



2020 Thiems Grants

\$133,729.07 to support innovation and excellence for all Elmhurst Public school students

Grants to support all elementary schools

Lights, Camera, Action- Green screen studio to demonstrate learning **\$7,381.84**

(2020-35) Elementary school librarians

The green screen studio is another resource to add to the elementary library hubs where students can collaborate and create. With support from the librarian, instructional coaches & classrooms teachers, students will use this technology move beyond the classroom to a virtual world where they can pursue topics and ideas from around the globe.

Rig-a-Ma-Jig- Building for all **\$7,730- partial**

(2020-07) Elementary school librarians

Expanding upon a pilot program last year, this grant provides two more Rig-a-Ma-Jig building kits for librarians to share across the district. These kits build upon the engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards and allow students to work collaboratively to design and construct large-scale creations such a swings, race cars, and forts.

'Pickin & Grinnin'- Learning to strum & play **\$7,988- partial**

(2020-29) Elementary school music teachers

Building upon a previous grant, this will provide 2 additional sets of ukuleles for the elementary school music classrooms. The successful implementation of ukulele lessons for 5th graders, has encouraged the music teachers to expand their program to use ukuleles at lower grade levels and for extended periods throughout the school year. Students will learn music composition, note reading, listening and performing skills.

Calming spaces- Elementary sensory regulation supports **\$12,000-expansion (\$1,500 per school)**

(2020-01, 32, 33, 39) Elementary school instructional teachers and behavioral health professionals

Supporting student's regulation and behavioral health needs is a priority for D205. This grant supports every elementary school to design a calming space and have effective tools to help students to regulate for increased focus on learning.

Creativity Tools in the Elementary Library Makerspace **\$36,000- partial**

(2020-34) Elementary school librarians

This grant provides a bank of 8 iPads with creativity apps for students to work collaboratively as teams to demonstrate their learning and teach their peers. These iPads will support coding and robotics tools; publish and create eBooks, multi-media videos and podcasts. Technology tools engage students in the learning process and provide authentic resources for students to reflect on their learning.

Grants to support individual elementary schools

Creative Student Thinking- 3D Printing

\$11,346

(2020-05) Librarians at Conrad Fischer, Jackson & Lincoln elementary schools

Provides all elementary schools with full size MakerBot 3D printers. This technology upgrade provides students with a greater opportunity to expand their creative, collaborative and critical thinking skills. These printers extend student learning to solve real-world problems using technology employed by today's engineers.

Brain and Body Integration- Using Bal-A-Vis-X

\$5,468- partial

(2020-11) Teachers at Lincoln and Emerson Elementary schools

This grant provides the materials for teachers to implement the daily Bal-A-Vis-X for all students. The program is a series of 300 carefully modulated exercises to provide brain breaks, improve mind-body coordination, promote cooperation and decrease anxiety.

Teaching Empathy- Sparking Friendships with the Nora project

\$3,010

(2020-16) Jackson Elementary School teachers

The Nora Project is a nonprofit organization that helps schools explicitly teach empathy, compassion through lessons and curriculum resources. This unique program teaches empathy and sparks friendships to promote positive interactions.

Thinking Classrooms- Using Standing Whiteboards

\$1,977

(2020-19) Lincoln Elementary School teachers

Using tabletop whiteboards, teachers can foster deeper, visible learning with their students. It gives all students an equal opportunity and voice in the classroom, allows for differentiation and immediate feedback, and encourages collaborative learning and discourse.

Book Creator- Amplifying Students' Creativity and Communication

\$360

(2020-20) Teachers at Emerson, Edison and Conrad Fischer elementary schools

Through the implementation of the Book Creator app, students will have access to a new resource to significantly expand their option and opportunities to create digital works to share with others. It offers an abundance of resources and ideas for students in every subject.

Grants to support all middle schools

#ICANHELP- Deleting negativity online

\$8,955

(2020-04) Elementary school principals and behavioral health professionals

The objective of #ICANHELP is to educate and empower students and adults to use social media positively through a series of workshops. Learning how to interact appropriately online will contribute to collaborative communication & a feeling of safety for higher levels of creativity and innovation.

Sensory Supports- Calming spaces & tools for all

\$6,841.12

(2020-25) Middle school instructional teachers and behavioral health professionals

This grant will create a space for students to focus and return to their classroom ready to learn. The space will provide mental relaxation from environmental stressors, decrease aggressive behaviors, develop sensory exploration, encourage safe expression of emotions or frustration and promote social interactions with peers who may have similar struggles or feelings.

Root Robots- Teaching advanced coding

\$6,777

(2020-22) Middle school creative technology teachers

Root Robots will allow students to integrate more updated robotics with new functionality in the Creative Technology curriculum. This technology will help students learn sequential thinking, logical reasoning, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving skills and coding concepts.

Sewing Technology- Expanding our Toolbox

\$4,683

(2020-21) Middle school family & consumer science teachers

This grant will support the purchase the Cricut Maker and Easy Press Machines for all middle schools. The family & consumer science curriculum will be expanded to incorporate these new tools and allow students to expand their creativity and learn how to use additional forms of sewing technology.

Grants to support York High School

Virtual Reality- Using to develop empathy and understanding \$4,262

(2020-02) Erica Drumm

This grant expands on the implementation of the Oculus Quest virtual reality devices to fully expand the program. Virtual reality is an immersive experience and increases student engagement. Acquiring knowledge in this format permits students to think in more complex ways.

Increase Self-Regulation- Tools for Enhancing Student Engagement \$3,641.43

(2020-28) Kelly Stola, Cynthia Moy, Tyler King, Jill Mueller

Additional materials and equipment for two designated calming spaces will promote self-regulation, increase social-emotional well-being, reduce anxiety, promote self-advocacy and increase engagement for students. Supporting students social emotional needs throughout the day is a key component to their overall success in school.

Demonstration Displays- Increased Learning in the Manufacturing Lab \$3,500

(2020-03) Joe Stolz and Dan Calenberg

The use of demonstration displays in the Manufacturing Lab will allow students to view important demonstrations on equipment use, procedures and technique. The instructors can also focus on small parts and details important to mastering the equipment.

Oculus Rift S- Advancing Computer Programming \$1,808.44

(2020-23) Bill Barnum

This grant gives students the opportunity to expand their coding experience by allowing them to design virtual worlds and experiences. Students will author their own virtual reality content to consume and share with others.