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TABLE GRAPE
COMMISSION

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News Release

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Grants Awarded to Educators in California

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, 51 education grants worth up to \$750 each were awarded. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 9,000 students, grades K through 12.

“It is great to see so many exciting and innovative projects being implemented by teachers in the state’s table grape growing regions,” said Kathleen Nave, president of the commission.

Examples of projects being funded this year include using robotic kits, mannequins that will help teach students how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the creation of mobile applications.

A list of all the projects is listed below.

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 – 2018-19

California grape growers are proud to support the following education grants awarded to schools in the San Joaquin and Coachella valleys.

Bakersfield City School District

How Green is Your Garden

Kathryn Douglas-Tierney, Owens Intermediate School

Fifth grade students will grow vegetables to blend into smoothies and dehydrate into healthy snacks as they learn about physical wellness and good food choices. Grant funds will be used to purchase an Aerogarden, seeds for herbs and vegetables, a dehydrator, and a blender.

Make Math Fun Again!

Amanda Madkins-Choyce, Mount Vernon Elementary

First grade students will integrate math learning with all the other subjects, like science, art, and reading. Grant funds will be used to purchase Lakeshore curriculum kits to learn about season and weather, bugs and insects, force and motion, shapes and counting, patterns, measuring, and more.

Our Kinder Garden is Blooming!

Valerie Padilla, Evergreen Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase raised garden beds, soil, compost, and gardening tools for these kindergarten students to learn about how food grows.

Tasting the Rainbow

Jessica Ercoli, New Teacher Support

Grant funds will purchase healthy eating books, fruits, and vegetables for kindergarten and first grade students to taste and try in lessons about health, science, math, reading, and writing.

The Munsey News Network

Sarah Reiss, Munsey Elementary School

Fourth and fifth grade students will write scripts and produce a twice per week news show for the entire school. Grant funds will be used to purchase a camcorder, microphone, editing software, and news team t-shirts.

The One-Mile Club

Laurie Kessler, William Penn Elementary School

Fifth grade students will run one mile in 12 minutes or less to pass the California State Physical Education test in April. Grant funds will be used to purchase a standing digital timer, stopwatches, tally counters, ankle weights, a wagon for transporting the equipment, and an extension cord.

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Water Necessary for Optimum Plant Growth

Shun Yee Florence Flesche, Munsey Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase tools and plants for the garden planters as these fourth grade students explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to conduct science experiments and find out how much water to use to yield optimum plant growth.

Water to Help our Garden Grow

Rachel Lenix, Downtown Elementary School

Sixth grade students will contribute grant purchased water barrels to the school garden as they learn about the water cycle, water conservation, science, water safety, and nutrition.

Central Unified School District

United Physical Education

Theresa Bollier, Central High School

Grant funds will be used to purchase outdoor recreation and fitness equipment and games for high school students to engage in dynamic learning to improve fitness, flexibility, strength, and endurance in an inclusive class where peer coaches learn leadership skills and apply their knowledge.

Clovis Unified School District

Innovating with Adafruit Circuit Playground

Delaine Johnson, Reyburn Intermediate School

Seventh and eighth grade students will program and code a design of their own invention all the way to the prototype stage with this grant-funded coding educator's pack of hardware and software.

Coachella Valley Unified School District

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car

Edwin Detoya, Bobby Duke Middle School

Grant funds will be used to purchase hydrogen fuel cell car science kits for these seventh and eighth grade students to learn more about chemistry, renewable resources, science, and engineering with real life applications.

Coalinga-Huron Unified School District

Applying Measurement and Geometry Through Quilting

Jessica Fairbanks, Coalinga High School

Grant funds will be used to purchase sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, cutters, and cutting mats for this after school program for ninth through twelfth grade students to learn about quilting, geometry, and measurement as they create their own geometric patterns. Each student will create a block for a "Quilt of Valor" that will be donated to a local veteran.

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Your Body is a Walking Wonder

Lauren Andrade, Sunset Elementary School

Fourth and fifth grade students will use grant fund purchased pedometers to learn about physical education, nutrition, health, mathematics, physiology, and kinesiology.

Delano Union Elementary School District

Lights, Camera, Action!

Rene Mendivil, La Vina Middle School

Eighth grade theater and performance art students will explore their creativity as they write, direct, illustrate, perform, record, edit, and publish original plays. Grant funds will be used to purchase a camera, software, and memory cards.

Virtual Reality Classroom

Patricia Guzman, Nueva Vista Language Academy

Grant funds will be used to purchase virtual reality headsets for second grade students to see and be a part of the Discovery Channel, academic games, and far-away places, as every lesson becomes a real experience.

Mindfulness Through Fitness

Griselda Boydston Gomez, Nueva Vista Language Academy

Grant-funded exercise equipment and healthy snacks will allow third through fifth grade students to value themselves and each other as they learn about health, fitness, and nutrition.

Desert Sands Unified School District

Career Girls Day

Kayla Adler, Palm Desert High School

Fifth through twelfth grade students will learn about science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (S.T.E.A.M.) career pathways at Career Girls Day. Grant funds will be used for activity kits and follow-up classes to learn coding, 3D printing, and a *Women in Ag* Saturday workshop.

Edison School District

Edison Middle School Garden Expansion Project

Brian Holle, Edison Middle School

Grant funds will be used to purchase fencing and related supplies to secure, beautify, and define the expanding garden. Seventh and eighth grade students will help with the expansion project in addition to being able to grow fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants in agriculture classes.

Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District

Let's Model

Ana Herrera, Firebaugh Middle School

Students in the sixth through eighth grades will explore their creativity as they learn to apply the artistic process and principles of design to sculpt original works of art. Grant funds will be used to purchase wire, clay, and sculpting tools.

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Fresno Unified School District

Eat Your Pudding and Your Spoon!

Janice Kruse, Yokomi Science and Technology Elementary School

Grant funds will purchase edible spoon makers and groceries for fifth grade students to learn next generation science standards as they figure out how to eat soup, pudding, and frozen yogurt using basic kitchen ingredients to construct an edible spoon.

Magical Minecraft

Suzanne Webster-Jones, Figarden Elementary School

Fourth grade students will learn about California missions and California farmland as they learn math and history playing Minecraft. Grant funds will be used to purchase 20 Xbox controllers to allow students to build quicker.

We Need Flexible Seating!

Kristy Page, Wilson Elementary School

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be able to move, release stress, improve circulation, and stay calm with grant fund purchased balance ball chairs.

Hanford Elementary School District

Healthiest 5K on the Planet

Jennifer Bays, READY Expanded Learning at Roosevelt Elementary

Third through sixth grade students will learn about the importance of exercise, a healthy diet, and their impact on the body with grant fund purchased t-shirts and dye for team participation in the culminating activity, a 5K run and obstacle course.

Kern High School District

CSI: Forensic Investigations

Kevin Crosby, AIM Center/Kern High School District

Grant-funded forensic kits like “Who Stole the Gold” and “Case of the Missing Mascot” will allow ninth through twelfth grade students to collaborate and analyze the data as they collect clues and solve mysteries via realistic crime scenes.

Matter and Energy Cycling in Aquaponics Ecosystems

Kristin Hudlow, Centennial High School

Ninth and tenth grade students will study food chains, food webs, biogeochemical cycles, and macromolecules with a grant fund purchased aquaponics system for classroom use.

Multicultural Classic Books for Diverse 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.

Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2018-19

Kings River - Hardwick Union Elementary School District

Fact Fluency Through Games

Tim Price, Kings River – Hardwick Elementary School

Second grade students will learn math fluency through games and fun activities with grant funds purchasing dice, cards, dominoes, locks, and more.

Stepping it Up

Tim Price, Kings River – Hardwick Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase activity trackers for second grade students to learn about health and wellness as they track their progress, learning math and geography in the process.

Kingsburg Elementary School District

Lepidoptera Life Cycle and Metamorphosis

Gini Muradian, Central Valley Home School

Grant funds will be used to purchase caterpillars to enhance the science curriculum of the kindergarten through eighth grade students as they learn about life-cycles and metamorphosis.

Kingsburg Joint Union High School District

Mobile App Development

Joshua Woods, Kingsburg High School

Ninth through twelfth grade students will use grant fund purchased tablets to test their apps as they collaborate with peers and professionals to research, develop, and present their very own mobile apps.

Madera Unified School District

Early Literacy Skills Builder

Chelsea Cappelluti, Sierra Vista Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase Early Literacy Skills Builder curriculum to focus daily on reading and target comprehension skills for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Everyone can be a Hero!

Patty Hanson, Madera South High School

Ninth through twelfth grade students will be able to recognize when someone is choking and respond appropriately with these grant funds being used to purchase five choking “Manikin” vests that students will wear to safely and successfully practice the Heimlich Maneuver.

Norris School District

Differentiated Learning Through Flexible Seating

Christy Nelson, William B. Bimat Elementary School

Sixth 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 balance ball chairs, wobble seats, a table and chairs, futon, and more.

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Palm Springs Unified School District

Sensory Garden for Functional Life Skill Special Education Students

Nicole Stayskal, Rancho Mirage High School

Grant funds will be used to purchase horticultural therapy supplies including seeds, gloves, grow lights, and a starter kit for ninth through twelfth grade students to enjoy hands-on learning about science, math, art, and literature.

Panama Buena Vista Union School District

Hands on STEM Kits for Kindergarten

Joni Wattenbarger, Panama Elementary School

Kindergarten students will use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) kits to be active learners and problem solvers. Grant funds will be used to purchase Design & Build Engineering centers, Create a Path Magnetic Center, and Fairy Tale Problem Solving STEM kits.

Porterville Unified School District

Landscape Management

Robert Aguilar, Porterville High School

Grant funds will be used to purchase roses, perennials, and landscaping tools for ninth through twelfth grade students to design, beautify, and maintain their school campus.

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

Design and Build 3D Printed Cars for Safety During Collisions

Loretta Anders, Riverdale High School

Twelfth grade students will design and print their own 3D race cars to minimize impact forces during a collision. Computer simulations will assess and test the physics of the car crashes. Grant funds will be used to purchase the sensors required to collect momentum and impulse data.

Yoga for Kids with Special Needs – Sensory Management

Shawna Vital, Fipps Primary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase yoga mats, yoga carpet, bead packs, balance stones, and more for these transitional kindergarten through third grade students to learn spatial awareness, motor skills, self-regulation, and manage symptoms of anxiety for overall learning success.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno School District

BrainPOP Junior

Catherine Cash, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase a subscription to BrainPOP Junior videos that captivate the attention and imagination of second grade students as they learn about reading, writing, grammar, science, math, health, arts, and more.

Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2018-19

Flexible Seating

Jordan Faiman, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School

Third and fourth grade students will have a choice of flexible seating to regain focus and keep their brain moving at all times. Grant funds will be used to purchase stability ball chairs, wobble stools, and classic adjustable round tables.

STEM Activities

Jordan Faiman, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School

Third and fourth grade students will learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at engaging, hands-on centers. Grant funds will be used to purchase Design & Play, Survive the Quake, Power Tiles Circuit, Shpero BOLT, and Hot Dots Multiplication problem solving STEM kits.

Rosedale Union School District

Making Musicians in Music Club

Steve Winn, Freedom Middle School

Grant funds will be used to purchase bongos, drums, maracas, and a cowbell beater for seventh and eighth grade music club students to learn about and enjoy drums and hand percussion. These instruments are needed to accommodate the members of this club.

Sanger Unified School District

Fairmont Fresh Farm Store

Christine Klistoff, Fairmont Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase tilt display shelves, basket displays, and a cash register for these kindergarten through eighth grade students to upgrade their fresh farm store from selling under a tent to a dedicated building near their farming operation.

Selma Unified School District

Building Language Through Science

Monica Tovar, Laura Zuniga, Rosa Flores, and Eleanor Salazar; George Washington Elementary School

Kindergarten students will learn about science and animals, writing about what they learn, as grant funds make possible a field trip to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, and a follow-up ZooMobile presentation to get up-close and personal with different animals.

Tehachapi Unified School District

Foil Landscape

Debbie Haerberle, Jacobsen Middle School

Grant funds will be used to purchase printing, photography, and art supplies for sixth grade students to create original pieces of art, laminated foil prints of landscapes.

The Academies Charter Management Organization

Project Kindness

Jennifer Denham, Sycamore Valley Academy

Grant funds will be used to purchase kindness curriculum for each grade, kindergarten through sixth, to stop bullying, build self-esteem, and cultivate compassion while building children's self-value and academic achievement.

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Running on Raspberry Pi

Gloria Ramos, Blue Oak Academy Charter

First through third grade students will use grant funded machine building, coding, and programming kits to collaborate about problem solving, electrical circuits, and electrical engineering as they build robots and machines.

Tulare City School District

Graphic Design on iPads

Ryan Turner, Cherry Avenue Middle School

Seventh and eighth grade students will create original fliers, posters, business cards, t-shirt designs, and much more as they study graphic design using the iPad and Apple Pencil purchased with grant funds.

Visalia Unified School District

Fictional Writing with Legos

Salvador Campos, Golden Oak Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase Legos for fourth grade students to create characters and scenarios for fictional writing projects.

Full Steam Ahead... Preparing the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers!

Diane Medeiros, Linwood Elementary School

Fourth through sixth grade students will design, build, and code various kinds of robots as part of their studies in science, engineering, and math. Grant funds will be used to purchase robotic kits.

“WeDo” Love Hands-on Science in the First Grade!

Teresa Conard, Linwood Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 Core Set software to allow first grade students to construct science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects designed for the Next Generation Science Standards.