



Manchester Public Schools

Mini Grant Winners

Shared Writing Through Performance, Ryan Parker, Jessica Loucks Iling

Through the use of a performance system, students will engage in sharing their written creations aloud. This sharing will help to create a purpose for writing and will foster a culture that create and embraces a community of writers. Creating such an environment will motivate and celebrate kids' creativity and written expression. A performance system will also allow students to make links with our current technological movement in conjunction with our chromebooks. Students will be able to showcase their performances via chromebook streaming and will have the ability to reach out to other schools connecting with schools nationwide. In addition, engaging students in sharing and performing their work, students' build upon their speaking and presentation skills central to language arts and central to a 21st century education. Some of the Common Core Standards that apply are listed below. \$625

Rockwell Unit, Dee Moretto, Bennet Academy

In support of cultural diversity at Bennet Academy, the grade 6, Lincoln team students will be introduced to a unit of study about Norman Rockwell and the impact the artist's paintings and illustrations have on society, both in the past and present day. Rockwell's works are fine examples of recognizing intolerance, political issues, patriotism, "the Four Freedoms", lifestyles, and universal humor. The students will gain a better understanding and expand their knowledge of their cultural heritage, through the usage of anecdotes and personal interpretation of the artist's body of work. \$1,815.00

Lego Story Starter, Carolyn Pattavina, Waddell Elementary School

LEGO® Education StoryStarters are just what teachers need to get students motivated to write! Students use LEGO® bricks to create their stories and talk about them. Student can also use the Lego® StoryVisualizer software to create a storyboard or a scroll to help present their story. The Lego® Education StoryStarters support Common Core and English Language Arts standards. (Lego® Education) Students who struggle to write stories with interesting details and story development will benefit from using innovative Lego® StoryStarters as a springboard to their writing. Using Lego® StoryStarters is a unique motivator to improve writing instruction in grades 2 through 5. \$353.90

STEM with Legos, Laura Becker, Jess Loucks, Bowers

To engage students and provide them with the opportunity to build, tinker, discover, and experiment through hands on exploration. Students can share ideas, collaborate on challenges, and modify designs. By using LEGOs students are engineering ways to solve problems. Students will connect with the problem, construct a solution to the problem, contemplate what they did, and continue to change it, make it better. And at the center of this process is collaboration. This will ultimately lead to make unique creations while teaching students to persevere. Students will be actively engaged in science and math problems using higher order thinking skills. \$600

The Vault of Dreamers, David Lee, Lisa Young, Megan Lacey, Leah Lourie Iling / MHS

Creation of an interschool book club with 8th and 9th grade students reading Caragh O'Brien's The Vault of Dreamers, a dystopian story which appeals to this population. Ms. O'Brien, a local author, has agreed to donate 1 (of 2 days), to offer our students a writer's workshop experience in early December. Students will read and utilize technology to participate in a virtual book discussion. Ms. O'Brien has also agreed to attend our co-sponsored Barnes and Noble Book Fair scheduled for 12-10-14 for a book signing. \$3,260

Chicken Eggs, Jill Kilgus, Highland Park

Incubating and hatching chicken eggs is a hands on learning experience for my Kindergarten students. By the end of this study, my goal for student learning is for a deeper understanding about the animals, plants, and other worldly things around them by closely observing and exploring. Hatching baby chicks teaches more than animal biology. It fosters problem solving, thinking ahead, taking responsibility, accepting disappointment, and making hard choices. I hope to invigorate and excite my students about the natural world around them! \$489

Legos to Support Art, Emma Craib, Waddell Elementary School

"I am currently using Legos in art class explorations with all grade levels that include many classroom subjects. Topics covered are art, math, language and physics. From learning to count and sort in K, to identifying and constructing simple machines in the older grades, Lego are a great flexible learning tool.

I need more bricks for students to have the number needed for the more structured lessons, especially with older students. A recent lesson that combines art and science was an architecture exercise where the concepts of strength under compression and stability were explored. Limited numbers of blocks caused problems. \$609.80

Vex Robotics, Gregory Friedrichs, Iling

The VEX Robotics Design System offers students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These are just a few of the many fields students can explore by creating with VEX Robotics technology. Beyond science and engineering principles, a VEX Robotics project encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving among groups. It also allows educators to easily customize projects to meet the level of students' abilities. The affordable VEX platform will allow students to understand and develop skills in mechanical (gear ratios, locomotion, grabbing and lifting) as well as programming (Output/motor activation, sensor use, looping, and of remote control to determine the outcome of autonomous action). \$4903.38

