

DISCOVER KNOWLEDGE SCHOLARSHIP

The EDUCATIONAL
Foundation

OF THE NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT



**2017-2018
Funded Grants**

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES:

FOR THIS YEAR'S GRANT CYCLE, THE NORTH PENN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDED **34** GRANTS TOTALING **\$18,650.48**. THESE GRANTS BENEFIT STUDENTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL.

GRANTS LIKE THE FOLLOWING NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE CURRICULUM BUT PROVIDE A HANDS-ON AND INNOVATIVE WAY FOR STUDENTS TO EMBRACE AND FULLY COMPREHEND THE LESSON. WHEN NPSD EDUCATORS APPLY FOR THESE GRANTS, SOME THINK OF HOW THIS EXPERIENCE WILL AFFECT THE STUDENT IN THE FUTURE. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GRANTS ALLOW STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THEORIES AT THE NEXT LEVEL OF THINKING. OTHER GRANTS ALLOW TEACHERS TO THINK ABOUT HOW THIS EXPERIENCE WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS SOCIALLY AND VOCATIONALLY. WE ARE SURE THAT WHEN YOU READ THROUGH THESE GRANT DESCRIPTIONS, YOU WILL SEE HOW THESE EXPERIENCES ALLOW OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP INTO BETTER STUDENTS AND CITIZENS.

WITHOUT YOU AND YOUR GENEROSITY, THE NPSD STUDENTS AND STAFF WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES.

Annual NPSD Night of Jazz - District-wide; *Matthew Brick* ★

This grant will provide the opportunity for a guest clinician/soloist to perform and rehearse with over 200 students in grades four through 12 who are a part of the seven jazz ensembles at North Penn. The guest artist will instruct and interact with the students, giving them the experience of learning from a professional in the field. The event will conclude with a community concert showcasing North Penn's talented students coupled with the fantastic abilities of the soloist at North Penn Jazz Night on Monday, April 9, 2018.

AP Biology Protein Isolation and Purification - North Penn High School; *Nathan Snyder* ★★

As part of the current curriculum for AP biology students in 10th grade, students participate in two primary labs geared toward biotechnology, or the manipulation of genes. The labs involve the observation of a growing bacterial culture to determine whether or not a transformation is successful. With the implementation of this grant, students will now have the opportunity to extend that lab to the next level of processing/purification by having the materials needed to harvest and purify the protein from those bacterial cells.

Art Therapy for Students with Severe Anxiety - North Penn High School; *Trish Pike and Mary Scott* ★★

The objective of this grant is to give students with anxiety and depression an opportunity to de-stress and build confidence within their own academic environment. Through monthly, after-school art therapy sessions, students will get together as a group to discuss and test positive coping skills through art. This grant will be used to purchase the art supplies needed to host these art therapy sessions.

Breakout EDU - District-wide; *Meg Burke and Jackie Giammarco* ★★☆☆

"Breakout" or "Escape Room" is designed for groups of people to work together to solve and piece together puzzles to hypothetically "escape" a room. This grant will purchase three Breakout EDU kits that will turn any room into a "Breakout." The designs of the kits as well as the lesson plans vary to attract different types of problem-solvers and also enhance people's problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication skills. These kits will be used primarily by middle school students, but teachers will also use them to experience how interactive classrooms transform the learning process for students.

Butterfly Presentation - Bridle Path Elementary School; *Maureen Zazyczny, Suzanne Sylvester, Nancy Kahn, and Liz Melville* ★

Thanks to this grant, the 20 year tradition of having presenter Rick Mikula share his Butterfly Presentation with Bridle Path first graders will continue. From traveling the world, he has gained a wealth of knowledge, pictures and samples of butterflies and has come to be known as a world renowned expert on butterflies. Rick has proven to be a valuable and fun resource for the young students to have during their butterflies' science unit.

Carnegie Learning – Family Math Night - District-wide; *Louise Kirsh* ★★

There's a stigma throughout society that math is black and white, right versus wrong. The Carnegie Academy explains the importance of a growth rather than a fixed mindset about math by providing people with a different perspective on the subject, saying that it is more about struggling, preserving and growing. The district will host a Family Math Night that will feature a nationally recognized Carnegie Learning speaker who will provide students, parents and community members with an understanding of math learning from a broader perspective. The objective is that students will not be afraid to make mistakes because they'll understand that math is more about learning from errors.

Chick Hatching and Hen Watching - Oak Park Elementary School; *Donna Grabner, Karlee Clemens, Amy Madrill, and Kelly Cook* ★★

Third graders participate in a science unit titled "Living Structures". Currently the students receive hands-on experience by caring for plants, crayfish and bess beetles, however, the students do not always view these things as "living." Approximately 75 Oak Park third graders will watch chicks hatch and care for hens. This will teach them the absolute importance for caring for living things and also how to connect our food to farmers.

Exploring Pieces of Americana - Hatfield Elementary School; *Monisha Mukerji* ★★☆☆

At each level of the English Language Development program in NPSD, the students learn about current and past life in America and are then asked to make connections between the past and their present-day lives. This grant will provide English Language Learners at Hatfield Elementary the opportunity to visit the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, PA, where they will gain more knowledge about everyday life in 18th and 19th century America. Using that information, students will be able to make even greater connections about early inhabitants of the local region and the U.S. as a whole.

Flexible Classroom Learning Environment - Inglewood Elementary School; *Kathy Reed* ★★

Students foster various learning styles and needs within the classroom. In order to accommodate each of these differences, this grant will purchase the supplies needed to create a more collaborative learning classroom. Through the purchase of supplies such as Active Learning Stools, Carry Me Cushions, lap trays and Stability Discs, students will have more of a choice in how they wish to learn. Aside from creating a collaborative learning space, this environment will also foster peer teaching as well as positive interaction among students.

Flexible Seating - York Avenue Elementary School; *Hannah Gendron and Kristie Bryan* ★★☆☆

Various seating options, such as stability balls, bean bag chairs and saucer chairs will be provided to York Avenue Elementary students to utilize in the classroom. Having all of these options will allow the students to choose their own learning style and seating based on what they believe will help them be more attentive during class time. This will serve as a benefit to all of the students, especially the ones who are hyperactive or have sensory needs.

Flipping Your Classroom/Video Recording - North Penn High School; *Robert Shettline* ★★

This grant will provide NPHS math teacher Robert Shettline with two microphones and a stylus to use in his classroom. The stylus will be used during class to write on students' Chromebooks to better communicate references and address concepts. The microphones will be on his board and laptop and will pick up higher quality sound when he records videos of math lessons for students to reference as a study tool and additional resource outside of the classroom. Doing this will ultimately enhance the quality of his videos, therefore making them more useful to not just his students but other math teachers and students as well.

- ★ English as a Second Language
- ★ History/Social Studies
- ★ Other
- ★ Science
- ★ Special/Gifted Education
- ★ Family Outreach
- ★ Music/Arts
- ★ Reading/Writing/Language
- ★ STEM

Funding the Marine Science Program for the 2017-2018 School Year ★

North Penn High School; *Shane Misuro, Daniel Krueger, and Caitlen Tucker (Work Study Student)*

Student members of the marine science work study program and the Marine and Botanical Society Club at NPHS will be provided with the necessary equipment to build newly designed tanks and maintain existing tanks. These tanks will house a wider variety of aquatic organisms, some of which are unable to live in the current systems. The marine science program will be further enriched because students will gain hands-on experience needed to cover topics, such as marine ecosystems and animals, more in depth. Outside of the classroom, the tanks and equipment will benefit the community through two Community Education program courses about the setup and maintenance of personal salt and freshwater tanks as well as through "Ocean Exploration," a marine science summer camp for middle school students.

Greenhouse Maintenance Tools ★

North Penn High School; *Shane Misuro*

Botany students and members of the Marine and Botanical Society at NPHS have worked diligently on the care and keeping of the greenhouse. Within the past five years especially, there's been considerable updates and improvements to its various growing systems. The students are responsible for maintaining those systems, but in order to do so, the students need a required set of simple tools, which the high school does not have readily available. The Foundation funds will be used to purchase that necessary set of tools so that the greenhouse can be properly cared for and continue to benefit current and future North Penn students.

If Only We Could Ukulele... ★

York Avenue and General Nash elementary schools; *Lori Weidner*

In elementary school music classes, students learn how to effectively form chords and triads in order to make a harmony. This grant will provide eight ukuleles to the music programs at York Avenue and General Nash so that students can develop these skills on an instrument that is relatively easy to learn. Having this instrument will allow the instructor to teach more effectively about chordal harmony.

Independence Seaport Museum Experience ★★

Northbridge School; *Billy Jackson*

This grant will allow 30 history and art students from Northbridge School to visit the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia. Here, the students will discover what it was like to be an immigrant in Philadelphia at the turn of the century. They will also take guided tours of the Cruiser Olympia and Submarine Becuna where they will be tasked to sketch various parts of the ships. This field trip will reinforce the curriculum taught in the American History 2 and 3 classes and challenge students to enhance their talents.

Julius Caesar Movie-Making Project ★★☆☆

North Penn High School; *Scott Swindells, all 10th grade English teachers, and all Creative Writing teachers*

For the past 15 years, Scott Swindells has been challenging his English and creative writing students to create a movie. Students work in groups to write, design, act, direct and edit their own depiction of a scene from *Julius Caesar*. Within the groups, every student plays a role even if he/she is not acting because there is behind-the-scenes work such as directing, costume design and editing that also needs to be done. This beloved student project ultimately fosters students' standing and speaking skills, makes them more comfortable in front of their peers and gives them a better understanding of the play and Roman history. The grant will be used to purchase the technology needed for students to edit their final projects.

Keeping the SEASON of FALL FABULOUS ★★

Oak Park Elementary School; *Geretha Billetz*

To enhance Oak Park's English Language Learners' (ELLs) cultural understanding of the Fall season, these students will have the opportunity to participate in various hands-on fall activities including hayrides, pumpkin picking and mazes at Shadybrook Farm. Not only will this experience help the ELLs understand the season, it will also reinforce topics already covered in their REACH core program's units of study.

LitFest VI ★★

North Penn High School; *Elizabeth Weizer, Kevin Manero, and Megan Schmidt*

The LitFest event at North Penn High School will provide 11th grade English students in the honors program with an opportunity to see their knowledge put into practice in a meaningful way. While many honors students are grade-focused, the sixth annual LitFest will give students a way to apply their knowledge in practical manner. Students create artwork, deliver speeches and take part in a Knowledge Bowl to showcase what they've learned in English class and express their teachings in a creative way. The Foundation funds help in purchasing the trophy, decorations and prizes for this fun and exciting day.

Movement in the Classroom ★

Walton Farm Elementary School; *Amy Ferretti*

To help students who struggle to sit still in class, some teachers allow for those kids to have movement breaks outside of the classroom or to have a sensory pad from the Occupational Therapist on their desk. Both, however, can cause a disruption to the class. The goal of this grant is to provide safer movement in the classroom and enhance the learning ability for students that move in their chairs through the purchase of Wiggle Chairs. These will give the students more movement allowing them to be less disruptive and more productive during class time. The snowball effect of the reduction of disruption to a classroom will most certainly benefit the entire learning community.

Nanotechnology and Engineering Research ★★

North Penn High School; *Michael A Boyer*

Within the NPHS Engineering Academy, the Engineering Design and Development program allows students the opportunity to tackle an engineering challenge through active engagement with the six-step engineering process. To counteract some challenges within the global healthcare, environment and energy sectors, students look to incorporate cutting-edge nanotechnology research endeavors that may include resources that are not readily available within a traditional high school setting. This grant will purchase necessary materials for students to complete their research and take their ideas and projects from concept to reality.

North Penn Mushroom Project ★

North Penn High School; *Shane Misuro and Alex Chainey (Work Study Student)*

Over the past 10 years, the botany and horticulture program at NPHS has made various improvements and advances that have allowed it to begin producing a wide variety of plants for display and sale. One object that has rarely been grown and cultivated at North Penn, even though its species is covered in both the botany and biology curriculums, is mushrooms. Last fall, members of the Marine and Botanical Society successfully started a mushroom growing project. This grant will be used to purchase supplies needed to create a larger tangible laboratory so that the students can continue to advance their project.

Orchard and Apple Picking ★★

Penndale and Pennbrook middle schools; *Donna Kleinert, Deb Bovell, Josephine Puglia-Robson, and Rachel Kern*

Penndale and Pennbrook middle schools' English Language Learners will visit an apple orchard to enhance their understanding of foods in America, more specifically fruits in the Northeast region. This trip will expose the students to a traditional American culture experience as well as the apple growth process and small businesses in the United States. After the fact, the students will be tasked with writing a reflection on their experience and then, using the apples they picked, students will bake apple tarts to be shared with local food banks.

Penndale Mural Enhancement Project ★

Penndale Middle School; *John Corson*

The vision of this ongoing grant is for the walls of Penndale Middle School to be covered with a series of murals. These murals will be designed and executed by Penndale students using the elements of art and the principles of design taught through the art curriculum. This year, art minor and major students alongside other student volunteers will work together to design and execute two more murals within the school. The murals will be within a science room and a classroom without windows, both of which are used regularly by a large majority of the student body. This grant will provide funding to create a working studio in the form of a wall mural to continue what has now become a tradition at Penndale Middle School.

Personal Symbol Creation ★★☆☆

Northbridge School; *Marcia Lucas*

Symbol making is an art form as primitive as early humans. The expressiveness of a self-actualized person is as individual as a fingerprint. This grant will provide Northbridge students the opportunity to find the inspiration and motivation they need to create their own personal symbols by visiting Moravian Tileworks and Henry Mercer's Fonthill Castle. The goal is that through these museum trips, students will view examples of "out-of-the-box" thinking that will spark their own intellectual creativity.

Plant Pest Control ★

North Penn High School; *Daniel Krueger*

Over the years, botany students and members of the NPHS Marine and Botanical Society have dedicated a lot of time, energy and resources into growing plants and stocking the greenhouse. In recent years, the greenhouse has been filled to maximum capacity with a wide variety of plants, which has been instrumental to the innovative learning and experience that students in this area of study receive. However, this also unfortunately means that pests and diseases are more likely to spread among the plants. This grant will help purchase the appropriate supplies needed for students to provide proper care for all of the plants.

Reading Super Bowl ★

District-wide Elementary Schools; *Cheryl Neubert*

The annual North Penn Reading Super Bowl, held in conjunction with the date of the NFL Super Bowl, takes North Penn Knights Football players to visit all 13 elementary schools in the district. The Knights read stories to NPSD elementary students while introducing themselves, getting to know the students and most importantly, emphasizing the significance of reading. This event fosters an interest in youth reading and showcases the fact that everyone reads. The 2017-2018 school year will mark the Reading Super Bowl's 14th year of production and the increase seen in participants and students reached continues to grow each year.

Solar Telescope ★

North Penn High School; *James Bauman*

This grant will allow students of all ages the opportunity to view the sun more dynamically in the NPHS planetarium through the purchase of a Coronado Personal Solar Telescope (PST). The current telescopes show off the sun as a yellow disk and highlight sunspots but no other features. The PST will give students a better view of the sun and also the opportunity to essentially see its features changing in the moment. Overall, this will enhance classroom discussions because students will not need pictures of the sun since they will be able to see it in real time. Parents and community members will also have the opportunity to benefit from the PST addition through the Community Education Program classes offered at the planetarium.

Solebury Orchards ★★

York Avenue Elementary School; *Stephanie Levitt*

Ten English Language Learners from York Avenue Elementary will visit Solebury Orchards to learn the process of how apples grow, the equipment used and the products made. This hands-on experience will allow these students with limited opportunities outside of school to engage with their surroundings by immersing themselves in a new aspect of the culture. This trip will also reinforce ideas that the students learn in their REACH core program units.

Stability Balls and Stability Disks for Autistic Support ★

Penndale Middle School; *Matthew Brick*

The major objective of this project is to decrease out-of-seat time and increase focus within the classroom. Indications are that tiny movements students make while balancing stimulate their brains and help them focus. Acquiring stability balls and disks will allow students who have trouble sitting still and remaining focused in the classroom to experience the input of small movements without being disruptive. Additionally, the other students will benefit from fewer classroom disruptions, and that will enhance the learning experience for all.

STEM Prop Boxes ★

District-wide Elementary Schools; *Marjie Scott*

During winter months, outdoor recess is unavailable for students and indoor options are limited. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activity boxes will be created and rotated throughout the elementary schools for young students to utilize during that indoor play time. The boxes will include various enrichment opportunities such as science kits, STEM books and materials and open-ended problems that will allow the students to develop their questioning, problem-solving and collaboration skills.

The Art and Science of Tie-Dye ★★☆☆


Northbridge School; *Anne Malone*

Approximately 75 students at Northbridge School will design and create their own tie-dye shirts. Producing these shirts will demonstrate to students how concepts of science can be used to create useful projects while also allowing the students to express their creativity through the design. Ultimately, the main objectives of this project are to strengthen the cohesiveness of the school's community and to further enhance the students' school experience.

The Light and Heat Plant Grant ★

North Penn High School; *Daniel Krueger*

Each year, the Marine and Botanical Society at NPHS hosts a plant sale for students, staff and faculty. The current greenhouse at the high school is designed to house and maintain plants used specifically within the Botany curriculum but not plants used for the sale. The students will expand their resources by purchasing supplies needed to grow and maintain a wider variety of plants outside of the greenhouse. Ultimately, the students will create an appropriate environment for the plants within the classroom.



A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE.

IN 2012, THE NPSD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NPSD ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED THE NORTH PENN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS A COMMITTEE OF THE FOUNDATION. THE ASSOCIATION'S MISSION IS TO ENCOURAGE NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION AMONG NPSD ALUMNI AND TO HELP MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE LEGACY OF NORTH PENN SCHOOLS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE HOPE TO SEE MORE GRADUATES JOIN US FOR NPSD AND FOUNDATION EVENTS, ATTEND REUNIONS AND STAY INFORMED ON THE HAPPENINGS OF THE DISTRICT.

WE SEE THAT NPHS GRADUATES DO GREAT THINGS, BUT WHAT IS THE MOST AMAZING IS THE PRIDE ONE TAKES IN SAYING THEY ARE A GRADUATE OF NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL. WHETHER A MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 2017 OR SOMEONE WHO IS CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH REUNION, ALUMNI SEE NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL AS A PLACE THAT HELPED TO SHAPE THEM INTO WHOM THEY ARE TODAY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NORTH PENN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, VISIT WWW.NORTHPENNALUMNI.ORG.

- ★ English as a Second Language
- ★ History/Social Studies
- ★ Other
- ★ Science
- ★ Special/Gifted Education
- ★ Family Outreach
- ★ Music/Arts
- ★ Reading/Writing/Language
- ★ STEM