

Innovative Teaching Grants \$110,068 Awarded 2021

- **Flexible Learners / Kelsey Davidson of Starkey Elementary** granted \$2,500 to add student tables/chairs to her elementary classroom. The 21st-century furniture allows students more movement and helps keep them involved and engaged in learning,
- **Creating Community & Communication through Collaborative Seating / Lydia Wagner, of Nimitz Elementary** granted \$2,500 for collaborative work desks for her 5th-grade math classroom. This furniture allows individualized learning and boosts student engagement.
- **MakerSpace-A-Month / Amanda Lord of Hal Peterson Middle School** granted \$1,875 to create an area for curriculum-based stations designed to enhance units of study and provide opportunities for creative expression, collaboration, and problem-solving.
- **Flexible Future Leaders / Elizabeth Riley of Nimitz Elementary** granted \$2,200 for 21st-century mobile student desks and seats. This furniture allows students choices and some control of their environment and helps foster collaboration and cooperation.
- **Reading, Writing and Reality / Natalie Tanner of Starkey Elementary** granted \$485 to purchase flash cards, novels, etc. that show the positive characteristics of practicing empathy. Expected outcomes include better communication skills, improved ability to learn, retain and use information, and a stronger emotional connection with peers .
- **Spike Shack Expansion / Renee White of Hal Peterson Middle School** of granted \$2,200 for business tools to be used in the operation of the Spike Shack by Special Education students at HPMS. These tools encourage students to learn small-business concepts, math, and reading skills.
- **Bringing Life to Ideas with Brackitz / Amanda Galindo of Nimitz Elementary** granted \$1,100 for Brackitz building elements which help demonstrate and expand STEM concepts.
- **Making Amazing Mathematicians! / Dianna Daniels of Tally Elementary** granted \$1,000 for mathematical tools and equipment to foster comprehension and accelerate the learning of mathematical concepts in a challenging, hands-on manner.
- **Books, Books, Books! / Jennifer Haas of Tally Elementary** granted \$2,500 for replacement of classroom books destroyed by inclement weather. Books purchased include read alouds, guided reading, leveled readers, high-interest fiction and non-fiction books. A goal of this grant is to instill a love of reading at the first-grade level.

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- **For the Love of Reading / Lea Anne Duckworth of Tally Elementary** granted \$2,200 for replacement of classroom books destroyed by inclement weather. Books purchased are on diversity, growth, nonfiction and graphic novels, and include read alouds, guided reading, and leveled readers.
- **ELAR and Math STEM Classroom Upgrade / Lisa Hopson & Team of Tally Elementary** granted \$4,000 to upgrade ELAR (Library) and Math (STEM) centers in four kindergarten classrooms.
- **A Teacher Affects Eternity / Amy Harris of Starkey Elementary** granted \$1,500 to build a school library of books and materials that focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for teachers to access. SEL helps the child to manage emotions and participate appropriately in social interactions.
- **Building the Future with ARTchitecture / Kenna Bush of Tally Elementary** granted \$2,100 for building sets. Goals of the grant are to demonstrate the connections between art and architecture and engineering, and strengthen problem-solving skills by the use of free-form building materials.
- **KISD Students Visit the World with VRI! / Katlin Derrick (B.T. Wilson and HPMS)** granted \$9,795 for 24 Virtual Reality goggles and software to extend learning for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Software spans every content area, particularly science and social studies.
- **Collaboratively Learning / Aubrey Davila & Team of Tally Elementary** granted \$4,000 for 21st-century furniture that fosters collaboration and sharing, and empowers the student by having control of his/her environment to some degree.
- **ViewSonic / Tish Miller of B.T. Wilson** granted \$4,000 for a large-screen, interactive Viewsonic display monitor with collaborative capability for the 21st century classroom. Goals are to increase classroom engagement and collaboration, and provide "real time" feedback.
- **Toggle! Toggle! Choo! Choo! / Denise Weinheimer of B.T. Wilson** granted \$4,000 for a large-screen, interactive Viewsonic display monitor with collaborative capability.
- **Drumming in the Classroom / Mary Johnson of Starkey Elementary** granted \$700 to purchase drums for students to learn to read a basic rhythm using the drum and to play songs while reading music using world drum techniques.

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- **GreenStalk Vertical Garden Expansion / Melissa Martin of Tom Daniels Elementary** granted \$725 for materials for experimentation with small space gardening, indoor and outdoor gardening, companion planting, beneficial pollinators, seasonal crops, etc.
- **STEAM in the Physics Classroom / Kelly Dunigan of Tivy High School** granted \$1,800 for storage/testing devices, shelving, and other materials for STEM projects that apply mathematics to the real world.
- **Assess for Success / Sharon Pintsch of Tivy High School** granted \$3,200 for assessment simulation aids to enhance the assessment skills of Health Science students to increase their success in post-secondary careers and training.
- **Graphing Calculators / David Riley of Tivy High School** granted \$4,000 to purchase STARR-approved calculators. These calculators greatly benefit struggling learners, help students factor quadratics, graph and compare graphs of functions, and simplify fractions and radicals.
- **Tools of the Trade / Sarah McGrae of Tivy High School** granted \$4,000 to purchase STARR-approved calculators. The calculators help students in upper-level math classes to find derivatives of any functions, area between curves, antiderivatives, logarithms with basis other than 10, etc.
- **Furniture for High School Library / Laurie Strain of Tivy High School** granted \$4,934 for 21st-century library furniture. Functional, flexible, and adaptable, the furniture encourages independent inquiry and provides technology and collaborative-friendly work stations.
- **High School Robotics in Middle School CTE Courses / Venissa Rodriguez of Hal Peterson Middle School** granted \$2,300 for robotics kits that help students in Principles of Applied Engineering learn the fundamentals of building and programming at the middle school-level.
- **Planting Knowledge / Hailey Mohnke of Starkey Elementary** granted \$1,200 for a hydroponic garden system that will aid in the teaching of the life-cycle of a tomato plant.
- **Livin' La Vida Laptop / Hunter Miller & All District Challenge Lab Teachers (all four Elementary schools)** granted \$9,100 to purchase laptops for Challenge Labs at four elementary schools. The laptops to be used by gifted students have multimodal software not available on iPads.
- **Growing Learners in the Great Outdoors / Monica Martinez of B.T. Wilson** granted \$200 for the purchase of mobile whiteboards designed to be used outdoors.
- **Tomorrow's Leaders in Reading and Writing / Sandra Klein & Team of Tally Elementary** granted \$4,000 to build classroom libraries with various genres of books, enabling teachers to use resources as diverse as their students.

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- **Making Math Make Sense / Amy Harris & Team of Starkey Elementary** granted \$4,000 to purchase various math tools to help student grow in mathematics. The math tools give visual representations that help turn abstract mathematical concepts into concrete representations.
- **Tally Library Update / Gena Carpenter of Tally Elementary** granted \$4,700 to update the Tally school library with 21st-century furniture. The furniture adds flexibility, allowing students to work collaboratively in small groups as well as alone.
- **Flexible Seats - Flexible Minds / Monica Martinez of B.T. Wilson** granted \$1,540 to add flexible seating to her elementary classroom. This 21st-century seating allows more collaboration and communication among students, helping them acquire better interactive skills and become better communicators.
- **Flexible Seating for the Library / Victoria Ramirez of Tom Daniels Elementary** granted \$2,590 for adjustable furniture for the Tom Daniels library. The furniture allows students more natural movement, helping them to be engaged longer and remain focused.
- **Innovative Math Tools / Mindy Huerta of Tom Daniels Elementary** granted \$3,620 to expand math resources to include innovative manipulatives and math literature. These resources will help increase student math proficiency, expand classroom library to include math-focused literature, and show relevant examples of math in student environments.
- **21st Century Interactive Whiteboard Tables / Tami Bocanegra of Starkey Elementary** granted \$2,500 for interactive whiteboard tables. The tables allow students to work in small groups on problem-solving activities, encouraging them to collaborate with peers to create a student-led learning environment.
- **Outdoor Cubby Adventures / Lori Rowan of the Early Childhood Center** granted \$5,000 for outdoor equipment/structures to create an outdoor learning classroom at the Head Start and Pre-K levels. The equipment allows sensory exploration with hands-on materials and fosters collaboration as the children work and play together in an outdoor environment.
- **Jumpstarting Tivy High School's Aviation Manufacturing Program / Aaron Cook** granted \$2,000 to expand the aviation manufacturing program at Tivy High School. With the purchase of aviation kits and necessary tools, third-year aviation students will have the opportunity to acquire aviation fabrication skills.