



## 2015 – 2016 Teacher Grants

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### Clear Springs Elementary School

#### **African Drumming in the Elementary School Classroom**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Melanie McIvor

**Summary:** During the previous school year, Clear Springs was awarded a grant that supplied their music rooms with a set of African Drums. This grant will provide a more intense and concentrated drumming and rhythmic learning experience for all Clear Springs students in grades K-5. A specialized African Drumming Troupe will conduct a week-long residency in which students will receive instruction in African Drumming and will perform an African Drumming composition for their classmates.

***Awarded \$2000 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund***

#### **The Tonka-Ghana Connection: Taking the Next Step**

**Lead Teacher/Staff:** Delette Lemon

**Summary:** This grant builds on a 2014 grant that covered the cost of Internet services for the ICT Centre in Awutu-Mankessim, Ghana. It will “take the next step” by providing a larger number of Minnetonka students and their peers in Ghana the ability to Skype with their peers in Ghana. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 at Clear Springs and the Interact students at MHS will be included. It provides the ICT Centre in Awutu-Mankessim a conference webcam, tripod and mobile screen, which will allow small groups of their students to see and communicate with a small group of our Minnetonka students.

***Awarded \$600 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

**Around the World with Handbells****Lead Teacher/Staff: Jenny Kimball**

**Summary:** This joint grant funds 4 sets of handbells along with the “Around the World” curriculum book. All students in grades K-4 will be participate in playing the handbells. Kindergartners will be the first ones to play songs from around the world as the handbells are small and the curriculum provides instant success. These handbells are easily transportable in cases so they can play them in any setting. These handbells can be shared with the other music teachers and students as well.

**Awarded \$946 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund**

**Deephaven Elementary School****Coding Chromebooks****Lead Teacher/Staff: Kirsten Lunzer**

**Summary:** A set of Chromebooks or similar laptops for the 4th grade classrooms will increase the integration of coding into the curriculum in a more seamless, consistent way. The innovative aspects of this project include restructuring of independent work time in the classrooms, differentiation with coding, and the potential of a different technology tool for Minnetonka students.

**Awarded \$5250**

**Math Literacy and Daily 5 for Math****Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Peters**

**Summary** This grant will allow small group and individualized learning to happen during math class by providing trade books with a math focus to support students during Third Grade Math Daily 5. These books will allow students to gain a deeper understanding of math concepts taught during class. Additional materials will allow students to utilize writing to further access math concepts.

**Awarded \$845**

**Assisting with Barriers through Technology****Lead Teacher/Staff: Julie Hines, Mandy Mattke**

**Summary:** This grant will provide digitally-based interventions (iPods and apps) to students identified by Deephaven’s Student Support Team (SST) and will help meet student social/emotional/behavioral needs. The iPods will increase active engagement of the students in classroom learning. These interventions within the classroom setting will mprove student motivation and increase the SST’s ability to analyze data related to intervention goals.

**Awarded \$1100**

**GoPro DEEPHAVEN****Lead Teacher/Staff: Karl Boberg**

**Summary** The GoPro will visually record the activities of 5th grade: the STEM catapult contest, rocket launches, environment lessons in the woods, and to record the track and field day at MHS. Students will be able to create videos to share with parents and classmates. The use of the GoPro will impact all 5th grade students at Deephaven.

**Awarded \$755**

**Hand Chimes (Suzuki Tone Chimes)****Lead Teacher/Staff: Carol Carlson**

**Summary:** These hand chimes will be used at both Deephaven and MMW to supplement the existing sets of hand chimes. They will be used in a stand-alone fashion for 8th Grade Classroom Music students, as well as to accompany 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs. Students will be motivated to learn rhythm,

melody, harmony, form etc. by playing them. Students' lives will be enriched as they work collaboratively to present excellent, innovative, creative and community-building performances.

***Awarded \$1698***

### **Excelsior Elementary School**

#### **Alternative Seating for Chinese Immersion Classrooms**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Yan Li**

**Summary:** This grant funds 2 stand-up desks for use in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Chinese immersion classrooms to meet students' physiological need for movement while learning. This alternative seating option is an additional way to meet the educational needs of a variety of learning styles.

***Awarded \$434***

#### **Kick Up the Learning!**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Liz Gluck**

**Summary:** This grant funds AlphaBetter Stand-Up desks with Swinging Footrest bar for the Navigator Classrooms. In the classroom, over-excitabilities of the psychomotor nature can lead to students having an increased need to get up at (teacher perceived) inopportune times to initiate movement, especially when intellectual tasks become complex. Students need physical movement to make sense of the depth of the content and make connections. These desks help with that need for physical movement.

***Awarded \$1350***

#### **Audio Chinese and English Picture Dictionary**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jie Gao**

**Summary:** The "My Little Chinese Picture Dictionary" is a bilingual picture dictionary with a sensor pen. When the pen is put on the Chinese or English words, it reads them out loud in either in English or Chinese. It also has an earphone plug-in. The dictionary is organized by themes. All the themes are applicable to both English students and Chinese Immersion learners, such as family, friends, pets, countries and cities, math, science, social studies, etc. This grant will fund copies for both the Chinese and English classrooms.

***Awarded \$2188 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

### **Groveland Elementary School**

#### **Robotic Engineers**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Sara Lovelace**

**Summary:** This grant will purchase 12 programmable robot classroom kits, which will be used to promote critical thinking and coding skills in second grade students. Students will work with college "buddies" to assemble and program their robots to perform specific tasks. Students and mentors will then demonstrate their functioning robots in a classroom showcase.

***Awarded \$2748***

#### **Read and Serve**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Maryrose Adamek**

**Summary:** Read and Serve will provide opportunities for third graders to read about and develop empathy and put it into action by participating in hands on service projects for the community. Students will engage in active listening and conversations after reading carefully selected books with themes that promote caring, compassion, and resiliency. Students will then complete an activity tied to that theme. Read and Serve will support the current elementary Olweus Bully Prevention program.

***Awarded \$1302 from the Youth Citizenship Development Fund***

**Hydroponics with Spain****Lead Teacher/Staff: Trudy Schnorr**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase a Tower Garden and supplies to provide third grade students an authentic experience growing plants with seeds sourced in Spain hydroponically. Students will be able to observe and collect data during the full lifecycle of the plants and will extend their learning by sharing their experiences with a classroom in Spain through letters, email, video and Skype.

**Awarded \$500 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund and \$500 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation**

**Minnewashta Elementary School****Multicultural Author Visits****Lead Teacher/Staff: Lanica Klein**

**Summary:** "Between five and eight, children are old enough to begin to think about social issues and young enough to remain flexible in their beliefs. By the fourth grade, children's racial attitudes start to grow more rigid." (Talking to Our Children About Racism & Diversity by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund) This grant will fund presentations by authors and illustrators of books that contain positive cultural messages to students in kindergarten, first, and second grades and will promote a greater understanding of diversity.

**Awarded \$1000 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund, \$500 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund and \$1400 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund**

**Tower Garden****Lead Teacher/Staff: Mabel Crandell**

**Summary:** This grant funds a Tower Garden in the first grade and provides an opportunity for students to learn about plants, their parts, and how they grow. Growing plants in the classroom can help promote healthy food choices, a love of science and inquiry, and an understanding of the many ways to grow food, including urban agriculture.

**Awarded \$1100**

**Livescribe Pens: Writing Intervention Innovation****Lead Teacher/Staff: Amy Shatava**

**Summary:** This grant will purchase 6 Livescribe pens and journal paper to be used as an innovative intervention for students who need support for written expression. The Livescribe pen allows students to take notes and record their voice at the same time. The pen can then sync with an iPad, saving the student's work and audio in a digital capacity for students to expand on, assess and share with parents later. This is a technology-based intervention students can use within the regular classroom setting.

**Awarded \$1051**

**OSMO for Primer Grado****Lead Teacher/Staff: Maria Chopite**

**Summary:** Osmo is an innovative educational accessory that is used with iPads to promote social learning, collaboration, problem solving, physical interaction, and fun. Osmo is crafted with reflective artificial intelligence, a groundbreaking technology that bridges the real and digital realms for unlimited possibilities of play. This grant will fund the development of an "Osmo Center" that will allow first grade students to use technology to improve social interaction, learning and playing beyond the screen.

**Awarded \$480**

**Mind Fit: Tune in and Tune Up Your Body and Mind****Lead Teacher/Staff: Kelly Hanson**

**Summary:** Students today need a well-developed “tool box” of strategies to promote resiliency and deal effectively with the inevitable stresses of modern life. This grant will fund the after school Mindfit Program. Mindfit will use a number of methodologies to identify cognitive and emotional barriers to well-being in students and promote a growth mindset, and healthy coping and problem solving strategies.

***Awarded \$427*****Livin’ Peace Wall****Lead Teacher/Staff: Mercedes Scott, Carolyn Suarez**

**Summary:** The Livin’ Peace Wall will be used as a way to provide horticultural learning opportunities, as a place of peace and relaxation for all Minnewashta students, especially students with special needs. The Livin’ Peace Wall will allow for increased hands-on experiences with plant life and will serve as a valuable resource for SPED staff to utilize with special needs students.

***Awarded \$1190*****Scenic Heights Elementary School****Around the World with Handbells****Lead Teacher/Staff: Jenny Kimball**

**Summary:** This joint grant funds 4 sets of handbells along with the “Around the World” curriculum book. All students in grades K-4 will be participate in playing the handbells. Kindergartners will be the first ones to play songs from around the world as the handbells are small and the curriculum provides instant success. These handbells are easily transportable in cases so they can play them in any setting. These handbells can be shared with the other music teachers and students as well.

***Awarded \$946 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund*****Hands-On African Drumming****Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Renz**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase a Remo Tubano Drum Package. Hands-on experience playing African drums will help students broaden their awareness of the African culture and encourage creativity, self-expression, teamwork, listening skills, cooperation, and hand eye coordination. Through drumming, both the right and left sides of the brain can be accessed, encouraging the development of learning styles and skills that can last a lifetime.

***Awarded \$1000 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund*****WeatherBug School Program****Lead Teacher/Staff: Joe Wacker**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to help purchase a WeatherBug Station and Camera Package. The WeatherBug program allows for integration of many different technology applications into the classroom. Real-time weather data will be used to enhance mathematics, science, geography, and technology education. Classrooms will monitor the weather and analyze, interpret and comprehend data sets from real-life weather scenarios. The WeatherBug Station and camera will open a window to the world and take the power of observation in our classrooms to new heights.

***Awarded \$ 5000***

**Fidgety Fairy Tales****Lead Teacher/Staff: Colleen Faber**

**Summary:** Fidgety Fairy Tales is a 40-minute performance using re-imagined fairy tales to raise awareness and reduce the fear and misunderstanding that surrounds children with mental health disorders. Our intention is to provide students in grades 3 - 5 with accurate information about mental health in an engaging format. This will give families opportunities to talk about their own experiences with understanding mental health. This musical is a program sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Children's Mental Health.

**Awarded \$1000****Aqua Farm Systems****Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Roddy**

**Summary:** This grant will fund the purchase of two Aqua Farm systems. Aqua farms will give students the opportunity to explore the use of aquaponics, a closed-loop, sustainable farming method that combines traditional aquaculture (raising aquatic animals) and hydroponics (growing plants without soil), in the classroom. Students will also be able to compare the aquaponic system to a traditional grow light system to see the pros and cons of each system.

**Awarded \$150****Deephaven/Excelsior/Minnewashta Elementary Schools****Global Education Through Music****Lead Teacher/Staff: Mandy Mattke**

**Summary:** This grant provides a world music CD library available for teachers to check out for classroom use. Students will be exposed to different cultures and art through world music played during their specials or in their academic classes. Art and Physical Education teachers can use the CDs as background music during class times. Classroom teachers can incorporate world music to enhance lesson plans.

**Awarded \$300 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund****All Elementary****Robot Turtles****Lead Teacher/Staff: Pam Wertjes, Kari Harman**

**Summary:** Robot Turtles is an age appropriate introduction for Kindergarten students to learn the fundamentals of computer programming in the form of a board game. Robot Turtles is a low cost and simple option for coding education that students can choose as an everyday option in center times. This grant will provide Robot Turtles for all Minnetonka Kindergarten classrooms, to increase interest and exposure to computer programming.

**Awarded \$1800****Elementary Science Microscopes****Lead Teacher/Staff: Katie Regenscheid, Carol Carlson**

**Summary:** Microscopes will provide all elementary students with opportunities for scientific observation and inquiry. Students will gain access to a tool that will allow them to see more, measure accurately and do things they could not otherwise accomplish. This will help to meet all grade levels' science standard of inquiry and investigating their natural world. The microscopes will allow the students to not only investigate at a deeper level, but also learn how to use an important scientific tool. This will prepare students for the rigor of their science lab work at the middle school and high school

levels. Students will use the microscopes with partners or small groups, which will require them to learn and apply communication and collaboration skills.

***Awarded \$2000***

### **Minnetonka Elementary Musical**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Lauren Bartelt**

**Summary:** This grant underwrites the royalty fees for the Minnetonka Elementary Musical Program's 2016 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. This exciting program reaches out to all six elementary schools who perform the same musical play and share sets, costumes, props, lights and sound, and rotate performing on the big stage at Excelsior Elementary. Individual directors are hired at each school to lead student actors in this musical production.

***Awarded \$3500 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund***

### **Minnetonka Middle School East**

#### **Growth Mindset Pilot Project**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Cindy McGlasson**

**Summary:** The funds from this grant will be used to purchase a site license for "Mindset Works Educator Kits" at MME. Research has shown that students who hold a Growth Mindset—the knowledge that intelligence and ability are developed through effort—excel, especially under conditions of challenge. When students are taught that the brain develops and gets smarter with effort, motivation and performance improve. The goal at MME is to train a team of teachers to implement strategies that encourage a "growth mindset" in our classrooms.

***Awarded \$1500***

#### **Young Film Makers**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Bill Finnerty**

**Summary:** Digital video imagery is a dynamic form of communication and producing short films is a unique way for middle school students to connect to and influence their world in powerful and meaningful ways. This grant will be used to purchase computers and film editing software to support the Middle School Digital Film Making Program. Adding film and animation to existing digital options will provide students with relevant 21st century learning opportunities while creatively engaging with technology.

***Awarded \$1000***

#### **I Am Malala**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Gina Nelson**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase copies of the Kindle book, *I Am Malala* for 8th grade Honors Global Studies. This book will support student learning about the culture and political climate of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the education of girls around the world. Students will use Malala Yousafzai's story to identify the impact one person can have in the world. The project will conclude with students making policy recommendations to US legislators in the form of short videos. The project will provide an innovative way for students to address real-world global issues by raising awareness and advocating on behalf of global education.

***Awarded \$115 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

#### **Impact Lives: A Global Learning Experience**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Gina Nelson**

**Summary:** The funds from this grant will be used to establish a partnership with Impact Lives. Impact Lives is a non-profit that designs learning experiences and curriculum that provide students with skills in communication, relationships, and leadership that they can use throughout their lives. This innovative

project will allow students to hear personal stories from people who have lived in the Dominican Republic and the global issues impacting their lives. A culminating service project will provide a real-world learning opportunity for students to address global issues through critical thinking and problem solving.

***Awarded \$300 from the Youth Citizenship Development Fund and \$900 from the Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund***

### **Tone Chimes**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Karen Gotz**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to purchase Suzuki Tone Chimes for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Classroom Music classes. Tone chimes are a great way for students to experience fun hands-on learning. Many musical concepts can be studied such as diatonic melody, harmony, chords, rhythm, tempo and pulse. Tone chimes allow for a teacher to differentiate, so all students can experience success. Team effort is also emphasized.

***Awarded \$984 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund and \$680 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation***

## **Minnetonka Middle School West**

### **Hand Chimes (Suzuki Tone Chimes)**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Carol Carlson**

#### **Summary:**

These hand chimes will be used at both Deephaven and MMW to supplement the existing sets of hand chimes. They will be used in a stand-alone fashion for 8th Grade Classroom Music students, as well as to accompany 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs. Students will be motivated to learn rhythm, melody, harmony, form etc. by playing them. Students' lives will be enriched as they work collaboratively to present excellent, innovative, creative and community-building performances.

***Awarded \$1698***

### **History Live Lesson**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Goettsche and Mary Benson**

**Summary:** This grant will be used to bring a series of History Players and Video Conferencing lessons from the Minnesota Historical Society to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes at MME and MMW. Students will exercise critical thinking skills, examine primary resources, and explore important issues about Minnesota's state history, government, and Minnesota's role within the larger context of the country during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in an innovative and interactive way.

***Awarded \$1000***

### **Global Novel Project and Author Skype**

**Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Lewis**

**Summary:** The funds from this grant will be used to purchase copies of the novel, *A Long Walk to Water*, teacher "Water Resource Kits", and live classroom Skype sessions with the author, Lynda Sue Parks. Students will have the opportunity to read a globally-focused novel and put their new knowledge into action by creating a globally focused service project to support the building of wells in Sudan. Live author Skype sessions will help students to learn about the writing and authorship process and the author's inspiration and passion for this project.

***Awarded \$3000 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund***

**WeConnect—Global Youth Citizenship Club****Lead Teacher/Staff: Danielle Pittel**

**Summary:** Funds from this grant will be used to pilot a new before or after school enrichment club on cultural competency. The project will utilize the WeConnect Global Youth Citizenship Curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota Extension. The intent of the club is to explore global learning in a fun and engaging way while promoting student leadership skills and providing students with opportunities to become agents of change in their community.

**Awarded \$700 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund**

**Minnetonka High School****Video Crane****Lead Teacher/Staff: Andy Smith**

**Summary:** This grant provides funds to purchase a new innovative video crane. This equipment will increase the visual flexibility and creativity of school video presentations. Students using it will gain experience in a number of techniques not possible before and will learn how such tools can accelerate their learning and more effectively relate ideas to audiences.

**Awarded \$1640 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund**

**The Second Screen****Lead Teacher/Staff: David Surver**

**Summary:** The use of a second screen in the classroom is an innovative way to increase math instructional time and to provide for a more interactive classroom. Silent videos playing in a loop on a second screen provide an opportunity for students to see each problem worked out step by step. When this equipment is not being used as a silent video screen, it can be a digital picture screen that flips through various amazing pictures of math in action.

**Awarded \$1200**

**Flexible Student Workspace****Lead Teacher/Staff: Kelly Mosiman****Summary:**

As teachers work to incorporate the 21st century skills of collaboration and creativity more authentically into curriculum, spaces need to encourage a work environment that reflects those objectives. This grant will fund the development of a classroom with more flexible options for grouping, collaborative workspace, and an easily changeable classroom setup/footprint that facilitates these goals. The design of a flexible classroom allows for transformative learning that helps students understand the applicability of reading, writing, and thinking beyond the classroom walls.

**Awarded \$5000**

**Writing Center****Lead Teacher/Staff: Maggie Shea****Summary:**

As our first Endowment Fund project, The Foundation has funded over \$300,000 for The Writing Center over seven years. This year, we are pleased to partner in a renovation of the center, with an updated configuration of the space and new furnishings. This investment will create a space more conducive to one-on-one coaching and team discussions, allowing the small Writing Center staff and peer writing coaches to be even more effective with students.

**Awarded \$5000**

**Legacy Project: Continuing on Excellence****Lead Teacher/Staff: Laurie Lokar**

**Summary:** The goal of the Legacy Project is to take the Minnetonka tradition of serving the greater good to the next level by having each graduating class choose a specific focus for their fund raising and volunteer efforts. The three main components of this goal are for: 1)MHS to be a leader in teaching students how to use their unique gifts and talents for the common good to create change 2) that students take these skills and experiences with them when they leave MHS and 3)the community and larger society will benefit from students' leadership.

***Awarded \$1,500 from the Youth Citizenship Development Fund*****All Schools****Literature Take 2: eBooks for K-12 Students****Lead Teacher/Staff: Media Specialists at all schools**

**Summary:** The Foundation will provide funding for eBooks and traditional books, a portion of which will be globally focused literature, to be available for all district schools and distributed to all Media Centers.

Portions of this grant will be directed to grant applications submitted by:

- 7th Grade Independent Reading Resources (Margaret Ruffino, MMW)
- Global Resources for a Changing World (Mary Jane Narog, Clear Springs)
- Award Winning Books for the Minnewashta (Lanica Klein, Minnewashta)

***Awarded \$25,000*****Minnetonka Community Education/Early Childhood and Family Education****Preschool Gym Equipment for All Areas of Development****Lead Teacher/Staff: Sarah Koopman**

**Summary:** Funds from this grant will be used to purchase gym equipment that aligns with the preschool curriculum in the area of gross motor development, including balance, motor planning, coordination, traveling skills, and ball skills. In addition, the materials will be carefully chosen to help build peer relationships, social skills, and cooperative play.

***Awarded \$500*****Around the World and Back Again with Tom Chapin****Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Babcock, Deb Hughes**

**Summary:** Young children learn through music and movement. "Around the World and Back Again" will be the theme of our preschool global learning study and the funds from this grant will be used to provide a culminating musical experience performed by Tom Chapin for preschool children and their families.

***Awarded \$1500 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Global Grant Fund***