

2020-2021 Funded Projects

All LMSD Home and School Associations generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program. This year's program resulted in the funding of 26 projects, of which 20 were fully and 6 were partially funded, for a total amount of \$11,200. 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: Vinetta Baselice's **Usefulness of Mindfulness in Special Education Classrooms: being FLEXIBLE & FOCUSED** will provide Autism Support students tools to increase their ability to regulate emotions and control their attention. Total Funding: \$451

CYNWYD ELEMENTARY: Natalie Thibault and Karen Salladino's **Marble Masterpieces in the MakerSpace** will add a STEM-based Marble Wall Maze to an existing Lego Wall. Total Funding: \$500

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Elena Habel's **Tactile Learning for Kindergarten** will offer manipulable, tactile learning materials for Kindergarten students in an inclusion classroom. Total Funding: \$353

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Marie Martin's **Sensory Tools for First Grade** will offer seat cushions, fidget tools, and sensory bins to use within the classroom. Total Funding: \$157

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Marie Martin's **STEM Building Materials/Toys** will fund STEM related building materials to be used in the classroom.. Total Funding: \$74

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Joie Walsh's **Sensory Library** will offer tools to support general education students with fine motor skills, sensory needs, emotional regulation, and executive functioning. An innovative facet of the project is how the items are used; the collection would be shared throughout the school using a lending library format. Total Funding: \$940

MERION ELEMENTARY: Meredith Johnson and Nicole Wiggins's **Kindergarten Monarch Waystation** will maintain an intentionally-managed garden that provides food and habitat for the struggling Monarch butterfly population. This grant replicates last year's project and supplements it with fencing, signage and storage. Total Funding: \$427

MERION ELEMENTARY: Tara Miller's **Emotional Support and Strategies** will receive funding for its second year; the project aims to increase student focus

and social/emotional awareness through games, workbooks, and manipulables for the affective education group and emotional support curriculum. Total Funding: \$600

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY: Janie M. Partridge's **Surf Portable Lap Desks** will allow students to work collaboratively or independently anywhere in the classroom. Total Funding: \$322

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY: Christopher Vaccaro's **Can Plants Learn?** will receive its third year of funding for seeds; seedling heat mats; LED grow lights; watering spray bottles, allowing the students the opportunity to design plant habitat experiments. Total Funding: \$358

In our Middle Schools, ISC Mini Grants will benefit students through the following awards:

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Leslie Bullitt, Eileen Evans, Chelsea Foster and Christian Reichert's **Suspense with Suspend** will purchase copies of the game "SUSPEND" to be used in Spanish classrooms. Total Funding: \$200

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Daniel Bluth's **Latin Readers for Comprehensible Input** will fund a classroom set of Latin novellas for students to read, analyze, translate, and discuss in class. Total Funding: \$210

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Kim Ryczyn's **Bala Cynwyd Middle School Aquaponics** will combine funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to purchase an aquaponics kit. This system will be located in the science atrium allowing all students to observe. Total Funding: \$271

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Mary Beth Kadyan and Michelle Moser's **Light Boards, Books, and Cross Stitching Hoops** for 6th Grade Family and Consumer Sciences STEAM Projects will enhance and support a popular Family & Consumer Science STEAM project. Total Funding: \$295

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Kate Monaghan's **Expressing Comprehension in Unique Ways** will help Learning Support and Instructional Support students build meaningful connections to English class content through artistic expression. Total Funding: \$384

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Rachel Nichols and Carolyn McKinney's **Enriching the BCMS Community through Collaborative Engagement** will fund multi-media and manipulative equipment for school-wide collaborative enrichment, including inquiry projects, literary circles, mosaic creation, podcasts, and video blogs for both Gifted and Regular Education students. Total Funding: \$550

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Beth Pavletich and Kristen Kennedy's **Promote Literacy** will update a classroom library with newer, recommended, age appropriate novels for students to borrow throughout the year. Total Funding: \$700

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Rebecca Epting's **7th Grade Science Classroom Library** will promote scientific literacy skills within a science classroom. Total Funding: \$858.38

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Amanda Groen's **Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Pilot of "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You"** will partner with several other teachers, including one at Welsh Valley, to pilot the use of Ibram X Kendi and Jason Reynolds text, "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You." This pilot will cross disciplines using this text, which explores the legacy of racism throughout the entire history of the United States of America. Total Funding: \$999

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Dori Hryshchyshyn, Laura Oakes and Chris Gramlich's **Coding in Motion** will engage students in computer programming and physical computing with BBC micro:bits, a pocket-sized computer that students can code, customize and control to bring their digital ideas, games, and apps to life. Total Funding: \$555

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

HARRITON HIGH: Laura Vogel's **Giving Nature a Glow Up** will use paper Circuit kits to model Recombinant DNA, integrating STEM based learning for high school science students. Total Funding: \$340

LOWER MERION HIGH: David Clark and Patrick Snyder's **Get Cooking with Autistic Support** will provide the Autistic Support Program's students' with kitchenette equipment, reinforcing their independent living skills. Total Funding: \$305

LOWER MERION HIGH: JB Haglund and Brian Mays' **Remarkable Note Taking Test** will pilot the use of handwriting recognition tablets in high school English classrooms. Total Funding: \$439

LOWER MERION HIGH: David Clark and Patrick Snyder's **Impossible Ball For High School Autistic Support** will increase focus and self-regulation strategies for Autistic Support students, addressing gross motor skills, direction following, cooperative learning and sequencing. Total Funding: \$456

LOWER MERION HIGH: Jennifer Cornely's **QBall for Classroom Confidence** will increase Specialized Learning Support/Life Skills students' confidence in reading comprehension and create a greater collaborative learning environment. Total Funding: \$249

LOWER MERION HIGH: Mikell Nigro and Jennifer Cornely's **Special Education Life Skills/Autistic Support Reading and Literacy** will fund binding machines used to create interactive books and support of literacy within the Life Skills/ Autistic support programs. Total Funding: \$207