Career
Incentive
Committee

The following projects have been approved for Mini-Grant funding through the Career Incentive Committee:

2025-2026

Molly Watson Tessa Croll	LCD Writing Tablets - In support of early writing skills, the tablets will be used to help students practice letter and number formation in a developmentally appropriate and engaging format. They will reinforce phonics and word building, enhance math instruction with hands-on engagement, improve classroom efficiency and transitions, provide flexible use in multiple settings and overall provide a practical and effective way to support early learning goals while reducing prep time and increasing student engagement. *Funding for this project was doubled to ensure both elementary schools have access to this resource.*
Lauren Levasseur	TA-DA!'s Talking Picture Dictionary - An engaging finger-to-paper talking dictionary anticipated to be most useful in the Pre-K through 2nd grade classrooms. One dictionary will be assigned to each classroom as well as the Speech & Language, Special Education classrooms, and MTSS room. In addition, these books will be available to older students as needed, including students who are multilingual learners or those with language impairments. These dictionaries will be available for independent reading centers as a screen free resource for students to independently grow their vocabulary knowledge.
Alexandra Bowman Alyssa Karpuska	Tonies® - This project was a direct expansion of the 2023-2024 Tonies project within Lyme Consolidated School.

2024-2025

Keagan Crotty	Monthly Themed Books - Students will have access to a rotating selection of themed books allowing them to engage with relevant content that supports their learning in a more structured and fun

	way. These books align with the specific needs and interests of the students in Keagan's contained classroom. They will provide consistent, enriching material that will make learning more engaging, meaningful, and accessible for her students.
Alex Bowman Alyssa Karpuska	Expansion of STEM Education - While the CIC is unable to provide support in the expansion of current curriculum within Region 18 Schools, partial funding was offered to support the purchase of storage containers for current and future STEM education materials. This contribution aims to help improve the organization and accessibility of the STEM building materials at Mile Creek School.
Crystal Adanti Andrew Raucci	Screen Free Technology - Introducing students to a variety of critical skills such as coding, problem solving, team building and more. This project will utilize the Wonder Workshop Dash Robot Wonder Pack as well as the Evo Entry Kit: Interactive Coding Robot. During x-block at Lyme Consolidated, these items will become stations that are available to students on a rotational basis. Students will work in groups to learn how to use the various technology and share it with each other. *Funding for this project was doubled to ensure both elementary schools have access to these resources.*
Erin Kennedy	Zones of Regulations; Digital Curriculum (1 Yr Subscription) - In conjunction with Second Step Program, students will receive more targeted instruction in self-identifying feelings, energy levels, and levels of alertness, as well we tools to help get back to a state of focus for learning. Through multi-sensory activities, videos, and group games, students build their self-regulation skills by learning how to manage their own thoughts, feelings, and actions through self-awareness and tangible tools.

2023-2024

Crystal Adanti Molly Watson	Tonies® - In kindergarten, the Tonieboxes and assorted Tonies will be used as a listening center, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) station for self-regulation, and to record and listen to independent reading. In Grade 4, the primary focus will be on SEL, utilizing the mindfulness Tonies. Nonfiction selections will also be beneficial for some of the students struggling to read and help facilitate their ability to hear facts and use it to paraphrase as well as take notes.

Jennifer Pitman Olivia Bosson	3-D Art Marking: Magna Tiles - For the younger students, Magna Tiles will enable them to focus on 3D forms and geometric shapes to create stable structures. They will have the opportunity to work independently or can collaborate with peers, enhancing their social-emotional development. For the older students, the tiles will be used for both observational drawing and architectural design. Students may be asked to create a 3D model, then be challenged to interpret and represent their models in a 2D format. Alternatively, they may be architects and design and build their own structures. Both of these activities will promote critical thinking, observation, and artistic expression.
Rebecca Tate	Art Afternoons - This project will consist of three art activities: Pom pom critter creation; Rock Painting; Friendship Bracelet Making. There will be weekly discussions of the benefits of art activities (*i.e.* creativity and problem-solving skills, self-expression, fine motor development, memory, self-control, relaxation, and connection to peers). For each activity, students will be placed in random groups, be given a demonstration and list of project steps. Students will collaborate to complete each project. For each activity, a kindness opportunity will be highlighted. Students will complete an exit ticket for each activity that asks them to highlight executive functioning skills they used during the activity from a teacher provided list.
Olivia Okonuk Maggie Dewey	TOOB Animals® - Students will identify an animal to research and illustrate in the style of Steve Jenkins. They will have sketchbooks kept throughout the years and will continuously have access to the TOOB animals to increase their observational drawing skills. Additionally, there will be a culminating project in the form of a book walk set up at Lyme Consolidated showcasing their work created in the style of Steve Jenkins.
Jennifer Pitman	Drawing Books - By providing age-appropriate drawing books and dry erase boards/markers, this will enhance students' drawing skills and independence during their free-draw times. It will reinforce the recognition of simple shapes in overall objects and show how to combine them in a practical manner through step-by-step examples. Using dry-erase boards will cut down on paper consumption as students hone their drawing skills.
Lucy Trost	Library Book Return Bins - Provide individual book return bins in

	classrooms (specifically ELA), so that teachers can incorporate book return reminders into their daily routine. This will have a positive impact on library operations by assisting in timely book returns and ensure that students have equal access to the resources they need.
Rebecca Tate	Cultivators' Sensory, Edible, & Flower Garden - This project includes garden planning, seed starting, planting, harvesting and maintaining the Mile Creek courtyard. There will be weekly discussions highlighting the benefits of gardening and the positive impacts on social-emotional and physical health. Students will participate in weekly maintenance of the garden as well as create plant labels/stone markers identifying the types of gardens (e.g. "Sensory Garden, Smell me.").

2022-2023

No projects were supported by the CIC during this academic year.

2020-2021

Nila Kaczor	Family STEAM Night Math Kits - With the purchase of 120 kits per elementary school, K-5 students will begin to develop the skills and concepts related to the Bridges math curriculum, Science Units and Technology ISTE Standards that we currently implement in Region 18. This will strengthen our Math, Science and Technology programs by providing strong foundational skills for more advanced STEAM classes.
J'aime Ottaviano	Glowforge - A Glowforge uses laser technology to quickly cut and engrave products. The WiFi-enabled device lets students use raw materials and make products with a push of a button. With partial funding assistance provided by PTO and the Career Incentive Committee, LOLMS was able to purchase a Glowforge in order for students to bring their ideas to life by ideating and prototyping their designs.

2019-20

Carrie Wind	SmartMusic Subscriptions - Provide 6th grade band students with an online resource to hear, play, record, and receive immediate feedback on music reading accuracy. Skill improvement can be recorded and collected to mark where intervention and or enrichment is necessary.
Heather Mariani	Sensory Tools - Provide an assortment of sensory tools for students that require sensory regulation. These students will use a variety of these tools to support curriculum instruction and learn how to use the tools appropriately within the broader educational environment. Providing sensory tools during instruction promotes calmness and focus while accessing the curriculum using multiple senses. These sensory tools will support instruction by broadening language acquisition, promoting tactile awareness, and developing emotional skills.

2018-19

Jennifer Pitman Joya Helander	It's Not Easy Getting Easels - With a complete set of easels (25) for each elementary art classroom, K-5 students will begin to develop the skill and endurance needed for working vertically during drawing and painting assignments. This will strengthen the visual arts program and provide a strong foundation of skills for more advanced art classes.
Jennifer Whelan	Recording Centers for Elementary Classrooms - Students will be able to record and evaluate their recordings in Seesaw using the new Seesaw Recording Center. Through the use of this resource, they will be able to successfully apply their Listening and Speaking skills without interference; put into action successful descriptions of their learning to present to their parents and classmates through Seesaw's learning journal; and evaluate their recordings for quality of voice.
Heather Fried	Collaborative Garden Box - This project aims to help institute a cross curriculum collaboration at the high school that will address the need for our students to practice and demonstrate 21st Century Skills to meet our Performance Graduation Expectations (PGEs) and allow our teachers to continue to integrate Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into our Science and Technology

curriculums. We anticipate being able to integrate this project into the Woodworking Technology (with possible expansion into other technology courses) and the Level 1/2 Biology and Environmental Science courses. We also believe that this space could easily be integrated into the Old Lyme Parks and Recreation Summer Day Camp programming that occurs in the high school and be used to help promote the development of new LOLHS Summer School enrichment courses (e.g. Horticulture, Landscaping, Environmental Science) as well as the traditional science courses offered.

For information regarding projects approved prior to 2018-2019, please visit Canvas or contact your CIC building representative.