

2020 Grant Recipients

Grant Title: Engaging All through Technology

Approved Amount: \$5,000

Recipient: Samantha Lovato

School: Animas Valley Elementary School

This grant will be accessible to the entire AVE population. AVE is making efforts in their technology area in regards to being 1:1 devices to students. However, where they are lacking is teacher access to technological instructional tools. "These tools are the key to facilitating interactions with materials and learning through engagement. This grant will be used to acquire Brightlink projectors and IPEVO document cameras for K-5 classroom teachers, specials teachers and interventionists." Both of these devices allow an increase in visual access and support students who are especially visual learners. Document camera allows for images of notes and annotations to be captured during lessons that can be saved and shared as a resource to reference at any time. Smooth transitions from instruction to displaying student work are made easier when the projectors are paired with a document camera. There are an endless amount of possibilities for how these two items can positively affect learning, including student engagement, teacher to student connection, scanning, displaying student work and a multitude of media (i.e. books, magazines, photos), and is great for live or videoing presentations.

Grant Title: Mobile Earth and Space Observatory

Approved Amount: \$4,500

Grant Recipient: Sarah Margoles

School: Miller Middle School

This grant allows for the continuation of a previously funded DEF Grant. The MESO is a mobile environmental and space science library outfitted with hands-on educational and research instrumentation. PhD Astrophysicists and trained educators take this 'science center on wheels' to rural areas of Colorado to give students access to scientific instrumentation, authentic science and direct access to scientists. The Miller PTO is a great supporter of this grant and will be an additional funding source in the amount of \$1,500. All DEF Board Members will be invited to participate and attend portions of this experience, including the Star Party. Sarah reflected on her grant last year and plans to spend more time advertising the afterschool programs and star party, as well as, including DEF's logo on all advertising. The program will work in conjunction with her science curriculum and Miller Middle School over the course of 5 months. MESO has agreed to remain flexible with COVID restrictions.

Grant Title: TTAG Team

Approved Amount: \$3,500

Recipient: Hollye Bronson

School: District Wide Effort

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This grant supports the growth of the Teacher Technology Access Guidance Team (TTAG) by acquiring 18 Chromebooks that trains and equips educators with instructional technology tools and skills. The team creates a sustainable way to train 9-R educators on educational and instructional technology to implement, in a meaningful way, in their respective classrooms - no matter their initial skill level. Teachers are geared with the tools needed to teach on the same platforms students use and results in student and teacher engagement, collaboration, critical thinking skills and accessibility. With COVID restrictions and distance learning increased, these skills will be necessary for all teachers more than ever and creates a resource that is easily accessible and relevant. For example, one of their training will be focused on the new platform – iTS Learning. The grant proposal also addresses the fact that the 9-R Technology Plan is concentrating on acquiring ChromeBooks for students and including old desktop computers in their count for 1:1 teacher devices – meaning some teachers will not have access to the same technology the students will be using. As stated in her grant, “By providing TTAG participants with a Chrombook, the following will be accomplished: 1) expertise in the device so that they can support students in using them; 2) Chromebooks are untethered, so teachers can move throughout the classroom and have meaningful interactions with students while still accessing technology that supports their lessons; 3) Teachers will be able to create their lessons on the Chromebook, ensuring that the tools they are using will work on student and teacher devices.”

Grant Title: Woodshop Setup

Approved Amount: \$5,075

Recipient: Peter Fochtman

School: Miller Middle School

Miller Middle School reopened their woodshop program at the beginning of the 2020 year and intends to expand from two classes to six classes in the upcoming academic year under the direction of career woodworker and tiny home builder, Peter Fochtman. Peter worked closely with Escalante’s woodshop teacher, Bryan Bagdol, and DHS woodshop teacher, Shaun Smith, to create a streamlined curriculum. His grant seeks the financial support for the thoughtful and well researched acquisition of tools that are multifaceted. The tools include a wood lathe, rotary tool with attachments, cutter blade for the already in-place planer, materials for a multi-functional table and a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) router. His curriculum embraces the integration of technology and woodworking skills, as well as, skills for real-world application. Peter also plans to create a legacy type of wall inside the Miller classroom that pays homage to those who initially created many of the career technical education programs in 9-R, including Chuck Walters. After he cleans and reorganizes the woodshop room, Peter intends to invite DEF Board members to visit his classroom to view the materials purchased through this grant in action.