

2022 - 2023 Grant Recipients

Community Outreach Art Display	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Courtney Fisher	\$100
<p>I would like funding for a community outreach art project that coincides with Women's History Month. Last year, we learned about Clara Barton and her creation of the American Red Cross. I purchased art supplies and frames for my student's artwork. The local book store, Read Between The Lines, displayed our artwork and collected donations for us. Community members bid on the artwork (one for each of my classes, so 2 large frames total) and we raised \$600 to donate to the American Red Cross. I would like to make this project bigger and better this year with the help of the D200 Impact Grant.</p>			
We Learn From Other People's Stories: Diverse Books with Important Messages	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Laura Bianchi	\$378.39
<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>			
Sensory Tools to Support Co-teaching	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Ilyse Palomo Kristie Carbajal	\$250
<p>VDELIC has 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. Fidget toys, visual timers, bean bag chairs/pillows for safe spaces and tactile sensory bins help students stay engaged, regulate emotions, and regulate their bodies.</p>			
Sensory Exploration for All	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Stephanie Kramer Alyssa Wienke	\$250
<p>Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center (VDELIC) is in District 200 Woodstock and houses Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. We plan on enriching learning opportunities for all students at VDELIC by providing them with fun and developmentally beneficial activities with access to sensory bins. The students would engage in activities that are creative and motivate them to participate in skills that further their individual growth.</p>			
Birth to Three Family Literacy Night	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Rosemary Ruiz Olivia Hunt	\$1100

Provide at-risk families with opportunities and supplies to enhance child development and literacy. The focus will be on safety, nutrition and family well being.			
Learning with Puzzles	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Lauren Cisneros	\$170.57
Puzzles provide multiple learning opportunities for young children, including fine motor practice, hand-eye coordination, and memory and problem solving skills. In addition, puzzles serve to teach and reinforce curriculum concepts such as colors, shapes, letters and numbers. In our dual language classroom, students learn these concepts in Spanish.			
Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Jessie Justice	\$1600
Week Around the World- Cultural Immersion for Kindergarteners will provide Verda Dierzen K 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, allowing students to learn about the cultures of their peers.			
Children of our World	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Gina Abruzzo	\$340
Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness" (Ola Joseph). Multicultural awareness is an important part of our Pre-K educational curriculum. We try to foster this awareness through many different avenues in our classrooms and through our day to day learning. My hope is to be able to expose our youngest learners to different cultures by reading books about various cultures.			
Fine Motor and Sensory Tool Kits for Pre-K	Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Jeannette Letmanski Julie Kenny Lindsey Mortell	\$250
The purpose of this grant is to provide a fine motor and sensory tool kit for each Pre-K classroom at Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center and Greenwood Elementary School. Many students enter Pre-K needing support in these areas. This kit would provide strategies, tools, and materials to support the students' needs in the classroom.			
One School, One Book	Dean Street Elementary School	Marivi Galera	\$900
Dean Street will buy the One School, One Book program books and resources from Read to Them. When the books are received, our school will distribute a copy of the book to each family, as well as faculty, administration, and staff. We will invite parents to participate by reading the book aloud with their children for 15 minutes every night. Students will take home their copy of the book along with a reading schedule to follow along. All program participants – students, families, faculty, and staff – will read along at the same pace, with supplemental school and community activities reinforcing the content of the book.			
Social Skill Development	Dean Street	Samantha Grasch	\$459

Through Text	Elementary School		
Students benefit from the use of literature to teach social skills. Books provide students with relevant examples of why social skills are necessary and how to use those skills. Stories anchor social skills lessons and provide opportunities for discussions, connection building, and direct instruction.			
Building Students Critical Thinking & Social Skills Through STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) & Literacy Activities	Dean Street Elementary School	Scott Becker	\$285.53
This project would provide Special Education students in grades 3-5 with hands-on, engaging activities and games that will promote their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, Literacy and problem solving skills. In addition, these activities can provide students with much needed social interaction and practice working collaboratively and cooperatively with their peers.			
Engaging in Social Skill Development with Games	Dean Street Elementary School	Samantha Grasch	\$233.93
Games are an engaging and positive way for students to practice social skills. Students practice turn taking, following directions, dealing with disappointment, making decisions, planning, decision making, managing emotions and other necessary life skills. Students use games to practice skills and learn how their actions affect others.			
Math Pop Its	Mary Endres Elementary School	Margaret Eaheart Cristin Shade	\$480
We would like to use 1-100 numbered Pop It manipulatives to help our second grade students practice different math concepts, such as counting to 100, counting by 2's, counting by 5's, counting by 10's and even addition and subtraction.			
Decodable Books for Successful Reading	Mary Endres Elementary School	Courtney Deering	\$329
This grant, Decodable Books for Successful Reading, will provide engaging decodable books for students at all grade levels at Mary Endres. These three class sets of Hello Decodables readers will provide differentiated and accessible content for all students to apply the skills they are learning during foundational skills instruction.			
Chess Game Timers	Mary Endres Elementary School	Kiera Parpart	\$285
Chess game timers will be purchased for the Chess Club at Mary Endres Elementary School. Use of timers will challenge players to be ready for their next move and keep their focus on the game.			

SoR Small Group Instruction	Mary Endres Elementary School	Christina Aguilar	\$240
I am asking the District 200 Education Foundation for funding to purchase materials to use during small group instruction. With the study and introduction of Science of Reading, we as teachers are learning that successfully teaching students how to read begins with early application and practice of phonemic awareness.			
Meeting an Author Can Change A Child's Life	Greenwood Elementary School	Julie Zay	\$325
To inspire children to write, read, be creative and to enjoy the amazing world of books, invite an author into your school environment. There are many benefits of an author's visit. The author will encourage reading to be fun, motivate and stimulate learning. An author's visit will get children thinking , heighten curiosity and encourage future success.			
Secret Stories for the Brain	Greenwood Elementary School	Regan Maltese Sarah Bellavia	\$220
Secret Stories is a kit that would supplement the district's phonics curriculum. Secret Stories provide students with an explanation for why letters make certain sounds in a fun and engaging way.			
Sensory Tool Kits	Prairiewood Elementary School	Marci Plumb	\$403
A sensory tool kit is a portable box, bin, or bag full of sensory tools and toys that help calm or stimulate a child's nervous system. Since the pandemic, it seems that our students have more difficulty regulating their systems and require more sensory input to be ready to learn.			
"Feeling at HOME, at Prairiewood"	Prairiewood Elementary School	Carol Cerny	\$100
Prairiewood Elementary School is the default location for children living at Home of the Sparrow. These students and others in homeless situations often miss out on spiritwear and yearbooks because their families simply cannot afford these items. This "Feeling at Home at Prairiewood" grant would help students feel included! (Funding for yearbooks only.)			
Chess Club timers	Westwood Elementary School	Kecia Griffin Lauren McCorley	\$285
For the last 5 years we have worked hard to turn our Chess club into a real motivated club that teaches the rules and structure of organized tournament play. At the end of each year we have a cross-town challenge with Mary Endres, Bringing students together to teach sportsmanship and chess rigor. We have updated all of our equipment, and now this is the last step. We are hoping to teach the use of the timers like in a real Chess world.			

Calm Down Kits for Classrooms - Part 2	Westwood Elementary School	Cathy Riley Kristin Thurow	\$500
This is to create a calming tools basket for students in grades 1-5. The baskets will be provided to each teacher including specials. The basket will include sensory items as well as strategy cards to give students the tools they need to regulate their emotions and independently calm themselves in times of stress.			
Inch by Inch, Row by Row: Expanding Westwood's Vegetable Garden	Westwood Elementary School	Kathy Lacey-Anderson & Jessica Backus	\$540
Westwood Elementary currently has two raised garden beds for students to plant vegetables. We would like to expand that number, building three 4' x 4' raised beds, so that each grade level has a raised bed to call their own.			
Hands on Learning Experiences	Westwood Elementary School	Lauren McCorley	\$185
In an attempt to make learning more engaging, I am trying to purchase items tied to our literacy ReadyGen curriculum, that will make learning more hands-on. Students can explore, inquire, and reflect on a deeper level through the use of hands-on science and social studies items.			
SEL Curriculum	Clay Academy	Jennifer Adams	\$180
I would like to purchase a box set of Ninja Life Hacks books to supplement the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Curriculum at Clay Academy. The books cover a variety of topics which promote growth mindset and problem solving, improve self esteem, encourage ways to deal with difficult emotions and/or feelings and prepare them for life challenges. These books are written for ages 3-11 and teach practical skills that students are capable of using. I have utilized two books from the series in the past which the students loved.			
Tributaries	Creekside Middle School	Melissa Thornton	\$750
Tributaries is CMS's literary magazine that highlights students' written and visual work. Students submit academic or personal work (in Spanish or English) to be considered for placement in the magazine. The magazine is published at least once per school year and given to students, families, and the community.			
Super Sensory Room	Creekside Middle School	Alyssa Niemic Karen Burns	\$450
The purpose of this grant is to purchase materials to remodel the sensory room at Creekside Middle School. The idea of the project is to create multiple sensory walls that will have a variety of textures for students to touch. This will help them regulate their bodies and emotions and ultimately let them calm down.			

Healing and Learning Through Therapeutic Horseback Riding	Creekside Middle School	Natia Hong Alyssa Niemic	\$476
<p>Our project is to provide our students a motivational opportunity to heal and learn through therapeutic horseback riding. Our students learn through a variety of ways, and providing a therapeutic approach is one way that will help and benefit our students- academically, emotionally, physically, and psychologically. Many of our students face daily challenges, and therapeutic horses are one way that will enhance the lives of our students with special needs, and physical and cognitive challenges. This project will benefit our students by enhancing coordination and motor skills, strength and balance, sensory integration, communication, independence, concentration and attention span, and reduce anxiety in a safe and calming environment. (Funding for riding fees only.)</p>			
Witnessing History at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center	Creekside Middle School	Emily Gay & Eric Schleutermann	\$1929
<p>A visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center offers Creekside eighth grade students the opportunity to hear survivors' stories, to study artifacts, and to engage with other primary source documents that show the lasting effects of hatred and the indifference that allowed the Holocaust to occur. (Funding for admission only.)</p>			
Creekside Best Buddies	Creekside Middle School	Julie Stone	\$300
<p>Best Buddies is an international program that matches students with a developmental or Intellectual disability with a student without a disability and they become friends. We are looking for materials and snacks to make our events more engaging.</p>			
Electric Instruments for Southside Orchestra Programs	Creekside Middle School Woodstock High School	Lyndra Bastian Christina Evans	\$2611
<p>For the past nine years I have been fundraising and saving for electric string instruments. I've slowly been able to get almost one set for CMS! The students use them in our pop orchestra, for solos, in the homecoming parades, holiday concerts, and summer camp. I am just 6 instruments away from having the sets at each of the schools for the students to regularly use and looking for some help!</p>			
Chemistry Exploration Sets	Northwood Middle School	Martin Wilson Deborah Dechant	\$440
<p>Students will be able to complete inquiry-based investigations of the elements of the periodic table, perform 8 chemical reactions, and learn how to label the products and reactants of a chemical reaction.</p>			
NWMS Field Museum Field	Northwood	Sara Puento Rubio	\$1850

Trip	Middle School		
Northwood Middle School History Funday: Field Museum Field Trip (Funding for admission only.)			
Northwood Humanities Club Field Trip	Northwood Middle School	Megan McDaniel Fernando Medinilla	\$300
Northwood Humanities Club develops an understanding and appreciation of others in the world through their languages, histories, and cultures. Each month we will take a humanities field trip that explores philosophy, culture, art, etc.. Each Tuesday we will meet to correspond with pen pals in Europe and present on different subtopics.			
Educational Visit to the Shedd Aquarium	Woodstock High School	Gina Moreno	\$125
A visit to the aquarium allows all grades of WHS students who are in the Blue Planet Club to see the species that we have been learning about all year. They would also take part in a "Exploring Pathology - Fish Dissection Learning Lab", that teaches them about biology and diseases. (Funding for the Fish Dissection only.)			
Zen Den	Woodstock High School	Ina Hall	\$500
The Zen Den is available to any student in need of a brief break when social, emotional, or academic pressure prevents student success. The Zen Den is not intended to look or feel like a classroom, therefore the grant money would fund nontraditional seating, calming lights, sounds, and relaxing activities.			
Authentic Lab Experience with DNA Profiling	Woodstock High School	Michelle Burgett Rehana Mohammed-Smith	\$450
The project aims to give students more authentic lab experiences in both Forensics and Biology classes by purchasing gel electrophoresis equipment to use for DNA profiling labs. Students will get to practice real world techniques of running gel electrophoresis and comparing DNA patterns.			
Math Team Competitions	Woodstock High School Woodstock North High School	Annamarie Spencer Sarah Pigman	\$1000
Our mission for the Math Team is to get students excited and involved in their mathematics journey.			

This club is for students who want to expand on their mathematical knowledge outside of the classroom, and prepare themselves better for SAT, college, and beyond.

French Immersion Day	Woodstock High School Woodstock North High School	Andrea Isabelli	\$920
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The French Immersion Day is a full day of speaking French for motivated French II, III, IV and AP level students from around the Chicagoland area. Each school may bring up to 12 students who participate in cultural activities, scavenger hunts, songs, games and dances all while speaking exclusively French.

Educators Rising 22-23	Woodstock High School Woodstock North High School	Jennifer Rooney	\$400
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Educators Rising is a national organization dedicated to supporting and encouraging our next generation of educators! Both Woodstock High Schools have recently established Educators Rising clubs to help grow our next generation of D200 teachers. (Funding for membership fees.)

Zen Den	Woodstock North High School	Ina Hall	\$500
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Life Connections Enterprises ~ Natural Soaps	Woodstock North High School	Cory Knopik Julianne Pacana	\$600
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The Life Connections Transition program would like to offer our young adults (18-22 yrs old) an opportunity to manage and work their own soap business. Through this business opportunity the students will gain independence, build customer service/social skills, manage the budget, track inventory, package the products and design the logo and labels. Once the soaps are ready the students will be able to sell their products at Woodstock North High School, take orders from D200 staff and within the community. As we prepare our students for employment within our community it's important to be able to provide hands-on opportunities that can benefit their adult lives and inspire them for their future.

