

**Elmbrook Education Foundation
2019 Grant Summary
Submitted by Kristin Westrick, Grant Committee Chairperson**

The EEF Grant Committee, consisting of Chris Thompson, Dan Scott, Andy Farley, Karen Replogle, Kim Devine, Carol Chetney, Stephanie Soerens and Kristin Westrick met on Monday, March 11, 2019 for the purpose of discussing grant applications submitted to the EEF for the 2018/19 school year. Twenty-five (25) applications were received. The committee recommends supporting the following ten (10) applications:

**BEHS Digital Imaging Lab, submitted by Vicky Molitor, BEHS Visual Arts teacher:
\$5,000 for equipment to build a digital imaging lab**

The grant application requested \$20,000 to purchase multiple pieces of equipment for the development of a digital imaging lab at Brookfield East. The Digital Imaging curriculum strand was acquired by the BEHS Art Department at the start of the 2018-19 school year. The BEHS Art Department goal is to use this grant money to fund equipment necessary to teach the curriculum so that Digital Imaging classes in the 19-20 school year will receive the most authentic and productive experience. Digital Imaging courses through the Visual Arts Department require up to date and industry standard equipment to enhance class experience, develop creative-problem solving skills and prepare students for post secondary options in this field. Upon discussion with Dan Scott who followed up with Ms. Molitor, it was decided that the most crucial pieces of equipment, would be funded through and EEF grant. Those pieces are:

- Laser Cutter
- Vinyl Cutter
- Sub Dye Printer and accessories
- 3-D Printer

Rationale for support of this grant are:

- Development of more in depth STEAM focus within high schools.
- Bridge the gap and provide greater opportunities for this cross-curricular connection.
- Better prepare students for post secondary endeavors.

Upon acceptance of the grant, we would like to visit the BEHS Digital Imaging Lab to witness the supplies and equipment being used. We would also like periodic updates from Ms. Molitor on overall usage of the BE Digital Imaging Lab and follow its growth.

**FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team Expansion (two applications submitted for similar funding), submitted by Valeria Anderson, BEHS FIRST Team Coach / Mentor and Arvind Ramachandran WHMS FIRST Lego League Coach / Mentor:
\$5,000 to add another FTC team**

These two grant applications requested \$2,933.20 and \$4,775 respectively to build an additional FTC team within the School District of Elmbrook.

FIRST Tech Challenge is a program for any student in grades 7 to 12 that have an interest in: programming, mechanical design, electrical engineering, CAD design, mechanical building, marketing, business applications and writing. Students would come from: Brookfield Central, Brookfield East, Pilgrim Park Middle School and Wisconsin Hills Middle School.

FTC Teams provide hands on, real world training in the areas of: programming, mechanical design and building, and business management. The students work closely with mentors and each other so they develop communication skills, time management and other team skills. This program provides an extra-curricular opportunity for students that might not get involved in other team activities. During the competition season, the students interact with other schools as they form alliances to compete with and against teams, giving the opportunity for teams to learn about the strengths and weakness of other robot designs. The students also prepare a 10-15 minute presentation that details their season and the design process of their robot. They present to a judging panel at the competitions, which helps them develop speaking skills which will be critical to future interviews for college or the job market.

Rationale for support of this grant are:

- High level of new student interest in the program at both middle schools and both high schools.
- Real world competitive experience for STEM focused students.
- Provides an extra-curricular opportunity for students not involved in athletics or arts
- Students are developing skills necessary to “become what’s next”.

Upon acceptance of this grant, the EEF Grant Committee would like regular updates on the status and success of the two FTC teams representing the District.

Virtual and Augmented Reality in Computing, submitted by Betsy McGinn, WHMS Science Teacher: \$1,000 for two virtual reality systems

The grant application is requesting funding for the purchase of two virtual reality systems for new elective classes at WHMS, specifically computer coding and game / app development. Currently proprietary languages developed by MIT are being used in the classroom, however, students are coming to middle school with a broader base of basic computing skills gleaned in elementary school, coding camps, after-school clubs. These students are expecting experiences with increasingly advanced technology. The goal is the addition of a more dynamic curriculum adopting a more powerful computing language that would integrate with VR and AR.

The new elective courses were developed and adopted by the school board in the fall of 2018 and will be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year.

Rationale for support of this grant are:

- Truly innovative teaching method.
- Any teacher/class/subject can benefit from the VR set up as long as there is an application that applies to the content they teach.
- VR is being used at BE in the Human Anatomy and Physiology class (purchased through an EEF in 2018).
- Supports the new elective courses at the middle schools while enhancing the educational experience for the students enrolled in the course.

Upon acceptance of this grant, the EEF Grant Committee would love to be invited to learn more about how the VR system is being used and to possibly try it out. We would also love to hear student response to this technology and to be advised of teacher response, as well.

Break-Out, submitted by Adam Jensen, PPMS Teaching and Learning Specialist: \$950 for supplies to build break-out boxes

The grant application requests funding to purchase supplies to build break-out boxes. While break-out boxes are not “new” to the District, the idea behind this is. For this summer school class, the students will develop their own break-out box.

The District is providing funding for a portion of this program / class. Mr. Jensen is looking for the remainder in order to have supplies available for 20 students to build a box.

This process of “building a box” will require that a story line to be written by the student. Students have to ask themselves questions to develop riddles and clues that will extend their thinking to a deeper conceptual level. The focus for education is to intertwine subjects together and show how they apply to real life situations. Students develop a storyline (Language Arts), create puzzles often times involving numbers or patterns (Mathematics) while following a logical progression (Science). The next step would be to implement musical, artistic, and historical pieces.

Rationale for the grant are:

- Proven success within the District of breakout boxes (as far as student engagement) and this grant takes them to the next level.
- Building a box requires students to thinking creatively, collaborate, and communicate clearly.
- Supplies will be used from year to year so new students can build a box each summer.
- Mr. Jensen will develop a system/unit that can be adapted easily so other teachers can begin to use the breakouts in their classes with less up-front preparation.

The EEF Grant Committee, upon acceptance of this grant, would like to be updated on the success of the this summer school class, specifically student reaction, engagement and success in building a box.

Industry Certification, submitted by Megan Fisher, LAUNCH BCHS: \$2,000 for Excel Certification

This grant application is seeking funding of \$2,000 to create a training program for students to learn and become certified in Microsoft Excel. Through partnerships with many regional businesses, it is apparent that skills in Microsoft Excel are expected of todays business / professional workforce . By creating training for students to learn and be certified in Microsoft Excel, we not only better prepare students for college and the workplace, but also provide more prepared students for our LAUNCH Business Champions.

With this grant, online training would be created that all LAUNCH students would have access to in order to complete training in Excel. As part of their LAUNCH strand, students will complete the online training and then register for the industry certification provided by Microsoft. Being Microsoft Certified is something that can be cited on a resume and is accepted across industries.

Rationale for supporting this grant are:

- Continuation of our support of LAUNCH.
- Prepare our students to be better equipped in their post high school endeavors.
- This online course would be the first professional training offered through the LAUNCH program. It would also create a model for offering industry certifications/ trainings outside the traditional course schedule.

Upon acceptance of this grant, Ms. Fisher will be requested to provide updates to the EEF Board regarding the certification process for the students and the students Excel interface with local business partners.

Stationary Bikes / Brain Stations, submitted by Ellen Linnihan, English Teacher BCHS: \$2,000 for a classroom stationary bike

This grant application is requesting funding for six (6) stationary bikes to be shared between two English classrooms at BCHS.

Creating a comfortable, inviting space can improve individual student attitudes and result in better classroom dynamics. Including stationary bikes within a traditional classroom setting, would allow all students, the regular education population as well as those with ADHD and other anxiety issues, to have the opportunity to sit or cycle comfortably for the entire class period, which current desks cannot do.

All students will benefit from access to stationary bikes; but in particular, those who suffer from mental health and / or attention issues will benefit significantly. A diverse and flexible seating arrangement removes the focus from someone being “different” and disruptions are less noticeable. Additionally, research shows that light exercise activates the brain allowing students to be more fully engaged.

Rationale for supporting this grant are:

- Use of bikes is being used at the elementary level with good result.
- The use of stationary bikes in a high school classroom setting is truly innovative.
- Providing this option to all students is wonderful; however, it will be of greatest benefit to those with attention and / or mental health issues.

Upon acceptance of this grant, the EEF will request regular updates regarding the use of the bikes and the success of student engagement while on the bikes.

From One Student to Another, submitted by Amanda Meidl, BEHS student in the Future Teachers strand of LAUNCH: \$600 to build sensory boxes for students with disabilities

This grant is requesting funds to provide supplies to build a sensory box for a student with whom the applicant has had interactions with through LAUNCH.

The goal of the grant is to help a fellow student find calm and comfort in a classroom that is oftentimes overstimulating. The sensory box will allow this student to have a space to be able to reset and then remain in the classroom for greater periods of time.

\$200 was requested to build this “custom” sensory box. As a committee, we would like to challenge Amanda by asking her to develop and build additional sensory boxes for a few more students; which is why we have awarded \$600. EEF will work with Amanda and her application sponsor (Jill McDonald, Secondary Coordinator of Special Education) to identify the students in need of a “customized” sensory box.

Rational for supporting this grant:

- Addressing the needs of special needs students.
- Student to student support and delivery.
- The LAUNCH program planted the seed in a student; EEF supports LAUNCH and creative student development.

Upon acceptance of this grant, EEF would like to see the sensory boxes and learn how the student recipients of the boxes are doing and if their ability to be in their classroom communities is increasing.

Reacting to the Past, submitted by Christopher McBride, BCHS Social Studies / History teacher: \$1,000 for materials, supplies and teachers guide

This grant is requesting \$258 (after receiving a \$500 award) for the purchase of teaching guides, materials and books. We are proposing a \$1,000 award to cover the cost of the program at Brookfield Central and to allow for extension of the program to Brookfield East, with Mr. McBride's assistance.

Reacting to the Past (RTTP) consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work. It seeks to draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills. Reacting roles, unlike those in a play, do not have a fixed script and outcome, so while students will be obliged to adhere to the philosophical and intellectual beliefs of the historical figures they have been assigned to play, they must devise their own means of expressing those ideas persuasively, in papers, speeches, or other public presentations; and students must also pursue a course of action they think will help them win the game.

Rationale for support of this grant are:

- Innovative teaching method to engage students in history.
- Focuses on the four C's of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication in a history lesson.
- Easily extended to both high schools.

Upon acceptance of this grant, the EEF Board would like updates in use of the materials as well as staff and student feedback on the lessons and the benefit of the program.

Community of Learning, submitted by Best Huen, Burleigh 4 year old Kindergarten teacher: \$2,400 for materials and supplies to hold family workshops and early learning kits

The applicant is requesting \$2,400 to provide families with early childhood parenting workshops and learning kits to build and support the parent / child / teacher relationship. These workshops and take home learning kits will be centered on language, concept development, social skills, background knowledge for reading, critical thinking skills, gross motor and fine motor skills.

The family learning kits will provide at home, engaging language rich play and activity for parents and children to "play" together. The parent workshops will strive to educate families by giving parents tools to incorporate into everyday life and activities to help prepare their children for the rigor of the educational curriculum in our elementary schools.

The ultimate goal of the project is to facilitate parent participation and confidence, build a bridge between parent and teachers and focus on increasing the preparedness and achievement of our very youngest learners.

Rational for support of this grant:

- Touches the Elmbrook community at the very beginning of the educational journey.
- Work to ensure all children and parents are kindergarten ready.
- Works to develop and build the important child / parent / teacher relationship.

Upon acceptance of this grant, EEF would like to be notified regarding parent workshops in order to possibly attend. We would also like to know how the learning kits will be inventoried so the supplies / materials are all returned in similar condition. The applicant will know that EEF will support the building of the kits but will not fund replacement supplies or materials.

Total Recommended Grant Amount: \$19,950

Grant Applications not receiving funding are:

Brookfield East: Health Occupations and Professions Exploration (HOPE)

Brookfield Central: Elmbrook Summer Theater Program - Theatrical Rights

Central Administrative Offices / Student Career Services: Transportation for Career-Based Learning Opportunities

Brookfield East: Student REDgen Speaker Series

Swanson Elementary: Technology Integration in PE

Pilgrim Park: First Floor Fitness Room

Brookfield East: ProVersions of Online Resources

Burleigh Elementary: Purposeful Play Materials for Learning

Brookfield East: Courtyard Classroom

Brookfield Central: LEO, the walking, talking, life-sized robot

Brookfield East: BEAST Robotics Trip to FIRST National Convention in Washington D.C.

Brookfield Central: SMART TV in PE Classroom

Brookfield Central: QPR

Brookfield East: Classroom Physical Space Update

Dixon Elementary: Putting a New Spin on Education