



EDGAR AND ELEANOR
SHANNON FOUNDATION

FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE

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2023-2024 Grants

\$24,128 total funding for 16 grants to teachers in Charlottesville and Albemarle Public Schools

LEVEL 1 PROJECTS

Hands-On Learning for English Learners

Kindergarten through fourth grade English learners work in small groups to build background knowledge, expand their vocabulary, and advance their English proficiency through hands-on STEM projects and experiential learning that meaningfully connects STEM concepts and English language practice to real-world problems and scenarios.

Catherine Gray and Katie Williams, Clark Elementary School

\$750.00

#Who's Tweeting Now?

Pre-kindergarten through fourth grade students gain a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural world by using in-school and at-home bird watching kits to identify, study, and report on the wild birds in our local area.

Sabra Timmins, Jackson-Via Elementary School

\$746.00

Real World English

Kindergarten through fourth grade English learners improve their social and academic English vocabulary in a low-risk play environment as they engage in a variety of purposeful centers throughout the school year, including a Veterinary Office, Restaurant, Dollhouse, and Grocery Store.

Leslie Scally, Johnson Elementary School

\$750.00

Blogging to Leverage Student Voice

Twelfth graders use Hanif Abdurraquib's National Book Award-winning volume of genre-blending essays *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us* to move beyond the traditional 5-paragraph essay model as they practice and hone the analytical, composition, and expressive skills they need to become confident, competent writers who will stand out in both the classroom and the workplace.

Amanda Blevins, Center One

\$750.00

What's the Matter with Matter?

Second graders engage with air cannons, a fog generator, gallium, and ampoules of noble gasses to learn concepts that are difficult to master through experimentation with everyday materials alone, including the facts that gas has mass, that gasses may exhibit different properties, and that melting and freezing is not limited to water.

Daniel Bowman, Crozet Elementary School

\$415.00

Building Community

Moderate to severely disabled elementary students benefit from an inclusive, hands-on, real-life learning and social experience as they use a café cart to deliver coffee and snacks throughout their school building.

Chelsea Castro Fitzgerald, Greer Elementary School

\$750.00

Inclusive Representation

Early childhood general and special education students learn to appreciate, relate to, and be more inclusive of students with disabilities by using diverse dolls with adaptive accessories (such as hearing aids or wheelchairs) and age-appropriate, representational books about children with disabilities in both their instructional and play time.

Alexis Cutchins, Hollymead Elementary School

\$735.00

Learning in the Light Lab

Kindergarteners and first graders use manipulatives and a special table that lights up from below to build observational, analytical, investigative, vocabulary, and fine motor skills during playful, collaborative exploration time in this multisensory learning center.

Beth Kavounas, Red Hill Elementary School

\$750.00

LEVEL 1 PROJECTS, CONTINUED

Macro Photography

A macro-specific lens allows high school photography students to see the world in a whole new way, as they learn to take photos of small, even mundane, items that they are then able to reproduce in a large format that captures the details and beauty they were not able to see and share with a regular camera lens.

Cassidy Girvin, Western Albemarle High School

\$650.00

Community and Career Exploration with C-Base Students

C-Base high school students make regular, planned visits to the library to engage in project-based, inclusive activities with their non-disabled peers and to check out and explore a variety of career investigation kits with the support of their families and teachers

Lori Linville, Western Albemarle High School

\$750.00

Pedal Power

Sixth graders use miles accumulated on under-desk cycles to track Lewis and Clark's historic trail across the US, as they engage in an interdisciplinary, multisensory learning experience that combines science, math, history, and language arts, to explore distance, geography, and energy from production to consumption.

Kathryn Durkee, Walton Middle School

\$723.00

Microscope Matters

Fifth graders use a teacher-created lab book, the microscope, and microscopic slides to investigate, understand, and apply knowledge of scientific investigation and analysis to their study of the properties and interactions of the matter in the world around them.

Heather Campbell, Woodbrook Elementary School

\$700.00

LEVEL 2 PROJECTS

Strike Up the Band...Saw

Building Trades students in our regional technical education center will progress toward proficiency in the use of the bandsaw as a tool that will support their progressive mastery of skills essential to the trade they are learning in their Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. Auto Body students will also learn to use the bandsaw to replicate car panels to use in their welding units. Students will use the bandsaw to create professional quality products the community can purchase to provide student activity funds for CTE classes.

John Baran, CATEC

\$5,000

Drumming to Discover

An entire elementary school will learn about, practice, and perform solo and community drumming as a non-verbal way to evoke and express emotions. Students will learn to appreciate drumming as a channel for reflection on cultural influences locally, nationally, and globally, and will develop a deeper understanding of drumming as a cross-cultural means to connect, communicate, and discover.

Tracy Brown, Crozet Elementary School

\$4,615

Creating Culture with Clay: a New Kiln

All kindergarten through fifth grade students in an expanding elementary school without a functioning kiln will have the ability to fire their clay projects in a new properly-sized kiln. Working with clay allows students to express their thoughts and ideas in an artistic, tangible way that also strengthens finger muscles and builds language development, social skills, problem-solving abilities, and both gross and fine motor skills. Students will be able to paint or seal their fired pieces to make long-lasting examples of their artwork.

Hope Caplan, Crozet Elementary School

\$4,200

Bringing Projects to Life

Third, fourth, and fifth graders use a 3D printer to bring their designs to life, after active study and problem-solving supplemented by consultation via Zoom with engineers and experts who use 3D printed solutions for real-life problems. Students will design and print artifacts that could have been used to solve problems or represent buildings or other items from their studies of the American Revolution and Colonial America, as well as in Native American, Ancient Chinese, Ancient Egyptian, and Ancient Roman cultures.

Chelsea Lundgren, Mountain View Elementary School

\$1,844