



2023 - 2024 Impact Grant Recipients

Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Jessie Justice	1,600.00
<p>Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners will provide Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center kindergarteners opportunities to be immersed in cultures from around the world. Purchasing literature and artifacts will help teachers transform their classroom into another country, and bringing in outside cultural performances will allow students to learn about the cultures of their peers.</p>			
I See Me!: Multicultural Characters in Books for Pre-K Students	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Laura Bianchi	148.02
<p>This project will provide Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center with books that feature diverse characters, value community, and share the stories of people from different walks of life. Every teacher or specialist will be able to check out the books for their classroom. These books will be in classroom libraries and in our students' hands. Some of the topics of the books include fictional characters but real life experiences such as cooking with a grandparent, going to school and feeling accepted, and having your name pronounced correctly. Other books feature the real life stories of Mae Jemison, Eugene Clark, and Mary Walker, important people who have stories to share.</p>			
Swings for PreK and Kindergarten	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Lauren Cisneros	340.00
<p>Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center students spend time daily on one of two playgrounds, one of which only has two swings built for children their age. The addition of two more swings to our playground would greatly increase active play time for our students.</p>			
Creative Minds Writing and Language	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Alyssa Wienke	421.22
<p>The Creative Minds Writing and Language Project would support our students' unique ways of learning that best fit their individual strengths and needs. By utilizing a variety of materials and tools, the students can use their creative minds to expand their knowledge, improve their functional communication, and build independence.</p>			

Trauma Informed Reset Tools	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center/Dean Street Elementary School	Allison Doyle Danette Rieper	699.76
While commonly mistaken for just toys, Fidget Tools can be a powerful device for teachers to give to their students. Fidget Tools increase a student's focus, heighten their attention span, and provide calm. These devices can reverse course for students who are dysregulated, agitated, or even anxious. Unlike toys, Fidget Tools soothe Students instead of providing pure entertainment.			
One Book, One School	Dean Street Elementary School	Marivi Galera	450.00
One book, one school is a project where all Dean Households receive a free book chosen by our wonderful librarian. Students receive their book either in English or Spanish. During the month of February, we do daily activities at school, and engage families into reading a daily chapter at home with their children. Staff records videos reading, families share their pictures having fun at home.			
Creating a Reader in Me	Dean Street Elementary School	Roxana Duran	641.89
I want to fill my classroom library with diversity and get students excited to read books they see themselves in and can relate to. It is important for students to gain perspectives not only through a window perspective but through a mirror perspective to gain understanding on inclusivity and about themselves. By widening options of characters and experiences read about it helps others to see they are not alone.			
Team Building Field Trip for Students with Special Needs	Dean Street Elementary School	Scott Becker Georgia Wicker	200.00
Up to 25 students in grades 1-5 who receive Special Education Services at Dean Street school will enjoy an Educational Tour at Richardson Adventure Farm, that includes: team building activities with students who have behavioral/ emotional struggles; learning about different aspects of farming & agritourism; and using critical thinking skills.			
Fitness for Life	Dean Street Elementary School, Greenwood Elementary School	Julie Joslyn	2,500.00
Through the use of this grant, students will be able to develop necessary skills to play the game of disc golf both recreationally, as well as, meeting all five National PE standards. With the increase of disc golf's popularity, this low-cost and inclusive sport, would be accessible to all elementary students			

Second Grade Behavior Buddies	Greenwood	Courtney Fisher	137.00
Behavior Buddies is designed to inspire and build positive behaviors in children. An ideal program that pairs animals and behaviors to teach about the most essential qualities children need to develop in order to be successful in life. Each book/animal provides a reflection and motivational visual that can be used to support positive behaviors.			
Find A Buddy on a Bench	Greenwood	Julie Zay	470.00
A bench on a preschool playground provides a welcome spot for everyone! It not only allows our D200 students, families and the community a comfortable place to sit and refuel but a time to enjoy the outdoors. A playground bench also encourages collaboration with others, language development, socialization opportunities and promotes friendship!			
Choosing Chess Club!	Dean Street /Mary Endres Elementaries	Kiera Parpart Christina Monroe & Luke Moyta	729.00
Mary Endres Elementary School and Dean Street Elementary School are partnering to grow and build their elementary chess clubs, respectively. This grant will fund the purchase of 15 new chess boards at each school, allowing more students to participate with high-quality materials distributed equitably among the elementary chess programs.			
Calm Down Corners	Mary Endres Elementary School	Cristina Aguilar Ellen Redman and Erin Yazel	278.95
How many times have we used the phrase "calm down", only to find that phrase actually escalates the problem? With a classroom full of little bodies, it can be difficult to try to comfort and check on every individual student every single day. Creating calming corners for students to be able to self regulate can give us a quick look into how our students are really feeling. It also gives the students the opportunity to get back to learning as quickly as possible.			
Owl Pellets	Mary Endres Elementary School	Joanna Bacon Michelle Swiderek	330.00
These funds will be used to purchase owl pellets dissection kits. This will allow hands-on exploration and connect with themes in our literacy units.			
Science of Reading	Mary Endres Elementary School	Ellen Redman	227.52
This grant will allow for the purchase of materials for instruction. Since we have implemented and focused on the Science of Reading, we as teachers are learning that successfully teaching students how to read begins with early application and practice of phonemic awareness.			
Safety Patrol	Prairiewood Elementary	Allison Ehardt	137.48

	School		
<p>At Prairiewood Elementary, I have established a safety patrol program that is open to all students. This year we have the most members to sign up yet with 60 fourth and 5th graders. I would like to give all of them the opportunity to show responsibility and leadership. In order to provide this opportunity, I would like to purchase supplies to build the program. I know it can provide a memorable experience for the members, as well as build community within the school.</p>			
Wheelchair Platform Rocker	Prairiewood Elementary School	Kim Muschong	1,500.00
<p>The wheelchair platform rocker would allow a student to experience rocking without being transferred out of his wheelchair. Some of our students who are under-responsive in our Life Skills Classroom require vigorous movement to alert them. The rocker would provide vestibular input to them while remaining in their wheelchairs.</p>			
Field Trip to Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center	Clay Academy	Kevin Hartwig	360.00
<p>The purpose of this grant is to provide a beneficial field trip into the community for our Elementary students here at Clay Academy. Goebbert's is full of interesting and educational activities to engage all students meaningfully.</p>			
Best Buddies Events	Creekside Middle School	Meg Coleman Alyssa Niemic	250.00
<p>We are looking for some funds to help purchase materials for the monthly events where the Peers/Buddies get to hang out. These events help build that peer/buddy relationship.</p>			
Order of Operation Math Surgeries	Creekside Middle School Northwood Middle School	Shanon Laidig, Madison Ahsmann, Sarah Braun, Katie Spaldon	197.66
<p>Students will collaboratively conduct math surgeries on math expressions by following the specific mathematical order of operations. Their math teachers will transform their classroom into a surgical/hospital room, where all participants will have a specific surgical role and will be encouraged to dress in medical gear, too.</p>			
Creekside Native Garden	Creekside Middle School	Natia Hong Todd Clement, Derek Lee, Andrea Barrett	370.00
<p>Creekside Middle School Garden Club provides an opportunity for students to research and learn about native plants, and create a native biodiverse environment on our school campus. Our Garden Club's goals are to provide a healthier ecosystem, and a habitat for our wildlife creatures by planting and maintaining Illinois' native plants near our outdoor learning classroom.</p>			

Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center Field Trip	Creekside Middle School	Emily Gay Eric Schleutermann	2,080.00
8th graders who visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will see firsthand the effects of the Holocaust by studying artifacts and primary sources. Through hearing the accounts of survivors and their families, students will also reflect on the hatred and indifference that permitted this genocide.			
Better Readers with Better Books	Creekside Middle School	Julie Stone	217.74
Over the last 23 years, I have spent a lot of money on my classroom library. I read a lot of books and want to share them with my students. I really need to purchase new books to replace the ones that have been damaged or stolen.			
7th grade Science Field Trip	Creekside Middle School	Joanna Kline Todd Clement	3,100.00
We would like to take our 7th grade class to the Burpee Museum of Natural History. There would be about 250 students that would take advantage of this field trip.			
Cooking in the Classroom	Creekside Middle School Prairiewood Elementary School	Alyssa Niemic Karen Burns	500.00
Cooking in the classroom will go towards purchasing items to complete cooking recipes throughout the year. My students will use the items purchased from the grant to practice independent functioning skills. The students will work on completing recipes as well as sensory recipes as a part of occupational therapy.			
Adapted Play Performed by Life Skills & Target Students	Creekside Middle School	Natia Hong Jennifer Moskowitz and Alyssa Niemic	250.00
Life Skills/Target Adapted Play Production will allow our special education students to participate in a theater production, adapted to their ability level. This production gives our students an opportunity to showcase their individual talents, utilize various communication modalities and adaptive equipment, and interact with their general education peers.			
Drumset for CMS Pop Orchestra	Creekside Middle School	Lyndra Bastian Andrew Viveros	450.00
Creekside has a pop orchestra that meets weekly and plays on our three major concerts each year. We always have a percussionist join us on the drum set. These funds will go towards a new drum set so our students can rehearse at CMS before concerts with the drum set.			

Math Team Grant	Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School	Anna Spencer Sarah Pigman	1,500.00
This grant will help provide students at both high schools to compete in numerous competitions throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Math Team is a rigorous endeavor that students not only choose to participate in, but enjoy the challenge, competition, and comradery that comes along with it.			
CNC Explosion!	Woodstock High School	Brett Fankhauser Gerald Blohm	2,075.00
CNC machines have exploded onto the industrial scene, from mom and pop shops, to professional industries all over the world. Our WHS students will be more prepared than ever to step in right away and help out in today's workforce with this new piece of revolutionary equipment.			
French Immersion Day	Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School	Andrea Isabelli	350.00
The annual French Immersion Day, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French, is offered to French students around the Chicagoland area. Each school can bring 10 students to the University of Chicago for a day filled with cultural activities and opportunities to speak French with students from other schools.			
Wake Up Call Coffee Cart	Woodstock North High School	Jennifer Cellucci Kathryn Loser	400.00
The Life Connections Coffee Cart and Life Skills/Target, called The Wake Up Call is part of our internship program for our special education students aged 18-22 and high school special education students.			
Improvisation Workshop	Woodstock North High School	Letitia Lyon Sue Lewis	1,000.00
The Improvisation workshop is a fun and spirited way to find action. The student will perform pantomime, invent characters and play drama games that enhance creativity and spontaneity.			
WNHS Green Club	Woodstock North High School	Roxanne Monti	1,000.00
The Green Club at Woodstock North High School is working to revive the school garden. Green Club is planning to plant native plants and create a pollinator and bird friendly garden. We would like to promote the benefits of native plantings and creating a pollinator habitat and conservation.			

Young Play Writer's Workshop	Woodstock North High School	Letitia Lyon Sue Lewis	800.00
<p>Designed for the novice playwright, this eight week course leads the students through a variety of in-class writing exercises to create scenes, monologues, or a short play. The basics building blocks of storytelling through drama will be learned along the way, including character development, plot, action, and dialogue.</p>			
Soulful Horse, Yoga, Gong & Meditation	Woodstock North High School	Cindy Ridley	720.00
<p>Seniors enrolled in DC Yoga at WNHS experience the benefits of a Horse, Yoga, Gong and Meditation class with two community partners, Cara Chang Mutert, E-RYT 500 and owner/director of The Yoga Lounge, and Linda Bruce, Equine Gestalt Practitioner and owner of Soulful Prairies.</p>			