



## 2021-2022 Celebrate Innovation Grants

The Foundation Board of Directors awarded 51 “Celebrate Innovation” grants totaling **\$113,036.57** to Parkland School District with the intent of enriching the current curriculum to benefit a wide range of students, staff, and community members.

### Districtwide – \$30,750.00

- ***Parkland STEMM Academies, Jason Henry, 6-12 Grades, Districtwide***  
The Parkland STEMM Academy is a summer program designed to provide exploration in STEMM career fields. There are 8 different sessions that run in the month of July for middle school and high school students. The projects featured in this camp are not just in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine contents. The projects are a critical piece to our Career Readiness Standards and are aligned in all contents including social studies, music, arts, world languages, and health. - \$8,000.00
- ***Heroes for the Holidays, Diane Joy Irish, Home & School Visitor / Student Services, Districtwide***  
The Heroes for the holidays 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. - \$1,500.00
- ***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. - \$1,500.00
- ***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. - \$1,500.00

- ***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. - \$1,500.00
- ***Driver Safety Award Program, Val Strock, 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 transporting our children. - \$750.00
- ***Parkland REACH, Michelle Minotti, Administrative Center, Districtwide***  
Parkland REACH's primary objective is to ensure that each student's health, safety, and welfare needs are met so they can achieve success in the classroom and the school community. Students and their families who are in need of food assistance will receive snack packs on a weekly basis as well as larger amounts of food for long breaks from school, especially during the holidays. -\$3,000.00
- ***Kindness Crusade, Brenda DeRenzo, Student Services, Districtwide***  
The Kindness Crusade will begin in September. All Parkland Schools will conduct a community outreach project and in October there will be a festival held at the high school so each school/club can display their community project. The goal is to promote citizenship and will help us reconnect with our community. -\$13,000.00

## **High School -\$36,914.55**

- ***Pedal for Kinesthetic Learning, Carol Dickerson, Library, Grades 9-12***  
Active bodies mean focused minds. Students will have the opportunity to utilize one of four desk cycles in the library. These cycles can also be borrowed by teachers to be used in the classroom. They will give students a mind and body boost from pedaling while reading or working. -\$880.00
- ***PLTW and Manufacturing Class, Ron Bealer, Technology and Engineering***  
This grant replaced a piece of equipment in the Manufacturing lab. Students will again have access to creating, designing, and developing hands-on projects using the CNC lathe. The CNC lathe is used by many classes including production, manufacturing, and PLTW classes. -\$14,361.95
- ***Let's Read in Spanish! Erin Mahmood, Amanda Holbrook, Laura Lentz, and Kellie O'Donnell, Spanish***  
Leveled readers in Spanish were purchased for use in the classrooms in both the middle schools and the high school. These leveled readers include a variety of fiction and nonfiction text to support the rigorous PA Core Standards and the district goal of advancing all levels of readers at least one grade level in reading each year. The readers will be shared among the three secondary level buildings and will be used for direct instruction, free voluntary reading, and literature circles. -\$1,355.00
- ***Engineering Club, Ron Bealer, Technology and Engineering***  
Students will have the opportunity to compete by designing, developing, and operating a robot. Tournaments are held throughout the season to qualify for a state and ultimately a world ranking.

Students will be able to apply real world engineering principles and compete in worldwide robotics events. -\$1,502.98

- ***Social Media Internship, Nicole McGalla, Community Relations***  
Students will meet on a regular basis after school at the high school to gain valuable job skills in social media marketing. They will serve as an extension to the Community Relations Office in that they will be responsible for posting pictures and information about the many activities that go on at Parkland High School. Students will learn about various web-based tools to manage social media, get published, and will learn graphic design, podcasting, recording videos, writing articles for the District newsletter, and more. -\$600.00
- ***Modeling and Visualizing Math Problem Solving in the Learning Support Classroom, Souad Azim, Carla Karboski, and Jennifer Kleckner, Learning Support***  
This project will benefit students by providing an alternate way to facilitate instruction through discussion and problem-solving in the Replacement Math classes. A document camera will be provided to learning support math teachers so they can model math problems for student understanding, offer a visualization of the problem-solving process, and showcase student successes. -\$428.00
- ***World Language Week, Kellie O'Donnell, World Language Department, Grades 7-12***  
World Language Week is a grade 7-12 celebration of languages, culture, and heritages. Students participate in activities after school and in the evening to promote acceptance and increase global awareness. It celebrates diversity, promotes language learning, provides students with a platform to celebrate personal heritage, and encourages other teachers to make global and international connections within their subject matter/discipline. - \$2,500.00
- ***The Great Job Incentive, Lori Fitch, Guidance, Grades 9-12***  
This project will continue to provide incentives that show students that their teachers notice their improvement in hopes to continue to spark student motivation. Gift cards will be distributed per marking period to students selected by their teachers. The hope is that this will help with reengagement in school after online and hybrid instruction. -\$1,810.00
- ***A Pandemic Within a Pandemic, Lori Fitch, Guidance, Grades 9-12***  
Concerns are rising among mental health professionals of how students will acclimate when returning to high school in the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Michael Bradley's presentation "A Pandemic Within a Pandemic: Supporting Overwhelmed Teens with Love, Laughter, and the Science of Resilience" will be offered to middle and high school parents via an online seminar. This seminar will help parents learn strategies to help their teens navigate stress, build resilience, and engage in school while helping to decrease mental health issues. -\$3,000.00
- ***Live Sports Broadcast Team, Jay Greth, Parkland TV***  
Students and their families as well as students of the TV studio will benefit from having a professional level broadcast team supporting Parkland sports. This allows live play by play and color commentators to add to the Parkland TV sports broadcasts. The students in the studio will perform their broadcasts just as the sports professionals in this area. This level of television production will continue to propel Parkland TV as one of the premier programs nationally. -\$2,466.62
- ***HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar, Allison McPeck, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance***  
HOBY leadership seminars are highly interactive programs following our leadership development

curriculum which allows students to discover leadership from a personal, group and socially responsible perspective. High school sophomores will explore their leadership potential through three to four-day residential programs, typically held on a college or university campus. Virtual Leadership Seminars are two to three day live online programs that allow students to participate from the safety of their home without the need to travel. After each seminar, HOBY alumni are challenged to complete 100 hours of community service within the next year to put their newly built leadership skills into action. -\$620.00

- ***Parkland High School's Annual Job Fair, Allison McPeck, Guidance***

The annual job fair is for all students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students gain experience writing a resume, interviewing, completing job applications, and possibly gaining employment. It is also an opportunity for local companies to meet potential employees for summer work and/or long-term positions. Even volunteer organizations meet our students who may be candidates for their service organization. -\$500.00

- ***Makerspace Tech Team Station, Carol Dickerson, Library, Grades 9 - 12***

A space within the High School Makerspace has been created to house the Tech Team, giving them a place to repair chromebooks during their assigned period. This allows a quick turn around on simple chromebook repairs. -\$640.00

- ***Parkland High School Food Pantry, Lori Peters, Grades 9-12***

The Parkland Pantry, operating under Parkland REACH, participates in Snack Pack and meal distribution for high school students experiencing food insecurity. Two times per week, students are invited to come to the pantry closet and pick up prepackaged meal packs. Allowing students access to healthy foods leads to conversations about healthy habits and allows students to focus on learning and not suffer the debilitating side effects of hunger. -\$750.00

- ***Expanding Opportunities for Students to Explore Careers in Education Scholarship, Pam Kelly, Nicole McGalla, and Kelly Rosario, Human Resources, Parkland High School***

This scholarship is to be given to an underrepresented Parkland High School student to pursue an education major at a local college or university. Parkland School District would partner with a local college and seek to have them match our scholarship so that it would be doubled for the student. This student would be guaranteed a placement in the student teaching program at Parkland School District and would also be offered an interview upon graduation and successful completion of their teaching certificate. -\$4,500.00

- ***Lunch and Learn: Recruitment of the Underrepresented for Future Careers in Education, Pam Kelly, Nicole McGalla, and Kelly Rosario, Human Resources, Parkland High School***

Parkland School District has set a goal to expand our recruitment efforts to attract more diverse teacher candidates to apply for vacant positions. In order to build the pipeline and pool of candidates, a concerted effort will be made to reach out to a diverse population of students by offering a lunch session(s) with these students who may have thought, or are thinking about, a career in education. Parkland teachers, administrators, and/or coaches would volunteer to speak with the students about their jobs and the role they play in education. The goal is to make students more aware of the benefits and rewards of the teaching profession. -\$1,000.00

## **Middle Schools –\$26,347.67**

- ***Hands-On Humidity Lab Using Sling Psychrometers Gabriele Badesso, SMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade***  
Students will gain valuable hands-on experience and the ability to engage in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science content using sling-psychrometers to determine the relative humidity of different locations around campus. Upon collecting the data, students will calculate the relative humidity for each location, analyze their results, and notice the correlation between temperature and humidity. -\$256.00
- ***Expanding the Keyboard Lab Erica Silver, SMS***  
Five new keyboards will be added to the piano lab in the music classroom at Springhouse Middle School. Having more instruments will allow for more practice time and individualized instruction for each student. The piano lab provides students who are not participating in the instrumental music program at the middle school level another pathway to participate in performing and/or creating music. -\$782.89
- ***2021 Middle School Virtual STEM Camp, Christie Schlaner and Brian Lobst, OMS***  
Students will be able to participate in one of two week-long STEM camps virtually. The camps focus on STEM skills and hands-on learning at home with the instruction of the teachers virtually. The morning camp will be Media Design/Engineering and the afternoon camp will be Forensics. STEM camps are a student-centered learning approach that encourages curiosity, collaboration, creativity, and artist expression. It promotes students to be communicators, critical thinkers, design-oriented, and problem solvers. -\$2,180.00
- ***AR We There Yet? Noel Mahmood, SMS***  
AR (Augmented Reality) projects in the classroom helps science become more tangible and interactive. 15 iPads will be added to the science classroom. Students can create a working solar system in minutes, dissect a virtual frog, grow, and care for a virtual plant, and more. This allows all students to be immersed into the subject and create their own interactive virtual creations. - \$5,250.00
- ***SMS Cares, Brian Barone, Guidance, SMS***  
SMS Cares strives to provide snack packs to students on a weekly basis, along with full size grocery items to families in need. SMS cares also provides birthday care packages, school supplies, and personal care items. The objective is to ensure equity for all students and to work collaboratively as a community and rally to meet student and family needs. -\$750.00
- ***Flexible Seating for Math Seminar Students, Lauren Myers, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math, SMS***  
Standing desks give students the opportunity to have flexible seating and to physically move during their learning. These will give students more of a choice in their physical environment and the comfort to stay engaged and focused during learning. Movement related activities help to engage and motivate students. Flexible seating allows students to stay on task more frequently. -\$800.00
- ***OMS SNAP Pantry, Amy Boltz, OMS***  
OMS SNAP provides snack packs to students within the building who are experiencing food insecurity. It will also offer a back to school drive and personal hygiene products to students on a regular basis. OMS SNAP works under the REACH program and supports students in a different way than just academics. -\$750.00

- ***Lehigh Valley Zoo Animal Kingdom, Gina Orr, Jennifer Karetsky, Kerin Steigerwalt, and Maria Serina, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, SMS***  
 Students will spend a day at the Lehigh Valley Zoo participating in animal kingdom presentations, a guided tour, and a creek study/related activity. Each activity is aligned with the PDE Science Standards. Students will experience an up-close encounter with animals and learn about their adaptations, behaviors, and differences between species. Students will also explore the diverse ecosystem of the Jordan Creek. This will allow students the opportunity to apply their knowledge from the science curriculum to a real world and hands-on experience with the zoo animals and their habitats. -\$5,500.00
- ***Music Composition Commission 2022, Peter Zimmer, Music, OMS***  
 The OMS Band will have a piece of music specifically written for them to perform with a world-renowned composer. Music is critically important to students to help young minds develop creativity and is an outlet for emotions at an age when emotion can be so difficult to express. The chance for students to make a connection with an actual composer, to engage with that composer in the development of a new piece of music, and then to perform that piece as a representation of the experience allows students to excel and bring about a sense of accomplishment and success. The piece will be written to the exact specifications of the music program and its students. -\$1,500.00
- ***Sensory Mindfulness, Danielle Roland, Special Education, SMS, and OMS***  
 Many daily events can cause dysregulation and providing resources to use within classrooms to aid in sensory regulation will allow students to develop coping skills. Items such as a physio ball, swing, and small manipulatives will help regulate the student reducing behaviors and promoting increased engagement in course work. It will also increase the awareness of sensory needs that students with disabilities need throughout the day with their peers, teaching staff, counselors, and administration. -\$1,440.88
- ***Bullying Prevention Program, Monica Ouly-Uhl, OMS and SMS***  
 The middle school bullying prevention program is designed to reduce bullying among our students. It consists of an annual kickoff event, activities throughout the school year, and a positive behavior awards program. This project helps students feel safe at school, incorporates the importance of treating others with kindness, and prevents students from participating in bullying behaviors. -\$3,000.00
- ***Springhouse Middle School Climate and Diversity Mural, Christian Eggleston, Art, SMS***  
 This mural program will provide a positive art enrichment activity for middle school students. The goal is for students to create large-scale artwork to be displayed at Springhouse Middle School. Students will become actively involved in creating a visual change that will inspire current and future students. Students will learn planning, using strategies and formulas, creative thinking, and art production. Students are cooperating as they work together toward a common goal and will employ art elements and principles as they work on the project. -\$1,500.00
- ***Blending Hands-On and Digital Art Projects, Kerri Griffin, Art, SMS***  
 Students will use a variety of art tools such as rulers and pencils to create a drawing which they will then photograph hands-free like a professional in order to upload the photographs and add digital illustrative elements. Students will learn art skills, standards, and how to bridge the gap between hands-on art and digital art. -\$953.18

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science iPads, Jacob Sobchak, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, OMS**  
Six new iPads and cases will be added to the science classroom. The iPads will be used to increase students' understanding of 7<sup>th</sup> grade science content as well as allow them to record/live-stream labs for online students. This additional technology will provide a new platform for students to learn and create content. The offline applications and the camera app will be useful for labs and activities in the Environmental Lab. -\$1,684.72

## **Elementary Schools – \$19,024.35**

- ***“Ride and Read” in the Media Center, Donna Reinert and Eddie Ohlson, Media Specialist and Physical Education***  
Fifteen under-desk moveable cycles will be purchased for students to use in the media center while they read. The objective is to motivate students, ignite their interest in reading in a new way, as well as improve focus, attention, and mood by combining movement with reading. All grade levels will be able to utilize the cycles during their weekly visit and students may track distance, speed, and time pedaled while they read. “Ride and Read” challenges will be implemented throughout the year via Physical Education and Media Center classes. -\$1,500.00
- ***Storyworks Magazine, Heather Wight, Grade 5, Cetronia***  
Storyworks magazines help support the English Arts Instruction and are aligned to the common core standards and provide students with a multitude of resources and activities to help engage them in current topics while practicing grade level skills. Storyworks is designed to support today's challenging ELA standards with authentic texts that help students in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language domains. The texts incorporate specific grade level standards and can be utilized to fill in the gaps and/or reinforce skills as needed throughout the year. -\$933.90
- ***Gaga Ball Pit, Joe Webster, Health and Physical Education, Fogelsville***  
Gaga Ball is a fast-paced game where students work on a variety of skills, including hand-eye coordination, agility, teamwork, and problem solving. This new equipment will be used for all grade levels and would allow students the opportunity to learn a new game that is growing in popularity around the country. -\$1,859.13
- ***Flexible and Diverse: New Music for Young Players, Scott Watson, Mark Syslo, Laura Kemmerer, Jim Tully, Laura Hallett, Cheyenne Baisch, and Lisa Stahl, Grades 4-5 Band/Strings, Kratzer***  
The pandemic has greatly affected the elementary ensemble music program and we are left with inconsistent instrumentation. In order to rebuild, one challenge we must overcome is to find ensemble music that will work with the new variations. Two composers will be commissioned to compose new music that incorporates flexible instrumentation so that it can be performed by the various combinations of instruments that are in the ensembles. -\$2,000.00
- ***Subscription for FLEX Curriculum from the Art of Education, Hailey Adlard, Marlanda Birns, Kaye Coval, Susan Hardy, Megan Kirschman, Helen Krizan, Marcie Kuhns, Nancy Nahrgang, and Emily Wesolowich, Art, Ironton***

The Art of Education's FLEX curriculum provides current and relevant curriculum materials, such as lesson plans, videos, resources, and assessments that would help to enrich the art department and the student's experiences in the art room. Each elementary art teacher will be able to use their FLEX account to search, organize, download, and implement materials that they choose during the school year. All elementary students in the district will benefit from this subscription. -\$4,311.00

- **2021 Veterans Day Program, Karen Brokate, Jaindl**

Students will learn the importance of respecting and thanking those who served in our armed forces. Veterans and currently serving men and women in the armed forces of Jaindl staff and families will be honored in an hour-long program of songs, poems, and photos on or near Veterans Day. If restrictions are in place where visitors cannot be in the building, a video program will be created to be sent out to families to share with their veterans. In addition, families will be asked to send in the names and addresses of those who cannot attend the program so that we can send them cards and letters made by the students. -\$297.97

- **Track and Field iPad Mini, Ryan Kleintop and Steve Ott, Health and Physical Education, Kratzer**

Using a podcaster with an iPad Mini would allow for the video analysis of our student athletes. Video analysis allows coaches and athletes the opportunity to look at components of performance in order to improve on their skills. Viewing these videos will allow students to think critically about their performance and apply what they have learned to subsequent attempts. Coaches can utilize video analysis to provide objective feedback to student athletes to identify strengths, improve weaknesses, and to model best practices. Injury prevention is also a byproduct of video analysis. -\$1,512.00

- **Veterans Voices: Portable Sound System, Christine Lerew, Music, Veterans Memorial**

The portable sound system will facilitate solo, small group and large group performances for special events in the outdoor courtyard. The current venue has no means of amplification and this portable sound system will allow for small groups to be amplified successfully and for musicians to perform with an accompaniment track. It will double as an extension to the gymnasium sound system and will facilitate a wide range of unique performance opportunities and assemblies for the community to enjoy. -\$1,463.22

- **Bring on the Beat! Jaime Yocum, Music, Cetronia**

This project provides tubanos so students will learn rhythm, beat, time signatures, and meter while also understanding how drumming relates to history and cultures around the world in a hands-on experience. Drumming opportunities also open doors for students to learn more about each other and grasp the power of teamwork in the music classroom. These drums would be used to accompany literature, songs, poetry and would be the main instruments to anchor percussion pieces in the classroom and in live performances. They will be used in many ways in all grades of the elementary school and will allow the students to be active musicians and create inspiring experiences. -\$1,720.00

- **Lettuce Grow, Casey Brosious, Grade 5, Schnecksville**

Through this project students will learn the benefits of growing their own food. A purchased farm stand will allow students to take ownership at harvesting veggies, herbs, and more right in their own classroom. The farm stand is made in the USA from ocean bound plastic recovered from coastal communities. Students will learn plant health, harvesting, and maintenance. This project will be done in the spring as an addition to science in the Matter and Energy in Ecosystems unit. The size of this farm stand will benefit a full-size class of fifth graders allowing each student to take a plant home at the end of the year if they so choose. -\$897.00



- ***Culturally Diverse Classroom Library, Jillian Szilagyi, Grade 2, Schnecksville***  
Books will be purchased that have diverse characters and story lines and include different races, religions, cultures, disabilities, and more. The books purchased will be on different reading levels so that students are able to enjoy reading no matter what their reading level is. -\$616.19
- ***Makerspace, JR Renna, Library, All Elementary Schools***  
Materials will be purchased to update the Makerspace for all elementary schools. Makerspaces allow students to exercise their creativity using many different items as well as letting the students use their imaginations. Makerspaces include a variety of materials such as Legos, blocks, craft materials, and so much more! -\$1,648.45
- ***Manipulatives for Student Self-Regulation, Todd Beidleman, Veterans Memorial/School Counseling, Elementary***  
Students with mental health and/or social/emotional needs who are identified with regulatory difficulties will be provided with opportunities to use these physical manipulatives. This benefits a typically underserved population by providing physical materials to assist them with self-regulating. - \$265.49