

## 2024 Teacher Mini Grant Requests

### Colfax School District



**Teacher: Connie Gibson**  
**English, Grades 9 and 11**  
**Independent Reading**  
**\$750; Funded - \$200**

I am seeking funding to expand my classroom library for the students' independent reading. Reading is fundamental to success in post-secondary schooling and the workforce. I hope to engage high school students by expanding my small classroom library to include more topics of interest to them.

The classroom library project plan is to expand my classroom library. First, I would purchase independent reading novels from a variety of genres. These include graphic novels, young adult fiction, fantasy, non-fiction, and mystery books. It is my goal to build a library that contains titles that appeal to students' interests. Purchasing books related to sports, the outdoors, relationships, and music, to name a few, can help me to achieve this goal. Students read when they are interested in what they are reading, and their interests are wide and varied. It is important for me to continue to expand my classroom library beyond what the school budget allows to be able to reach all students in my classroom.

Furthermore, I would like to offer alternative seating when students are reading independently. I can begin to achieve this goal by purchasing a three foldable reading chairs for the students to share with any grant money I receive.

**3 foldable reading chairs at \$80 each=\$240**

**Approximately 50 novels, ranging from \$8-\$13=\$510**

**Total Project Cost=\$750**

## 2024 Teacher Mini Grant Requests

### St Paul's Lutheran School



**Teacher - Susan Buss**

**Art, K-8**

**Meeting Technology Needs in the Art Room**

**\$1,396**

This request would benefit students in grades 3-8. Currently, the art program has no technology available for student use. With the purchase of 4 iPads, art students could share, learn, and use design programs such as Canva, Adobe Express, Procreate, etc. Recently, a volunteer taught digital design with Canva on a borrowed computer to students. It was very beneficial for them, they were able to learn skills they will use in high school, and as adults, I witnessed a shortcoming of our resources.

Using iPads to teach and create artwork in contrast to traditional materials, paint, colored pencils, and markers can offer a unique aesthetic experience. An integrated and balanced art curriculum that includes iPad art as a complement to traditional media is the most effective way to introduce iPad art and design. iPad art can be the final product, or it can be just part of meaningful art-making processes. With a wide range of possibilities, students can be guided to efficient and effective visual communication. This grant will allow students to utilize the known benefits of learning digital design programs. With the introduction of digital equipment into the art room, students will also practice digital responsibility and learn digital literacy.

**(4) iPads at \$349/ Total Project Cost \$1,396**

My class sizes, on average, are around 12 students. I can successfully service students with four iPads. Through time limits sharing will be enforced.

## 2024 Teacher Mini Grant Requests Summit Academy



**Summit**  
ACADEMY

**Taylor Helminiak**  
**4K-8 All subjects**  
**Sensory Gym For All Students**  
**\$1,000**

We are seeking a sensory gym and sensory materials where students will be able interact with on a daily basis to help them regulate their senses. Many students at some point throughout the school day have a need to connect or feel safe with their environment. With the sensory gym, we could provide all 4K-8th grade students an engaging and comforting way to meet their needs. Students with their needs met in a school environment are much more likely to be successful in and out of the classroom.

Our goal is to design an interactive course or space that students can use as they enter or exit the classrooms. It will be designed to meet the needs and levels of all students 4K-8th grade. This space will also provide sensory manipulatives for students to use to engage their senses, allowing them to redirect their energy in a positive way. We believe all students should have the opportunity to be successful and the sensory gym will give the students an exciting way to meet their needs and better accomplish their goals. The money from this grant would allow Summit Academy to purchase these items for students to use and interact with on a daily basis. Items appropriate for each age group would be purchased and placed in designated areas easily accessible to those students. Pictures and videos will be uploaded to Summit Academy's Facebook page where community members can see the impact it has on the students and staff.

**(1) Gold Motor Lab Kit at \$5,970**

**Any grant finances received will go towards total cost.**

## **2024 Teacher Mini Grant Requests Boyceville Community Schools**



**Teacher Erin Reisimer - Second grade, Tiffany Creek Elementary**

**Spanish Resources**

**\$1,000**

Our district is seeing more children that speak and read Spanish. We do not have the materials written in Spanish for our kids to read or be read to at home. We are seeking funding to purchase Spanish books for the children to read or check out from our school library to be read to from their parents.

The proposed plan is to have the above listed teachers compile a list of Spanish written books that would benefit their special area of teaching. The goal is to have a variety of literature for our Spanish speaking/reading students to have access. The objectives are as follows: 1. purchase Spanish written materials at all levels and genres, 2. distribute Spanish books into the hands of the English Learners advisor for our building, the Spanish teaching liason, and the school library, and 3. promote the use of Spanish written materials to our children and our families. The grant allows funds for the purchase of the necessary materials we do not currently have in our district.

Exact materials have not been discussed but our goals is to use Scholastic resources and other teacher website materials.

**Teacher Meghan Olson - Fourth Grade Social Studies**  
**Fourth Grade Madison Field Trip**  
**\$1,000**

The 4th grade class is planning to take a field trip Madison in April. While in Madison they will visit the Henry Villa Zoo, Wisconsin Veterans Museum and State Capitol. We are seeking funding to pay for less than half of the cost of the transportation to get the class to Madison & back. Our PTO helps by paying \$1000 towards our transportation & the students each pay \$10 towards the transportation. This leaves us with \$1000 left in transportation fees, which is why we are requesting this grant.

This grant will contribute towards covering our transportation costs. Due to bussing limitations, the distance we need to travel and timing restrictions (need bathroom on the bus to not stop by breaks) we are unable to take a school bus. Using a bus company puts a significant cost onto the class to make this trip possible for our students learning opportunities. This field trip correlates with various science and social studies concepts that we learn about throughout the school year.

**Bus Cost Total after discount is \$2,683**

Please contact us if you want to see the transportation quote the school received.

**Monica Miranda**

**Business and Marketing 7-12th**

**Workplace Basics & Marketing Growth/Development**

**\$758.98**

This project involves workplace basics and marketing students collaborating to operate a school store, providing them with hands-on experience in retail and entrepreneurship. We are seeking funding for a laser engraver and tumblers to enable students to create innovative, customized products, enhancing their skills in design and marketing while fostering creativity and teamwork.

The project plan aims to empower workplace basics and marketing students by operating a school store that allows them to apply classroom concepts in a real-world setting.

Goals:

- **Skill Development:** Equip students with essential skills in retail management, marketing, and product creation.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Foster an environment where students can design and produce unique products.
- **Entrepreneurial Experience:** Provide hands-on experience in running a business, including inventory management and customer service.

Objectives:

- **Implement Product Creation:** Purchase a laser engraver and tumblers through grant funding, allowing students to design and produce personalized items for sale.
- **Conduct Marketing Campaigns:** Instruct students in creating promotional materials and strategies to attract customers to the school store.
- **Track Sales and Feedback:** Establish a system for monitoring sales performance and gathering customer feedback to improve product offerings and marketing approaches.

Accomplishment Plan:

- **Workshops and Training:** Organize workshops on using the laser engraver and basic design principles.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Facilitate team projects where students brainstorm product ideas, design them, and take them to market.

- Sales Events: Host regular sales events to engage the school community, track sales data, and gather feedback for future improvements.

Through this grant, we aim to enhance students' learning experiences while providing them with valuable skills for their future careers.

**Laser Engraver Machine with Air Assist, Rotary Roller, Risers and Honeycomb Laser Bed for Tumblers, Balls, Rings, Wood, Metal, Acrylic, Leather**

**Total Cost: \$688.99**

**20oz Tumbler Bulk with Lid and Straw 12 Pack, Stainless Steel Vacuum Insulated Tumbler, Double Wall Coffee Cup Travel Mug, White**

**Total Cost: \$69.99**

**Teacher TARYN SCORE - Physical Education and Health 6th-8th grade  
Fitness Improvement  
\$250**

The middle school students fitness test twice a year in Physical Education using the Fitnessgram standards. This would provide the students the ability to have a more encompassing test using proper equipment.

I would like to purchase a sit-and-reach fitness box. This will allow for more accurate flexibility testing. I would also like to purchase a hand grip strength tester. This is an additional test I can use to give students a more well rounded picture of overall fitness.

**Sit and reach box \$200**

**Hand Grip Strength Tester \$50**

**Total \$250**

**Teacher Elizabeth Stolte - Spanish 7-12**  
**Building a Spanish Library**  
**\$555**

Research has shown the best way to build literacy in any language is through reading. Just as students engage in literature circles in English class, this grant would allow me to build up a library of Spanish texts of various levels and themes that students can use to build up their literacy and fluency.

Each year, students would read at least one leveled book based on their interests. From there, they would show what they learned through an assignment of their choosing, such as a diarama, presentation, or conversation.

- (5) Don Quijote de la Mancha at 18.00 - \$95
  - (5) Amor y muerte en tiempos de zombis at 9.00 - \$45
  - (5) Cuyes en Crisis at 9.00 - \$45
  - (5) Problemas en Shang-Cuy-La at 9.00 - \$45
  - (5) La leyenda de Ted at 9.00 - \$45
  - (5) La princesa y el guerrero at 11.25 -\$56.25
  - (5) El Ekeko: un misterio boliviano at 11.25 -\$56.25
  - (5) La Llorona de Mazatlán at 11.25 -\$56.25
  - (5) La Guerra Sucia at 11.25 -\$56.25
- Shipping \$55

**2024 Teacher Mini Grant Requests**  
**School District of the Menomonie Area**



**Teacher: Natasha Bade, EL English K-8**  
**Hispanic Heritage/Latino Cultural Trunk**  
**\$738.05**

The objective is to develop a Hispanic Heritage/Latino Cultural Trunk filled with realia, artifacts, and educational materials. This resource will educate our EL students about their cultural heritage and be available for district-wide checkout by teachers, enabling them to incorporate lessons about Hispanic and Latino cultures into their curricula. We have a Hmong Heritage Trunk and since we have a growing number of Latino students we would like to create a Trunk for their cultures too.

Project Description: Goals and Objectives

- Goal 1: Enhance self-confidence among our EL students by validating their cultural backgrounds.
- Goal 2: Foster awareness and appreciation of Latin American cultures within our school community.
- Goal 3: Utilize the trunk as an outreach tool for the Multicultural Club.
- Goal 4: Empower EL teachers to utilize the trunk in their classrooms for educational outreach.
- Goal 5: Establish an annual display during Hispanic Heritage Month, or at another appropriate time during the school year, to celebrate Latino culture.

We plan to procure and seek donations of realia and artifacts representative of the Latino cultures of our students. Items may include traditional clothing, artwork, maps, photographs, books, baskets, and mini flags. Additionally, we will consult with members of the Latino community and cultural experts to create informative placards that describe various aspects of Latino culture, such as Día de los Muertos.

(22) Bilingual, Cultural, and Activity Books about Latino cultures

(16) Realia items from Latino cultures

(1) Plastic Storage Tub for all items

AMAZON TOTAL COST \$451.55

(27) Handmade Mexican and Latin American items

FROM artelexia.com \$175 with SHIPPING

FROM muertolandia.com \$111.50 with SHIPPING

**TOTAL COST: \$738.05**

**Teacher: Jessie Weinberger, Chemistry & AP/College Physics**  
**Update Physics Equipment**  
**\$2,369.89**

With the new partnership with uW-Stout for some of our upper-level science classes, we are now offering transcribed credit for our AP Physics classes. Because of this change the number of students taking the class has significantly increased. We are therefore trying to update our curriculum and lab equipment to be more in-line with the technology used in college Physics classes and increase the amount of equipment to fit the larger class sizes.

Pre K-12 Public Education - Our Mission Statement: The School District of Menomonie Area by embracing the unique needs and using the strengths of our diverse community, is dedicated to preparing all students to become lifelong learners, caring individuals, and responsible citizens.

With our society's continuously growing and changing technology, we want our students to be on the front edge of using the newest and latest. This will not only allow them to receive the most accurate data but will increase engagement in the classroom and prepare them for the workplace and/or secondary education. Students coming out of physics who have had a chance to use this technology will be prepared (and possibly at an advantage) for college science classes because they will have experience with the equipment and technology.

1 BLK BUMPER & LAUNCHER KIT \$99.00

2 TRACK-LONG 2.2 METER TRACK \$264.00 x 2 = \$528.00

1. ROTARY MOTION SENSOR PACKAGE \$314.00

1 LABQ3 VERNIER LABQUEST \$399.00

4 DUAL-RANGE FORCE SENSOR \$120.00 x 4 = \$480.00

1. CENTRIPETAL FORCE PACKAGE \$444.00

Line Item Total: \$2,264.00

Estimated Tax: \$0

Shipping: \$105.89

**Total: \$2,369.89**

**Amy Zuber Seguin, Math- 6th Grade**  
**Application for Menomonie Middle School Science Olympiad**  
**\$500**

Menomonie Middle School Science Olympiad is an extra curricular that involves students across grade levels 6-8. We aim to make science accessible to all. We compete across 28 events, involving all aspects of science. In recent years, the supplies necessary to participate have become increasingly expensive. Materials for 2 teams to compete in helicopter are \$140. Last year, we went through approximately \$300 of balsa. Some students can't participate in some event due to financial burden.

A donation would help remove financial barriers for students to participate in build and lab events, and provide resource books for all of our teams. We do "scrap" parts- utilizing them for future builds and future events, so this donation would affect future years' students as well.

Helicopter kits (2) \$140

Balsa \$200

Glue \$200

Scrambler supplies \$200

Tomato seeds/hort supplies \$150

Lab supplies \$150

ID books \$80

Air Trajectory supplies \$200 (we have already had a family donation of \$250)

Robots \$40 (already a coach donation of \$60)

These are just some of the anticipated season costs.

**Teacher – All Elementary Librarians**  
**Focus on Easy Fiction with Interactive Shelving**  
**\$750**

This project will allow our elementary students to see the covers of our Easy Fiction (picture books) and organize them by interest. We are seeking funding because the forward facing bins are very expensive, and we can't afford to purchase enough of them to cover every building.

Imagine that you are an elementary student, and you want to check out books, or look for some of your favorite books, but you can't SEE the book? Right now our Easy Fiction section (the picture books) are all alphabetized by author. This is a great system, but not for elementary, because our littles can only see the spine. Some are unable to read, so they can't tell one book from another. With no cover to look at, they are unable to identify their favorite characters or see something that might interest them. Having these bins will allow for books to be displayed face-out to more easily engage our young students. Our K-1 students love picture books but often struggle finding their favorite books and characters. We tested a clear bin at each school last year, and it increased the circulation of the books on display. When students can look at the books, they are more likely to check them out and read them!

This will not only increase our circulation, but help with their reading! Our goal is to get the entire Easy Fiction (picture book) section at each library forward facing using these clear bins. Since they are so expensive, we are getting them a few at a time. As they come, we will begin putting the Easy Fiction books into the clear bins by popular categories, such as unicorns, princesses, Lego, Disney, etc.

**5 Demco® Deluxe Acrylic Browsing Bins @ \$149 each**

**Total project cost= \$745 + \$5 for shipping = \$750**

There are no other grant expenses. However, additional information that could be helpful:

- Many of our students come from low socioeconomic backgrounds
- Many students don't have books at home
- Many students don't have access to the public library

We want to do everything we can in our libraries to foster a love of reading!

**Teacher Leah Miller - Behavior Interventionist, Grades K-5, Oaklawn Elementary**  
**Just Breathe: Enhancing Learning Through Classroom Mindfulness Breaks**  
**\$629.91**

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages teachers to incorporate mindfulness training into their lesson plans and mindfulness breaks in their classrooms to help students function more effectively and clearly. As the Behavioral Interventionist at Oaklawn Elementary School, I am seeking funding to add a mindfulness device to classrooms to give students an opportunity to regulate their emotions and focus on their learning.

My plan is to purchase Zenimals for individual classroom use at the kindergarten, first, and second-grade levels. A Zenimal is a mindfulness device for children ages 5–12 that comes with nine guided meditations. The device is shaped like a teal turtle and has a soft silicone cover. It's designed to help children develop mindfulness techniques, such as breathing techniques, coping skills, and emotional regulation. The teachers will be able to add the Zenimal, along with a pair of headphones, to the calm corner of their classroom where students can go to regulate when their stress response system has been overloaded.

The objective of providing this mindfulness device in the classroom is to help students cultivate self-management skills, reduce stress and anxiety, enhance empathy and compassion, and improve attention span. In the past, it has been common practice for emotionally unregulated students to leave the classroom when they needed a space to reset and regain calm. With the help of a Zenimal, the student can stay right in their classroom for a mindfulness session and avoid the often lengthy process of leaving and missing valuable learning time.

**(9) Zenimal Kids + 2.0 at \$69.99/Total Project Cost: \$629.91**

**Teacher Jennifer Lee, EL Teacher: Serving grades K-5 at River Heights Elementary  
Hmong History Month Guest Author/Artist  
\$1,000**

I am seeking funding for a Hmong author/artist visit during Hmong Heritage Month at River Heights Elementary. I have had a Hmong Author Visit for the last two years at school and it has been a tremendous success. This project weaves culture, history and literacy into one dynamic day, from the presentations given by the author, to the pho lunch everyone enjoys with chopsticks, the hallway display case filled with Hmong artifacts, and staff dressed in traditional Hmong clothing.

I am an ELL (English Language Learner) teacher at River Heights Elementary School. Our school has approximately 70% of our students that receive free and reduced lunch, additionally one in five students are Hmong American at our school.

For the last two years at River Heights I have organized and hosted a Hmong Author Visit for the whole school during April, Hmong Heritage Month. This visit benefits all students, but especially my Hmong American students who see themselves represented in our author. Our school food service has made pho (traditional Hmong soup) for lunch both years. Students are able to use chopsticks and my ELL students are kitchen helpers at the condiments table and teaching students how to use chopsticks. Last year 19 staff members wore traditional Hmong clothing that my paraeducator graciously let us borrow. Additionally I fill our main hallway display case with Hmong Artifacts of the past and present.

Last year author/cartoonist Dua Her was our author and the previous school year was award winning author V.T. Bidania. Dua is a Wisconsin native and V.T. resides in St. Paul. V.T. Bidania was so impressed with our school that she dedicated one of her newly released children's book to River Heights Elementary, "Astrid and Apollo and the Cutest Canine Contest". The PTO has been generous to fund the cost of these visits, which were \$1,200 and \$1,000 respectively. I would love to offset their cost with a grant. I have photos that speak for themselves how much excitement, pride and joy these author visits, pho lunches, and main hallway display case bring our students. Please consider awarding River Heights Elementary a grant to bring a Hmong author/artist to our school.

**Cost of author visit:**

**V.T. Bidania \$1,200 (three presentations)**

**Duachaka Her \$1,000 (three presentations)**

Staff and Parents are given the option to purchase books on their own

**Amy McMahon, K-5 Music**  
**Xylophones for Knapp and Downsville**  
**\$984.55**

The materials I would like to purchase for my classroom are a set of xylophones for students to explore different concepts of music. We would be using them to explore high and low sounds, and provide accompaniments to the songs we will be singing, and develop improvisation techniques. These xylophones would provide a fun and engaging way to learn music!

These materials would be implemented throughout grades ranging from K-5th. We would utilize these xylophones for activities including songs, games, and even to share music with families during our concerts. These xylophones are color-coded which assists visual learners in the classroom - the colors also correspond with our other color-coded instruments (such as boom whackers). The bars are movable which means we would be able to remove notes that we are not using for the current activity and be able to isolate the pitches required. I used to teach high school adaptive music with these same xylophones, and have created several play-along videos that correspond with the colors of the xylophone bars. Utilizing these instruments and videos, we would be able to create a fun and engaging atmosphere for young musicians at multiple age levels!

There are a variety of activities we would be able to do with K-5th classes using these instruments, and several WMEA standards would be met through these activities.

**(29) Xylophone resonator bells at \$33.95**

**Total Project Cost: \$984.55**

**Teacher Trisha Holmstadt - 4th Grade at Oaklawn Elementary  
Technology Organization  
\$399.9**

I am requesting a storage cart to better organize and protect student chrome books. This would also allow us to take them safely to other learning locations.

My goal is to obtain a storage cart for chrome books. This will make storage, charging, and transporting chrome books better. Currently these take up a lot of classroom space and are hard to keep organized. Students struggle to plug them in safely. This cart would make this process easier for students.

Objective:

Upon attaining the cart, 4th grade students will use it to charge, hold, and safely transport their chrome books.

**(1) ALT Technology 30-Bay Mobile School Charging Cart Station for Chromebook, Tablet and Laptop Computer with Power Strip Included at \$399.90**

**Total Projected Cost: \$399.90**

There should be no additional expenses.

**Teacher Erin Kennedy K-3 Special Education Teacher, Wakanda Elementary**  
**Cooking Experiences and Sensory Items for Classroom**  
**\$750**

I am seeking funding to provide the students that I work with real life experiences in cooking and baking. I am co-teaching with two other teachers and we would use the funding to help support cooking, writing, reading, math, and language/communication skills.

I would also like funding to provide flexible seating options both in my classroom and my students' general education classrooms.

As we strive to enhance our curriculum, I believe incorporating cooking and baking activities can be incredibly beneficial. These hands-on experiences not only engage students but also help them apply concepts taught in general education. Our objectives include:

- Providing real-world experiences that connect to students' lives.
- Incorporating essential skills such as math, reading, writing, language, and communication.
- Creating opportunities for students to practice and demonstrate their learning in practical ways.

Being granted the necessary funding would allow us to provide students with multiple opportunities to participate in these valuable experiences. I believe this initiative will greatly benefit their overall development.

In purchasing sensory items such as seat cushions, wobble stools, and items to create sensory bottles, students will have the opportunity to learn how to self-regulate and stay with their general education peers.

**Budget**

**Cookies**

\* Flour, sugar (white & brown), salt, vanilla, eggs, butter, chocolate chips, baking soda, frosting x3 (or more) = \$49.74

**Play-doh**

\* Flour, salt, cream of tartar, spices, oil --> \$14.81 x 5 = \$74.05

**Slime**

\* Borax, school glue, food coloring

As many batches as we can make with a box & bottle of glue= \$18.94

Sensory Bottle Materials

$\$34.99/12 \times 2 = \$69.98$

Wobble Stools

$\$59.88 \times 5 = \$299.40 + \text{tax \& shipping}$

Sit and Wiggle Seat Cushion

$\$17.99 \times 5 = \$89.95 + \text{tax \& shipping}$

I could use some of the same ingredients that we would be purchasing to make more things with the students to maximize the groceries that are being bought. I used Amazon, Walmart, and School Supply for pricing.