

Innovative Teaching Grants

\$163,662 Awarded 2024

Hydroponic Garden / Brisa Hernandez (Nimitz) granted \$1,059 for a classroom hydroponic garden that will allow first graders to learn about different plant cycles all year long. Students will be responsible for caring for the plants and recording qualitative and quantitative data.

Learning Through Literacy / Candice Dominguez (Daniels) granted \$2,456 for hands on literacy tools such as story sequencing sets, language games, phonetic puzzles, and storytelling props.

Microscope Accessories & Testing Supports / Darci Burchers (Tivy) granted \$900 for microscope care kits for pre-AP and AP biology students. Also included in the grant are headphones and testing dividers.

Spike Sensory & Learning Lab / Marissa Cormier (HPMS) granted \$5,000 for sensory and learning lab materials for the special education/life skills classroom. Some of the items included are money counter games, STEM Bots, sensory mats, athletic gear, art materials, and learning games.

Reading with a Pen / Pamela Boyer (Starkey) granted \$2,100 for scanning pens for students with dyslexia and bilingual/ESL students. These pens have text-to-speech capabilities and provide more independence for the students as they grow in confidence as a successful reader.

Science Shenanigans / Alma Garcia (Tally) granted \$2,500 for 12 Ozobots for coding to understand structure, functions, and ecosystems, a weather station to track data and learn the difference between weather and climate, and nonrenewable resources samples for hands-on learning.

To Infinite Learning and Beyond / Sherrie Godwin (Daniels) granted \$2,443 for letter sounds and word building games, puzzles, and manipulatives for kindergarteners.

SET Up for Success / Heather Cunningham (HPMS) granted \$2,405 for One Act set pieces that will help students build believable sets and giving actors a more diverse scenic environment in which to work.

STEM & Physics Toys for Better Understanding of Physics / Kelly Dunigan (Tivy) granted \$3,500 for equipment to learn motion, rotation, energy, light, sound, fluids, thermodynamics, and STEM design projects. Students will make mousetrap cars, miniature kites, cartesian divers, roller coasters and much more.

Reading Assessment, Interventions, and Novels / Jamie Graham (Nimitz) granted \$2,495 for reading benchmark assessment kits to track student reading progress (including special needs and GT students) in order to provide needed interventions for fluency, comprehension, and accuracy.

Transmission Jack for CTE / Lee Martinez (Tivy) granted \$2,500 to the Auto-tech class for a new transmission jack for students to safely remove and install vehicle transmissions and transaxle assemblies.

“Uke” Can Do It! / Carol Gelsone (Tally) granted \$2,041 for a set of 25 ukuleles with tuners, extra strings, song books, and some puppets to make learning to read music fun for students.

Choices in Innovative Art / Mindy Huerta (Daniels) granted \$2,500 for art books, adaptive supplies, and art tools for students ranging from beginner to more advanced to help with creative expression and to make STEAM career connections.

When You Wish Upon a Star-fish / Sarah Thompson granted \$2,000 for aquatic dissection specimens including fish, squid, starfish, clams, and sharks.

Book Bonanza / Dianna Daniels (Tally) granted \$3,000 to the first-grade team for various hardcover chapter books in sets of six as well as supplemental materials to help extend the meaning of the texts, develop vocabulary, and check for comprehension.

Empowering Students with iPads in Education / Kristin Scogin (Daniels) granted \$2,432 for five iPads to engage students in student-center work during stations. They will be used with Flipgrid, Book Creator, and also provide audio books for students who need reading supports.

Tivy Treasures Expansion Project / Danielle Alonzo (Tivy) granted \$7,000 to the BT Wilson Special Education workshop for an embroidery machine with supplies to expose students to additional skills for employability.

Students & Staff Becoming the Best Versions of Themselves / Rose Gonzales (HPMS) granted \$1,500 for a motivational guest speaker, Chris Owor, to speak about overcoming adversities and challenges, building meaningful relationships, adapting to change, and appreciating others.

Gelli Prints for Elementary Students / Kevin McCorkle (Nimitz) granted \$1,300 for Gelli print plates to expose students to processes that will allow them to create prints of their own.

Grant for Innovative Teaching / Cathy Dutton (Daniels) granted \$500 for various high interest books and flexible seating for the reading area.

Numworks Calculators / Evan Owens (Tivy) granted \$2,430 for the purchase of 28 NumWorks calculators to help students in upper level math classes find derivatives of any function, area between curves, antiderivatives, relative extrema, logarithms with bases other than 10, slope fields, and the trapezoidal rule for Riemann Sums.

Improving Chemistry with More Quality Labs & Equipment / Michele Butler (Tivy) granted \$2,500 to the chemistry department for on-level classes up to dual chem. Equipment includes centrifuges, gas probes, calorimeters, and science kits.

Fit for Life Final Phase / Alex Johnson (HPMS) granted \$2,500 for equipment to develop stability, ballistic strength, joint strength, and mobility. Also included are a startup set of 200 bags for a fundraiser to replenish the stars and lightning bolts rewards given to students so the program will be able to run itself in the future.

From Concept to Creation: Sculpting 2D Ideas into 3D Reality / Hunter Miller (Tally) granted \$8,500 for a 3D printer and additional filament. The students will learn how to code and create in TinkerCad with the included tutorials. The goal is to have cross curricular projects with the first project being an Art/STEM lab.

Baking / Colleen Whittle (Tivy) granted \$1,599 to the culinary class for a commercial use mixer to make larger batches of recipes including bread dough.

DES Lifeskills: Promoting ELAR & Math Through Adaptive Resources / Lisa Leifeste (Daniels) granted \$3,864 to the special education department for text to speech pen scanners, headphones, and a classroom set of LCD writing tablets.

4th Grade Loves Science / Ann Schroeder (Nimitz) granted \$2,500 for supplies to enhance lessons on electrical current, friction, magnetics, erosion and weathering, life cycles, and investigating forces.

“Uke” Can Play, Too! / Rebecca Anson (Starkey) granted \$2,300 for a classroom set of ukuleles to teach 2nd - 5th graders how to play and read music. Sets include books, teacher curriculum, tuners, chord charts, and extra strings.

Classroom Technology – Digital Art / Alana Kocich (Tivy) granted \$2,830 for technology to create art digitally for AP portfolios, especially for those planning on being game designers, graphic illustrators, and animation artists.

HoverCam PiloX Wireless Digital Podium / Lynde Hayes (Daniels) granted \$5,000 for a digital teaching station that allows teacher mobility and encourages student engagement.

HPMS Poster Maker / Cecilia Arrendondo (HPMS) granted \$3,995 to the counseling department for a poster maker to create posters to improve the culture and climate (such as goal setting, study tips, and bully prevention) at HPMS as well as posters to support counseling programs and campus activities.

De-escalation & Sensory Room / Va Neda Perkins (Nimitz) granted \$3,600 for the newly vacated classroom redesigned to be a place to redirect inappropriate behavior. Sensory equipment, including mood stabilization materials and appropriate social-emotional materials will encourage behavioral change for students to return back to their core classroom.

The Beat Goes On / Josh Torres (Tivy) granted \$2,500 for new marching bass drum with new drumheads, a drum carrier with cover, and a new marching bass drum stand to support the competitive field show and indoor season.

Piloting Excellence / Merydwen Peschel (Tally) granted \$6,000 for two Pilot X Teaching Stations that allow teacher mobility with technology that shares student work and encourages student participation.

KPSF / Sandra Adkins (Tivy) granted \$575 to the special education department for items that develop sensory skills for lo-incidence disabilities and also for vocational tasks around the campus.

Get Set, Let's Read! / Lisa Hopson (Tally) granted \$5,000 to the kindergarten team for engaging language/reading skills materials such as sight-word games, alphabet activities, and word building games and manipulatives.

Level Up Learning / Hope Mills (Daniels) granted \$2,338 for materials to enrich vocabulary and spelling, including phonetic games, tracing tiles, and alphabet centers.

Destination Literacy / Carrie Nowak (HPMS) granted \$3,406 for books specifically tailored for ESL newcomers and sheltered students to support their language acquisition and cultural understanding which will encourage academic success and social integration.

Calm Down Kits & Spaces / Megan Kellner (Nimitz) granted \$1,189 to the counseling department for tools to support the well-being of students, prevent escalation of unwanted behaviors, and provide teachers with needed resources for effective classroom management.

21st Century Classroom / Paola Compean (Starkey) granted \$2,500 to create a classroom into a space that encourages learning and collaboration with equipment such as dry erase tables, sand LED tables, a library, and art center.

Growing Art / Amanda Lord (HPMS) granted \$2,500 to the art department for a hydroponic garden. Students will create art through drawing various stages of plant cycles and create floral arrangements from the flowers they plant and nurture.

Soccer Goals / Scott Carlson (Daniels) granted \$1,574 for two new soccer goals for the athletic field. As students play, they will improve endurance, flexibility, and coordination, as well as build strength, promote teamwork, and increase mental health by decreasing stress and anxiety.

Modified Movements / Liberty Davis (HPMS) granted \$2,500 to the PE department for a stationary bike, a scale, heart rate monitors, and treadmill for modified workouts.

Unlocking the Power of Words / Rosalba Wisner (BT Wilson) granted \$2,200 to the special education department at BT Wilson for reading pens for students with visual impairments. These pens read aloud text to students, giving them independence and confidence in learning.

Lifeskills Garden / Danielle Alonzo (Tivy) granted \$2,500 to revamp the special ed garden at BT Wilson with raised garden beds and equipment and materials to start gardening. The goal will be to produce vegetables, flowers, and fruit for jellies to be sold on a campus “farmer’s market”.

Inclusion FUNds for the Classroom / Megan Ray (Daniels) granted \$2,150 to the inclusion classrooms for items to help students focus on academic performance. Items include noise cancelling headphones, handwriting grips and weights, lap desks, and standing desks.

Group Weaving Project / Tish Miller (HPMS) granted \$2,500 to the art department for materials to create a largescale outdoor weaving project that will span the front of the school on the upstairs balcony.

Building Literacy / Melissa Grubb & Irene Garcia (Nimitz) granted \$10,000 to the library to increase the number of bilingual/Spanish books offered to our students. This will help to meet the American Library Association standard of books to student ratio for the bilingual population.

Budding Bilingual Bookworms: From Classroom to Published Authors / Alita Davis (Starkey) granted \$2,500 to create a school-wide emergent bilingual student book from student collections of writing where students will be published authors and illustrators. Books will be available to the students, classroom teachers and the library.

Back to the Basics of PE / Sally Smithson (Tally) granted \$2,182 for PE equipment to replace broken and worn out materials.

Hydroponics Garden / Abigail May (Tivy) granted \$4,845 to the Ag department for a hydroponics garden for the classroom to aid in the plant and soil unit. They plan on partnering with the culinary department to provide fruits and vegetables for staff and students to enjoy.

Regulate, Reset, and Return / Kathleen Cunnane (Starkey) granted \$2,500 to provide de-escalation spots in classrooms where students can use tools to regulate their emotions and return back to their studies. This includes noise cancelling headphones, sensory/fidget items, timers, and a bean bag.

Innovative Teaching Grant / Diana Espinosa (Nimitz) granted \$1,710 for a benchmark assessment system and various books for the classroom library.

Work the Body and the Brain / Katie Butler (HPMS) granted \$2,500 to the library for stationary bikes with worktables and walking desks to encourage movement while reading in the library.

Transforming Education Through Room Transformations / Megan Nichols (Tally) granted \$2,500 for various room transformation materials to engage students while learning. Examples include changing the classroom to a carnival for the personal finance unit, a hospital for editing writing, and superheroes for biographies.

Band UIL Sight-Reading Sheet Music / Jason Jung (Tivy) granted \$2,954 for sight reading materials to prepare for UIL concert and sight-reading evaluations.

Differential Math, Literacy, and STEM activities / Sally Tilton (Daniels) granted \$1,290 for materials for engaging math and literacy activities. Included are differentiated literacy centers, math and literacy kits, and science STEM bins.