



## **Hands-on Learning Grants 2020-21**

14 GRANTS WERE AWARDED TOTALING: \$30,195

### **World Theatre Unit – Dragons Throughout the World**

Grant Applicant: Laura Mahler  
School: FAIR Crystal Middle School  
Amount Awarded: \$2,960

Fair Crystal's mascot is the dragon, but dragon legends are present in every culture on earth. Students will study the myths and purposes of dragons in many different cultures. They will create their own dragon puppet, assigning it character traits that tie to specific folklore.

### **Live from FAIR-Crystal: Television and Film Studio Equipment**

Grant Applicant: Donna Gingery and Sarah Prindiville  
School: FAIR Crystal Middle School  
Amount Awarded: \$1,000

We will outfit the school's film studio with Blackmagic Design ATEM Television Studio equipment and organize an after school Film and Media Arts Club. Students will learn how to use the equipment so they can produce short videos, films, news stories, and documentaries.

### **Here Fishy Fishy!**

Grant Applicant: Carol Callen  
School: School of Engineering and Arts (SEA)  
Amount Awarded: \$940

Students will integrate science, language arts and visual arts into a cohesive unit of study. Students will practice the ancient Japanese art of Gyotaku (fish printing), learn about Japanese culture, and study parts of the fish and the many animal adaptations fish have for survival.

## **Illustrated Issues – Book Making for Fourth Graders**

Grant Applicant: Nichelle Lasar-Otto  
School: Northport Elementary  
Amount Awarded: \$1,550

Students will visit the Minnesota Center for the Book Arts in the fall to tour facilities, make a poster, and learn about the history of the written word (and its impact on society). In the spring, a visiting artist will show them book-making techniques. Students will then create an illustrated book based on their interests.

### **Bring the Sea to Me**

Grant Applicant: Deb Settambrino  
School: Sandburg Middle School  
Amount Awarded: \$1,000

Special education students will create and maintain a beautiful, calming saltwater aquarium with fish and coral. In the process they will learn math, writing, reading and science.

### **Elasta Blast!**

Grant Applicant: Nicki Murphy  
School: New Hope Learning Center (preschool)  
Amount Awarded: \$1,285

Using large ElastaBlast bands, groups of preschoolers will blast into fun, cooperative, and motivating problem-solving. Activities build muscular strength and develop relationships even learning music and math concepts through the body.

### **Real Time Science**

Grant Applicant: Anne Johnson  
School: Cooper High School  
Amount Awarded: \$2,500

These probes and software can be used with computers in science labs so students can analyze real time data from their experiments. This will help prepare students for the science portion of the ACT exam.

## **Increase Communication through Sensory Experiences for Tactile Learners**

Grant Applicants: Maria Ahlers & Anita Jarvis  
School: Cooper High School  
Amount Awarded: \$ 960

This project will provide engaging sensory and tactile materials for severely disabled students who are non-verbal with motor, visual, auditory and/or cognitive impairments. Students will work with speech language pathologists to learn and communicate.

## **School Mural Project**

Grant Applicant: Kelly Betzold  
School: Sonnesyn Elementary  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Students will work collaboratively with staff and a local artist to design and paint a mural in the school that will inspire and welcome all. Through social/emotional lessons, designed to build self and social awareness, our students will write positive "I am" statements that will be visually reflected in the mural.

## **3Doodler Pens**

Grant Applicant: Billie Pace-Graczyk-Melson  
School: Sandburg Middle School  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

This 3D pen extrudes heated or warm plastic from the pen's nozzle. You don't need any software. It goes from a student's brain, to their hand, right there. This technology empowers students to design, create, experiment, think rigorously, re-design, apply academic learning, collaborate and research in non-traditional ways.

## **Organic Growth Vegetable Garden**

Grant Applicants: Paul Morley, Jenny Ellison, Jenni Weinand  
School: Zachary Lane Elementary  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Students will create a school community vegetable garden. They will plant, harvest and share the produce and learn about where food comes from and what food choices to make. Students will learn that all living things are diverse with many different, observable characteristics. This hands on project will help students understand scientific concepts about erosion, surface water, water cycle, water supply and quality.

## **Noble Elementary Makerspace**

Grant Applicant: Kristyn Degross  
School: Noble Elementary  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

The makerspace will include a mix of supplies that include a wide range of hands-on materials including origami and craft supplies, marble runs, snap circuits and magna tiles. This will be a collaborative space that encourages students to use critical thinking to learn science and technology skills.

## **Media Arts Equipment**

Grant Applicant: Heidi Miller  
School: Cooper High School  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

This media arts program at Cooper will allow students to use photography equipment, cameras, video camera and lighting to create digital art. This will help our students understand the digital world, engaging with it, and responding to the cultural and social changes it produces.

## **It's Alive and Growing**

Grant Applicants: Michele Baker and Gretchen Enselein-Kraemer  
School: Robbinsdale Middle School  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

This Read Naturally, Read Live program will help struggling readers learn skills and grow in reading confidence. The goal of the program is to move students into a higher level intervention/enrichment reading groups.