

Hillsboro Schools Foundation
Innovative Grants for 2024 - 2025

A “Link” to STEM: Liberty HS: Steffan Ledgerwood

Leverages gamification, inspired by a University of Maryland course, to engage students and increase the diversity in STEM classes by utilizing video games to teach engineering concepts through robot design.

Big Blue Blocks: Tamarack ES: Natasha Inafuku & Holly Goritz

Provides ‘Big Blue Blocks’ for students to see and manipulate design thinking in the classroom. Provides imaginative way to introduce force and motion and engineering to students. Also increases student engagement within a highly diverse school.

Books Supporting Students: Poynter MS: Kimberly Parrett

Provides prose novels that students want to read to improve reading abilities in struggling readers and English language learners. “Own-Voice’ stories are written about characters from diverse groups by authors of that same identity.

Buzzing with STEM: Tamarack ES: Riley Chun

Tamarack is starting to build their student garden at their new school but don’t have tools or seeds! Helps with hands-on learning for STEAM careers.

Creating a More Equitable Music Room: North Plains ES: MyKenzie Miller

Supplies xylophones and mallets for music programs which teach collaboration, developing techniques for music, rhythmic improvisation and performing in front of peers. Will also help students without access to music lessons and instruments, an opportunity try ‘band’ before middle school electives are chosen.

Drumming Around the World: West Union ES: Samantha Schmidt

Provides multicultural musical experiences with drums and curriculum. Also inclusive for all abilities regardless of ability or individual needs. Introduces World Music Drumming and excites students to try percussion in high school.

Flight to the Future: Funding for Kestrel Nesting Boxes: Tamarack ES: Shannon Jones

Students will build high-quality Kestrel nesting boxes, fostering student engagement in wildlife conservation and habitat preservation efforts.

iPads and Communication Systems for Modeling: Orenco ES: Sara Kolbet, Angie James, Rachel Prevost

Allows teachers to communicate with minimally verbal or nonverbal students who are learning to use a communication device. Both student and educator with communicating with one another and for students to be able to learn.

Kindness Garden: Patterson ES: Amanda Jett & Jamie Lentz

Connects students to the natural world through land stewardship, management of ecology, social awareness, and teaches students about the impacts humans have on our natural world. They will also study the Kalapuya Tribe, indigenous planting and how they stewarded the land we live on.

Liberty Fit – Run Free! Barbara Kraft

Supports students’ ability to participate in the Liberty Fit running program who cannot afford the gear to run. The club attracts students not involved in other school sports who are looking to better themselves and meet fellow classmates.

Liberty High School Fiber Arts: Amiiya Larrance & Alice Kelly

Expands the Liberty Fiber Arts after-school club offerings to include sewing and embroidery with hi-tech sewing machines, cricut makers and supplies.

Life Skillin' it: Century HS: Cynthia Paden-Matsuzaki and Danny Kernan

Modifying the school weight room to enable life skills classroom students to participate in fitness activities alongside general education peers. Provides lighter weights, weighted hula hoops, and agility materials.

Next Level Makerspace: Poynter MS: Kimberly Parrett

Equitably improves student wellbeing, social connectedness and school engagement through a 'Next-Level Makerspace.' Adds jewelry making, painting, sewing, and more to broaden the makerspace engagement.

Orengo Elementary Playground Communication Board: Sara Kolbet, Angela James, William Wenzloff

Purchases a communication board for near the playground so that all students can point to images relating to play and basic communication when verbal communication is difficult.

Our Future STEM Leaders: Jackson ES: Jennifer Brown PTA

Inspires students to be STEM leaders by offering after-school LEGO robotics programs. Helps students to learn programming, development and engineering prior to middle and high school.

Sew Much Potential: Century High School: Cassondra Sauve

Upgrades the Century Theatre potential with an investment in the costume shop. Purchases sewing machines and sergers to teach students sewing arts for the robust CTE theatre program.

Sparking a Love of Reading: Liberty HS: Lisa Allen

Spark of Love of Reading provides exciting classroom libraries for every Language Arts classroom at Liberty. Encourages high schoolers to read at every opportunity, books that are reflective of their home languages and cultures with exciting and engaging stories. Supports 11 classrooms, 20-70 books per classroom.

Transition Skills for Success: Peter Boscow Campus – Community Transitions: Krista Hanson

Creates a student-operated freeze-drying business. Will instill essential employment skills, boost confidence, and promote community inclusion for our students with intellectual disabilities.