

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2021 Grant Recipients

MINI-GRANTS

Churchill Junior High School - Practice Smarter! Bringing Smartmusic Software to Students

Sarah Franchino, Dr. Anna Braun

Grant funds will allow for the acquisition of a one year subscription to Smartmusic software to facilitate meaningful distance learning. During “normal times,” students are encouraged to purchase Smartmusic subscriptions to promote learning and practicing at home. Current circumstances make this software essential for students to engage in the study and performance of music at home.

Churchill Junior High School - We Film Together

Lynne Elson

Grant funds will allow for the purchase of a year-long package for WeVideo. WeVideo can be used for in-person school and distance learning. WeVideo is easy to learn and has many online training videos.

District - Sensory Items

Jaclyn Dancsecs

Funding is for sensory materials (flexible seating, sensory toys, animals for hands on learning, and stickers) to help students focus on their learning.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Button Project: Giving a Face to Our Staff

Rachel Weitzenkorn, Elizabeth Dunn

Funds will allow each LB staff member to create a button with his/her photo to wear each day so that students can see the face of their teacher.

Churchill Junior High School - Collaborative Music Composing in a Transformed Educational Environment

Mark Perez, Dr. Anna Braun, Sara Franchino, Tatyana Louis-Jacques

Grant funds will allow band and orchestra teachers to acquire access to Flat.io online music notation software to pilot composition initiatives.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Individual Instrument Kits

Julie Poleshuck

With grant funds the teacher will create music kits to give to each student, thus providing them with a safe way to participate in collaborative music making experiences safely.

Hamarskjold Middle School - Super Duper Digital Library Subscription

Michelle Cieslak

Funds will allow for the purchase of a one-year on-line subscription for access to many of Super Duper Publications materials for speech/language learning.



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Churchill Junior High School - We Can Work from Home

Jenna Zatz

Funds will provide the same materials for students participating in this Autism program virtually as their peers who are partaking in in-person instruction.

Central Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School, Chittick Elementary School - Final Cut Pro X Membership

Alexander Nelson

Funds will allow the teacher to bring all of his orchestra students together virtually to prepare for and deliver performances.

East Brunswick High School - Healthy Classroom

Kelly Williams

Classroom furniture will be purchased with grant funds. The furniture will provide students with the option to stand and move around a bit while participating in hour long classes, thus enhancing their ability to learn.

Chittick Elementary School - Villains Books

JeanMarie Rinaldi, Megan Pignataro

The goal of this grant is to expose students to as many different genres, authors, and characters as possible to encourage and instill a love for reading. Funds would allow for the purchase of a new Disney reading series titled, "Twisted Tails and Villains Trilogy." This series offers students a different perspective to classic Disney characters. Access to these books could be just the ticket to motivate older elementary reluctant readers to read more.

East Brunswick High School - Virtual Field Trip: The Battle for Freedom and Equality

Craig Segall, Ryan Hynes

The goal of this grant is to help bring history alive for students by taking them on a virtual tour of the Civil War and Reconstruction Exhibit. Tickets to the online tour will be purchased with the funds provided.

Churchill Junior High School - Virtual Activities for Virtual Students

Julie Brain

Supplies and materials (from Shop Rite and Teachers Pay Teachers) will be purchased with the funds provided. As a result the teacher will be able to offer her students virtual hands on science opportunities that will enhance and build on lessons that are part of the science curriculum.

Churchill Junior High School - Colorful Coping During Covid

Elizabeth Stankiewicz

Funds will allow for the purchase of young adult coloring and various other activity books. Research has shown that these types of activities can help move students toward a meditative state where school stressors may melt away, thus giving them a break and a chance to recharge for further learning.



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Irwin Elementary School - Virtual Material Library for Speech Therapy

Alexa Sherman

Funding will allow for the purchase of a number of multi-sensory and engaging materials from Teacher Pay Teachers. The materials will greatly expand the therapist's professional library of materials to use during both virtual and in-person learning.

East Brunswick High School - Spreading Positivity through the Mail

Melissa Violett, Jennifer Liparti, Margaret Haas

Positive affirmation cards, envelopes, and postage will be purchased by the EBHS Student Assistance Counselors and Nurses with the funding provided. The cards will be sent to every student's home and the in-house mailboxes of staff. The goal of the grant is to relieve anxiety and stress, thus creating a more positive school climate and culture overall.

Bowne Munro Elementary School - STEM for Special Education

Anthony Ciraco

With grant funds the teacher will purchase STEM activity kits for his 4th and 5th grade students. These kits will offer opportunities for collaboration, structure, and learning during IEP specified "break" times.

Irwin Elementary School - Irwin's Butterflies to Go

Patricia Colaizzi, Rochelle Rosen, Gianna DeMato, Jay Locquico

Studying the lifecycle of the butterfly is always a highlight for the District's 2nd graders. Funds will go towards the purchase of mesh habitats for students to have at home so that they may share this experience with their families. Families will be given the opportunity to read about the various life cycles that occur in nature as well as to journal and draw their observations, thereby enhancing the ELA and art curriculums in addition to the obvious science enrichment that will occur.

District - East Brunswick School's Outdoor Art Walk

Michelle DaGrossa

With funding, the Arts Department will create a presentation of visual artworks created by students at all grade levels from each of the District's eleven schools. The works will be printed on both sides of corrugated plastic lawn signs that will then be displayed around East Brunswick's Municipal Complex for the entire community to appreciate. This weatherproof art showcase will run from May 15 through June 15, 2021.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Connecting Cultures: One Family at a Time

JoAnn Peterson, Rachel Weitzenkorn

Celebrating their unique school community's diversity has long been a tradition at Lawrence Brook. Funds will allow for the purchase of enough copies of the book, *This is How We do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World* by Matt Lamothe, for each classroom in grades pre-K to 5 to use as a read aloud. This activity will help connect this year's school theme with other related events including: the Virtual Passport where students will travel around the world to learn about the many cultures represented within the Lawrence Brook community, a virtual Parade of Nations, and the PTA's Multicultural Cookbook.



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Hammarskjold Middle School – iChinese Reader

Yashin Chen

Funds will allow for the purchase of a one year subscription for iChineseReader. This online program will provide many and varied reading materials and activities that can be differentiated based on the needs of individual learners.

Irwin Elementary School – The Speech Preschool Playroom

Alexa Sherman

The goal of the project is to encourage conversation and collaborative play among preschool students, resulting in increased self-confidence. Funding will enable the purchase of hands-on materials to be used during group speech therapy sessions.

East Brunswick High School - Back to Basics: Enhancing Interpersonal Communication for the In-Person Classroom

Kelly Williams

A class set of noise-cancelling headphones will be purchased with grant funds. This equipment will greatly enhance both the students' ability to practice conversations and the oral assessment process. The noise cancelling feature will offer students who might be nervous or self-conscious a sense of privacy, while also eliminating distractions and interference during student practice and oral assessment.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School – Building Confidence with Hammarskjold Middle School Lockers

Rachel Weitzenkorn

The number one worry for students transitioning from 5th to 6th grade has long been the anticipation of having to open lockers with combination locks. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of combination locks. These locks will give students as many opportunities as needed to practice this skill, thus building confidence for their next move.

