



Recent Grants: Fund for Excellence in Education

2018 Grant Recipients:

Alison Andolino, Kingston High School

\$1,674 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Grant funds will purchase six MiniOne Electrophoresis System Units. This equipment will provide students with the opportunity to perform gel electrophoresis laboratory in biology class. Students will have insight into actual technology often used to determine parentage, solve crimes and look for evolutionary relationships between organisms. Students will be presented with a scenario in which they either have to determine parentage or figure out who committed a crime based on DNA evidence provided. Students will be able to see the unique fingerprint DNA leaves behind and how DNA is shared between closely related individuals.

Erin Appelle, Carmel High School

\$1,500.00

Funds from this grant will purchase easy to prepare foods, cleaning supplies and personal care items. With these items, teachers will engage students with developmental disabilities in real-life activities to promote independence. Their learning will take place in the model apartment built at the school, and will include basic elements of self-care and simple job skills. Supplies will also be purchased for students to create seasonal care packages for residents at a nearby senior living facility.

Gian Ascione, Mountain Laurel Waldorf School

\$1,200.00 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will purchase necessary equipment to ensure a healthy water tank for raising trout and participating in the Trout-in-the-Classroom (TIC) program. The TIC environmental education program allows students to raise trout from eggs, monitor tank water quality, study stream habitats, learn about fresh water as a critical resource, enhance a conservation mindset, and better understand their role in ecosystems. The program begins in the fall and culminates near the end of the school year when students release their trout into an NYDEC-approved stream near the school.



Christopher Barrie, George Fischer Middle School

\$1,277.25

Funds will be used to purchase five standing desks for students with social and emotional concerns. Standing desks will help students maintain focus and stay on task. Standing to work will improve classroom dynamics as well as academic outcomes. Offering students this option also encourages ownership of how they physically learn and engage.

Margaret Buckland, G. W. Krieger Elementary School

\$745

The award will cover registration costs to attend the National Conference on Direct Instruction for professional development in the area of reading. The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) holds an annual conference for administrators and teachers who seek training and specialized credentials in order to train colleagues in the correct techniques of Direct Instruction. Key takeaways from the conference will include: proper techniques for placement testing students into a Direct Instruction Program, specific error correction methods to use when students are reading aloud, remediation methods for students who do not reach mastery criteria for skills and/or concepts, and exit criteria for end of program evaluations.

Jennifer Burke, Poughkeepsie Middle School

\$2,500 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will purchase laptops and headphones for 8th grade US History students. Equipment will allow students to participate in online social studies programs that are engaging, enhance historical inquiry, and meet the NY State Reading and Writing in History Common Core requirements. Laptops will also enable students to create virtual museum boxes online through the Museum Project. These projects help to develop a students' ability to build an argument or description of an event, person or historical period by placing items in a virtual box.



Laura Collins, North Park Elementary School

\$1,614 *David Kennon Moody Award

Funds will support a 2nd grade community service project pairing students with local veterans to explore, engineer, and innovate together at STEM stations. Buddy Teams will be set up through the local American Legion as well as through student family contacts. Station concepts will include real-life problem solving opportunities through the use of robotics, forensic science, electronics and circuitry, computer coding and the exploration of renewable energies. The project will culminate with a Think Tank Expo and celebration where Buddy Teams will display their projects for family and the local community.

Megan Cooke, John Jay Senior High School

\$2,500

The grant will bring the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) to John Jay High School. The ensemble will perform Julius Caesar for students of theatre classes, 10th grade English classes, and the entire 12th grade class. Following the performance, HVSF will provide a day of theatre-based workshops to the Theatre I, II & III classes.

Victoria Curry, G.W. Krieger Elementary School

\$650

Professional development grant to attend the Teacher's College Writing Institute. The Institute is a three-day workshop with leaders in the field of essay writing. Promoting the ability to think critically, craft thesis statements with strong supports and to 'talk in essays,' this program will improve academic writing in elementary students. The Institute will also provide training to equip students with strategies, tips and tools to crafting thoughtful essays, increased independence and the ability to assess their own writing.



Lisa Dunne, Hawk Meadow Montessori School

\$994 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Funds will be used to purchase equipment including a drill bit for tapping, taps, sap pails and lids, a hydrometer, an evaporation pan, cover and burner. This equipment will be used to tap maple trees, collect sap and evaporate the water to create maple syrup. Maple sugaring will give 7-9th grade students the opportunity to complete an in-depth study of how the maple sugaring process has changed, while the science behind the process remains the same. Science concepts explored include botany of trees, climate, phases of matter, chemical composition, soils and others. Additionally, students will participate in culinary instruction and identify different uses for maple syrup in cooking, including how to grade syrup.

Lisa Dunne, Hawk Meadow Montessori School

\$2,429 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will purchase a greenhouse and necessary materials to build and grow native plants all year long. Learning will take place in the garden and beyond as the students will also integrate what they grow into their microeconomy. The greenhouse will offer STEM learning opportunities year-round, and achieve mastery in life skills, vocabulary, and working both independently and in groups.

Colleen Flood, Mill Road Elementary School

\$1,673.90 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will purchase a LEGO wall for the kindergarten classroom. The installation will promote a learning environment that is engaging while providing opportunities for students to collaborate with their peers to build social and emotional skills.

Dawn Hammond, Sargent Elementary School

\$2,500 *David Kennon Moody Award

Funds will purchase craft supplies and related materials to create craft kits for families that receive food deliveries from Sparrow's Nest. Students will assemble kits including directions and necessary materials to create seasonal, non-denominational and age appropriate activities for the receiving children.



Sheryl Hawks, Beacon High School

\$988.76 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Funds will purchase a 3D printer kit and filament pack. Students will learn about 3D printers and build the 3D printer in the STEM class. The STEM class will also have an opportunity to design and fabricate parts they need for other projects given throughout the school year. Physics students will have an opportunity to learn about 3D printing technology and have a chance to use it for their projects.

Grace W. Johnston, Kingston High School

\$1,116 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

This grant will be used to purchase a Ray Optics Laser System and a Static System. Both systems are intended to perform physics demonstrations on a whiteboard. The laser ray box projects 5 parallel rays which are much brighter and more defined rays than an incandescent light source. The optics system includes optical components such as plane mirrors, concave/convex mirrors, concave/convex lenses and prisms which will be used to demonstrate many concepts of geometric optics, such as reflection, refraction, total internal reflection, spherical aberration, as well as the principles of operation of the human eye, eye glasses, and the telescope. The Static System has an assortment of equipment, including pulley, wheel, balance arm, torque wheel, and mass cart assemblies. Fundamentals of statics, such as torque, center of mass, Hooke's law, simple harmonic motion, simple machines, and forces on a boom, can be engagingly demonstrated in a classroom.

Evan Kanouse, Mizzentop Day School

\$1,263.84 *Verizon STEM grant

Grant will purchase equipment to learn coding through interactive, tangible projects rather than screens. Through these projects students will balance programming with physical movement and collaboration with other students. Projects will include inventing and engineering a product to change the world, a handheld coding cube, and robots.



Stephen Kekoa Miller, Oakwood Friends School

\$1,000

Professional development grant to attend Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) conference. Additional funds will cover expenses and supplies to implement teachings and techniques for introducing philosophy to young learners.

Mary Langenau, North Park Elementary School

\$1,040 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will purchase a variety of STEAM activity sets, ranging from marble runs and tangrams to engineering and design sets. Second grade students will explore their curiosities, hone their understanding of social studies and sciences and engage with their classmates.

Victoria Mastrantuono, Glenham Elementary School

\$1,904.64 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will purchase six iPads. With the iPads, students will be able to access applications designed to promote communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creative skills for kindergarten students.

Matthew Mayer, Newburgh Free Academy

\$954 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Funds will support the purchase of six Vernier Go Direct EKG Sensors. Life science students will gain insight about the human body which will encourage them to take care of their own health in the future. It will also help foster new found interests in science and healthcare careers that they can strive for in the future.



Jessica McAuley, Kent Primary School

\$1,605

This grant will be used to purchase a Little Tikes Picture Communication Symbol (PCS) panel for the school playground. The board will help students with severe communication difficulties express their wants and needs. It contains images of words and phrases that will empower students to communicate and socialize with peers and staff while playing at recess every day.

Melanie Monda, Valley Central Middle School

\$719.91 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Funds will support the purchase of a Makey Makey Stem Pack Classroom Kit. Incorporating this STEM kit in the classroom will allow students to get a hands-on experience with circuits. The kit encourages student exploration and experimentation with circuitry and helps to nurture a curious spirit to engage in science. By encouraging exploration and experimentation, students are able to be innovators and share their solutions with others.

Andrew Nikola, Vassar Road Elementary School

\$1,594.97 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will purchase Dash Clever bots and a Bee Bot Hive to introduce first grade students to programming concepts. The robots will offer opportunities to develop creative thinking and problem solving through coding and design. Students will also build collaboration and technology skills through use of these robots.

Laura Olsen, Mizzentop Day School

\$1,314 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will be used to purchase two interactive white boards for kindergarten and 4th grade classrooms. White boards will allow for expanded hands-on learning and use for student projects.



Cynthia Ramsey, Hyde Park Central School District

\$1,590

The grant will purchase materials to explore Newton's laws and how they apply in everyday life. Materials will be used in three sections: circus tricks, roller coaster construction and slow-motion photography. The materials will energize science lessons and bring meaningful learning into the classroom.

Cynthia Ramsey, Hyde Park Central School District

\$2,465 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will purchase materials to create a green screen movie studio. With this studio space, teachers and students can write, film, edit and share movies or photographs – set anywhere at any time in history. The screen would be a permanent fixture, and could be accessed by art teachers, language teachers, social studies teachers and more.

Elizabeth Roche, Sargent Elementary School

\$1,381.20

Grant will purchase learning materials to prepare for, and immerse in a day of colonial life at school. This experience will draw directly on classroom learning to make connections and expand students' thinking with hands-on experience and re-enactment. Guided by a historical interpreter, students will encounter history through hands-on activities and learn about archeological artifacts essential to understanding the culture and people of the American colonial era.



Gwen Saylor, Arlington High School

\$960 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Pocket lab voyagers are small rugged wireless devices that allow students to collect data on position, velocity, acceleration, angular motion etc. These devices allow students to design their own experiments within activities of interest to them. The data for their experiment will be visible on their smartphone for graphical analysis. Students will be asked to simply go out and find examples of physics in everyday life and collect data outside the classroom. Pocket Lab Voyagers allow schools to make the goals of the Next Generation Science Standards a reality: communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and flexibility.

Robin Shornstein, Woodstock Day School

\$2,500

Funds will pay for materials and training to support the Diversity, Cultural Competency and Social Justice Education program at Woodstock Day School. The program will bring individual stories of diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds into the library, classrooms, and school environment. Through weekly library classes, integrated classroom projects, and community activism, the program will use stories as potent transmitters of social change to inform students' identities and expand their worldview.

Miriam Straus, Oakwood Friends School

\$979.85 *HealthQuest Taconic IPA Science Education Grants

Funds will be used to purchase equipment that will allow students to explore watersheds more readily. Items include a variety of wader sizes for students and kick nets to facilitate this exploration. Additional equipment to monitor the dissolved oxygen and pH levels and tools to study and identify organism without hurting them will also be purchased. This grant will help connect the importance of understanding of the watershed, the environmental concerns surrounding land use and making connections to personal health and local environment.



Shannon Varekamp, Rombout Middle School

\$1,800 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will purchase Lego bricks, kits and a simple powered machine set. The range from simple bricks to more complex kits will provide a pathway to building, engineering and confidence for students.

Allison Woolston, Carmel High School PACE Program

\$1,500

Funds will be used to purchase materials for decorating and filling mason jars to be sold. Participating students have intellectual and developmental challenges, and through this project will practice skills of creating products and running a business. Students will be responsible for filling the jars with gifts – such as cookie and cake mixes, candy assortments, beauty scrubs and lotions, and candles – participating in marketing and sales, and making decisions about how profits are used to benefit others.



2017 Grant Recipients:

Laura Blaha, Carmel High School

\$2,109.98

The grant will purchase assistive technology and augmentative communication devices to create a library which can make loans to students with severe cognitive, communication, and fine motor delays. These devices will allow for in-house Occupational and Speech Therapists to complete evaluations in a manner that improves communication with students, reducing frustration. In addition, these devices will enhance student abilities to perform classroom work, access their community and services, and increase communication and socialization with peers.

Margaret Buckland, G.W. Krieger Elementary School

\$1,800 *David Kennon Moody Award

Funds will be used to participate in two Summer Institute sessions at the Teachers College at Columbia University; "Teaching of Writing" and "Teaching of Reading." As a professional development opportunity, these instructional series will include keynotes from the founder of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, individualized support for participants as well as grade specific curriculum development and guidance.

Amy Carr, Mill Road Elementary School

\$2,003.23 *Verizon STEM grant

Grant funds will purchase recording equipment, sound isolation boxes and iPads. Students and teachers can create news casts, "How-to" videos, directions to lessons, and read audio for digital book publishing. Integrating this equipment with current technologies in place will reach multiple learning styles, such as auditory, visual and kinesthetic; and open up creative and unique project-based learning experiences.



Laura Collins, North Park Elementary School

\$2,100 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

"The All American Think Tank" is a 2nd grade community service project pairing students with local Veterans to explore, engineer and innovate together at STEM stations. Teams of "Think Tank" buddies will be set up through the local American Legion as well as through student family contacts. Station concepts will include real life problem solving opportunities through the use of robotics, forensic science, electronics and circuitry, computer coding and the exploration of renewable energies. Students will also write to their Buddies in between meetings. The letters and pictures are an opportunity to reflect on the STEM experiences they are having together as well as a chance to include thank you's for sacrifice and patriotism. Toward the end of the school year the project will culminate with a Think Tank Expo and celebration where Buddy Teams will display their projects for family and local community guests.

Shannon Considine, Poughkeepsie High School

\$2,500 *Verizon STEM grant

Grant funds will bring college level coursework from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) to 11th and 12th grade classrooms. These dual enrollment programs enable qualified students to earn 3 college credits while still in high school. By introducing advanced course work to students, this program will increase their knowledge and understanding of complex scientific and social issues behind environmental problems, and introduce new interests and career opportunities in environmental science, engineering, and other related fields.

Jean Cook, Dutchess Day School

\$907.97

What would the ancient Egyptians report if they could broadcast on the TV news? Teachers will give students the opportunity to explore this question, through a project bringing together technology and social studies. After studying Egyptian history and its many facets, students will dress up as ancient Egyptians, write copy, and record each other doing a news broadcast. Funds will purchase a video camera for recording and a green screen to create realistic ancient Egyptian backgrounds.



Megan Cooke, John Jay Senior High School

\$2,500

Grant funds will bring the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) to school. The ensemble will perform Hamlet for students of Theatre classes, 10th grade English classes, and the entire 12th grade class. The following day, HVSF would return to provide a day of Theatre-based workshops to the Theatre I, II & III classes.

Victoria Curry, G.W. Krieger

\$1,000

Funds will help pay to attend Eureka Math hosts live for professional development. These events are facilitated by the curriculum authors and educators with extensive expertise in the curriculum based on their local implementation. Participants will be equipped with the tools and materials necessary to re-deliver each session to their school or district.

Anita Estes, Charles B. Warring Elementary School

\$1,000

Funds will be used to purchase art supplies and pictures frames for fourth and fifth grade Art Club students to express and convey their experiences visiting the Lehman Lobe Art Gallery of Vassar College and Storm King Sculpture Center. While offsite, they will explore the art and make journal entries and sketches of what they observe. Back in the classroom, students will use portions of their journals and sketches to generate ideas for their own projects.

Renee Ferrara, Sargent Elementary School

\$2,005 *Verizon STEM grant

Grant funds will purchase iPads to be made available on a rotating basis to students to work individually or with partners. Ipad activities will be a part of the library makerspace in which students are able to choose various STEAM centered activities based on their personal preferences. After receiving instruction, students will then be able to explore coding, movie-making, augmented reality, virtual reality, coding and other educational applications using the iPads.



Mary Ficht, Charles B. Warring Elementary School

\$2,185 *Verizon STEM grant

Grant funds will improve and expand the school garden, including building an additional raised bed, literacy area and related gardening supplies for students. Students will plant seeds in the classroom that will be transplanted into the garden, then they will tend and harvest. They will learn to make healthy, tasty foods using the vegetables grown. By promoting healthy eating habits in students, the hope is to encourage a healthier lifestyle for families and the extended community. In addition, the literacy area will provide a seating area for classes to read, discover, research and write.

Chelsea Guarino, Saint Martin de Porres School

\$733.07

Teacher and students will grow plants and flowers in the school greenhouse to be donated to nursing homes, to those who are ill, and to those who are suffering from cancer in the local community. Teachers and volunteers from the Marist College Environmental Science program will lead and instruct students on how to grow plants using soil and fertilizer, as well as learning about life cycles and the logistics of planting and tending seeds. Students will create bound books of various forms of inspirational poetry learned or created in their English Language Arts poetry unit, accompanied by their own drawings to be donated along with the plants and flowers. Students will be provided with gardening gloves, soil, seed packets, and watering tools and will begin the growing process.

David Held, Poughkeepsie Day School

\$1,500 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will help fund two one-semester classes at Poughkeepsie Day School titled "Design for Good." The course will engage students in the Design Thinking process developed at the d.school at Stanford University to connect students with local non-profit organizations, and those served by them, in order to understand problems they face and collaborate in developing low cost solutions. Students will identify local community organizations and meet with them to understand a problem from the inside out. They will then develop prototypes of products to solve that problem and test them out with the people they have met. They will refine and redesign the prototype into a final product that provides a solution.



John Herles, Our Lady of Lourdes High School

\$1,445 *Verizon STEM grant

While some may consider hydroponic farming to be futuristic, it dates to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and today is used by most commercial greenhouse growers. It is more important than ever for students to have the opportunity to engage in hydroponic farming. By growing plants in a nutrient-rich, water infused environment students will gain firsthand knowledge how experimenting with water quality, lighting, and other conditions will help students adapt to the changing world of food production and sustainable living.

Christina Johnson, Center for Spectrum Services

\$1,860

To stay at the cutting edge of innovations in teaching children with autism, this grant will provide teachers with twice monthly trainings on the latest methodologies in educating children with autism. This training will be provided by Laura Kolberg Peterhoff, Board Certified Behavior Analyst and nationally recognized expert on educating students with autism spectrum disorders. During the two consult days in July, Laura will observe in all classes for students with autism, then model teaching strategies to the educational staff. She will assist special educators in individualizing these practices to meet the unique needs of some of the most challenging students.

Elyse Joy, Orville A .Todd Middle School

\$1,500 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will create a Makerspace in the library media center called TinkerTown, which will empower learners with the skills, tools and knowledge to be contributing members to the global community through innovation, collaboration, and communication. The focus of Tinker Town is on the following student outcomes: student self-identification as creator; student confidence in the ability to create or innovate; literacy in using technological tools; awareness of STEAM concepts; and ability to collaborate and network with other students and innovators.



Mary Langenau, North Park Elementary School

\$925 *Verizon STEM grant

The grant will allow for the improvement of the garden to be certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. Students will work to enhance the space by ensuring it contains all of the elements necessary to be certified: food, water, cover, places to raise young and sustainable practices.

Nicholas Lenhard, Putnam Valley High School

\$1,100 *Verizon STEM grant

The Environmental Club at Putnam Valley High School is looking to install the first school vegetable garden in the district. The grant will fulfill portions of the school curriculum, as well as the district's sustainability curriculum. Coordinating with the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation, the garden will grow fresh, organic produce in a sustainable manner, which can be donated to a local food pantry.

Mariel Melnick, Woodstock Day School

\$2,500

Integrating ergonomics, neurological research and the experience of master teachers, second and third grade students and teachers will transform their primary classroom environment. As students begin to take ownership of the classroom design, tables will be moved, lowered, and raised to accommodate their thoughts and introduce new equipment such as yoga ball seating, stability disks, and fidget bands. Using anchor charts and classroom contracts written in collaboration with students, pupils will be guided to autonomously choose seating that is conducive to their needs as learners. As a result, the classroom design will remain fluid throughout the year, as students develop autonomy, motivation, and a sense of ownership over their learning through the choices provided within their environment.



Cheryl Mongroo, S.F.B.Morse Elementary School

\$690 *Verizon STEM grant

Funds will be used to purchase tablets to facilitate tailored classroom learning, via subject-specific apps. Use of these devices will allow for interactive learning, and customization which will help bridge gaps in proficiency. Utilizing this technology will keep students engaged and focused for the 15 – 20 minutes of guided reading time.

Andrew Nikola, Vassar Road Elementary School

\$1,225 *Verizon STEM grant

The purpose of this grant will fund STEM opportunities and the creation of a Maker space in a first grade classroom. Utilizing different activities to broaden the children's understanding with hands-on activities will develop critical thinking skills, problem solving, project based learning, collaboration and tinkering. Most of the materials are reusable to share between other first grade classes so the entire grade level can have the same experience.

Jennifer Quinn-Carle, Mill Road Intermediate School

\$2,000

The American Girl Doll Lending Program would allow students and teachers to circulate the nine historic American Girl dolls and books. This program promotes a love of history and literature among students, while also ensuring that all students have equity of access to these dolls, which are too expensive for many families to purchase on their own. Each doll would be available for checkout along with a hardcover book. The nine historic dolls represent the diversity of American history, and the diversity of the student body. The dolls and books would also inspire curricular connections and extensions to social studies in the classroom and help bring complex issues to life for the students.



Elizabeth Roche, Sargent Elementary School

\$1,410

Fourth graders will explore the early history of New York State as authentically as possible. They will focus on Native Americans and colonists and their survival. Students will participate in historic simulations during the school day as colonial children. Guided by a historical interpreter, students will experience history through hands-on activities and learn about archeological artifacts essential to understanding the culture and people of the American colonial time. Activities will include candle making, butter churning, writing with a quill, making colonial foods, games, tools, and recreation. Additionally, students will reflect on the day in writing aided by books provided through the grant.

Laurel Whitworth, Matthew Paterson Elementary School

\$2,400 *Verizon STEM grant

These funds will purchase additional Lenovo Think Pads. With the additional equipment, the new and enhanced curriculum integrating the technology for 4th graders will include content creation and recording of a podcast, as well as a video project. The Think Pads supplement lesson plans with activities that teach software skills, research, and navigating the internet as a digital citizen.



2016 Grant Recipients:

Amanda Ruhe, Dutchess Day School

\$976

Using the Little Bits in computer lab, students in grades 3-8 would be able build upon their prior knowledge of basic electrical circuits and programming. This reusable equipment would be housed in the Tinker Lab space in the computer lab allowing multiple students to utilize it during the school day for many different projects, which would expand the school's STEM program integrating science and computer classes.

Amy Hopf, Cahill Elementary

\$1,200

The Hudson River Extravaganza is an in-school field trip which introduces the students to life cycles, adaptations, and human impact on animals. It will promote a personal connection to the Hudson River through hands-on exploration, while teaching essential science practices.

Amy Hudgens, Mill Road Primary and Intermediate School

\$2,000 *Verizon STEM Award

The grant funding will purchase hands-on supplemental supplies to enhance opportunities to learn math, reading, coding, collaborative learning, and 21st century learning experiences. The gaming system, Osmo, is a hands-on tool that uses letter and number tiles along with a mirror that uses the camera and software for the iPad. Children are able to build words and solve math problems with partners, individually, or in small groups and can increase in difficulty. The Sphero Spark Edition is a programmable droid compatible with the iPad. The spark app allows students to problem solve using a C-based coding system. The creativity and collaboration is maximized with the online Lightning Lab where students and teachers create, contribute, and learn through an online community board.



Amy Kuchera, Garrison Union Free School

\$1,500

Students will build a new outdoor garden and start a cafeteria composting program. They will practice their public speaking, writing skills, math and research skills. Students will help design the school garden to include a compost area. Students will also work as compost monitors during lunch hours to make sure that students sort their waste properly. Students will research the reasons for composting as well as what can and cannot be composted. They will then make informational fliers to share with their classmates and larger school community.

Barbara Wood, Kingston High School

\$2,000 *David Kennon Moody Award

The Hudson Valley Writing Project Invitational Institute: Leadership in the Teaching of Writing program is offered in partnership with SUNY New Paltz. It is a series of three graduate courses offered over the course of a year. The program is designed for educators who want to develop expertise in writing instruction and literacy development, and serve as leaders in their school communities. The summer and fall courses will focus on developing skills as teachers of writing as well as learning innovative strategies for effectively teaching with the Common Core. Participants will also design a professional development workshop, and create and lead a Teacher Inquiry Workshop. The spring course is a capstone course in which participants will design and lead a writing project for their school community and/or the HVWP network.



Brent Boscarino, Poughkeepsie Day School

\$1,400 *Verizon STEM Award

Funds will be used to purchase an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to enhance understanding of animal behavior and distribution in aquatic systems. Students have been volunteering with the NYS DEC eel monitoring and conservation program since 2012, collaborating with both Poughkeepsie High School and Arlington Schools to monitor American eel and river herring populations inhabiting the Hudson River at Fall Kill Creek. The ROV will be used to monitor fish behavior and fyke net avoidance as well as help log water quality data during the sampling season on the Fall Kill. The ROV will be used in early detection and prevention initiatives involving the invasive aquatic invertebrate, the bloody red shrimp (BRS) in the Finger Lakes and Hudson River watersheds. The ROV will enable videotaping and distributing live video feeds from the trout tank for data analysis and observation of tank behaviors as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. The ROV will also be used to help with data logging of temperature, depth and light at all sites sampled as part of the annual sampling of aquatic organisms at Sunset Lake at Vassar College.

Carolyn Catalano, Matthew Paterson Elementary School

\$1,542

The grant will be used for standing desks and stools to be used in kindergarten to 4th grade classrooms in the Carmel Central School District. These desks will be used for students who have difficulty sitting and attending to instruction. Studies have shown that focus and attention improved with standing desks.

Cathleen Rossetti, Kent Elementary School

\$2,000

Laptop computers will be purchased for the classroom to be used daily for a variety of purposes like allowing students to access individualized enrichment, practice or re-teaching activities and/or lessons. Students can access online resources to work on skills and strategies based on their individual strengths and weaknesses. Students will utilize online videos, games, vocabulary and skill activities, as well as writing responses. In addition, students would be able to post responses to debates and share their ideas via the internet and create presentations to share information across the curriculum.



Charles J. Barone, Mahopac High School

\$1,200

The science class will design and construct several hydroponic stations. This project offers access to science curriculum involving photosynthesis & cellular respiration, ecology, reproduction, cellular structure, as well as bioethics and solutions to broader societal issues. Students will learn practical design skills and apply the scientific method to real world applications; learn responsibility through continued data collection and operation of the hydroponic stations; and learn problem solving skills by having expectations that have to be met despite issues that may arise.

Danielle Scalera Michielini, C.V. Starr Intermediate School

\$1,200

The funding will be used to build an online art gallery for each art class so that students can document, share and critique their work. A space will be set up so that students can document, edit and post their pieces online and then have some authentic conversations about their work and share with their families. Students will learn digital literacy through art and also about how to properly document work using tripods, lighting, and cameras.

Gloria Rosati Peterson, Glenham Elementary School

\$2,000

iPads and the Ozobot educational bundle will be purchased with the grant funding to introduce/expand computer coding to all students in grades 3-5. This will allow students to practice working with algorithms, loops, conditionals, as well as debugging programs to understand computer coding concepts. Students are able to practice 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, and creativity while learning computer science concepts.



Gwen Saylor, Arlington High School

\$1,793

Students will use FLIR One Infrared cameras integrated with their own smartphones to capture infrared images and videos within and around the school environment. In physics class, lab groups will use the infrared cameras to investigate the electromagnetic spectrum beyond visible light. A hands-on exploration of infrared waves allows students to create a link between wavelength, frequency and energy. Astronomy students will use the infrared cameras to complete a scavenger hunt for objects hidden in plain sight in order to understand how scientists make discoveries about objects in the universe that cannot be seen using optical telescopes. Students in the Energy research class will use the FLIR cameras to investigate energy conservation within the building. The cameras are useful for identifying drafts and leaks that exist within the building.

Jane Cervone, Sargent Elementary School

\$982

The funding will be used to purchase child-sized tools for each student to engage in garden maintenance and to purchase seeds and ingredients in order to cook cultural food dishes together as a class. Students will each have a role in growing the vegetables necessary to cook these dishes, and will write recipe cards that they take home to their families for each dish. By the end of the year families will have a 'cookbook' of kid-friendly recipes to use as a resource.

Kimberly Sweck, Arlington High School

\$2,000 *Verizon STEM Award

The funds will create an Aquaponics greenhouse in the school where science, technology, engineering, math and the culinary art programs will collaborate to grow fresh organic produce and raise fish. The Admiral Aquaponics Ambassador Program will be an engaging, interdisciplinary, community oriented STEM program that will connect everyone to the fundamentals of food production and sustainable farming. The engineering classes will design, build and maintain the Aquaponics greenhouse. The biology and marine biology students will plant vegetables, raise fish from hatchlings and monitor the greenhouse conditions. The culinary arts student will harvest and use the products grown and raised in the school's in-house culinary program.



Lacey Fredericks, Oakwood Friends School

\$1,300

Incubators and materials to design an outdoor coop will be obtained through this grant for a chicken hatching program. Students will observe the incubation process and take responsibility for caring for a chick in addition to designing a coop. Hatching chicks - and rearing them until they are ready to join a flock at a local farm - leads to more questioning, more research, more excitement, and more commitment than any book, video, or field trip can provide.

Laura Collins, North Park Elementary School

\$1,500 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

A buddy program will be created pairing 2nd graders and local Vets through the local American Legion. Throughout the year students will write letters and make seasonal cards and art projects to send to their Veteran buddy. A regular schedule of video chats or in some cases recorded messages, songs or skits will be created. The final culminating activity will be a celebration where the Vets would be invited to the classroom for a special presentation and tea.

Laurel Whitworth, Matthew Paterson Elementary School

\$2,400 *Verizon STEM Award

Laptops will provide students of differing abilities the opportunity to use technology throughout the school day. Core subjects can be taught in small groups using direct instruction, cooperative learning and the use of technology. The students can learn to research and communicate in a technical society. They will be better prepared for middle school with computer skills that are imperative for a successful education today. The students will be able to use the Internet daily to play educational games, participate in research, communicate electronically, and produce media based projects.



Megan E. Cooke, John Jay High School

\$350

Funding will cover the cost of the Teachers' Shakespeare Institute put on through the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in Garrison. Workshops are designed to help teachers make Shakespeare fun and accessible within the classroom. Programs are structured around a Shakespeare text and will enable teachers to integrate theater-based activities into their curriculum in order to engage students with Shakespeare's stories.

Rhapsody Mancini, Arlington High School

\$1,500 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

Eleventh graders will engage in research about a topic/issue they care deeply about, and write a fact-based argumentative essay. They will then figure out a way to become part of the solution to the problem they have researched, by engaging with the community at large. Guest speakers from various community organizations will come to present to the students how their organization helps the community, and suggest how the students may get involved. This is a self-directed project, which will culminate in the students giving a class presentation that will educate their audience on the importance of their topic, argue persuasively for a position, show evidence of the action they took in the community, and suggest ways that other students might get involved as well.

Robin Waters, Garrison Union Free School

\$1,500 *Verizon STEM Award

Funds provided will help to enlarge the school garden to accommodate more students learning STEM concepts. The Garrison Union Free School has partnered with Hudson Valley Seed, a Beacon-based nonprofit, to offer garden education for the last three years. The garden will be used to teach students about everything from graphing to photosynthesis. To build the garden students will first use their knowledge of area and perimeter to map out the garden space. Classes will all participate along-side community members to build the new garden.



Scott Brown, Leptondale Elementary School

\$1,001 *Verizon STEM Award

This grant will purchase the necessary materials students need to plan, design and build a prototype to aide persons with disabilities as part of the L.E.T. project. This project incorporates Science, Math and English Language Arts with the engineering process. Fourth graders will plan, design, and build an interactive academic game designed for students with different disabilities. Fifth graders will plan, design, and build a caddie that can be used with a walker. Sixth graders will plan, design, and build a “grabber” that will allow its user to easily access items from different vantage points.

Will Bussert, Oakwood Friends School

\$1,325

The funds will be used to engage students in a comparative study of indigenous culture looking at both the native people of the Hudson Valley and the Lakota culture, as there are two Lakota boarding students at our school and a connection to a renowned Lakota performer, activist and storyteller, Tiokasin Ghosthorse. Through a three week unit, students will explore the history of the commitment to sustainability by Quakers, indigenous people of the Hudson Valley and the Lakota people including a study of ethnobotany with an opportunity for students to plant native seedlings in the greenhouse.

William A. Yager Jr., Millbrook Middle School

\$2,000

Sixth grade students will explore and examine the different branches and professions of Earth Science. Every child will ascertain a greater understanding and appreciation for the complexities of the Earth’s systems. As Geologists, Environmental Scientists, Oceanographers, Astronomers and Climatologists, the students will work cooperatively to research, examine and test related specimen, view, construct and manipulate models to explain the intricacies of planet Earth, as well as, the human impact on our biosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and atmosphere.



2015 Grant Recipients:

Christine L. Pizer, Poughkeepsie High School

\$1,017.50

The potential use of Science World magazines is extensive, from personal enjoyment, to lesson integration, to the cornerstone of the science literacy initiative. The Science World magazines contain articles that serve different science disciplines, from Conceptual Biology to Physics.

Cynthia Ramsey, Ralph R. Smith Elementary School

\$1,677.60

Imagine being able to install a spy camera in a bird house, program a digital sign to deliver important information, make a touch sensitive music machine, or a dog treat dispenser. Children will be able to design and build projects like these with a few credit card sized computers, a basic understanding of computer programming, and fundamental skills in electrical circuitry. This grant will support the purchase of 10 sets of equipment for the classroom that will provide students with an opportunity to explore computer technology in a meaningful and creative manner.

Diana Ferrara, Clinton Elementary School

\$2,000

This grant will provide all students in all grades the opportunity to participate, perform, act, sing, tap dance, create the sets, art work, and costumes for the student musical production of Aladdin, The Broadway Musical Review.

Elizabeth Gokay-Duffy, The Randolph School

\$900

Students will do a study about Earth's moon which includes reading Native American fables and legends about the moon, studying the science of the moon and looking at the history of how people have portrayed the moon in stories and movies. The students will complete stop-motion animation videos as a final project for the study. This grant will provide reliable projection technology to create a video project that will come full circle for the students.



Elizabeth Roche, Sargent Elementary School

\$2,000

The 4th grade will explore the history of NYS focusing on pre-colonial times, Native Americans, Colonial times and becoming part of the United States. The classes will participate in a historic simulation of a school day in early New York. With the assistance of a historical interpreter, children will experience history, such as candle making, food, writing, games, tools, and recreation. This experience together with providing nonfiction books will give them knowledge for narrative and expository writing.

Elyse Joy, Orville A. Todd Middle School

\$1,918 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

Working closely with the deaf community and Taconic Resources for Independence, students will help to promote independence and integration in society for people with disabilities. Specific workshops will be offered for the deaf and hard of hearing. Students involved in the "my eye is my ear, my hand is my mouth" program will provide workshops to help individuals with disabilities learn work related skills and technology tools for success. In addition, they will provide support for social media use, the use of digital cameras, specific apps for the deaf and hard of hearing, and Google tips and tricks.

Gwen E. Saylor, Arlington High School

\$2,000

Funding will support building a lending library of sensors to share within the department. The sensors purchased with this grant will allow students to design experiments that answer questions of interest to them. The Next Generation Science Standards bring about a transition in the science curriculum that allows classrooms time to focus on exploration and discovery rather than a series of facts. With the right toolbox this transition will allow students to make their own discoveries rather than hear about the discoveries of others.



Jean Cook, Dutchess Day School

\$499

Combining creative design with technology in the classroom is increasingly possible with the range of software and hardware that is available today. The school recently received the gift of a 3D printer and are integrating the new technology into the STEM curriculum. With the addition of a 3D scanner from this grant, the students will be liberated to think creatively and tackle interesting tangents, ideas, and out-of-the-box inspirations.

Julia Butironi, Dutchess Day School

\$1,000

The grant will support the creation of a completely sustainable raised-bed garden to be used by students from preschool through 4th grade. Students will start the plants from seed indoors, transferring them in the spring to raised beds nourished with soil from our own composting program. Next school year, the students will harvest their farm-to-table crops which will end up on the lunch tables, prepared by the school's kitchen.

Lacey Fredericks, Oakwood Friends School

\$1,550

Funding will help to bring awareness and understanding of fractal geometry to math students and fellow educators, through a free weekend "workshop" at Oakwood's campus. The addition of 8000 more Omnifix cubes, will broaden the circle of those who get to learn about fractals in an artistic and hands-on approach. Through this project, students will have their eyes opened to a "geometry" that goes unrecognized.



Laura Collins, North Park Elementary School

\$1,375 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

Thank A Vet is a community service project designed for kindergarten students. Students will work in cooperative groups to brainstorm examples of patriotism and courage, to explore what these concepts would look and sound like and, discuss how their ideas can be brought to life through art and writing. A buddy program will pair Kindergarteners and local Vets through the local American Legion. Throughout the year students will write letters, make seasonal cards and art projects to send to their Veteran buddy. A regular schedule of video chats or in some cases recorded messages, songs or skits will be created.

Laurie Malin, Rombout Middle School

\$785

Introduction to Aquaponics is a 2.5 day course offering hands-on teacher training in aquaponics using Herring Gut's small-scale commercial aquaponics greenhouse and hatchery as your laboratory; a complete classroom aquaponics kit including tank, filter, pumps, planting materials and an operating manual; and standards-based aquaponics curriculum materials that will engage and motivate students. Aquaponics is the cultivation of plants and aquatic animals in a re-circulating environment. A combination of aquaculture and hydroponics, aquaponics pairs fish and plants in one integrated system.

Melinda Aaron, Poughkeepsie Middle School

\$1,480

This project, in its completion, will be a production of a musical, "Into the Woods, Jr.," performed by Poughkeepsie Middle School students in the spring of 2016. Cast, crew, research, auxiliary help, and any production-related tasks will consist primarily of students. Being involved in this production process will provide an arts-rich experience for the students, and educate them in theatre-related skills.



Michael P. White, Dutchess BOCES Career & Technical Institute

\$1,800 *David Kennon Moody Award

This grant will fund conference attendance for two writing and English teachers, to learn more about Project Based Learning (PBL). The conference offers professional development on how to design, assess, and manage projects that engage and motivate students. There is also a focus on educators use PBL as a key strategy for creating an effective and engaging 21st century classroom that promotes students' abilities to master the Common Core State Standards.

Nicole Devincenzi, Millbrook Middle School

\$1,000

Students will have the opportunity to use motion detectors and force plate equipment that will accurately calculate speed, acceleration, and forces. Typically, inexpensive make shift equipment such as stop watches, bubble gum, spring scales, and masses, are used to provide explanations for complicated physics concepts. By using technology, students will be able to create their own experiments that will accurately record measurements and be able to analyze and compare data using this integrated technology.

Richard Keller-Coffey, Poughkeepsie Middle School

\$2,000

Having Legos to use in school provides opportunities to work with students in math, social studies and English in unique ways. It helps students improve their academic, intellectual, and "soft skills". Incorporating Legos challenges us to think differently about how something might be taught and at times will force us to move away from our old, comfortable practices.



Russell Haentges, Millbrook High School

\$984.15

The various science equipment purchased with this grant will provide an opportunity for students to perform a variety of demonstrations, which generate enthusiasm and interest in Physics. They also allow students to ask questions, which is the basis of inquiry in science. Demonstrations complement the theory presented and allow students to see how models can increase their understanding of the theory, familiarizes students with the nature and use of apparatus, and improves observation and inference skills.

Stacie Smith, Linden Avenue Middle School

\$1,780

The CAFE (Community, Art, Food, Education) project is a hands-on 8th grade project that gives students the opportunity to have a real-life work experience built into their normal school day. This project-based in-school field trip will allow students to experience the birth of a restaurant from conception to adulthood. Students will use digital technology to research cultures and regions to create an authentic menu, apply for restaurant positions and market their restaurant. Students will cook for 250 people, and run the cafe as employees of their own restaurant.

William A. Yager Jr., Millbrook Middle School

\$2,000

Sixth grade science students will become robotic engineers as they research, design, devise and fabricate innovative solutions to solve various enigmas of our ever changing world. Using Lego EV3 robotic kits, cooperative teams will encounter numerous engineering challenges by constructing and programming mechanisms and robotic systems to complete various tasks.



2014 Grant Recipients:

Christine Mathers, Webutuck Jr. Sr. High School

\$400 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

Many students struggle to relate math to their lives, dislike math or find it very difficult. Using grant funds, each student will each be challenged to use ten dollars to create a change for at least one other person. The students may not simply give away the money, but think how to best use the money in a positive way. Students will be permitted to pool their money and work together on their projects if desired. Once a plan has been developed and the \$10 is received, students will document their experiences with photos and journal entries, and present to the class to share their experiences and the ways in which math applications were involved. The goal is for students to find personal gratification in their projects, while discovering the difference just one person with \$10 can make.

Christine Pizer, Poughkeepsie High School

\$925

The addition of Science World magazines in the classroom will have multiple benefits for high school students and teachers. The subscription includes 12 months of magazines and supplemental materials via the Science World website. The materials will enhance the Common Core State Standards and provide engaging materials for classroom use. As students often complete tasks at very different rates the magazines will offer an entertaining way for students to engage in reading and learning on their own after their assigned class work is finished, leaving the teacher free to work with students' individual needs.

Darlene Yager, Dutchess Day School

\$1,750

Lego Mindstorms robot kits will be used in the 4th and 5th grade in conjunction with their science/technology and math curriculum. The classes will be broken into teams where they will learn to build a robot and program it to perform given tasks. After the first introductory year, the 5th grade students will have prior experience and will be able to develop more challenging programs and more complicated robots. Those students who find a passion for building and programming will represent the school in the first Lego league competition.



David W. Larson, The Randolph School

\$750

5th and 6th grade students will use newly purchased kitchenware to engage in weekly cooking and food preparation projects through the school year. Kitchen projects will be chosen to coordinate with seasons, school events, and literature. In the autumn students will learn about and prepare the produce of the harvest: apples, pears, squash, pumpkins, and potatoes. In the winter they will bake the specialties of the season: challah, gingerbread, cookies, and cinnamon bread.

Elizabeth Gokay, The Randolph School

\$1,300

Students will study and compare tall tales from the United States, Canada and Australia, exploring their cultural and historical contexts. As a culminating activity, students will write their own tall tales and then animate them using fabric, wood and other accessories. The addition of a new MacBook computer and iMovie software will enable the children to complete a project that will show their knowledge of the subject, encourage communication and collaboration, allow for creative expression, teach them new technological skills, and bring their work to a wide audience.

Gwen Saylor, Arlington High School

\$1,970

Easy to use data collection learning platforms will be added to Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry and Physics classes. With the purchase of new SPARK technology platforms, teachers will have the flexibility to undertake investigations they never thought could happen in the high school setting. Access to this equipment will bring opportunities for innovation that has, up until now, been stifled by limited budgets and cumbersome logistics.



Joan Miller, Netherwood Elementary School

\$1,500 *Dorothy's Marionettes and Puppets Award

A puppet making workshop will provide the tools and skills needed to create a puppet show with third grade students as a culminating project for a family heritage immigration unit. After reading books on immigration each student will be asked to conduct an interview with a family member to learn about their ancestry. After the interview and research is completed, the students will create an ancestor puppet and write skits to perform a Coming to America puppet show.

Joan Miller, Netherwood Elementary School

\$500 *David Kennon Moody Writing Award

The grant will provide funds to purchase multiple copies of the "The Keeping Quilt" by Patricia Polacco. Third grade students will participate in an author study as part of a memoir reading and writing project. Through the reading lessons, students will discover that most of the author's stories are based on her own life and the stories of her relatives' past. Students may learn to feel a sense of pride for their own heritage, while also gaining a deeper appreciation for the diversity of their classmates, and discovering that they each have important stories to tell.

John Roccanova, Webutuck High School

\$630

Students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes will research, design, build, test, draw, and race electrified rail magnetic levitation vehicles. Magnetic levitation trains are being developed now and are in limited usage. With the purchase of an electrified rail track, students will be able to design and build the electrified models at school and then compete with them at Dutchess Community College's Magnetic Levitation competition.



Kaila Hastings, Arlington High School

\$1,040

In the fall of 2014, a live interactive website from the Marine Aquarium room will be launched. Web cameras will be placed on 4 of the large ocean aquaria and connected to a cloud site. Students will engage in interactive activities such as observing territories of fish, fish behavior during and after feeding, and daytime vs. nocturnal behavior. Students will use math skills to calculate the rate of movement sea urchins and sea stars and take temporal observations.

Kirk Weiler, Arlington High School

\$1,600

Funds will support the purchase of a computer, hardware and video software to create educational screencasts for high school mathematics classes. Recorded screencasts will be provided to students via You Tube, allowing them to watch missed lessons or re-watch lessons to strengthen their understanding of the class topic. Teachers may also “flip the classroom” structure and assign a lesson to watch as homework, and then utilize classroom time to work together in groups the following period.

Maribel Pregnall, Arlington High School

\$1,920

The importance of Replication in Science High technology probes will be purchased for 9th through 12th grade biology students. Students will use the probes to take direct measurements on scientific topics that are often obscure and difficult to grasp, and compare their data to the data collected by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook. When students arrive in advanced biology courses, they will already be familiar with the probes and they can use class time to develop their own hypotheses and conduct their own unique and creative investigations.



Rena Finsmith, John Jay High School

\$1,600 *Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award

Once a month, local senior citizens will be invited to share a meal and their experiences with students. Prior to the event students will plan the budget, seating arrangements, and discussion topics in their daily support class. Students will create intergenerational authentic learning experiences to engage senior citizens during the meal. Students will have the opportunity to serve their community while gaining practical skills in the areas of technology, interpersonal relationships, event planning and financial literacy.

William A. Yager Jr., Millbrook Middle School

\$1,200

Sixth grade students will become novice electronic engineers by examining scientific electrical theory and concepts using a variety interactive probe-ware. The classroom will transform into a technology enhanced laboratory environment. Through inquiry based instruction, the students will actively design, construct and test a broad range of circuitry.



2013 Grant Recipients:

Aleen Josephs-Clarke, Governor Clinton Elementary School

\$1,250

Field trip expenses, books and supplies will be purchased to help fifth grade girls develop leadership skills, build character and increase confidence in affecting positive changes in their world as well as in the larger society. Young ladies involved in this program will be given opportunities to interact with peers and supervisors in a tension-free zone, thus enabling an increased sense of self-awareness, esteem and confidence to prepare for middle school and life in general.

Anita Estes, Governor Clinton Elementary School

\$2,000

A professional mural artist will work with fourth and fifth grade students and their art and classroom teachers to create a mural that conveys an anti-bullying theme. Two mural panels will be placed for the entire school to view. Select students will do a presentation that demonstrates what they've learned through this experience about mural painting and bullying prevention.

Anita Merando, The Randolph School

\$1,400

Recording materials will be purchased and a singing instruction by a local singer-songwriter will be invited to produce a library of children's voices singing and reading about peace and justice. With teacher guidance, kindergarten, first and second-grade students will choose books to read or songs to sing and record, describing ways to make our world a better place. The recordings will be taken to seniors at Elant Nursing Home in Beacon, teaching the children that their voices make a difference in the greater school community and beyond.



Jean Cook, Dutchess Day School

\$1,600

Three full-day workshops on audio digital storytelling will be held and four handheld digital recorders will be purchased for fifth-grade students to interview senior citizens at a nearby retirement home. Each student will be matched with a senior, and an outside expert in digital audio storytelling will coach the students on questions to ask, how to listen to the ambient sounds around them and how to weave components of their interview into a meaningful and professional encapsulation of personal history and growth. Students will edit audio clips into an NPR-style format interview. There is much to be gained from the wisdom of our elders and reaching out to the community, including a benefit to the participating seniors by reinforcing the importance of their life experiences.

Kathy Lane and Barbara Rizzolo, Chancellor Livingston School

\$1,095

Book binding and related supplies will be purchased for this program that includes a visit from an author/illustrator and partners a kindergarten class with their third grade buddy class. A children's book author and illustrator will read one of her books with the children and discuss how an author writes and illustrates a book. The third graders will interview their Kindergarten buddies, write and edit the life story, and ultimately present them with a bound biography. Through this process the Kindergarten students will have a new older friend in the school, and the third graders will be learning interviewing, writing, editing, and presentation skills.

Marc Ouimet, Arlington High School

\$2,000

A Van De Graff electrostatic generator, renewable energy exploration kits and other materials will be purchased to continue a program that gives high school students interested in a career in education an opportunity to teach science to elementary students. High school students create science lessons for all elementary grade levels, K - 5. Elementary teachers from across the district then bring their class to the high school for 1.5 - 2 hours every day to participate in this program.



Maribel Pregnall, Arlington High School

\$1,975

A Science Learning System, a carbon dioxide gas sensor and other sensors will be purchased to enable students in Physics and Biology courses to use an open-inquiry, advanced approach to conduct experiments. Students will be engaged in science explorations in which there are no expected answers. These abstract topics will be turned into systems that students can manipulate, measure, and observe. Using innovative probe-ware technology, students will investigate an independent variable of their choice and take measurements more efficiently and in a more exciting manner.

Paulette Maggiacomo, St. Martin de Porres Elementary School

\$850

Thermal binding supplies, an AV cart and book buddy bags will be purchased for this program that will enable Pre K students to publish their own books and experience the pride of sharing them with their families. As the school year progresses and their fine motor skills develop, the children are able to make alphabet books and then transition to making word family books. These books stimulate, encourage and instill the love of reading in the children.

William Castaldi, Beacon High School

\$1,590

Grant funds will support attendance at an Advanced Placement US History Summer Institute. The goal is to increase enrollment for under-represented students in the AP US History Course and improve performance outcomes for the students who are enrolled in the course. In addition, the goal is to foster improved student performance on the NYS Regents exam, overall success in high school and access to college credit to more under-represented groups.



William Castaldi, Beacon High School

\$1,350

A set of instructional writing manuals will be purchased for the 1,037 students in the district. Many of these students will be helped greatly by exposure to the style of writing contained in the manuals, which will be the foundational resource for a writing workshop to advance their writing skills and scores. They will learn and practice the skills of writing and document analysis.

William Yager, Jr., Millbrook Middle School

\$2,000

A Mechatronic Classroom Vex Robotic Kit and other materials will be purchased to enable sixth-grade students to become junior mechatronic engineers. They will apply scientific theory to designs, develop and analyze mechanical, electrical and technical solutions using robotics. The class will work in cooperative design teams to collaborate and exchange ideas, fashion a workable plan, create a solution, test, re-evaluate, improve upon and compete in a sports-like robotic game against other organized design teams. All students will manipulate the Vex construction pieces, various adaptable sensors and programmable equipment to analyze their fabrications and test their success in each challenge.