

The Report on Concordia Fund Projects Funded

- ▶ 2020-2021
- ▶ 2019-2020
- ▶ 2018-2019



2020-2021 School Year

The Report on Concordia Fund Projects Funded



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

► 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.

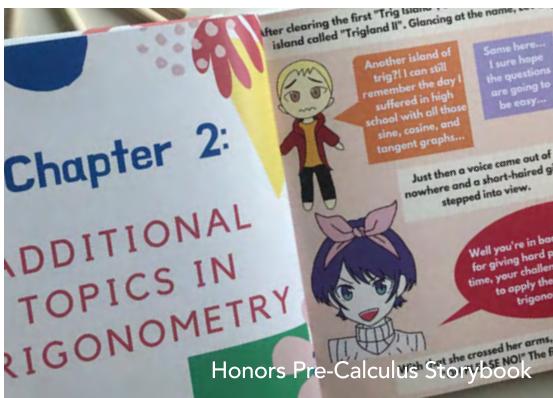
► Honors Pre-Calculus Storybook

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.



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



► 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.

► Learning and Acting on Behalf of Syrian Refugees

Jordan Hattar of Refugees4Refugees has offered interview sessions this year to assist 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.



Learning and Acting on Behalf of Syrian Refugees

► 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



► Concordia Master Classes

► 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.

“

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

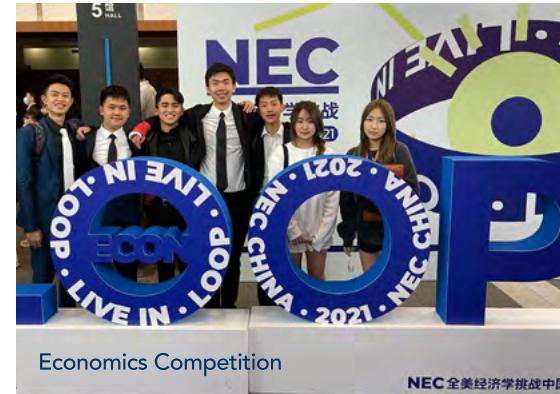
► Equipment Support for Nurse Training

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.



Economics Competition

NEC 全美经济学挑战中

► 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 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*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

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
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2019-2020 School Year

The Report on Concordia Fund Projects Funded



Thank you! Gifts from alumni, parents & friends to the Concordia Fund from July 2019–June 2020 funded 10 outreach & enrichment projects. An additional 10 projects were approved, though due to Covid-19 and school closures, were not completed. In place, two capital projects will be completed summer 2020 – an EC/ES library renovation & new seating in the PC Lounge. Place proposals were submitted by our Concordia students and employees desiring to create new opportunities for outreach and enrichment beyond the classroom.

Thank you for helping to make these experiences possible for our students & teachers.

2019-2020 Concordia Fund Approved & Completed Projects

► Commissioned Choral Piece

High school choral director, Mrs. Meg Ideker, commissioned conductor and composer, Dr. Christopher Aspaas of Texas Christian University and guest conductor for APAC Choir 2019 to compose a piece of music especially for the APAC Choir Festival at Concordia Shanghai. The piece, inspired by the poem "The Stars are with the Voyager" by Thomas Hood, was completed in summer 2019 and sung by the 96 singers in the festival choir.



► Family Service Trip in Cambodia

Concordia families used their fall break to bolster education in Cambodia. Working with the Garuna Foundation, which provides free afternoon education where half-day education is the norm, the visiting families led children in English, music, art and athletic activities.

“Because of the ASL training, we were able to connect with Babel in a deeper manner, forming relationships with the deaf in the organization in a more native and natural way.”

Alice C., HS studen, ASL Project

► Aerospace Student Trip to Textron Aviation

Students in the high school Aerospace Engineering class visited Textron Aviation in Shijiazhuang, where they toured the facility and interacted with engineers working in the field of airplane manufacturing. They were able to ask questions to industry professionals and receive detailed explanations full of insight. Authentic experiences such as this serve to deepen the students' knowledge and help to galvanize their understanding of the concepts explored in the classroom.



“Sure, we could learn about this in class or watch it online, but being there, seeing it, hearing it, and feeling it, that was something that nothing other than this trip could've provided.”

Cyrus H., HS Student, Aerospace project

► American Sign Language Project

Ten Concordia students undertook a-year-long online VHS American Sign Language course. The students were inspired to learn more about the history and culture of the deaf community and use this knowledge in the service of others through their involvement with Pyramid of Babel, a local organization, which serves a diverse population, including those who are hearing impaired.



► Shining Star Service Trip

Building on the work of last year's students and faculty groups, Concordia high school and middle school students traveled to Guangzhou to help the charity Shining Star in their work with left behind children. Students built relationships with the young children and led activities that focused on character and resiliency training.

► Concordia Presents with Lenora Chu

Lenora Chu, award-winning journalist and author of "Little Soldiers: An American Boy, a Chinese School and the Global Race to Achieve" was our guest at a special Concordia Presents community event. She discussed the differences between Eastern and Western education systems, their strengths and challenges and the importance of finding the right balance between the two.



► Visit from Wildlife Photographer Jan Latta

Kindergarten students had a chance to learn about wildlife photography and the importance of protecting endangered animals with photographer, author and animal advocate Jane Latta. The visit was a unique learning experience for students, as they not only had the chance to interact with a published author but also developed an understanding of endangered species and the ways they can help to protect them.

► Investment Club Competition

With support from Hadrian Capital and the Concordia Fund, students in the High School Investment Club launched an educational investment trading competition among student traders. Students also had a chance to meet with and receive advice from an analyst at Hadrian Capital.

► Capital Improvements

The Concordia Fund continues to support improvements around the school, including renovations to the Early Childhood/Elementary School library and new seating for the Phoenix Center lounge.

► Supplies for Chongming School

In summer 2019, the Concordia Fund helped gather much needed classroom furniture for donation to a migrant school on Chongming Island. The school, which has 42 teachers serving 173 students from grades 1-5, received 68 classroom tables, 120 student chairs and 130 adult-sized chairs. An additional donation of around 200 iPads and laptops was sent out summer 2020.

► ES Buddy Bench

Elementary School students requested funds to construct a Buddy Bench on the playground. The Buddy Bench was conceived by a group of fourth graders to be a safe place for new students or those feeling sad or lonely to find other students to talk to or a friend to play with. Students championed this project so that no student would be left out on the playground.



With the buddy bench, students can all be happy, and find new friends. This way, recess can be fun for all the students."

Warren H., ES student
Buddy Bench project



Additionally, the Concordia Fund hosts & supports the following community-centered events:

- Homecoming
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- The annual Gala & Auction
- Parents Business Network Gathering (Co-host)
- Donor events throughout the school year

2018-2019 School Year

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So far during this school year, 20 proposals have been submitted by our Concordia employees desiring to create new opportunities for outreach and enrichment beyond the classroom. Below is a list (in no particular order) of some of the proposals that have been approved for funding so far this year. We expect there will be more to come!



Concordia Fund Projects

2018-2019 Concordia Fund Approved Projects (As of May 2019)

- Guest Speaker for Storytelling Agency Applied Learning Class— High schoolers meet with Jordan Hattar, director of Help4Refugees, who shared his work to deepen the students' understanding of the Syrian Refugee crisis. As part of this educational workshop, Hattar brainstormed and taught ways students can build their storytelling and content writing. (Submitted by HS teacher Dagne Furth; completed February 2019, HS.)
- National Youth Gathering in Minnesota— A week-long student trip to the US for fellowship, reflection and service with more than 25,000 youth from 50 states and several countries. (Submitted by Chris Mizel, MS/HS; eight students traveling in July 2019.)
- Shining Star Book Project— A collaboration with RSB classes, this project will support creating and publishing books to share with children left behind when parents leave for better work. (Submitted and led by LeeAnne Lavender, ES.)
- Explorations Service Trip to the Philippines— This service and learning trip is made available to Grade 10 students and will take place during the week-long high school Explorations program. (Submitted by Chris Mizel, HS; May 2019.)
- Outdoor STEM Classroom— A learning space imagined and designed by ES students. Located adjacent to the ES Makerspace, this new learning space will encourage space and usage calculations. Student will design to include gardening stations, composting, hydroponic farming, and sensory garden instruments. This project will enable students to learn in an outdoor setting, get messy studying science, and view the interdependence of living things first-hand. (Submitted by Kristy Godbout, ES/whole school; summer/fall 2019 completion)



- **Reading Hope**— This project provides support to help our students construct a library for children in places in Shanghai where migrant families live and are in need of better educational resources. Concordia students are collecting books and purchasing shelves, tables, and chairs to outfit a library. (Submitted and led by Chris Mizel, HS; currently in progress.)



- **AQI Sensor Project**— A project to give our school the best indoor air quality in Shanghai. Concordia high school faculty and students designed and students assembled 50 small portable AQI sensors to distribute throughout campus, monitoring once difficult-to-measure locations. This project encourages research and competition, as well as reporting and collaborating with other schools and scientists. (Submitted by Peter Tong, Joel Klammer and HS students, HS/whole school; in process.)

- **Middle School Organic Farming Project (A farm-to-table experience)**— This was the culminating experience for MS students who learned about and participated in organic farming. Students traveled to farm on ChongMing Island to harvest organic fruits and veggies and enjoy a luncheon with foods grown on the farm. (MS; completed December 2018.)

- **Outdoor Basketball Hoops**— This project will have three additional basketball hoops and padding installed to give additional space for MS students and encourage MS girls to participate in basketball at recess and after school. (Submitted by Ryan Muir, MS; summer 2019 installation.)



- **Left-Behind Children in Guangzhou**— This resiliency training service trip was a collaboration with Shining Star to serve children of Guangzhou who are left behind when their parents leave to find better work. HS students created and led a curriculum focusing on health, safety, character, confidence, and resiliency to equip children who often lack parental assistance. (Submitted and led by Chris Mizel, HS; completed October 2018.)

- **Café Classroom & Conversation Space**— A project that will furnish a HS café-style classroom, prototyping an alternative learning atmosphere to promote increased classroom interaction and conversation in a comfortable setting. (Submitted by LeeAnne Lavender, HS; summer installation.)



- **Student Visit to Shijiazhuang**— This project supports the Aerospace Engineering course and provided an opportunity to broaden their aviation exposure and understanding, allowing students to gain exposure to and learn about the aviation manufacturing industry in China at a visit to the Textron Aviation Production Facility. (Submitted and led by Peter Tong, HS/MS; May 2019.)



- **Left-Behind Children in Guangzhou, May 2019**— Building off the success of the October 2018 trip, two student service groups will work with Shining Star to share resiliency skills with left-behind children in Guangzhou. These additional service trips were requested from the community center students supported in 10/18 and from a local community who heard about the program led by Concordia students. (Submitted by Chris Mizel, HS; May 2019.)

Concordia Annual Gala & Auction

Additionally, our 16th Gala and Auction (also now a program of the Concordia Fund) raised support for three school projects that are slated for summer 2019 construction:

- Sound, lighting and staging upgrades to our Rittmann Theatre
- Creation of a new ES Mandarin classroom (similar to that in our MS)
- Construction of a new EC playground for our youngest learners



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