



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (November 17, 2023) – The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation Awarded \$15,827.67 to the seven Brosious Grant recipients listed here below.

“Improving Sensory Spaces for North Star” - Amy Van Akkeren, North Star Elementary

This grant is a second grant request to improve and provide additional items for the 6 sensory spaces created and developed by the special education team at North Star Elementary School last year and was funded by the WBLAEF. This year’s additional materials include kid pro tablets, puzzle floor mats, tactile sensory toys, sensory mats, sensory titles, and other items for improving the sensory spaces.

“Early Childhood Handwriting Without Tears” - Nicole Mersch and Darcy Rodriguez,

Normandy Park. Last year, all early childhood staff were trained on the curriculum *“Handwriting Without Tears”* that uses multi-sensory techniques to make writing and letter learning fun and engaging. This grant will allow for additional support materials to be purchased to continue with this program throughout the district’s preschool programs.

“TEC Makerspace” - Amy Oian, Transition Education Center. TEC students will be able to use hands-on experiments to foster innovation and creativity with a Makerspace. Transition Education Center will partner with 916 School District to implement the Makerspace and collaborate on lesson plans and differentiating curriculum based on the needs of the students.

“Beartown: A Community Simulation” - John Barnes, Megan Larsen, Jenny Storhaug, North Star Elementary. This grant will integrate literacy, math, social studies, and STEM lessons within a project based model that has real world applications. This will be a month-long simulation project for 3rd and 4th graders. The students will participate in their own “Beartown Community” where they will create their town and learn to engage in day to day living scenarios. The students will culminate their learning with an event titled “Bring Your Parents to Work Day.”

“STEM Stations, Phase 2” - Molly Lee, North Star Elementary. This phase 2 grant will move forward from last year’s successful funding from the WBLAEF in order to expand the experience of robotics to all elementary students based on coding language. The additional items to be purchased are: Make Block, Bloxels, and Spero Indi Cars.

“Birch Lake Regulation Room” - Sara McGrath-Daly, Birch Lake Elementary. This grant will allow for the initiation, implementation, and maintenance of a self regulation space that will be accessible to all Birch Lake students in order to help meet their social and emotional needs.

“Fidgety Fairy Tales” - Kristi Gile, Normandy Park Education Center. The Fidgety Fairy Tales program is produced and presented by the Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health. This very current topic and presentation will support and discuss mental health issues with gentle humor and great music giving children and adults the tools to have important conversations about mental health.

About the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation:

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) supports public education with the help of local businesses, alumni, and community members. The Foundation administers teaching grants, scholarships, fellowships for teachers, an Angel Fund for families with special economic needs. For more information about the WBLAEF please visit www.wblaef.org

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