

2023 – 2024 Teacher Grants

<u>Page</u>	<u>School</u>
1-2	Early Childhood & Family Education
2	Clear Springs Elementary School
3	Deephaven Elementary School
3-4	Excelsior Elementary School
4	Groveland Elementary School
4-5	Minnewashta Elementary School
5	Scenic Heights Elementary School
6	Tonka Online
6	Multiple Elementary Schools
6-8	Minnetonka Middle School East
8-9	Minnetonka Middle School West
9	Multiple Middle Schools
9-12	Minnetonka High School
12	Vantage
12	All Schools

Minnetonka Community Education Center

Grant Title: Equitable access to the outdoors

Grant #26

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kendra Johnson

School/Building: MCEC

Summary: Minnetonka Preschool is offering a nature preschool section. A class set of rain suits will help make this class accessible to all students, including those from low income families receiving tuition grants to attend the class.

Awarded: \$830

Grant Title: Preschool Bilingual/Spanish Books

Grant #27

Lead Teacher/Staff: Katie Bowman

School/Building: MCEC

Summary: Minnetonka Preschool is now offering a Spanish immersion preschool option. We are requesting a variety of bilingual and Spanish books to meet the language needs of our class for an immersive experience.

Grant Title: Learning Beautiful for Early Childhood

Grant #28

Lead Teacher/Staff: Rachel Studnicka

School/Building: MCEC

Summary: Learning Beautiful materials are designed to introduce young learning to computational thinking through hands-on learning. Inspired by the Montessori Method, the hands-on materials break down abstract concepts into discrete, tangible form. In other words, the materials are open ended. They are not a simple game that can be "won" or "finished"—they are a learning tools that children can continue to explore with varying degrees of complexity. For early learners, the materials provide a foundation through sensorial experience. A 3 year old will have a highly explorative and sensorial interaction with the Binary Towers, for example (dropping the balls in the boxes, counting, seeing patterns), and through that, will begin to develop mental models. From there, all of the materials are scaffolded. Each lesson builds on previous ideas to become increasingly complex.

Awarded: \$4,400

Clear Springs Elementary School

Grant Title: DaVinci Hall Activity Center

Grant #2

Lead Teacher/Staff: Joan Larson School/Building: Clear Springs

Summary: During indoor recess, students need a place to create, be inspired, and design. Students utilize daVinci Hall for those things, but more is needed. They need an activity center to solve problems in a hands-on fashion.

Awarded: \$1000

Grant Title: Leveled Reading Materials for First Grade Spanish at Clear Springs

Grant #4

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ben Eller School/Building: Clear Springs

Summary: To support students in various levels of their reading development, the first grade Spanish immersion team at Clear Springs requests engaging leveled reading materials. This will increase student growth in reading as students will be using targeted leveled and engaging reading materials at their level.

Awarded: \$3200

Grant Title: Sonor SMART Series Xylophones

Grant #5

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Kimball

School/Building: Clear Springs, Afterschool Students utilizing this room: District Choir, the 4-5th grade musical, the community Minnetonka Music Association MAM choirs. My colleague directs many of these groups and will be able to use these instruments in her groups.

Summary: This is my second year applying for the amazing 3 set xylophones from the Sonor Orff Smart series as they were such a success last year and my goal is to get more students the opportunity to play these in class. Thanks to the Minnetonka Alumni Association students were able to experience 4 of these German made SMART Xylophones that are smaller and easier for all students but especially younger students to utilize in music lessons. They replaced our 8 step bells that did not last the test of time due to our heavy use of them during the pandemic. This 3 set SMART series stands for: Stackable; Mobile and Multifunctional; Acoustically Optimized; Refined and Trail brazing with Space Saving for bars.

Awarded: \$1480, Minnetonka Alumni Association \$600

Deephaven Elementary School

Grant Title: Golfing for a Lifetime

Grant #9

Lead Teacher/Staff: Samantha Bauchle

School/Building: Deephaven

Summary: This grant would help provide equipment for elementary aged students to start to learn the sport of golf, through engaging putting activities. This would allow students to learn

yet another way to stay active and learn a lifetime sport.

Awarded: \$1016

Excelsior Elementary School

Grant Title: Innovation and Design Project Supplies

Grant #14

Lead Teacher/Staff: Annie McGinn

School/Building: Excelsior

Summary: We do a "feb term" month long research project where students create solutions to real-world problems. We need supplies for students to use to build their creations. In addition, we do vocabulary projects, math projects, science projects and other inquiry explorations throughout the year.

Awarded: \$1475

Grant Title: Classroom Flexible Seating and Storage

Grant #15

Lead Teacher/Staff: Andrew Bauer

School/Building: Excelsior

Summary: This grant has the aim to obtain flexible seating as well as other classroom furniture for 4th grade students. The goal of this seating is to allow for students to feel welcome, comfortable and productive in their learning. Flexible and comfortable seating in a classroom allows for all students to actively engage in their work and learning.

Awarded: \$1784

Grant Title: Book Club Books

Grant **#16**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kelly Fisher School/Building: Excelsior

Summary: In our school's English book room, our book club (literature circle) books are in desperate need of fresh books. Many of our favorite titles are falling apart, and we hope to add many new titles. We surveyed our teachers to collect a list of books they would love to see available.

Awarded: \$2500

Grant Title: Educational Coding and STEM Games and Toys

Grant #17

Lead Teacher/Staff: Liu, Hsin-Yi School/Building: Excelsior

Summary: A way to use toys or games that help children understand the basics of coding, and expand their STEM knowledge through a fun play and interact with.

Grant Title: Integrating Hands-on Activities into Chinese Reading and Writing

Grant **#18**

Lead Teacher/Staff: **Jieming Jin** School/Building: **Excelsior**

Summary: In order to make Chinese reading and writing class more engaging and meaningful, the teacher is planning to create a whole unit to integrate some fun hands-on activities into the class. This unit will build connections between students' hands-on experiences with their Chinese reading and writing learning. The Kahoot and Blooket teacher's accounts will help to create the reading and writing learning activities and games related to this unit.

Awarded: \$600

Groveland Elementary School

Grant Title: Noise-CancelingHeadphones

Grant #20

Lead Teacher/Staff: Claiborne Day or Megan Hill

School/Building: Groveland

Summary: Between our air purifier, student conferences, and general noise, some students really struggle to focus during reading or independent work time. We would like noise canceling headphones for our students.

Awarded: \$250

Grant Title: 3rd Grade Snowshoe Exploration

Grant #23

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kristie Remick

School/Building: Groveland

Summary: We have such a great opportunity to utilize snowshoes here in Minnesota and at Groveland Elementary. I would love to take my students outdoors and discover the beauty of Minnesota in the winter. We can take hikes to Grow Tonka Park and explore the area (seasonal changes, animal tracks, and animal homes). With a full classroom set and 2 adult sets, we can take turns using them in the winter with my third grade team. Comes with bags to store, snow shoes and a pair of walking poles.

Awarded: \$1960

Minnewashta Elementary School

Grant Title: MWA 2nd grade Ojibwe Unit expansion

Grant #45

Lead Teacher/Staff: Carolyn Suarez School/Building: Minnewashta

Summary: Minnesota Historical Society Ojibwe shoulder bag replacement packs will allow Minnewashta 2nd grade students to have the opportunity to put into action what they have learned about Ojibwe culture, history, and arts connected to 2nd grade Minnesota Social Studies standards. Students will have the opportunity to blend their ideas with the work of artist Cheryl Minnema, Waabaanakwadookwe (White Cloud Woman) from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe through the design and decoration of their own cloth bag. The book, The Good Path by Thomas Peacock (of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), will allow students another window into Ojibwe culture through traditional tales and more detailed explanations of Ojibwe history as well as provide additional activities.

Grant Title: Math Enrichment in our Kindergarten Classes

Grant #47

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jessica Rojas School/Building: Minnewashta

Summary: We are asking for manipulatives that we can use in our Kindergarten Spanish Classroom during our math Instruction. The goal is to provide students with experiences using concrete resources.

The resources asked will be shared among the classes, that is why we are asking for one or two sets that can be used during stations.

Awarded: \$2000

Grant Title: Globes

Grant #48

Lead Teacher/Staff: Angela Meagher

School/Building: Minnewashta

Summary: I would like to purchase a classroom globe. This globe will be useful for our new science unit, Earth and Sun, to illustrate the affect of the earth rotating and revolving around the sun. The globe will also be used during our social studies unit about continents, oceans, and our country. In addition, referring to the globe throughout the year as we discuss various locations will provide a more accurate representation of the relative location (as opposed to a flat world map).

Awarded: \$300, Minnetonka Alumni Association

Scenic Heights Elementary School

Grant Title: 4th Chinese Immersion Enrichment Chinese Reading Materials for Book club

Grant #7**3**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ye Long School/Building: Scenic Heights

Summary: Our 4th grade Chinese immersion team members are planning motivate students' interest in reading Chinese fiction and non-fiction stories and build connections with our current 4th grade Chinese curriculum which is lacking Chinese cultureenrichment. These enrichment Chinese magazines called "小枇杷" will benefit our students Chinese learning.

Awarded: \$850

Grant Title: The Power of Diverse Books!

Grant #74

Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Leland School/Building: Scenic Heights

Summary: Literature for young readers (gifted 2nd/3rd graders) that tell the stories of historically underrepresented groups specifically related to race, ethnicity, and culture. To create importance in the classroom for "window and mirror books" (how we both see ourselves and see others when we read literature).

Tonka Online

Grant Title: Virtual Naturalist Experience

Grant #75

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tim Ketel School/Building: Tonka Online

Summary: The Tonka Online K-5 classes would like to work with local naturalist Larry Wade. Larry will conduct a series of immersive virtual lessons to introduce students to the wonder of

our local natural areas and will tie in scientific and artistic concepts.

Awarded: \$1125

Multiple Elementary Schools

Grant Title: Multilingual Library

Grant #7

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jayna Rafferty

School/Building: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta,

Scenic Heights

Summary: This grant is to provide multilingual families access to books to read aloud to their children and for the children to read independently in order to continue to strengthen and support students' first language in the area of vocabulary and literacy.

Awarded: \$2115

Grant Title: A Hop, Skip, and a Jump to Sight Words Fluency

Grant **#19**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Qingling Mendenhall School/Building: Excelsior, Scenic Heights

Summary: The objective of this project is to introduce and involve students (and teachers) to utilize the Sight Words and Compound Words Sensory Paths for movement breaks and repetition of those words. The long-term effect of adapting this innovative resource will be to (a) increase recognition of sight words and compound words and (b) support students' mental- and physical- health needs.

Awarded: \$1550

Minnetonka Middle School East

Grant Title: MME Morning Show Grant

Grant #49

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ellie Savitz

School/Building: MME

Summary: The MME Morning Show is a club that allows our school to start each day with a positive, humorous, and supportive live stream. A grant would allow the club to receive necessary equipment to increase productivity, special effects, mobility, and of course, fun. With more funds, the students who run the club would have more freedom and choice to improve the show while continuing our mission.

Grant Title: I can see clearly now!

Grant #55

Lead Teacher/Staff: Susan Wolfe

School/Building: MME

Summary: The PE Department at MME would like to enhance the learning experience of all students by offering swim goggles to everyone during their swimming unit. Student safety and confidence will increase.

Awarded: \$400

Grant Title: JUMP START your HEART!

Grant **#56**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Susan Wolfe

School/Building: MME

Summary: Cardiovascular strength and endurance is so important! Adding jump ropes will enable us to restructure warm-ups and class time in unique ways. Jumping rope can tap into student's strengths and diverse learning styles by providing an alternative to running.

Awarded: \$630

Grant Title: Period Supply Campaign

Grant #57

Lead Teacher/Staff: Michelle Brunik

School/Building: MME

Summary: The MME period supply campaign committee's initiative and purpose for this grant is to: make period supplies free and accessible to every female student at MME in a time of need, educate the community on the biological process of menstruation by breaking down misconceptions and stigma, remove the burden of purchasing supplies so that it doesn't fall on the teachers and MME community, but rather can morph into a more sustainable program, alleviate the need to miss school due to menstruation, and finally to foster community and promote a culture of problem solving and giving back.

Awarded: \$2000

Grant Title: LifeTime Activities-Ping Pong

Grant **#58**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Stacie Olson

School/Building: MME

Summary: Our PE department is in desperate need of new Ping Pong tables and equipment for our unit. I am asking to fund enough to give our students six new ping pong tables and extra ping pong balls to enhance their experience with this unit.

Awarded: \$2050

Grant Title: MME Graphing Calculators

Grant **#59**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Cindy McGlasson

School/Building: MME

Summary: We are requesting 4 sets of 10 TI-84 graphing calculators which will be shared classroom sets among all teachers who teach Algebra at MME.

Awarded: \$4394

Grant Title: Coding with Spheros

Grant #60

Lead Teacher/Staff: Gina Nelson

School/Building: MME

Summary: A Sphero BOLT Power Pack will provide students in the Advanced Learning program the opportunity to learn programming and coding through engaging and hands-on

activities. In addition, this will foster students' creative and critical thinking skills, which are essential for todays' learners. This provides a unique enrichment experience for our Advanced Learners and provides a codable robot to each individual student.

Awarded: \$3475

Grant Title: Minnetonka Community Resource Night

Grant **#61**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Katie Klemme

School/Building: MME

Summary: Minnetonka Middle School East is organizing a resource fair to connect underserved families and students to the incredible community and district's resources. The event aims to decrease barriers to access resources, such as language barriers, computer access barriers, and knowledge of available resources such as food and transportation. The fair will be held on Oct 26, 2023 at MME (or MHS) and is expected to attract more than 500 attendees, mainly from lower-income families, those receiving free and reduced lunch, and EL and underserved families. The fair will feature over 45 community organizations that have expressed their interest to participate. In addition to connecting families to resources and activities that make their student and family more health and whole, the secondary goal of this event is to foster a sense of belonging and connection within the Minnetonka district and community for families and students who may have been historically overlooked or underserved. This event was conducted this past Dec. 1 and we have an incredible turn out of 400 participants, with district and school board support and positive feedback.

Awarded: \$1500 Minnetonka Alumni Association

Minnetonka Middle School West

Grant Title: Spanish Board Games

Grant #65

Lead Teacher/Staff: Anika Hodel

School/Building: MMW

Summary: This grant is for language-learning board games for use in 6th grade Spanish immersion classrooms at MMW. We have "Wednesday fun day" choice time each week, and would like to expand options for fun and collaborative language learning. Board and card games are high-interest materials for students and allow them to engage with Spanish in a small group setting. This also is a great screen-free alternative.

Awarded: \$353, Minnetonka Alumni Association

Grant Title: Coding with Spheros

Grant #67

Lead Teacher/Staff: Laura Frisbie

School/Building: MMW

Summary: A Sphero Power Pack will provide students in the Advanced Learning program the opportunity to learn programming and coding through engaging and hands-on activities. In addition, this will foster students' creative and critical thinking skills, which are essential for todays' learners. This provides a unique enrichment experience for our Advanced Learners and provides a codable robot to each individual student.

Awarded: \$3475

Grant Title: Capturing BIG Creative Dreams with Digital Pens

Grant #68

Lead Teacher/Staff: Emily Swagel

School/Building: MMW

Summary: This grant supports exciting and innovative ways to create all aspects of visual work on iPad apps and compatible web sources by funding a quality set of digital tools for student use.

The impact of allowing students to use digital "stylus" tools will unleash their creativity and unlock their imaginations whether creating inspiring design, presentations, drawings or animations in virtual and digital formats.

Awarded: \$859, Minnetonka Alumni Association

Grant Title: 6th Grade Independent Reading Genre Books - MMW

Grant #71

Lead Teacher/Staff: Katelyn Schreder

School/Building: MMW

Summary: Every quarter, 6th grade Language Arts students choose a book from an assigned genre (fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and historical fiction) to use as their independent reading book. These books are used throughout the quarter for students to practice 6th grade Language Arts skills, practice reading strategies, study elements of fiction, and most importantly, to find a love for reading and discover new literature. The majority of 6th grade students find their new favorite books from these genre specific recommendations. We are requesting 12 new book titles to be added to our independent reading recommendation lists.

Awarded: \$1691

Grant Title: Dystopian Genre Book Collection

Grant #**72**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Furness

School/Building: MMW

Summary: We are looking to add more titles to our dystopian genre in the Media Center. This is considered the most popular genre of young adult literature and it pairs well with our dystopian unit when students are asked to select their own dystopian independent reading book.

Awarded: \$1000

Multiple Middle Schools

Grant Title: Middle School MAST Enrichment

Grant #76

Lead Teacher/Staff: Diane Rundquist

School/Building: MME & MMW

Summary: MAST occurs midday at the middle level. Students in need of teacher support or work completion work with a teacher (kind of like study hall). Many students are not in need of additional support during MAST, and they would benefit from an Enrichment experience during this time. We want to develop 5 or so enrichment opportunities from which students can choose. These will be diverse challenges and may open students' minds to new interests. Funding would support "start up" materials for initial challenge units.

Awarded: \$5780

Minnetonka High School

Grant Title: CS Software for MHS

Grant #29

Lead Teacher/Staff: Nick Bahr

School/Building: MHS

Summary: The computer science department at MHS would like to invest in new software and curriculum for a couple of classes. The purchase would be for Repli.it. This is an online tool that allows students to collaborate in real time with coding activities.

Grant Title: Best Buddies at Minnetonka High School

Grant #31

Lead Teacher/Staff: Stacey Edlavitch

School/Building: MHS

Summary: Best Buddies is an extracurricular club at Minnetonka High School. Best Buddies fosters one-to-one friendships between high school students with and without disabilities. We will use the funds provided for various events, for example, bowling, dance parties, etc.

Awarded: \$800, Minnetonka Alumni Association

Grant Title: 3 Jewelry Buffers/polishers

Grant **#32**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Steve Nugent

School/Building: MHS

Summary: Want to get 3 new buffers/polishers for the jewelry program. Want to get new

buffers/polishers with better air filters for the safety of the students and staff.

Awarded: \$2112

Grant Title: MIG Welder

Grant #33

Lead Teacher/Staff: Steve Nugent

School/Building: MHS

Summary: I am asking for a MIG welder for the metal sculpture class and the Momentum program. Currently we have 2 MIG welders but that is not enough for a class of 30 and multiple classes.

Awarded: \$3882

Grant Title: MHS Art Room Critique Corner

Grant **#34**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Meg Koenitzer

School/Building: MHS

Summary: I would like to create a space for small groups to discuss and critique their work in an under-utilized corner of the art room. This room is used primarily for Painting courses, AP Art, and IB Studio Art and this space would service over 150 students per semester. The corner would be a more intimate setting for students to view their work in a new light and have higher level discussions and feedback.

Awarded: \$2808

Grant Title: Digital Drawing Tablet Transformation

Grant #35

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sarah Young

School/Building: MHS

Summary: This grant would transform the way our students draw digitally. Currently our tablets and styluses are 10 years old and we can no longer get replacement parts because the current tablets are discontinued. Our students need equipment that is up to current industry standards, this grant will help us to begin updating our equipment.

Awarded: \$5840

Grant Title: Virtual Enterprise (VE)

Grant #36

Lead Teacher/Staff: Andrew Werner

School/Building: MHS

Summary: Virtual Enterprise (VE) is a program in which students run business ventures in their classrooms and engage in trading with other student-run businesses both nationally and internationally. With guidance and a business partner, VE students establish and manage a

company that replicates all the functions and demands of a real business. Students apply to work in different areas of the company overseen by department managers and a CEO. A typical firm is staffed in Operations, Management, Accounting, Finance, Sales, Marketing, Legal, Risk, Human Resources, and IT. Students take VE as a year-long, credit-bearing course, which is enhanced by regional, national, and international business plan competitions and trade shows.

Grant Title: Introduction to Computing Systems (CIS) Course Equipment

Grant #37

Lead Teacher/Staff: Nick Bahr

School/Building: MHS

Awarded: \$2500

Summary: This grant will help cover the costs for consumables, and other resources for the new Introduction to Computing Systems (CIS) course. The course requires the use of both software and hardware, and this grant will greatly help cover the costs necessary to create the best possible learning experience for students!

Awarded: \$2500

Grant Title: MHS Harbor room - recumbent bike

Grant #38

Lead Teacher/Staff: Michelle Makres

School/Building: MHS

Summary: I am seeking funding for a recumbent bike to be used by students in the Harbor program at Minnetonka High School. The purpose of the bike will be to provide a means for students to engage in an activity that provides them with sensory-motor input to increase self-regulation, attention, and engagement in learning.

Awarded: \$550, Minnetonka Alumni Association

Grant Title: How to increase precision and visibility in the deaf space while acquiring the language of ASL?

Grant #41

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tracy Ivy

School/Building: MHS

Summary: As an educator, I am committed and responsible for providing innovative resources for my neurodivergent students using the non-ablism lens. The given resources will also benefit abled-body students equally. The grant will provide "mirrors" and "TVs" to help with increased precision and visibility. "The language is so effective that even when the images are reversed quote by researcher Charles Stirling. That is why mirrors are mentioned, especially for my dyslexia students. TVs show looping signing to help reinforce vocabulary retainment throughout the classroom period.

Awarded: \$3500

Grant Title: Code-able quad-copter drones (a class set) for principles of physics

Grant #42

Lead Teacher/Staff: Dana Severson

School/Building: MHS

Summary: Principles of Physics is requesting a class set of 12 code-able drones. We currently have 6 remote control drones and 2 code-able drones (that students code and then fly) from the 2021-2022 Mtka Foundation Grant cycle. They're great, but we are handcuffed into large groups and a lot of waiting-for-a-turn on the code-able ones by lack of supplies. The drones are used during the first unit and then periodically during 1st semester's motion/forces/energy content to increase engagement in a class of typically reluctant learners.

Grant Title: Robes for Minnetonka Choirs

Grant #43

Lead Teacher/Staff: Aaron Kohrs

School/Building: MHS

Summary: Minnetonka Choirs is seeking partial funding for 60 new choir robes at the High school. The addition of these robes will replace traditional outdated choir apparel that may dissuade students from joining the choir program and increase the feeling of well-being and belonging in our choir students.

Awarded: \$2883

MHS - Vantage Program

Grant Title: Vantage Inclusion Expansion

Grant #44

Lead Teacher/Staff: Roger Andre

School/Building: MHS, VANTAGE Facilities plus off-site meetings and site visits Summary: We are actively encouraging students from underrepresented communities (immigrant, BIPOC, other) to enroll at VANTAGE. Some of these students will need assistance with VANTAGE's professionalism requirements (primarily professional dress requirements). In prior years we have helped isolated cases through private donations.

Awarded: \$2550

All Schools

Grant Title: Free Wilson Reading Store For Teachers: Supplemental (But Really Helpful) Instructional Supplies

Grant #8

Lead Teacher/Staff: Bart Meath

School/Building: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta, Scenic Heights, MME, MMW, MHS

Summary: Minnetonka Schools supplies teachers the basic Wilson Reading supplies such as teacher manual, student books, letter tiles, word cards and assessments. However, Wilson encourages use of other supplies that are not a part of the basic Wilson kit. These extra supplies such as supplemental decodable books, student erasable white boards, organizational cabinets, and classroom instructional posters will improve the instruction that teachers provide to students.