

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation Awards 2022 Brosious Grants

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (November 15, 2022) – The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) recently awarded 12 Brosious grants to educators in the WBLA school district totaling \$22,775.

Communication in Play - Paige Pinnow, Normandy Park

This grant will provide funds for the installation of a communication board, a visual grid that contains symbols paired with words with which students with verbal communication difficulties can use to communicate at the playground area at Normandy Park.

North Star Conscious Discipline- Phase 1 - Trevor Putnam, North Star Elementary

This grant will provide funds to purchase self-regulation materials, tools, and visuals (e.g., conflict resolution time machine, active calming center, feeling buddies basic toolkit, calming pillow set, feeling buddies self-regulation toolkit) to enhance social-emotional learning by expanding sensory and calming spaces in each studio at the new elementary school.

Emmett Till and America's History of Racial Terror - Michelle Norcross, John Forestell, Catherine Olson, White Bear Lake Area Learning Center

This grant will provide partial funds for an interdisciplinary (math, language arts, and art) unit focused on violent racial incidents leading to systemic inequities that plague our country by focusing on the story of Emmett Till and how his death and his mother's courageous actions afterward led to the civil rights movement.

Upgrading Automation and Robotics Equipment - Phillip Sundblad, Sunrise Middle School

This grant will provide funds to start the upgrade of the current Cortex Automation and Robotics equipment to a V5 system. This grant will provide funds to purchase (3) Vex V5 Upgrade Classroom Kits.

Sensory Spaces for North Star - Amy Van Akkeren, North Star Elementary

This grant will provide funds for items necessary for the 7 separate sensory rooms for all students attending North Star. Each sensory room will contain 4 timed stations the students can independently complete. The students will complete a large motor activity, a focus activity, a yoga activity, and a breathing activity before returning to class.

Seeing ourselves in the early childhood classroom - Ann Zettel, Normandy Park

This grant will provide funds to purchase materials for books with pictures of all the children in each class, a classroom wide alphabet book, a special Grandparents count book for my Grandparent and me ECFE class, memory games for each class, and a puzzle, featuring children who will be using the materials.

Upgrade the current Cortex Automation and Robotics equipment to a V5 system - Joseph DiMeglio, Central Middle School

This grant will provide funds to start the upgrade of the current Cortex Automation and Robotics equipment to a V5 system. This grant will provide the necessary funds to purchase (4) Vex V5 Upgrade Classroom Kits.

Identifying Genres Through Picture Books - Elizabeth Ulmer, Oneka Elementary

This grant will provide funds to purchase picture books for the 4th grade classroom to incorporate into their genre unit.

STEM Lego Project - Katie Harding, Lakeaires

This grant will provide funds to purchase individual Lego kits, allowing students to use skills that involve learning about architecture, coding, the engineering design process, and math language (STEM).

STEM Stations - Molly Lee, North Star Elementary

This grant will provide funds to purchase equipment for 5 STEM coding stations that all students at North Star Elementary will be able to use. STEM Stations will consist of five different style robots allowing students the opportunity to be makers of technology and create robotic movements.

iPad Director Tools - WBLAHS (Both North and South Campus) - Wendy Suoja, Brandon Berger

This grant will provide funds for the purchase of iPad equipment to store and mark music electronically so it can be used year to year. It will allow both teachers to mark up PDFs of the music (instead of hard copies) and store the music digitally.

Accessible Audiobooks for Bears - Abby Willemsen, Melisa Dahl, Tamara Dobbins, Megan Perry, Central Middle School and Sunrise Park Middle School

This grant will provide funds to purchase audiobooks that reflect our student populations to eliminate a set of barriers that can hinder reading success. These audiobooks will: 1) Allow students to hear explicit sounds of letters and letter patterns that form words; 2) Help students engage in text and gain exposure to more words, ultimately improving vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills; 3) model to build reading fluency for students; and 4) Provide access to high quality diverse audiobooks that reflect student's lives and support literacy in an authentic way.

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