

BEDFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FALL 2023 GRANT AWARDS



The Bedford Education Foundation is proud to announce the funding of eight grants in our Fall 2023 grant cycle, totaling \$8,600. Congratulations to all of our grant recipients.

To date, the BEF has funded \$325,000 towards creative and innovative projects in the Bedford Public Schools. Thank you to our community partners and supporters for making this impact possible!

LIVE PERFORMANCE OF ROMEO AND JULIET

John Glenn Middle School



Kelsey Little and Denise Breakall were awarded \$2,500 to take 8th grade students to attend a performance of Romeo and Juliet. These students, who will be reading the play in the Spring, will get to increase their comprehension of the text, have the opportunity of experiencing a live theatrical performance, and ask questions to professional actors about the process of performing Shakespeare.

MANGA AND GRAPHIC NOVELS TO INCREASE READING

Bedford High School

Librarian Alison Connelley was awarded \$1,090 to use a new approach to increasing book circulation and reading for pleasure at BHS. She will purchase a set of graphic novels and manga books for general use by the student population, as they have been shown to increase reading, particularly amongst struggling readers.



SENSORY FRIENDLY CLASSROOM

Lane School



Fourth grade teacher Katie Curran was awarded \$170 to make her classroom a more accessible place for all students to learn. With a goal of helping to normalize feelings remaining in the classroom, she will create a “calming corner” and bring in equipment to support multi-sensory learning.

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GREENHOUSE HYDROPONICS SYSTEM

Bedford High School



BHS Science teacher Elizabeth Billouin was awarded \$625 to work with the Horticulture Club to build a hydroponics growing system. This soilless growing system uses 70-90% less water than conventional agriculture and will be able to grow 80 plants at once. It will enable students in the club and beyond to experiment with growth and photosynthesis, and to produce food items for cafeterias across the district for years to come. The hydroponic system will be incorporated into the biology, foods and nutrition, and AP environmental science curricula.

STEAM POWERED LEARNING

Davis School

Davis School's STEAM room is getting some new additions thanks to the \$1,030 in grant funding awarded to Jaclyn Bentinck-Smith! The STEAM room at Davis school gives students the opportunity to work collaboratively and employ their science, technology, engineering, arts, and math skills to approach problems and explore solutions. This grant will provide the STEAM room with reusable materials to help students engage in engineering design challenges.



TECHNOLOGY FOR SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Bedford Public Schools



Speech/Language Pathologists across the district will be receiving iPads thanks to \$2,375 in grant funding awarded to Nadia Trant. With their new technology, SLPs working with students from preschool through grade 12 will be able to seamlessly model language, modify software to meet each student's unique communication needs, and implement Alternative Communication (AAC) devices. The new functionality will better support SAIL students, teachers, and staff throughout the district as SLP students' needs and progress transition through school years and buildings.

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AN INCLUSIVE ART STUDIO FOR ALL

Lane School

Lane School's art studio is becoming a more welcoming, inclusive, and work-conducive environment thanks to the \$480 in grant funding awarded to Visual Art teacher Jennifer Ferrari. The art studio is often noisy and over-stimulating because of the frequent peer collaboration that occurs. She will purchase 26 pairs of noise-reducing earmuffs that can be used by any student who needs them to create a more optimal working conditions, thereby helping them to engage more deeply and meaningfully in creative, analytical, and reflective thinking.



I LOVE READING!

Lane School



With a grant award of \$365, Lane School's Kathryn O'Brien will help students in her classroom become successful in decoding text and accessing age-appropriate fluency and comprehension skills. She will purchase decodable texts to help students who are entering third grade well below grade level to find excitement in learning to read.