

2018-2019 School Year Teacher Mini-Grant Recipients

The Great Seed Exchange

Heather Gayton- Creekside Elementary School, Sun Prairie

Students will communicate with other students from around the globe about agriculture and horticulture practices. Students will research the history behind heirloom varieties, take a virtual tour of a seed bank and explore where certain varieties are native to which continents. Students will develop global connections through agriculture and become more aware of the interconnectedness of cultures through foods and crops. Funds will be used to purchase seed, make brochures and packaging their products.

Little Blessings Garden Patch

Kristi Magnuson- St. Aloysius Catholic School, Sauk City

Students will be engaged in an active learning space with their school garden. It will give students a place to observe, discover, experiment, nurture and learn about agriculture. Funds will be used to plant grass seed, purchasing a root-view planter, and buying supplies for planting flowers, garden tools and a field trip to the Merrimac Community Charter School's garden. We hope the experience will enhance the children's connection to the environment, hopefully fighting childhood obesity by changing eating habits and strengthen their attitudes towards learning.

Books and Blankets

Livia Doyle- Mineral Point Elementary School, Mineral Point

The project's goal is to raise funds to purchase materials to be used in their outdoor learning spaces including a wagon, blankets, and books centered around topics like insects, plants, birds, trees, gardening, compost, trees, environmental stewardship, animals and weather. Teachers can envision students pulling the wagon full of books and blankets into the garden or Oak Savanna, spreading out the blankets, grabbing a book, getting comfortable, and learning all about the great outdoors.

Elementary Ag Day

Nathaniel Nolden- Wisconsin Dells High School, Wisconsin Dells

Students enrolled in Agri-Science Class and Wisconsin Dells FFA members will prepare activities and content for 10-15-minute stations. They will invite all the third-grade students in the school district to a half-day Elementary Ag Day. There will be a minimum of 14 stations on various topics related to agriculture in our community and Wisconsin agriculture. Funds will be used to purchase related books, food storage containers and other supplies needed for the day.

Global Food Security

Katelyn Dei- Slinger High School, Slinger

Students will be utilizing the Hungry Planet books by Peter Menzel to determine what factors create food insecurity and which countries around the world are food insecure. Students will learn about our American agriculture system and how our lives have changed dramatically in the last 100 years due to advancements in our agriculture. Critical thinking will allow students to develop innovative plans to solve the global security issue before 2050. Funds will be used to purchase the books for the project.

Respecting Rural Life!

Kirstin Thompson- Greenfield Elementary- Baldwin

In a two-part project, students will be asked to research rural life skills, conduct interviews of real-life experts, and then design a three-dimensional model related to the topic. With the school district's emphasis on personalized learning, the grant will help purchase a variety of non-fiction books the students can use in their research. Helping the student's reading skills and learning how to research

will then allow students to have a better understanding and appreciation of our rural history and then develop a plan to carry those rural life skills into the future.

Write Your Way Through Natural Resources

Kirsten Konder- Luck Public Schools, Luck

After studying many areas of natural resources along with issues that our environment has, students will write a children's book concentrating on one area. They will explain the issue within the story, show multiple ways to resolve it, and assist the person the story is written about. The stories will be targeted to a 4th grade student. Students both in high school and the elementary students they reach will all learn more about our natural resources and challenges we face. The grant will help purchase blank books along with supplies needed for the project.

Yes, Reading is Fun!

Lori Rowe- Tigerton High School, Tigerton

To assist the staff members in the district to help provide agricultural books for the school, Middle School Book Club, and Reading Nights, the grant will be used to buy a variety of agricultural books. Staff have observed that students have lost their interest in reading books for fun, so the new books will provide interesting topics, good illustrations, and content that hopefully will spark their interest in agriculture and reading.

Patio Gardening; Fresh Food for Families!

Amy Mather- Northern Hills School, Onalaska

Students will develop gardening skills and help feed their families. Students will work collaboratively to solve problems related to a cooperative project. They will have increased responsibility and independence related to feeding themselves and their families. The grant will help purchase supplies and then they will learn from Master Gardeners how to plant, care for seedlings, and harvest produce.

Seed Germination

John Slipek- Abbotsford High School- Abbotsford

Working with second grade students, they will be purchasing seed, soil and containers for use during this 9-week unit. Each student will be able to plant seeds, monitor their growth, and observe germination differences, soil temperature, moisture, sunlight, growth rate, and other factors. The students will also be able to propagate plants using other methods and hopefully will have plants to take home for Mother's Day.

Safety on the Farm

Cheri Oglesby- St. Rose Catholic School, Cuba City

Working with the Cuba City FFA Chapter, students will learn about the dangers on a farm and how to protect themselves. The dangers of equipment, chemicals and animals will be covered in a three-week project. The grant will help purchase several different student safety books that will be used during the unit. High school students will make posters and lead the discussion and then use a 'red-green' game to share the information.

Read About and Make Ice Cream

Sarah Halverson- Black River Falls High School, Black River Falls

Our high school Child Development Class students will create age appropriate lessons for 4K students. The content will be delivered in Dairy and Ice Cream themed stations that are 15 minutes in length. Students will need to include PIES (Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social) developmental milestones in the lessons they create. The grant will be used to buy several books and an ice cream maker.