

Lincoln School Foundation



P.O. Box 256, Lincoln, MA 01773

April 29, 2015

Dear Lincoln School Committee Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln School Foundation, it is my pleasure to present to you the grants we have approved for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Lincoln School Foundation has funded 17 grants for the 2015-2016 academic year at a total of \$49,395. These grants range from small initiatives that support the purchase of materials needed in the classroom, to projects that will shed light on how students on both campuses view themselves, to grants that push the envelop of STEM teaching and will help further new district initiatives.

As a foundation, we continue to look for ways to make more of an impact with the dollars so generously contributed by our community. We are honored to continue our support for Lincoln's hard-working educators in designing innovative and creative projects that enrich our schools' curriculum, support professional development, and enhance the partnership between our schools and community.

We are especially happy to present to you a two-year grant proposal for an Innovation Accelerator, a technology platform that becomes a portal for viewing videos which capture teachers working with technology in their classrooms in innovative ways, accessing technology training, and sharing teacher's best practices across grades and schools.

We look forward to the School Committee meeting on May 7th when you will address these grants. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me by email at taramitchell365@gmail.com or by phone at 781-259-4505.

Sincerely,

Tara Mitchell
Lincoln School Foundation Co-Chair

Enclosures (1)



Lincoln School Foundation

Approved Grants for 2015-2016

1. Innovation Accelerator

\$ 34,000/2 years

Rob Ford, Director of Technology

This professional development initiative is designed to facilitate the dissemination of best-in-class innovative teaching methods to enhance the learning experience for LPS students. A new faculty innovation platform will serve as a forum to highlight and share model lessons created by LPS teachers and instructional technology specialists. The use of short videos created will showcase the innovative teaching practice and how it positively impacts student learning. Through this platform, teachers will be able to watch the video, ask questions, and sign up to do a peer observation or coaching session to help introduce the practice into the teacher's classroom dove-tailing nicely with the district's peer mentoring program. The Innovation Accelerator will also host an ongoing series of online and blended learning opportunities for teachers as well as a "Teaching with Technology Boot Camp" for educators new to the Lincoln Public Schools. On an annual basis, the program hopes to sponsor an outside innovative educator to spend a day with the district presenting their work and leading workshops to further expand the possibilities for incorporating the best ideas.

2. Lincoln METCO Film Project

\$6,320

Lateefah Franck, Lincoln METCO Team

This school-community collaboration incorporates professional development with student learning. Middle school students will work to write, film, and produce a documentary that captures various perspectives culminating in an "I am Lincoln" iMovie. Student interviews with peers, teachers, families, and community members will be the basis for this short film. Students will then have the opportunity to work with a professional production crew to edit and enhance the film getting it ready to present to the school community. Additionally, the film will be used as part of a professional development workshop discussing how culture impacts school performance and culturally relevant teaching and classroom practices.

3. Reflections of a Military Child: A Hands-on Memoir Writing Project

\$ 4,511

Nancy Rote, Hanscom Librarian

This new curriculum initiative supports sixth-graders in writing "their story", putting down on paper what it means to be a military child. The grant partners with Author Doug Wilhelm on creating memoirs, editing, revising and finally publishing the memoirs. While the author is present he will give a presentation to sixth through eighth graders on bullying and other middle school challenges as well as a parent presentation.

4. LittleBits, Big Ideas

\$ 3,299

Josh Gold, Hanscom Middle School Math Teacher

This new curriculum initiative expands the HMS Programming Club to include fourth and fifth graders as well as an extensions course for sixth graders. LittleBits are magnetic circuit boards that students can snap together and create "anything", taking the programming logic they are currently learning and allowing them to work with prototyping.

5. Build a Chicken Coop - 6th Grade Engineering

\$ 2,875

David Trant, Brooks School 6th Grade Science and Engineering Teacher

This grant proposal ties together new curriculum initiative along with school-community collaboration and professional development. Sixth grade students will have an authentic engineering learning experience while building a chicken coop for a Lincoln resident. Students will gather requirements from the client, perform a site identification, consult with local government, design and build this engineering challenge in parts and then participate in the on-site installation of the final product.

- 6. Learning While Moving Around the Classroom** **\$ 2,640**
Colette Kuchel and Kim Haflich, Smith School Behaviorist/Special Education Teachers
 This new curriculum initiative seeks to provide open access to movement tools for all children in one classroom from each grade as a trial. Observations and surveys will be conducted at the beginning, mid-point and conclusion of the year to determine if open access to these movement tools benefitted all students in the classroom, not just those that have been designated as needing them, thus making the case for a more robust arsenal of movement tools going forward.
- 7. Electro-magnets in 7th Grade** **\$2,520**
Mairead Curtis, Science Engineering Curriculum Leader
 This new curriculum initiative develops lessons and labs and allows for the purchase of materials to support seventh graders learning the effect of distance and magnitude of electronic charge and current on the size of the electromagnetic forces. Additionally students will use scientific evidence to prove that fields exist between objects with mass, between magnetic objects, and between electronically charged objects that exert force on each other even when they are not touching.
- 8. Revitalizing the Regions in Grade Four** **\$1,920**
Grade Four Team with Gwen Blumberg, Smith School Teaching Team and Literacy Specialist
 This new curriculum initiative aims to help bring to life the study of the regions of the United States. Teachers will create specific lesson plans to utilize books that bring the imagery, culture, history, natural resources and geography of the five US regions to life. Additionally, the curriculum will integrate language arts and social studies as well as further develop the use of Close Reading.
- 9. Hanscom Middle School Garden** **\$1,836**
Becca Fasciano, Hanscom Middle School 6th - 8th AP Tech Teacher
 This new curriculum initiative supports the life science STE standards being adopted Fall 2016, but more importantly provides students a hands-on experience with plants, increasing their understanding of how food arrives on their plates. Students in fourth and sixth grades will work together to plan, plant and maintain four raised-bed gardens in front of the HMS. The collaboration between the students will allow fourth graders, new to the Middle School, to be mentored by sixth graders. Herbs and vegetables produced in the garden will be used in school lunches.
- 10. STEM: Plant Biology in 7th Grade** **\$1,680**
Mairead Curtis, Science Engineering Curriculum Leader
 This new curriculum initiative creates lessons and labs to enable seventh graders to discover more about plant structure and how a plant's characteristics enable it to successfully reproduce. They will discover the properties of plants (colorful flowers to attract butterflies for pollination, hard shells of nuts so squirrels can bury them, etc.) that enable these plants to prosper.
- 11. Jump Right In!** **\$ 1,590**
Stacey Clarkin, Hanscom Primary School Wellness Specialist
 This new curriculum initiative provides both Lincoln and Hanscom campuses with a visit from the Beantown Jumpers, a double dutch jump roping team to help promote cardiovascular exercise. PE Specialist would learn double dutch and incorporate this type of jumping into the current jump rope unit. Additionally, this grant includes jump ropes and jump rope music to encourage students to make up their own jump rope routines inspired by the Beantown Jumpers.

- 12. Engaging Students Using the iPad as a Creation Tool** **\$1,500**
Nicole Putman, Hanscom Instructional Technology Specialist
 This graduate-level professional development opportunity allows teachers to explore how the iPad can be used as a tool to deepen cognitive demand and engage students in authentic learning experiences. Teachers will explore open-ended iPad applications including iMovie, Book Creator, Explain Everything, Puppet Pals, Felt Board, and Bookabi. Teachers will be required to develop lessons, projects or assessments that are grounded in the learning standards and allow students to use the iPad as tools to create. Follow-up and project sharing components are scheduled throughout the year.
- 13. Science Boot Camp for Elementary School Teachers** **\$1,080**
Mairead Curtis, Science Engineering Curriculum Leader
 This professional development initiative creates three opportunities for elementary school teachers to learn science content so that they will be more confident in teaching science concepts in their classrooms. Teachers will first learn the core components of Physical, Life, and/or Earth Sciences, how to teach them and what to teach students about “how science is done”. Participants will then split into groups to dig deeper into grade-specific content. This is the first formal opportunity in which middle school teachers will be teaching elementary school teachers subject area content to help raise the bar across all grade levels. A follow-up component is included to ensure that the knowledge and comfort with teaching science subjects is sustained throughout the year.
- 14. Infusing Social Thinking Into the Curriculum** **\$ 1,028**
Grace Janusis and Mara Salis, Hanscom School Psychologist and School Social Worker
 This new curriculum initiative helps support the Hanscom Primary School students with social, emotional, and behavioral functioning in the classroom in two ways. First, the purchase of “Whole Body Listening Larry” book and poster for each classroom and specialist room allows for consistency and common language between classes and grades. Secondly, Kindergarten classrooms will use the “Incredible Flexible You” curriculum, which complements the Responsive Classroom, and sets the stage in the first few weeks of school for positive behavioral, social and emotional growth.
- 15. 3D Printing for MakerSpace and Cross-curricular Units** **\$ 800**
Josh Gold, Hanscom Middle School Math Teacher
 This grant supports new curriculum initiatives in many of the middle school grades. The purchase of a 3-D printer would allow students to take their poster and cardboard design projects to another level. For example, this grant would enable cross-curriculum efforts related to studying ancient Egyptian pyramids and Greek architecture.
- 16. “Wiggle It” Fitness Disks and Exercise Bands in the Classroom** **\$445**
Siobhan Rooney, Smith School First Grade Teacher
 This new curriculum initiative provides balance disks or “wiggle” seats and fitness bands to give children the ability to move around more while sitting thus making them more attentive, alert and focused. The “wiggle seats” are portable therefore they can be used on chairs or during “rug” time. This initiative provides 1 to 1 access to wiggle seats and bands, allowing the assessment of a whole class as opposed to select opportunities in the classroom.
- 17. From Prototype to Fabrication** **\$ 372**
Josh Gold, Hanscom Middle School Math Teacher
 This grant allows seventh grade STEM students the opportunity to take their learning further with enhanced opportunities to design and program video games as well as design a 3D enclosure that would be printed to hold their Arduino unit. The cost of the grant would cover twenty Arduino Uno Boards, USB cables, and TFT shields and 3D printer filament.