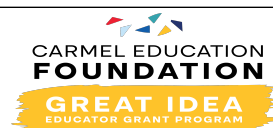


Carmel Education Foundation

Fall 2026 Great Idea Grant Awards



Grantee	School	Project Title
Beth Anderson	Carmel Elementary	Bringing Learning to Life
Victoria Hreno	Carmel Elementary	Bringing Learning to Life
Amy Adams	Carmel Elementary	Bringing Learning to Life

Bringing Learning to Life equips elementary classrooms with hands-on realia, tactile models, and interactive artifacts tailored to support every Wit and Wisdom curriculum module in grades K-5. Students will build stronger background knowledge, vocabulary, and reading comprehension when they have opportunities to touch, examine, and explore real-world items connected to the books they will be reading and learning about. By transforming abstract classroom topics into interactive, multi-sensory experiences, this initiative will ignite curiosity, boost engagement, and empower all elementary students to become confident, passionate readers.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Adam Havice	Carmel High School	Stop The Bleed Empowering Next-Generation Responders: Life-Saving Skills Initiative
Emily Good	Carmel High School	Stop The Bleed Empowering Next-Generation Responders: Life-Saving Skills Initiative
Caleb Hall	Carmel High School	Stop The Bleed Empowering Next-Generation Responders: Life-Saving Skills Initiative
Aaron Hahn	Carmel High School	Stop The Bleed Empowering Next-Generation Responders: Life-Saving Skills Initiative

Rather than simply learning what to do in an emergency, students have the opportunity to practice doing it. Students will learn to aid someone in cardiac arrest, a vehicle accident, athletic injury, workplace emergency, or other situation in which immediate action could make a significant difference before professional responders arrive. Through realistic, hands-on scenarios, students will build the knowledge, skills, teamwork, and confidence needed to respond when someone needs medical attention.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Chris Kleman	Carmel High School	Día de los Muertos Cultural Experience
Rebecca McBride	Carmel High School	Día de los Muertos Cultural Experience
Nicole Yanez	Carmel High School	Día de los Muertos Cultural Experience

This project allows students in Spanish classes to connect with a traditional Spanish holiday, that celebrates life through death in a unique way. Students are able to experience this cultural event and gain perspective in a way that is difficult to embrace through the use of regular classroom materials. Students also have the unique experience where they are interacting with the authentic experience in the target language.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Leah Stupeck	Carmel High School	From Classroom to Stage: Equitable Performance Through Dance
Chris Kreke	Carmel High School	From Classroom to Stage: Equitable Performance Through Dance

From Classroom to Stage: Equitable Performance Through Dance celebrates the continued growth of the Carmel High School Dance Program and its place within CHS's excellence in the Performing Arts. As the program grows, it will create meaningful opportunities for students to learn, create, collaborate, and experience the transformation of their classroom work into fully realized performances on stage.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Zac Bonewit	Carmel High School	Advancing Manufacturing Education Through AC TIG Welding
Terry Mitchell	Carmel High School	Advancing Manufacturing Education Through AC TIG Welding
Joshua Gish	Carmel High School	Advancing Manufacturing Education Through AC TIG Welding

This project adds the Lincoln Electric AC TIG welder to Carmel High School, to expand the capabilities of the manufacturing laboratory and create opportunities for students across multiple pathways to use an additional industry-standard process. Students will develop technical skills, problem-solving abilities, craftsmanship, and confidence while gaining exposure to equipment they may encounter in manufacturing, automotive, engineering, aerospace, and other technical careers.

Grantee	School	Project Title
Angela Miller	Carmel High School	Enrichment for Life: Building Skills Through Student Clubs
Jacqueline Gregg	Carmel High School	Enrichment for Life: Building Skills Through Student Clubs
Anika Zapata	Carmel High School	Enrichment for Life: Building Skills Through Student Clubs
Elijah Graham	Carmel High School	Enrichment for Life: Building Skills Through Student Clubs
<i>Enrichment for Life is a hands-on club program for 11th and 12th grade students receiving special education services. These students have a wide range of academic, communication, motor, and functional abilities, so these activities are accessible, age-appropriate, and meaningful. The types of clubs include; cooking, art, music, fitness, and STEM. The wide range of club activities provides students with many options, promoting individuality and inclusion.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Derek Moser	Carmel Middle School	Adaptive Basketball Hoop
Molly Collier	Carmel Middle School	Adaptive Basketball Hoop
<i>The adaptive basketball hoop promotes inclusion by helping students who would typically be unable to play due to physical restraints. These students will now be able to be fully engaged in the entire period and will be able to build strength, coordination, and social skills.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Angie Dalrymple	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Molly Collier	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Brock Schideler	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Tyler Davis	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Wylie Crisanti	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Stephanie Madl	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Kyle Todd	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Derek Moser	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
Hunter Owen	Carmel Middle School	Nine Square in the Air: Promoting Wellness, Movement, and Connection in Middle School Students
<i>Nine Square in the Air is a fast-paced, low-barrier activity that can be played by students with varying athletic abilities. The game requires players to move, react, communicate, and work together while participating in a fun and positive environment. Because the activity can be used indoors, it is particularly well suited for a middle school building and will be incorporated into physical education, team time periods, wellness activities, student clubs, and school-wide wellness events.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Anna Moody	Cherry Tree Elementary	Maypole Design and Dance!
Gabby Harker	Cherry Tree Elementary	Maypole Design and Dance!
<i>The Maypole Design and Dance offers a special and unique music and art project for students. Students get the chance to learn various dances that work to weave ribbons into a beautiful pattern using teamwork and determination. It is special for students of all grade levels to be part of something that will still be there 10, 20, 30+ years from today that represents their school and community values.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Gina Potter	Clay Middle School	Fishing for Success
<i>This project supports opportunities for success by providing a safe, restorative environment that boosts success and self-discipline. By teaching students how to channel their energy constructively and persevere through minor setbacks on the water, Fishing for Success gives these students the practical toolkit and confidence they need to overcome barriers, improve their academic trajectory, and thrive in middle school and beyond.</i>		

Grantee	School	Project Title
Cara Westerman	CLLC	Inclusion for Readers of All Abilities
Nicole Ludwig	CLLC	Inclusion for Readers of All Abilities
<i>The Next Chapter Book Club offers adults with disabilities lifelong learning and community inclusion through weekly reading groups for all skill levels. This project was created by members in the Carmel Transition Program to provide our students with a meaningful activity that can be continued upon leaving Carmel Schools. Inclusion for Readers of All Abilities provides more books to include readers of all levels.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Alison Wren	Forest Dale Elementary	The Word Architects: Building Morphology and Meaning
Lindsey Porter	Forest Dale Elementary	The Word Architects: Building Morphology and Meaning
Michele White	Forest Dale Elementary	The Word Architects: Building Morphology and Meaning
Allison Weinrich	Forest Dale Elementary	The Word Architects: Building Morphology and Meaning
<i>In 4th and 5th grade students are at a developmental stage, academic texts begin to present complex, multisyllabic vocabulary that will equip our learners for middle school. This project will help empower our students who struggle with reading fluently by teaching them to analyze words through language's four pillars: morphology, orthography, etymology, and syntax.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Katrina Wagner	Forest Dale Elementary	Light Table Exploration
<i>The Light Table Exploration is built to be easily accessible and by engaging multiple students at the same time, the light table helps students build social skills. This light table has the capability to help hundreds of students engage in academic learning, communication, and social skills over the years. Materials and toys that are made specifically for light table use are durable and versatile so they can be used throughout the classroom for many years.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Christa Coleman-Ng	Forest Dale Elementary	Totes for Literacy Success
Richard Liou	Forest Dale Elementary	Totes for Literacy Success
Beth Larson	Forest Dale Elementary	Totes for Literacy Success
Elizabeth Brown	Forest Dale Elementary	Totes for Literacy Success
<i>Totes for Literacy Success for Early Learners provides families, who have child(ren) with special needs, access to good quality age appropriate literature to enhance their child's vocabulary, increase their communicative exchanges, and increase their knowledge of the world around them. With these opportunities and growth, students will be more successful in the classroom today and in the future with improved literacy skills.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Holly VanTreese	Prairie Trace Elementary	Little Lenses, Big Discoveries
<i>This project brings easy-to-use, handheld microscopes into our STEM lab, giving students a hands-on way to explore the world around them. Built for smaller hands, these portable devices let kids instantly magnify everyday objects like leaves, soil, and fabric right at their desks or outside in nature. By removing technical hurdles, this grant gives students immediate access to scientific discovery, builds confidence, sparks natural curiosity, and lays the groundwork for a lifelong interest in science.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Megan Hahn	Smoky Row Elementary	Tappi Interactive Book System
<i>Tappi is an interactive story book kit that allows preschool aged children to integrate basic screen-free technology and early learning skills into daily literacy time. These tap-able board books allow children to explore book vocabulary, build comprehension and utilize fine motor skills while building independent literacy skills.</i>		
Grantee	School	Project Title
Brie Miller	Smoky Row Elementary	Physical Education is for Every BODY
<i>This grant provides wellness equipment for all students regardless of physical or developmental ability. With proper equipment students are better equipped to engage and meet state standards. This grant fosters inclusion between elementary students and will provide students with tools that encourage strength, balance, and confidence.</i>		