

NEF **EXPRESS**
GRANTS
2019 - 2020

BUILDING A UKELELE COMMUNITY

RIVER WOODS ELEMENTARY
CHERI PALADINO

Students in grades three through five will be invited to join a community of **ukulele players** to creatively explore playing the ukulele in a group setting during recess.

ADAPTIVE RECESS EQUIPMENT FOR STRUCTURED PEER INTERACTION

MAPLEBROOK ELEMENTARY
HANNAH WOOD

Medical or learning difficulties can impact a student's ability to interact with peers during unstructured recess times. This grant will increase opportunities for social interactions during recess, fostering creative skills by structuring play in a way that begins to **encourage engagement in imaginative, less-structured play**.

HIP HIP HURRAH!

BEEBE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MARISELLA WEIR, THERESA BERDIEL, AND GWEN CHISAUSKY

Books that connect to literacy and social emotional learning standards are used for **shared time read-alouds with HURRAH volunteers**, who serve as readers and mentors for the children. Volunteers provide one-on-one attention, extra exposure to literacy and language, and the chance to build personal relationships with caring individuals.

REID ALL ABOUT IT!

ANN REID EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
JEAN ABBOTT

Science books will help increase language skills at the early childhood level, incorporating students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals and language goals and challenging peer models in the classroom with open-ended questions.

FLIGHT SERVICE CLUB

MADISON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MATTHEW GERWIG

The Flight Service Club allows Madison students to make an impact in the school and the neighboring community through **service projects**.

A PERFORMANCE HISTORY OF BLUES MUSIC IN AMERICA

NAPERVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
MARYBETH REILLY

This **live blues performance** by a noted Chicago blues teacher and musician will provide a hands-on experience with authentic blues music to help explore the history and evolution of blues in America.

SUCCESS PROGRAM

MADISON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ANDREA SZCZEPANSKI

SUCCESS is a family-led organization working with the support of District 203 to **empower African American/Black students and other students of color** to improve academic performance, strengthen school/family partnerships and create a school atmosphere where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

PROMOTING AND CELEBRATING MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS

MILL STREET ELEMENTARY
YVETTE ALMARAZ

Multicultural books will add to the English Learners library collection, providing **texts that represent Mill Street's culturally diverse classroom and home environments**. This will inspire students to be proud of their cultural backgrounds, feel included, be accepting of other cultures, and learn about other cultures.

PHONEMIC AWARENESS

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
KAREN STOKES

The **Hear Builder app** allows students receiving reading support to practice phonemic awareness skills on their individual level. The app provides students and teachers with multi-level activities, customized reports, and specific learning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING A MULTI-SENSORY APPROACH TO TEACHING READING

ELLSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JENNIFER HODONICKY

A multi-sensory approach to teaching reading can help **assist students diagnosed with dyslexia** or struggling with reading skills.

THE SUNRISE SPANISH PROJECT

BEEBE ELEMENTARY, MARISELA WEIR AND VERONICA BORJAS

Dual Language (Spanish and English) students from kindergarten through 5th grade will **practice Spanish and social skills as they play board games** that will impact their Spanish grammar, sentence formation, vocabulary and communication skills.

PERSONAL CARE GRANT

LINCOLN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
LAUREN EWANIC AND JOSH STUMPENHORST

Students are ready to learn when their most basic needs are met. For 60+ students, **access to clean laundry and personal hygiene products** are limited, if not absent. The grant provides a washer and dryer, laundry supplies, disposable shower wipes and pre-pasted toothbrushes, deodorant, wide tooth combs, and nail clippers. Students discreetly drop clothes off to be laundered or request personal care items.

ARTSONIA UPLOAD STATIONS

ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EMILY FIEDLER

Artsonia is an **online art museum**. Students create art portfolios, allowing them to share artwork with families. This teaches students about the significance of sharing their artwork as well as the art of photography, as they take pictures of their artwork in order to share it.

PURPOSEFUL PUPPET PLAY

BEEBE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THERESA BERDIEL AND GRETCHEN DEXTER

The use of **finger puppets in the classroom and at home** will support kindergartners' development skills through imaginative play. The puppets will be used to retell and create stories, review story ideas in writing and create role playing scenarios about social skills and conflict resolution.

NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

KENNEDY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MATTHEW SNIADOCKI

Spelling bee competitions provide opportunity for leadership, public speaking, competition for excellence, goal setting and an emphasis on Common Core Standards. They allow highly competitive academic students an opportunity to showcase their gifts in an atmosphere that they do not regularly have, compared to athletics or musical areas.

A POD OF PODCASTS: CREATING PODCATS WITH THE HIGHLANDS WHALES!

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANTHONY KRESL AND KYLE WOOD

The project provides **new aids to teaching students how to respond to art, make appropriate connections, and present their work and thoughts** in a sophisticated way. Podcasts provide opportunity for students to learn about the technical and creative aspects of creating a recording, without the pressure of being "on camera."

WHY IS DIFFERENT AWESOME?: A CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

SCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HUGH BOGER

To create time and space for conversations about diversity, inclusion and equity, benefiting both teachers and students, a **guided journaling experience** allows students to build self-confidence and discover what makes them each "unique and great." Students will identify how their actions help or hinder others from tapping into their "inner greatness." It will address and promote gratitude, compassion, and a "serving heart."

GENIUS HOURS IMPLEMENTATION

MILL STREET ELEMENTARY
KRISTINE CAMPBELL AND JULIE COMER

Students learn that they, as children, can make a difference in the world. Students in the PI program synthesize research from human resources, as well as written and digital resources to create a plan to **make an impactful change in our community**.

A MIND FULL OF MINDFULNESS

NAPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DEBBIE MORRIS

Our students need to learn how to be mindful during difficult times. Existing social-emotional learning materials and strategies will be supplemented by **materials supporting mindfulness**, teaching students about mindfulness and strategies for being more mindful.

WORLD LANGUAGES CLUB

JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ANA GONZALEZ-PINO

The club **celebrates diversity by learning about different countries, languages, and cultures** through topical discussions, tasting foods, listening to music, creating crafts and learning new expressions. Students might learn Mandarin expressions, practice Japanese origami or learn a Cherokee dance and create their own interpretation of the dance. No second language skills needed.

A WORLD OF (CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE) INSTRUMENTS

SCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SUSAN TARSON

Instruments, such as temple blocks, woodblocks, talking drums, gankogui, shekere, claves, cabasas, guiros, agogo bells, spoons and frame drums reflect students' cultures.. **Instruments inspire students to respond, perform, connect to cultures, and create**, in a highly engaging, hands-on learning experience. Students share their learning and give back to our community by performing at various events.