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## EAEF AWARDS 21 GRANTS FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Ephrata, PA – The Ephrata Area Education Foundation encourages all teachers, groups of teachers, departments, and professional employees within the Ephrata Area School District to submit Venture Grants. These grants provide students with a variety of opportunities which enhance the educational experience above and beyond the standard curriculum. The process is tedious as proposals must promote one or more of the Foundation's current initiatives: expanding innovative learning opportunities, advancing technology, and/or supporting early childhood, i.e. K-4 education. Funding for the Venture Grant program comes from individuals and companies who support the Foundation. This funding provides the opportunity for teachers to seek initiatives and innovative ideas that the School District cannot justify using tax-payer dollars. The Foundation has approved and awarded 21 grants totaling \$52,575. This year, there were three different Venture Grant categories that EASD employees were able to apply for: Educational Innovation grants, Proven in Practice grants, and Expert in Residence grants. "We are anticipating the success stories from the upcoming school year. We are especially pleased that we received and approved grants from all schools within the EASD and also from each of the new categories. We look forward to highlighting these grants and showing our benefactors the impact of their investment," states Ann Marie K. Haus, Executive Director. Funds are raised by the Foundation to support these new initiatives. The list of approved Venture Grants includes the following:

**"S.P.A.R.K.S Foundation - Matter Monsters"** - The S.P.A.R.K.S. Foundation is a non-profit science education organization which presents a 55-minute hands-on programs called "Monster Matters" on the three states of matter. - **District wide 4th grade classrooms**

**"Using Improv to Imagine Possibilities and Unleash Creativity"** - Terri Mastrobuono will aid in instructing a full-day or two half-day seminar for GIEP students across the district. - **District wide gifted classrooms**

**"Bits of STEAM"** - Students will utilize LittleBits which are color-coded electronic Bits that each have a specific function (motion, lights, sensors, internet connectivity) to create simple to complex circuits. - **Akron Elementary**

**"STEAM Skills for the 21st Century"** - Lancaster Science Factory personnel will present six 1.5 hour programs (one each for grades 1-4 and two for kindergarten (a.m. and p.m. classes ) and six half hour whole-school assemblies on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math activities. - **Clay Elementary**

**"Thinking Outside of the Box with Breakout EDU "**- Students literally unlock a box and find out what is inside. The lock combinations and clues are revealed by working collaboratively to solve critical thinking problems These problems involve skills the students are learning in class. - **Fulton Elementary**

**"Improving EVERY student's writing regardless of his/her disability through the use of adaptive keyboarding and writing tools"** - The Clicker 7 program aids students in Supplemental Learning support programs to write more independently by using the keyboards and program features such as word banks, word predictors, and a voice reader that helps the student listen to what he/she has written to see if it sounds right or if words need to be changed. - **Fulton Elementary**

**"Lyrics 2 Learn"** - Lyrics 2 Learn is an online reading comprehension and fluency program in which music is used to engage students with text and help them to retain more information through repetition, rhythm, and rhyme. - **Highland Elementary**

**"Reflex Fact Fluency Program"** - A school-wide site license so that all students can have access to a game-based system that helps students of all ability levels to develop instant recall of their basic math facts. - **Highland Elementary**

**"Imagine Learning for English Learners"** - Imagine Learning is a language and literacy software program that accelerates English learning. It focuses on oral language, academic vocabulary, phonics, fluency, grammar, and comprehension. - **Highland Elementary**

**"Subscription to Reading Eggs/Reading Eggress for Literacy Development"** - Reading Eggs/Eggress provides students with an access to a literacy application that is individualized and allows them to practice phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency both at school and at home. - **Highland Elementary**

**"Mount Readmore Books Club"** - The purpose of this book club is to engage students, staff, and parents to share in a literature experience with their students or their children in order to discuss topics found in multi-cultural and diverse books. - **Ephrata Intermediate School**

**"EIMS Community Garden"** - The project provides a hands-on learning experience that connects school to real life. - **Ephrata Intermediate School**

**"Digging Deeper"** - Students will uncover the artifacts using the steps an archeologist takes and using archeological tools. - **Ephrata Middle School**

**"VEX IQ Robots"** - This grant will extend the original VEX IQ grant to create a robotics area in the new STEM/Science lab for independent study projects and hopefully generate enough interest to create a middle school competition team. - **Ephrata Middle School**

**"Let's Animate Concepts"** - This grant will fund the expansion of the animation station in the gifted lab where students animate movies about concepts from science, social studies, or other areas. - **Ephrata Middle School**

**"Samba band - Music and Culture of Latin America"** - An ethnomusicologist at Millersville University will be invited to collaborate with an Ephrata music teacher to demonstrate musical styles and instruments from South America. The funding also covers the purchase of some instruments for student use - **Ephrata Middle/High School**

**"Expressive Art Equals Social Learning"** - An art professional with training in a therapeutic setting will conduct monthly one-hour sessions using painting, sculpture, and journaling to promote introspection, stress relief, and engagement in learning. - **Ephrata High School**

**"Action 360 for EHS video production"** - The proposal funds the purchase of camera equipment so that students can produce 360° /virtual reality videos, including behind the scenes of Ephrata AM daily show, special segments of Ephrata AM, pep rallies, sporting events, guest speakers, and inductions. - **Ephrata High School**

**"iPads for Blended Learning and Differentiation"** - This grant brings the total number of iPads in the world language department to 20. This number will make access to numerous world language applications accessible to a whole class at one time. - **Ephrata High School**

**"On Being a Superhero: Author Visit by A.S. King"** – Award-winning author and Berks County resident A.S. King has written many young adult books that are popular among EHS students. Topics range from self-esteem, life skills, and bullying. - **Ephrata High School**

**"Link Crew - Class of 2021"** - Link Crew is a nationally recognized high school transition program. Through this program freshmen are welcomed and made to feel comfortable throughout their first year of high school and beyond. Members of the junior and senior classes are trained to serve as mentors who guide freshmen through the transition from middle school to high school. - **Ephrata High School**

For more information, please call (717) 721-1598 or visit the Foundation website at [ephrataeducationfoundation.org](http://ephrataeducationfoundation.org).

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