

Aiken

Jessica Tamaccio, Lead Teacher

Sally H. Kennedy Memorial Grant - One Book One School

Students at Aiken school will participate in a school wide book club through the One School, One Book program. This is a program where all students, families, and staff members read the same book at the same time. This will not only help to promote literacy collaboration between the school and current families, but will also help to address the Common Core Reading standards throughout the K-5 curriculum. This event will kick off during Read Across America Week (March 2nd) and continue through the month of March.

Catherine Woods, Lead Teacher & Daniela Sturm, Lisa Horan

Santeusanio Family Grant - Enhancing the First Grade Science Unit

After some research, first grade teachers have discovered local science centers in Connecticut that have created programs that directly correspond to the West Hartford Science curriculum and the National Science Standards that our curriculum is based upon.

High Touch High Tech is a traveling STEM program. They will implement The Shadow Knows. Students at Aiken Elementary School will investigate the shadowy side of light. They will see how shadows form and learn about the motion of the sun. They will also have the opportunity to build a working sun dial that they will be able to take home.

Students at Aiken will experience The Life of Plants, presented by The Connecticut Science Center. This live multimedia interactive show includes real-time, explanation-based demonstrations. The Center provides handouts for students to follow along during the show or participate in live games. There is also a short, supportive digital package that includes NGSS connections and supplemental activities to help take the content further with students.

Aiken students will then turn their focus on animals with The Children's Museum of West Hartford program entitled Animal Adaptations & Habitats. Students will be introduced to the Wildlife Sanctuary animals and determine the unique ways they have adapted to meet their specific environmental needs. They will compare similarities and differences between mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

These programs offer a variety of Science instruction to our students that will create excitement and enhance their learning experience. Thank you to the Foundation for funding this grant.

Braeburn

Bonnie Arcari, Lead Teacher

Macca Plumbing & Heating Grant - Game Changer: Technology in PE

Braeburn School is seeking this grant from the FWHPs to add a 70 inch wall mounted screen in the gym for the physical education classes. This will allow Gifs (continuous loop videos) of skills which are amazing uses of technology in PE. Students will have a constant visual of the skill they are learning while the teacher is able to circulate around the gym . In addition the students will be able to see videos of actual teams and partners which will be quite motivating. It's almost as if a second teacher is in the room . Placing various levels up on the screen allows students to progress at their own pace without having to stop the class. This will motivate students with gamification as they strive to advanced levels.

Katharine Boland, Lead Teacher & Kathy Hayes

Pauluk Family Grant - Decodable Texts

After a school year unlike any other, it is critical that students acquire valuable literacy skills. In order to gain confidence and fluency skills, we are asking for The Foundation to fund decodable texts called Half Pint Kids. These books are fun, engaging, and use the skills that are explicitly taught in the Foundations Literacy Program used by WHPS. We are excited at the idea of seeing students use these books as their very first independent reader! Thank you for considering this project.

Bristow Middle School

Cliff Schofer, Lead Teacher

Thomas and Cornelia Ford Memorial Grant - The Creative Process in Music: Getting to know a local, living composer and perform her new work!

This grant will make possible a meeting between a local, living composer and students involved in the performing arts at Bristow Middle School (approximately 250 students), hoping to inspire and encourage them to pursue a more active role in music creation. In addition, the grant will provide commissioning fees to fund a new middle school band piece, inspired by a concept important to the students themselves, which will be performed by the 7th and 8th grade band of this middle school in a spring concert. As band music is the cornerstone of the middle school band's curriculum, a new piece will enhance that curriculum, making it relevant and personal to the students. The public performance of a new piece will connect the audience to the creative process in a more authentic way than ever before experienced.

Bristow Middle School, Sedgwick, King Philip

Dawn Anstett, Lead Teacher (Bristow) & Diana Tryon (Sedgwick), Carey Poetzsch (King Philip)

Dr. Robert & Gladys Dunn Memorial Grant - Freedom Pen Project

The Freedom Pen Project is an extended learning activity, which takes the skills students in our three middle schools have learned and allows them to use these skills to produce pens. The goal of this project is to send approximately 200 pens made to service men and women working at or being deployed from the Sub-base in Groton, Connecticut. The grant itself provides pen making supplies for all three middle schools and a pen making lathe set-up for Sedgwick and King Philip middle schools to be able to combine their efforts with Bristow middle school in making freedom pens. Pen manufacturing includes many different production applications. Students will (may vary by school) prepare wood blanks for turning, turn pens blanks on lathe, finish and assemble pen blanks, design label for pen packaging, document production process in newsletters or videos and organize a ceremony to hand over pens to a representative.

Bugbee

Danielle Herbette, Lead Teacher & Erika Finnegan, Anthony Weber

Cantor Family Grant - Nature on Wheels!

In this grant, students in grade 5 at Bugbee Elementary School will engage in a 2-day outdoor learning experience called "Nature on Wheels" to supplement and enrich our science curriculum and provide a capstone experience to celebrate the culmination of students' elementary years. The "Nature on Wheels" program provides activities such as but not limited to team-building, nature hikes, dissections, scientific experimentation, and field journaling to enhance academic as well as social-emotional learning for the whole child. We are looking forward to this innovative, COVID-friendly, hands-on learning experience that is sure to engage, educate, encourage, and excite all students!

Beth Mazur, Lead Teacher Elizabeth Bianco

Jeffrey A. Palmer Memorial Grant - Stone Stories

Mr. Labadia a former West Harford teacher and published author and illustrator will join Bugbee Elementary school for a two week-long residency called, "Story Stones." Mr. Labadia will guide the students to first create an "Identity Story Sketch" in Writers Workshop and then provide artists with the opportunity to paint "Story Stones" reflecting their identity in art class. The 5 pillars of creativity, achievement, friendship, perseverance and leadership will be woven throughout the students identity sketches. The power of storytelling will give students the opportunity to connect with their social and emotional learnings to acknowledge and respect our unique identities as human beings in a collective school community.

Suzanne Atwood, Lead Teacher & Valerie Hansen, Lindsay Bougor

Crate & Barrel Grant - Reading with Raz-Kids

Bugbee Elementary School students in kindergarten, second grade and those receiving special education services grades 3-5, will utilize the motivating online reading program Raz-Kids to support their reading development. Students will have individualized reading accounts which give them access to leveled literature and informational texts to read both in the classroom and at home. Students will listen to books, read them independently, and complete quizzes to assess their comprehension of the text. This resource will help our readers build their reading fluency, decoding skills, vocabulary and comprehension strategies.

Charter Oak

Elizabeth Fay, Lead Teacher

Hargreaves Family Grant - Mariachi Mania

Mariachi Mania is a school project in which students pre k - fifth grade students at Charter Oak International Academy will explore Mexican culture through music and art. Students will learn to sing and play mariachi music, create a beautiful mural, and learn about different traditions from the Mexican culture. Mariachi experts will come and work with the students during masterclasses and the program will end with an evening concert celebration.

Kathy Hardesty, Lead Teacher

Smith Brothers Insurance Grant - 3,2,1 LEGO!

Kindergarten students at Charter Oak International Academy will become engineers as they design cars made from LEGOs. Students will test cars to determine their speed and have several opportunities to problem solve and rebuild cars to improve initial designs. Ultimately, students will compete to determine who designed the fastest car. Students will reinforce science concepts for force and motion and will create videos to explain their thinking that will be shared with the school.

Conard High School

Patrick Foley, Lead Teacher

West Hartford Education Association Grant - Probeware Technology For Science Inquiry in the Life Sciences

Conard High School science students will benefit greatly from the new and updated Vernier LabQuest 3 interfaces and Go Direct Sensors. These state of the art science technology tools allow students to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. These devices can be used with a variety of wireless sensors to conduct student-designed investigations related to the topics of ocean acidification, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, biological oxygen demand, primary productivity, pollution, population dynamics and physiology of the circulatory system.

Noah Mealy, Lead Teacher & Jackie Corricelli

Steve & Kathryn Deane Family Grant - Women's E-Sports Event

Women's Sports and Computer Science - they have more in common than you might think! Thanks to funding by the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools, Conard High School is now recruiting female students to participate in Women's E-Sports, a first-of-its-kind event where students learn about how to play E-Sports and then will have fun learning, eating food, and playing games. Competitors do not need to know about video games or sports and everyone will leave with a jersey and fun memories.

Hall High School

Michael Wilkosz, Lead Teacher

Heather Congdon Memorial Grant - Enhancing STEM & CS Education with VEX Robotics Competitions and the V5 Hardware Platform

More students than ever will be representing Hall High and the WHPS district at local Connecticut REC Foundation events for this year's VEX Competition. Through a generous FWHPs Grant, the Hall High team has registered a new robot for the season and will be working their way through the engineering design process to compete at local events around the state and hopefully beyond. These students from Hall High will be joining over 50,000 students from across the world, on more than 20,000 teams from over 50 countries to participate in over 1,700 robotics events highlighting an exciting engineering challenge presented in the form of a game. Dubbed the world's greatest two minutes in robotics, this year's challenge 'Tipping Point' has students competing to design, fabricate, program, troubleshoot, and operate robots to score points through autonomous programming and driver control by placing rings, moving mobile goals, and by elevating robots and goals on teeter-totter platforms.

Neil Cummings, Lead Teacher

Mr. & Mrs. David Dupee Grant - Black Gold- A Gardeners Dream

Hall High School Biology/Environmental Studies staff and the special education staff will partner in developing a career pathway in the area of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. This project will focus on teaching students valuable lessons in composting food and garden waste through the use of worm composting stations. The ultimate goal of this project will be to establish a micro business selling worm castings to local gardeners. This project will enhance the curriculum alignment which exists between the high school; the post secondary program and Auer Farm Greenhouse.

James Antonucci, Lead Teacher

Frankie & Bob Goldfarb Grant: Northeastern Jazz Exchange and Curriculum Enrichment, 2021-2022

Students from Hall High School and Conard High School will participate in a multi-day exchange, residency, and curriculum share focusing on the African American art form known as Jazz Music. Students will explore the early cultural/historical influences of the American Blues, Central America, and Africa through a commissioned musical piece created for the residency. Students from Hall and Conard will benefit from the master clinician Justin DiCioccio, along with Jazz at Lincoln Center's Alexa Tarantino, Juilliard's Tatum Greenblatt, UConn's Sean Nelson, Juilliard's/Columbia's Helen Sung, and Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jeff Hamilton through the residency. Students will combine to present both live-streamed and in person concerts for their greater communities.

King Philip Middle School

Alan Smith, Lead Teacher

Greenspan Family Grant - Digital Music in the 21st Century

This grant provides students at King Philip Middle School with new midi controller pianos and laptop stands in the 8th grade general music classroom. Students will use these pianos daily in class to learn basic piano techniques of note/rhythm reading, key signatures, chords, and chord inversions. Combining these skills with free web-based software from BandLab.com, students will have a complete digital audio workstation (DAW) to create their own digital music that can be shared with their class, friends, family, and the world. This technology will enhance learning and give students a real-world experience that will promote lifelong learning and possibly influence some students' eventual career choices.

Norfeldt School

Aimee Heaton, Lead Teacher & Rick Bassett, Christina Moavero

Racial Justice Student Training

Racial Justice Student and Teacher Training: Using the resources "From Tolerance to Unity," this training offers students and parents the opportunity to unmask and dismantle racism. It gives students a common language to talk about the issue of racism, and empowers them to address racism in their schools and in their lives. The students learn about the history of racism, and then explore racism in our world today. They engage in creative exercises, watch video clips addressing racism in the past and in the present, and then have the opportunity to participate in empowering activities, to demonstrate their own power to dismantle racism. The "Farm Analogy" is used to frame the conversation, discussing the poison of racism in our soil, and how we can get rid of the toxins together.

Kimberly Robinson, Lead Teacher

Sally and Tom Tresselt Grant - Let's Read Together

In the West Hartford Public Schools we understand that equity means giving every child the tools they need to succeed. At Norfeldt Elementary School we also understand that many of our students who speak another language at home would like to have a parent read to them in their home language but find it challenging to find books in languages other than English. This grant provides our library with the ability to purchase books that more accurately reflect the languages of our students and families so that every child in our school can be read to. Studies have repeatedly shown that the act of being read to is extremely critical to a child's literacy development. We look forward to collaborating with families and inviting them to share readings of these new books with our entire school population.

REACH

Maryanne Taft, Lead Teacher

Langsner Family Grant - Creating a Labyrinth...A Place to Relax, Reflect and Nurture the Spirit

This grant makes it possible for students across all grade levels at REACH the opportunity to come together as a community to design, develop and construct an outdoor labyrinth which will be used to enhance and enrich mind and spirit; learning across all disciplines and support social emotional learning. Students will be able to use the safe space of the labyrinth to de-stress, practice mindfulness, reduce anxiety, rejuvenate, reflect and problem solve in a natural, outdoor environment. Students will be able to explore environmental concepts, do creative writing, apply math skills and most importantly leave their legacy with an outdoor display of their time at REACH, along with a personalized edging block they paint and imbed in the pathway. Residents of West Hartford would be welcome to use the labyrinth and enjoy the benefits of walking its path.

Sedgwick Middle School

David Lee, Lead Teacher (Sedgwick) & Lindsay Goltzman (Bristow) Julie O'Reilly (King Philip), Adina Johnson (King Philip)

Hawkins Family Grant - Making Research-Based Independent Projects Come Alive with Allan Wolf

The Quest program and the 3 middle schools of West Hartford Public Schools will host author, poet, historian, researcher, and performer Allan Wolf for “Making Research-Based Independent Projects Come Alive with Allan Wolf,” an engaging and inspiring opportunity for students to experience research and history in a vibrant new lens for independent creative project production. Mr. Wolf, author of *The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic* and other works of historical fiction in verse form, will share his research, writing, and creative production skills in interactive performances to help students understand how they can use their History Day and independent project explorations to tell vibrant, engaging, and creative stories about their own interests and subjects. Mr. Wolf will encourage and challenge students to move their project work beyond simple recitation of knowledge. Students will see, hear, and experience ways to bring more rigor and interest to their research and then transform that research into an original, in-depth, exciting creative project. Like Mr. Wolf with his unique, evocative verse novels, students will be inspired to take their topics, their interests, and their strengths and create rich research projects that intrigue them. They will be challenged to take ownership of their enriched ideas, topics, and creative output.

Smith

Michelle Deegan, Lead Teacher Charlotte Flanagan

Frank Rosa Grant - Calm Bodies for Positive Learning

This grant, Calm Bodies for Positive Learning, would be used to create sensory path decals in the hallway and on the wall of our school. Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content. The sensory path decals will help the students with social/emotional learning. The decals will help students to self regulate and transition from one activity to another and transition to and from the classroom. They will promote self confidence and optimism for the student. Students can hop from one decal to another and can also be placed in various directions so the student can jump or walk. The student can count and move at the same time. They can also look at the colors of the decals and move from one color to the other. The decals will help the social/emotional needs of the students.

Webster Hill

Stefanie Chapdelaine, Lead Teacher & Joseph Tavera

Sparkling a Love of Reading with a Local Author

Local author Pegi Deitz Shea will be working with students at Webster Hill Elementary School. She will make presentations to multiple classrooms of students. The goal will be to foster a growing love of the reading and writing process. In doing so, students will also be exposed to her journey as an author and make connections to her texts, rooted in standards across content areas.

Elizabeth Cannone, Lead Teacher & Randi Leopold

In honor of Sherry Feinglass Grant - More Room to Grow When We Sow

More Room to Grow as We Sow!, a gardening project will enhance the Pre-K curriculum for three classrooms at Webster Hill Elementary School providing hands-on science, expressive arts, math, language arts, gross and fine motor experiences, meeting social-emotional needs, and nutritional awareness for these young children. Providing opportunities to develop an awareness of the natural world around them, helping to develop stewardship in the lives of this next generation. Most importantly gardening affects the soul, providing a calming effect in the lives of these children during a time when things continue to be uncertain. The self-esteem a child gains from eating a perfect carrot they have grown themselves is priceless!

Elysha Green, Lead Teacher

Goldbeck Family Grant - Hands on Literacy Learning Centers

This grant provides the funds to buy materials to build a collection of hands on literacy centers that will allow the kindergarten students at Webster Hill Elementary School to employ a variety of learning modalities while also practicing their developing literacy skills, incorporating fine motor skills, and experiencing the joy that comes with play-based learning. The materials purchased with this grant will stock our school's three kindergarten classrooms with materials they need to incorporate play into centers where students can work independently, enhancing their learning and allowing the teachers to meet with small groups. The materials will support the literacy objectives as well as motor skills and social emotional learning (ie: taking turns, playing fairly and honestly, having good sportsmanship, being a good partner). This grant helps our kindergarten students meet their learning objectives while also laying the foundation for a lifetime love of learning.

Whiting Lane

Karen Bridges, Lead Teacher

It's All a MATTER of Science

Although letting a mad scientist loose among the fifth grade may sound like it would be nothing but trouble, it really could MATTER in the long run. During an in-residence workshop, Mad Science of New England will share their mad scientist's knowledge with Whiting Lane Elementary School students to further the fifth graders' understanding of the properties of matter. Under the scientist's guidance, the students will have a hands-on experience as they explore molecules, the properties of matter, as well as physical and chemical changes. This program has all the elements that matter!

Christina Royce, Lead Teacher, Dawn Beckley, Wendy Martin

James M. Ellis Memorial Grant - Intentional Diversification of Classroom Library and Literature Circle Selections

This grant will allow students at Whiting Lane Elementary School to have greater access in the classroom to texts which will feature multicultural characters with different backgrounds, family structures, and interests not currently reflected in our classroom collections. As part of West Hartford's shared vision of equity, every student in the West Hartford Public Schools has the right to access opportunities and educational programs or activities that cultivate their unique gifts, talents, and interests, regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, gender identity or expression, or any other basis protected by State or Federal law. Every student has the right to an authentic feeling of belonging and safety. Bringing these texts will allow ALL students to see pieces of their own identity reflected in current literature which will not only enhance the education of our current fourth-grade students but ones in years to come.

Valerie Centone, Lead Teacher

Immerse Yourself in Connecticut History

Fourth graders at Whiting Lane Elementary School have the opportunity to visit the CT Historical Society to deepen their knowledge of Connecticut history which is part of the grade 4 WHPS curriculum. Students will tour the museum to analyze artifacts, maps and pictures as well as engage in hands-on activities. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a question/answer session with the museum historians. Lastly, they will incorporate this experience and newly gained knowledge into their "All About Connecticut" research project.

Cont. Whiting Lane, Morley

Suzy Sinatro, Lead Teacher & Laurie Perry (Morley)

Mythology - Up Close and In Person!

Jeff Benoit, in-residence artist, will bring his Chariot of the Sun performance to the 4th grade students at Whiting Lane and Morley Elementary Schools. Fourth graders will enjoy and participate in this dynamic program focusing on heroes, gods, goddesses and monsters of Greek mythology. The performance incorporates the use of poetry, masks and mime while intertwining skillful audience participation to create a fun filled theatrical learning experience for all.