



The Report on Concordia Fund Projects Funded
2020-21 School Year



Since the establishment of the Concordia Fund in 2018, the school has been blessed to receive donations from Concordia parents, employees, and alumni. Their generous gifts have funded 75 projects that have provided expanded learning experiences and opportunities for students to use their education to help others. Below is a list (in no particular order) of the project proposals that were approved for the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for helping to make these experiences possible.

► **STEM Lab for Coding and Robotics**

Next year MS will add two new STEM electives—robotics and programming. These courses will be supported by a new Coding and Robotics Lab, which will be located next to the HS Makerspace, to enable collaboration between MS and HS students and faculty.

► **Amity Global Summit 2021: Racial Equality**

Students from Concordia's GIN Amity club are organizing a global online conference to discuss racism and injustice. Their hope is to continue addressing these types of issues on our own campus, making things more inclusive and raising awareness with students, teachers and parents. The conference will take place virtually and feature seven speakers, all of whom come from diverse backgrounds and are advocates of racial equality.

► **The Show Must Go On!**

In November the Concordia Fund sponsored a dinner for Concordia students and employees before the fall play, *Almost, Maine*. Sharing a meal together was a way to encourage attendance and provide a time for our community to be together in a challenging year.

► **Famous Storyteller**

During his virtual visits with EC and ES students, Stanford educated author Joel Ben Izzy mesmerized our students with fun and interesting stories that he has gathered from around the world. For over thirty-five years Joel has been collecting and telling stories in over 36 countries, including a few famous Chinese folktales.

Each story he shared with Concordia students contained a thoughtful moral lesson that Joel asked the students to ponder.

“*Through his animated and exciting tales from around the world, Mr. Ben Izzy reaffirmed the importance and impact that storytelling can have on a child's language development.*”

*Dawn De Koker, ES Asst. Principal
Famous Storyteller*



► MS Math Competition

A number of middle school students have been successfully competing in online math competitions throughout the school year. Having advanced through the necessary rounds, our MS Math teams will now have the opportunity to compete in person at a special math competition to be held here in Shanghai.



► Building Libraries for Schools in Need

Reading Hope is working with the Garuna Foundation to bring English books and resources to their eight schools in Cambodia and Thailand. Last year the Concordia Fund enabled a service trip to the Garuna Foundation for Concordia families. Unable to travel this year, the Concordia Reading Hope team catalogued, curated, packed, and shipped eight "libraries"—one for each of Garuna's schools—that provide free afternoon education for children.

► EC/ES Library Resources

With the library renovation completed, this year more than 1,000 new books and library resources are being added to the EC/ES collection. New award-winning books, popular series additions, and replacements for well-loved and worn books are coming soon.

► Shining Star Supporters

Shining Star is an organization with a mission to reach out in love and service to children left behind when their parents leave to find better work. Throughout the semester, students have been identifying, collecting, and shipping needed programming supplies such as colored pencils and basketballs until they can meet face to face.

This summer 20 students and teachers will take part in a service trip to Guangzhou to work with the children of Shining Star.

► Concordia Master Classes

This spring we began filming a new series, Concordia Master Class, an educational experience for our parents. The first Master Class features EC/ES librarian Lisa Tonor who has also authored more than 40 children's books.



► Big Books Library

Early childhood is a time for students to learn many things, including strong English listening and speaking skills. To help with this, A BIG BOOK resource library is being created for teachers so students have even more opportunities to hear, see, and engage with language.

► Deepening Opportunities in Biochemistry

This project will give students access to new analytical instruments used in biology and chemistry and provide opportunities for connecting conceptual knowledge to the laboratory procedures and tools used to verify our current understanding of natural phenomena. Improved laboratory instrumentation allows for still greater student achievement in primary research of current scientific importance and developing deeper passion for scientific advancement.

The new lab equipment will include a rotary evaporator, 15 motic microscopes, as well as 10 dissecting microscopes, an UHPLC unit with diode array detector, made possible through a gift from the Cai Family, and a spectrophotometer made possible by Thermo Fisher.

► Skills for Transitioning to College

Transitioning to college can be difficult and transitioning during a global pandemic even more so. In collaboration with alumni relations and the HS counselors, parents of HS seniors had a session with a transition coach and counselor who helped provide guidance as students faced an unprecedented start to college.

► High School Student Internships

The Concordia Fund **arranged partnerships** and will be providing faculty support for HS student groups participating in internships in several fields of industry, including investing, biochemistry, medicine, law, not for profit education in Cambodia, NGO work in China, and information technology.

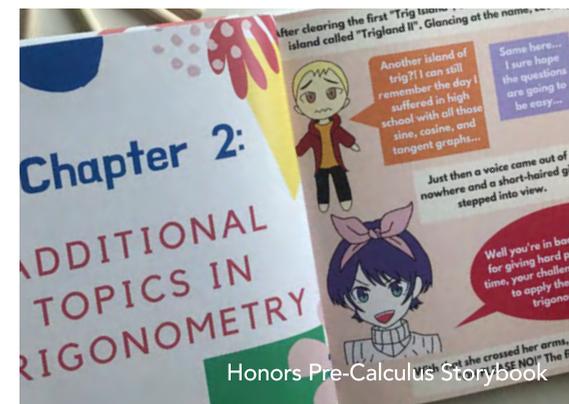
► Honors Pre-Calculus Storybook

In order to help students who are taking the Honors Pre-Calculus course, two high school students have created a math storybook that easily explains the various concepts covered throughout the course.

“

Throughout the course of creating this book, I was able to learn how to organize information in a more logical and sequential order for the readers.”

*Kelly K, HS Student
Honors Pre-Calculus Storybook*



► Hydroponic Gardening Wall

Students in the Applied Learning Global Development Studies class have proposed to build a hydroponic gardening system. Their goal is to enrich the learning experience of students, especially those in classes related to sustainability and environmental science. This project will further student knowledge of sustainable agriculture and help them better understand food systems.

► Poetry in Motion

Rich poetical and rhyming language is important to the development of language learners, particularly our youngest children. Having fun with words and sounds is crucial to language acquisition and language development. Janet Wong, recipient of the NCTE Excellence in Children's Poetry Award for 2020, has led virtual poetry workshops in which she shared the joy and language benefits of poetry with our early childhood students.



► JUMP! Foundation DEI Collective Program

Students from Concordia's GIN Amity club will participate in a JUMP! Collective Program that is focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. The DEI program supports high school student leaders at international schools across Asia spearheading initiatives and conversations that address DE&I-related issues and social impact within their own community. Ultimately, the program seeks to support participants to close the noticeable gap between awareness and action.

► Navigating Cultural Differences

Dr. Josephine Kim, a lecturer on education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, spoke to the parent and student community about navigating the differences between Western and Asian cultural approaches to education and learning. Dr. Kim is widely known in the international school community as an expert on issues of diversity, equity, mental wellness, and family issues.



Students were mesmerized and very excited by the visit of a great children's book author and poet."

*Mrs. Rodriguez, EC Teacher
Janet Wong Poetry*

► SCRAP Program

The Sustainable Composting Reformation Adapted for the Planet (SCRAP) project is focused on establishing eco-friendly habits in the early childhood and elementary school divisions. Led by a group of high school students, the aim of the project is to engage early childhood students in the school's organic composting initiative as a mechanism that can aid them in understanding the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Students from SCRAP will work in conjunction with EC/ES teacher volunteers who will integrate the project into the science and/or social science curriculum.

► Learning and Acting on Behalf of Syrian Refugees

Jordan Hattar of Refugees4Refugees has offered interview sessions this year to teams of HS Storytelling Students to assist in their creative projects. Students across grade levels also had the opportunity to converse and build relationships with Syrian University students and families and facilitated the first ever tandem peer review and writing collaboration between our HS students and Syrian refugee students.



► Students Develop Big Data Picture Book

Utilizing concepts learned in the Big Data classroom, Concordia HS students, under the leadership of Dr. Tong, wrote a big data picture book to supplement teaching in the EC and ES classrooms. The book will be printed and distributed to students and housed in our libraries

► Extra Extra! Read All About It!

Designed to provide an authentic journalism learning experience, HS students launched The Concordia Phoenix Post Newsmagazine to provide the Concordia HS community with accurate, interesting, and thought-provoking journalism. The newspaper team will produce two issues delivered in a timely fashion with an ever-improving level of quality and depth of coverage.

► Reducing Food Waste Master Class

Twenty Concordia students completed the PACE Master Class to learn about becoming part of a 'circular economy', "an economy where 'waste' is valued and reintegrated into the supply chain." It is an intense, research-based, knowledge-rich, and inspiring high-level educational program supported by multiple case studies that are tailored to the Concordia community. It aims to enrich awareness on sustainability and to bring about sustainable change.



Every participant enjoyed the inspirational time with Zero Waste Shanghai! We are so thankful to the Concordia Fund for supporting us to host this wonderful event."

*Yena K. HS Student
Reducing Food Waste Master Class*

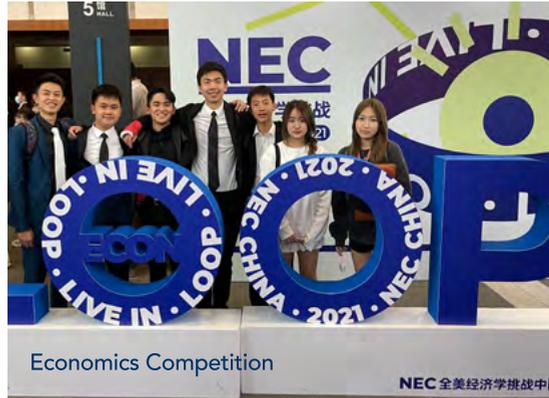


► Guest Poet in High School

Guest anthology poet Mia Cheung, a third culture kid, shared her experiences authoring and publishing TCK inspired poems and provided feedback to our HS students on their work. Students received a copy of Cheung's anthology.

► Economics Competition

Concordia HS students participated in the China round of the National Economics Challenge, the only economics competition of its kind for high school students. Our team of students competed in several economics-related quiz rounds, including Super Econ! Quiz Bowl and Formal Quiz Bowl. They brought home the Critical Thinking Top Team for the Application of Economics award.



Economics Competition



Personally, I learned through each round of the competition how relevant economics is to our world and its extensive influence in all realms from politics to culture."

*Gordon L. HS Student
Economics Competition*

► Equipment Support for Nurse Training

New practice materials and health equipment will allow nurses to update their training on campus and also provide some additional health screening for the Concordia community. Equipment to keep our nurses up to date on their training, including new CPR and safety training equipment are a generous gift from the Tang Family.

► Sharing a Meal with People in Need

Concordia students are addressing a need right here in our community. They have met with and interviewed people in the neighborhood with disabilities and who are homeless.

In response to understanding their situations and needs, every day a student delivers a fresh hot meal to Mr. Li and Mr. and Mrs. Miao.

► Bokashi Bin Recycling

The Bokashi Bin Restart has been devised by a student group who plan to address food waste issues on our campus. This composting initiative will allow Concordia to become more sustainable as well as inspire a more sustainable mindset towards our usage of resources. Fertilizer from the composted material will be donated to Tongchu Organic Farm, which will grow loofah with the composted fertilizer that they will then distribute to the Concordia community.



Sharing a Meal with People in Need

► BIG Data Conference

Though unable to attend in person, Concordia students presented their individual research findings via ZOOM for the 2021 4th International Conference on Big Data and Education. Concordia is the only HS invited to attend this event for college and graduate level participants.

Big Data projects have been made possible this year through a generous gift from the Da Family.



► Bringing Classroom Learning to Life with Trevor Lai

Concordia students get up close with Trevor Lai, author-illustrator, founder of UP Studios, and creator of Super BOOMi, a #1 rated show across China. Interviewing, storytelling, brainstorming, and learning about entrepreneurship are just some of the things students explore with Trevor. Through assemblies with elementary, middle, and high school, this stimulating artistic project, brings creative excitement to the corridors and classroom of the school.



Presenting at this prestigious and advanced conference is an immense accomplishment for our students!"

*Dr. Tong HS Teacher
Big Data Conference*

► Outdoor Community Space Under the Bridge

This collaborative project between students, parents, and staff aims to create an outdoor communal gathering space under the bridge between the Upper Building and Phoenix Center, complete with seating, greenery, and game tables like ping pong. This project is made possible by generous support from Yotrio.

► Experiencing the Stock Market First Hand

The Concordia Investment Club hosts a months-long stock market simulation competition designed to teach students the complexities of investing. This year students from across Shanghai have joined in the competition as well. Hadrian Capital sponsors the Concordia Investment Club and makes this real life learning opportunity possible.



► WILL Foundation Service Trip

This summer and fall middle school students volunteered on Saturdays to help at the WILL Foundation on Chongming Island. The Foundation is home to a group of wonderful children with minor disabilities. At WILL, the children learn skills that will help them become self-supporting adults. During their visits, our students learned about the foundation, helped prepare the inn for guests, planted and harvested vegetables in an aquaponic farm, and bonded with the WILL kids. MS trips will resume in the spring.



Concordia Big Data Workshop

► Concordia Big Data Workshop

Concordia Big Data students presented on why Big Data matters and led a workshop for MS and HS students to learn how understanding and utilizing big data can help address world problems.

Big Data projects have been made possible this year through a generous gift from the Da Family.

“

After listening to the guest speaker, my eyes were opened to how much Big Data could impact so many aspects of our lives.”

*Elena S. HS Student
Big Data Workshop*

75 Outreach & Enrichment projects
Funded since 2018

6,000,000 Given through the Strike a Match campaigns and the Gala & Auction

100% Board Participation | **100%** Concordia Senior Leadership Participation

50% Employee participation | **20%** Concordia Family Participation

1300+ Students Impacted

1 Gift that it takes to make a difference...
YOURS

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