applications such as roller coasters and planetary orbits.

Traveling for Generalizing Transition Skills in the Community \$500

Woodstock North High School

Julianne Pacana, Mike Degrassi, and Cory Knopik

Life Connections provides educational experiences for students with disabilities ages 18-22. This grant would allow our students to take public transportation, including PACE and Metra, at least once a month to apply the skills taught in the classroom and generalize the skills in their natural setting. Additionally, students will have the ability to practice taking public transportation to move around their community and get to their job sites as a means of increasing independence.

Life Connections Enterprises ~ Natural Soaps & Bath Bombs \$949.23

Woodstock North High School

Cory Knopik, Julianne Pacana, and Mike DeGrassi

The Life Connections Transition program would like to offer our young adults (18-22 yrs old) an opportunity to start their own business. The students will begin their enterprise this school year by making handmade natural soaps and bath-bombs. Through this business opportunity the students will gain independence, build customer service/social skills, manage the budget, package the products and design the logo and labels. Once the soaps and bath-bombs are ready the students will be able to sell their products at McHenry County College, Woodstock North High School and take orders from all D200 staff.