

SCEF APPROVES MORE THAN \$11,100 IN GRANTS

WINTER 2022 GRANTS

PLAYAWAY INSPIRATIONS

Elisa Merone, Chelsea Amato and Heather Szklarski

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,969.41

As in the past, grants have been funded for playaways, which have proven to be successful, especially with low level and reluctant readers. These grant applicants state that using playays helps to group students based on interest level and not reading levels. Students are given the option to read using the physical book, while others may choose to listen and follow along.

Observations were made by these grant applicants by working closely with a classroom teacher last year who had much success in their classroom using playaways. Observations noted were that students contributed to conversations pertaining to characters and plot and students appeared to be more confident readers, especially those students that were reluctant readers in the past.

The grant applicants feel that the addition of playaways will serve as a valuable tool for their students, enabling them to immerse themselves in books all year long, in addition to also giving teachers more flexibility with grouping students and planning lessons.

SEATING CHOICE FOR THE CLASSROOM

Lauren Kleban

Bellport Middle School

\$1,662.24

This grant is to fund 3 large stand up desks for students in the ELA and social studies classes who have difficulty sitting in one place for 3 consecutive periods of the school day. The stand up desks will allow students to get up out of their seats to stretch their legs, while not missing classroom instruction. The desks are also large enough to accommodate Chromebooks, materials and student notebooks that typical desks are often too small to fit everything these students need at one time.

FLEXIBLE SEATING FOR THE CLASSROOM

Theresa Tietjen

Bellport Middle School

\$1,662.24

This is the same grant as the above, but for accommodating math and science classes for students that are

required to be seated for 3 consecutive periods. The grant applicant states that the use of standing desks will enable students to stay more focused, while engaged in lessons, as well as making group work easier to facilitate and giving more space for Chromebooks and student materials for math and science classes that require manipulatives.

CARDIO DRUMMING

Andrew Budris

Bellport High School

\$2,000.00

This grant would introduce 3rd grade students at the Verne Critz School to the joy of physical activity at an age where many students begin to diverge, some students turning to “screen time” and some to athletics. The fitness-based learning supported by this program is a fun, engaging, and rigorous learning activity; combined with dance education, it can open the doors for participation in athletic extracurricular activities, convincing the students that an active lifestyle is fun.

Elementary physical education teachers will select one (or, if funds are available, two) guest instructor(s) to provide a week-long series of fitness-based learning activities. Decisions regarding the selection, timing, and logistics surrounding the program will be made by physical education teachers and the school principal.

The program will be documented by photographs of the program in action (with permission secured from parents/guardians). Video recordings of Interviews of the students to gauge their enjoyment will be available on the SCEF website. A written record of feedback from teachers, students and their parents/guardians will be available as well. It will be evaluated by the physical education teachers and the Verne Critz Principal.

The project represents a convergence of two educational priorities for the South Country community. Students in 12th grade Government classes participated in a multi week Civics experience conducted at Bellport High School by an organization called Generation Citizen.org which challenged the students to create systemic change by identifying needs in their community. The students felt that early intervention could create more equitable participation in athletics. While the grant itself was written by their teacher, Andrew Budris, the initiative was exclusively the result of action taken by the nineteen students of the Period 9 AP Government and Politics class and rejects the view that classrooms are the exclusive domain of learning. It emphasizes the connection between mind and body that is supported by research.

SUMMER INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

Andrew Budris

Bellport High School

\$1,950.00

This program introduces young children, along with their parents, to the possibility of music education by providing them with an opportunity to physically interact with a variety of music instruments. The children touch, play, and inquire about the instruments that will be available for them to choose to study when they begin their classes at Frank P. Long School. (Currently, the students are given only 30 minutes to be introduced to the thirteen instrument options open to them.) Using two morning sessions, three hours each, a band specialist, an orchestra specialist and a music administrator will offer the opportunity for children to come with their parents/guardians to learn about these instruments in a more meaningful and engaging way. For parents without previous experience with music instruction, the program will provide valuable help in encouraging their children to join the excellent music program at South Country.

The program will be documented by photographs of the program in action (with permission secured from parents/guardians). Video recordings of Interviews of the students to gauge their enjoyment will be available on the SCEF website. A written record of feedback from teachers, students and their parents/guardians will be available as well.

The program will be evaluated by the three staff members, with suggestions for improvements if the program is offered again in the future. When the school year begins, music teachers at Frank P. Long will be interviewed to determine if there was an increase in interest in students signing up for the orchestra or band programs.

The project represents a convergence of two educational priorities for the South Country community. Students in 12th grade Government classes participated in a multi week Civics experience conducted at Bellport High School by a program called Generation Citizen.org. It challenged the students to create systemic change by identifying needs in their community. The students in Andrew Budris' 9th period AP Government and Politics identified the need to boost participation more equitably in music education. Their interest in this area came after research into the long-term benefits of involvement in extracurricular activities.

(For a look at another example of an "Instrument Petting Zoo" see <https://www.stallercenter.com/outreach/InstrumentPettingZoo.php>)

COLLABORATION STATION: A TECHNOLOGY-INFUSED FLEXIBLE ZONE IN THE LIBRARY

Shannon Kulick

Frank P Long Intermediate School

\$1,886.44

Collaboration Station:: A Technology-Infused, Flexible Zone in the Library will enhance the Frank P. Long Intermediate School library media center's Makerspace. A Makerspace serves as a platform for exploring, learning, collaborating, and sharing through a wide range of activities, tools, and materials. They are spaces where ideas are transformed into finished projects. A Makerspace helps foster must-have 21st century skills such as critical thinking, logical reasoning,, creative thinking, and problem-solving. A dedicated Makerspace needs pieces that support collaboration, creation, and exploration. Adding Demco FLEXPlore Gear Guard Makerspace STEM tables to the Frank P. Long Intermediate School library media center will allow students to design, create, and code both individually and collaboratively.