

2019-2020 ISC Mini Grant Recipients

All LMSD Home and School Associations and the Education Foundation of Lower Merion generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program. This year's program resulted in the funding of 39 projects, of which 18 were fully and 21 were partially funded, for a total amount of \$13,800. A special thank you to the members of the Mini Grant Review Committee for all of their insightful input in awarding the following projects:

In the Elementary Schools, the following ISC Mini Grants have been awarded to enrich our youngest LMSD students:

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Laurie Billows's **Relaxation and Wellness at Belmont Hills Elementary** will create a calm, comfortable waiting area with unique puzzles, fidgets and sensory relaxation tools. *Total Funding: \$320.00*

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Cathy Kaufman's **Enhancing Our Maker Space** will provide 3D doodler pens giving an opportunity for students to create models and prototypes. *Total Funding: \$599.00*

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Colleen Holmes's **Speak UP, Speak Out and Sing!** will purchase a portable amplification system helping student public speakers in a supportive, compassionate classroom setting. *Total Funding: \$550.00*

CYNWYD ELEMENTARY: Gina Felice's **Women's History and Black History** will supplement a classroom library with books with compelling storylines and diversity. *Total Funding: \$233.00*

CYNWYD ELEMENTARY: Natalie Thibault, Connie Lowney and Karen Salladino's **Making with Purpose: Pillowcases for CHOP** will supply student volunteers meeting weekly in their Library Makerspace with fabric to create and make pillowcases for patients at CHOP. *Total Funding: \$235.00*

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Riva Rothenberger's **Lego Wall** will install a Lego Wall for students to continue to solve, create and engage. *Total Funding: \$192.00*

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Melissa Stagliano's **Osmo Learning System - Genius Edition** will utilize digital tiles and blocks linked to an iPad encouraging students to learn visually through physical play. *Total Funding: \$504.00*

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Elena Habel's **Building Blocks** will create a kindergarten space for block building that is organized and available for students to use during their daily choice time. *Total Funding: \$440.00*

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Lori McCrudden 's **Gladwyne Garden – Part II** will provide the materials to create, plant and harvest the school garden. *Total Funding: \$550.00*

MERION & BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Wendy S. Phillips's **Increasing Students' Social & Emotional Development Through Bibliotherapy** will increase student's social & emotional

development through selected thematic books to guide them developmentally and to promote social skills. *Total Funding: \$175.00*

MERION ELEMENTARY: Jessica Segal's **Culturally Proficient Library** will support LMSD's Transformative Curriculum while helping children make cross-cultural connections. *Total Funding: \$370.00*

MERION ELEMENTARY: Tara Miller's **Emotional Support and Strategies** will offer sensory objects, workbooks and games to increase student focus and social/emotional awareness. *Total Funding: \$300.00*

MERION ELEMENTARY: Meredith Johnson's **Monarch Waystation** will create an intentionally-managed garden that provides food and habitat for the struggling Monarch butterfly population. *Total Funding: \$405.00*

MERION ELEMENTARY: Kristina Volertas's **Relaxation Tools for Wellness Promotion** will use relaxing, meditative activities to help students calm themselves in the nurses' office to be able to get back to the classroom feeling better. *Total Funding: \$136.00*

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY: Carol Burgos's **Jumbie Jam Steel Drum Band** will expand a steel drum collection. *Total Funding: \$637.00*

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY: Joan Hennessy's **Mindfulness and Relaxation in the Health Office** will provide an aquarium lamp and mini library to reduce students' stress. *Total Funding: \$151.00*

PENN WYNNE: Kate Rafferty's **Sensory Paths - Floor Decal Sets** will give students a safe space to take a short productive break from the classroom. *Total Funding: \$267.00*

In our Middle Schools, ISC Mini Grants are benefitting students through the following awards:

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jamie Gaffga and Jennifer Nates's **Video Cameras for Performance-Based Assessment** will encourage originality and creativity in student-led presentations of interdisciplinary inquiry units. *Total Funding: \$250.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Maureen Keeney's **Culinary Lab Library** will establish a Culinary Lab Library with science-based and STEM related cookbooks. *Total Funding: \$100.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Gina Sullivan and Pat Markey's **Literacy Through Culture** will teach Spanish through native Hispanic children's literature. *Total Funding: \$230.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mary Callaghan's **Exploring the Keyboard for Adaptive Music Students** will provide a portable adaptive keyboard for special education music class. *Total Funding: \$640.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jessica Levin's **Podcasting Equipment for Exploratory Learning** will offer foldable microphone acoustic isolation shields to allow multiple students in the same room to record projects at the same time. *Total Funding: \$300.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Lauren Ruth's **Relaxation and Relationships at the Valley** will purchase fidgets, games and different relaxation tools to use when speaking about difficult and emotional topics to counselors. *Total Funding: \$200.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Matt Wyatt's **Stethoscopes** will connect the health curriculum and 7th grade math curriculum to discover the various benefits of exercising and experience "real life" application of math concepts. *Total Funding: \$206.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Matthew Birch's **Cold Frame** will add liners and materials to existing raised bed planters. *Total Funding: \$431.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Maureen Keeney's **Air Fryer Cooker** will engage students with new food preparation technology. *Total Funding: \$160.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mary Beth Peterson and Mariam Dubashi's **Stand and Engage** will increase alertness and concentration through standing desks. *Total Funding: \$780.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Katy Morris's **Engaging Students in Physical Science with Roller Coasters** will engage students with STEM/engineering concepts with K'Nex Education Amusement Park Experience Sets. *Total Funding: \$239.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jacqueline Cassidy, Jordan Robinson and Maureen Keeney's **Cricut Maker Cutting Machine** will apply STEAM principles in the Art Club and In Stitches Needle Arts Club. *Total Funding: \$350.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Heather Cook and Katy Morris's **Motivating Students with Milestone Buttons** will offer a button making machine to commemorate academic achievements. *Total Funding: \$267.00*

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Sarah Rittenhouse's **Engaging Students in Reading in a Modern Language Classroom** will provide a robust library for independent Spanish reading. *Total Funding: \$400.00*

In our high schools, ISC Mini Grants will support these innovative projects:

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Nyanthen Bantoe's **National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)** will use STEM kits and drones for high school NSBE Club members to share with elementary school students of color. *Total Funding: \$600.00*

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Veronica Vladimirova-Cambria's **Certamen Expansion** will purchase a Latin language quiz machine preparing students for national Latin competitions. *Total Funding: \$560.00*

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Christine Kiley's **Escape Room Hands On Challenge** will offer materials for Escape Room science challenges. *Total Funding: \$176.00*

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Christine Kiley's **Insane in the Membrane** will offer phospholipid and membrane transport kits for hands-on exploration. *Total Funding: \$209.00*

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Mark Ferraro, Daniella Roy and Jeff Rhodes's **Worm Farm Project** will enhance their worm bin system to make gathering the castings and worm tea much simpler for students to reach an independent level. *Total Funding: \$359.00*

HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL: Jessica Henry's **Flexible Book Shelving** will create an infrastructure for successful classroom libraries. *Total Funding: \$703.00*

LOWER MERION HIGH SCHOOL: Larry McAfoos's **Phone Camera Lenses and Tripods** will enable students to create digital lab notebooks using phones to record procedures and observations. *Total Funding: \$360.00*

ALL DISTRICT: Allison Mellet's **One Book One LMSD** will help to provide Classroom "Monster Journals" and incentive bags to support the LMSD community reading project. *Total Funding: \$250.00*