

# **2019-2020 FUNDED GRANTS**



**NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

## A Note from the Trustees:

For this year's grants the North Penn School District Educational Foundation awarded 32 grants totaling \$17,339. Grants like these not only enhance the curriculum, but provide a hands-on and innovative way for students to embrace and fully comprehend the lesson. When NPSD educators and staff apply for these grants, some think of how this experience will affect the student in the future. Science and technology grants allow students to understand theories at the next level of thinking. Other grants allow teachers to think about how this experience will benefit students socially and vocationally. We are sure that when you read through these grant descriptions, you will see how these experiences allow our students to develop into better students and citizens. Without you and your generosity, the NPSD students and staff would not have access to these amazing opportunities.

## Exploring and Using 3D Printers

Pennfield Middle School, *Jeff Testa and Scott Thompson*

This grant funded two additional 3D printers for students in seventh and eighth grade technology classes at Pennfield. 3D printers are used to create usable replicas of objects, big or small, to be used for research and design in our world. With the school's previous 3D printers, it was not possible for every student to print something during the academic year. With these additional printers, all students in the seventh grade will be able to use or modify existing files or create new files to print. The printers also allow Pennfield to teach a full unit of 3D design, modeling, and prototyping for 8th grade students.

## Nanotechnology and Engineering Research

North Penn High School, *Michael Boyer*

The Future is N.E.A.R. (Nanotechnology Education and Research) is a STEM education research program that parallels the senior capstone course, Engineering Design and Development (EDD), of the North Penn High School Engineering Academy. Students work in design teams utilizing a combination of creative problem solving and some of the latest published research available to improve the human condition by researching and developing solutions to global energy, environment, and healthcare issues that capitalize from fundamentals of nanotechnology and cutting edge engineering research.



STEM



Science



Special/Gifted  
Education



Technology



Mathematics



English Language  
Development



Reading/Writing



Guidance



Social Studies



Family Outreach



Technology  
Education



Health and  
Physical  
Education

## **Sphero RVR Coding Integration**

North Penn High School, *Curt Reichwein*

The Sphero RVR is a new groundbreaking coding platform with endless possibilities. The NPHS Engineering and Technology Education department offers three courses that include open coding content that is limited based on specific platforms. The Sphero RVR platform is an open source format that allows students and teachers to take what they already have in place and go much further than before. The RVR adds a new and exciting level of coding that work that was previously out of reach.

## **Makey Makey in the English Language Arts Classroom**

A.M. Kulp Elementary, *Wendy Stover*

Makey Makey is a useful, hands-on learning technology tool for learners of all ages, regardless of their academic strengths and weaknesses. While not all students will grow up to be computer programmers, approximately 60 sixth grade students each year at A.M. Kulp will be exposed to critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and reasoning skills through creation and invention. Incorporating technology and literacy will increase student engagement and motivation, making learning fun.

## **Butterfly and Moth Presentation by Rick Mikula**

Bridle Path Elementary, *Jennifer Oakes, Kate Huynh, and Jake Hoffman*

Seventy-five second graders at Bridle Path got up-close and personal with butterflies and moths from around the world! "The Butterfly Guy", Rick Mikula, brought a high-energy performance while sharing dozens of mounted specimens to demonstrate camouflage, disguise, and survival. Students also learned how to raise butterflies and moths using simple, recyclable items and how to attract pollinators to their own gardens. This special presentation was part of the students' scientific study of insects and plants and their raising of Painted Lady butterflies in the classroom.

## **EITC + YOUR BUSINESS + NPSD + OUR STUDENTS = A WINNING COMBINATION**

The NPSD Educational Foundation has been approved by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO), meaning that our organization can accept Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC makes it affordable for you to contribute to the education of Pennsylvania's children and make a footprint in our community.

## **Video and Still Imagery**



Gwynedd Square Elementary, *Derek Fickert*

This grant funded the purchase of a Canon EOS M50 Mirrorless Camera Kit with EF-M15-45 mm and 4K video. With the use of this camera, Gwynedd Square can document and share via YouTube Live events and activities at the school. A group of students help with production and the setup of events. This project teaches students about video production and journalism while making the school and public more aware of the events at Gwynedd Square.

## **Hue HD Pro Camera**



Gwynedd Square Elementary, *Sandy Linberger and Christie Vilsmeier*

This grant funds a HUE HD Pro camera to promote student engagement. The camera makes images come to life for students and staff both inside and outside of the classroom. The camera also allows students and staff to demonstrate science projects, math work, student writing, and more. Users can record a technique or experiment and replay it for the class.

## **STEM for Little Hands**



Gwynedd Square Elementary, *Steph Brecht*

This project provided students in kindergarten with manipulatives to build and create with, as well as an interactive math chart to help them gain number sense daily. Students can explore problem solving, number sense, and engineering aspects as they create with these manipulatives. Hands-on learning gets students involved on many levels. Using manipulatives to help expose young learners to the different STEM components comes to life while building and creating with a variety of shapes and materials.

## **Flexible Seating**



Gwyn-Nor Elementary, *Kimberly Morse*

Various seating options, such as donut balls, wobble chairs, balance balls, stools, and foam pads seats will be provided to students to use in the classroom at Gwyn-Nor. Allowing students to choose their own seating options empowers them to be more comfortable, and therefore more productive during school. This grant allows students to wobble, lean, bounce, or stand which increases oxygen to the brain, keeping them more alert and focused.

## Handwashing is the Tool to Stay in School

Gwyn-Nor Elementary, *Kate O'Brien*

Handwashing is one of the most important steps to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. This grant funded a handwashing kit, enabling the school nurse to teach students and staff proper handwashing techniques with the help of the "hands on" lotions and black light, reinforcing the proper skills and benefits of washing away germs to prevent illness, avoid absences, and therefore increase academic attendance. When students and staff follow the handwashing procedure, there will ultimately be healthier classrooms and life-long lessons on the spread of germs and illness.

## Sensory Pathway

Gwyn-Nor Elementary, *Treena Sadler*

This grant funded various sensory pathway items in the classroom. These items provide students with the opportunity to have sensory play to reduce stress, improve emotional well-being, drive independent self-calming mechanisms, and increase learning potential. Students use these items to hop, jump, and push to drive self-calming mechanisms.

## Imagi-Nation: Real Life Skills

Hatfield Elementary, *Kristin Braun and Andrea Bowers*

Imagi-Nation is an interactive, educational, entertainment experience where children can role-play over 40 different careers within a realistic, kid-sized community. Throughout the 5,120 sq. ft metropolis of pretend business enterprises, children choose professions and are paid with Biznis Bucks for the work they perform. English Language Learners at Hatfield in grades one through six will visit Imagi-Nation to build students' background knowledge, community awareness, and explore future career options.

## Sensory Walk

Hatfield Elementary, *Marissa Beatrice*

A sensory walk was implemented at Hatfield through this grant for all students to use. Studies have shown that sensory input and movement allow students to regulate their bodies and prepare their brains to better focus and learn within the classroom setting. Floor decals of flowers, ladybugs, and lily pads guide students to engage in various sensory movement, ultimately improving their success in the classroom. Many students with special education services require scheduled sensory breaks throughout their day as an accommodation to their school programming. The sensory walks allow for a quick, easy way for students to receive that accommodation.

## Critical Thinking

Hatfield Elementary, *Stephanie Neri*

Many students learn curriculum standards in English, language arts, math, and science, but when it comes to the PSSA, some students need a curriculum that teaches them to think critically. ThinkLaw is a curriculum that gives teachers the forum to push students past the threshold of thinking linearly, and allows students to think big. The program teaches the most essential 21st century skills, including reasoning and critical thinking.

## Farming in Our Community

Inglewood Elementary, *Stephanie Levitt and Jessica Meschino*

English Learners (ELs) in grades one through six at Inglewood benefitted from a hands-on experience at Hellerick's Family Farm. Students learned the importance of farming in the local community while addressing literacy and listening skills that are critical for ELs to be successful community members. Students also learned about growing produce on the farm and attended an educational program, The Life Cycle of Butterflies.



## THE NPSD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION & THE NP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

In 2012, the NPSD Educational Foundation, in conjunction with NPSD administration launched the North Penn Alumni Association as a committee of the Foundation. The association's mission is to encourage networking and communication among North Penn School District alumni and to help maintain and enhance the legacy of North Penn schools for future generations. We hope to see more graduates join us for NPSD and Foundation events, attend reunions, and stay informed on the happenings of the district.

We see that NPHS graduates do great things, but what is the most amazing is the pride one takes in saying they are a graduate of North Penn High School. Whether a member of the Class of 2021, or someone who is celebrating their 50th reunion, alumni see North Penn High School as a place that helped to shape them into whom they are today. We are confident that with the support of the community and the 40,000+ NPHS graduates, the North Penn Alumni Association will leave a lasting effect on our students and the North Penn school district. For more information, please visit [www.northpennalumni.org](http://www.northpennalumni.org).