

Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2020-21

Here are the 46 winners:

Bakersfield City School District

- **Garden of Growth**
Margaret Briganti, Downtown Elementary School
Kindergarten through eighth grade students will plant in the school garden to learn about creating a food source that benefits growth, budgeting money, and using gardening as a cooperative mindset skill. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants, soil, seeds, supplements, and garden tools.
- **100 Days and Counting**
Karen Nguyen, Downtown Elementary School
Kindergarten students will incorporate counting, addition, and geometry skills into their learning through art projects and games to demonstrate that math is part of many things and can be fun. Grant funds will be used to purchase art supplies and math games.
- **Future Engineers**
Rachel Lenix, Downtown Elementary School
Third grade students will use computer coding to control various robots in order to solve problems and perform assigned tasks and develop critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, and, pattern recognition skills. Grant funds will be used to purchase robotic materials.
- **My Herb Garden: Nurturing a Healthier Me**
Katherine Scheler, Emerson Middle School
Eighth grade students will learn about garden preparation, growing techniques, flavor profiles, and health benefits of herbs in order to take care of their health and promote healthy habits at school. Grant funds will be used to purchase garden supplies and herb seeds.
- **When Life Gives You Lemons, Eat Miracle Fruit!**
Brook Webb, Extended Learning Science Academies
First through eighth grade students will plant Miracle Berry fruit and explore the science behind its chemical composition. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants and fruit.
- **Walking Into Health**
Sureima Acevedo Ramirez, James Curran Middle School
Eighth grade students will use fitness trackers to learn about health. They will track their movement, graph their steps, convert them into calories burned, and analyze the science behind physical activity. Grant funds will be used to purchase fitness trackers.
- **“Soup-er” Smooth Ways to Enjoy Fruits and Veggies!**
Lorie Morris, McKinley School Agriculture Academy

First through sixth grade students will harvest fruits and vegetables from the school garden and try various combinations of them in soups, smoothies, and more to learn about how to grow and enjoy healthy produce. Grant funds will be used to purchase blenders, a pressure cooker, and an Instant Pot.

- **Munsey STEAM Project: Growing Grapes!**
Shun Yee Florence Flesche, Munsey Elementary School

First grade students will learn about how grapes are an important part of Kern County's economy as well as how to grow them, developing skills in STEAM subject areas. Grant funds will be used to purchase grapevines, soil, and garden tools.

Central Unified School District

- **Programming Robots in the Makerspace**
Tommy Martinez, Glacier Point Middle School

Seventh and eighth grade students will learn hands-on how to communicate with and control robots through programming methods such as coding. Grant funds will be used to purchase robots.

- **BREAKING Out of Everyday Math**
Dawn Donat, Harvest Elementary School

Third grade students will learn about math through games such as escape rooms to encourage learning as well as participation and excitement. Grant funds will be used to purchase games.

Clay Joint Elementary School District

- **Lego First League, Jr.**
Mae Tejada, Clay Elementary School

Second through fourth grade students will research growing needs of the community and work together within teams to create a model that demonstrates ways to meet those needs. They will utilize science, technology, engineering, and math skills throughout. Grant funds will be used to purchase Lego Education We-Do Core Sets that include Legos and programming software which they will use to carry out the project.

Coachella Valley School District

- **Let your health soar**
James Gutierrez, NOVA Academy Early College High School

Ninth through twelfth grade students will participate in a semester-long health awareness program that includes after-school cooking classes focused on health, cost, and sustainability, in addition to classwork regarding nutrition. Learning how to make healthy food choices, sustainability, and the history of Coachella Valley and its connections to agriculture will also be a focus of the project. Grant funds will be used to cover student outreach costs and to purchase food, cooking supplies, and garden materials.

Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

- **Diverse, Inclusive Literature for Children of Color**
Enedina Leon, Cutler Elementary School

First grade students will develop critical thinking skills through Interactive Read Aloud lessons. Grant funds will be used to purchase texts.

Delano Union School District

- **Classroom SitRight (Stability Ball)**
Patricia Guzman, Nueva Vista Language Academy

Research shows that stability balls are the best chairs for students, improving posture, concentration, and brain engagement in the classroom. Grant funds will be used to purchase stability balls for second grade students.

Desert Sands Unified School District

- **Images of Growth: Documenting School-based Agriculture**
Don Brown, Amelia Earhart School of International Studies

Second through fifth grade students will learn about the benefits of documenting school-based agriculture. Grant funds will be used to purchase a camera kit, tripod, and reflector.

- **STEM Garden**
Tiffany Aguilar, La Quinta Middle School STEM Academy

Sixth through eighth grade students will learn about sustainability through growing vegetables and the importance of bees through growing pollinator plants in the school garden. Grant funds will be used to purchase garden tools and supplies.

Ducor Union Elementary School District

- **School Drumline**
Jeremiah Sosa, Ducor Union Elementary School

First through eighth grade students participating in music class will create a school drumline that is mobile for marching and can participate in various school events. Grant funds will be used to purchase cymbals, snare drums and carriers, and drum sticks.

Exeter Unified School District

- **Breakout EDU**
Alicia Bovetti, Rocky Hill Elementary School

Third grade students will learn about Common Core State Standards subject areas through escape room games. Grant funds will be used to purchase the escape room game kits and a one-year subscription.

Fairfax School District

- **Growing Mindful Learners**
Renee Wells, Zephyr Lane Elementary School

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be provided with a larger outdoor learning space – the school garden – enabling them to participate in the growing,

tending, and learning processes that the garden and compost areas have to offer. Grant funds will be used to purchase garden and compost materials.

Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District

- **Itty Bitty Art**

Ana Herrera, Firebaugh Middle School

Sixth through eighth grade students will demonstrate art skills by using various supplies such as paper, paint, glitter, and more to decorate wood, canvas, and tile pieces. Grant funds will be used to purchase art supplies.

Fowler Unified School District

- **Fowler FFA Vegetable Garden Project**

Paul Magill, Fowler High School

Seventh through twelfth grade students will participate in the planning, designing, drip irrigation installation, planting, tending, and harvesting processes of vegetables and flowers in the school garden. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants, fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and garden tools.

Fresno Unified School District

- **Let's Get Digital: The Future of Counseling!**

Tony Diaz and Anna Ramos, Gaston Middle School

An online counseling channel will be made available to sixth through eighth grade students where counselors can demonstrate their best practices digitally, and both counselors and students can upload videos to communicate. Grant funds will be used to purchase a tripod, hard drive, headphones, software, and website subscription.

- **Roosevelt High Ecology Club Edible Vertical Gardens**

Reid Gromis, Roosevelt High School

Ninth through twelfth grade students will design, construct, plant, maintain, and harvest edible vertical gardens within teams to promote learning in the areas of food production, urban agriculture, nutrition, beautification, and sustainability. Grant funds will be used to purchase garden materials, seeds, soil, gravel, compost, and fertilizer.

Golden Plains Unified School District

- **Enchanting Garden**

Terri Bradley, San Joaquin Elementary School

Sixth grade students will create and maintain a school garden. They will learn about plant life cycles, needs for plant growth, and the effects natural forces can have on growth. This area also has the purpose of being a calm retreat for students. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, compost, and garden tools.

Greenfield Union School District

- **Femineers – Wearable Technology**

Lori Sauvola, Greenfield Middle School

Seventh grade students part of the Femineers Program will learn basic circuitry and programming as well as how to use conductive thread, wearable microcontrollers, and NeoPixels that combine technology and wearable items to promote skills in STEM subject areas. Grant funds will be used to purchase a soldering kit, sewing kit, sewing machine, sewing machine storage case, sewing needles, and reusable totes.

- **Femineers – Creative Robotics**

- **Kristin Mascarinas, Greenfield Middle School**

- Sixth grade students part of the Femineers Program will develop coding, building, communication, and collaboration skills through creative robotics to promote learning in STEM subject areas. Grant funds will be used to purchase multiple robotic kits.

Kern High School District

- **Farm to Table Cooking Club**

- **Chelsy Lancaster, Ridgeview High School**

- Ninth through twelfth grade students part of the Farm to Table Cooking Club, which focuses on agriculture science and nutrition, will be provided with cooking supplies and given the chance to cook. Grant funds will be used to purchase griddle cooking stations and propane tanks with gauges.

Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District

- **Reagan Elementary School Garden**

- **Kristin Teddleton, Ronald W. Reagan Elementary School**

- Fourth grade students will learn about and participate in the processes of planning, planting, tending, and harvesting a garden. Grant funds will be used to purchase raised beds, plants, potting soil, and irrigation supplies.

McFarland Unified School District

- **The Comic Book Experience: Comparing History to Fiction**

- **Fernando Fernandez, Horizon Elementary School**

- Sixth grade students will learn about historical civil rights movements by incorporating the use of comic books that include conflicts reflecting such movements. They will compare the comic book stories to what has occurred in history. Grant funds will be used to purchase comic books, comic book creation kits, and a comic book subscription.

Monroe Elementary School District

- **STEM (Rockets)**

- **Jesus Cabello, Monroe Elementary School**

- Sixth through eighth grade students will work collaboratively to build rockets while demonstrating skills in STEM subject areas. Grant funds will be used to purchase rockets, engines, glue, a knife set, launch set, and launch controller.

Palm Springs Unified School District

- **Chemistry of Cooking and Cosmetics**

Allison Fisher, Cathedral City High School

Tenth through twelfth grade students will learn about the chemistry within baking food and creating cosmetics. Emphasis will be placed on studying grapes, as they have long been incorporated into food recipes as well as the creation of cosmetics. Field trips to local vineyards and organic skincare manufacturers will be taken. Grant funds will be used to purchase kitchen supplies and science lab equipment.

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District

- **“Great Scientists Begin in Small Boxes!”**

Lory Celeste-Perlado, Old River Elementary School

Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students with autism will be exposed to hands-on learning experiences in order to promote academic engagement in the areas of agriculture, health, science, and math. Grant funds will be used to purchase hands-on learning materials.

Porterville Unified School District

- **SMART Lab**

Eileen Denney, Belleview Elementary School

The Science, Mathematics, and Resource Technology (SMART) Lab Program will visit first grade students twice to provide them with unique learning experiences as well as to support the school’s animal unit. Grant funds will be used to cover the cost of the SMART Lab visits.

- **MESA Invitational (Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement)**

Vince Alcantar, Harmony Magnet Academy

Sixth through eighth grade students will participate in workshops in which they will work in groups to complete tasks or projects. This event will be executed by student helpers, teachers, and the Fresno State MESA and Mini-Corps programs. Grant funds will be used to purchase materials for the event such as t-shirts and writing pads.

Richland Union Elementary School District

- **Cooking up Math & Science Fun!**

Crystal Aragon, Richland Junior High School

Seventh and eighth grade students with moderate to severe disabilities will learn the basics of cooking in order to promote math, science, and life skills as well as independence. Grant funds will be used to purchase cooking supplies such as a microwave, toaster oven, hot plate, aprons, cookbooks, pots, utensils, bowls, etc.

Sanger Unified School District

- **Wearable Technology – Femeineer Club**

Charlene Griesner, Fairmont Elementary School

Sixth through eighth grade students part of the Femeineer Club will learn about the incorporation of advanced electronic technologies into clothing and accessories. They will learn basic circuitry and programming, and how to use conductive thread,

NeoPixels, and wearable microcontrollers. Grant funds will be used to purchase multiple robotic kits.

- **Grow the Legacy**

- **Christine Torosian-Klistoff, Fairmont Elementary School**

- Kindergarten through eighth grade students will participate in growing vegetables and flowers, carrying out processes such as design, laying drip irrigation, planting, pest control, weeding, and harvesting. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants, seeds, and irrigation materials.

- **STEAM and History through Hands-on Dramatic Play**

- **Allison Norman, Sequoia Elementary School**

- Transitional kindergarten students will learn about STEM subject areas through hands-on resources and experiences such as planting an indoor garden and participating in dramatic play. Grant funds will be used to purchase AeroGarden materials, costumes, shape magnets and stencils, Legos, games, storage containers, and more.

Selma Unified School District

- **Vex Robotics Tower Challenge**

- **Daniel Mireles, Selma High School**

- Eleventh and twelfth grade students will compete in a Vex Robotics challenge at Reedley College that includes both autonomous and controlled elements. Grant funds will be used to purchase a VRC Tower Takeover – Full Field and Game Element Kit.

Taft City School District

- **Cell/Atom 3D Project**

- **Jacqueline Ornelas, Lincoln Junior High School**

- Sixth grade students will replicate a plant or human cell by producing a three-dimensional visual model, while seventh grade students will replicate an atom from the periodic table by producing a three-dimensional visual model. Grant funds will be used to purchase items to create the models such as modeling clay, acrylic paint, paint brushes, pipe cleaners, markers, straws, foam boards and balls, etc.

Tehachapi Unified School District

- **Sketch like da Vinci**

- **Debbie Haeberle, Jacobsen Middle School**

- Sixth through eighth grade students will create sketchbooks inspired by Leonardo da Vinci with ideas of inventions followed by creating them in three-dimensional form. Grant funds will be used to purchase art supplies.

Tulare County Office Of Education School District

- **Student Permaculture Garden and Greenhouse**

- **Dan Bigler, Sycamore Valley Academy**

- Seventh and eighth grade students will work in the school permaculture garden and greenhouse growing heirloom fruits and vegetables and learning hands-on about

regenerative agriculture. Grant funds will be used to purchase heirloom seeds, seed mix, and garden tools.

Tulare Joint Union High School District

- **Linkbot Robots for STEM and Introduction to Robotics Class**
Eric York, Tulare Union High School

Ninth through twelfth grade students will use Linkbot robots to solve math-based problems, promoting math and problem-solving skills. Grant funds will be used to purchase three Linkbot robot kits.

Visalia Unified School District

- **Crestwood Garden Composting Project**
Leslee Price, Crestwood Elementary School

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will learn about composting and its importance, and will carry out the process of it in their school garden. Grant funds will be used to purchase a composter, worm compost station, and red worms.

- **Imagine, Design, & Print in 3D – Agriculture & Technology Integration**
Diane Medeiros, Linwood Elementary School

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will participate in a makerspace that promotes learning in STEAM subject areas through three-dimensional printing and robotics. Grant funds will be used to purchase a three-dimensional printer and filament, a magnetic build surface, and robotic arm.

- **Bee Bots for Kindergarten**
Vanessa Gonzalez, Mineral King Elementary School

Kindergarten students will learn directionality, sequencing, and fundamental coding skills through engaging robots. Grant funds will be used to purchase a Bee-Bot robot starter kit, Bee-Bot robots, and a docking station.