



**MLEF 2024/2025  
Standard Grants Approved**



# **MLEF 2024/2025 Standard Grants**

## **Approved: \$40,178.34**

Standard Grant 1: Teacher Pack of 10 TI graphing calculators (\$1,126.50)

Standard Grant 2: Smart board for Lake Drive Gym (\$2,000)

Standard Grant 3: Mini One Electrophoresis System Classroom Package of 10 lab set (\$4,383.25)

Standard Grant 4: DECA study materials (\$3,600)

Standard Grant 5: 20 Chromebooks and 4 Tech Tubs for 1st grade team (\$4,896)

Standard Grant 6: Emergency "Go Bag" for Briarcliff Staff (\$2,200)

Standard Grant 8: 2 spotlights for WW stage (\$1,359.98)

Standard Grant 9: Update book bins for 2nd grade classrooms (\$1,000)

Standard Grant 10: Bookflix subscription (\$1,400)

Standard Grant 11: 12 Chromebooks for K-2 STEM (\$3,649.88)

Standard Grant 12: Respondus Lockdown Browser (\$2,995)

Standard Grant 13: BC Art Display Boards (\$6,602.23)

Standard Grant 14: BC Art File Cabinet (\$4,965.50)

# STANDARD GRANTS

## 1. Samantha Fucarino

Teacher, Mountain Lakes High School, Lake Drive School

Grades 9-12, Lake Drive Mathematics

\$1,126.50

I am requesting the "teacher pack" of 10 Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus graphing calculators. Lake Drive currently has 27 students at the high school, who all take mathematics classes here, whether self-contained, or mainstream. When students take Algebra 2 or Pre-calculus, they need a graphing calculator to complete their work successfully. Due to the high cost of graphing calculators, often these students' families are not able to afford to buy their own. Therefore, I loan them one for the school year and they return it at the end of the year. Our current stock of graphing calculators has dwindled, due to the fact that many have finally broken after many years of use, and a few were lost after the COVID year when students did not come to school physically to return them. All students in the Lake Drive program at MLHS as well as any mainstream student in need would be welcome to sign out a calculator to use for the year. Students will use their graphing calculators daily, and it will help them tremendously with understanding the concepts of Algebra 2 and Pre-calculus.

**2. Anthony Carang**

Teacher, Lake Drive School

Pre-K-6 Grade Physical Education

\$2,000.00

I am requesting this grant to purchase a smart board that can be used inside the gymnasium. By receiving this grant it will impact the entire school population of Lake Drive. I know this might be a lot to ask for, but a smart board in the gym can be used to help support the deaf students through visual aid. Visual demonstrations and the use of award systems through the computer can be used to help support the understanding of various objectives and goals students are working to obtain during class. Many school districts in the physical education department are moving towards the use of technology to align with the NJ state core standards. This past year Ivonne Ciresi has instructed staff that technology is the future of education. Staff was instructed to establish cohorts to utilize technology into each classroom. This became very difficult to do the lack of technology provided in the gymnasium. To incorporate technology I had to use my cell phone which was insufficient. Installing a smart board would be the perfect opportunity to move towards the future of education. Various video instructions, exercise videos, and award systems can be used to increase learning and keep students engaged. I believe by incorporating the use of a smart board into the gym it would be greatly beneficial towards students learning and understanding objectives and goals for all age students.

### **3. John Scancarella and David Sica**

Mountain Lakes High School

Grades 9-12 Biology, Honors Biology, AP Biology, Forensic Science, Anatomy & Physiology

\$4,383.25

In order to update our aging laboratory supplies we are looking to purchase "The Mini One" classroom set of 10 for use in life science courses at MLHS. The MiniOne Electrophoresis System Classroom Package of 10 provides all the tools needed for an entire classroom of life science students to experience every step of electrophoresis labs from prep to results analysis, with the added benefit of being packaged in rugged carrying cases to keep equipment organized, safe, and clean.

Due to the nature and cost of DNA testing and analysis, we have not been able to run hands-on laboratory practices that enable students to learn Biotechnology techniques and skills. The MiniOne can be used to support and reinforce concepts found in Genetics and Evolution units, such as examination of the BRCA gene which causes breast cancer. Students in Forensic courses can help solve a murder. Students in AP Biology can test for a foodborne illness. There are many "kits" teachers can opt to purchase as part of their personal budget to support running case studies in each of their respective courses. Incorporated in this grant request are the following kits:

6x Electrophoresis 101 minilab

1x Foodborne Outbreak Investigation

6x CSI Forensics MiniLab (Solve a Murder)

The purpose of this grant is to fill a large void in our Genetics Unit where little to no hands-on experience is taking place. Students are utilizing virtual based labs which do not focus on building biotechnology skills, but rather knowledge. The use of The Mini One would help facilitate our requirements to meet NJSLS 2020 Science Practice Standards in giving students the ability to:

- Apply scientific thinking, skills, and understanding to real-world phenomena and problems;
- Engage in systems thinking and modeling to explain phenomena and to give a context for the ideas to be learned;
- Conduct investigations, solve problems, and engage in discussions

#### **4. Paul Sidhu**

Teacher, Mountain Lakes High School

DECA Business Club, grades 9-12

\$3,600

**DECA** is the biggest club in Mountain Lakes High School and has helped many students develop their interests in the business world. Students learn all about many aspects of business from marketing, finance, human relations, accounting, etc. MLSD offers no financial support. DECA is a non-profit organization that helps high school and college students develop leadership, business, and career readiness skills. DECA's programs include classroom instruction, project-based activities, business partnerships, and competition. DECA's competitive events are part of the classroom curriculum and are aligned with the National Curriculum Standards. All costs are paid by the students (and their families). The club conducts a couple fundraisers each year (car washes and meal nights at local restaurants) which raised about \$500 of the total club costs. Last year MLHS DECA had 144 students and our goal for next year is to increase membership by 20 students. DECA is currently the largest club at MLHS.

MLHS DECA is asking the MLEF for \$25/student, or \$3,600 (using last year's number of 144 students). DECA requests the MLEF's support for access to study materials (for Business Management) on many aspects of business that are provided for competitors to prepare for online tests and in-person role-plays competitions. The areas of study/preparation include accounting, apparel merchandising, automotive services marketing, business finance, business law and ethics, business operations, business services marketing, buying and merchandising, entrepreneurship, financial services, food marketing, hospitality services, hotel and lodging management, human resources, marketing management, personal financial literacy, professional selling, project management, restaurant management, retail merchandising, sports marketing, and travel and tourism.

In all these diverse topic areas students study key concepts, vocabulary, and specific business strategies. Students can also explore career fields and industry trends. They can also master key industry terminology and key performance indicators. They will learn strategies for test taking, executive summaries, presentations and more. The info packets include national conference exams (14 total), 2023 role-play scenarios (81 total), and sample entries from 2023 ICDC written event winners (31 total).

In addition to supporting the MLHS population, DECA has several students participating who are in the Lake Drive program.

## **5. 1st Grade Team**

Teachers, Wildwood School

\$4,896.00

We are requesting a grant to support all content areas, especially our literacy centers, math centers. We are requesting 20 Chromebooks (5 for each homeroom), and 4 Tech Tubs (1 for each homeroom). This will greatly benefit approximately 80 students everyday if we are awarded the grant.

This grant will fulfill a classroom need that is not being met. We do not have consistent access to Chromebooks at the first grade level and feel it is essential to integrate technology in our classrooms. Through the NJSL Computer Science Standards and the 2020 NJ Mandates, it is imperative that we incorporate technology into our lessons. Technology literacy is essential in today's digital world. Integrating technology into the classroom equips students with the skills they need in the workforce and society, including critical thinking, problem solving, and digital literacy.

We plan on using the Chromebooks daily in centers. Not only will this help develop their digital literacy skills, it will also enable us to tailor instruction to individual student needs utilizing various educational software and tools. It can also help create inclusive learning environments by accommodating diverse learning needs and styles.

It also enhances the learning experience making learning more interactive, engaging, and immersive. It allows for multimedia presentations and lessons that can cater to different learning styles, making concepts easier to understand and retain.

Items can be purchased on Amazon, Best Buy, School Specialty.

**6. Erik Carlson**

Administrator, Briarcliff School

All grades 6-8

\$2,200.00

I would like to create a "Go Bag" for our staff members in the event of an emergency. These bags would include the following: Clipboard, Whistle, Small First Aid Kit, Safe Food Snacks, Water Bottle and Paper cups, Flashlight, Hand Wipes, Duct Tape, Playing Card Games, Inflatable Ball, Multipurpose Tool, Cell Phone Charger, and Garbage Bags. There would be a bag for every staff member and each bag would be able to provide for our largest class sizes in the event that staff were in an emergency with our students for an extended period of time.

This would fulfill a need we have as we currently do not have anything in the event of an emergency.

To be purchased in local stores.



**8. Nicole Olearchik**

Teacher, Wildwood School

Music K-5, 4th and 5th grade choir

\$1,359.98

The items I am requesting are two spotlights from the stage in Wildwood. They are portable spotlights with a variety of colors that could be used for all the shows we have at Wildwood. With a program that is growing, they can currently be used for our 1st grade Halloween Show, the 5th grade musical and the various concerts that take place during the year. They would be for both viewing purposes as well as highlighting children, so could greatly impact the quality of performances for the entire Wildwood population. Approximately 480 students.

The lights would be used to highlight students' musical/theatre talents on the Wildwood stage. They also allow students who are interested in lighting and design to have an opportunity to explore and light the shows. There is currently only one spotlight that works about fifty percent of the time for the stage. This will bring both white and different colored lights to the stage.

**9. Amy Lorber**

Wildwood School

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

\$1,000

Update book bins for the each of the 4 Grade 2 classrooms

There is no sweeter sound to a teacher than to hear student's buzzing about books. In Grade 2, we have created multi genre and multi leveled book bins in our classrooms for use during free reading time. Along with "shopping" for their own books based on interests, each student has access to a book bin each week. The bins contain fiction, nonfiction, fairy tales, poetry, biographies, fairytales and picture books. Every week the book bins rotate. Organically, over the past few years, students started sharing their excitement about a favorite book in the bin. Other students would respond, "what book bin number is that? Awesome, I will get the bin in 3 weeks." The anticipation and enthusiasm that has been organically generated by these book bins is nothing short of magic. I offered students the opportunity to use post it notes to tell which books they would recommend in the bin and why. More magic. I then started to observe books they desire and wait for in the library. That prompted me to create a list of books that the students LOVE. As a result, I would like to update book bins for each of the 4 Grade 2 classrooms. I am happy to provide photo examples of current book bins and ideas of books I have in mind upon request.

**10. Cheryl Nakashian**

Wildwood School

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd grades and special education

\$1,400

A subscription to BookFlix provides access to a vast digital library of children's books paired with related educational videos. Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students benefit from engaging content that supports literacy skills, comprehension, and learning across various subjects. Special education students benefit from the multimedia format, which caters to diverse learning styles and offers additional support through interactive features and read-aloud options. Overall, BookFlix fosters a love of reading while enhancing educational development for students of all abilities.

BookFlix fills a classroom need by providing a comprehensive digital resource that supports literacy development and enhances learning across multiple subjects. Teachers can use it to supplement their curriculum with engaging content that aligns with educational standards. The platform offers a diverse range of books and videos, catering to different reading levels and interests, making it suitable for a variety of classroom settings and students' needs. Additionally, BookFlix's interactive features and read-aloud options accommodate diverse learning styles and provide additional support for students who require it, including those in special education programs. Overall, BookFlix serves as a valuable tool for educators to enrich their instruction and promote a culture of reading and learning in the classroom.

## **11. Megan McCarthy**

Wildwood School

Grades K-2 STEM Enrichment and Grades 3-5 Gifted and Talented

\$ 3,649.88

As the K-2 S.T.E.M. Enrichment Teacher at Wildwood, I would like to incorporate more technology and coding activities with my younger students to work collaboratively on STEM challenges focusing within the area of technology. Students currently are able to complete hands-on challenges to understand coding and apply those skills, but it would be great for students to then apply those concepts collaboratively using technology. For example, Kindergarten uses coding concepts to code a path for the discoveries of Dr. Eugenie Clark ("Shark Lady") in our Women in STEM unit during Women's History Month (they have to organize the flippers as their code to collect her discoveries on a game board from start to finish within the parameters provided, such as: discoveries cannot be next to each other on the board). It would be great for students to take the next step and use the coding directions of the flippers/corresponding arrows from their written code and translate the skills to a coding activity on Code.org or Scratch, for example. Similarly, students in 1st and 2nd grades learn about binary coding and how computers understand the language of using ones and zeros to process all information. Students use binary code to spell their names or initials on a pipe cleaner bracelet by using two colors with one color representing ones and another color representing zeros. Students understand that each byte of code is eight bits, which means each letter will be made of eight beads of two colors. It would be really amazing to extend these coding concepts with coding activities using Chromebook activities for students to extend their knowledge and appreciation for the amount of data processed and understood so quickly using technology. Students enjoy the tactile approach to learning these concepts in creative ways; however, it would be really great to have a culminating activity with Chromebooks for these types of lessons for students to experience firsthand rather than conceptually.

I am Wildwood's S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Enrichment teacher; however, I do not have technology tools for students to utilize in my classroom. Since students are expected to collaborate with partners to solve problems in my class, I would only use twelve Chromebooks. I am also the Gifted and Talented teacher for grades 3-5 with no more than 10 students in each of my small group G&T classes. My G&T students engage in various challenges and competitions through NJCGTP (New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs). All of the projects require a digital submission for scoring. For example, students participate in a nature research project and scavenger hunt where they must identify and explain various items and challenges within the requirements and present their findings and results in a Google Slide presentation for judging. Having Chromebooks in my classroom for students to use to collaborate and share files and incorporate items into their grade level team's slide presentation for NJCGTP would be extremely helpful and save valuable time. Currently, students can borrow Chromebooks from their classrooms and bring them to my classroom, but it would be more efficient to have Chromebooks available and accessible in my classroom. All NJCGTP projects and competitions include a digital submission. Therefore, having dedicated technological resources for my students to use for their projects would be extremely beneficial.

The Chromebooks purchased could also be set up to be used for OLSAT Gifted and Talented testing in September, reducing the amount of borrowed Chromebooks by half. Having them already in my classroom would enable me to set up the testing link and login in students to save time and enhance the ease of testing since this is an online assessment for our 3rd graders.

The number of students who would benefit from twelve Chromebooks being housed and available in my classroom would be approximately 400 students, which is a high and remarkable return on investment on an annual basis.

**12. David Santos**

Briarcliff, MLHS

6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade

\$2,995

**Respondus - LockDown Browser**

Academic integrity concerns have prompted interest in LockDown Browser (Teachers are trying to combat savvy kids). LockDown Browser will be used with Chromebook devices (testing devices/carts). Teachers can use a combination of both Classic and New Quizzes with their assessments within the Canvas platform.

Used at both BC and MLHS, total student population of ~840 Students

Project will help teachers monitor assessments given within the Canvas platform.

To be purchased through CDWG or Respondus.

### **13. Kelly Bogucz**

Teacher, Briarcliff School

Grades 6-8

\$6,602.23

Art Display boards - "Screenflex Portable Room Dividers 7'4"ft x 9ft 5 panel".

Every year student's artwork is displayed at the Pop's Cafe art talent show. Currently our display boards are a series of Styrofoam 4x8 boards that are showing heavy wear and tear. It would be great to have some professionally built display boards to showcase Briarcliff student's work.

Every year these display boards will be used for Pop's Cafe art show. This would be a huge improvement from the Styrofoam boards that are currently used for the show.

**14. Kelly Bogucz**

Teacher, Briarcliff School

Grades 6-8

\$4,965.50

Art File Cabinet - Blickart

x3 Diversified Spaces Flat File System - 5-Drawer Unit, Oak

1 finished top in oak, 1- flat file base - black rubber

Currently in the art room there is an older metal flat file drawer for students to store their work. The flat file drawer is missing a handle on almost every drawer and the drawers jam very easily due to dents and dings along the walls of the unit and issues with the drawer tracks. Getting a new file cabinet would mean that students in the room would have a safe place to store artwork while they are working on it. The requested amount gives 15 drawers allowing 3 drawers per class, giving students a healthy amount of space to store their work. Art is a class almost all students attend at some point during the year. Giving a new space for students to store their work would be a wonderful addition to the classroom for many years to come.