



## 2021-22 Competitive Grant Recipients

***Drums Alive for PE and Music*** submitted by Bradley Benner Thomas Paine and Megan Tipton Yankee Ridge and Thomas Paine. 500 K-5 students will participate in *Drums Alive!* a program that provides whole brain and whole-body workouts integrating physical, social, emotional, health with rhythm and movement-based activities.

***Ice Skating Exploration*** submitted by Matthew Trueblood, Booker T. Washington and Brian Wenzel, South Side Elementary. This project introduces students with little familiarity of ice skating to the opportunity to experience the activity first hand.

***Preparing Youth for their Futures*** submitted by Barbie Price and Mynette Kretz from Urbana Middle School. Funds to purchase *Positive Action* curriculum for middle school students. Curriculum is focused on improving positive youth development activities that include conflict resolution, critical thinking, problem solving and life goals.

***Lambda Library Project*** submitted by Jennifer Heaton, Yankee Ridge and Kate McLean from Wiley Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase age-appropriate Lambda Literary Award and Stonewall Award winning books from the past year, to be made available to all District 116 school libraries.

***Multilingual Student Stories come to Life!*** submitted by Jenna Ko and Luciano Vasquez Westview Elementary. Multilingual language learners will learn how to write coherent and vivid personal narratives including illustrations for publication in a book of classroom stories.

***Elevating comprehension with Decodable Readers*** submitted by Laura Stevens and Christina Mitchaner from Leal Elementary. Funds to be used to purchase high interest, content-based non-fiction decodable readers.

***This is Boring. I want something FUN!*** submitted by Jacqui Hoke and Abby Heras from International Prep Academy. This project would expand the purchase literacy materials to include both Spanish and English titles to support multi-lingual learners in grade level as well as integrating art, music and PE instruction at IPA across all grade levels.

***The Student Curator Project*** submitted by Jennifer Jameson and Crystal Thompson from B.T. Washington Elementary School. Funds will be used for a hands-on student experience designing museum exhibit displays for the Anita Purves Nature Center. Students will conduct research about museum exhibit topics, design displays to show what they have learned, and interpret those displays for audiences visiting the Anita Purves Nature Center.

***Decodable Readers*** submitted by Gina Hanna and Florence Mathieu from Yankee Ridge Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase decodable books to help second grade students build phonic skills and develop into more independent and competent readers.

***Supporting Early Literacy*** submitted Bridget Maloney and Katy Plotner from Leal Elementary School. Funds will be used to purchase *Headsprout* online lessons in phonics, phonemic awareness and comprehension for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.

***Understanding History through Graphic Novels*** submitted by Bruce Brown and Naomi Ming from Urbana High School. Funds will be used to update graphic novel books that help engage students by connecting images with language in the text.

***Jellies for the Kids*** submitted by Lynn Kilber and Michele McGinnis from Centennial High School. Funds would be used to purchase a fish tank with live jellyfish. Biology students would learn about animal life cycles by studying, observing and caring for the jelly fish.

***Yoga and Mindfulness*** submitted by Mindy Dyson and Tiffany Davis at Southside Elementary. Fifth grade students will participate in self-awareness, self-management, and social awareness while building relationships and promoting responsible decision making through yoga and mindfulness activities in their classrooms.

***Engaging Students with Healing*** submitted by Amy Webb and Yolande Cooke from ML King Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase toys and books to help facilitate healing and recovery of elementary age students from the stress of the pandemic and lack of school structure and supports. Materials will be used both in school and shared with children as take-home resources.

***Outdoor Sensory Space*** submitted by Sania Zaffar and Karen Hollett at Urbana Middle School. Funds will be used to develop an outdoor space adjacent to the school with activities and supports for special education students to identify and manage emotions, and build independence for self-regulating activities.

***Constructing Ceramic Vessels*** submitted by Rusty Clevenger and Janice Knight from Urbana Middle School. This project will fund clay, glaze, and tools for building ceramic vessels that can stand the test of time. Students will be involved with every aspect of production from vessel

function design, clay preparation, construction, color mixing glaze, firing ceramic pieces and display of their piece.

***Books in the Spotlight!*** submitted by Elizabeth Evans and Kayla Leitchuh from Franklin Middle School. This project involves purchasing reading materials for ESL students which are high interest and culturally relevant. This project focuses on and celebrates English learners and their diverse voices at Franklin. Students will use their creativity to make posters to advertise literacy collections and promote interest to the larger student population.

***Birds of Prey*** submitted by Katie Brown and Maryah Turnage from Gerber School. As part of the science curriculum, the students at Gerber School will be visited by the Decatur Raptor Center who will bring live hawks, owls, bald eagles and falcons for observation.

***Migracion de las Monarcas: Multicultural, Multimodal, Multilingual*** submitted by Maggie Byrne and Bryan Lake from Dr. Williams Elementary. All K-5 students will be participating in the research, planning and implementation of this project to research monarch butterflies and their needs, construct a permanent bed and enclosed pavilion to be able to observe the monarchs' life cycles and migration. Informational texts in Spanish and English will support students at all grade levels as they learn more about the butterflies, their migration, and their cultural significance.

***ACTIONS Media Productions!*** submitted by Tatiana Austin and Serra Nicolette from ACTIONS and Restore. Funds will be used to purchase technology, media and video equipment so students can explore restorative solutions that support their social and emotional learning, coping strategies, anger management, self-regulation, growth mindset, and character education. Students will be able to write, direct, produce or participate in their own restorative videos with this equipment.

***Student ARTdoors Project*** submitted by Kyli Miller and Dana Lapari from B.T. Washington Elementary School. Funds will be used for K-2 students to create outdoor ARTscapes that will be developed and placed in the playscape area at Anita Purvis Nature Center and duplicated in the play areas at the school to create new ways for children to engage in outdoor play.

***Collaborative & Flexible Seating*** submitted by Kelsey Angel from Urbana Middle School. Funds requested will provide flexible seating for math students at UMS.

***Seeing Yourself in Literature*** submitted by Zane Newman from Franklin Middle School. Funds will be used to purchase high interest books that represent the growing Latinex student at Franklin.

***Flexible Seating*** submitted by Jessica Schad from Urbana Middle School. Funds requested will provide flexible seating for math students at UMS.

**Sensory Paths** submitted by Laura Retallick from Carrie Busey Elementary. Funds will be used to create walkway (outdoors and indoors) stencils that encourage students to use their imagination to participate in various physical activities (jump, tiptoe, tightrope walk, crab walk, etc).

**Flexible Seating** submitted by Christine Yu from South Side Elementary. Funds requested will provide flexible seating; wobble seats, cushions, balance boards, and chair bands for second grade students at Southside.

**Building Our Community** submitted by Erica Cooper-Peyton from Dr. Williams Elementary. This project will fund jumbo foam construction blocks for use in building collaboration, experimentation and risk-taking skills in first grade students.

**Discovering the World through Literature Circles** submitted by Rachel Sassine from Urbana High School. Funds would be used to expand and diversify current high school literacy materials to create more interest in culturally relevant materials.

**Empathy Reading** submitted by Suzanne Price-Christensen from Franklin Middle School. Funds will be used to purchase new texts for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Franklin that are highly engaging and relevant. Books with young protagonists and who come from different backgrounds and experience unique challenges will hopefully engage students and spark thoughtful conversations about empathy and respect for others.

**K-5 Maker Place** submitted by Katherine Krusell from Barkstall Elementary. Funds would be used to purchase materials and instruction for creating items reflective of literature and stories students are reading.

**New Middle School Printmaking** submitted by Justine Fein-Bursoni from International Prep Academy. Funds will be used to purchase sculpting and printmaking supplies for new middle school art students to be passed down to each year.

**Full STEAM Ahead** submitted by Savanna Robison from Urbana Early Childhood Center. Students will be able to experiment and explore freely with STEAM themed materials that inspire creativity, problem solving and collaboration in Pre-K children.

**Bilingual books for supporting literacy** submitted by Rachel Gray from International Prep Academy. This grant will allow the purchase of culturally diverse and relevant chapter books in both English and Spanish.

**Passport to the World** submitted by Jessica Chiu from Westview Elementary. Funds will support a diverse group of ELL students as they refine their critical thinking and writing skills in learning about their own cultures and the cultures of their peers. This project will fund hands-

on projects, including passport booklets and stamps, crafts, music, dances, virtual field trips, language learning, and more.

**Screen-printing at BTW** submitted by Emily Pawlicki from B. T. Washington Elementary. Funds would be used to develop student engagement and creativity in designing and making their own screen-printed t-shirt.

**Quick Response, Low tech** submitted by Mary Biddle from Edison Middle School. Funds will be used to purchase individual white boards and markers for students to provide quick responses so teachers can check engagement and understanding.

**Beat the Odds, Therapeutic Drumming** submitted by Glen Forneris from South Side Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase *Beat the Odds*, a performing arts and therapeutic drumming program that promotes overall health and wellness. Drumming offers an opportunity for students to shine through a positive activity .