



**Milwaukee Public Schools  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

## **Teacher EXCEL Grants**

*“Excellence in the Classroom” Teacher Mini-Grant Program*

*The Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc. sponsored a mini-grant program for teachers to fund creative classroom projects or activities that enrich student learning experiences. This year, 50 grants were awarded.*

## **2001-2002 Grant Winners**

### **Audubon Middle School – Mary Anderson News-2-You – \$300**

Students in the special education emotionally disturbed/autistic program will participate in weekly activities published in the *News-2-You* newsletter to enhance their reading, writing, and math instruction. Weekly activities will include reading a recipe, creating a shopping list, selecting the correct items at the store, paying for the items, and then, cooking the recipe – learning how to accurately measure the ingredients.

### **Audubon Middle School – Katherine Vannoy Multimedia Interactive Yearbook - \$745**

Thirty students, selected by their peers, will learn and understand the basic elements of programming and design and develop a multimedia interactive yearbook on CD-ROM. Students will conduct a financial and environmental analysis between a traditional paper yearbook and a digital yearbook. All students will be able to purchase the CD yearbook for \$1.

### **Brown Street Academy – Christine M. Yatchak, Cynthia Winget, Sharon Metcalf, Mark Samman, Patricia Cvejic, Pamela Cotton, and all classroom teachers**

#### **The Beat Goes On - \$750**

Students in first through fifth grade will be engaged in cross-curricular learning experiences of two cultures – African American and Native American. The focus of the study will be the drum and will involve reading, social studies, art, music, and dance. Culminating activities will include a visit to the Indian Community School and an African Drummer performance.

### **Clarke Street School – Stefanie Miller-Ahmed and Marcie Bonds One Book, Two Book, Red Book. Blue Book– \$410**

Students in first and second grade, including special education students, will be able to check out a bag of books to be taken home to read. This will help students become better readers by practicing skills at home and encourage family and parent involvement.

*The **Teacher EXCEL Grant** program is funded mainly through contributions from MPS employees to the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc., as a part of the MPS Employees’ Combined Giving Campaign. The grant program is also supported through contributions made to the MPS Foundation to a special fund established in memory of Ann Shansky, who was an elementary school teacher in MPS for 34 years. Mrs. Shansky was an advocate of early childhood education and dedicated her life’s work to education and development of children.*

If you have any questions, call Kathleen Kirchhoff at 475-8853 or by e-mail [KIRCHHKX@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:KIRCHHKX@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us).

**Eighty-First School – Ted Schuenemann  
Learning To Fly -- \$660**

Sixth grade students utilizing science, technology education, math, language, and social studies will develop comprehensive, fun, hands-on science projects. They will construct compressed air rockets, take a trip to the EAA Museum, build gliders, and launch hot air balloons. During this process they will gather, record, categorize, and evaluate data.

**El Puente High School – Joella Zocher  
Biodiversity & Green Space -- \$750**

This four-part project will introduce students to biodiversity and green space through hands-on experiences to encourage students to pursue a career in science. Students will investigate the natural and human activity in the ecosystem and their relation to the biosphere and conduct and analyze scientific experiments. They will also build two benches and a birdhouse for the garden created last year.

**Elm Creative Arts – Carl Rank  
The Human Body -- \$750**

Eighty students in first grade will study basic human anatomy using a variety of resources. Using Gray's Anatomy and a human skeleton model, they will gain and demonstrate knowledge of the major bones and the placement and functions of organs of the human body. They will make life-size paper skeletal templates by tracing their own bodies to help understand what they've learned. A field trip to the Health Education Center will culminate the project.

**Fairview Elementary School –  
Debbie Konings  
Earth, Sun, Moon and Stars -- \$275**

Thirty five-year-old kindergarten students will learn about the Earth, sun, moon, stars, and planets through a variety of nonfiction and fiction books. Students will take home these books to encourage parent involvement. They will also participate in hands-on experiments that explore the concepts of night and day, heat and cold, and others. Using information they learned, the students will write and illustrate a book and create a space shuttle large enough to role-play in. As a part of the project, students will visit the Junior Astronauts Program at Discovery World Museum.

**Fairview Elementary School –  
Laura Yale & Wendy Novak  
Leaping Into Learning with Leap Pads -- \$750**

Thirty kindergarteners will learn how to use the Leap Pad Learning System, which will help the students in the areas of reading (phonics) and mathematics. Students will be able to take the Leap Pads home along with a variety of books. It will provide students and their families with fun, exciting, easy-to-use materials for home use to enhance and reinforce what they learn at school.

**Forest Home Elementary School –  
Diane Rakowski & Magdalena Danes  
Georgia O'Keefe and Beyond -- \$740**

Through lecture, slides, video clips, a field trip, and projects, 30 first grade students will become familiar with master artist, Georgia O'Keefe. Students will gain knowledge of geography, Wisconsin's history, women's history, nature, and literature. They will then create a piece of artwork in the spirit of Georgia O'Keefe.

**Franklin Elementary School –  
Tammi Jacob & Shawntell Bell  
Science Buds -- \$425**

To enhance exposure to science, 20 second and third grade girls will meet weekly in the Science Buds Club. Students will be engaged in science activities related to the content areas they are studying. They will go on a field trip based on the project and keep a science journal of their activities. Special interest will be given to those who are currently having difficulty in the school setting.

**Garfield Elementary School –Robin Booth  
Cooperative Math and Science -- \$625**

Sixty, second graders and 60 third graders will be allowed to participate in three programs designed to enhance the curriculum. The programs are a "Mathquest" competition held each month, "Super Science Monday Clubs," which include a different science activity each week, and "ACE Awards" to reinforce positive character traits and conduct of the students.

**Garland Elementary School –  
AnnMarie Obernberger  
Silver and Gold; Young and Old -- \$715**

First grade students will visit nursing home residents after writing letters of introduction and attaching pictures of themselves. There will be four visits in all, which will include the students singing songs and acting out short plays for the residents. The students will prepare questions and interview their new friends and then write about their experiences.

**Grantosa Elementary School –Jill Schindhelm  
Cultural Communication -- \$750**

Thirty fifth grade students will be engaged in learning experiences with a class from Sidney, Australia. Students will share their cultural differences, and learn about the history, geography, government and way of life of urban students in Australia. They will send postcards to each other, take pictures of their country to share, create classroom scrapbooks and prepare “Culture Capsules.” Students will be responsible for making an ongoing portfolio detailing what they learned as well as prepare a report on an Australian exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

**Hamilton High School – Dani Graf &  
Gail Wos  
Art History/Writing -- \$630**

Forty advanced placement art history and/or English literature students, 20 freshmen art history students, and 60 painting students will be involved in this program designed to increase students’ knowledge of the history, public art, and unique architecture of their cultural community. Students will visit the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago and complete writing assignments about selected artworks.

**Hampton Elementary School –  
Amelia Emmerich  
Under the Sea -- \$750**

Sixty first graders will expand on their reading series by participating in cross-curricular projects directly related to the Under the Sea reading theme. Students will utilize math and art skills by making aquariums, an undersea mural, a graph of sea animals, and word problems with aquatic themes. Other activities will involve music, physical education, and science. Students

will visit the Shedd Aquarium as a culminating activity.

**Humboldt Park School – Lisabeth Joy  
Family Math -- \$580**

Thirty-two students in second grade will be able to take home 64 game bags containing a broad range of mathematical games. The kits will provide activities utilizing critical thinking and problem solving skills. The units deal with the numbers system, estimation, geometry, fractions, measuring, and whole number computation. The kits will provide families with needed resources to help children at home.

**Kagel Elementary School – Monica Pallo  
Name That Book -- \$750**

Fifty second grade students will prepare for and participate in a book contest in which teams compete to identify books described through story elements. The contest includes three rounds of competition over the course of the semester. Prizes will be awarded for points earned in the competition as well as for participation and team sportsmanship. Parents and families are encouraged to participate

**LaFollette Elementary School – Christine  
Sylvester  
Creations to Write About -- \$450**

Twenty first graders will build/create artistic impressions through the use of legos, blocks, beads, craft sticks, paper, clay, etc., and will create a story or descriptive writing based on this new creation. Students will present the finished project to other classes and parents.

**Lincoln Ave. Elementary School –  
Marisol Gutierrez & June Litkowski  
Amigos Read Juntos -- \$750**

Sixty bilingual and monolingual first grade students will work and learn together as they develop reading and writing skills. Students will read to each other, help each other learn a different language, assist with journal writing, and share their cultural differences. Funds will be used to purchase books, supplies, and a field trip.

**Lincoln Center – Elyse Román  
Best Friends Summer Retreat Program --  
\$750**

Twenty girls in the seventh and eighth grades will be given the opportunity to attend a two-day/two-night Best Friends summer retreat designed to promote abstinence of sex, drugs, and alcohol; to strengthen the concept of team work; and to provide support for each other.

**Lloyd Street Global – Kristin Koepke and  
Pamela Wiemer  
Reading, Writing, and Rhythm Packs -- \$300**

Thirty first grade students and their families will be able to work on one of four different backpacks at home and fun-filled learning activities. Students will share and display the completed task in the classroom. Backpack activities will revolve around the theme of rhythm and incorporate science, arts in community education, math, and social studies.

**Lloyd Street Global – Kristin Koepke  
A Storybook Journey Through Asia -- \$400**

First grade students will learn about an Asian country and display their knowledge through a technology presentation that compares their lives to people of the other country. They will then perform an original play and compose music to accompany the play.

**Lloyd Street Global – Sylvia Llanas Buckman  
Exploring Science After School-- \$750**

All students have an opportunity to take advantage of this after-school program designed to provide extra help for those who are required to do a science project. Families are able to sign up for after-school science classes also, and one class will be offered on Saturday morning. Last year 300 students completed science projects.

**Lowell Elementary School – Judith Mehta  
and Diane Glisczinski  
Early Childhood Literacy Enhancement  
Through Dramatic Props: A Classroom –  
Library Connection-- \$550**

Fifty all-day, four-year-old kindergarten students can utilize nearly 12 different early-childhood literature kits funded by this grant. The kits contain one book chosen for its appeal to preschoolers and one or two dramatic props to make the story more enjoyable. The kits will enhance children's language and pre-reading skills.

**Malcolm X Academy – Erica Bates  
Malcolm X Academy Brochures – \$750**

Sixth grade students will study various forms of mass communications. They will then apply their knowledge of advertising and demonstrate what they have learned through the completion of a commercial and a brochure highlighting Malcolm X Academy.

**Manitoba Elementary School –  
Cheryl Bohnsack & Marleen Morgan  
A Trip To Old World Wisconsin -- \$750**

Seventy-five students in grades four, five, and six will visit Old World Wisconsin to learn how pioneers lived in the 1800's. The students will use digital cameras to take pictures on the trip to be integrated in their written reports. They will also prepare slide shows and share their report on the school's web page.

**Milwaukee French Immersion – Suzanne  
Green, Dawn Demaster, Dawn Mahuta  
Our Beautiful Bodies – \$550**

Forty-five kindergarten students will experience a variety of activities related to the human body and the five senses. Using models of the human body, skeleton, model eye, model ear, and model teeth, they will be provided with hands-on experiences in subject areas that are usually too abstract for young children to understand.

**Milwaukee High School of the Arts –  
William Jackson  
The CWJ Press – \$750**

Students will gain valuable experience perfecting their writing skills through creative writing and journalism. Students learn about publication management, editorial duties, compliance with professional submission standards, layout and design, and dealing with calendars and deadlines. This in-curriculum publishing company in the school mirrors the real world of journalism. Students' work is published and will be recorded on a CD to be included in their resumes for college.

**Milwaukee High School of the Arts –  
Cathleen Hunt  
Wisconsin Stock Market Simulation – \$660**

To enhance the standard economics curriculum, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a 10-week stock market simulation to learn how to be better producers, consumers, and economic citizens. Student teams invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in stocks and compete for the best portfolio performance. Students conduct research, engage in problem-solving activities, and work in cooperative groups.

**Milwaukee School of Languages –  
Guy Dayen  
Quebec Music and Culture – \$500**

Sixth grade French students will be exposed to the rich variety of Québécois music and introduced to the culture and history of Quebec through the medium of the songs studied. Students will be required to find relevant resources through research and deliver a well-organized presentation to their classmates in French.

**Milwaukee School of Languages –  
Bryon Hancock  
Marine Ecosystem – \$725**

Seventh grade students will study the marine ecosystem using a 55 gallon salt water aquarium. They will conduct a number of experiments and write report on the results. For example, students will use shrimp to see how they feed, respond to stimuli, and interact with other

species. They will analyze marine water and compare and contrast what they've learned to the freshwater environment.

**Morgandale Elementary –  
Clariza Dominicci-Lopez and Sara Plach  
Project CARE – \$400  
(Caring About ouR Enrvironment)**

Twenty-nine students in two SAGE second grade bilingual classrooms will study the environment and will become aware of the effect they have on their communities. They will write, edit, illustrate, and publish a non-fiction book. The photo journals created will capture what they've learned about the environment.

**Morgandale Elementary –  
Sara Plach  
Butterfly Nurseries – \$200**

Twenty-eight, second grade bilingual students will study the lifecycle of a butterfly through the use of butterfly nursery kits. They will learn about the metamorphosis of the butterfly, the four stages it goes through, and identify its body parts. Each student will keep a butterfly journal where they note their findings and they will write a make-believe story about a butterfly having dinner.

**Morse Middle School –  
Norma Mortimer  
Building Your Future – \$750**

Over 100 present and incoming sixth grade students enrolled in the extended-year program during the summer will be exposed to the architectural heritage of our community. Students will visit Miller Park, a variety of bridges as seen from the Iroquois, St. Josephat's Basilica, and Old World Wisconsin. These trips will also help to build social development, which help the students during the school year.

**Neeskara Elementary School – Julie  
Bagrowski  
Practice Makes Perfect – \$690**

Twenty-seven students in third grade will engage in oral reading fluency practice as part of their daily reading curriculum. The main purpose is to improve the student's ability to read fluently, pronounce words correctly, read at an appropriate pace, and read with expression.

Funds will be used to purchase classroom sets of books.

**Pierce Elementary School – Katie Fitzpatrick  
Kite Day! – \$730**

Nearly 200 students in third and fourth grades will study the history of kites and its significance in other cultures. After studying the physics of kite flying, the students will design and decorate their kites using symmetry and geometric shapes learned in math. They will then try to fly their kites on Kite Day where parents are invited and a picnic lunch is served.

**Riverside High School – Catherine  
Washabaugh and Alan Vey  
Rite of Passage and the Teenage Multicultural  
Soul – \$750**

Seventy-five ninth grade students involved in the Career Integrated Technology Team (students identified as needing additional academic help) will research other cultures, customs, and rituals that contribute to the attainment of adulthood. They will conduct interviews with people of different cultures, read various books on the topic and then write stories, reports, and poetry illustrating what they have learned.

**Roosevelt Middle School – Leo Eckman  
Earth/Space History – \$725**

About 60 seventh grade students, most with special education needs, will study the geography of the earth, maps, the geology of earth, space, the solar system, and construct maps and models of the earth and solar system. To enhance their learning they will visit the planetarium at UWM, Discovery World Space Museum, and the Milwaukee Public Museum.

**Rufus King High School – Keith Zeise  
Gas Chromatography – \$750**

Through the use of a gas chromatography machine, students will be able to enhance their understanding of chemical, biological, and environmental concepts. They will perform chemical testing of known compounds found in an ordinary household and analyze unknown chemicals. They can make observations,

develop a hypothesis, and then test the hypothesis experimentally, not theoretically.

**Sherman Elementary School –  
Maureen Dardis and Marti Anderson  
Integrated Farm Unit – \$740**

Twenty-six K4 students and nine early childhood special needs students will be introduced to animals that live on a farm. They will learn about the mothers and babies, their names, the sounds that they make and how they grow. The unit will culminate with a trip to Green Meadows Farm.

**37<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School –  
Allison Fowler and Cynthia Walton  
French Fun with Muzzy – \$750**

Twenty-five second grade students will be introduced to foreign language in an interactive, innovative manner for a minimum of 45 minutes, three days per week. The Muzzy series will use charming characters, humorous stories, and delightful songs to bring language to life while engaging students to learn a new language.

**Thoreau Elementary School – Sharon Ebel  
and Christine Parsons  
Beautiful World – \$750**

About 130 fourth and fifth grade students will study the ecosystems of the world utilizing science books, resource materials, and the Internet. They will create charts, reports, graphs, and artwork that allow the students to feel the texture, view the structure, shape, and size of the objects and categorize the various life forms. The project will feature the Japanese Gyotaku art form and will involve many cross-curricular activities.

**Trowbridge Elementary School – Linda Bolin  
and Diane Piedt  
Around the World in a Suitcase – \$750**

Forty-five kindergarteners and 25 fifth grade students will be exposed to four different cultures including Native American, African, Asian, and Hispanic. Take-home bags including a big book, mini books, puppets, videos, cassettes, art projects and recipes about the culture being studied can be taken home and shared with family members.

hands-on activities including the necessary materials to help make reading fun.

**Trowbridge Elementary School – Desire Tyler  
Game Buddies – \$500**

Fifth grade students will serve as role models for 45 kindergarten students. Once a week during the lunch recess the fifth graders will be working with the kindergarteners teaching them how to play board games, take turns, count spaces, and display good sportsmanship. They will also teach the kindergarteners the basic colors, letters, numbers, and shapes.

**Wisconsin Avenue School – Tina Johnson  
Great Artist of the World Literacy Circle –  
\$610**

Twenty students who have needs ranging from specific Learning Disabilities, Cognitive Disabilities, and Emotional Behavioral Disabilities, will be learning about famous artists such as Monet, VanGogh, Picasso, Warhol, Matisse, and daVinci. They will read about the artists and recreate one of their works of art using water color, oil paints, brushes, canvas, and other medium.

**Walker/SWELL – Wesley Chism  
Frank Lloyd Wright Project – \$750**

Sixty students in grades six through eight will study about the architect Frank Lloyd Wright and learn how geometry is used in the design of his buildings. They will explore his designs located in Spring Green, Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine. The students will then complete a scale model house based on what they've learned.

**Wisconsin Avenue School – Mara Thompson  
Literacy Connection II – \$750**

This project builds on Literacy Connection—a program started last year to stimulate home literacy. Students were able to take home literacy kits containing books, instructions for parents, high frequency words cards, art projects and more. This year, additional books will be added and new literacy bags will be created in order for the program to run for a longer period of time. The program builds bridges between school and home, and helps improve reading.

**Walker Middle School – Pam Dempsey and  
Kathleen Smith  
Portrait of an Artist – \$750**

Thirty students will research impressionist artists and compare and contrast the self-portraits of Van Gogh, Gaugin, and Picasso. They will complete a research paper; create their own self-portraits; and deliver an oral presentation. The project includes a visit to the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Wisconsin Avenue School – Nicole Goodno  
and Tanya Cattell  
Literacy Link – \$750**

Students in grades one through three with a variety of learning needs and/or emotional behavioral disabilities will have an opportunity to participate in this program designed to increase parental involvement in reading at home. The kit will include a bag to carry items home, books, instructions for parents, high frequency word cards, worksheets, and simple