

2023-2024 ISC Mini Grant Recipients

All LMSD Home and School Associations generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program. This year's program resulted in the funding of **31** projects, of which **11** were fully and **20** were partially funded, for a total amount of **\$12,934**. A special thank you to the members of the Mini Grant Review Committee for their continued support and thoughtful input in awarding the following projects.

In the Elementary Schools, the following ISC Mini Grants have been awarded:

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Vinetta Baselice's **Bulldog Friendship Club: PAWS - practicing awesome ways to strategize** provides the students with different (outstanding) abilities games to encourage sensory integration and inclusion amongst peers. Total funding: **\$250**

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Lauren Hudson's **STEM-tastic Building Materials for Elementary Engineers** encourages elementary students to work together, plan, create and innovate during weekly STEM classes and beyond. Total funding: **\$200**

BELMONT HILLS ELEMENTARY: Kelsey DiMatteo's **Kindergarten Sensory Station** engages students with a variety of academic and sensory activities using a Color-Changing Light Table. Total funding: **\$536**

CYNWYD ELEMENTARY: Rebecca Burns' **Ukuleles for elementary general music** incorporates all the elements of music including melody, rhythm, harmony, tone color, form and expression for third and fourth graders. Total funding: **\$600**

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Riva Rothenberg's **Smart Space** resembles a translucent wall with three closed sides to help third-grade students feel private without keeping them out of sight of the teacher. Total funding: **\$264**

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Lisa Unger's **Empower Students to Focus and Self-Regulate Via Movement and Sensory Stimulation** provides third graders with sensory tools in the classroom. Total funding: **\$138**

GLADWYNE ELEMENTARY: Jenn Welby Gilbert's **Fine Motor Fixes in the Regular Education Classroom** introduces items for second graders to improve their fine motor skills which appear impacted by COVID. Total funding: **\$250**

MERION ELEMENTARY: Alexis Vastardis' **Sensory & Self-Regulation** provides proprioceptive, tactile, auditory and social-emotional sensory and self-regulation items for the increasing number of Autistic Support students. Total funding: **\$150**

MERION ELEMENTARY: Alexis Vastardis' **Social-Emotional and Executive Functioning Skills Extension** supplies books and games to aid Autistic Support students to generalize learned skills across environments. Total funding: **\$150**

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY: Brittany Alburger's **Sensory Tiles** help students in a Learning Support classroom to calm down when feeling dysregulated. Total funding: **\$106**

PENN WYNNE ELEMENTARY: Lauren Seman's **Bikes for all** adds an adapted tricycle to the Life Skills classroom for students to develop gross motor skills. Total funding: **\$466**

PENN WYNNE ELEMENTARY: Sue McNally's **Lifting Spirits through ART: Collaborative Paintings for permanent display within PW Elementary** provides materials for the fourth graders to make large-scale paintings that focus on positive images, words, and colors. Total funding: **\$400**

PENN WYNNE ELEMENTARY: Karen Cummings' **Friendship Library Book Bin** addresses the need for mentor text that supports the topics of being a friend, making friends and the value of being yourself. Total funding: **\$160**

Middle Schools

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

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE: Beth Pavletich's **Mozaic DEI** merges the concepts of math with the art of representing each child uniquely along the 6th grade hallway. Total funding: **\$275**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Lauren Lapinski's **Tech Ed - outdoor workspace design & construction** provides students with the opportunity to design and build a functional, outdoor workspace. Total funding: **\$828**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jackie Cassidy's **The Art and Science of Glass** starts a glass-fusing program at the middle school level, where students will learn about glass fusing, slumping and casting. Total funding: **\$600**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Dr. Jessica Segal's **Building Best Buddies** builds the bank of Best Buddies materials that can be used to help club students connect with each other and engage in a more meaningful way. Total funding: **\$500**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Scott Kleiman's **Escape the Crate** allows 8th-grade Leadership students to put many of the learned skills, such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, persistence, and flexible thinking, into practice. Total funding: **\$460**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Rachel Nichols' **Black Rock DEIB Student & Staff Antiracist Book Club** systematically builds a more positive, inclusive community via iterative reading groups throughout the school, starting with student/staff grade-level book clubs. Total funding: **\$400**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mary Beth Kadyan's **Visual Fractions Measuring Practice** incorporates the use of fractional measuring sets to help students understand kitchen measurements and equivalents. Total funding: **\$384**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Kathleen McNulty's **Improving AED Training for Responding to a Cardiac Arrest** collaborates with TSA students to engineer Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training pads at a lower cost. Total funding: **\$364**

BLACK ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jennifer Cornely's **Sensory Room for students** allows students in the Life Skills Support classroom to receive sensory input in a greater variety of ways during the school day. Total funding: **\$200**

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Daniel Bluth's **Quiz Wizard Certamen Machine** engages Latin students in teamwork and competitive Latin trivia games among all three middle schools and other invited schools. Total funding: **\$780**

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Lindsey Tiff's **Connected Cardboard City** supplies microbits and cardboard for students to create a cardboard city with a smart traffic light system. Total funding: **\$648**

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Sarah Brown's **Sensory and Self-Regulation Space** introduces a *Squeezer*, which provides soothing deep pressure, for students with sensory needs to receive proprioceptive and vestibular inputs to help self-regulate in between classes. Total funding: **\$590**

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Janet Chung's **Podcast Sound Studio** supplies microphone isolation shields for Challenge students to make better production-quality podcasts; in particular, entries for the NPR Podcast Challenge. Total funding: **\$400**

WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE: Katie Ziemba's **Strong Female Protagonists** diversifies our classroom libraries to include more novels featuring strong female protagonists and novels written by female authors. Total funding: **\$400**

High Schools

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

HARRITON HIGH: Laura Hutelmyer's **Podcaster Studio** provides access to video recording in a professional format to students. Total funding: **\$900**

HARRITON HIGH: Christine Kiley's **DNA Discovery** supplies a more accurate visualization and hands-on experience for students while discovering the structure of DNA. Total funding: **\$ 596**

LOWER MERION HIGH: Meredith Dyson's **Think Globally; Read Locally** develops a shared classroom library for teachers of the *Film and Literature* course so that students can access high-interest books (with film connections) written by local authors. Total funding: **\$618**

LOWER MERION HIGH: Mikell Nigro's **Apartment Life Skills** provides the apartment program students with small appliances to work on functional skills in preparation for employment and independent living. Total funding: **\$321**