

## **Innovative Teaching Grants**

### **\$181,828 Awarded 2022**

**Touchphonics! / Jennifer Brenner (Tally)** granted \$1,273 to incorporate Touchphonics into her classroom making decoding concepts attainable by involving four modalities: visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile. It is designed to be an alternative approach used with struggling readers and dyslexic students.

**Mobile Whiteboards / Katie Butler (Tivy)** granted \$4,000 for mobile magnetic whiteboards to be utilized in the library, computer labs and outdoor classrooms.

**AIR ART / Amanda Lord (HPMS)** granted \$1,400 to purchase 3-Doodler pens where students can draw in 3-dimensions. It safely melts low-temp plastic sticks that quickly cool into the shape that students design!

**To the Untouchable and Beyond / Alma Garcia (Tally)** granted \$3,500 to add two virtual reality headsets for her 5<sup>th</sup> grade science class. The headsets will allow her students to visit different environments to better understand the world around them.

**Second Grade Loves Science! / Ann Schroeder, Melissa Grubb, Skye Farhoudi, and Elizabeth Riley (Nimitz)** granted \$4,000 to add hands-on components for their 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms that will give students the opportunity to teach each other. The students will use microscopes, solar system models, weather stations, life cycle models and more. The learners become teachers by recording their lesson and taking it to other classrooms.

**Kitchen/Lab Tune-Up / Mario Estrada (Tivy)** granted \$5,491 to supply culinary students with professional grade equipment and media. This will allow the students to have varied experiences in the kitchen giving them the opportunity to test different aspects of the culinary field.

**Pilot X Wireless Digital Teaching Station / Kristen Scogin, Jasmine Turner, Megan Russ, and Heather Likin (Tom Daniels)** granted \$11,966 (4 grants of \$2,992 each) to purchase Pilot X for each of their classrooms. Pilot X allows more mobility for the teacher to work with different groups of students during lessons as well as allow more student interaction by utilizing a mobile wireless document camera that is built in to the teaching station.

**The Very Realistic Classroom / Rachel Schwarz, Katlin Derrick, Amber Davis (District-wide)** granted \$8,000 to purchase Virtual Reality goggles and accompanying educational software to extend learning for students in Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> grade at all elementary schools. The VR goggles will bring relevant, real-world experiences to elementary students.

**3D Printers, Laptops, Supplies / Sandra Flores (Starkey)** funded \$10,000 to purchase 3D printers, laptops and supplies to create future designers and engineers, and promote growth and development for over 450 elementary students. Students will be able to take their visual, sketch, and model stage to make actual creations.

**“Fit for Life” Physical Education Class / Alex Johnson (HPMS)** granted \$2,550 to start a fitness-based, incentive-driven physical education class that rewards students for self-improvement, determination and integrity. It will develop students’ motivation, resilience, and leadership abilities which will carry over into other classes and stay with them for the rest of their lives.

**“All Right Stop,...Collaborate and Listen” / Haley Dean (Nimitz)** granted \$3,200 to fund moveable whiteboard tables that foster collaboration, engagement, and increased communication in her science and social studies classroom.

**Specdrums / Alysse O’Brien (Nimitz)** granted \$637 to purchase specdrums for her music class. These are musical rings that read colors and attach a sound to that color. She will use specdrums to imitate, read and create melodic patterns. In addition, she will work with the challenge lab teacher to incorporate these with STEM lab activities at the school.

**High School Robotics in Middle School STEM / (HPMS)** granted \$3,500 to purchase the Pitsco Tetrix Max technology for the Investigating Careers and Principles of Applied Engineering class. The Tetrix robot will better prepare students for the high school level robotics program.

**Classroom Fit for Everyone / Julie Nobles (Nimitz)** granted \$3,500 to redesign her classroom into a more student-centered workspace that supports each student’s learning style and promotes collaborative learning. With the grant funds, she will purchase L-shaped desks, adjustable height activity tables, and industrial stools.

**Markerboard Interactive Activity Tables / Crisinda Cooper (Starkey)** granted \$3,366 to purchase Markerboard Activity Tables allowing her students to collaborate, problem solve in pairs or groups, give immediate feedback on math problems or writing assignments while staying engaged in their work.

**Hydroponic Engineers / Brittany Moss (Starkey)** granted \$1,563 so that her students can take part in hydroponic gardening. During this process they will learn about horticultural careers such as plant biologists, pathologists, and geneticists, and how farming impacts our environment and economy.

**Math Space Flexibility / Pamela Boyer (Starkey)** granted \$3,500 to purchase tables that accommodate multiple students to work cooperatively in their math space.

**Expanding Science / Darci Burchers and Kelly Dunigan (Tivy)** granted \$2,000 to purchase fetal pigs for studying mammal anatomy. The pigs give students hands-on experience in dissection helping students change how they think about science and possibly what they may pursue as a career.

**Transforming Old School Teaching into 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching by Creating Problem Solvers / Sandra Klein, Carissa Warren, Allison Carroll, Megan Nichols, and Merydwen Peschel (Tally)** granted \$5,000 to purchase Project Based Learning Kits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team. Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge. They will also purchase “Escape Rooms for their classrooms helping students enhance teamwork skills.

**Outdoor Learning Lab / Hailey Mohnke (Starkey)** granted \$10,000 to revamp the Starkey outdoor classroom. The project will add an outdoor whiteboard, weatherboard, raised vegetable garden, animal habitat, root viewer, and earth science station to allow teachers to infuse science in math and ELAR instruction.

**Science Labs / Katherine Cruce (Starkey)** granted \$1,679 to purchase large, smooth tables that create ideal work areas for science experiments which create a much safer learning space in the lab.

**PE Disk Golf Grant / Dylan Warren (Starkey)** granted \$1,700 to instill a love of fitness and the outdoors by installing a disk golf course and teaching a disk golf unit to all Starkey elementary students.

**Phonics Fun! / Dianna Daniels (Tally)** granted \$2,360 to purchase 24 magnetic letters and board sets to use during phonics lessons. Hands-on phonics lessons help students to develop word structure knowledge for reading and spelling.

**The Innovative Road to Reading & Empowerment / Sarah Burkhart (Tivy)** granted \$3,500 to purchase C-Pens for special education that will empower students with different reading abilities to gain fluency and knowledge as well as become independent readers.

**Spike Shack Extension / Renee White (HPMS)** granted \$2,000 to purchase additional equipment to expand the HPMS Spike Shack. With this money she will purchase a Premium Door Merchandiser Refrigerator-Upright Beverage Cooler. The grant will continue to widen the scope of running a small business.

**Flexible Fourth Grade Learning / Stephanie Halpin (Nimitz)** granted \$1,900 to add round tables with whiteboard tops to her 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The tables allow students to work in groups with flexible writing tops for enhanced learning.

**Helping Younger Children Become Better Readers / Shirley Valentine (Tally)** granted \$3,500 to supply learning tools to help close the foundational gaps in reading for Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Items include magnet boards, phonics word match and games, sight word games, flip books, and more.

**The Visual Edge that's Efficient, Ergonomic, Economical / Shanna Vecchio (Tivy)** granted \$1,500 to purchase Visual Edge Slant Boards for individual student use in her CTE Business classes. These boards are adjustable, portable workstations with a magnetic whiteboard.

**Promoting Exploratory Talks for EBs / Rosalba Wisner (Starkey)** granted \$2,927 to equip her classroom with noise reduction stations that will provide the availability to work on assignments that have recording elements and maximize resources like TEAMS.

**Interactive and Hands-On ELAR and Math / Stephanie Thomas (Tally)** granted \$2,900 to upgrade and update her classroom's English Language Arts and Math Hands-On resources. She will purchase a variety of ELAR and Math Lakeshore Learning resources to help students grow to be lifelong learners.

**Nursing Kelly / Sharon Pintsch (Tivy)** granted \$3,260 to add a low-fidelity manikin that allows her Health Science students to practice patient care in a more real-world type setting. This grant has been funded by our friends at Peterson Health.

**STEAM Built Literacy! / Stacy Ramirez (Tally)** granted \$3,500 to build a reading library and creative writing stations within her Kindergarten classroom. Her goal is to build a love of reading by offering a variety of materials and an area of comfort to explore literacy.

**Hands-On Learning Kindergarten with Osmo & Friends / Lisa Hopson (Tally)** granted \$3,500 to update her classroom's English language arts, math hands-on resources, and technology. She will incorporate 6 OSMO learning stations with educational puzzles, creation stations, and STEM building kits. OSMO stations provide a unique combination of computer vision and manipulatives that change the way students interact with technology in the classroom

**Tivy Optics Demo / Kelly Dunigan (Tivy)** granted \$4,000 to purchase equipment for physics classes that enable students to conduct introductory optic experiments and study nuclear energy through experiments with alpha, beta and gamma radiation.

**Livin' La Vida Laptops 2.0 / Hunter Miller, Melissa Martin, Sarah Koenig, and Brittany Moss (Tally)** granted \$10,000 to add 22 Dell laptops to work with the Gifted and Talented students of K-5 students at Tally, Tom Daniels, Nimitz, and Starkey. The laptops allow the students to type documents, work on PowerPoints and a multitude of other projects. These will also be utilized during STEM lab where they will learn about coding and programming.

**Drumtastic Mathematics in Motion / Alysse O'Brien (Nimitz)** granted \$421 to expand her current Drums Alive Drumtastic program. She will expand the benefits of the program to the academic area of Math working with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and teachers to help them experience math in a new way.

**I'm All Ears Listening Stations / Kimberly Miller, Courtney Cruce, and Natalie Tanner (Starkey)** granted \$771 to purchase 125 headphones and stands for Math, Science, Reading and Writing. Students can record their writings and listen to each other's work with these devices.

**Stop, Collaborate, and Listen / Cheryl Higdon and Wendy Saldivar (Tally)** granted \$5,000 to fund the special education student behavior classrooms with flexible seating. The purpose of the furniture is to prepare these students, when ready, to successfully transfer in to general education classes with similar seating and classroom layouts.

**Listening Station / Cynthia Smitherman (Starkey)** granted \$618 to create privacy partitions and purchase headphones to enrich her classroom's literacy center.

**Indoor Garden to Table / Dee Heiner (Tivy)** granted \$1,208 to create an indoor farm to maintain throughout the year, all while being able to take home quality organic vegetables that have been grown in their own classrooms. They will study soil quality, water quality, and light sources to grow quality vegetables.

**Interactive, Hands-On Literacy and Math Initiative to Close Gaps and Target Specific Needs in this Evolving and Challenging Time for Kindergarteners / Bethany Brown (Tally)** granted \$3,000 to update her classroom with hands-on ELAR and Math Lakeshore Learning resources for her Kindergarten class. She will incorporate various learning centers and create learning library.

**Read, Grow, Learn / Danielle Carpenter (Starkey)** granted \$1,632 as a first-year teacher to build her literacy reading corner making it a warm, welcoming, and organized place with headphones, furniture, and books.

**Flexible Seating and Literacy Center / Guadalupe Santana (Starkey)** granted \$1,960 to purchase bilingual books and learning tools for her Starkey 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. With these tools she will increase student engagement and foster an accessible learning environment.

**Building Literacy in the Art Room / Kenna Bush (Tally)** granted \$1,000 to stock the Tally Art Room Library so that students can read about every artist they study and re-read the story books she already uses as inspiration for various art projects.

**Pottery for Kids / Kevin McCorkle (Nimitz)** granted \$3,000 to add two pottery wheels to his art classroom. This will give him the chance to expose more students to the medium of clay.

**!! Fabulous Flexibility!! / Katie Dieringer (Nimitz)** granted \$3,500 to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning space to promote higher levels of student engagement. Standing tables with stools that swivel will accommodate her students with “on the move” or kinetic styles of learning.

**Flipforms / Alysse O’Brien (Nimitz) and Mary Johnson (Starkey)** granted \$4,517 for convertible risers for performance, movement, and seating/standing arrangements in the elementary music programs of Nimitz and Starkey.

**We are all Butterflies! / Natalie Tanner (Starkey)** granted \$2,342 to create a classroom butterfly transformation station. Students will read about the care of butterflies and their impact on the environment. They will grow plants to feed the butterflies and report data back on the transformation process.

**Science of Teaching Reading Aligned Literacy Station / Megan Myers (Starkey)** granted \$1,500 to create literacy centers that create a rich environment that aligns to the new expectations of the Science of Teaching Reading.

**Creating Community and Communication through Collaborative Seating / Lydia Wagner (Nimitz)** granted \$3,500 for new work desks and tables with whiteboard tops to help students better communicate their math ideas.

**Empowerment Station / Heather Grace (Starkey)** granted \$4,247 for the Makerspace area of the library. She will empower students with reading about being impactful citizens through books, realizing learning is a social responsibility through making compost from lunch food scraps with electric composters, using critical thinking skills by looking at table scraps and compost through a microscope that attaches to their Viewsonic, and keeping scientific data on the student’s impact at the local landfill and the school’s Monarch Butterfly garden.

**We are Claypable of Great Things / Jody Schwartz (Starkey)** granted \$2,240 to add a clay extruder, extruder die kit, pottery wheel, brain flakes building kits, magnetic tiles, and books to the Starkey art room.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Collaborative Reading Center / Rebecca Anson (Starkey)** granted \$1,200 to enhance her reading center with an updated classroom library and quality headphones. Students will use this center for independent reading, partner reading, small group reading, reading choice board activities, reading response activities, and fluency practice.

**Fostering a Love of Reading for Emergent Bilinguals becoming Biliterate Students / Alita Davis (Starkey)** granted \$3,500 to purchase a wide range of Spanish, bilingual, and culturally relevant books, varied by genre, for emergent bilingual students to increase their love of reading, while providing high interest texts to promote their reading. The Starkey campus services bilingual and ESL students, therefore this grant would affect the entire population of emergent bilinguals.