

Carmel Education Foundation

Fall 2025 Great Idea Grant Awards

Grantee	School	Project Title
Emily Barker	Woodbrook Elementary	Speech and Language Therapy Materials
<i>This project provides evidence-based speech and language therapy materials, including the Webber Articulation Photos Fun Deck and Expanding Expression Tool kit, to support students with communication challenges. Through engaging, hands-on activities in individual and small group settings, students will improve articulation, language, and social communication skills. The project promotes collaboration with teachers to reinforce learning in classrooms, helping students build confidence and achieve academic, social, and personal growth.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Josh Southard	Smoky Row Elementary	Books in Motion: Soundscapes by Students
Angie Towle	Smoky Row Elementary	Books in Motion: Soundscapes by Students
<i>Students will create original audiobooks by combining expressive narration with music and sound effects. Working with the media specialist, they'll select texts connected to classroom learning, record narrations, and compose soundtracks using Orff instruments, percussion, and voice. This project supports literacy, creativity, and collaboration. Final audiobooks will be added to the school library, allowing peers and families to enjoy student-enhanced stories and providing a lasting resource for the entire school community.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Anne Fellegly	Towne Meadow Elementary	Bunny Bunch (Social Skills Lessons with Bunnies)
Dani Lafferman	Towne Meadow Elementary	Bunny Bunch (Social Skills Lessons with Bunnies)
Rachel Broderick	Towne Meadow Elementary	Bunny Bunch (Social Skills Lessons with Bunnies)
<i>Bunny Bunch is a small, therapeutic group for elementary students needing extra support with social-emotional skills. Through structured, weekly sessions using games, art, stories, and discussions, students build empathy, communication, self-regulation, and confidence. Identified by teachers and the resource team, participants meet during non-instructional time. This nurturing environment fosters personal growth, resilience, and peer connection, supporting IEP goals and promoting a strong sense of belonging within the school community.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Sarah Awe	Carmel Middle School	Game on!
Jeff Chou	Carmel Middle School	Game on!
Guy Jewett	Carmel Middle School	Game on!
Courtney Julien	Carmel Middle School	Game on!
Kyle Todd	Carmel Middle School	Game on!
<i>Integrating strategy games into middle school classrooms boosts engagement, critical thinking, and problem-solving. These games encourage students to analyze, adapt, and reflect—skills useful across subjects and in life. They also support social-emotional learning through collaboration, communication, and resilience. Strategy games increase motivation by making learning interactive and fun, while reinforcing curriculum goals. By combining play with purpose, educators can create dynamic, student-centered environments that promote deeper learning and meaningful growth.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Tony Hansel	CLLC	Stories Without Barriers
Nicole Ludwig	CLLC	Stories Without Barriers
Laura Koss	CLLC	Stories Without Barriers

Stories Without Barriers aims to bring young adults together who share a love for reading and storytelling in the form of a book club. Stories Without Barriers not only builds upon literacy skills, it always continues growth in the areas of communication, making social connections, enhancing cognitive skills through critical thinking, creating independence, and inclusivity.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Heather Bouillet	Creekside Middle School	The Expansion Pack
Julie Knipdash	Creekside Middle School	The Expansion Pack

The Expansion Pack builds on last year's successful Job in the Box grant, which provided hands-on activities for life skills students to practice real-world job tasks. This year, we'll add new materials—like kitchen tools, office supplies, and restaurant resources—to expand learning opportunities. Each activity strengthens independence, builds confidence, and supports employability. The goal is to empower students with meaningful, practical experiences that prepare them for post-secondary life and future success.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Christa Coleman-Ng	Forest Dale Elementary	Hands On Learning Kits For Early Learners
Beth Larson	Forest Dale Elementary	Hands On Learning Kits For Early Learners
Liz Brown	Forest Dale Elementary	Hands On Learning Kits For Early Learners
Richard Liou	Forest Dale Elementary	Hands On Learning Kits For Early Learners

Hands-On Learning Activity Kits for Early Learners will provide 40 interactive kits for preschool students with special needs at Forest Dale Elementary. These kits, sent home with families, include instructions and target skills to support communication, turn-taking, and sharing. By reinforcing school-based instruction with hands-on practice at home, students will strengthen essential social and communication skills, leading to greater functional success across learning environments both in the classroom and beyond.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Terry Mitchell	Carmel High School	Resonant Innovation: Advanced Manufacturing of the Electric Ukulele

This project engages advanced manufacturing students in designing and building electric ukuleles, combining creativity, engineering, and precision fabrication. Students will use CAD, CNC machining, laser cutting, 3D printing, and electronics to create fully functional instruments. Funding will support essential consumables—wood, acrylic, filament, and electrical components—needed for prototyping and final builds. Through this hands-on experience, students will apply technical skills, iterate on designs, and produce a unique product that blends innovation with artistic expression.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Tracy Henry	Prairie Trace Elementary	Building WORLD and WORD Knowledge
Taylor Brune	Prairie Trace Elementary	Building WORLD and WORD Knowledge
Alyssa Swart	Prairie Trace Elementary	Building WORLD and WORD Knowledge
Lydia Henschel	Prairie Trace Elementary	Building WORLD and WORD Knowledge
Stevie Cupp	Prairie Trace Elementary	Building WORLD and WORD Knowledge

Let's build on our third graders' enthusiasm for Wit and Wisdom modules by introducing Level 3 Geodes books! These engaging texts align with current topics—The Sea, Space, A New Home, and Artists Make Art—while supporting Foundations skills like decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Geodes are ideal for diverse learners and flexible for small groups, one-on-one, or independent reading. Funding will provide these resources to deepen learning and boost reading growth for all students.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Claire Hawkins	Carmel Middle School	Printmaking Methods
Emily Ehrgott	Carmel Middle School	Printmaking Methods

The "Printmaking Methods" project aims to introduce students to diverse printmaking processes by acquiring essential equipment for our art program. Jelly printing plates will allow our students to explore relief and mono-print techniques, developing a deeper understanding of printmaking history and its contemporary applications. This project will directly benefit students by expanding their artistic skills and providing access to a medium they would otherwise not be able to experience.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Chloe Shadwick	West Clay Elementary	Realia-zing Our Potential
<i>This project seeks funding to acquire hands-on, real-world materials that align with our language arts curriculum, especially benefiting multilingual learners. These tactile resources will make abstract vocabulary and concepts tangible, enhancing comprehension and engagement. Used in small groups and shared with classrooms, realia will support inclusive, dynamic lessons that cater to diverse learning styles. Ultimately, this project aims to deepen understanding, boost communication skills, and prepare students to confidently navigate the world.</i>		