



## 2016-2017 Celebrate Innovation Grants

### Elementary Schools – 15 Grants totaling \$23,970

- **First Book Program, Diane Neikam, Curriculum & Instruction, Kindergarten District Wide**  
The First Book Program enables the District to distribute free books to incoming Kindergarten students, with the buyer responsible for the cost of shipping. One of our top priorities is to have all students reading by third grade. To do so, students need to have access to books at home to practice reading and to develop a love for books. Distributing books to our incoming Kindergarten students helps get them excited about reading, but also shows parents how important it is to make books accessible to our children. - \$750
- **Da Vinci Science Center Field Trips, Kelly Rosario, Curriculum & Instruction, 4th Grade District Wide**- The Da Vinci Science Center field trips help students master standards-based content and raise their awareness of STEMM careers. This grant money will bring STEMM subjects to life and help prepare students for tomorrow's STEMM careers. Each elementary school will book a field trip for fourth grade, as this is the grade level the Science PSSA takes place. - \$12,000
- **Meeting the Sensory Needs of Children in the Classroom, Kristin Madeira, 2nd Grade, Kratzer**- All children are naturally inclined to move and crave sensory input, particularly students with ADD, ADHD, autism and anxiety. When sensory needs are met, students can focus better and retain a higher percentage of information. This project would focus on providing wiggle and disk seats for each student and resistance bands for their feet and the bottom of chairs, to meet diverse sensory needs.- \$435
- **BrainPop & BrainPop Jr., Julie Schultz, K-5, Cetronia**- BrainPop & BrainPop Jr. are web based learning tools with an engaging series of videos for elementary students. It is based on presenting information in words, pictures, and sound, which has shown to be more effective than presenting information in words alone. This technological tool would enhance the current curriculum and be both equitable and accessible for all Cetronia students. The website username and password will be made available to all Cetronia teachers and families as well. - \$2,295
- **Veterans Day Program, Judy Kelly & Karen Brokate, School Wide Program, Jaindl**  
Veterans and currently serving men and women of the families and staff of Fred J. Jaindl Elementary School are invited to attend a Veterans Day program. This program teaches students the history of Veterans Day, our five branches of the U.S. armed forces, patriotic songs, and the importance of honoring these men and women. Those who cannot attend are sent cards made by the students. - \$265

- **Document Cameras, Traci Falco, Cathy Bendekovits & Allison Davis, 1st Grade, Kernsville**  
 Three document cameras will be used to enhance the learning of first grade students and bring new technology to the classroom. Document cameras allow new opportunities to display student work, demonstrate writing processes, and perform science experiments. Students will be able to learn from one another by displaying samples and providing an engaging instructional format. This one piece of classroom technology can be used to actively engage students in the learning process and maximize the teacher's time. - \$1,200
- **Document Camera for Blended Learning, David Whitby, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Jaindl**  
 The document camera will be used to meet both PA Core standards and ISTE national standards. The camera will provide opportunities to explore writing, math, science and reading skills in further detail and in new ways. During instruction, the camera would give students the chance to share their work with the whole class, allowing them to be the teacher. - \$350
- **Close Reading Strategies: Up Close, Desiree Hoke, 4th Grade, Cetronia**  
 A document camera will be purchased for the classroom specifically to be utilized with students to model Close Reading Strategies. The English Language Arts standards require students to think more deeply about not only what a text says, but also how it works and what it means. These objectives require students to read "closely," and a document camera will allow these reading strategies in a scaffold manner. - \$350
- **Flat Connections: A Week in the Life, Cailin Bodnar, Luke Boltz, Samantha Ding, Andy McGinniss & Christie Nolan, 5th Grade, Jaindl-** Flat Connections is a website subscription that provides unique approaches to online global collaboration. It "flattens" the disconnected classroom to become a global learning environment. Students will use it to communicate, explore global topics, and share ideas and solutions through co-created digital artifacts with a class in another country. It will help students see how children in other parts of the world are affected by the same problem and gain exposure to various ways of thinking and problem solving. - \$377
- **Flexible Seating, Katie Auriemma, K-2 Learning Support, Fogelsville**  
 Flexible classrooms give students a choice of what kind of learning space works best for them in order to help them work collaboratively, communicate, and engage in critical thinking. It appropriately meets the sensory needs different learners. The Foundation will purchase ball chairs, standing desks, wobble chairs and stools to provide students with a comfortable space where they feel they can best learn. -\$1,108
- **Visualizing and Verbalizing Program for Cognitive Development, Comprehension & Thinking, Diana Souders, K-5 Speech Language, Kernsville-** The Visualizing and Verbalizing Program offered by Pro Ed, Inc. develops concept imagery to facilitate reading comprehension, listening comprehension, critical thinking and problem solving, following directions, memory, oral language expression, written language expression, grasping humor, interpreting social situations, and understanding cause effect. These skill areas relate directly to the PA Common Core standards across the primary and intermediate elementary curriculum. The program will be used for students identified with language/reading comprehension deficits in the speech language support setting. - \$540
- **MacBook Pro Computer to Create Digital Learning Experiences, Samantha Edwards, K-5 Media Center, Fogelsville-** A MacBook Pro will provide students, as well as teachers, with

an opportunity to engage in curriculum enhancing, authentic, collaborative, and digital learning experiences. Students K-5 will be able to create engaging presentations via Apple's software design, which offers tremendous ease for any user, regardless of their age. The MacBook Pro will provide an additional learning station for students to be able to work collaboratively with each other to design and develop digital media projects.

The MacBook Pro will also be available for classroom teacher usage prior to and at the end of each student day. - \$1,500

- ***Project iPad, Sharon Iacobelli, Chad Groover & Daneen Dex, K-5 Special Education, Schnecksville***- Three iPads will be used for student visual, audio, and tactile learning experiences. These devices can better allow for students to work at their own pace and provide immediate feedback. The students that are difficult to motivate will enjoy learning on current pieces of technology. Feedback is immediate whereas a computer many times experiences delays, causing frustration. There are endless, highly engaging apps that are available at little or no cost. - \$1,200
- ***Boardmaker Studio, Lisa Barrow, K-5 Speech, Kratzer***- Boardmaker Studio is a software program with research-based PCS symbols. It enhances comprehension and oral expression for students with speech, language, reading, and learning difficulties. The primary objective is to support speaking and listening skills in students with IEPs through language and literacy, differentiated instruction, all while providing interactive learning. The user can create talking books, schedules, reward charts, as well as practice articulation and language in whole or small group. - \$400
- ***Build Your Armour, Brenda DeRenzo, Student Services, 4th & 5th (KV,CE,PM,IR)***  
Build Your Armour™ is a fitness/ nutrition program designed to educate 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children on the key components necessary to maintain strong immune systems. This grant would allow for the remaining 4 elementary schools (KV,CE,PM,IR) to participate in this program, which builds over an eight week period to help students gain a basis for wellness. The goal at the completion of the eight week session is for the children to learn the importance of fruits, vegetables, beans/legumes, and nuts/seeds in maintaining a healthy body. The importance of different types of exercise (strength, flexibility and cardiovascular) will be explored and how crucial "recovery" time is to helping our bodies repair and heal. The curriculum is also designed with the goal of fostering discussion about diet amongst families by providing recipes to be made at home. - \$1,200

## **Middle Schools – 13 Grants totaling \$20,745**

- ***Invent It! Build It! Girls in Engineering, Dianne Caspersen, 7th Grade Science, Orefield***  
Thirty middle school girls will participate in career awareness, and hands on collaborative activities promoting women in the engineering fields. The student will discover STEM related fields available to women while visiting the Society of Women Engineers, (SWE) National Conference in Philadelphia titled, "Invent It, Build It." They will also interact with the local SWE as they visit OMS. The grant also supports materials to provide hands-on experience with innovation, engineering and design. - \$1,412

- **Take a Stand, Principals Michelle Minotti & Todd Gombos, 6-8, Orefield & Springhouse**  
Bullying in schools is a national concern and an issue that has not circumvented the Parkland School District. The Foundation will support the secondary schools anti-bullying campaign with a motivational speaker that embraces the message of making positive choices for student success and help guide the parent community. - \$3,500
- **Lego Mindstorm Robotics Club, Jennifer Karetsky, 7-8 Grade Science & Math, Springhouse-** Last year, with the help of the Foundation, the SMS Robotics Club started with just four robots. There was a ton of interest with many students being turned away. Additional equipment will allow the club to grow and for more students to pursue robotics and engineering at the high school. The materials would also be used during enrichment time for students to experiment with building a robot and learning a new programming language. - \$2,428
- **Craft EVERYTHING with MinecraftEdu, Noel Mahmood, 7th Science, Springhouse**  
The Foundation will purchase MinecraftEdu licenses for 30 users, used for 150 students in various classes. MinecraftEdu provides students with a unique experience of being able to virtually create anything, from building models of cells & DNA to doing an entire Science Fair project. Their only limits are their imaginations. Science is full of abstract concepts and teachers often do not have the budget to purchase all the materials they need to help students visualize these abstract concepts. With MinecraftEdu, students will go beyond visualizing- they'll make these concepts work. - \$461
- **The Science of Addiction, Greg Poremba & Lisa Pany, SST, 8th Grade, Orefield & Springhouse** - The Weller Health Education Center will present a drug education and prevention program to all 8th grade students. With the alarming statistics of prescription drug abuse in teens, this program will help to educate students at a critical time in their lives. The program will focus on small group discussions and presentations - \$2,400
- **Exploring Text through Nonfiction Literature Circles, Joshua Abrams, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Springhouse-** Books will be provided for literature circles, which promote cooperative learning and allow students to assist one another to comprehend text. Differentiated reading and tiered reading text sets give students of multiple ability levels the opportunity to work and learn from one another. The social aspect of literature circles helps struggling readers engage with the text and develop strong reading skills. Finally, projects like this can help students develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. - \$1,200
- **Robots are Invading My English Class!, Kerin Steigerwalt, 7th Grade, Springhouse**  
Even the most creative English teacher is hard pressed to turn a reluctant writer into an eager author, and must find new and more exciting tricks each year, and it's no wonder. The common advice given by successful authors is "write what you know," but middle school students often lack a subject on which they feel confident enough to write informatively. Enter the Ozobot. This small (one cubic inch) robot can be coded simply by using different colors of markers. By utilizing their experiences, successes, and failures with this robot as the basis for their writing, students can truly "write what they know" and create excellent informative writing pieces. This will allow students to develop STEM skills, as they will be able to communicate to solve problems, collaborate on solutions, and develop methods of achieving goals. - \$1,000

- **World Language Curriculum Enhancement Tools, Lisa Madeira, 6-8 World Language Department, Springhouse**- The grant includes two classroom sets of headsets with microphones, allowing students opportunities to listen and speak in the target language. More authentic and engaging activities and assessments can be implemented. - \$1,050
- **Wacum Intuos Tablet, Kate Kocsis, Karen Guellich, Alyssa Fahringer, Kerin Steigerwalt & Maria Serina, 7th Grade, Springhouse**- The Wacum Intuos Tablet will provide the opportunity to more efficiently deliver content. The wireless kit enables teachers to walk around the room and monitor student tasks and performance while simultaneously conducting the lesson. The tablet allows students to engage with the lesson while the device will increase student involvement, participation, and active learning. - \$1,200
- **Adobe Creative Cloud Renewal, Noel Mahmood, Computer Fair Coordinator, Springhouse** Using the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite this past year, students at the middle school were able to make the best Computer Fair projects they ever have, winning 1st Place in four of six categories. The Foundation will renew this subscription to keep these beneficial tools at their disposal. - \$254
- **Breakout From the Ordinary, Noel Mahmood, 7th Science, Springhouse Middle School** Our students are trapped! Literally! They'll have to use their brains, technology, and each other to help them escape the room they're trapped in. Breakoutedu has students creatively solving puzzles from any subject area to try to "escape" the room. Utilizing a unique concept, students will be able to learn or review just about any standard from any content area. The website provides a myriad of scenarios that pertain to most standards. They'll be out of their seats finding hidden clues scattered about the room. They'll then use these clues to go online and solve the puzzles. Only by collaborating and thinking outside the box will they be able to unlock each lock in the time given. - \$125
- **Art & Technology: Using the Apple iPad to Animate, Create and Imagine, Laura Bauer & Kristi Robbins, 6-8 Art, Orefield**- Two iPad Airs will be provided for student use as a platform to access and experiment with stop motion animation to produce short films, stories and moving imagery using apps. The incorporation of these devices would directly relate to the art production standards of Performing, Presenting, Producing & Connecting. The projects will encourage the realization of artistic ideas through interpretation and presentation and students will use 21st century technology to create digital art. - \$1,467
- **Vernier Probes, Christie Schlaner, Brian Holtzhafer & Jason Klinger, 8th Grade Science, Orefield**- This grant will provide Vernier data-collection probes to the Environmental Science Unit. Since the Environmental Unit is in the middle of the year during the winter months, the equipment will create interactive labs that enable students to perform new experiments in the classroom. The Vernier probes will enhance the environmental curriculum by allowing students to become familiar with technology based scientific data-collection devices. Such experiments include studies on soil, water quality, the greenhouse effect, fossil fuel energy, cooling rates, insulators, creating solar homes, and even biodiversity in the ecosystem, just to name a few. - \$4,248

## High School – 8 Grants totaling \$13,917

- ***PNN News Field Reporting, Dave Thomas, 9-12 TV/ELA-*** This grant focuses on providing PNN students the much needed video equipment to gather news for the district at Parkland events and become true broadcast professionals both in the studio and outside the studio. Every piece of equipment has multiple uses that can be used for several years without replacement. This equates to valuable tools for hundreds of students who take these courses or join the PNN crew. Whether it's a daily news report, a special feature story for one of our new network shows or a hard-hitting documentary to represent the best of Parkland, students will use this gear to craft their projects. - \$3,572
- ***Engineering Club VEX Robotics Competition, Robert Yocum, Technology & Engineering***  
The Engineering Club has participated in the VEX Robotics Competition for the past five years. The club has grown from a few boys in 2012 to 3 full Robotic teams with a mix of boys and girls and strong culture. The Foundation will continue to support the improvement and growth of the program through the purchasing of new robotics equipment. In 2015-16, the club competed in four events with two teams qualifying for the State level competition. Our senior team became the most decorated team in Parkland's five year history. - \$2,652
- ***Computer for Stage Crew, Elizabeth Smith, Andrea Roposh & Alex Michaels, 9-12, Performing Arts-*** This equipment will be dedicated solely for the performing arts crew students to help them with stage design, sound design, and lighting design. Students now have to do this work by hand rather than digitally. Rapid advances in technology have led to profound shifts in how we live, communicate and work including on the stage. We want to prepare our students for the world of theater at the high school and college level. The use of this technology would also aid in teaching underclassmen the processes necessary for the productions. - \$1,500
- ***Boosting Literacy and College & Career Readiness in the Learning Support Classroom, Jennifer Kleckner, 9-12 Learning Support-*** This grant will provide students with additional, supplemental independent reading books to reinvigorate the independent reading station and enhance college and career readiness for students enrolled in the Replacement English and Study Skills classes. By providing students with a study skills curriculum, this project will enable students to enhance their executive function & self-regulation skills, problem solving skills, and soft skills for post-secondary success. - \$1,372
- ***Science of Firefighting, Eric Gopen & Barry Search, 9-12, Science***  
The objectives are to both advertise and generate enthusiasm for the class and to recognize local volunteer firefighters for all of their time and dedication. Local volunteer firefighters have come to class, year after year, with their equipment and expertise, taking time out of their busy lives to teach our students about the science of firefighting. The grant will help to recognize their efforts with gift cards and provide students with t-shirts as a class uniform. The uniform was a huge success last year. - \$925
- ***iPads for Life Skills, Amanda Keifer, 9-12, Special Education,***  
The students in the Life Skills classroom are learning how to use technology to assist them in their daily lives. An iPad is an accessible and appropriate tool that is also universal in design. It is the perfect tool for a person with a disability. The Life Skills class is part of a

functional curriculum. A very big part of the curriculum is online, or web-based. The students will be able to use the device to access their environment, and help to make their lives easier at school, home, and community. - \$1,196

- **Parkland Post Prom, Jude Sandt & Parkland Post Prom Committee, Administration**  
Post Prom provides students a safe, drug and alcohol free event, which helps them avoid the many temptations and consequences during the high risk time of night after the Prom concludes. Students who attend Post Prom are able to participate in free activities, win prizes, and be entertained throughout the evening in this safe environment with their classmates until 5:00am. It is now in its 15th year of existence thanks to the generous donations made by individuals, the community, and local businesses. The school district allocates resources and personnel to the event and the Foundation will help to defray costs to provide students with a safe experience that they will remember forever. - \$1,500
- **Parkland Ice Hockey Grant, Tom Yankanich, Ice Hockey Club**  
The Foundation is pleased to be supporting athletics through a grant to the Parkland Ice Hockey Club. By helping to providing additional ice time to this very successful club, the volunteer coaching staff will be able to help develop individual skills and better prepare each student athlete for their increasingly competitive league. - \$1,200

## **District Wide – 8 Grants totaling \$33,094**

- **Music Education Guest Presenter Series, Scott Watson, Louise Feher & Jim Tully, District Wide Music-** The music staff will organize a series of highly regarded music education clinicians (classroom, vocal and instrumental) to come to the district to inspire music staff and provide them with practical/useful K-12 music education training. Music education is a highly specialized discipline; even within our discipline the best practices and methodologies of interest to a classroom general music teacher can be vastly different than those sought by a secondary ensemble (band, chorus, orchestra) teacher. The series will include six 3-hour workshops, representing the needs and interests of all our K-12 music staff-- 23 music teachers total. - \$2,600
- **iPad Minis for STEMM, Carrie Weaknecht, Kathryn Best, Melinda Marciniak, Kathy Urban, Joan Krem & Michelle Moser, District Wide Gifted**  
Our gifted students in Grades 1-6 have had a multitude of curriculum changes based on the STEMM initiatives throughout the district. iPad minis are an integral part of a variety of applications, including coding instruction and STEMM simulations. Our objective is to integrate technology and 21st century learning into the Common Core standards for ELA and Mathematics. We will increase rigor by providing students with the opportunity to apply and synthesize knowledge using technology.. They will become independent 21st century learners and will increase their awareness of STEMM careers. - \$13,550
- **Heroes and Helpers, Diane Joy Irish, Home & School Visitor / Pupil Services, District Wide**  
The Heroes and Helpers program is a shopping experience between students and uniformed police officers. Students who are experiencing difficulty in their home or family life are provided with gift cards to do holiday shopping for their family members. The program fosters strong community relationships by pairing students with law enforcement personnel. With the support of the Foundation in 2015, this program was able to grow to include two students from every school in the District. - \$1,500

- ***Be The Bridge, Diane Joy Irish, Home & School Visitor / Pupil Services, District Wide***  
 Be The Bridge strives to support the non-academic needs of students by providing supplemental food, assistance with homeless families in obtaining stable housing, mentorship opportunities, and increasing knowledge of existing social services. When a student's basic needs are met they are better able to attend school regularly, concentrate on academic demands, and refrain from disruptive behaviors. - \$1,500
- ***Rotating Art collection framing, Nancy Nahrgang, Elementary Art Department Chair, Art, District Wide-*** Matting and framing for Elementary School artwork to be on display in the Administration building as part of the rotating collection. It will be professionally displayed for all parents and guests who visit the building. - \$1,500
- ***Rotating Art collection framing, Kaye Coval, 6-12 Art, District Wide***  
 Each year the art department collects works from the Middle Schools and the High School to be framed, hung and displayed in the Administration building. The pride and accomplishment of getting your art work chosen is tremendous. It will display the very best that we have in Parkland from sixth through twelfth grades. - \$1,500
- ***Parkland STEMM Academies, Jason Henry, Christie Schlaner, Chris Gahman, Laura Kowalski, Chris Barret, Scott Watson, John Greth, Brian Iobst, 6-12 Grade, District Wide***  
 The Parkland STEMM Academy is a summer program designed to provide exploration in STEMM career fields. There are 10 different sessions that run in the month of July for middle school and high school students. The projects featured in this camp are not just in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine contents. STEMM is everywhere! The projects are a critical piece to our Career Readiness Standards and are aligned in all contents including social studies, music, arts, world languages, and health. - \$10,194
- ***Driver Safety Award Program, Tony Naradko, Transportation, District Wide***  
 Because our bus drivers encounter constant and unforeseen difficulties in the execution of their duties, a Safety Awards Program was instituted to recognize their safe driving habits. The Foundation will provide financial support to grow this program to continue to motivate drivers and show them our appreciation for the huge responsibility they take on of transporting our children. - \$750