



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Aldridge Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Dawn Raschke

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: "Empowering Literacy"

Project Summary

Reading Horizons (RH) is a multidisciplinary phonics reading program for special education students. This program has two levels, Discovery - K-3 and Elevate grades 4 and up. Students with learning disabilities and ELL's benefit from this program. My students range from grade 1- 5 and are a minimum of 2 - 3 grade levels below in their reading and comprehension levels. I am currently using this systematic, explicit, research based phonics program to teach and close the gap by direct instruction. I would like to purchase a software license for each student for the technology component of this program. Technology helps teachers maximize the time we have with students. SPED Resource minutes are 30-60 minutes daily. It would maximize individualized instruction. We can review performance data, to plan and provide one to one and small-group instruction for students on a specific skill deficits. Students move at their pace within the program as they master skills holding them back. The Computer Game leads to gains for struggling readers and ELL's by independant, individualized and virtual instruction. Struggling students have gaps in foundational skills: phonics, decoding skills, sight words and basic grammar.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Andrews Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Maiesha McKendall

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: HMH Waggle Reading Program

Project Summary

We currently have the HMH program for our reading curriculum. I would like to add on the Waggle program which is apart of HMH to supplement online reading, writing, and grammar practice through direct instruction. The program differentiates instruction with targeted practice for each student. Students begin with a pretest in order to gain an accurate measurement of their abilities. The program is aligned with the TEKS and will adjust as the student progresses. The goal of the program is to build a deeper understanding and confidence for the students. The program identifies student's strengths, weaknesses, and learning patterns. The program places students on a learning path and monitors their progress and make adjustments as necessary.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Barksdale Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Catherine Ledsome

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Book Treasures

Project Summary

Book Treasures aims to provide books to our economically disadvantaged students. Each economically disadvantaged student will receive a treasure box of specifically curated, age-appropriate, high quality books. The treasure box with 10-15 books will go home with each child so they have books to treasure at home.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Beaty Early Childhood School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Rachel Grinnell**

Amount Requested: **\$3000**

Project Name: **Communication Through Sensory Experiences**

Project Summary

This project will target students with low incidence disabilities who gain the most knowledge by experiencing this world through the use of all of their senses. This grant targets all Active Learning (ALC) and Experiential Learning Classrooms (ELC) in the district. This grant will fund sensory story kits in the ALC and ELC across the district to allow teachers and speech-language pathologists to increase sensory experiences using sensory books which will allow the students to learn in the way that best meets their needs. Communication includes a variety of skills (e.g. protesting, requesting, commenting, asking questions, greetings, commenting, making choices, directing attention, etc) and the students that this grant targets need to have resources that target multiple skills to give them the greatest opportunity to learn skills that will help them in adulthood. *There are 13 PISD campuses that will be benefit from this grant.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Beaty Early Childhood School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Isabel Marquez**

Amount Requested: **\$1000**

Project Name: **Social Emotional Learning for Parents and Students**

Project Summary

Escuela de Emociones (School of Emotions) This project is designed to enhance the Social and Emotional Learning of our Dual Language Preschool Students and their parents. Escuela de Emociones will provide students with biweekly SEL lessons and quality materials to help them understand and cope with their feelings. At the same time, the program Escuela de Emociones will provide a series of workshops for parents where they will learn how to manage their own feelings, learn skills, and strategies and receive resources to work with their children at home. The goal is to help our dual language families to find healing and hope as they start their journey in this country.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Bethany Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Ryan May

Amount Requested: \$1495

Project Name: Stop Sitting Still: FOCUS, Move & Learn

Project Summary

Keeping a student's attention in the classroom can be a daunting task. Doing so when a student has Autism, ADHD, or other learning disabilities, can be even more challenging. Most of us can probably remember being scolded in school growing up and constantly told to, "SIT STILL!" However, more and more, researchers are finding that student movement keeps the body more engaged. Muscles crave activity, making it difficult for students to tolerate prolonged sitting. Active seating allows students to move and adjust themselves in a non-disruptive way, they also burn off excess energy which ultimately increases their blood flow. Better blood flow means more oxygen gets to their brain. With more oxygen, brain functions increase which improves student focus and increased knowledge retention.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Beverly Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Kristin Meggers

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: "Let's Get Regulated"

Project Summary

After students have experienced unprecedented events over the past few years, they have struggled with identifying and regulating their emotions. This has led to behaviors, such as non-compliance and elopement. Students also struggle with communicating wants and needs (i.e., asking for help on an assignment). We have emphasized Social-Emotional Learning and Positive Behavior Supports school-wide. However, there is a need for a place on campus where students can go to take a break and de-escalate. We are currently working on setting up an extra classroom as a Sensory/Calming Classroom that would benefit all students. One goal is to equip the room with sensory items that support students with regulating their emotions and bodies. We have collaborated with related service providers, such as our school's Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, to ensure we are providing students with evidence-based support. Another goal is to reduce the amount of elopements and behavior issues. The supports will align with the Zones of Regulation, so students can follow a curriculum to work through situations. Our third goal for this room is to assist students in mastering IEP goals that pertain to behavior, self-regulation, and functional routines.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Beverly Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Faith Pahl

Amount Requested: \$1461

Project Name: Calm Down Kits

Project Summary

Recent world events have effected the way students manage their emotions. Students struggle with regulating their emotions and expressing their wants and needs. Calm down kits provide classrooms with essential sensory and calming supports and strategies. This project's goal is to assist students in generalizing calming and social-emotional strategies across all academic and non-academic settings. The use of calm down kits will decrease the level of anxiety and amount of elopements from the classroom. There will also be an increase in focus and participation. Because every classroom will have a calm down kit, this project will help every student on campus, as well as their parents. Through collaboration with our school's occupational therapist, we have selected evidence-based supports for these calm down kits. The calm down kits will also align with the Zones of Regulation curriculum to assist students in working through and managing their emotions.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Bowman Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Tracie Chambers

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Staying Current with Nonfiction Books

Project Summary

I would like to update areas within our school library's non-fiction collection to provide students with the most current books. These books will be used by our entire student population and are often areas that are involved with curricular projects or are high interest for the students. The focus would be on topics that are rapidly changing and developing such as technology, health and medicine, and computer science.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Brinker Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Carla McCraw

Amount Requested: \$1349

Project Name: Literacy-Based Speech Therapy Library

Project Summary

As a Speech Therapist, providing literacy-based therapy, or contextualized language intervention, for students with language impairments is a fantastic way to teach skills in context, as well as, expose the students to books and all the benefits that brings. Students are able to connect past experiences and background knowledge with the stories, they are able to improve their vocabulary from hearing and learning new words in the books, and the therapist is able to target multiple language goals using a book. Not just any book will do. The list of books I am requesting have all been hand-picked by leading Speech Pathologists that are well-versed in literacy-based therapy and have created lesson plans and targetable goals for each book that has been selected. The books follow monthly themes that also incorporate other activities to support the skills learned while using the books.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Carpenter Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Nimet Hajee-Bata

Amount Requested: \$599

Project Name: IXL Interactive Skills

Project Summary

Our newcomer and intermediate students struggle with academic vocabulary .In the past, I have used the IXL interactive skills program for science, social studies, math, and English for tutorials for our Emergent Bilingual students.I believe this program was instrumental in one of our 8th grade beginners, who spoke no English and had been in U.S. schools for two years to score "Approaches Grade Level" in STAAR reading, math, science, and social studies. Students can also use the program at home, and parents can watch, help, or learn academic vocabulary with the student. In addition, it will help our Emergent Bilingual students to increase their MAP scores.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Clark High School

Teacher/Librarian: Karen Burnett

Amount Requested: \$500

Project Name: Social/Emotional Brain Breaks during Applied
Geometry Class

Project Summary

In an effort to improve work ethic of my special education Applied Geometry students, I provide fun brain breaks once or twice during a class period. These brain breaks allow me to check their work, provide them with immediate feedback, and provide some one on one help to a struggling student. These fun activities keep the brain's neural pathways active while providing a break from Geometry without distracting from the ongoing learning of others. The brain breaks are specifically designed to promote positive, appropriate social interaction where students can work side by side on a collaborative project called "stick together". Even my hesitant or socially isolated students, such as my high-functioning autistic students who may struggle with language or social cues, enjoy the opportunity to interact and participate on these projects. The stick together project is essentially a paint by letter canvas where the students use a legend to relate the color to a letter and then apply the sticker to "paint the picture". The students have no idea what the picture is that they are sticking together so it also encourages some processing skills as the students interpret and make educated guesses about what the picture will ultimately become.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Clark High School

Teacher/Librarian: Kristin Eoff

Amount Requested: \$500

Project Name: Books to Spark a Love of Reading

Project Summary

Every year, we encourage our English 2 students to read self-selected novels for 10 minutes at the start of class. Our goal is to spark an interest in books so students will start to read more on their own, leading to increased reading comprehension, more advanced writing skills, a more sophisticated vocabulary, and greater empathy for others. However, we are often hampered by a limited or outdated selection of books, making it much more difficult to entice reluctant readers to give books a chance. The challenge for many English teachers is to inspire their students to open a book, immerse themselves in the story, and learn to love reading and the pursuit of knowledge. Last year, I was very fortunate and grateful to win a grant to purchase new books for my classroom library that featured a range of diverse and relatable characters. The books were eagerly welcomed by my students, and some of the highlights of my year were when students voluntarily read books for the first time. I would love to continue this momentum and feed my students' excitement for engaging, thought-provoking texts featuring compelling stories that both speak to my students and inspire them to love reading.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Clark High School

Teacher/Librarian: Ashley Hendrickson

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: AVID College Dreams Fieldtrip

Project Summary

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Here at my campus, we try to give our AVID students multiple opportunities in a school year to SEE themselves in college settings to drive their desire to achieve that future success. AVID's College Tour and College Fair expectations states that educators will introduce, define, and reinforce the importance of exploring colleges prior to the application process, guide students in developing customized lists of colleges by category, namely the best academic fit, social fit, and financial fit. We truly believe in this mission and expectation, but often have trouble covering the cost of transportation to make these college dreams a reality for our students. We're asking you to help us alleviate some of the rising costs of transportation so we can focus on what truly matters - exposing our students to a college that just might be their future!



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Clark High School

Teacher/Librarian: Bethany Poston

Amount Requested: \$1129

Project Name: An Interactive Whiteboard for Interactive Students

Project Summary

Gifted and talented students are naturally inquisitive. They require depth and complexity in their learning. When presented with information for the first time, our students want to know more. They often ask for supplemental material because they want to go deeper with their thinking. The Humanities program would like an interactive whiteboard to meet the special needs of this population. An interactive whiteboard would allow us to personalize our students' learning efficiently and delve more deeply into the subject matter. Because we are a Humanities class, the information we present varies from art and architecture to literature and history. An interactive whiteboard would allow us to organically discover more information with our students; it would be invaluable for inquisitive minds.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Daffron Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Catherine Chomistek

Amount Requested: \$1483

Project Name: Practice Makes Progress

Project Summary

Practice makes progress! We are a Title One School servicing a bilingual population. Although we have classroom books in Spanish for our 4th and 5th graders we would like to provide additional engaging leveled Spanish books for our students to check out and read at home with their families on a daily basis. We would like to provide a multitude of reading materials to be checked out by our students. Reading levels will increase with practice! We want to make sure our students have many choices both non fiction and fiction, to take home to read independently to increase their reading skills.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Forman Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Imelda Carrasco

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: No Brain Left Behind

Project Summary

This is a project being used to help motivate students through rewards at our school store. The school has adopted a behavior system that is implemented school wide called CHAMPS. Students have the opportunity to earn bucks for good character such as being trustworthy, good citizenship, kindness, caring, among others. When a student receives a number of bucks, he or she can further use them to purchase reward items like pencils, erasers, stickers, markers, and books. Our students are motivated to work on their behavior, which in turn is helping their academic progresss.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Forman Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Lillian Langston

Amount Requested: \$750

Project Name: Books for Bucks

Project Summary

This grant will buy age appropriate novels in bulk for students (PK-5th) to buy with our school monetary system. Many students mention not having novels of their own at home, and this grant will change that! Our Books for Bucks program will also teach students valuable financial literacy skills (one of the newer standards on STAAR) and allow them to save up for the books they choose to buy.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Frankford Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Kristin Milam

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Organisms and Their Environments

Project Summary

Many students at our Title I school have never had the opportunity to visit a zoo and therefore, have no connection or experience with the organisms found there, the ecosystems they live in, or how human activities impact the environment and ecosystems throughout the world. While visiting the zoo, 8th grade groups will use cell phone technology to complete a digital journal providing cross curricular learning connections and documenting their experience as they move through the exhibits. Students will be guided through exhibits in small groups with a facilitator, allowing targeted discussions and peer support while completing the digital journal together, providing scaffolding when necessary. On return to the classroom students will complete reflection activities, across multiple subjects, related to their visit to the zoo and the experiences they encountered.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Guinn Special Programs Center

Teacher/Librarian: Jennifer Clinton

Amount Requested: \$1400

Project Name: Around the World in 50 minutes

Project Summary

I want my students to know there is an entire world outside of Plano, Texas and outside their phones. If selected, I will purchase three Meta Quest Oculus Virtual Reality goggles. When we study World Geography, we look at maps, we look at power point presentations, and we watch videos. If you were studying a volcano, which would be more engaging? Powerpoints with diagrams of formation, or putting on a pair of VR goggles, and feeling like you are being dropped of from a helicopter and landing ON the volcano, knowing you are able to look all around. Which one of those are you going to talk about with your parents? Which one of those activities will make an impact? If I can incorporate these VR goggles into my lessons and make the lessons more engaging and make the students more excited about World Geography, that is what I want to do. I want my students excited about learning. I will incorporate VR as it relates to the curriculum. When studying South America, we will venture to Machu Picchu, or swing by the Christos Rey statue in Colombia. students to casually mention where they traveled to during World Geography.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Guinn Special Programs Center

Teacher/Librarian: Emily Stubbe

Amount Requested: \$1042

Project Name: Problem-Solving Through Science

Project Summary

The student population that I serve is at high risk for dropping out of school. I have found that the best way to engage my students in their study of science is through engineering-design projects and other hands-on activities that require low-risk problem solving. Once they gain confidence in their ability to physically manipulate variables, they are much more willing to attempt the math, reading, and writing that will give them a more complete understanding of the science as well as improve their academic skills. I would like to purchase science equipment specific to teaching high school IPC and physics as well as consumables for students to use to build cars, bridges, catapults, and other machines using the engineering design process.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Gulledge Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Vincent Vullo

Amount Requested: \$162

Project Name: Improving Classroom and Self-Management with Classroomscreen.

Project Summary

Classroomscreen.com is a free-to-use website to help teachers with classroom management. It contains several widgets that help engage students, provide information, and help students manage themselves. Classroomscreen.com offers several advantages over Google Slides (what we are currently using) in that it provides interactive widgets that can be displayed to the class including: decibel meter, clock, timer, calendars, polls, and work symbols. The premium version of classroomscreen allows teachers to save their screens to use repeatedly. It also allows teachers to save their class lists to use with the "randomizer" widget.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Gulledge Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Erica White

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: EcoBots

Project Summary

The funding would support the advancement of our robotics team of 30 fourth and fifth graders all with a shared excitement for advancing their innovative thinking. The team will build and program spike prime robots that can complete various missions. The team will solve a real world problem related to the use of energy consumption. The team will be mentored by other PISD robotics teams and will mentor younger students on our campus as well. This funding will allow us to increase our team's impact on others and advance our learning experience.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Haggar Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Bethany Jacobson

Amount Requested: \$900

Project Name: Happy Campers

Project Summary

Happy Camper Reusable camp supply kits are to be created for children/families in financial need to use during their 5th grade annual PISD camping trip, returned, replenished, and used again for the following years 5th grade students. In the past the teachers and staff have come together to pay out of pocket for camp supplies if a student was in financial need. With your help we would be able to create a system that will eliminate the need for teachers to pay out of pocket, and still give students access to reusable kits so they could attend the 5th grade camp without worry.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Haggard Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Stephanie Johnson

Amount Requested: \$1390

Project Name: Leveling the Playing Field in the Classroom with ExamReader

Project Summary

As many as one in five students nationally struggle with Dyslexia or reading difficulties. These students are often bright and motivated to learn, but find mastering concepts in their core subjects challenging because of their reading difficulties. Students sometimes decline reading support due to the stigma that is associated with getting teachers to read aloud to them or leaving the classroom for reading help. The ExamReader allows the student to read along as they scan the words on the page and listen through headphones for both tests and graded assignments. This helps remove the stigma of oral reading support and promotes independent reading and test-taking in the classroom. In essence, the ExamReader helps level the playing field for dyslexic students. All five ExamReader pens will be available for students to check out and use in the classroom. C-Pen ExamReader Website:

<https://cpen.com/products/examreader/> ExamReader video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpLcpST4f0Q> Yale Center Website:

<https://dyslexia.yale.edu/dyslexia/dyslexia-faq/>



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Harrington Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Kayla Casillas

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Building Classroom Libraries to Improve Early Literacy Skills

Project Summary

As we continue to adjust to a school environment that has been affected by Covid, we have found our youngest learners need as many opportunities to engage with quality picture and chapter books. With our project, we would like to deeply engage our K-2 students in literacy with a wide variety of high interest picture and chapter books across multiple genres to increase their early literacy skills and comprehension. Due to the change in access our students have with digital resources, we want to provide them with multiple opportunities to expand their early literacy skills through reading. With this project, we will be able to grow classroom libraries across K-2 grade levels so students have equitable access to high quality books and create a love for reading.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Harrington Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Jamie Edmondson

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Super Science Sources

Project Summary

Super Science Sources is a grant that will fund new nonfiction books that directly align with topics in the Science TEKS. The librarian will audit the Science TEKS and the current library collection to determine where there are gaps. Once the gaps are filled with new books teachers will be provided with a flyer of new resources in the library collection that directly aligns with the Science TEKS for their grade level. The new resources can be checked out by students or teachers to support learning.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Head Start Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Patricia Murillo

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: A Head Start to Reading

Project Summary

I recently visited our school library and asked where I could find the bilingual section. Our school librarian pointed at a minimal set of books and mentioned, "this is our Spanish collection" The "collection" consists of no more than a dozen books. I believe children need to be exposed to books as much as possible to grow their vocabulary, communication, and literacy skills. Our school has four dual language classrooms servicing approximately eighty Hispanic students from low-income households. The ability to check out and read books in their home language will enhance our student's learning experience and their families. In addition, this project will provide a parallel reading opportunity to match the books provided in English.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Head Start Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Kristi Vest

Amount Requested: \$445

Project Name: Literacy Learning Through Technology

Project Summary

Through the use of innovative, interactive technology, my students will improve their letter recognition and letter sounds skills; as well as work on language development by comparing/contrasting, describing, and learning new vocabulary. These skills will be taught using highly engaging technology that features sight, song, and 3D magic--no special glasses required!



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hedgcoxe Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Shannon Flohr

Amount Requested: \$1400

Project Name: STEAM Bins

Project Summary

4th grade would like to create STEAM Bins for our students to use. We are hoping to use these bins as morning work and then add a time for STEAM 1-2 times a week in our classrooms. We want to offer our students options to build, use their imagination and creativity, and experience using materials they may not get to use elsewhere. We hope that this will help encourage attendance and tardies as well. The plan is to have several different bins in each classroom with the same materials. Students will get the same bin for their group for the week. We would then rotate the bins to the different groups as the weeks go on. Our goal is also to help get our student's minds working and prepared for the day. Our other goal is to help students be able to transition from home to school in a way that helps release whatever energy they may be holding onto.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hedgcoxe Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Melanie Paige

Amount Requested: \$721

Project Name: ****Learn to Garden, Garden to Learn****

Project Summary

This project will purchase elevated garden beds and equipment for the students in the Active Learning, Experiential Learning, and Elevate Classrooms. This will allow our students in wheelchairs and students with sensory defensiveness access to garden centers similar to those used by their general education peers, and in order to broaden our scope of possibilities in the classroom through learning life skills, expanded sensory activities, as well as increased hands-on learning as it relates to district curriculum.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hendrick Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Joy Prather

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Manga Mania

Project Summary

Manga Mania will provide 100 new mangas for the school library so that more students can read the currently most sought after books.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hickey Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Lauren Blacketer

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Rhythm Path: Day of Drumming

Project Summary

The Day of Drumming Program is a one-day event that will allow every single student on campus to play a traditional West African djembe in a drum circle. All grade-levels will be part of the drum circle during their 50-minute Specials/AMPed time. Each student will play a drum, learn about the music and culture of West Africa, sing traditional songs, learn and echo call-and-response rhythms, and participate in part-work and improvisation. The program's instruction is soundly based within the state's music curriculum and allows music teachers to supplement their lessons with hands-on experience.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hickey Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Leah Rhodaback

Amount Requested: \$686

Project Name: Let's Build It

Project Summary

Students in the experiential learning classroom (ELC) learn through play and experiencing information in several different modalities. The foundation of the ELC is to experience learning activities. The supplies in Let's Build It would allow for students with intellectual disabilities and other impairments to experience STEAM at their current learning level. Let's Build It would give numerous opportunities throughout the year for ELC students to participate and experience STEAM as never before. Let's Build It would work on visual regard, imitation skills, communication, fine and gross motor skills and learning through play based activities. The skills obtained during Let's Build it would help with quality of life and critical thinking skills for years to come.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hightower Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Melinda Carr

Amount Requested: \$592

Project Name: Lunch Bunch Book Club

Project Summary

I would like to encourage reading for enjoyment and increase student interaction by providing opportunities in the library for students to engage with one another during lunch time book clubs. The lunch bunches would be for grades 3, 4, and 5. We would read current blue bonnet chapter books and then meet to discuss them over lunch.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Huffman Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Miranda Smith

Amount Requested: \$403

Project Name: Sensory community Garden

Project Summary

As part of our program we strive to provide students with as much agency as possible. In that effort, a group of fifth graders have formed a Garden Club to better utilize our existing garden space on campus. The garden is structured in three tiers going up a retaining wall. The students have a vision to create a sensory garden to serve the wide spectrum of needs of their peers throughout the school. They would also like to develop the vegetable section of the garden so that they can produce fresh food to contribute to the food pantry we have on campus.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hughston Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Kelly Finklea

Amount Requested: \$1451

Project Name: PreK Gross Motor Lab

Project Summary

We are working to develop a PreK Motor Lab for our satellite campus to further assist our students in developing gross motor skills which is positively correlated with development of cognitive, perceptual and social skills in preschool aged children. Our program is new and thus not fully equipped to address the physical development needs of preschool aged students.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Hughston Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Karen Gournay

Amount Requested: \$1453

Project Name: Decodable Readers for Early Learners

Project Summary

Our grant is to provide access to high quality decodable readers to K-3 classroom teachers, instructional support and special education to provide explicit instruction in phonics skills.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Isaacs Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Ilsa Hargrove

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Educational Toys Revamped

Project Summary

At my school, toys are the forefront of our classrooms. Children learn through PLAY. They are 3 and 4 years old at our school, learning how to be members of the world. We dedicate hours of our day to playing- inside and outside. We integrate our special education friends to learn how to play from their peers and utilize our typically developing friends to teach our special education friends how to share, how to ask for a turn, and how to play with toys. The problem is- most of the toys we have at the school are 15+ years old with missing pieces, or are partially broken. The times I have seen play be explored the most is through donated toys that have working parts that can be explored and played with- and it is so joyous to watch. When I pull out a working toy that the children can play with- their faces light up in the most incredible way, a way that you can tell their brains are working and they are making memories. I would truly love to see students have the opportunity to play with toys and materials that work and that sparks joy for little minds.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Isaacs Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Ashley Kallsen

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Communication Access Everywhere: Large Core Language Boards on Playgrounds

Project Summary

As preschool Speech-Language Pathologists, we have a passion for providing and utilizing communication opportunities for our early language learners. At Isaacs ECS, 51% of students have a speech or language impairment, with a majority requiring Assistive Technology to communicate. We also have a large population of Spanish speakers and Second Language Learners. Our campus uses core language boards (posters with symbols/pictures to represent frequently used core words) throughout the school, allowing children to communicate their needs and wants. These core language boards allow adults and children to communicate with ease, by using visuals to support communicating frequently used core words. There is difficulty when utilizing communication aids on the playground, as it is not always feasible for students to carry communication systems when engaging in gross motor activities. We are proposing for large core boards to be placed on our playgrounds to allow for appropriate and practical access for students to communicate. They will have visuals with both English and Spanish referent words listed, for adults and children to utilize. At Isaacs ECS, our goal is for all students to use their early developing language skills in all settings, providing them with a strong foundation for elementary school and beyond.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Isaacs Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Makaila Mason

Amount Requested: \$1350

Project Name: Working Together to Help our Senses Work Together

Project Summary

Young children are known for their high level of energy, constant need for movement, and love for sensory exploration and as educators we have learned to embrace these aspects of childhood in ways that allow our students to flourish. The increasing understanding of sensory processing has brought attention to the importance of creating effective environments for our children that allow them to engage in activities and with materials that support their needs. Our school motor lab is used daily by special education and general education students to help with self-regulation, development of physical skills, and to create socially engaged joint attention experiences. In order to give our students the maximum opportunity and support for developing an understanding of their own needs and gaining independence in meeting those needs, we are looking to purchase sensory calming materials and equipment for vestibular and proprioceptive input. In addition to equipment and materials, we will enroll the support of our district professionals to provide training around the effective use of sensory regulation to meet student needs. To create a culture of community, we will then inform parents about their children's work and work together to establish home and school carry-over of effective strategies.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Jackson Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Amy Kincaid

Amount Requested: \$1312

Project Name: The "Art" of Vocabulary Instruction in the Library

Project Summary

Every kindergarten through first grade student in the school visits the library for an academic mini-lesson (K-1 weekly and PK and 2-5 bi-weekly) before book check out. After the mini-lesson, the librarian will show a 5-7 minute "Art for Kids Hub" (<https://www.artforkidshub.com/>) YouTube video and rotate groups to check out books. During the video, students utilize art supplies to follow the instructional steps. Specific vocabulary words used in each video will be pre-written in English and Spanish on sentence strips. These will be distributed to each table of students as they draw along with the video. When a word is mentioned in the video, the librarian will pause the video and discuss the meaning of the word with the children. This grant money will purchase drawing materials and supplemental instructional drawing books for the library. The direct teaching of key words used in these instructional art videos will help both English and English Language Learners with vocabulary development. The librarian will circulate around the tables of students to check students' understanding of the new words. According to the National Art Education Association, "talking about artwork offers excellent opportunities to build vocabulary skills" (Eubanks, 1997).



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Jackson Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Kaitlyn Kyei

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Speech/Language Growth Through Literacy

Project Summary

As a bilingual speech language pathologist, I struggle to find a variety of books in Spanish that I can use in my speech therapy sessions because my own library is limited and the library at my campus is also limited. My literacy resources available are mostly in English that I orally translate or I write out on paper in front of me. I'm challenged to better align with the district's Multilingual Department Vision and Mission statement to: "educate, inspire and empower every student to reach high levels of biliteracy, bilingualism and biculturalism to fulfill their unique potential in a global society." While I am targeting the bilingualism, the re-forcing of the biliteracy aspect can be hindered at times by my lack of resources in Spanish. I would like to buy more relevant books in Spanish as well as story retelling kits and materials to make book companions. This will help to not only reinforce and contextualize speech therapy communication targets but also to encourage greater literacy skills and specifically greater biliteracy skills in the bilingual students that I serve. The visuals and the story retelling kits also can be shared with the monolingual SLP to benefit the most kids possible.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Jackson Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Nancy Shaw

Amount Requested: \$3000

Project Name: Books for Kids

Project Summary

The Books for Kids Project Committee is honored to provide personal books 3 times a year to Title 1 students on 19 elementary campuses. These books give them visual and print access to concepts that promote PISD's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and Social-Emotional goals. The Books for Kids Project involves the following: Securing funding through grants and donations for 3 giftings per year in grades 1-5 Purchasing appropriate books for the district's STEAM goals and the students' reading levels Applying book plates for each book Packing books for each Title 1 school Delivering books to each Title 1 school



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Jasper High School

Teacher/Librarian: Patricia Young

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Books that Provide Mirrors and Windows

Project Summary

All students deserve to see themselves in the books that they read. The school I serve has a diverse student population and it is important that all students have access to books that have characters they can relate to. Mirror books enable students to make connections to themselves. They help students feel validated and that their stories matter. Windows books help students understand those that are different from them. These books help readers develop empathy for communities, cultures, and experiences they might not encounter any other way. It is essential to have both fiction and nonfiction books that represent the whole student body. The collection is aged. Out-of-date materials need to be replaced with current materials to meet state requirements for an exemplary program. With grant funds, both fiction and nonfiction books can be purchased that will be current and provide mirrors and windows for the student community.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: McCall Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Ki Lee

Amount Requested: \$1492

Project Name: Special Education Field Trip

Project Summary

There has been an increase in the attention paid to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Unfortunately, on average, students with disabilities perform lower than students without disabilities in math and science. According to Jiwon Hwang (professor - California State University) and Jonte C. Taylor (professor - Pennsylvania State University), the needs of students with disabilities need to be considered as a means for future success with this emphasis in STEM/STEAM. These needs include promoting flexibility in various types of technology, real world connections, and teaching problem-solving skills within science contexts. The field trip will consist of taking SPED (and possible ELL) students to AT&T/Globe Life Stadium. Students will interact with manipulatives on field and transfer knowledge into the classroom. The goal of this project is to engage our special population students with real world connections and provide real manipulatives to equip all students with content knowledge and skills. This will equip students to solve complex problems in the real world.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: McMillen High School

Teacher/Librarian: Courtney Davis

Amount Requested: \$1040

Project Name: Dance on the Digital Forefront

Project Summary

Postsecondary careers and educational institutions seek students with creative awareness of our technology-driven world. A working knowledge of multimedia and content creation is more important than ever! As a dance instructor, I am seeking a digital camera to help my students create photos and videos to add to their website portfolios. I hope to enhance students' digital footprints, assist them in establishing their personal brand, and teach them how to look artistically at media in all its forms.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: McMillen High School

Teacher/Librarian: Meredith Smith

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Growing Into Graphic

Project Summary

Following "the Covid years," students often struggle with attention spans and many are hesitant or reluctant to read an entire book. I conduct reference interviews with students daily and when I suggest a book, I often get the same responses: "No, miss, that's too long" or "I don't like to read." Graphic books are an entree into reading. I can usually get reluctant readers to consider a graphic novel or manga. Most of my mangas and graphic books are older as we inherited many when our library was established. In addition, many of our books have been removed due to releveling for age appropriateness and/or damage. With this grant, I would like to build my graphic novel, non-fiction, and manga collections with current, relevant, and age-appropriate titles that will appeal to reluctant and avid readers alike. When books are in a series, it is important to buy the series at one time as they are often hard to find later. I would love to buy 3-4 new manga series as well as purchase single titles of graphic novels and non-fiction that will enhance literacy on our campus, get more students into reading, and draw more students to the library.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Meadows Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Ivone Cantoran

Amount Requested: \$1347

Project Name: "Math Stackers" Make Math Stick

Project Summary

This project is intended to improve students' ability to achieve grade level math proficiency. Math Stackers will allow students to see numbers represented in a concrete way. In addition, they would also allow our older students a kinesthetic way to work with fractions. According to the Math Stackers website, these manipulatives help with "counting, number recognition, 1-1 correspondence, comparing and ordering, measurement, patterns, subitizing, spatial reasoning, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, multiples and factors, and graphing". Math Stackers will provide our students with the opportunity to visualize math and make sense of even the most complex math concepts. Students will love using oversized manipulatives for math; making math fun will in turn increase students' confidence. Math Stackers takes the whole child in mind by focusing on the academics as well as the social-emotional aspects.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Meadows Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Jeannette Cardona

Amount Requested: \$1150

Project Name: Léeme en Español (Authentic Literature in Spanish for Dual Classrooms)

Project Summary

I would like to receive a grant for Authentic Children's Literature in Spanish. Literature resources in Spanish are limited, and most of them are translations. I want to get a variety of titles and genres that dual teachers and interventionists could use in their classrooms. We have leveled libraries for the dual students, but we need more Authentic literature for the teachers to use in their classrooms. Poetry books, picture books, literary, informational and chapter books written in Spanish by authors from different parts of Latin America. We need more books in Spanish that celebrate the Hispanic culture and will help our emergent bilingual students develop and enhance their native language so they can become not only biliterate but also bicultural. In authentic Spanish literature students will be exposed to the diversity of ways to say the same words in different cultures.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Meadows Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Riley Lacoume

Amount Requested: \$1450

Project Name: Bridging the Gaps with "Bridges"

Project Summary

This project includes Math Intervention resources and lessons that are used to meet the needs of struggling students from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. According to their website, "Bridges Intervention provides targeted instruction and assessment for essential K&#amp;#dash;5 mathematics skills and concepts. A strengths-based approach builds on each student's abilities&#amp;#dash;starting with manipulatives, then moving to two-dimensional representations and mental images." Bridges is created to supplement core math instruction, and is designed to use within a small group setting. Since this program provides progress monitoring and tiered instruction that follow the RTI model and the MTSS frameworks in which help us identify students in need of intensive intervention. The contents in the Bridges Intervention are put together by content and NOT by grade level, and it allows for 30 minute small group instruction time to complete a lesson.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Meadows Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Ellen Nagoski

Amount Requested: \$1135

Project Name: Science Blast-Off

Project Summary

3..2..1..Science Blastoff! Let's bring the wonders of the Perot Museum to our Title 1 school. The 5th graders will learn about essential Science TEKS such as organisms and environments, air and weather, matter and energy, and force, motion and energy. Additionally hands-on projects will be purchased to learn about the Solar System, the Earth, and Moon. Butterfly kits will be purchased for the students to view the life cycle of a butterfly and then to release them into nature. Are you excited yet? Let's hope so because science boards will be provided by the grant to encourage our students to do a Science project at home and then enter it in the school fair. Finally, let's launch on a field trip to the Perot Museum where the 5th graders can explore 11 exhibit halls, covering everything from biodiversity to the wonders of space! Let Science take-off this year in our 5th grade science classrooms to give the students more hands-on experiences that will inspire them to be problem solvers and future innovators.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Meadows Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Aleli Nucum-Jones

Amount Requested: \$873

Project Name: Game On: Play, Laugh and Learn

Project Summary

Schools face a myriad of challenges each year, but the past two years have been extraordinary because of the ongoing pandemic. Physical, mental, and emotional isolation continue to directly affect our students, resulting in social skills deficits manifested in dysregulation and off-task behaviors. Our mission of educating, nurturing, and caring demands from us more creative and effective strategies. The goal of this grant is to provide our students with tools to teach and practice social skills that can help them navigate the uncertainties and awkwardness of face-to-face interaction, especially in light of the overwhelming impact of social media and online activities. Students will be encouraged to interact with their peers as they play carefully curated games and tools in a safe, caring, quiet environment. While playing, students learn to communicate, listen, take turns, make decisions, follow rules and directions, respect peers, collaborate, plan, solve problems, and most important of all, accept victory and loss with equal grace.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Memorial Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Jennifer Erp

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Building On Our Momentum By Encouraging Positive Behavior

Project Summary

We have instituted a schoolwide positive behavior support system and we are looking for funds to purchase tangibles for our school "store", where students can cash in their points for prizes. Our students are earning points for displaying positive behaviors in all areas and we want to reward them for these excellent choices.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Memorial Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Teresa Smith

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: How does a garden grow soil?

Project Summary

The garden initiative aims to give a live, growing, and learning outdoor garden space in the school as well as introduce hydroponic gardening for students to experience and develop their understanding of plants and agriculture. Elementary students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have the ability to use a hydroponic indoor garden to test their hypothesis as well and incorporate the Engineer Design Process Skills. Our first goal : * Providing real life experiences tfor students to observe first hand on plant growth with a wildflower butterfly garden * Introduce the Hydroponic Tower Garden as an inspiring experiential piece to motivate students in science and engineering



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Memorial Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Dayle Thornal

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Spanish Language Library Collection Development

Project Summary

Our project proposes to continue increasing and updating our Spanish language picture and fiction library collections to better serve our bilingual and dual-language student population. We are striving to provide these students with an adequate collection of materials in terms of size, quality, and age to help advance their bilingual literacy. A Spanish language collection that equals our English language collection in terms of providing choice, relevance, and variety - both in terms of themes and reading levels - is needed to truly be responsive to our dual language and bilingual student population. This project relates to Plano ISD's strategic plan in terms of our Culture of Community.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Miller Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Heather Marek

Amount Requested: \$834

Project Name: You S.H.I.N.E.

Project Summary

Children with dyslexia face challenges from the time they wake up until they lie down for bed. These challenges can be trying to navigate. Many times parents and teachers are quick to ask..."What is going on in their brain?" The answer to this question has a clear-cut answer that is rooted in fMRI imaging and the latest dyslexia research. Their brain is in overdrive-compensating for the deficit that occurs with reading, spelling, and writing. But the question I dare to ask first is..."What is going on in their hearts?" This answer takes on a vast variety of answers-feelings of fear, questions of acceptance, or slivers of confidence ready to be unveiled with support. The House of Shine in Grapevine, Texas is a non-profit experience-based museum and home for all to discover what makes them Shine ! Through this field trip experienced "Shineologists" will engage our children in hands-on experiences like no other...leading them to self-discovery of confidence, and joy. There is a rich opportunity for our children to actively dive into their Strengths, Hobbies, Interests & Irritants, Needs, and Experiences. These are lifelong findings to build children from the inside out...unlocking their inner self-awareness.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Mitchell Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Samantha Enoksen

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Classroom Transformation

Project Summary

Our goal is to engage our scholars through immersive classroom transformations. We have had two successful transformations this year and have seen the positive outcome and high engagement. We would like to continue to do these transformations throughout the year but funding is difficult. As teachers, we tend to reach into our own pockets for our scholars. In order for us to continue to provide these hands-on experiences, we need financial support.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Mitchell Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Wendy Tyler

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Non-fiction Library Books for our Spanish Speaking Students

Project Summary

Our campus became a bilingual campus this year resulting in the need to significantly increase the number of library books in the Spanish language. Currently, our Hispanic students have limited access to books in the Spanish language in the library. Considering the fact that more than 30% of our student body speak only Spanish, this is a great need to ensure equal access to relevant, quality non-fiction books. While the district does provide funds for collection development, non-fiction books in Spanish are significantly more expensive than English non-fiction books. The grant will allow us to purchase non-fiction books in Spanish that will support the science and social studies curriculum for grades K-5 as well as provide informational books for reading pleasure. In addition, our Spanish speaking students are already begging for additional choices in Spanish. They see thousands and thousands of books in English including an entire section of the library devoted to non-fiction books that they are unable to read. There is no equity in the library for these students.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Murphy Middle School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Laura Mullen**

Amount Requested: **\$1500**

Project Name: **Beyond "Board"**

Project Summary

Games and puzzles are an extremely effective tool for engaging students in productive conversations, reducing stress, building critical thinking, and providing opportunities for students to use and improve social skills. When funded, this project will allow for the purchase of cards, puzzles and board games for each classroom at our school to be used during our advisory period.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Amy Deeble

Amount Requested: \$1450

Project Name: Brick by Brick: Promoting Early Childhood Learning through Structural Plank Block Play

Project Summary

Much has been written regarding the value of building with blocks in terms of fostering skills across social, emotional, cognitive, and physical domains. Within the cognitive domain alone, research provides evidence that block play develops a variety of intellectual skills including spatial reasoning, mathematics, and language/literacy. At the early childhood level, blocks are one of the most valuable, developmentally appropriate STEAM materials to support student learning at individualized levels. Structural planks are a specific type of block (identical wooden blocks designed with key ratios in mind, e.g., 1 X 3 X 15) that promote imagination and maximize building possibilities considering properties of structural integrity (mass, weight, proportionality, and balance). While our campus has access to other types of blocks, access to structural planks on campus is extremely limited. This proposal draws from early childhood research in outlining the benefits of purchasing one structural plank block kit per classroom on campus to provide ALL students access to new materials that could be incorporated into a variety of centers and instructional activities for years to come.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Kelly Ann Frederick

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Pre-k Takes Flight

Project Summary

For our grant, we are proposing to collaborate with the Frontiers of Flight Museum and their Educational Outreach Program. They a learning experience that they can bring to our campus that would benefital of our students. This program aligns with our PreK guidelines as well, which makes this opportunity even more beneficial to our school population. The first program offered by the museum is called "My Moon, My Sky". Stargazers learn about the different types of stars (including our Sun), Earth, and Moon by comparing size, color, and position. Zooming in on the Moon, they complete a lunar month identifying the Moon's phases and surface composition. We hope that by giving our students the opportunity to experience the Frontiers of Flight Museum's Educational Outreach Program it will stir their inquisitive minds and get them excited about continuing to learn about their earth and other science related topics in our classrooms.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Kelsey Rohr

Amount Requested: \$850

Project Name: Pre- Takes Flight

Project Summary

For our grant, we are proposing to collaborate with the Frontiers of Flight Museum and their Educational Outreach Program. They a learning experience that they can bring to our campus that would benefit all of our students. This program aligns with our PreK guidelines as well, which makes this opportunity even more beneficial to our school population. The first program offered by the museum is called My Moon, My Sky . Stargazers learn about the different types of stars (including our Sun), Earth, and Moon by comparing size, color, and position. Zooming in on the Moon, they complete a lunar month identifying the Moon s phases and surface composition. We hope that by giving our students the opportunity to experience the Frontiers of Flight Museum s Educational Outreach Program it will stir their inquisitive minds and get them excited about continuing to learn about their earth and other science related topics in our classrooms.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Jennifer Shelton

Amount Requested: \$500

Project Name: Beckon, Broaden, & Build

Project Summary

Our reading center is like a desert wasteland with only a few books and some tumbleweed blowing through. Analogies and jokes aside, we are in dire need of a reading center makeover! As a result of not having enough resources, our students are not motivated to visit the reading center, and we would also like to have more literature at the centers they do frequent (i.e. train diagrams at train center, construction books at block center). We are not adequately prepared to maximize our students' literacy skills and fully meet the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse learners. Purchasing books and resources from a variety of genres and providing an inviting reading center combined with a discovery area with interesting print products will beckon children to visit, broaden their understanding, and build their literacy skills.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Amanda Sorensen

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Representation Matters

Project Summary

I am writing this grant proposal on behalf of my deaf and hard of hearing students. I am advocating for their representation because it matters, and they are unable to do so (yet). I believe it is vital to have representation of my students who have hearing aids and cochlear implants to be able to read books and play with dolls that look like them. As a speech and language pathologist, it is my job to help ensure that my students have access to language and communication in all areas of their environment throughout the day. Speech and language skills develop at a significant rate from birth to five years of age. This type of growth is supported through the notion of reading and through interactive and various forms of play. My students are preschoolers ages 3-5 and they are in a prime stage of development where they are learning social and emotional skills through dramatic play. It is important to nurture this type of development because this is the emotional foundation in which all other skills are built upon. When a child is motivated and engaged, the more likely they will be invested learners and community participants.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Pearson Early Childhood School

Teacher/Librarian: Jessica Williams

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Get Cool & Calm Toolbox

Project Summary

We are hoping we can accommodate each class on campus with its own Social and Emotional Learning toolbox. In each toolbox, you can find an assortment of toys and items including fidget toys, liquid motion toys, children's jump ropes, infinity cubes, tactile tangles, timers, squishy balls/animals, multiple breathing strategies, bubbles, stress balls, and a variety of sensory objects to hold. The items inside are designed to assist children when needing to de-escalate and it's a way for them to learn how to handle their emotions when feeling upset, angry, frustrated, or anxious. The toolboxes would also support social-emotional growth as it prepares them to move forward.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano East Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Kelton Burnside

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Beyond the Traditional: Supporting Underrepresented Voices in Orchestra

Project Summary

Plano ISD and Plano East Senior High School have over a seventy-percent a minority enrollment, attesting to the importance of celebrating diversity and supporting all students through education. The students enrolled in the orchestra program at Plano East reflect the diversity that we celebrate in this district and learning community. Unfortunately, the same diversity is not reflected in traditional orchestra literature; the voices of women composers and composers of color have historically been missing from the traditional orchestra repertoire. This project will support a living, underrepresented composer in composing a work for string orchestra to be played by the orchestra students at Plano East Senior High School, shared with the community in Plano, and offered to our national orchestra community. It is crucial that students see themselves represented in the music we perform so that they feel empowered to make music in school and beyond. The process of connecting and working with a living, underrepresented composer will offer students a meaningful experience in orchestra that parallels our district's commitment to diversity. This project will have a lasting positive impact on our students in Plano and encourage positive change in our field.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano East Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Karen Stanton

Amount Requested: \$1460

Project Name: Dallas Holocaust Museum Trip

Project Summary

We would like to take all of our Humanities 1 classes to the Dallas Holocaust Museum in January following our related unit in AP Human Geography. At the museum, students can take photos that document their learning or answer with phrases/words/sentences. They will use this document immediately following the trip during a student-led Socratic Seminar that will focus not only on how the Holocaust happened but also on their take-aways, their questions, and their understanding of upstanders and bystanders and how this knowledge will impact their actions/decision making as young adults. Because the students are in a 9th grade Humanities course, we are combining the IB, AP Human Geography, and Honors English knowledge/skills in our goal setting.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano East Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Eric Tuzin

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: 21st Century Calculators for 21st Century

Mathematicians

Project Summary

In many mathematics courses, students rely heavily on calculators to complete statistical analyses for things like regressions, chi-squared tests for independence, t-tests, and binomial and normal probability distributions. For many students, a barrier to their success regarding these topics is the cumbersome nature of the calculators provided to them. With this grant, I am seeking to purchase 15 calculators at \$100 each for a total of \$1500, to break down these barriers of understanding and to unlock math knowledge for all students in my classes. The Numworks brand calculators that I am proposing the PISD Education Foundation fund are overwhelmingly preferred by students in my classes for their ease of use. They are also approved for use on all high-stakes testing including SAT, ACT, AP, IB, and STAAR. With these calculators, it is my goal to maintain the average score and raise the minimum scores on the end of year exam in my math course (7% did not pass).



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano ISD Academy High School

Teacher/Librarian: Kayla Herron

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Student-Led Strength Training

Project Summary

This project would provide the necessary weight-lifting equipment to implement a quality student-led strength training program. For the program, student-leaders will design and facilitate weekly strength-training circuit workouts for their peers.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Juan Chaves Bernal

Amount Requested: \$1480

Project Name: Digital Recording Studio: A Safe Space for Creativity

Project Summary

What it means to be a trained musician in today's America is very different from what it was in 18th century Europe. Nonetheless, traditional music theory courses are heavily based on the performance practices of the latter, rather than the former. A current musician lives in a world with fluid boundaries where musicianship and live performance are just as important as proficiency in the roots of studio production. This is why I want to add these basics of studio production to my current music theory curriculum, and have available for my students a digital recording studio in my classroom. This is a combination of computer hardware and software that includes the full functionality of an analog recording studio for a fraction of its cost. If I am able to include the basics of studio production in my curriculum, I am certain that I will create more creative, engaged, and relevant work from my students. This work will include a portfolio of professional-sounding materials that would better prepare them for a career in the music industry, or make them stronger applicants to some of the best contemporary music programs in US colleges.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Lisa Jones

Amount Requested: \$2276

Project Name: Collaborative Monsters

Project Summary

We would like to establish a tradition of building community between our younger students and older students through an annual collaborative artmaking process that includes the elementary and high school students. We believe that working together and inspiring each other fosters patience and altruism in our older students, and a love of school and art in our younger students. Younger students will imagine and create original monster designs that will be taken and turned into stencils digitally. Older students will screen print these designs onto t-shirts for themselves and aprons for the elementary students. The project will come together in the spring when students from both campuses will meet at a reception honoring all of the participating artists. Individual elementary and high school partners will have fun finding each other by matching their printed designs, then will spend time together adding to their prints with collaborative drawings and art signings. Though many of the supplies we are hoping to acquire are consumable, several items may be used for years to come - allowing even more students to benefit from this fun and community-building project.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Kimberly Miller

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Health Science Venipuncture Arms

Project Summary

Practicum of Health Science is a Career and Technical course and as such we really want to make sure our students have equipment that simulates real life experiences. Currently our equipment we use to instruct students on how to perform venipuncture, drawing blood, is not conducive to appropriate training. The equipment has not been replaced for many years and we only have venipuncture pads not full arms to simulate drawing blood. We would like to be able to purchase 15 new full venipuncture arms for our students to use while practicing their venipuncture skills. We normally have at least 30 students in our class so this would allow us to have one arm per two students.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Mark Yoder

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Plano of the APES

Project Summary

In AP Environmental Science (APES), students become landscape architects hired to design and install an environmentally beneficial, native plant landscape on campus with the goal of increasing biodiversity and soil health, reducing resource use and erosion, and regulating and purifying storm water runoff on campus. The project design spans the entire first semester and incorporates all topics and materials dealing with ecology, conservation, and natural resource management with a focus on restoring the Blackland Prairie. Each group will carry out a series of benchmarks consisting of hands on labs and activities throughout the semester. The end product is a landscape architectural concept design, including landscape architectural diagrams and models, and a presentation pitch. The winning design will be implemented throughout the spring semester. The winning team will act as project coordinators (landscape designers) and oversee the planting and creation of the landscape.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Plano West Senior High School

Teacher/Librarian: Nihan Yilmaz

Amount Requested: \$1320

Project Name: PowerUp literacy skills with Lexia PowerUp

Project Summary

I am requesting Lexia PowerUp Literacy subscriptions (valid for one calendar year after initialization) for my ESL students. Lexia PowerUp Literacy accelerates literacy gains for students in grades 6-12 who are at risk of not meeting College- and Career-Ready Standards. Proven to be up to five times as effective as the average middle school reading intervention, PowerUp enables students to make multiple years of growth in a single academic year. Lexia PowerUp aims to maximize student learning through a truly personalized experience that addresses individual skill gaps and impact reading proficiency and academic success. This targeted approach allows each student to make literacy gains quickly and develop the reading and critical thinking skills necessary to meet the demands of secondary curriculum and beyond.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Rasor Elementary School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Vickie Vega**

Amount Requested: **\$1500**

Project Name: **Let's Give Them Something to Talk About**

Project Summary

I want to increase the academic talk in classrooms by providing each grade level with a Q-ball. The Q-ball is a ball that can be tossed around in the classroom and has a built in speaker. Teachers will use the AVID talk strategies to encourage academic discussions in the classroom. The teacher poses a question and students use the AVID stems to respond then toss the ball to another classmate. Students are encouraged to respond in complete sentences. In grades K-2 the ball could be used to promote book discussions (The main character is _____, I like the part in the story when...).



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Renner Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Anna Hensley

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Destination Dallas

Project Summary

Field trips a thing of the past? No way! Let's dust off the effects from the last few years of uncertainty and give these students an experience they'll remember for a lifetime. Students can read about history in a textbook. They can watch a video or read a primary source. However, we all know that the most authentic way to learn is by experience. The 7th grade Texas History/PACE teachers would love to take our students to The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas to reinforce our study of the changes that Texas experienced during the 20th century. Per our curriculum, "One event happened here in Dallas that affected the entire world: the assassination of JFK." History teachers always aim to make history relevant to students' lives today and provide ways for them to retain and apply what they learn. Experiencing the museum will make this study of the 20th century personal to each individual student, no matter their prior knowledge of the 1960's or the assassination.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Robinson Middle School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Jennifer Lawson**

Amount Requested: **\$1400**

Project Name: **Classroom Libraries**

Project Summary

Our mission is to increase literacy on our campus by providing classrooms with in-class mini libraries. It is our goal to create an environment and culture of reading throughout our school, across disciplines. Books range from being specific to that teacher's subject area to high interest novels and novels that focus on social and emotional learning. The intent is to build this program into a school-wide initiative where every classroom of the school, regardless of subject area, houses a library. Participating Teachers Mitch Stobee--6th Grade History Araceli Ochoa--7th/8th Spanish Kelli Baker-Mitchell--7th/8th Life Skills and College Readiness Lisa Arriaga--8th Science Samina Jiwani--6th History/PACE Sarah Napier--8th History Neenu Suri--6-8 Special Education Todd Anderson--6th Science Alex Smith--6th Math Andy Diewald--8th Math Leslie Luce--8th History/PACE Katie Thompson--8th Science All counselors Each participating classroom will have a poster to promote reading along with their classroom library. Students will be allowed to check out books from any classroom library through an online management system. Genres ranging from historical fiction to graphic novels provide students with options. Books have been selected from multiple lists such as the Newberry Winners, top middle school books, and lists of best middle school social and emotional learning books.
<https://www.teachingexpertise.com/classroom-ideas/sel-books-for-middle-school/> and <https://www.readbrightly.com/kid-approved-middle-grade-books-mental-health/> .



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Robinson Middle School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Leslie Luce**

Amount Requested: **\$1500**

Project Name: **Flexible Seating Frenzy (with books to boot)**

Project Summary

I am interested in flexible seating for our PACE/US History classroom. In my prior classroom, I had nearly all flexible seating so that students could find a place to work that allowed for their best learning. Having options in our classroom gives them the power of choice and gives them a sense of ownership in our classroom and their own learning. It allows students to build responsibility and ownership for the well-being of our classroom, and respect for property, as well as creating a setting that invites learning. Research shows that flexible seating increases student engagement, student grades, as well as participation, and collaboration. With the last couple of years of learning and teaching, we are going to have to rethink our classroom settings in order to continue to re-engage our students. Choices that lend themselves to formal learning, as well as less formal learning (independent work, reflection, collaboration) are necessary in the ebb and flow of a class cycle. Our classroom, being filled with the study and discussion of history, invites collaboration because everyone's experience is so very different. Sharing these perspectives in a less formal setting complete affects the engagement and contribution of students in a positive way.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Robinson Middle School**

Teacher/Librarian: **John Mcknight**

Amount Requested: **\$1500**

Project Name: **Literacy through Comics and Graphic Novels**

Project Summary

Using funds provided by the Grants to Educators , the 7th-grade English Department at Robinson Middle School will purchase popular comics , graphic novels , and manga aimed at young adults. We will add these texts to the classroom libraries of 7th-grade English rooms, to be used for daily Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) time. These "multimodal" texts provide a gateway for developing and reluctant readers to engage with reading, which in turn has been proven to boost academic achievement.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Robinson Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Sarah Napier

Amount Requested: \$1438

Project Name: History Is Fun For All Learners: Year 2 Even More Fun

Project Summary

In middle school social studies our students have to learn a ton of new information, in 8th grade alone there are over 110 events and more than 40 significant individuals that students must know. But it's not just enough for them to be able to identify the events and people they also have to be able to apply that information. So it's really no wonder that some students have found social studies to be boring or overwhelming, which both cause their motivation to lag and for students to not reach their highest potential. Last year with our "History Is Fun For All Learners" grant we were successfully able to create engaging and innovative learning experiences that challenged our students to meet our high expectations, while also proving that history is, in fact, fun for everyone! With the materials purchased through the continuation of this grant we will continue to create these fun, innovative and interactive learning experiences for all of our 6th-8th grade history students. While also working on important skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and communication. These learning experiences will lead to increased student engagement, that will allow students to reach their highest levels of learning.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: **Robinson Middle School**

Teacher/Librarian: **Lauren Wulz**

Amount Requested: **\$1500**

Project Name: **Celebration Station**

Project Summary

We are excited to implement a new initiative on our campus that is research based and best practice in education. By setting up a PBIS system and store on campus we will be stepping into a new phase of recognizing and reinforcing positive behaviors on our campus. While we currently have a nine weeks recognition program to celebrate student academic achievement we would like to be able to celebrate all student behaviors on our campus and recognize and reinforce the day to day habits our students are building as good citizens. As part of this program we would like to establish a student inactive store on campus where students can redeem earned "bucks" for items they may want including, but not limited to books, school supplies, fidget toys, and other items.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Schell Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Lindsey Garrett

Amount Requested: \$1300

Project Name: Communication Core Board for the Playground

Project Summary

We typically have a larger student population who use communication devices or core boards. These devices and visual supports aid in the student's ability to effectively communicate with their peers and adults. When playing on the playground, the students' devices aren't always easily accessible, and they would benefit from having a core board accessible on the playground. Every student has a voice, and we want to foster an environment that aids in their communication.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Schimelpfenig Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Claudia Romanczukiewicz

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: LOTES of books

Project Summary

We would like to expand our book library in the foreign language middle school classroom. While students are learning a new language, it is recommended that they read a variety of books in the language they are learning. Having a classroom library enables our students to build reading stamina and enjoyment, to see vocabulary and grammar in context, to acquire vocabulary and cohesive elements. We will have a book club where students will collaboratively read books in the target language that are appropriate to their proficiency level.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Shepard Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Lauren Scurry

Amount Requested: \$1700

Project Name: Camp EPIC

Project Summary

E mpower, P romote, and I nspire C ommunication for students who stutter. That is my dream. I would like to implement a camp to provide education, inspiration, and resources to students (and their families) throughout the district. This would consist of a 3 day (1/2 day) camp in the summer for students in grades K-12 who stutter, allowing the older students to be mentors and leaders for the younger students, and providing community, education, communication confidence, and self-advocacy skills to all participating students. I also would like to use the data collected through Camp EPIC to further the knowledge of SLPs and teachers who work with stuttering students in PISD.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Shepton High School

Teacher/Librarian: Sandra Flippo

Amount Requested: \$830

Project Name: Spanish 3/3H Trip to Meadows Museum

Project Summary

Spanish 3 and 3 Honors students will tour the Meadows Museum at SMU (Spanish Art) prior to their unit study on Spanish Art and History. The Meadows Museum at SMU houses one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection includes masterpieces by some of the world's greatest artists, including El Greco, Velázquez, Ribera, Murillo, Goya, Miró, Dalí, and Picasso. During this docent-led tour, students will also have the opportunity to view a special exhibition on Phillip IV, which is on loan from the Fricke In New York.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Skaggs Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Eowyn MacBeth

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Envision Inclusivity

Project Summary

Envisioning Inclusivity is a two-phase project to increase digital and physical accessibility at our school. The project will first focus on inclusive, accessible media creation and then incorporate a 3-D printer to augment classroom lessons and allow teachers to create custom accessibility aids for students. For the first phase, we would like to purchase an iMac for media creation to use with existing district licenses for Adobe Creative Cloud. Our librarian has already transformed our morning announcements room into an AV studio that teachers and students use to create custom video projects to enrich lessons. In addition, our school regularly produces custom posters and other print media with the same goal. However, our computers' aging hardware limits our video and graphics editing primarily to online tools with limited editing and captioning capabilities. As a result, the time investment to caption even a short video prohibits staff and students from creating captions. With the iMac, we could fully utilize the Adobe Creative Cloud suite, including Photoshop (picture and graphics), InDesign (posters, brochures, and books), and Premiere Pro (video, transcribing, and captioning).



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Skaggs Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Courtney Walker

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Skaggs Student Book Club- The Story Keepers Club

Project Summary

The Story Keepers Club will be a student centered book club to celebrate a love of literature creating connections between the students, stories, and real world experiences! It will last for one semester and meet once a week after school (January 2023-May 2023). We will read one book a month and when finished with each book, create an experience, event, or an advanced product based on the book. Students will read a section of the book outside of club time and come to the weekly meetings ready to discuss and share meaningful themes and connections. We'll dig into perspectives, plot, word choice, author's intent, and inferencing. Each unit (one book) will end with a wrap up activity of either creating an advanced project to share with the community or getting a special event/trip/experience connected to their book.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Stinson Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Meghan Huslig

Amount Requested: \$750

Project Name: S-C-O-R-E

Project Summary

Foot dribbling and literacy come together! Students will begin in teams with a list of words from their curriculum (sight words, content vocabulary, spelling patterns, etc.) Words will be differentiated depending on their grade level/student needs. The first student will choose the word they want to spell and begin dribbling with a soccer ball to different ABC poly spots around the gym. After students dribble and spell their word by stopping at each polyspots on the floor, they will dribble back to their team and cross of the word on their dry erase sleeve. Then the next teammate will begin, this will continue until all words are spelled. Bonus words can be given for teams that finish quicker.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Stinson Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Robin Stokes

Amount Requested: \$159

Project Name: Deep in the Heart of Dyslexics

Project Summary

Remember back to an activity or goal where it was extremely difficult to complete due to several obstacles. More than likely you grew from that experience, but you had to dig deep. Now imagine being dyslexic. More than likely, there is an obstacle for every activity or goal in school. Deep down in a dyslexic's heart, they want to succeed, they want to grow, they want to learn...they don't want to feel heartbroken. There are accommodations and modifications available to support the dyslexic learners through some of these challenges. However, if we could get a glimpse of why these are necessary, teachers and educators together will have a better understanding and empathetic approach of how to grow a dyslexic's love to learn. It also promotes empathy before sympathy so that expectations remain high.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Thomas Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Kimberly Krumwiede-Wilcox

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Mas Libros en Espanol Por Favor/ More Books in Spanish Please

Project Summary

I am requesting a grant for \$1500 on behalf of the students and teachers at my campus for the ability to purchase fiction and non-fiction books in Spanish. There is a dire need for Spanish books on my campus with 46% of the student population speaking, reading and writing in Spanish, especially in the upper grades.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Vines High School

Teacher/Librarian: Meghan Clark

Amount Requested: \$1057

Project Name: Vines Speech and Debate Laptop Project

Project Summary

The Vines Speech and Debate Team needs funds to purchase 5 laptops for use at tournaments. When students bring their school-issued Chromebooks to compete at tournaments, they often have issues connecting to the host school's WiFi, which can cause considerable delays in accessing cases, researching data for rebuttals, and sharing case files between teams/partners. These issues could be eliminated if students had laptops owned by the speech and debate team that had the capacity to save data directly to a hard drive rather than storing data entirely online. With desktop capacity, students could save files and access them without having to connect to WiFi and they could research files for extemp, public forum debate, and Congress with faster and better internet speeds.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Williams High School

Teacher/Librarian: Tracy Henry-Smith

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Experiencing a World of Wonder

Project Summary

So much of our understanding of the world around us comes from our previous experiences. Although, many students in our district are fortunate to be exposed to a variety of engaging moments, some on our campus are not granted these luxuries. In science, one cannot appreciate the amazing scope it plays in our world without first seeing these components in action. With your help, we'd like to give every 9th grade student on our campus the chance to find their own passion and connections to science by visiting the Perot Museum of Nature and Science! We had the honor of receiving a grant last year after not being able to attend the previous year due to the pandemic. As a result, we saw that not only had most of our students never been to a museum, but many of them had never even been downtown. To see these teenagers transform into little, giddy children as they stood in awe of the incredible exhibits was very inspiring to us as educators, and we'd so desperately like the opportunity to see that through the lens of our new 9th grade class!



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Williams High School

Teacher/Librarian: Alexandria Jackson

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Multicultural Day

Project Summary

Student Council works together to complete projects and activities which benefit the overall school community. Our objectives include representing student interests, developing and providing opportunities for leadership, growth, and service in the school community, and contributing to the educational experiences of students by providing them with a positive involvement in the school, with widened areas of responsibilities and with more direct participation in organizing and implementing activities. Multicultural day is a huge event that we've held here in the past that invites our school community to celebrate our unique and diverse cultures. Student involvement will be paramount as we, Student Council, ask the student body, staff and parents to share elements and aspects of their diverse cultures in the hopes that appreciation, understanding and respect grow for each and every culture. Multicultural day will be a full day event in which different cultures will be showcased through various activities ranging from hair braiding to cultural dances. Our vision includes an assembly with cultural dances, a fashion show, an art show and mini workshops. This grant will be allow us to provide our school community with a memorable learning experience.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Williams High School

Teacher/Librarian: Sarah Tipton-Smith

Amount Requested: \$1000

Project Name: Now We're Booking

Project Summary

At our campus, we have many reluctant readers. Whether it is due to learning difficulties such as dyslexia, being an English language learner, or a low interest in the books we have in our classroom libraries, our students struggle with finding a book they actively engage with during independent reading. Almost every student wants to read one type of book: graphic novels. The positive impact of graphic novels on reading comprehension has been studied and proven through recent scholarly research. However, our classroom libraries have an extremely limited amount of graphic novels that are grade-level appropriate in depth and complexity. I want students to be excited about independent reading and have plenty of options for graphic novels that they will find enjoyable and challenge them as readers. This grant would add ten high-interest and rigorous graphic novels to each English II classroom library.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wilson Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Allison Harrell

Amount Requested: \$866

Project Name: Fieldtrips & Fieldwork: Learning and Building an ELEVATE Garden

Project Summary

The ELEVATE classroom setting at our school has not been on a field trip for many years. We would like to take our students on an experiential learning opportunity to the City of Plano's Environmental Education Center and Community Garden . Built in 2010, the EEC and its surrounding area provide a learning space on a variety of sustainable practices including building design, energy systems, water conservation, green building, recycling, composting, and many others. After the field trip, we will use the knowledge and inspiration gained from the EEC to build a small ELEVATE garden on our school's campus. We will build two elevated, accessible garden beds that our students will engage with to learn life skills, patience, commitment, teamwork, and environmental stewardship.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wilson Middle School

Teacher/Librarian: Lisa Scott

Amount Requested: \$750

Project Name: Advisory Reading Communities

Project Summary

Advisory Reading Communities promote a love of reading through a shared reading experiences.

Advisory teachers read aloud a high-interest, engaging novel during advisory one to days each week.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wyatt Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Laura Johnston

Amount Requested: \$1500

Project Name: Level Up Reading

Project Summary

As we were trying to start reading groups, we realized we did not have enough challenging books for our most advanced readers. One third of our campus population qualifies for the PACE program. In addition, we have a large number of students performing above grade level who are not in PACE. Our campus goal is to "Level Up" all students, and we feel having novel sets and running literature circles will ensure this goal comes to fruition. We would like to purchase novel sets that will help challenge and invoke a love of reading.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wyatt Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Cynthia Merritt

Amount Requested: \$1158

Project Name: S.I.P.S. "Social Interactive Project for Students"

Project Summary

The S.I.P.S. (Social Interactive Project for Students) allows students to utilize a tablet and application call Zoo U. The tablets will utilize the purchased program. Previous Ipad's used are no longer supported by Plano ISD and therefore, it is important to use these tablets for social skills training. The program application is from <https://www.centervention.com/zoo-u-sel-game>. "In a study of 270 students, those who demonstrated higher social competence when problem solving Zoo U s virtual situations were significantly more likely to exhibit positive social, behavioral, and academic adjustment, while children who performed poorly on Zoo U were significantly more likely to experience negative school-based outcomes," as stated by the Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, Volume 55 , March April 2018, Pages 52-61. The program allows students to learn and respond to social skills through the use of social scenario games which the educator is able to monitor through a dashboard located on the website. This allows the educator the opportunity to reteach and discuss social skills, while allowing the students to use an interactive game process.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wyatt Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Heather Mitchell

Amount Requested: \$1418

Project Name: Fun and Function: Sensory Regulation for All Learners

Project Summary

The world has become increasingly digital, or hands-off, in recent years. The pandemic sped this process up substantially and has left some of our students more disconnected to the real-world than ever before. Teachers in all content areas and at all levels are observing students struggling to self-regulate. We are trying to help bridge that gap by adding a multitude of sensory stations for both our general education students as well as our special education students. Studies show that strategically implemented sensory items, or areas, have an overwhelmingly positive impact on student focus and emotional well-being, both of which are critical for academic success. I hope to create an area for both sensory seeking students, as well as sensory avoiding students. There will be multiple stations and methods of sensory input or removal to give each student a chance to regulate and successfully continue with their day. I would like to obtain \$1,418.00 towards purchasing materials to create a true sensory room for our campus that serves the needs of a diverse group of learners.



GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

A Program of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Campus: Wyatt Elementary School

Teacher/Librarian: Thao-Uyen Richardson

Amount Requested: \$305

Project Name: 21st Century Tools for ESL Scholars

Project Summary

I am in need of pop-up tents and headphones with microphones for my students. My students are Emergent Bilinguals (ESL). My students come from diverse backgrounds: Japan, China, Mexico, Pakistan, India, etc. They come from all over the world and need the opportunity to make progress in their language skills. The pop-up tents will be used as recording studios. The recording studios will keep students engaged and focused on their tasks. We use several online programs such as Imagine Learning, Flipgrid, Seesaw, which require headphones with microphones to enhance their speaking, listening, and reading skills. The students' learning experiences will benefit exponentially with the new headphones. In addition, this will help meet our campus and district objectives. We are starting a language & literacy program called Imagine Learning, where students read letters, sight words, vocabulary, and stories out loud and record their reading. This will target their speaking, listening, reading comprehension and fluency for growth. By providing students with their own headsets with microphones, students will be able to make progress and practice their English language at their own pace in order to be successful in school to meet campus and district objectives.