

Sprint Grant Cycle

Grant Type: Grant Type: Core Grant
Grant Title: Digital Tools in the Art Room
Recipient School: Park Elementary
Grant Recipient Taylor Henzler
Award Amount: \$11,136.00

This grant takes a creative approach to art and creating a digital portfolio through the use of iPad Pros and Apple Pencils. Each year digital portfolios have been a part of Park Elementary's art curriculum. In the past, student art was photographed, uploaded and included an artist statement. With the funded items, students will take full ownership of their portfolios and use an online platform called Artsonia that allows them to create art directly on the iPad with a use of the Apple Pencil, save their art and type in their artist statement. The aforementioned is just one of many applications for the funded technology. From Taylor's application, "utilizing programs and applications allow students to reference digital sources, make digital drawings, experience graphic design, manipulate images digitally, create sequence animations, write and reflect on their own art, and be exposed to a number of art career opportunities."

Grant Type: Core Grant
Grant Title: Culturally Inclusive Books are Important in the Classroom
Recipient School: Needham Elementary
Grant Recipient: Leonore Ilg
Award Amount: \$1,280.00

Leonore's narrative spoke to the fact that students "have a strong urge to feel seen, heard and represented" in the classroom. Through a conference she attended earlier this year, she learned that one of the most effective ways to achieve this is to create experiential opportunities through books made readily available in their classrooms. She did further research to learn that students "are more likely to be engaged in independent reading when they have access to culturally relevant text." Her grant request is for 96 hand-picked titles that represent different cultures found at Needham Elementary.

Grant Type: Core Grant
Grant Title: Woodshop Setup
Grant Recipient: Peter Fochtman
Recipient School: Miller Middle School
Award Amount: \$6,205.00

Peter restarted the woodshop program at Miller Middle School. During the pandemic classes were limited to 35-40 students a day. As schools lessen COVID restrictions, Peter's class will be serving 90 students daily. Peter applied for tools to help expand and accommodate the number of students he's expecting to teach. The tools he applied result from his experience

teaching this past year and extensive collaboration with Escalante Middle and Durango High School to essentially “catch up” with the curriculum offered at each of those schools. Some tools include bench vises, wood lathe, and Drill Doctor (drill bit sharpening tool).

Grant Type: Core Grant

Grant Title: Quest Physical License Grant

Recipient School: Escalante Middle School

Grant Recipient: Jessica Thompson

Award Amount: \$790.00

Jessica provided a well-written grant for an innovative way to address gaps in student engagement, learning, critical thinking skills and social-emotional wellness. As stated in her grant, “research indicates that students who believe they have a voice in school are seven times more likely to be academically motivated..” Jessica applied for a program subscription called Quest. Quest incorporates gaming concepts into a classroom to increase engagement, empower student voice, and ignite students' passion for learning. Quest provides students with an ongoing experience that simulates a real world experience through storylines called “seasons.” Students play as a classroom prompting teamwork to solve problems. The first season is set in a post-apocalyptic world where all adults have suddenly vanished. Students must work together to rebuild society and survive the myriad of challenges that lie ahead in their new world. Teachers role-play as an all-knowing Artificial Intelligence robot to assist their students as they embark on each month's QUEST.

Grant Type: Core Grant

Grant Title: Riverview Tutoring

Recipient School: Riverview Elementary

Grant Recipient: Darren Cioppa

Award Amount: \$5,000.00

This year was the first year Darren offered a research-based tutoring program that incorporates research-based teaching techniques. The program is in partnership with Fort Lewis College student tutors and is a 6 week program for K-2 students. Students participating in the program are those that did not meet grade level reading proficiencies during their mid-year benchmark. The program focuses on 9-R's performance indicators. This grant will help to expand the program to 4-7 week sessions of in-person tutoring for at least 8 students per session. As a result of this grant and working with DEF, Darren will be helping expand Kids' Camp to include after-school tutoring across the district.

Grant Type: Crane Music & Fine Arts
Grant Title: Digital Audio
Recipient School: Escalante Middle Schools
Grant Recipient: Dennon Jones
Award Amount: \$3,030.00

This grant will be coming from the Crane Music & Fine Arts Grant stream. Dennon will be the first music educator in Colorado to be working with the LA based Young Producers Group to teach an Ableton based class. Young Producers Group creates a Music Production curriculum and uses the most up-to-date production software called Ableton Live. Ableton Live is a Digital Audio Workstation that is utilized by music professionals worldwide. Ableton is designed to be an instrument for live performances, as well as a tool for composing, recording, arranging, mixing and mastering. It also offers a suite of controls for beatmatching, cross fading, and different effects for turntables. This grant hits so many areas of music and beyond. This can also be considered as a business model as it exposes students to music pre-production, production, and post-production. Dennon informed me that every year he will have students create their own album, and will host an "album launch party" and has invited DEF to attend.

Grant Type: Core Grant
Grant Title: Garden Project
Recipient School: Big Picture High
Grant Recipient: Chelsea Reinsch
Award Amount: \$1,500.00

This is a student-written grant to create a student-ran garden for Big Picture High School and will provide fresh herbs and vegetables for their cafeteria. The "garden project" meets 9-R performance indicators for research and analysis, health, and science. The basis of the project is to support student learning, sustainability, nutrition, and agricultural production.

Grant Type: Core Grant
Grant Title: BPHS School Library
Recipient School: Big Picture High
Grant Recipient: Stella Levare & Chelsea Reinsch
Award Amount: \$2,000.00

Another student-written grant from Big Picture High School based on their senior thesis on "Social Impacts of a Diverse Library." Currently, BPHS does not have a formal library. This grant is similar to Leonore's grant to bring culturally inclusive and diverse books to BPHS. Stella provided her 10 page senior thesis as justification for her grant. Her book list consists of 100 titles, which includes titles such as "Almost American Girl by Robin Ha," "New Kid by Jerry Craft," "The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness," and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley."

Grant Type: Gretchen's Classroom

Grant Title: Kindergarten Supplies

Recipient School: Park Elementary

Grant Recipient: Lynette Stevens

Award Amount: \$227.00

This grant will be funded by Gretchen's Classroom grant stream. This grant is to help fund the replacement of classroom supplies that have diminished as a result of 2 remote learning chapters in the past 12 months. Lynn sent home various classroom supplies with each student to help facilitate their remote learning experience to be more authentic and engaging. Currently, with students returning to in-person learning, Lynn's classroom has a severe shortage of a number of items including writing boards, markers, other writing tools, and basic items like scissors and glue.

Fall Grant Cycle

Grant Type: Supplies for Success

Grant Title: AP Chemistry Calculators

Recipient School: Durango High School

Applicant: Ann Drumond

Award Amount: \$2,475.00

Ann discovered that 38% of her AP students do not own a scientific or graphing calculator, which is recommended for both AP and SAT exams. As Ann stated, "All students, regardless of financial ability, should have access to the same TI-84 calculators as their classmates...Providing the same calculator for all students would level the playing field and afford a quality, equitable AP Chemistry experience for all." This grant will be used to purchase 20 calculators for students in need.

Grant Title: Carnegie Hall - Additional Funds

Grant Type: Crane Music & Fine Arts/ Core

Recipient School: Durango High School

Applicant: Petra Lyon

Award Amount: \$5,015

This grant will help with additional travel costs for the DHS Choir to sing with the National High School Choir at Carnegie Hall. Petra was originally awarded a DEF Grant in 2019 for 21 students, but the trip was postponed due to COVID for March 2022. Since then, the number of participants have increased to 52 students. This grant will help offset the increased costs due to the increased number of participants.

Grant Title: Post-COVID Funding and Revitalizing the Arts

Grant Type: Crane Music & Fine Arts

Recipient School: Miller Middle School

Applicant: Samantha Post

Award Amount: \$10,000

“This grant will support all miller incoming sixth graders every year, all current band students, and future students of the [band] program. It will promote career readiness (musical careers such as production, sound engineer, musician, teacher, performer), nurture and grow brain functions and critical thinking. Statistically, students who play an instrument have better core subject grades, and improved problem-solving, critical thinking, and pattern recognition skills. Music makes kids smarter, and specifically playing an instrument involves high function of every single area of the brain. We need to be able to provide each student with the instrument they chose, a new and working instrument so we can provide equity to students in band; giving a new and awesome instrument regardless of economic status.” This grant will provide seed money for the Miller Middle Band Program to acquire new or refurbished instruments.

Grant Title: Literature Legibility

Grant Type: Gretchen’s Classroom Grant

Recipient School: Miller Middle School

Applicant: Linda McFarlane

Award Amount: \$671

Linda is a Reading Interventionist at Miller Middle School who works with at-risk sixth and seventh grade readers. Linda will use this grant to purchase 7 engaging classic and contemporary literatures to meld into her intervention genres, each representing a different and specific literary genre that students of varying demographics can relate to. This is based on the premise that the 9-R instructional approach recognizes the critical importance of the implementation of curricular equality. “Text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections will stretch their imaginations and cement their comprehension...when they engage in literary analysis to use key ideas and details to compare and contrast the genres and to extrapolate central themes.” Some books include Aesop’s Fables, Hidden Figures, Henry’s Freedom Box, and Poetry for Young People.

Grant Title: Learning.Com- Program Curriculum Support

Grant Type: Core

Recipient School: Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary School

Applicant: Chrysti Crittenden

Award Amount: \$1,320.00

“This grant will be used to order three years of licensing for Learning.com programming specifically focusing on students practicing and learning Keyboarding and Word Processing skills. We have noticed that our student writing CMAS scores have been extremely low this past year. Since the test is computerized, not only are they tested on writing skills, but keyboarding

skills as well. We hope to help our students be more successful with their writing scores if keyboarding is not so much a factor impeding their progress on the test, or writing in general.”

Grant Title: Badger Bling
Grant Type: Gretchen’s Classroom Grant
Recipient School: Big Picture High School
Applicant: Sonnin Dahl
Award Amount: \$1,119.00

DEF grant funding will be used to complete a hands-on marketing project in collaboration with The Hive. Students will use The Hive’s equipment to create seasonal buttons, beanies, stickers and other merchandise that can be sold to the community. Proceeds will go towards notebooks for students and notepads to community partners. “Students will be learning standards in art, mathematics, and reading, writing, and communication. They will earn credit for art through the creation of unique and original designs that they feel represent our school, and that will fit on selected merchandise. They will earn communication credit through marketing of their merchandise to individual buyers within the school, within the community, and to businesses that we’ve spoken with about stocking these items. Consumer/business math will be performed through the calculation of prices and quantities for the items that students will be ordering and selling. Finally, technical writing credits will be given for students writing to organizations in search of funding and potential materials, and to businesses when ordering the merchandise that students will sell. This includes writing a grant application and communicating professionally with vendors, retailers and customers.”

Grant Title: Adjustable Computer Stand for DHS Front Office
Grant Type: Supplies for Success
Recipient School: Durango High School
Applicant: Sarah Fischer
Award Amount: \$137.00

This grant will be used to purchase a standing desk for a DHS front office support staff member.

Grant Title: Durango DECA State Conference
Grant Type: Student Competition & Travel
Recipient School: Durango High School
Applicant: Thomas Pope
Award Amount: \$3,750.00

“The “Student Travel Competition Grant” funds will directly assist the students that have qualified for the Colorado DECA State Career Development Conference that will take place in February 2022 in Colorado Springs. The students who qualify will compete in their selected event ranging from Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making to Automotive Services Marketing Series Event. Students at the Conference will also attend Career Development sessions in topics that range from entrepreneurship to maintaining a professional personal image. As this grant will directly allow these students to attend this rich and knowledge filling

conference, it will also benefit multiple student groups including DECA members who do not attend or qualify for the State Conference, students who are involved in the business and marketing curriculum, or work-based learning at Durango High School, and students who are involved in other Career and Technical Student Organizations such as Skills USA and Future Farmers of America. The DECA students who travel to the State Conference will take their newly developed knowledge back to these groups of students to inform and support the development of career programs and the Career Innovation Center.”

Grant Title: Full STEAM Ahead with iPads

Grant Type: Core

Recipient School: Miller Middle School

Applicant: Amy Russell

Award Amount: \$5,000.00

“Middle School students in Career and Technical Education courses will engage and challenge themselves through creative problem solving and innovative exploratory projects using the built-in Apple "Everyone Can Code" and "Everyone Can Create" curricula only available on iPads. In addition, students will use the iPads to design their own original apps and prototype in Keynote. Furthermore, iPads will be essential to support our current Miller Lego Mindstorms robotics equipment, since that program no longer offers a website platform, but only works through Lego's app built for mobile devices. All of these projects support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) which underscores our district-wide focus on innovation, collaboration and life-long learning.”

Grant Title: Playful Engineering

Grant Type: Core

Recipient School: Escalante Middle School

Applicant: Bryan Bagdol

Award Amount: \$3,423.00

This grant is a continuation of the Playful Mechanisms Woodworking workshop funded by DEF. Bryan gained the knowledge to teach students engineering concepts such as levers, cams, shafts, springs, wheels, and how the aforementioned skills can be used to make wood move in an animated way. This grant will help expand the Escalante Middle School Woodworking program to include more engineering skills. The grant will be used to purchase a Grizzly Bandsaw, Jet Drill Press, Wood vise, and materials such as wooden dowels and wheels, plywood, wire, acrylic, wood, and hardware.

Grant Title: Let's Learn Outside at FLME

Grant Type: Core

Recipient School: Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary School

Applicant: Jenny Imel

Award Amount: \$3,000.00

Currently Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary has a small learning garden and no other outdoor space appropriate for learning. This grant will support the update of their only usable outdoor space to provide equitable and creative opportunities for students. The funds will be used for small building projects (e.g. a bench), help purchase supplies (e.g. art supplies and materials to create garden signs), and purchase more seating options to replace the wood stumps students currently use as seating.

Grant Title: Speech & Debate Revival
Grant Type: Student Competition & Travel
Recipient School: Durango High School
Applicant: Todd Jolley
Award Amount: \$12,950.00

This grant will fund travel expenses for the DHS Speech and Debate Team. Funding will be for a single season. A single season consists of 6-9 competitions throughout the four corners, along with the regional competition at the end of February, the State competition in March, and the National competition in Kentucky in June. Todd originally applied for 2 seasons, but was granted only 1 due to limited funds. We have asked Todd to reapply in the Spring when more funds are available.

Grant Title: Juniper Arts Development
Grant Type: Core
Recipient School: The Juniper School
Applicant: Emily Land
Award Amount: \$5,770.00

This grant will be used to help create an art classroom for The Juniper School. The Art program will serve grades K-6, and in the coming years, it will be available for grades K-8. The materials include Painting Station, Drawing Station, Collage Station, and Book Shelvings, as well as, bulletin boards, cabinets, and a Ceramic Kiln.

Grant Title: Swimming Lessons
Grant Type: Supplies for Success
Recipient School: Durango High School Elevation Program
Applicant: Chantey Webbe
Award Amount: \$1,400.00

Chantey is an educator of the Elevation program at DHS - an alternative program which supports at-risk youth. Chantey strives to teach self advocacy, collaboration, executive functioning skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills and perseverance. "Many of the [students] have endured far too much trauma...and have not had a lot of guidance, support or stability." Chantey will use this grant to organize swimming lessons to teach her students a necessary life skill. "Swimming lessons will not only teach these teenagers a vital skill, it will push them to face and overcome a very strong fear (of drowning). Committing to these lessons will take courage, determination, and perseverance. Swimming also teaches concentration,

stimulates the growth of new brain cells, produces endorphins, and provides physical benefits.” Chantey’s original grant requested \$900, but the grant committee decided to increase the amount to \$1,400 to help students who are unable to afford a swimsuit.
