



## 2020-2021 Grant Awards Report

Thanks to donors' generous support, the Chatham Education Foundation funded the following grants in its 2020-2021 fiscal year. These grants impact all students in all six schools and were particularly helpful to students and staff as the District dealt with COVID-19, as students were both learning both in the classroom and remotely. In addition, a portion of the grant awards was funded by endowment gifts, which provide funding for grant awards in perpetuity.

### **Outdoor Classroom at MAS**

Grant Applicant: Nick Andrezza

CEF funded a \$16,000 grant and partnered with the MAS PTO to take learning outdoors. This grant enables teachers to incorporate the outside environment into learning, with many benefits to students. The space promotes whole class instruction with enough safe seating for each student as well as small group exploration at work stations.

This grant was funded in part by the Abbott Family Endowment for Environmental Sustainability.

Read Mr. Andrezza's Thank You letter here.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hAL5lbpgm5LPlmM3zhkApfBcyvPF4a4z>

Photos: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gN\\_hLFIHyYOQi8j5InWPz\\_S\\_cKvx150/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gN_hLFIHyYOQi8j5InWPz_S_cKvx150/view)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uOmdAyDhoxf0BX4-7DlDdLE-JVlaVWg2/view>

If you are very interested in this grant, hear Mr. Andrezza give an extensive talk about the grant here.

<https://youtu.be/jrSiljDZn04>

### **Technology for Student Engagement – District**

Grant Applicants: Karen A. Chase, Danielle Dagounis

The \$12,300 grant includes three online instructional resources: Ed Puzzle, Screencastify and Padlet for use by all schools and students to foster interactive learning. The programs give teachers the technology to build lessons and engage with students, whether in-person or virtually.

“When COVID-19 forced the district to change the way in which we instruct students, our teachers were charged with creating ways in which students could remain engaged - even if at a distance. As such, [we] submitted a grant to purchase technology tools that would help our teachers engage students. As a result of this grant, instruction during the 2020-2021 year was transformed.” – Karen Chase



### **Clear Communication with Masks – District**

Grant Applicant: Karen Leister

The \$3,300 grant award provides teachers and counselors across the District with 200 washable masks with clear fronts. Students can see their teachers' lips and facial expressions which is critical for many students and enhances learning and student well-being.

WAS Kindergarten teacher Lisa Kressler, who received one of the masks, said "I just wanted to say thank you for the masks with the clear window for us that teach the little ones. It's so important that they see our mouths moving when we are trying to teach them the different sounds of the letters. Many thanks and stay safe!"

Best photos here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1stWkX8JwB-UBB5BWWZunrwROvHLBNBro/view>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Whyptz2KfxUKBZ2X6LAWaZH8fZqj2LCT/view>

### **CMS Community Social Justice Read**

Grant Applicants: George Iannuzzi, Gina Bakaj, Sarah Pasternak, Kristine Quintero

The \$19,266 grant award\* calls for a multi-faceted approach to the reading of the work *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhode by CMS students, parents and school staff. In addition to the 1,200 copies of *Ghost Boys*, there are 240 copies of non-fiction books for CMS ELA teachers. Included also is a series of Professional Development workshops for ELA teachers at CMS and CHS.

\* The CMS Community Read grant recipients were able to reduce the cost of the project by \$9,698.47 without changes in the scope of the grant. As a result, the actual cost of the grant was \$9,567.93.

Hear George Iannuzzi speak about the grant here (starts at 5:39 through 10:06)

<https://youtu.be/-CfMFyN056I>

### **Ready Readers, K-3 SBS, MAS, WAS**

Grant Applicants: Peggy Herr, Kim McMurry, Lori Shulman

The \$7,447 grant will benefit struggling readers at all three of our K-3 Schools. This grant provides twenty copies of 130 books (2600 books total) that are high interest and easily decodable. Included with the system are books meant for students to read at home and transport bags, as well as teaching tools provided to support virtual and in-class learning.

See students' thank you slides here.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RaHr620VvvhNMnnaZEhIqWNJH9cw8over5QgDUy>



x-4/edit#slide=id.gb3e42c2e4e\_0\_17 (include copy of slide from Harper on Redwood Tree book)

**All Are Welcome Here: Creating Inclusive Literary Classrooms with Books, K-3 SBS, WAS & MAS**

Grant Applicant: Heather Rocco

This \$5,675.15 grant benefits all students at SBS, WAS & MAS, from kindergarten through grade three, with over 500 copies of engaging picture books that celebrate inclusiveness, community and acceptance. As there are thirty different book titles purchased, the books will enhance the ELA curriculum by updating the K-3 book collections to ensure students have access to books with characters that look like them as well as ones that do not.

Hear Heather Rocco speak about the impact of the literacy grants here. <https://youtu.be/-CfMFyN056I>

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021-2022**

Finally, two grant applications made in June 2021 were funded in CEF's 2021-22 fiscal year. The first, The Thinking Classroom – Phase 2 creates four more thinking classrooms in the CHS math wing and was initiated by Stacy Winters, Aaron Yamamoto, Meredith Kempson, Alex Elgart, Laura Scerbo, Kyle Lynott. It was funded in Summer 2021 in the amount of \$23,222.79. The second grant, Reimagining Geometry by Stacy Winters, was approved in September 2021 in the amount of \$32,500 and transforms all three 8<sup>th</sup> grade math classrooms as well as purchasing some items to supplement the new, enhanced geometry curriculum. Both grants redesign math classrooms using vertical and horizontal erasable whiteboard surfaces to improve student engagement with math using demonstrated, validated research.

Hear Stacy Winters talk about the Thinking Classroom here. <https://youtu.be/r685oRdhKTg>

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Whitney, 2020-21 Grants Chair