

2022-2023 Final Grant Awards Report

Thanks to donors' generous support, Chatham Education Foundation funded the following grants in its 2022-2023 fiscal year, in the sum of \$84,993. Of this sum 17 endowments contributed \$21,476 toward the grants.

Engineering Happiness (CHS)

\$300

Erin Scheibling

This grant supports a new course, "Engineering Happiness," offered at CHS during the 2022-2023 school year. The grant allowed a nutritionist with experience working with teens to present to students a portion of the initial unit of the class dealing with food and its relationship to emotions. *This grant was funded in part by the PriVikNik Endowment Fund.*

Creating Collaborative & Engaging World Language Classrooms (CMS)

\$16,200

Renée Marshall, Julie Friedman, Jessica Weston

This grant establishes collaborative and engaging world language spaces, using desks with dry erase surfaces, a new literacy center, and the establishment of comfortable reading spaces. These enhancements will enable students to collaborate, immerse themselves in the target language, and explore authentic resources. *This grant was funded in part by the PTO Endowment Fund and an anonymous endowment fund.*

Ms. Marshall said, "Classroom furniture and materials from the Collaborative World Language Classroom Grant will support students on their journey of becoming lifelong learners. Students will deepen collaboration and interpersonal skills with new ergonomic working spaces designed to enrich social interactions. World language literacy acquisition skills will also be enhanced with the inclusion of comfortable reading furniture and materials that are designed to promote a passion for reading in a new language."

Musical Exploration of Fauré's Requiem (CHS)

\$3,147

Ken Bryson, Liam Keller

With this grant, the CHS Chamber Choir, Chatham Voices, and Chamber Orchestra, came together in study, rehearsal and ultimate performance of Gabriel Faure's iconic piece, Requiem in d minor, Opus 48. The grant funded the arranger and music engraver to create an original version of the piece for CHS and to allow Jose Luis Dominguez, assistant conductor of the New

Jersey Symphony, to conduct a musical workshop with the students so they can gain a better understanding of the work. The grant also funded printing of music for all participants. *This grant was funded in part by the Ryan T. Ganley Memorial Endowment Fund (Metviner Family).*

According to Mr. Bryson, "By exposing our students to to such historical pieces of musical literature we are able to significantly enrich their learning and give them a better understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the music and how it influenced the music they are performing and listening to today."

Building Student Autonomy through Reading and Surroundings (CMS)

Kristine Quintero, Lisa Calamari, Sarah Pasternak-McGinn

\$3,374

This grant supports the 6th grade ELA curriculum by providing a variety of genres as options, while building on the non-fiction choices in current classroom libraries. In addition, the grant will encourage independent reading habits and social and emotional growth by providing flexible seating arrangements. *This grant was funded in part by the Routh Family Endowment Fund.*

K-12 District Art Show (District)

\$10,600

Lauren Spooner, Candace Hull, Kiera Spadaro, Eric Hreha, Janet Kraemer, Kenji Hasegawa, Keiko Shimizu, Katrina Keeshen, Tracy Kovacsofsky

This grant allows the SDOC to expand its collection of permanent display panels to continue to improve the annual district art show and eliminate the need for temporary, less durable measures. This purchase will allow the SDOC to allocate boards to each school where they can be used throughout the year for other events such as school-based art shows, concert displays, or family days. This grant was funded in part by the Karpowic Family and Epstein Family endowment funds.

Ms. Spooner shared: "Displaying the art, and knowing that display is the end goal, changes the process in the classroom as students think about what they want their art to say and how they will communicate with the viewer. ... By creating a unified display method, the district art show will continue to spotlight the need for the visual arts and the impact they have on our students."

Coding with Marty: Interdisciplinary Robotics Initiative (LAF)
Jennifer Cifrodella, Kyle Kermick

\$14,000

This grant allows for the purchase of a class set of Marty robots, which was used on a trial basis by the library/media and Design & Technology classes during the spring of 2022. The class set will allow each student to engage in hands-on, project-based learning and will bring to life the current computer science curriculum through physical humanoid robotic devices. The robots would specifically be used in library classes during the annual Hour of Code and during the

Humanoid Robots and Coding unit in D & T classes. Marty also connects the current Design & Technology curriculum to real-life careers, particularly in STEM focused areas and will help prepare students for the robust STEM course offerings at CMS. *This grant was funded in part by the Blue Foundry Bank Endowment Fund.*

According to Mrs. Cifrodella, "Coding these robots will provide meaningful experiences in order to expose [students] to the opportunities open to programmers and engineers while exploring math and science."

District Choral Festival (LAF, CMS, CHS)

\$2,278

Amber Griffin, Dana Goodstein, Ken Bryson

This grant continues the district-wide Choral Festival which started last year with help from a CEF grant. This year, the district will be working with Moira Smiley, a highly sought after choral composer and clinician. During the event, Ms. Smiley will work with the students on some of her musical compositions, on text expression, music history, and vocal technique, both as individual schools and as a whole unit. In addition to working together musically, they will incorporate social-emotional learning through various musical and non-musical team building activities. The hope for this year is to end the day with a pyramid concert that will showcase each school and end with a piece by all participating students. *This grant is funded in part by the Allen Family Endowment Fund and Battiato Family Endowment Fund.*

Increasing Students' Decoding Skills with Fundations Geodes Readable Books (MAS, SBS, WAS)

\$12,000

\$10,550

Heather Rocco, Lisa Kressler

This grant expands the Fundations word study program by purchasing a library of "readable" books that enables kindergarten students to practice what they are learning during Word Study and enhancing fluency and comprehension skills that are necessary for strong readers. These decodable books align with other portions of the curriculum, are written and illustrated by a variety of authors and illustrators, and focus on diverse topics and include multicultural characters. *This grant was funded in part by the Dickson Family Endowment Fund.*

Leveraging Laser Engraving Capabilities in Engineering & Architectural Design (CHS)

Jason Mariano

This grant upgrades the laser engraver/cutter for the Engineering Design, Architectural Design and Advanced Robotics classes at CHS. The new laser engraver/cutter allows more students to utilize the equipment, allows for the use of more diversified materials and sizes and exposes students to the latest technology to prepare them for future careers in STEM-based industries. *This grant was funded in part by the STEM Endowment Fund (anonymous).*

Mr. Mariano says, "A laser engraver/cutter can be a powerful tool for inspiring and educating students about the possibilities of digital fabrication."

Flexible Seating (LAF) \$1745

Jeffrey Cleary

Collaborative Desks (LAF) \$9,486

Jeffrey Cleary, Dina Mazzacano

This grant adds alternative, comfortable seating to allow students in two 4th grade homerooms to "lose themselves in a book" and provide furniture that would meet the needs of all different types of readers and learners. The alternative desks would provide students with a classroom environment that encourages both collaboration and creativity for a variety of activities in all subject areas and enables students to take risks, modify responses and facilitate discussion.

This grant was funded in part by the Rooney Family Endowment Fund and Kuppenheimer Family Endowment Fund.

Storyworks: Enriching Fiction & Non-Fiction Texts (MAS)

\$707

Dawn Kurlak, Laura Cook, Leigh Rockoff

This grant provides access to the magazine, *Storyworks*, for all 3rd grade students at MAS, as well as online access to the content. The shorter articles and texts allow teachers to hone in on ELA objectives in a more concise setting and will be particularly useful for teaching nonfiction reading and writing strategies. The online access allows for texts to be read to students and would be of great assistance to below grade readers. Students will be able to take home individual copies of the magazine and will be encouraged to read with family members. The MAS 3rd grade team would utilize the program as a pilot for other classes within their school and in the district. *This grant was funded in part by the Quon Family Endowment for Diversity, Inclusion, and Special Education.*

Building Fact Fluency (WAS)

\$603

Nancy Volker

This grant allows a first-grade class at WAS to test Toolkits, a product designed to help students build their math facts and fluency. This pilot program will be used to assess whether the product would be beneficial to other grade levels throughout the district. *This grant was funded in part by the Prael Family Endowment Fund.*

Submitted, Suzanne David Grants Chair 2022-2023