



CALIFORNIA
TABLE GRAPE
COMMISSION

392 W. Fallbrook,
Suite 101
Fresno, California
93711-6150
phone: 559.447.8350
fax: 559.447.9184
grapesfromcalifornia.com

News Release

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Contact: Jeff Cardinale
jeffc@grapesfromcalifornia.com

Thirteen Grants Awarded to Educators in Kern County

Fresno, CA – Thousands of students have the opportunity to participate in innovative educational projects, thanks to a long-standing program funded by the California Table Grape Commission (commission) on behalf of California table grape growers.

The “Innovation in Teaching” grant program was created in 1993 to support innovative teaching projects in the California table grape growing regions of the San Joaquin and Coachella valleys. Projects include the areas of agriculture, math, science, art, health, and technology.

In total, 52 education grants worth up to \$750 each are being awarded. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 9,000 students. Thirteen of the grants are being awarded to educators in Kern County.

“California grape growers are proud to support this education grant program that benefits students in classrooms all over the grape-growing regions of the state,” said Kathleen Nave, commission president.

Examples of projects in Kern County include using an abacus and soroban to help teach algebra, working with 3D printers to learn about electrical engineering, and integrating tablet technology into performing arts classes.

A list of all the projects in Kern County is attached.

About the California Table Grape Commission

The California Table Grape Commission was created by the California legislature in 1967 to create worldwide demand for fresh California grapes through a variety of research and promotional programs.

For more information on the “Innovation in Teaching” grant program, go to www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/.

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Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2017-18

Here are the 13 Kern County winners:

Bakersfield City School District

- **All about the ABCs – Artisans, Builders, and Creators**
Heather Randolph, Leo G. Pauly Elementary School
Grant funds will be used to purchase hands-on science and math projects for third graders. Projects include coding and programming robots, dissecting owl pellets and bridge building.
- **How Things Grow and Change – How Plants and Insects are Connected**
Paloma Tucker, Evergreen Elementary School
Kindergarten students will learn how plants and insects work together in the world with life-science and art projects provided by grant-funded materials.

Delano Union Elementary School District

- **Exploring Literature through Performing Arts**
Rene Mendivil, La Viña Middle School
Eighth grade students will create original screenplays by writing, directing, performing, editing, and publishing on iPads purchased with grant funds.
- **Smart Media World Interactive Classroom**
Patricia Guzman, Nueva Vista Language Academy
Grant funds will be used to purchase a Smart Media Interactive Whiteboard for this second grade class to engage in a dynamic learning environment with expanded content potential.

Kern High School District

- **Abacus: An Innovation for Mental and Visual Math**
Luis Jáuregui, Golden Valley High School
Grant funds will be used to purchase abacuses and soroban lesson booklets that will be used by ninth grade students to analyze, visualize, and create numerical patterns.
- **Independence Vex Robotics Competition Team/Club**
Alison Abrams and Jackie James, Independence High School
Independence High School will create a Robotics Club and compete in the VEX Robotics Competitions throughout the year. Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment.

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- **Multicultural Classics for Diverse, International Students!**
Andrew Chilton, Stockdale High School
Twelfth grade students will choose books to read from a diverse assortment that are multicultural in content and written by well-respected international authors. Grant funds will be used to purchase books.
- **Next Level Garden**
Kevin Edgmon, Vista High School
Grant funds will be used to purchase fruit trees, lumber, and materials for a year- round garden that eleventh and twelfth grade students have researched and planned.

Norris School District

- **Flexible Seating**
Jozannah Nicklaus, William B. Bimat Elementary School
Fifth grade students will be able to choose where they want to sit throughout the day to maximize engagement; collaborate, communicate, and think critically with better posture; and increase core strength and metabolism. Grant funds will be used to purchase swivel chairs, yoga mats, a futon, exercise balls, and more.

Rosedale Union School District

- **Geology Rocks with Lab Activities!**
Steve Winn, Freedom Middle School
Grant funds will be used to purchase rock tumblers and geology materials for seventh grade students who will learn the Next Generation Science Standards and Earth Science with hands-on lab activities.
- **Unlock Learning with Breakout EDU and Nearpod**
Kathleen Haddad, Independence Elementary School
After reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, students will tackle science, math, and reading problems to gain clues that will help unlock the Breakout EDU box and set the caterpillar free. Grant funds will be used to purchase curriculum, book, breakout box, and a laminator.
- **We STEM to get Rid of Our STIM (Self-Stimulatory Behaviors)!**
Lory Celeste-Perlado, Rosedale North Elementary School
Kindergarten through second graders will use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) kits to complete tactile activities. Grant funds will be used to purchase Design & Play, Real-World, Create a Chain Reaction, and Fairy Tale Problem Solving STEM kits.

Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2017-18

Taft City School District

- **Integration of 3D Printing and Arduino Electronic Circuits**

Ken Arnold, Lincoln Junior High School

Seventh and eighth grade students will use grant funded Arduino kits to learn about electrical engineering, 3D printing, electrical circuits, and software.