



2019-2020 Celebrate Innovation Grants

The Foundation Board of Directors awarded 59 “Celebrate Innovation” grants totaling **\$124,477** to Parkland School District with the intent of enriching the current curriculum to benefit a wide range of students, staff and community members.

Districtwide – \$45,162

- ***Parkland STEMM Academies, Jason Henry, 6-12 Grades, Districtwide***
The Parkland STEMM Academy is a summer program designed to provide exploration in STEMM career fields. There are 8 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. 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. - \$6,737
- ***Heroes and Helpers, Diane Joy Irish, Home & School Visitor / Student Services, Districtwide***
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. - \$1,500
- ***Be the Bridge, Diane Joy Irish, Home & School Visitor / Student Services, Districtwide***
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, Districtwide***
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, Districtwide***
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 artwork chosen is tremendous. It will display the very best that we have in Parkland from sixth through twelfth grades. - \$1,500
- ***Driver Safety Award Program, Val Strock, Transportation, Districtwide***
Our bus drivers encounter constant and unforeseen difficulties while transporting over 9,000 students a day. 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
- ***Parent University, Michelle Minotti, Districtwide***
The goal of this program is to provide a speaker that improves our community and that builds a better home-school partnership. As a public education institution, we feel it is important to provide not only our staff, but our parents and students with resources for self, school and community improvement - \$1,500
- ***Mobile Makerspace, Lauren Will & Samantha Edwards, Districtwide 6-12***
The Mobile Innovation Station contains equipment that ALL teachers in both middle schools and the high school can sign out and utilize within their classrooms. They can take multiple items or just one item at time to explore collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity with their students. This will allow us to bring STEAMM activities directly into the classroom. - \$6,000
- ***Da Vinci Science Center Field Trips, Kelly Rosario, Curriculum & Instruction, 4th Grade Districtwide***
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. - \$8,000
- ***Build Your Armour, Sheri Deeb, Student Services, 4th & 5th Grade, Districtwide***
Build Your Armour™ is a fitness/ nutrition program designed to educate 4th and 5th grade children on the key components to maintain strong immune systems. This grant would allow for each elementary school to participate in this program, which builds over an eight-week period to help students gain a basis for wellness. The goal 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 will be explored and how crucial "recovery" time is to help 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. - \$2,400
- ***Sensory Decals, Karen Dopera, Districtwide***
These decals provide a sensory break resource for students throughout the day. All elementary schools will incorporate a sensory walkway in their buildings for students to use throughout the school day. The fit and fun playscape includes 127 decals with 7 activities including crab crawl, daisy hopscotch, jump logs, march ants, step stones, toe to heel and wall push-up decals. The objective is to improve student focus, promote cognitive development, improve motor development and coordination. Another objective is to allow students to review colors, numbers, patterns, and following directions. - \$9,080

- **Kindergarten Coding, Matthew DeFazio, Donna Reinert, Debra Newhard, Peter Lang, Ashley Morrison, Melissa Waring, Jill Becht, Caitlin Budge, Districtwide**

Children as young as age 4 can start learning foundational STEM concepts by programming Wonder Workshop's Dash robot using a Puzzlets accessory from Digital Dream Labs. Puzzlets are icon-based, physical tiles that children can manipulate with their hands. The Play Tray connects wirelessly to Dash, allowing kids to go screen-free while programming their robot friend. No mobile devices are needed, and our Media Centers already have the Dash robots. The Dash Challenge cards teach the fundamentals of coding through fun robot games. Learn about loops, events, conditionals, sequences and more while you play. - \$1,696

- **Bullying Prevention, Alison Thompson, Monica Ouly-Uhl, Matt Carlson, 6-8, OMS & SMS**

Bullying in schools is a national concern and an issue that has not circumvented Parkland. The Foundation will support the secondary schools anti-bullying campaign with a motivational speaker and funds to design a unity project, facilitate class chats, coordinate building activities, and use our Change for Change fundraiser to Pay it Forward in our community through the donation of gift cards to customers at local stores. - \$3,000

High School –\$21,834

- **3D Printer for Biomedical Innovation Class, Laura Kowalski, 12th Grade, Project Lead the Way**

Parkland High School's Biomedical course will work with the St. Luke's Simulation lab to create, design, and develop a working simulation model. The Biomedical Innovations students will use a 3D printer to create a working model, potentially for patients who could use their 3D printed innovation to improve the quality of their life. - \$1497

- **Literature in Science, Megan Tiwold, Science, Project Lead the Way**

The book, Uncommon Wisdom will be used in the Project Lead the Way Biomedical program. The book will support career development and inspiration. Students will read excerpts of the book and have in-class discussions and reflect on how this impacts them currently and/or in the future. The author of the book, Dr. Levitt, will speak with the students about his experience as a Neurologist and the "Uncommon Wisdom" that comes with it. - \$480

- **CEW Celebration Night, Amber Spence, Wes Spence, Andy Bashore, Lee Rizzotto, and Tim Schwartz, 10th and 11th Grade, English**

This is a culminating activity for a program that matches students up with local businesses whose job relates to the lab work the students are studying at Lehigh Career & Technical Institute (LCTI). This apprenticeship allows students to gain valuable knowledge and skills and gives them a first-hand look at the career field they hope to enter after high school. Not only does this provide students with invaluable real-world work experiences, it often creates great networking opportunities. The celebration would recognize all of our business partners, distinguish those companies who have been participating for 10+ years and award students for job-related achievements- \$1,200

- **Artists in Residence, Kaye Coval, 9th-12th Art**

Students will have the opportunity to work with a professional artist creating and collaborating on an art piece. The Artist in Residence project opens students to professional working artists in the community who come in and work with them on collaborative projects that they might not do in traditional art curriculum. - \$1,500

- ***Laser Engraving, Thomas J. Rozycki, Science***
The laser engraver/cutter can engrave a wide range of materials including plastic, wood, glass, and acrylic. Using this technology, students and teachers will be able to make precision artworks and projects to be used in the classroom or school. By incorporating interactive technology resources, you are able to take student's ideas from concept to creation to completion - \$1,907
- ***Campus Beautification, Vince Fugazzotto, Science***
Students will make hanging flower basket which are hung in front of the school. This project will assist in the botany portion of the science curriculum. It will also teach the children about donating their time for the benefit of others. - \$900
- ***Lighting Kit, Elizabeth Smith and Andrea Roposh, Theatre***
The lighting kit is used to take headshots for students in Theater classes for productions. It will also be used to help students prepare prescreens for summer programs and college theater auditions. - \$146
- ***World Language Week, Kellie O'Donnell, Grades 7 – 12, World Language Department***
World Language Week is a grade 7-12 celebration of languages, culture, and heritages. Students participate in activities after school and in the evening to promote acceptance and increase global awareness. It celebrates diversity, promotes language learning, provides students with a platform to celebrate personal heritage, and encourages other teachers to make global and international connections within their subject matter/discipline. - \$2,500
- ***VEX Robotics Competition, Parkland Engineering Club, Grades 9 – 12, Engineering and Technology***
The Engineering Club is in the process of transitioning to a new Robotics platform released last year. The new VEX V5 platform allows the club to create faster, more powerful robots capable of competing in the very difficult Eastern PA region. Robotics is an integral part of the High school curriculum. The VEX Robotics system is used in three different courses within the PLTW program. Students will apply design skills, problem-solving skills and programming skills to a long-term multi-level design problem. - \$1,623
- ***Maker Events, Carol Dickerson, Library***
Events will be designed at the High School similar to those offered at the public library that promote creativity and life-long learning. The events are broken down by quarter with the content including: Digital & Print Storytelling, Build It, Create and Design, and Grow and Eat. These events are designed to spark interest and promote creativity. They build towards cultural awareness, diversity, social, and reasoning skills. They establish community, engage students, encourage collaboration, challenge problem solving skills and add to the overall appeal of the library. Students will learn new skills such as: animation, manga artistry, robotics, solar construction, building, wiring, collaboration, hydroponic gardening, resin art, food skills, and other creative projects. - \$3,544
- ***Parkland High School's Annual Job Fair, Allison McPeck, Guidance***
The annual job fair is for all students in the 11th and 12th grade. Students gain experience writing a resume, interviewing, completing job applications, and possibly gaining employment. It is an opportunity for local companies to meet potential employees for summer work and/or long-term positions. This event also invites volunteer organizations to participate and meet our students who may be candidates for their service organization. - \$150

- ***Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment, Erin Gopen and Barry Search, 12th Grade Science***
Parkland High School has an elective that utilizes a cross curricular approach to examine the practice of firefighting. This class plays an important role in education of the next generation of firefighters, helping to fulfill a community need. This grant will help provide some updated ERG books for the class. It will also acknowledge the help received during the year by local volunteer firefighters who generate enthusiasm and train the students in many different practical drills (HazMat Drill, Rope Rescue Drill, Animal Rescue Practice, Fire Inspections, Hose Line Management, MedEvac Demonstration, Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations). - \$1,000
- ***Vernier Interfaces for the Science Classroom, Charles Verenna and Wendy Simpson, Science***
Purchase of a classroom set of 6 LabQuest 2 interfaces for use in the Chemistry classroom to support more than one classroom at a time. These interfaces have been used in the Chemistry curriculum in all courses from Conceptual Chemistry to AP Chemistry with great success. This technology is also used in the Physics and BioMed curricula. - \$2,132
- ***Audio Books, Carol Dickerson, Library, Grades 9 - 12***
Audio books provide another medium for students to access literature material. This will support our students with special needs, ESL students or concussion students. They also allow students to think critically about the content, using imagination, making connections, introducing reading material above a reader's Lexile level, model good interpretive reading and teach critical listening skills. - \$945
- ***Music for Inclusion/Hand Bell Choir, Amanda Keifer/Alison Figueroa***
This is Parkland School District's first hand chime choir. It is a joint effort with student's in the Functional Learning Support Classrooms and the Tri-M music honor society. This is an inclusive instrumental music program for students with special needs, with the opportunity to perform at Parkland functions and concerts. The students will learn how to read music and play an instrument. The music honors society students will learn how to modify and adapt the music to meet the needs of exceptional learners. - \$2,311

Middle Schools –\$41,614

- ***Hydroponics Center for the Classroom and STEAMM Project, Christie Schlaner, Brian Holtzhafer, Jason Klinger, OMS***
Mobile STEAMM supplies will be available to all teachers in SMS, OMS, and PHS via checkout from the Library. Teachers can take multiple items or just one at a time to explore collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity with their students. This will provide teachers with the tools necessary to enhance student-centric learning. It will also allow us to bring STEAMM activities directly into the classroom. - \$3,000
- ***Da Vinci Science Center STEM Career Exploration Days, Susan Stern, Daniel Christman, Scott Bauer, Rebecca Adamson, 8th Grade Science, SMS***
The DaVinci Science Center's Career Exploration Days allow students to take an up-close look at STEM careers and speak with STEM professionals. Their exhibits, hands on workshops, and live science shows will engage the students as active participants in the learning process. - \$5,998

- ***I&E Depth Illustration, Kerri Griffin, 6-8, Art, SMS***
Students will create artwork in which they will demonstrate how proportion is affected by portrayal of depth and/or size/scale ratio within the picture plane. They will then render the drawing with pen and ink techniques and add color to create a sense of 3-dimensionality. Students will be able to create a sense of depth in their drawing by varying the proportions of the subject matter in their illustration by decreasing or increasing the ratio of one subject drawn to another. Students will be able to use pen and ink techniques to further create the illusion of 3-dimensional objects. - \$1,931
- ***Oh the Places You'll GoPro, Noel Mahmood, Computer Fair, SMS***
Student submissions in the Digital Movie category will go where no other student can go - everywhere. The GoPro is designed to go places mere mortals cannot take their cameras- everywhere from underwater to way up in the sky. Students will no longer be hindered by the limits of an ordinary camera. Their visions as filmmakers and directors will be fulfilled. The only limit is their imaginations - which is boundless. \$595
- ***"Switch Things Up with the Nintendo Labo, Noel Mahmood, 7th Grade Science, SMS***
Nintendo has quietly and slyly created one of the best STEM activities of all time. Labo kits bring play and engineering into a fantastic hands-on STEM experience. With the Labo kits, students can use their imaginations to build working cardboard pianos, robots, steering wheels, and more. They even have a Virtual Reality kit on the way! Once they build the kits students can use their own creations to play actual games on the Nintendo Switch console. It makes their creations real and opens new realms of possibilities in the engineering and gaming worlds. Students will be able to design, build, and play with their creations in games created by Nintendo. Certain games, created by neuroscientists, physicists, and mathematicians, will have unsuspecting students learning scientific and mathematical concepts. - \$588
- ***Stand Up for Learning, Danielle Williams, Jen Lundberg, Melissa Danner, Tom Bryant, 7th Grade, OMS***
"Movers & shakers" who have been singled out as disruptive and distracting using traditional desks will benefit through the use of stand-up desks, as they can release excess energy, receive sensory input, and fidget, while increasing their focus and time on-task meeting curricular goals without disrupting their peers. Their self-outlook and perception of their school experience is more positive, which increases their personal success and the success of the classroom as a whole. - \$1,487
- ***Keyboard Lab, Erica Silver, Music, Grades 6 – 8, SMS***
Ten new keyboards (Casio 61-Key Portable Arranger) will be added to the piano lab at Springhouse Middle School. These keyboards will be used for both traditional music instruction (playing piano by reading music notation) and technology-based music instruction (using the MIDI interface with student Chromebooks to create music). This program allows students who are not participating in the instrumental music program at the middle school level (band/orchestra) another pathway to participate in performing and/or creating music. Keyboard sounds (piano and MIDI loops) are featured in the popular music styles that students enjoy and having a keyboard lab would allow for the incorporation of these styles in both general music class and I&E groups. - \$1,404
- ***Lehigh Valley Zoo Animal Kingdom, Jennifer Karetzky, 7th Grade, SMS***
The three stations: Animal Experience, Animal Kingdom, and Pond Water Exploration, align with the Life Science curriculum in 7th grade and incorporate the new environmental standards that were added to the curriculum. The Pond Water experience utilizes STEM and Technology skills that are in the 8th grade Science Standards. Students will be in the stream collecting macro and micro

invertebrates to assess the quality of the Jordan Stream. The LV Zoo is a great resource to our local community, providing authentic learning experiences for our students with real-life animals, trainers, and the stream. - \$6,750

- **Competitive Video Editing, Joshua Abrams, 7th Grade History, SMS**
Springhouse competes in the *What's So Cool About Manufacturing* video editing contest. MacBook pro and Final Cut Pro software will enable students to create better submissions for the competition. The computer and software will also help students who participate in History Day to advance. High quality video editing software enables students to achieve at a higher potential. There are three objectives to this project: 1. Enable students to create the highest quality video submissions for the various competitions that the school engages in. 2. Teach students how professional video editing works and provide them the tools to accomplish the job. 3. The What's So Cool Contest plays heavily into getting students to see the importance of developing career skills at an early age. - \$1,829
- **CODE 4 Change Food Pantry Inventory, JR Renna, Grades 6 – 8, SMS**
SMS Code for Change club is coding an iPad app that will allow inventory of all products coming in and out of the SMS food pantry and hence making a positive, real world impact. Authentic experiences, problem solving, and coding literacy are all values espoused in Parkland Ready 21. Users of the app will be able to track inventory quantities and expiration dates of all food & other products so they can make data informed decisions on how they distribute and advertise for what items they need. - \$760
- **WillPower Shakespeare Presentation, Elissa Pesesko, Jennifer Lundberg, Jill Berrigan, Candace, Ottaviani, Samantha Schultz, and Ashley Metzgar, 7th Grade English, OMS**
WillPower will bring a professional performance of Macbeth, the Shakespearean play, followed by an audience discussion to Orefield Middle School. The play is the perfect way to bring Shakespeare's works, which can be daunting and difficult to follow, alive for our students. The performance will incite an appreciation and passion for Shakespeare that will help them understand the universality and timelessness of great literature. - \$1,450
- **TDA – Talking to the Text Annotation and Analysis, Samantha Schultz and Jill Berrigan, 7th and 8th Grade E/LA, OMS**
Students benefit from the use of an Elmo MX-1 Visual Presenter document camera as we continue to facilitate annotation/analysis in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry texts. We strive to dissect these texts with our students to encourage processing and analysis through a visual image. - \$670
- **SMS Cares, Brian Barone, Guidance, SMS**
SMS Cares provides weekly snack packs to approximately 40 food insecure students as well as operates a food pantry for Springhouse students and families. The SMS Cares group provides food and grocery items, personal care items, as well as school supplies to needy students and families. - \$1,500
- **Digital LCD Microscope Upgrade, Troy Minarovic, 7th Grade Science**
LCD screens allow students with learning disabilities, including processing disorders, to interact with the screen and what the image is portraying. In addition, the LCD screen and HDMI capabilities greatly enhance the curriculum by allowing students and teachers/support staff to communicate and collaborate on lab activities. Students can then view or download/ save images and videos onto their Chromebooks to use in 21st Century projects and lessons. - \$5,879

- ***Springhouse School Climate Mural, Christie Eggleston, Grades 6, 7, 8, Art, SMS***
Students will create a large scale artwork to be displayed at Springhouse Middle School. The goal of the art works and their creating will hopefully promote a positive school atmosphere. The murals are meant to enhance the school environment and foster school pride. The mural process provides the opportunity to develop and advance artistic skills. - \$1,500
- ***Standing Desk to Increase Student Achievement, SMS 6th Grade Core Teachers, SMS***
Children benefit from using standing desks. It increases movement, improves education, reduces behavior problems, and improves test scores. Standing desks will improve student focus and health. In turn, it will improve academic performance. Research suggests that ADD and ADHD is linked to physical inactivity and sedentary lifestyle aggravates these symptoms. Standing desks allow students to move more and these desks are equipped with a moving footrest that allows for fidgeting while standing or sitting on the stool. - \$6,274

Elementary Schools – \$15,865

- ***Collaborative Table Time, David Whitby, Parkway Manor***
Tables are an integral part of my classroom environment. Students use the tables for various instructional purposes, from small-group discussions and collaborative inquiry projects. A table in the classroom can transform a student's ability to engage with the curriculum and to feel empowered in their learning environment. - \$925
- ***3D Engineering and Printing, Carrie Weaknecht, Jaindl***
Students will have the opportunity to identify a problem within the context of their unit of study, develop and design a 3D modeled solution (using a CAD program like Tinkercad), and then print that model, thus making their creative vision come to life. They will learn about the capabilities of 3D printing in the real world, as well as how the printer operates, and how to change the filament, thus taking an active role in the entire process from idea to tangible product. Students will also be asked to design and print objects that would benefit our school-wide community. Some of these items may include, "turkey" keychains for birthdays, fidget toys, iPod cases, SWPBS rewards, or doorstops. - \$1,335
- ***Mindfulness Matters, Nicole Mandry, Michele Geczi, Leigh Ann Gruen, and Brian Hahn, Schnecksville***
Mindfulness resources will provide each first-grade teacher with tools to aid in teaching and promoting the development of students' mindfulness practices and social emotion learning (SEL) skills. The SEL library will be a collection of picture books used by all first-grade teachers to support instruction in mindfulness, character development, growth mindset, and SEL. The objective is to aid student development of mindfulness practices and social emotional learning to support learning and achievement. This will help students become better learners and classmates, with the goal of creating a positive, productive learning environment for all students. - \$1,012
- ***Hand Percussion Instruments for Elementary Bands, Laura Kemmerer, Mark Syslo, James Tully, and Scott Watson, Districtwide***
For students to have a great experience in band, a great percussion section is key. Percussion students play a very wide variety of different instruments at each school. All eight elementary schools are standardizing and renewing the current set of hand percussion instruments they have. This will enable every student in the ensemble to have a better ensemble experience. - \$2,246

- ***Earth Day 50th Anniversary, Tina Jarrett, Schnecksville***
2020 is the 50th anniversary for Earth Day. Earth Day is an all-day event which includes 16-17 educational stations that pertain to various topics for protecting our environment. There is also a morning and afternoon assembly and courtyard cleanup. Schnecksville will welcome a guest speaker for their assembly. Plants are purchased to beautify the courtyard and to allow children the experience of planting and growing their own food. Supplies are provided for the rotating stations which stress the importance of taking care of our earth. - \$2,000
- ***iPods in Conjunction with Merge Cube Grant, Andy McGinniss, Jaindl***
Using iPods in conjunction with Merge Cubes allows our students to experience curriculum on a much deeper and more meaningful level. By using the iPods along with the Merge Cube platform, students have the opportunity to extend and create presentations that they can then share with the class or other grade levels. - \$1,477
- ***Merge Cube License and iPods, Samantha Ding, Jaindl***
Merge licenses which including Merge Cubes, AR/VR headsets, the educational platform that coincides with the Merge Cube, and two compatible iPods (6th generation) assist in teaching standards, promoting the exploration of topics in an immersive approach, motivating student involvement, and facilitating the creation of presentations for SWPBS and/or curriculum related lessons and experiences to share across the school. - \$1,417
- ***Ukuleles, Jamie Yocum, Cetronia***
This project provides an opportunity for students to learn how to play an instrument from the string family. It will broaden their horizons! Having these instruments available will help to cultivate a student's ability to carry out the three Artistic Processes of creating, performing, and responding. Students will recognize and identify fundamental aspects ukulele playing and develop finger dexterity and strumming techniques in order to make music. Students will also be introduced to the basic tenets of songwriting and some possible approaches for doing so. - \$1,170
- ***Classroom Ukuleles, Louise Feher, Kratzer***
Ukuleles are the top trending instrument for all grade levels across the country and becoming a must-have in general elementary classrooms. With only four strings, ukuleles are an excellent beginning instrument for our young students. Learning ukulele not only works on music reading and playing technique, but also teaches fine motor skills, brain/muscle coordination, and hands on learning. It is collaborative. The students start to learn in pairs, as they help each other learn note/hand placement. Students who learn to play the ukulele will take this skill with them into adulthood. \$1,499
- ***Flexible Seating, Donna Anthony, Fogelsville***
Flexible seating will be provided in the form of a core ball. Students have a difficult time sitting still in hard chairs for long periods of time. When they become uncomfortable, they wiggle to bring relief. While uncomfortable, students lose their focus and concentration because they are focused on finding comfort. Attention in class has the potential to improve when the students can wiggle around on balls to soothe themselves, something they are not able to do on a hard classroom chair. - \$201
- ***Kindle Club, Joan Krem and Debra Newhard, Kernsville***
Students in grades 3-5 are chosen based on their STAR scores to participate in the Kindle Club. Students read a book on the Kindle that challenges them and are then required to respond with

questions using Activelylearn.com. More eBooks will be purchased so upper level students can continue to read books on a more advanced level. The goal is to see progress in ELA scores with text dependent analysis, vocabulary, showing evidence and communicating with peers. - \$300

- ***Independent Learning Centers, Samantha Formato, Schnecksville***

Students will be able to become independent learners. Storage combination units with boxes allows students to easily see which learning center they need, independently grab the center, and get started right away with their learning. Students are able to have centers accessible to them in an organized way to make learning more meaningful. Students will also be able to clean up their centers independently and put their things away teaching them the importance of staying organized. - \$143

- ***Collaboration and Conversation, Traci Falco, Kernsville***

Our 21st century learners need skills beyond learning how to read, write and do arithmetic. 21st century learners need to build skills in collaborating with peers, engaging in meaningful and constructive conversations, and approaching inquiry projects and center activities with a team focus for experimentation, problem solving and implementation so that they can succeed far beyond the classroom doors. By removing traditional individual desks and replacing them with dry-erase top group table seating, the classroom environment promotes this necessary collaboration and cooperation. Students learn from one another as they discuss, practice, review, and implement problem solving strategies with a team approach - right on the tops of their tables! - \$1,574

- ***Qball, Carey Humes, Kernsville***

Qball is a toss-able lightweight microphone ball. Student discussions are promoted in the classroom with this device regardless of their voice projection ability. It also allows for students who have minor hearing loss to hear discussions better. "Low talkers" voices could be amplified. This device is used to get more students to participate in group discussions in game-like activities and foster a collaborative environment. - \$193

- ***Veteran's Day Program, Judy Kelly and Karen Brokate, Jaindl***

We honor Veterans and currently serving men and women in the armed forces of Jaindl staff and families in an hour-long program on or near Veterans Day. In addition, Jaindl Elementary School asks families to send the names and addresses of those who cannot attend, so that cards made by our students can be sent to them. Our Veterans Day program teaches our students about the armed forces of the United States and the history behind the holiday. Students also practice letter writing skills when they make cards and write letters to those who are unable to attend. Students are taught the importance of what these men and women do every day and the sacrifices they make for our benefit. - \$373