

Excelsior Elementary PTO

2019-2020 Round One Teacher Grants**

All amounts are rounded.

****DUE TO COVID, ROUND 2 GRANT FULFILLMENT WAS PUT ON HOLD. THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT ALL ROUND 2 GRANTS (FROM SPRING 2020) AS THEY ARE FULFILLED.**

Kindergarten

Various writing tools and classroom learning manipulatives

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tingting Alanen

Summary: The chalkboards, chalk, and reusable calligraphy paper will help students practice writing Chinese characters using different materials and media, which allow them to experience writing in a variety of fun and authentic ways as well as strengthens their writing muscles. The stamp sets and the number boards will help kindergartners build their number sense and computation skills with hands-on activities.

Amount Awarded: \$290

Math Manipulatives and STEM building toys

Lead Teacher/Staff: Shaung Caudill

Summary: A wide variety of hands-on math materials or stem building toys will provide students with hands-on learning experience during math time and stay away from paper pencil as much as possible. Material that young students can touch and move around to make meaning provide them with more vivid experience for numbers. The additional stem building toys will be used for free choice time or play station. These toys will help students build their collaboration skills, fine motor skills, problem solving skill and creativity.

Amount Awarded: \$317

Hands-On Math and Language learning manipulatives, STEM Building Blocks, Chinese Calligraphy writing mats

Lead Teacher/Staff: Congyu Zhang

Summary: These STEM materials will be shared between kindergarten classrooms for independent learning stations and choice time. Students will use these open-ended materials in small group settings. They will help kindergartners develop important skills including spatial reasoning, mathematical thinking, dexterity, fine motor skills, creativity and imagination. The math and Chinese writing manipulatives will help expose students to hands-on activities and visually interact with numbers and the language.

Amount Awarded: \$290

Classroom Bookshelves/Storage

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kim Olsen

Summary: Two bookshelves and one mobile book organizer. The shelves allow for more floor space within the classroom for the kids to use for work and play time. The teacher will be able to display books that the students and her read everyday, plus add storage space for the books not being used. This will also replace a cabinet that is no longer usable.

Amount Awarded: \$843

1st Grade

Flexible Seating options for classroom

Lead Teacher/Staff: Na-ling Faust

Summary: The perfect kid-sized seat for improving concentration & focus in the classroom at their desk, this exercise ball chair helps to reduce restlessness, fidgeting and prevent boredom.

Amount Awarded: \$272

Math Board games/activities and beginner Calligraphy Painting sets

Lead Teacher/Staff: Hsin-Yi Liu and 1st Grade Immersion teachers

Summary: These supplemental learning materials will be used at student stations with teachers and parent volunteers to further enrich the learning experience.

Amount Awarded: \$658

Portable lapdesk/Laptop stand/Writing table

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ming Yan

Summary: Flexible classroom seating/working option to help kids focus and engage. Helps encourage good sitting posture and is also helpful in organizing stations around the classroom.

Amount Awarded: \$145

Math Learning Manipulatives for enriched learning opportunities (3 separate grants)

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ming Yan and 1st Grade Immersion teachers

Summary: Math teaching tools to help students learn math concepts, differentiate different student ability levels and provide hands on learning experiences.

Amount Awarded: \$346

Writing development materials - Hanyu Pinyin

Lead Teacher/Staff: Ming Yan

Summary: With Hanyu Pinyin 1+1, students practise the correct method of writing Hanyu Pinyin, revise and consolidate their understanding of radicals and components, stroke and sequence of Chinese characters.

Amount Awarded: \$26

Scholastic Non-Fiction Books**Lead Teacher/Staff: Andy Potter**

Summary: A collection of early reader, non fiction books. Students will be given the opportunity to learn more about the world around them and their interests through a collection of non-fiction books. Most teachers have a large assortment of fiction, but not nearly as many non-fiction books. First graders are curious by nature and constantly wanting to know more about animals, the weather, space, etc. Having a large assortment of non-fiction books would give students the opportunity to explore more of their interests, practice their writing (main idea, details, summaries, for example), and foster their sense of wonder by encouraging them to learn more about topics that interest them at a book level that is just right for the range of first grade readers.

Amount Awarded: \$268 via Scholastic Dollars

Flexible Seating options**Lead Teacher/Staff: Andy Potter**

Summary: 12 colorful seating cushions for classroom use. Currently, students are limited in where they can sit in the classroom to work or read if they want to do so on the floor. A large area of the floor is cold tile and these carpet circles would give students more opportunities and flexibility for where they wish to sit during work time or silent reading time. They could also be used for body break activities that require sitting on the floor. The carpet circles would also help limit fidgeting and increase focus as the students would be able to have more flexible seating and not be confined to a certain area in which to sit.

Amount Awarded: \$220

Flexible Seating options and creative play activities**Lead Teacher/Staff: Jen Batalden**

Summary: The lap trays and floor cushions will be used for flexible seating and will benefit current and future students as they choose the work space that best fits their individual learning style. The Snowflakes, Play Stix, and Magnatiles will benefit students in their creative play. They provide opportunities to apply and improve social skills such as sharing and take turning, while using STEM skills as they collaborative, build, create, and problem solve together.

Amount Awarded: \$253

2nd Grade**Classroom organization items and learning enrichment tools**

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jieming Jim

Summary: Heavy duty bins to organize and classify classroom books. A magnetic spinner to be used during morning meeting activities, social studies class, and Chinese language arts class. It will help boost engagement in learning activities.

Amount Awarded: \$112

Flexible Seating options and classroom organization items

Lead Teacher/Staff: Xian He

Summary: Large floor pillows to help create a cozy and welcoming reading corner in the classroom. Various items to help in organizing all students' subject books, classroom works and materials, and to build a neat and organized learning environment.

Amount Awarded: \$368

Hands on Learning Tools

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jing Zhao

Summary: Magnetic foam tiles and Geomodel folding shapes will help students learn and understand the construction of solid 3-D shapes. Students will also have fun discovering the features of 3-D shapes on their own by using the set.

Amount Awarded: \$58

Flexible seating options and classroom learning materials and supplies

Lead Teacher/Staff: Second Grade Immersion Team

Summary: Students will benefit from various fun and comfortable sitting choices while rotation in class, and teachers can also have more options for classroom space designing and arrangement to add some unique elements for increasing students' work attention and engagement. Other classroom related items, such as educational games, dice, crayon sharpener, and craft hole punch are things students and teachers need for our designed learning activities.

Amount Awarded: \$842

3rd Grade

Flexible Seating & Sit/Stand Desk

Lead Teacher/Staff: Yiran Li

Summary: The flexible seating and desk for students will be used to improve mobility of the space, to maximize use of the classroom space and to improve engagement in small groups and different teaching activities. This will encourage collaboration between students.

Amount Awarded: \$407

Teaching tools and classroom learning enhancements

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jianwei Amand

Summary: Requested body movement items will give students more variety of choices to release their energy during study time. Students will also be able to utilize the Chinese dictionaries and find the unknown characters independently.

Amount Awarded: \$482

4th Grade

Flexible Seating, Storage Bench & classroom learning supplies

Lead Teacher/Staff: Pei Huang

Summary: Table Spots, Dry Erase Pockets Sheet Protectors, Poly and Bark Trattoria 18" Stool in Aqua, Dry Erase Markers and Storage Bench to build a more organized classroom which will improve students' learning experience.

Awarded: \$240

Classroom yoga mat set and learning guide

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tim Ketel

Summary: This is for 30 kids' yoga mats, 1 teacher mat, mini binder clips to label mats with names, and a book about introducing yoga to children. These will be used to create a regular yoga practice time in the classroom as a brain/body break for the entire class. Stretching, relaxing, and following simple directions with calm music will help students be better able to sit through the day, and to focus on their work. It will help to ease anxiety, help squirrely students to focus, and will help keep a calm, focused mood in the classroom. It will also help our class build community through practicing and learning yoga together.

Awarded: \$310

Navigators

Noise Cancellation Headphones

Lead Teacher/Staff: Shane Weber & Annie McGinn (2/3 Navigators)

Summary: Many kids need quiet to do their best work and we can't always offer that to every kid during to-do time. Noise-cancellation headphones will help kids who need quiet to focus during their daily scheduled work time (called "to-do time"), when they work independently on math, Language Arts, spelling, grammar, research projects, etc.

Amount Awarded: \$90

Special Education

Fine Motor, Sensory and Seating tools

Lead Teacher/Staff:

Summary: There is a need for adapted toys and seating to fit the needs, abilities and physical size of all students. Some students need to sit somewhere with a defined space to promote expected behaviors. The requested desk will provide this nicely and can be adjusted as needed. The adapted switch toys provide play opportunities for students that do not play in traditional ways. These items will help promote special education students' skills in the areas of: sensory processing and regulation, motor planning, fine motor skills and postural control. Using tools to calm yourself/"self regulation" is a skill that needs to be taught to some individuals. When they are able to use these tools, they are able to participate in all aspects of life in a more meaningful way.

Amount Awarded: \$523

Specialist Curriculum/All School

Two (2) Remo African-American Style Drum Sets

Lead Teacher/Staff: Joel Gotz & Patrick O'Keefe

Summary: These drum sets will give the Grade 3-5 music students an additional resource and enhancement to our music curriculum. In addition to teaching rhythm, drumming and drum circles teach listening and team-work. These will also give students the opportunity to learn about and appreciate other music genres and other cultures.

Amount Awarded: \$850

Sewing materials for 5th grade pillow project

Lead Teacher/Staff: Katherine Friends

Summary: 5th graders will learn how to sew pillows- sewing is a life skill. With any remaining materials (the felt) - students grades 3-5 can use materials for embroidery after completing group projects.

Amount Awarded: \$341

Sensory Support items for General Education Teacher use

Lead Teacher/Staff: Alyssa Engdahl

Summary: Sensory support is being embedded into the classroom setting--this will become naturally part of the classroom teacher's routine. Teachers will feel capable and empowered to use these tools successfully and independently. We are doing our due diligence to ensure students have tried these supports before entering the special education referral process.

Amount Awarded: \$864

Wooden Tabletop Book Racks

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tammy Bhat

Summary: Inserts needed for early chapter book collections - existing white bookshelves do not allow for books to be properly shelved/organized. These will also help prolong the shelf life of the books by providing proper organization and storage.

Amount Awarded: \$347

Extra Deep Plastic Bookshelves

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tammy Bhat

Summary: New display methods for 3/4/5 Immersion media materials. Currently these materials are underutilized, these bookshelves will allow library staff to highlight collections and display items where students can see them easier (this effort is in with collaboration with teaching staff).

Amount Awarded: \$164

Student Support/All School

Relaxation Cart/Group Materials

Lead Teacher/Staff: Anji Johnson

Summary: Yoga mats, Essential oils/diffuser, Sunlight. Yoga mats will offer a space for children to relax, essential oils are used for relaxing the body/brain. In addition, the sun light will be used in my office as an overall mood lifter in the dreary winter.

Amount Awarded: \$167

22 Sets of Social Thinking Posters

Lead Teacher/Staff: Laura Nelson

Summary: Each set provides a poster for each of the 10 key vocabulary concepts that we use as common language building wide when processing social situations with students. The posters are great visuals for teachers to hang in their classrooms and serve as quick reminders to students about how to share social space with others.

Amount Awarded: \$483

Flex Space Comfy Floor Seats

Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Dutton

Summary: These chairs have worked well to allow for flexible seating options when students are reading, listening to a story or working on something that is not paper/pencil in nature. These seats (in addition to the 4 already in the room) will allow all students in the groups the ability to have a comfy floor spot and set limits for personal space for reading and math time.

Amount Awarded: \$126