



2025-2026 Celebrate Innovation Grants

The Foundation Board of Directors awarded 96 “Celebrate Innovation” grants totaling **\$270,923.58** to the Parkland School District with the intent of enriching the current curriculum to benefit a wide range of students, staff, and community members.

Districtwide: \$25,950

- ***Family Enrichment Project***
James Rivera, Education & Operations Center, Student Services, Grades K-12
This project will provide support and material necessities for families who have been displaced, homeless and/ or in need. It will help give these children and families the necessary items to ensure their ability to learn. - \$1,500.00
- ***Community Resource Fair, Health Symposium, & New Parent Social***
Nicole McGalla & Jessica Faught, Administration Building, Community Relations
The community resource fair brings in all area resource agencies, community, and faith organizations for a one day free fair for Parkland families. There are children’s activities, music, and food demonstrations. At the fair there are hourly parent workshops held on different mental health issues, and a new parent social is held in the library. This event is for any new parents in the district to make connections. -\$1,500.00
- ***Parkland REACH Pantries***
Nicole McGalla, Michelle Minotti, Matt Carlson, Brian Barone, Jude Sandt, Ali Thompson, Amy Boltz, Lori Peters, Casey Troutman, Jaleen Mendez, Superintendent’s Office, Administration Building
Parkland REACH provides snack packs and meal distribution for Parkland students experiencing food insecurity along with access to the food pantries. Back to school items (including a full-size backpack with supplies), personal hygiene items, birthday bags, and full-size food staples are also available for those students in need. Students and families will also receive winter and spring food boxes which will allow them to make numerous meals at home during longer breaks. - \$6,000.00
- ***Transportation Safety Awards Ceremony,***
Andrew Hargrove, Transportation
The Safety Awards Ceremony will honor the school bus and van drivers that have achieved a year of driving without any accidents or violations. The PSD fleet of buses and vans drive over 1.7 million miles

per school year, include over 160 drivers, and transport over 10,000 students each day. These drivers keep the students safe throughout the entire year. - \$1,500.00

- ***Anchored in Support***

- ***Jaleen Mendez, Education & Operations Center, Student Services***

- This is a two-part resource event for Parkland families experiencing homelessness. Students will gain access to essential resources that promote stability, well-being, and academic success. In August students will receive essential back-to-school items, clothing, and hygiene products. The second event in October will focus on winter needs, providing coats, hats, gloves, heating support resources. Families will have the opportunity to connect with staff to address housing, transportation, and school related needs. -\$1,500.00

- ***Heroes for the Holidays***

- ***Jaleen Mendez, Education & Operations Center, Student Services***

- Every year the Parkland School District and the Parkland Education Foundation partner with our local police forces to provide a holiday shopping experience for three deserving students from each school building to purchase holiday gifts for their families. This project fosters community engagement and provides direct interaction with our local police officers. - \$1,500.00

- ***Parent University (Family Communication Outreach & Support)***

- ***Michelle Minotti, Administration Building, Superintendent's Office***

- Parent University will allow parents to find a way to connect to their students so that they can communicate productively. Workshops/ seminars will discuss topics such as social media/ internet safety, nutrition & mental health, and technology literacy. This will facilitate a stronger home-school connection and partnership around student support. - \$1,500.00

- ***Leadership Learning Lab***

- ***Michelle Minotti & Pam Kelly, Administration Building, Superintendent's Office***

- This initiative is designed to focus on developing self, team, and organization leadership skills of Administrators. Participants will take part in monthly interactive sessions, offering a variety of engaging activities to support different learning styles. This will include book studies, journaling, self-reflection exercises, and practicing real-world leadership skills. \$-1,500.00

- ***Multi-cultural Awareness Committee Annual Lunch Reception***

- ***Nicole McGalla, Administration Building, Community Relations***

- Local faith and culture leaders will be invited to a luncheon. Bringing leaders together will help our administrators put faces with names and build relationships. These sessions help normalize cultural differences and assist our staff in responding to student needs, as well as emotionally connect with students of all backgrounds. - \$750.00

- ***String Jam 2026***

- ***Brian Mishler, Ashleigh Budlong, Cody Brown, Cheyenne Baisch, Laura Hallett, Lisa Stahl, Laura Stratton, James Tully, Orchestra, Grades 4-12***

- String Jam is an initiative that aims to grow the strings program, bringing all string students of the district together. Every 3 years, a professional guest artist has been invited to further inspire students. Activities

for the day will include workshops and performances for the students, concluding with a combined concert for all performers. - \$7,200.00

- ***Superintendent Student Leadership Council***
Mark Madson & Nicole McGalla, Administration Building, Community Relations
Student leaders in 8-12th grade meet monthly over breakfast or lunch with Mark Madson and other community leaders to brainstorm ways to make improvements to their schools. Students are also asked to weigh in on projects, academics and building plans for the schools. This opportunity allows students to develop leadership & communication skills outside of the classroom setting. - \$1,500.00

Elementary Schools: \$63,560.49

- ***Jaindl Veterans Day Program 2025***
Karen Brokate, Jaindl Elementary, Grade 3
Veterans and currently serving men and women in the armed forces of Jaindl staff and families are invited to a program where students present songs, poems, and photos on or near Veterans Day. Students make cards and letters to send to any veterans or currently serving members that cannot attend and mail them. Students learn the importance of respecting and thanking those who have served in our armed forces. - \$373.79
- ***Lettuce Grow Refills***
Casey Brosious, Schnecksville Elementary, Grade 5
This grant provides a year's worth of seasonal fresh vegetables to grow in the classroom. Students will directly engage with the process of growing plants, which helps reinforce concepts learned in biology, science, and environmental studies. - \$199.00
- ***March Mathness***
Erin O'Neill, Schnecksville Elementary, Grade 5
This grant provides funds for a March Madness-style challenge using the 24 Game for 5th graders. Students will practice critical thinking, teamwork, time management, and math fluency. This is an exciting and competitive way to engage students in math while having fun!. - \$1,962.40
- ***Elementary Music Instruments***
Renee Mosser, Arts, Grades K-5
Music education plays a crucial role in the development of elementary students, fostering creativity, discipline, and collaboration. However, many students face barriers to participation due to the size and cost of musical instruments. This grant provides musical instruments for students who cannot afford rentals or face challenges transporting larger instruments on buses. - \$10,383.84
- ***Rekenreks for 2nd Grade Students***
Joan Krem, Kratzer Elementary, Data & Instruction, Grade 2
Rekenreks are math manipulatives that enable students to concretely understand addition and subtraction problems. The Rekenreks will be dispersed to each second grade classroom, strengthening understanding of math problems. - \$370.95

- ***Outrageous Art Experiences***
Ashley Zulli, Jaindl Elementary, Grades K-5
 Students will be able to participate in various non-traditional art lessons. These engaging, interactive, outside-the-box art lessons will provide opportunities that extend beyond traditional art mediums. This will include creating digital art forms, glowing artworks, cyanotype prints, shadow art, and Japanese gyotaku art. - \$2,231.24

- ***Therapy Sound Machines***
Brianna Dirnbeck, Anastasia Caltabiano, Michelle Strohl, Schnecksville Elementary, Counseling, Grades K-5
 Students will be provided a space to share information within Counseling offices that has diminished outside noises. Sound machines will help provide a calm, relaxing space for students- \$190.64

- ***Fact Fluency and Number Sense Manipulatives***
Angela Little, Parkway Manor Elementary, Grades K-5
 Rekenreks and other fact fluency manipulatives are ideal for building number sense. They provide students with concrete, physical objects to help develop and deepen their understanding of numbers. Students build a strong number sense, with visual/tactile math manipulatives, learning about the relationships among numbers, fact fluency and the four operations along the way. - \$1,294.35

- ***MApril Math Madness 2026***
Traci Falco, Fogelsville Elementary, Grades 4-5
 MApril Math Madness is a student-created educational tournament that helps 4th and 5th graders hone their math skills in preparation for PSSAs. The MMM leadership team gets experience in project planning in the departments of operations, marketing, sponsorship, technology, and data interpretation. All students receive additional instruction and preparation in grade-level math standards. This is a 5-week tournament that is student-developed and run, with a culminating awards assembly. - \$1,000.00

- ***Studenttreasure***
Lauren Siegfried, Kratzer Elementary, Grade 1
 Students will write and illustrate their own books, which will be published through Studenttreasures. This project will strengthen literacy skills, creativity, and confidence as young authors while providing a meaningful keepsake for students and families. This project will foster a love of writing by giving students a real-world purpose for their work. - \$557.10

- ***Cetronia Book Vending Machine***
Jessica Bean, Cetronia Elementary, Reading Specialist Grade K-5
 A wide array of books will be purchased to stock Cetronia's book vending machine. Students will earn tokens for meeting individualized goals & academic achievements, which they can redeem for books, serving as a reward & incentive. This grant increases access to books for all children at Cetronia Elementary and allows students to add to their home library. - \$1,475.40

- ***Lehigh Valley Zoo Field Trip***
Calin Bodnar, Jaindl Elementary, Grade 4
 Fourth Grade students at Jaindl will go to the Lehigh Valley Zoo to visit the Conservation Exploration Program (CEP). This program is designed to give students an educational presentation featuring the Zoo's

ambassador animals. The experience will include a lesson on Habitats and Adaptations, an Ambassador Animal presentation and a correlating activity. - \$1,000.00

- ***Music is for Everyone: Materials for Adapted Music Class***
Lauren Kostovick, Jaindl Elementary, Vocal Music, Grades K-5
This project funds curriculum and materials for the two Adapted Music classes at Jaindl. These classes are for the 1st-5th grade students in the MDS-B classrooms (Multiple disabilities and behaviors). Students in these classes will benefit from the use of movement props and sensory friendly instruments to make music more accessible for them. These materials will provide a more inclusive way to reach all learners at Jaindl, regardless of ability.- \$952.30
- ***Area & Perimeter with Picasso Cubes***
Traci Falco, Steph Forest, Liz Piazza, Jay Hamilton, Fogelsville Elementary, Grades 4-5
A large part of 4th and 5th grade math curriculum focuses on area, perimeter, and volume. Some students struggle visualizing 3D images on flat sheets of paper. Picasso cubes will help bring these models to life, allowing students to solve geometrical problems. - \$742.00
- ***Parkland Reads Together***
Adrienne Kashner, Education & Operations Center, Grades K-5
This is a district-wide book distribution to all elementary students during Read Across America Week. It will assist in developing a love of reading, strengthening connections and family engagement. This district-wide read hits many curriculum standards, building comprehension through story elements, inference, and drawing conclusions. - \$14,400.00
- ***Makerspace Day***
Karen Dopera, Veterans Elementary, Grades K-5
A special day is created where students rotate through different Makerspace stations and listen to guest speakers. Students spend the day participating in hands-on, collaborative, creative projects that expand and apply learning into real life projects. - \$600.00
- ***Sweet Reading Adventure***
Cheryl Palansky, Sara Bartos, Lisa Lehman, Kristin Patselas, Karen Brokate, Monique Gambino, Allison Walker, Emily Feichtel, Jaindl Elementary, Grades 2-3
Second and third graders (8 classrooms) will spend the month of March reading a shared book while engaging in collaborative activities. This experience will culminate in a contest where cross grade level teams will work collaboratively to create a new flavor of candy bar. - \$1,144.11
- ***Fact Fluency and Number Sense Manipulatives***
Courtney Lee, Cetronia Elementary, Grades K-5
Rekenreks and other fact fluency manipulatives are ideal for building number sense. They provide students with concrete, physical objects to help develop and deepen their understanding of numbers. Students build a strong number sense, with visual/tactile math manipulatives, learning about the relationships among numbers, fact fluency and the four operations along the way. - \$1,024.42
- ***Snap Circuits for the Future Engineers***
Matthew DeFazio, Ironton Elementary, Media Specialist, Grades K-5

Snap Circuits provide an engaging, tactile way for students to explore electronics and circuitry. This aligns with the goal of promoting STEM education through practical experiences. Snap Circuits offer students endless possibilities for creativity and learning, having the ability to create over 750 projects. - \$1,125.00

- ***Tac Tile Code Readers for Early Coders***

Matthew DeFazio, All Elementary Schools, Grades K-5

Tac Tile Code Readers will be distributed to each 9 elementary school media centers. They will help introduce coding at an elementary level, preparing students for future technological challenges. The Tac Tile system's intuitive design makes it an ideal tool for introducing young learners to the basics of programming in a fun, engaging way. - \$1,259.59

- ***Volume of Reading Texts***

Kelly Rosario, Education & Operations Center, OTL/Media Centers, Grades K-5

The Volume of Reading list is a suggested list of book titles for each of the 4 ELA modules per grade level (K-5), that complement the core texts used in class. This project would allow each elementary media center to purchase book titles aligned to instructional units in ELA so students and teachers can check them out to read and build knowledge. - \$9,000.00

- ***Individual student hydroponics project***

Mara Hein, Kratzer, Kindergarten

Each Kindergarten student will make an individual hydroponic system. Students will learn about the life cycles of food grown with their individual hydroponics systems. This will extend the STEM curriculum by teaching about sustainable resource use. Students will learn how to care for their system so the food will successfully grow. Students will have the opportunity to eat the food they grow themselves. - \$178.58

- ***Indoor Recess Activities for K-5 Classrooms***

Leigh Ann Gruen & Karen Dopera, Veterans, Grades K-5

This grant request is for a selection of indoor recess games and activities for each of the K-5 classrooms at Veterans Memorial Elementary. Accounting for 15-20% of daily recess, indoor recess occurs within classrooms under adult supervision. In addition to giving our students the opportunity to play with their peers in a constructive way during indoor recess, the activities can also be used as a class reward as part of our school-wide positive behavior plan system (SWPBS). - \$3,167.73

- ***Social Skill Added Speech/Language Benefit***

Lisa Barrow, Kratzer, Grades K-5

All students benefit from social skills training. These tools will not only provide a fun outlet at the end of sessions for students, but they will be learning an invaluable lesson of working together, sharing, turn-taking, and responding appropriately. - \$319.38

- ***Uke Can Practice at Home Now!***

Jill Kemmerer, All Elementary Schools, Vocal Music, Grades K-5

Teaching ukuleles is part of the 4th grade curriculum and many teachers use them again in 5th grade performances. The existing inventory did not allow for students to borrow for home practice. Five ukuleles per elementary school will be purchased, in addition to cases and tuners. Students will have an opportunity to sign out a ukulele for home practice, which they will be allowed to keep for one 4 day cycle. - \$5,246.00

- ***Diwali book for Elementary Libraries***

Nicole McGalla & Kelly Rosario, Administration Building, Grades K-5

Diwali books will be gifted to the elementary media specialists as part of the book set that currently resides in each elementary library entitled "Understanding our Neighbors." A lesson plan guide will accompany the book, drafted by Muhlenberg College's Institute for Religious and Cultural Understanding. - \$150.00

- **Math Stackers**

Carrie Weaknecht, Jaindl Elementary, DIS/Math Coach, Grades K-5

Math Stackers is a learning system consisting of a set of foam blocks and magnets. They have been purposefully designed to maximize kids' discovery and interaction with math through stacking, comparing, questioning and proving their own ideas and theories. Elementary students at any skill level are able to get their hands-on math, to pick up the values and test out their solutions by physically building and manipulating equations. - \$529.00

- **Accessibility for All**

Lauren Boyer & Rebecca Keck, Fogelsville, Learning Support, Grades K-5

This grant provides different types of headphones which will benefit our unique learners' needs as they access grade-level materials through the implementation of the district's new reading curriculum. These headphones will help provide optimal learning environments for our unique learners, who may require read-aloud support via a screen reader or an audio book or file, an environment with reduced background noise, or a variety of both these needs. - \$165.95

- **Play it Loud**

Annelies Dougherty, Kernsville, General Music, Grades K-5

"Play It Loud" empowers students not only to listen to music but to make it—together, joyfully, and with purpose. The heart of the project is twofold: acquiring a set of high-quality Orff instruments and using them alongside instructional resources that feature age-appropriate pop music arrangements. These resources offer ready-to-use lessons that turn familiar songs into powerful tools for teaching rhythm, melody, harmony, and ensemble skills. - \$2,220.00

- **Engaged Learning Environment**

Emily Feichtel, Jaindl Elementary, Grade 2

An equitable classroom supports all students to ensure they are learning to their fullest potential, regardless of their abilities or needs. This grant allows for more small breakout areas. Different seating options can fit into the curriculum standards by fostering a more student-centered and inclusive learning environment. - \$297.72

Middle Schools: \$106,728.10

- **Take A Stand Anti-Bullying Event**

Amanda Abdelaal & Take a Stand Committee, SMS, Grades 6-8

This program is used to educate students about bullying and to promote positive behaviors. This is a yearlong, building-wide program that begins with a bullying prevention kick-off at the beginning of the school year and then continues with training, activities, and positive behavior incentives. - \$1,500.00

- **Academic Recognition Awards for Outstanding World Language Students**

Carlos Montes & Lisa Yonosh, OMS & SMS, World Languages, Grades 7-8

The World Language Department at Orefield Middle School and Springhouse Middle School received funding to purchase academic awards to recognize the Outstanding World Language Students (OWLS).

These awards will be used to honor eighth-grade students who have demonstrated excellence in their language studies throughout the school year and at the end of the year 8th Grade Awards Ceremonies at both middle schools. The requested funds will cover the cost of medals, pins, and medal cases, for three consecutive years. - \$1,738.98

- ***STEAM 2 Summer Academy***

- ***Sam Edwards, SMS & OMS, Middle School STEAM***

- The STEAM2 Academies increase exposure and awareness of STEAM2 pathways and careers in all content areas. This is a week-long hands-on summer camp for middle school & elementary school students that supports higher order thinking through inquiry-based learning. - \$7,000

- ***Operation Encouragement***

- ***Kerri Griffin, SMS, Grades 6-8***

- Many Parkland students face challenges such as food and housing insecurity, trauma, and other socio-economic hardships that affect their well-being. During 36 art classes, students who are struggling but have a passion for drawing and creativity are identified and encouraged to use art as a mindful, therapeutic practice to de-stress, refocus, and build resilience. With support from a Foundation Grant, over 116 students and their families have already been positively impacted. The goal is to continue supporting future students by providing quality sketchbooks and art supplies to help them sustain this meaningful and restorative practice. - \$1,216.80

- ***DaVinci Science Center STEAMM Career Exploration Days***

- ***8th Grade Science Teachers, SMS & OMS, Science, Grade 8***

- The Da Vinci Science Center's Career Exploration Days allow students to take an up-close look at STEAMM careers and speak with STEAMM professionals. The students will also have access to their exhibits, hands-on workshops, and live science shows. This experience will help our 8th Grade Science students be active participants in the learning process and give them insights into potential science courses. - \$19,734.00

- ***Lehigh Valley Zoo Animal Kingdom***

- ***8th Grade Science Teachers, OMS & SMS, Grade 7***

- Students will spend a day at the Lehigh Valley Zoo participating in creek studies, animal kingdom presentations, and a guided tour that is aligned with the PDE Science Standards. Students will collect and identify species in the creek, experience up-close encounters with animals and learn about their adaptations and the differences between species. - \$6,000.00

- ***7th Grade Science Fishing Unit***

- ***7th Grade Science Teachers, OMS, Grade 7***

- At the end of the 7th grade school year, students will spend time in the Environmental Lab. They will be able to investigate many of the topics learned in Life Sciences with hands-on experiences, including: fishing, measuring and gathering data on individual organisms, exploring the lab for biodiversity, working on assignments related to food chains/webs, taxonomy, and data analysis. New and improved equipment will be purchased to enrich the learning experience for all students and strengthen their connections to the course content. - \$1,450.00

- **Orefield Middle School Take a Stand Band Concert**
Brian Fulmer, Matt Carlson, Pete Zimmer, Sean Stackhouse, Jenn Lundberg, OMS, Grades 6-8
 Each year OMS puts on a concert featuring the “Take a Stand Band” for the students as part of their anti-bullying program. They plan to do two performances this year. It is a fun event for both the students and staff. - \$1,868.95
- **MTSS Continued Success (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)**
8th Grade Team Teachers, OMS, Grade 8
 During 2024-2025, OMS students excelled in the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework for instruction and remediation, which was a new math curriculum. Incentives, funded by the Parkland Education Foundation, drove their success. Funding will be provided to replenish supplies and provide another reward field trip. - \$1,111.00
- **OMS Live, TV Studio**
Brian Iobst & Brian Fulmer, OMS, Grades 6-8
 New microphones will be purchased for OMS Live, Orefield’s morning show. This will allow students to sync all 4 microphones to one source, make video editing much more efficient, and provide more professional sound. Allowing students to be able to produce more interviews and original content. - \$249.99
- **Pizzuto Mart**
Peter Pizzuto, SMS, Learning Support, Grade 7
 Pizzuto Mart is a classroom-based incentive opportunity for students to use sensory items as they are accessing the grade level and Math 180 Curriculum. Students will be able to earn PizzutoBucks, which can be utilized to purchase snacks/drinks, as well as fidget items. They can cash in their money twice per week. PizzutoBucks can be earned through academic effort, performance, and good citizenship. - \$1,120.78
- **6th Grade ARP Incentive Program**
Candice Ottaviani, Casey DeCeia, Amy Boltz, Steph Fulmer, Robin Roberts, OMS, Grade 6
 An incentive program will be created in order to encourage more participation and engagement in independent, on level, reading. As students read books and pass ARP tests, they will earn lottery tickets. In addition, there will be monthly reading challenges. Each marking period will facilitate a different incentive to celebrate reading. - \$365.00
- **SMS Podcast- Timberwolf Talk**
Jude Sandt, Amanda Abdelaal, Sarah Brandt, SMS, Grades 6-8
 The SMS administrative team has started a podcast to showcase our student's achievements, teachers, and bring more information to the SMS community. Equipment will be purchased to produce the podcast every other week. Students will be celebrated and highlighted, along with the work done at SMS. - \$1,465.75
- **Environmental Print**
Kathryn Morgans, OMS, MDS-B, Grades 6-8
 This grant provides funding to implement the Environmental Print curriculum, enhancing literacy for students with cognitive disabilities. Using signs and symbols in storylines, it builds functional reading

skills, promotes independence, and aligns with standards-based learning. Funds will cover materials, training, and resources, fostering student growth and community integration.- \$1,452.83

- ***Crystal Cave Field Trip***

Dina Dewald, SMS, Grade 6

Field trips are a great way to make learning hands on. In science, SMS students learn about rocks and minerals. This grant will provide a trip to Crystal Cave where students will tour the cave, go panning for gems, and will learn about cave formations. - \$7,101.00

- ***Robotics***

Angelic Schneider, SMS, Gifted, 6th Grade

VEX robots are used to teach STEM subjects through hands-on activities. The V5 Classroom Super Kit engages students by bringing math, engineering, and computer science classes to life. Through hands-on building and programming, students can explore these subjects while moving at their own pace through our STEM Labs, or the hardware can be easily integrated into existing curriculum. -\$1,624.99

- ***Environmental Conservation Field Trip***

Christie Schlaner, Brian Holtzhafer, Jason Klinger, OMS, Science, Grade 8

Students will travel to Covered Bridge Park/Wehr's Dam and rotate through Environmental Awareness/Conservation Stations during the day, creating an awareness of environmental factors that impact our local area. They will analyze and determine the health of stream ecosystems by collecting macroinvertebrates and performing chemical tests. The stream study will include stream velocity, sediment deposition, and the effects of the dam. Students will be able to identify species of animals and plants in Pennsylvania, while learning from local experts. - \$3,000.00

- ***Da Vinci Center Career Connection STEAM Club Field Trip***

Christie Schlaner, OMS, Science, Grade 6-8

Students in the OMS STEAM Club will attend a DaVinci Center Career Connection Day. The STEAM Club promotes hands-on engagement, teamwork, and problem solving skills. During the DaVinci Center STEM Connection Days, students will meet and talk to STEAM professionals in a relaxed, informal setting. They will discover pathways to developing STEAM skills and experiences outside of school. They will participate in a hands-on workshop relating to the day's career theme. This entire experience will help prepare students for the OMS STEAM Expo.- \$1,889.00

- ***Dice & Democracy***

Kevin Hallman, SMS, Civics, Grade 8

This grant will bring a new level of excitement to Civics class by introducing a *Dungeons & Dragons*-inspired activity. Students will dive into the curriculum through a game-based format that complements regular lessons. By taking on different roles and challenges—like campaigning for office or guiding a bill through the legislative process—they'll experience the workings of democracy firsthand in a fun, interactive way. - \$185.86

- ***Crystal Cave Field Trip***

Tiffany Houser, OMS, Science, Grade 6

A field trip to Crystal Cave with 6th-grade middle schoolers offers an exciting experience of adventure, geology, and local history. Students will go on a guided tour through the underground caverns, connecting our learning in the classroom by observing intricate rock formations, stalactites, and stalagmites while learning about the cave's formation and ecosystem. -\$5,376.00

- **Media Design Competition**
Brian Lobst & Darren Dravuschak, OMS, Technology Education, Grade 6-8
 Each year, OMS participates in the Media Design Competition hosted by IU21. Students who win first place at the local level advance to the state competition, where they compete against schools from across Pennsylvania. As more students take part in the competition, the need for additional 3D printer filament continues to grow in order to support their projects. This grant provides funding for more supplies, which will allow students to perfect their 3D objects. -\$402.95

- **Operation Scroll Saw**
Darren Dravuschak, OMS, Grade 6-8
 With support from this grant, Orefield Middle School will add scroll saws to its Technology Education lab. The newly acquired scroll saws will allow for the successful implementation of several curriculum-aligned projects, including the creation of animal banks with sixth-grade students and a variety of design and construction projects for seventh grade. These activities strengthened students' understanding of safe machine operation, independent problem-solving, and applied technical skills—key components of the Technology Education curriculum. -\$1,201.28

- **Kindness Kickoff**
Ashley Metzger, OMS, ELA, Grade 8
 As an extension to our Anti-Bullying committee, OMS has created the Kindness Committee. Each year an entire day is planned out for the students, filled with activities covering a variety of topics such as: inclusion, empathy, self-control, positive relationships, and camaraderie. Students will receive a souvenir Parkland keychain. -\$1,500.00

- **Makerspace & STEAM Materials**
Amanda Abdelaal, Sarah Brandt, Jude Sandt, SMS, Grade 6-8
 The makerspace at SMS allows students to create projects, explore and prepare for STEAM Expo, Take a Stand, Gifted education, 6th grade Meet & Greet, and New Student Orientation. The materials from this grant will help to aid students in projects and activities throughout the year. As students engage in the space and prepare to present, display, or use materials to support other students, it will allow their imaginations and voice/ choice to lead their learning. -\$3,519.00

- **Composer Project**
Cody Brown & Pete Zimmer, OMS, Music, Grades 6-8
 Orefield Middle School's Band, previously premiered original works by renowned composers in 2018 and 2022, giving students a rare opportunity to collaborate creatively and grow as musicians. Building on that success, the school will commission a new piece from composer Anthony Granata for a joint Band and Orchestra performance in spring 2026. This project will strengthen student creativity, pride, and collaboration while enriching the community with a world premiere and reinforcing Parkland's dedication to arts education and cultural growth. -\$1,500.00

- **Civic Theater- A Christmas Carol**
Jill Berrigan & Robin Roberts, OMS, ELA, Grade 7
 Students are provided with the opportunity to view a live production of A Christmas Carol, performed at The Civic Theater. For many, this is the first time viewing a drama on stage. Before attending the play students read and analyze the story in ELA class. The 7th-grade curriculum dives into drama including stage directions, character development, and reading the play. -\$3,500.00

- **Sphero in the Math Classroom**
Alyssa Sobchak, SMS, Math, Grade 8

Sphero robots will be purchased and incorporated into teaching critical math concepts to aid student understanding and engagement. These robots are interactive and offer a dynamic alternative to teaching the standard curriculum. Sphero robots can be used to explore geometric concepts, model linear equations, functions, rate of change, and they can also be used to analyze data. -\$995.00

- **Latin American Music Masterclass**

Cody Brown, OMS, Music, Grades 6-8

The Dali Quartet's masterclass will provide our middle school orchestra students with an opportunity to refine their ensemble skills and engage with professional artists. The program emphasizes collaboration, technique, artistry, and diverse Latin American musical perspectives, culminating in a performance with the quartet. -\$1,500.00

- **Orefield Middle School PALS startup**

Lisa Mendoza & Brooke Bonavita, OMS, Special Education, 6th- 8th Grade

This grant provides funding to start an OMS PALS Club. PALS is an organization that has been at Parkland for many years. The goal of this club is to integrate MDSB and functional Learning Support students with their general education peers. This will provide all students with communication skills, peer to peer interaction, and appropriate socialization skills. -\$700.00

- **Innovation Design Lab**

Samanth Edwards, SMS & OMS, Innovation Lab, Grade 7

The Innovation Design LAB is an exciting, hands-on course for 7th graders at SMS and OMS, designed to ignite students' creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This course will prepare students for the future by fostering essential skills in creativity, innovation, and collaboration—skills that are crucial in our ever-evolving world. By using tools like LEGO Education, and robotics kits, students will explore the principles of engineering, design, digital storytelling, and technology while bringing their ideas to life in tangible ways. -\$26,458.94

High School: \$63,452.84

- **Girls Flag Football Start Up**

Andy Stephens, PHS, Athletics, Grades 9-12

This grant provides funding to launch a girls' flag football program at the club level. Equipment necessary for this initiative will be purchased, including flags, mouthguards, jerseys/uniforms, and footballs—ensuring our players have the proper resources to begin training and competition. This funding will assist in building momentum for the program until girls' flag football becomes an officially budgeted sport within our athletic department. -\$3,000.00

- **Community Based Instruction for Life Skills Classroom**

Kora Murphy, PHS, Special Education, Grades 9-12

As part of the life skills curriculum, students attend community-based instruction trips once a month. Trips are planned based on current reading and math units. The goal of these trips is to incorporate all learning into a real-life functional learning experience. Teaching life skills helps our students learn and grow to be as independent as possible. -\$700.00

- **PLTW Principles of Engineering and Aerospace VEX Upgrade**

David Wacker & Bruce Lubak, PHS, Engineering, 9th-12th Grades

Two courses offered through the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum—*Principles of Engineering* and *Aerospace Engineering*—utilize VEX Robotics kits. However, the existing equipment has become outdated. To enhance and modernize the PLTW programs, the district will purchase six new VEX upgrade kits. The older kits will be repurposed and used in other elective classes. -\$9,204.00

- ***Chorale Camp 2025***

Alison Lagan, PHS, Music, Choirs Grades 9-12

Chorale Camp is an annual event for high school singers in the Chorale ensemble, which is an auditioned mixed choir, made up of students in grades 10-12. This grant will allow for PHS to host guest clinicians to work with the students, providing them with an alternative teaching style from established master teachers in the field of chorale music. - \$1,350.00

- ***Annual Career Fair***

Allison McPeek, PHS, Guidance Department, Grades 11-12

The annual job fair is an opportunity for students in grades 11 and 12 to connect with local companies and organizations about job and career related opportunities. Students will gain experience creating a resume, completing job applications, and practicing their interviewing skills. - \$800.00

- ***Digital Microscope for Touchpanel***

Laura Kowalski, PHS, BioMed Science Dept, Grades 9-12

Students in the Biomedical Science program often struggle to identify specific structures under traditional microscopes due to lack of pointers and difficulty centering slides. Teachers also face challenges showing and explaining multiple areas of a specimen. Using a digital microscope connected to the TouchPanel screen and tablet will allow teachers to project live images, provide real-time guidance in small groups, and enhance student understanding without interfering with the main teacher computer. - \$1,323.00

- ***“Baby Think It Over” Infant Simulators***

Kate Romanie, PHS, Grades 9-12

The RealCare Baby is an infant simulator that is programmed to behave like a newborn requiring around the clock care. It is currently a requirement for the Parenting course at PHS. All students enrolled in the course must take home the infant simulator for a 4 night/5-day period. The simulator is then programmed and will cry according to a pre-selected 24 hour schedule. Participation in the RealCare baby program allows our students to experience the rewards as well as the challenges of parenthood without the commitment of becoming a parent at such a young age. This grant will purchase 2 new infant simulators to replace old/non-working "babies". -\$2,321.44

- ***Post Prom Party***

Maggie Drake, PHS, Administration, 11th-12th Grades

The post prom party provides a safe environment for students to enjoy each other’s company in a responsible manner after their senior prom. The party is held immediately after prom to early the next morning to promote safe celebrations for the students. The party will feature a glow party, photo booth, mini golf, and more. - \$7,000.00

- ***School Spirit***

Lauren Will, PHS, Instructional Tech, Grades 9-12

Students on the Superintendent’s Student Leadership Committee developed a schedule of events to

promote school spirit at PHS. This was the number one problem they felt needed to be addressed at the high school. Ideas include pep rallies, open visitation for incoming students in August, welcome back signs, dress up competitions, senior send off, etc. Money would be used for promotion, cost of events, and prizes for certain events. - \$1,000.00

- ***Schoolwide Earth Day Celebration***

Carol Dickerson, PHS, Science, Grades 9-12

The goal of this grant is to help students gain an understanding of the importance of the Earth and develop lifelong habits that draw on the information they acquire at this Earth Day event. Students that are enrolled in high school botany classes will propose projects that will be showcased during Earth Day. This grant will fund these projects. All students will be invited to view the projects on display through study halls, classes, and after school. - \$1,500.00

- ***Preschool Activities to Go***

Meghan Smith, PHS, Family Consumer Science, Grades 9-12

“Preschool Activities To Go” will provide bags with several activities for nursery school children to work on during their 4 day weekends. The nursery school runs Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, which leaves four days for learning at home. These “To Go” bags would provide these students with activities such as crafts, puzzles, games, books, and other hands-on experiences to extend their learning beyond the classroom. - \$1,489.84

- ***Library Lunch and Learn***

Carol Dickerson, PHS, Grades 9-12

Students can sign up to come to the library during lunchtime on Fridays. They can have their lunch while working on various projects. Students can take a break from the crowded lunch room, meet new people, reduce the use of technology, and learn skills such as crochet, beading, and various easy crafts. - \$663.64

- ***Basketball Automatic Shooting Machines***

Edward Ohlson, Sr. & Edward Ohlson, Jr. PHS, Athletics, Grades 9-12

The high school basketball program currently shares a single shooting machine, the Shoot-Away “Gun” Model 6K, between the boys’ and girls’ teams. While heavily utilized, the machine is outdated, and recent advancements in shooting technology over the past five years offer significant improvements. This grant will provide funding to purchase a new, modernized shooting machine to support both teams—each with 20+ players per practice. This will enhance individual shooting proficiency and deliver detailed player-specific performance data through advanced tracking features. - \$7,880.00

- ***Library Games***

Carol Dickerson, PHS, Grades 9-12

Board games and puzzles will be purchased for after school use in the Library. This will promote socialization, community, and provide an alternative to technology. - \$454.08

- ***Guest Clinician for summer camp***

Brian Mishler, PHS, Orchestra, Grades 9-12

This program will allow students to get some individualized instruction from professionals outside of the school district who can help students focus on technique, tone production, and intonation. The students will directly benefit by working with esteemed clinicians from the area to improve their own skills. - \$1,440.00

- **Digital Cameras**
Christopher Barrett, Jr., PHS, Art, Grades 9-12
 Digital Photography continues to be utilized in the world of Photography. Students can take pictures with cellphones, but working with a camera allows for an experience that is more aligned with the traditional methods of capturing images. This will give students the ability to communicate ideas and concepts visually while allowing for an environment that promotes equity among digital devices. -\$4,299.00

- **Holiday Card Contest**
Mark Madson & Nicole McGalla, Administration Building, Superintendent's Office, Grades 9-12
 Every year, PHS art students and PHS Creative Writing students can design a holiday poem and artwork to build a digital holiday card from the Superintendent, which is sent to all staff. 5 poems and 5 artists are chosen to feature in the card. The card sends a message of merriment and encourages staff to enjoy the holidays and showcases the unique talents of our students. - \$250.00

- **Vex Storage**
Ronald Bealer, PHS, Technology Education Club, Grades 9-12
 This grant will provide lockable storage for Vex equipment. It will allow for safe dust-free storage of parts, assembled robots, and student projects. - \$1,757.23

- **Future Educator Lunch and Learn**
Pam Kelly & Nicole McGalla, Administration Building, Grades 9-12
 There is a teacher shortage on the horizon. This series invites PHS students who are interested in pursuing a career in education to sessions where we invite Parkland staff to speak about why they love working in education. The sessions serve to inspire students to go into the field of education. Students will meet with guest panelist speakers during their lunch period.- \$1,000.00

- **G Develop**
Brian Ding, PHS, Grades 9-12
 GDevelop is a browser based game engine that is designed to make 2D and 3D game creation accessible to everyone, including non-programmers. It is known for its intuitive, no-code approach to game development. Students will be able to quickly build and create games for the web, PC, or mobile devices using their Chromebooks. - \$824.70

- **VEX Pneumatics Kits**
Ronald Bealer, PHS, Grades 9-12
 VEX V5 pneumatic kits introduce students to real-world industrial automation and advanced engineering concepts by allowing them to design, build, and program systems that use compressed air to generate mechanical motion. They provide a practical understanding of fluid power, pressure, and linear actuation through hands-on work with components like solenoid valves and air cylinders. Crucially, these kits integrate mechanical design with computer science, requiring students to program the V5 Brain to control the solenoid valves, thereby teaching essential skills in system integration, troubleshooting, and optimization relevant to careers in manufacturing and engineering.- \$1,534.00

- **ESY End of Summer Luau**
Jennifer Evans & Danielle Crighton, PHS, Special Education-ESY, Grades 9-12

The ESY (Extended School Year) end of summer Luau is an event the teachers put together to celebrate a fantastic end of ESY. The students plan the food, attendees, party supplies, and decorations needed to put on this event. The students implement reading, writing, and math in the Luau. They work on writing and creating invitations to parents and teachers. The high school students implement their functional math skills, and we relate reading comprehension stories relating to planning, creating, and socialization skills needed for a party. - \$2,364.65

- ***VEX V5 Robotics Competition: Push Back/Game Pieces***

Ronald Bealer, PHS, Grades 9-12

Game pieces are central to the annual VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) theme, which changes every year. This system provides a new, consistent challenge that drives integrated STEM education across multiple disciplines such as engineering & design, physics & mechanics, and computer science.- \$746.26

- ***Blood Pressure Trainers***

Laura Kowalski, PHS, Biomedical Science, Grades 9-12

Students get hands-on experience with taking manual blood pressure readings and pulse rates on a simulated, yet realistic arm. Teaching stethoscopes are used to allow teachers to listen in at the same time as a student to help teach how to hear the karotkoff sounds and measure the systolic and diastolic blood pressure readings on the sphygmomanometer—skills medical professionals must be able to do accurately. The simulated arm connects to a tablet for students to record their values on after measuring the b/p and pulse rate, which then evaluates the measurements and provides timely results and feedback. Students can use this device repeatedly to help improve their skills through practice and training as they strive to achieve values within the target range for each measurement. - \$2,613.00

- ***Podcasters***

JR Renna, PHS, Grades 9-12

Podcasters let you create and stream professional quality videos anywhere. They use high-quality cameras on devices such as phones and iPads, and turn it into a mobile production suite. Podcasters allow you to mount these devices to tripods and attach lenses, lights, microphones and more. - \$7,938.00

*\$11,232.15 in funding will be allocated in Spring 2026