

SCEF APPROVES MORE THAN \$36,000 IN GRANTS

WINTER 2026 GRANTS

BELLPORT HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE AT NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Angelina Wasson

Bellport High School

\$3,000.00

The BHS Jazz Band has been accepted to perform at the Empire Plaza through NYSSMA Music in our schools month initiative. In addition to performing at the State capitol, students will have the opportunity to speak with local legislators Advocacy efforts for music education in NY state. The grant would assist in subsidizing the cost of the bus for students.

UNIVERSAL PRE-K GRADUATION & END OF YEAR CELEBRATION 2026

Alexis Catalano

South Haven School

\$500.00

The Pre-K Graduation & End-of-Year Celebration is designed to recognize the social, emotional, and academic growth of Pre-K students as they transition into kindergarten. This event will include a graduation ceremony, student recognition, age-appropriate engagement, and a family celebration. The project aligns with the South Country Education Foundation's mission by supporting an innovative, community-building educational experience that falls outside the standard school budget. It enhances student confidence, strengthens school-family connections, and celebrates early childhood education as a critical foundation for lifelong learning. Grant funding will be used to offset costs associated with ceremony materials, student keepsakes, décor, programs, and event supplies to ensure all students can participate regardless of financial circumstances.

MATH MADE FUN

Theresa Tietjen

Bellport Middle School

\$500.00

Whiteboards help students by boosting engagement, visualizing complex ideas, fostering collaboration, and

improving memory through active participation, movement, and multi-sensory learning, making lessons more accessible and allowing for instant corrections and creative exploration. They cater to diverse learning styles, offer a dynamic alternative to paper, and build confidence as students see their contributions visually represented.

LIFE SKILLS IN ACTION: A HANDS ON LAB FOR REAL LIFE WORLD READINESS

Sarah Dern and Michelle Dunn

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$2,996.93

The creation of a Life Skills Lab at Verne Critz will provide students with special needs hands-on instruction in essential daily living skills. The lab will offer structured, real world learning experiences such as cooking, cleaning, organizing, shopping, money management and self care. This dedicated space will support the development of independence, confidence and functional communication through meaningful age appropriate activities.

SENSORY SUPPORTS FOR A CALMING AND ENGAGING CLASSROOM

Emily Dis

Kreamer Street Elementary

\$1,058.96

This project is designed to enhance educational opportunities for students in the K-1 self contained classroom by addressing their sensory and self regulation needs. To meet these needs, teachers are requesting chews to provide safe oral sensory input, a beanbag chair to support calming and self regulation in the classroom and sensory room, and a body wheel to encourage active play. These tools will create a more supportive learning environment where students can regulate their bodies and minds.

MATH MOVEMENT

Jaqueline Ward

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$2,693.60

This project involves creating a series of fun, colorful, engaging math-themed activities painted on the pavement at Verne W. Critz Elementary School. The project will enhance the educational initiatives and also promote students' love of learning and math through physical play.

KREAMER CREATES & CONSTRUCTS

Shannon Kulick

Kreamer St. Elementary School

\$2,832.97

The grant would fund new makerspace materials for students at Kreamer Street Elementary, including magnetic tiles, building blocks, and storage units. The goal is to give students more hands-on STEAM activities that support creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.

MEET PHOEBE: FAMOUS ADVENTURE DOG OF LONG ISLAND

Victoria Williams

Kreamer St. Elementary School

\$1,600.00

The grant would pay for local author Jean Derespina to visit Kreamer Street Elementary during Read Across America week. She will read from her Phoebe the Boat Dog books and lead a related craft activity for Kindergarten and First Grade students.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND! A TRIP TO THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM

Cami Ciervo, Dusty Deery, Trish Gallina, Tony Giresi, Jennifer Kelly, Samantha Meyer, Kristi Miller, Kyle Moodt, Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Nick Paolillo, David Perkins, Madison Sabolenko, Kelly Salmon-Calvosa, Melissa Satterly, Aly Smith, Joe Tortora

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$9,642.00

The grant would pay for all 5th-grade students to visit the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium. The trip will support lessons on the solar system and environmental science, and the funding will cover admission and program costs for the class as well as transportation.

SENIOR CLASS OF 2026 TRIP

Jane Quatralo & Danielle Broche

Bellport Senior High School

\$3,000.00

The Senior Class of 2026 Trip grant would help pay for transportation so students can go on a multi-day senior trip to Boston and Salem. The goal is to give students an educational experience outside the classroom, and to make sure cost doesn't prevent any student from participating.

BUILDING MUSICIANSHIP THROUGH UKULELE INSTRUCTION IN ELEMENTARY MUSIC

Branden Andrade

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$1,529.89

The Building Musicianship Through Ukulele Instruction project will add ukulele instruction to the third-grade music curriculum at Verne W. Critz Elementary School. Students will learn basic playing techniques, steady beat and rhythm skills, pitch awareness, and ensemble performance through structured, hands-on lessons. The grant would fund a classroom ukulele bundle and accessories that can be reused annually, expanding access to instrumental learning and strengthening the existing music program.

THE BEACH IS THEIR HOME

Kelly & Nolan (1st Grade Teachers)

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$1,095.00

The Beach is Their Home project will provide a first-grade field trip to Watch Hill where students will explore the beach environment and learn how sea life survives in its habitat. Students will connect classroom learning to real-world observation by examining features such as shells, dunes, water conditions, and nesting areas. The experience supports early science skills such as observing, evaluating, and communicating information aligned with Next Generation learning goals. The grant would fund transportation and related trip costs, including bus and ferry expenses.

AN OCEAN AND BAY JOURNEY WITH AUTHOR ELIZABETH SHREEVE

Mandy Mazziotti

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$1,600.00

The An Ocean and Bay Journey program will bring children's author Elizabeth Shreeve to Verne Critz

Elementary for a kindergarten and first-grade assembly focused on oceans, bays, and marine life. Students will hear two ocean-themed stories and participate in hands-on learning stations exploring plankton, shells, crabs, snails, and other organisms, connecting science observation with literacy and vocabulary development.

CLASS OF 2027 COLLEGE FIELD TRIP

Brittany Ensalata

Bellport High School

\$994.00

This field trip will provide students with the opportunity to explore post-secondary education options firsthand. By visiting a college campus, students will gain exposure to academic programs, campus life, and available support services. The experience is designed to help students envision themselves in a college setting, learn about admissions requirements, and understand the variety of pathways available to them after high school. Through campus tours, presentations from admissions and academic staff, and student engagement activities, participants will be better equipped to make informed decisions about their future educational and career goals. College campuses planned to visit are NYIT and SUNY Old Westbury. Grant money is only for bus transportation. Campus visits are free.

S.T.A.R. SENSORY TOOLS & RESOURCES

Kerry Hogan

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,500.00

This project aims to enhance the school's existing sensory space by acquiring specialized sensory equipment to help students with sensory processing differences, such as those with autism spectrum disorders, better regulate their bodies and emotions. The goal is to provide a safe, supportive, and controlled environment where students can access additional tools like a steamroller and tunnel. These tools will offer the necessary proprioceptive and vestibular input to help students de-escalate, calm down, or become more alert as needed. By improving self-regulation skills, the project will enhance students' concentration, reduce challenging behaviors, and enable them to participate more fully and successfully in the classroom setting and during social interactions. The long-term objective is to support the whole child, fostering an inclusive learning environment that meets all students' unique needs and promotes academic and social success.

SUFFOLK ZONE FIT CLUB COMPETITION

Kaitlyn Hruby

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$810.00

The Suffolk Zone Fit Club Competition is a full-day field trip for top 4th and 5th-grade fitness achievers. The event is fun, yet physically and mentally challenging, giving students a chance to build grit and perseverance in a low-pressure environment. By allowing kids to try, stumble, and rise again, to help them develop the resilience they'll need later in life. The competition assesses all five health-related and six skill-related fitness components, making fitness fun, exciting, and meaningful. Through these positive experiences, students are more likely to stay active, build self-esteem, and reduce the risk of obesity and future health issues. The cost covers a full day field trip.

BAND 8 ADJUDICATION AT THE LONG ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Audrey Garcia

Bellport Middle School

\$2,272.00

The proposed project seeks funding to cover transportation costs for the Bellport Middle School 8th grade band to attend and participate in the Long Island Music Festival (SCCC Brentwood Campus). This educational trip will provide students with a rare opportunity to perform in a formal adjudicated setting, receive constructive feedback from experienced music educators, and earn an official ranking that reflects their musical growth and achievements.

FIRST GRADE IS FULL OF CREATIVE MINDS

Carolyn Kelly, Heather Nolan, Melissa Satterly

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$1,039.00

Chompshops will help students to create, by giving them a safe, hands-on tool for designing and building with cardboard, which is low-cost accessible material. The flagship product, the ChompSaw, is a kid-safe cutting tool that allows children to freely experiment with shapes and structures, bringing their ideas to life. The applicants feel that this is an innovative project and program that is outside the school budget, and an opportunity to enhance learning with a great hands on approach.

LONG ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL FIELD TRIP

Sarah Bunk

Bellport Middle School

\$932.00

Students in Chamber Orchestra will be judged at The Long Island Music Festival at the Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood campus. Judges will later rehearse with the students and hold an orchestra clinic with the students and provide feedback on their performance.