



## 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



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 Foundations Geodes Readable Books (MAS, SBS, WAS)**

**\$12,000**

Heather Rocco, Lisa Kressler

This grant expands the Foundations 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)**

**\$10,550**

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