

## Excellence Grants

Thanks to its many generous donors, the CFCS Foundation has been able to offer Excellence Grants since 2008 for projects that will improve the educational experiences of students, strengthen the relationships between school, families and the community, and provide experiences above and beyond typical classroom activities.

If you would like to give an Excellence Grant gift, the Foundation will work with you to align your interests and passions with our student and teacher needs.

Donor gifts have made these grants possible! Thank you!

### 2017-2018 Excellence Grants Awarded

Excellence Grants were awarded to forty-three classroom teachers, every pre-kindergarten class, and every administrator for the 2017-2018 school year. Grants of \$100 to \$1,000 were given for these projects:

#### **Molecules of Life**

This Science Excellence Grant was made possible with a gift from the Tom Brooks Memorial Grant Fund, established by Linda Brooks in her husband's memory.

Holmes Junior High Science; Jim Duff and Logan Mork

Using molecular kits, students construct models of major biochemical molecules all life forms use. Model kits bring three dimensional, spatial aspect to the abstract concept of molecule shape.

#### **Collaborative Whiteboards**

This Science Excellence Grant was made possible with a gift from the Jane and Jerry Slykhuis Memorial Grant Fund, established by Matt and Steve in their parents' memory.

Peet Junior High Science; Erin Sliwinski, Renae Beneke, Jennifer Schultz, Jan Mord, Andy Beland, Amelia Buskohl, Kari Schwartz

Groups work together to observe science phenomena and record data, make a claim, and provide evidence on their white boards. Students can move white boards to share results with other groups in the classroom.

#### **CatchLife Health Initiative**

This Administrative Excellence Grant was made possible with a gift from the Norm Swanson Memorial Grant Fund, established by Jim McCutcheon in Norm's memory.

All District Administrators

A statewide initiative for school administrators. The goal of this initiative is to increase the efficacy, productivity, and creativity of Iowa administrators by promoting healthier habits and practices.

#### **Shared Reading Through BIG and little Books**

This Kindergarten Excellence Grant was made possible with a gift from the Carol Brenden Memorial Grant Fund, established by Reed Brenden in his wife's memory.

Lincoln Elementary Reading; Lynn Klein, Yvette Linck

Shared Reading is an interactive reading experience that occurs when the teacher explicitly models the skills of a proficient reader through the use of oversized books.

### **Little Free Library**

All Pre-Kindergarten Reading

A collection of books purchased for each preschool classroom where students can take a book home and return it for a new book.

### **Book Pals**

Southdale Elementary Reading; Tamera Bronemann

The Family and Community Engagement Resources (Books and Guides) will equip the volunteer partners with resources that will boost the literacy skills of the primary age pal.

### **3-D Printer for Math and Science Classes**

Southdale Elementary Math and Science; Matthew Switzer

3D printer for Southdale 6th graders in Math and Science to conduct and test engineered experiments aligning to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Iowa Core Curriculum.

### **Tinikling Tigers**

Lincoln Elementary Music; Michelle Droe

Increasing student activity level while strengthening student's sense of beat and rhythm. Students learn about the culture of the Philippines and the role tinikling has played in this part of the world.

### **Osmo Robotics**

Orchard Hill Elementary STEM; Angela Webb, Molly Penberthy, Beth Bobeldyk

Osmo Robotics immerses students into the virtual world of owning their own pizza shop. They use fraction skills to make pizzas, count change, and other real world customer service skills.

### **Are You Coding Me?**

Hansen Elementary Math and Science; Jeremy Swanson, Joe Carney, Kenton Swartley

Design, build, and program a robot that can repeatedly complete 20 assigned tasks. Students identify the correct use of code and engineering design necessary to have a fully functional robot.

### **Makerspace Hardware**

Holmes Junior High School STEAM; Jeremy Prouty, Lisa Johnson, Dagan Robertson, Maria Hoekstra

Update the makerspace with a new 3D printer, sewing machine and an Arduino (programmable electronics) station.

### **Literacy Bags**

North Cedar Elementary Reading; Wendy Johnson

Take home bags with high quality, fiction and nonfiction books and a student/parent connection activity to share at school, giving all families access to high quality, books regardless of economic status.

### **Probeware for Next Generation Science Standards**

Holmes Junior High School Science; Robert Welter, Lisa Johnson, Jim Duff, Shelley Lauritsen, Amanda Johnson, Maria Hoekstra

Probeware in labs and activities, students will have the opportunity to gather a digital version of data that can be visualized and manipulated using their Chromebooks.

## **Prior Year Awards:**

### **2016-2017 Excellence Grants**

Peet Junior High science 6 digital microscopes for special needs students, from the Tom Brooks Memorial Science Grant; Renae Beneke and Andy Beland

High School world languages Flipgrid Video Learning; Eric Rosburg, Victor Ochoa, Simone Sunblad, Christine Gruhn, Brittan Engels, Patricia Black, Gunda Brost, Monica Jarchow, Elaina Loyd, Katie Wencl, Sara Blanco

All K-6 art Makerspace materials: Hanna Thuesen, Lysie Maynard, Lauren Nolte, Natalie Hamil, Allyce Trusheim

High School art Design for the Future 3-D Portable Art Lab: Lisa Klenske

Orchard Hill Elementary STEM/STEAM Cubelet Robot Blocks; Angie Webb, Joan Hewett, Karen Shook, Michelle Mathias, Luke Wagner

Southdale Elementary music Bal-A-Vis-X balance boards; Kendra Wohler

Holmes Junior High Outdoor Club Initiative; Robert Welter

Hansen Elementary science Boxlight Labdisc portable STEM science lab; Jared Pirkl

### **2015-2016 Excellence Grants**

Peet math, science and technology Sphero Robots for STEM skills; Eric Rosburg, Andy Beland, Stephanie Pickett

Hansen K-6 art iPad minis; Allyce Trusheim

Peet science Vernier Probe-Ware; Jan Mord, Jennifer Schultz, Renee Beneke, Hilary Lehl, Andy Beland, Amelia Buskohl

Southdale/Orchard Hill STEM/STEAM Dash Robots; Lisa Freese

Orchard Hill Reader Workshop books; Jessie Switzer and Kelly Valiev

Orchard Hill Reading Club high interest books; Amy Kohlhas

### **2011-2012 Excellence Grants**

This year's grants were targeted toward PLC activities and the characteristics of effective instruction.

Southdale fourth grade, two iPads; Jed Batterson, Paula Decker and Kelli Henrichs

North Cedar third grade, eight Kindle Touch Readers; Jen McCartan

High School art department, equipment to create art portfolios; Lisa Klenske

North Cedar/Orchard Hill TAG, conference for differentiated instruction; Linda Walther

Holmes science department, Mimio Vote Assessment System; Maria Hoekstra, Lisa Johnson, Amanda Kuiken

### **2010-2011 Excellence Grants**

Cedar Falls High School Library/Media, Book Discussion Kits; Kim Traw

Cedar Falls High School Social Studies, Monopoly and Stratification; Chad VanCleve

North Cedar third grade, Snapshots in Learning; Jennifer McCartan

North Cedar fourth grade, Technology for Diverse Needs; Melanie Trees

Peet Junior High seventh grade English, Cutting Edge English; Cory Cantrall

### **2009-2010 Excellence Grants**

North Cedar Elementary, Learners in Action; Jen McCartan, Melanie Trees

North Cedar Elementary, Lego Serious Play Training; Kim Abbas, Sherri Larson, Linda Walther

North Cedar Elementary, Lego Serious Play Kits; Ben Olsen, Jodi Johnson

### **2008-2009 Excellence Grants**

Cedar Heights Elementary second grade, Bringing Technology into the Classroom; Sara Allen, Greg Hankins, Christy Peterson

Special Education, Excellence with Ipods; Bridget Bakula, Kris Brimm, Jennifer Juhl, Katie Walsworth, Tammy Frahm

Peet Jr. High seventh grade, Mini Laptops for Many Students; Sue Dufel, Larry Bockes

Hansen Elementary library, Parents as Teachers; Jan Weber