



Parkland School District

Education Foundation

PreServing Excellence, Building a Dream

2020-2021 Celebrate Innovation Grants

The Foundation Board of Directors awarded **56 Celebrate Innovation** grants totaling more than **\$143,859** to Parkland School District with the intent of enriching the current curriculum to benefit a wide range of students, staff and community members.

Districtwide – \$18,514

- **Parkland STEAMM Academies, Jason Henry, 6-12 Grades, Districtwide**
The Parkland STEAMM Academy is a summer program designed to provide exploration in STEAMM career fields. There are different sessions that run in June and July for middle and high school students. The projects are a critical piece to our Career Readiness Standards. - \$7,469
- **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
- **REACH, Michelle Minotti, Districtwide**
Formerly known as SMS Cares, the Parkland School District's REACH (Resources Enhancing A Child's Health – and Happiness) continues to assist with food insecurity in the Parkland School District. The object of REACH is to ensure that each student's health, safety, and welfare needs are met so that they can be their best in the classroom. Students are directly benefited through the snack program which provides weekly snack packs to the secondary schools. - \$4,000
- **Backpack Full of Cash Video Screening, Tracy Smith, Districtwide**
Parkland has played a strong advocacy role in trying to promote more equitable funding laws. This license for unlimited showings of the documentary called *Backpack Full of Cash* will enable the District to bring awareness to how cyber charter schools are siphoning funds from public education and the effects as a result. - \$295

- ***Rotating Art Collection Framing, Richard R. Shemonsky, 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 Stroock, 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
- ***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

High School –\$69,322

- ***PD Bingo for Teachers, Tammy Bennick, John Monahan, Lauren Will, PHS***
In an effort to streamline the many programs/initiatives/technology advances that Parkland High School has adopted the last few years, this is a creative and fun way for teachers to use and showcase all that they've learned in their classrooms. It uses the BINGO game model for teachers to win prizes and incentives for participation. This project encourages teachers to employ various tools, techniques, strategies, and methods to make learning engaging and personalized. - \$1,500
- ***Nature Video Series, Vince Fugazzotto, Science***
New cameras and technologies will enable the continuation of the video series, "Fuggi the Bio Guy" which has been running the past six years. It is broadcast on Parkland TV as well as a local cable station. It supplements the current Biology and Zoology curriculum at the High School. - \$1,500
- ***Daily Living Prep Skills, Colleen York, PHS***
A kitchen in Parkland High School will be equipped with essential tools to help functional students with hands-on learning of food preparation which is an essential aspect of one's daily living and part of their functional curriculum and IEP. The instructional area will help to provide them with learning kitchen safety, as well as cooking, baking, and shopping – all goals established as family needs. - \$1,000
- ***Girls Wrestling, Jon Trengue, Athletics***
This program will enable girls to have opportunities to participate with wrestlers of the same gender in a sport that does not yet have a PIAA separate division for females – creating more equity in the sport. The grant will provide uniforms and USAW membership for the team. A future goal of the program is to help facilitate a girls division in Pennsylvania. - \$1,680

- ***PHS Library Makerspace, Carol Dickerson, Library***
The High School Library Makerspace will be expanded and will include the creation of a medical Makerspace to support “Project Lead the Way.” This will increase project-based learning collaboration with the library. - \$1,500
- ***Protective Wall Mounts for Bathroom Signs, Lori Fitch and Andrea Greth, Student Assistance Program, PHS***
Students tend to read information on the back of the bathroom stall doors. Plexiglass mounts will be installed on the doors in the High School bathrooms. The Student Assistance Program will use these devices to disseminate information on the dangers of vaping as well as other important topics such as dating violence, anxiety coping skills, and suicide symptoms and help. The plexiglass will also help prevent students from destroying the information being presented. - \$2,064
- ***Laser Measurements, Stephen Ott, Athletics***
Devices that use lasers to measure distance will replace the old tape measures currently being used at the High School for Track and Field. These lasers will speed up the completion of home track meets while giving athletes an accurate measure of their throw while also keeping event officials safe. Athletes will get a quick and accurate measurement of their throws or jumps and can help them improve upon their skills. – \$1,210
- ***Engineering Club, Robert Yocum, Engineering and Technology, PHS***
The Engineering Club participates each year in the “VEX Robotics” competition. VEX education exists to help schools focus on practical, affordable and accessible ways of delivering dynamic hands-on STEM education experiences to as many students as possible. VEX is also the platform being used in the “Project Lead the Way” curriculum. Extending this platform and the use of the programming software will allow the club students to have a higher level of expertise in the field of robotics. - \$1,508
- ***PHS Food Pantry, Jude Sandt, PHS***
The PHS Food Pantry is run in by the Interact Club and PHS Staff. It helps address hunger issues of PHS students and families during non-school hours so that they can be successful in and out of the classroom. This program provides snack packs to students once a week. Those who have been identified as needing more or who ask for more are permitted to “shop” through the pantry and take additional food items. - \$2,000
- ***Concert Dress for Those in Need, Brian Mishler, Arts, PHS***
Funds will be used to provide uniforms for students who cannot afford to purchase their own concert attire. This program will help establish an inventory of uniform clothing that can be borrowed and returned. Students can privately inquire about borrowing the clothing. - \$1,000
- ***iPad Caster and Dongle for Smart Board, Joan Vannatta, World Language Department***
The iPad caster and dongle can be used by teachers and students for self-assessment and evaluation during teaching and presentations in another language. It will allow the students to air-drop their language assignments from their cell phones into the iPad caster and onto the smart board for classroom projects. The iPad caster can be used to project the American Sign Language teacher while she administers a test in silence using only her hands. It can also be used for student assessment as they videotape themselves using their language. \$1,512

- ***Turf Side Lines Shelter, William Dreisbach, Athletics***
Shelters will be installed for both sides of the turf field. It will protect over 500 athletes, coaches, managers, and trainers who are exposed to cold, rain, snow, and windy conditions. This shelter will protect the equipment and keep athletes back packs dry. It will also be utilized for physical education classes. - \$5,375
- ***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. - \$350
- ***AP Biology and Government, Jason Henry, PHS***
Parkland offers robust AP class selections for its students. This grant will provide books required by the college board to update the classes to current standards. - \$27,123
- ***PLTW Engineering Equipment, Rod Troutman, PHS***
From launching space explorations to delivering safe, clean water to communities, engineers find solutions to pressing problems and turn their ideas into reality. PLTW Engineering empowers students to step into the role of an engineer, adopt a problem-solving mindset, and make the leap from dreamers to doers. The program's courses engage students in compelling, real-world challenges that help them become better collaborators and thinkers. Students take from the courses in-demand knowledge and skills they will use in high school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. This grant will purchase a laser engraver that will allow our engineering students amazing opportunities to create and build. - \$20,000

Middle Schools –\$35,053

- ***OMS Snap Pantry, Amy Boltz and Joey Lee, OMS***
The OMS SNAP food pantry provides weekly snack packs to more than 50 students of Orefield Middle School (OMS) families. The OMS SNAP group provides food items, personal care items, as well as school supplies to needy students and families. - \$1,500
- ***Enviroscape 3-D Interactive Model, 6th Grade OMS Science Teachers, 6th Grade Science, OMS***
The 3-D Enviroscape Watershed/Nonpoint Source Model measures 25"x30"x7". It is a hands-on, interactive model that allows students to explore the interactive relationship between elements of a watershed while examining the role of point and non-point pollution and proper management practice. - \$931
- ***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. - \$2,116

- ***iPads for STEM Activities in Science Classrooms, Christie Schlaner, Jason Klinger, Brian Holtzhafer, 8th Grade Science, OMS***
Students will be able to use the new iPad 7th Generation for the technology already available within the District. They will be able to use the iPad for coding, videoing for Flipgrid and other video projects, including motion labs for physics. Using iPads will allow students to explore all aspects of STEM with ease at the touch of their fingertips. - \$6,557
- ***Diversity Activities, Monica Ouly, Tom Stoudt, Amy Miller, OMS***
Orefield Middle School (OMS) is working to improve the climate and culture of its building through positivity and kindness. A diversity committee will be created to help promote diversity and the acceptance of individual differences within the building. They will do this through activities and lessons and potentially a building-wide diversity day during which students from other schools might attend to help in the discussion of diversity. - \$1,500
- ***Percussion Workstation, Andy Bauer, Music, SMS***
A percussion workstation teaches students the proper care and storage of their auxiliary (tambourines, triangles, maracas) instruments. The workstation also doubles as a performance space enabling students to perform with multiple instruments using proper playing techniques. - \$2,055
- ***Google Expedition Kits, Sara Yazujian-Wehr, SMS***
The Google Expedition Kits allow students to use VR to take virtual field trips based on their classroom studies. Expeditions explore history, science, the arts, and the natural world. Students benefit because they can be immersed in 3D experiences and can explore interesting artifacts along the way. This is especially important for those students who might not have the resources to travel to museums or historical sights. - \$3,899
- ***Wireless Eggspert for Math Review, Lauren Cox, SMS***
Students love to review for exams using the Wireless Eggspert. It is a great tool for formative assessment. The Eggspert is an educational learning tool with a buzzer. Students are engaged when using the buzzers because it is something different than your typical review game. Students get a chance to show what they know (and press the egg buzzer) when playing in class. - \$118
- ***Mindful Guidance Office Makeover, Megan Jenkins, Guidance, SMS***
A makeover for the guidance office at Springhouse Middle School will create a welcoming, calm, and inviting atmosphere for students. The makeover will incorporate mindfulness stations for students that are waiting to be seen. Plans include purchasing an iPad and Bluetooth speaker to play calming music and the hanging of motivational wall art. - \$750
- ***SMS Garden, Kate Kocsis and Dan Christman, 8th Grade, SMS***
The SMS garden will help supplement the school's pantry with seasonal produce. This benefits the students in need by providing them with fresh produce to help them live a healthy lifestyle. Students will learn about agriculture and use real life applications of math and science standards. Students will participate in tasks such as planning and preparing the garden as well as utilizing composting and watering systems all while learning to work as part of a team. - \$2,254
- ***Springhouse School Climate Mural, Christie Eggleston, Grades 6, 7, 8, Art, SMS***
Students will create 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, foster school pride, and advance artistic skills. - \$1,500

- **Recording for the Future, Joshua Abrams, 7th Grade, SMS**
The students will have access to high quality digital video equipment in order to make more engaging and engrossing video productions. This equipment will help students be more competitive in contests requiring filming and will also ease the transition to the High School's digital media curriculum. - \$2,438
- **SMS Cares, Brian Barone, Guidance, SMS**
SMS Cares provides weekly snack packs to approximately 50 food insecure students. It also operates a pantry and supplies full-size grocery items to 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
- **AR You Ready?, Noel Mahmood, 7th Grade Science, SMS**
Augmented Reality (AR) is the future of technology. Students can create virtually anything and then bring it to life in the classroom. The objective of this project is to make science real and interactive. Students will be creating systems, explaining concepts, engineering, modeling, and more. They will be creating a working solar system to appear in the classroom, dissecting a virtual frog, visiting foreign lands, and so much more. - \$4,935
- **Bullying Prevention Program, Monica Ouly, Allison Thompson, Matt Carlson, 6-8, OMS & SMS**
Bullying in schools is a national concern and an issue that has not circumvented Parkland. The Middle Schools will engage their students in activities that focus on bullying prevention, kindness, and well-being. The climate and culture of the building will be one that is safe, welcoming, and promotes learning. This program is part of the Positive School Wide Behavior Program in both Middle Schools which encourages the social and emotional wellbeing of students as its focus. \$3,000

Elementary Schools – \$20,969

- **Storyworks, Nicole Hantz, Geneine Parr, Mandy Sommer, Heather Wight, Cetronia**
The 5th Grade Team will purchase 56 copies of Storyworks Magazine. The magazine provides additional enrichment and remediation support for students in English Language Arts as well as exposure to a wide variety of texts and genres to practice standards. The students would be able to use the magazines to engage in high interest, recent event topics that directly relate to their interests. - \$523
- **3D Engineering Supplies, Carrie Weaknecht, Jaindl**
The gifted students and the community of Jaindl Elementary School have benefited greatly from having been donated the 3D FLEX printer from the Foundation last year. This year they are being granted more filament and flex build sheets to replenish the supply for the 2020/2021 school year. The 3D design and printing address the Gifted program's STEM goal for the grades 3-5 in a way that gets kids invested in their own learning. Working with these tools, students learn communication, collaboration, and creativity. - \$189
- **iPads for Creation Activities, Samantha Ding, Jaindl**
iPads will be provided to use within grade-level/SWPBS activities along with the CoSpaces platform to enhance and extend the curriculum. The iPads will be used in a VR/AR setting that the students will have access to both in small and large group settings. Students will have the opportunities to extend and create presentations that they can then share with the class or other grade levels. - \$1,310

- **Sensory Room at Veterans Memorial, Karen Dopera, Veterans Memorial**
Sensory spaces in schools have been shown to decrease negative behaviors and improve student engagement. The sensory room at Veterans Memorial Elementary School will provide students with an area that can be used for a multitude of reasons such as occupational and physical therapy locations, places for students to calm themselves, and an area to practice gross motor skills. It can also be a therapeutic, safe place for students who have experienced trauma and can include materials that help them focus on their sense of well-being. It can also be an opportunity for autistic students to take a sensory break. - \$1,310
- **Sensory Learning, Katie Auriemma, Fogelsville**
Sensory play includes any activity that will stimulate one or all of a child's five senses (seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling) and helps them develop and refine them. Students will have naturally occurring center rotations to work on building sensory skills, speech skills, and peer interaction with these sensory table centers. This helps children build connections in their brain, improve fine motor skills, improve memory and problem-solving skills, develop speech and social interactions, and help in calming them. - \$318
- **5 Minute Kids Intervention, Kelly Maner, Lisa Barrow, Jennifer Huff, Laura Wummer, Rachel Butera, Julian Taibi, Rebecca Hower, Holly Lotti, Diana Saunders, All Elementary Schools**
Each elementary speech pathologist will be provided with the materials for the "5 Minute Kids Program." This program is designed to help children with speech sound disorders. It will minimize the amount of time that the child spends out of the classroom and improve the quality of time that the child spends working on individual speech sounds in therapy for five to seven minute sessions, two or four times a week. The child practices targeted speech sounds by repeating words, naming pictures, reading, and conversation. - \$1,485
- **Veterans Memorial School Song, Christine Lerew, Veterans Memorial**
Choral work will be commissioned for writing a school song for Veterans Memorial Elementary School, the newly built school in our District. A school song gives a sense of belonging, spirit, pride, and identity. It will reflect the committed message about the kind of people we all strive to be – hard-working and caring. It will be sung by all the children at the Elementary School during the opening year and many years to come. - \$1,000
- **Document Camera, Hailey Adlard, Schnecksville**
The art classroom at Veterans Memorial Elementary School will be outfitted with a new document camera. The document camera allows the art teacher to show students step-by-step demonstrations and processes of art projects. The camera has the ability to zoom in on objects, freeze and capture important process photos and much more. It improves student engagement in watching the demonstration while seated at their tables rather than gathered around one small table. - \$326
- **Parkway Manor is "Series-ous" about Reading, Nicole Mandry and Ashley Morrison, Parkway Manor**
This is a school-wide program for all kindergarten through fifth grade students. It encourages students to read from 42 book series that are "curated" by different teachers and staff of Parkway Manor. Reading books in a series helps readers, especially striving or disenfranchised readers, find success because they develop a familiarity with the characters and style of writing. Additionally, the goals of completing a series or to read a series that is popular among peers can motivate students to keep reading. This program helps to meet the state standards for reading a wide range of literacy fiction/non-fiction on grade level. \$3,008

- ***Sensory Sensitive Solutions, Chelsea Bashore, Ironton***
The sensory options will be expanded for the learning support students at Ironton Elementary School. Many of these students need sensory input to be able to function productively throughout the school day. It will help foster within the students a willingness to participate in new and challenging experiences. It will also help them work toward completing a task, even if challenging, and despite disruptions. Students will also be able to decompress using sensory materials during scheduled breaks in their day. - \$370
- ***Endless Possibilities - 3D Printing, Kimberly Stasko, Veterans Memorial***
Veterans Elementary School Gifted students will have the opportunity to identify a problem that could be solved by a 3D modeled solution. They will then design (using a CAD program such as Tinkercad) and print the model, making their creative solution come to life. They will learn and understand the real world capabilities of 3D printing, as well as how a 3D printer works and operates. This enriches the Gifted curriculum and promotes collaboration, creative thinking, and problem solving. - \$1,699
- ***Giving Students a Voice (Literally)!, Alaina Swartz and Michael Gehringer, Kernsville***
Kernsville Elementary School will be outfitted with a portable wireless sound system that can be used all over the school. This sound system will be used in large group settings where students present technology applications, special projects, research on notable historical figures, etc. It can also be used for guest speakers that visit the school. This system will enable students and speakers to be heard anywhere within the school due to its mobility. - \$519
- ***iPads for AR/VR Creation Activities, Andy McGinniss, Jaindl***
The iPads will be used along with the CoSpaces Platform to enhance and extend the curriculum. The iPads will be used in a VR/AR setting that the students will have access to both in small and large groups. This technology will allow the students to experience the curriculum on a much deeper and meaningful level by helping them to extend and create presentations that they can share with the class or other grades levels. It will be used in coordination with Jaindl's SWPBS initiative as a reward. - \$1,310
- ***Interactive Math Table, Kasey Celona, Ironton***
This is an interactive kidney bean table for small group math instruction. This table center will boost student engagement and excitement about math by allowing them to practice recording and evaluating a variety of math standards in a hands-on manner. Students will have an engaging and interactive way to practice math standards and demonstrate mastery. - \$559
- ***Veterans Day Program, Karen Dopera, Veterans Memorial***
Veterans Memorial will honor staff and families of veterans and currently serving men and women in the armed forces on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. The Veterans Day program will teach the students about the armed forces of the United States and the history behind the holiday. Students will practice letter-writing skills when they make cards and write letters to those who are unable to attend. - \$573
- ***Sensory Room, Kathryn Morgans, Jaindl***
Jaindl will be increasing sensory items for their three learning support classrooms. Many of these students have challenging behaviors that require meeting sensory needs to alleviate escalating behaviors. Research shows that therapeutic environment with a variety of equipment can provide them with a safe space in the least restrictive environment. - \$886

- ***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. - \$342
- ***Sensory Items for the Classrooms, Elementary Principals, All District Elementary schools***
Materials will be supplied to each elementary building in the District for any student to use in helping them regulate their bodies, so they can focus on learning. A vast array of sensory items will be available to aid in students' focus, time management, and ability to self-monitor and control emotions. - \$5,242