

Foundation Gives \$200,000 in Grant Awards

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CUSD Today

The Foundation for Clovis Schools awarded more than \$200,000 in classroom, school and specialty grants for this school year.

Ranging in amounts from \$385 to \$9,996, the classroom and school grants total more than \$135,000 and are being distributed now to 29 classrooms and programs throughout Clovis Unified. Approximately 24,000 CUSD students will directly benefit from these.

The specialty grants, which focus on fitness, civic education and social/emotional wellness, total around \$60,000. (They will be profiled in a future edition of CUSD Today.)

“Through the generosity of foundation donors, more than \$136,000 went back into the classrooms of Clovis Unified, supporting teachers and students with books, science tools, cutting edge technology, musical instruments and other resources to cultivate new ideas in education,” said Treasurer and Fundraising Chairperson Adam Holt.

The 2017 grant awards were an increase from \$126,000 awarded in the 2016 cycle. One hundred applications were submitted for the competitive grant selection process that focuses on innovation, creativity and sustainability.

Special Education teacher, Shannon Jorgensen, received funds that enable special education students ages 18-22 to highlight their gifts, talents and abilities in a drama production of Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.”

“We are beside ourselves with excitement,” Jorgensen said. “This is an amazing chance for our students and we would not be able to provide this opportunity without the grant.” Student Shane Robinson said, “I can’t believe I’m going to be on stage!”

Programs to enhance science and technology continue to be the most requested. Highlights for this award cycle include a student-run café to develop post-secondary life skills for special education students, assistance for homeless students in transition, video equipment to enable students to produce video announcements and recognize student accomplishments.

Sherra Vongehr, science teacher at Clovis High, led an ecology grant that included funding from the Foundation for Clovis Schools, the Boy Scouts of America and numerous community donations to build a pond to enhance the learning of ecosystems beneath the water. “The national science standards for science teachers

continue to grow in Clovis Unified School District. The need for outdoor and hands-on laboratory experience and performance competencies for our students is an imperative," Vongehr said. "The pond project supports the vision of achieving increasing student achievement in the sciences at Clovis High School and in our community."

Created in 1986 by founding Clovis Unified Superintendent Dr. Floyd B. "Doc" Buchanan, the Foundation for Clovis Schools has raised over \$5 million to support much-needed educational programs and scholarships at every school in the district. Several specialty grants were also awarded and will be shared in a future edition of CUSD Today. The full list of classroom and school grant awards include:

Buchanan High

- *Buchanan Electric String Quartet* – The Yamaha Silent Series of String Instruments turn the world's most beautiful acoustical instruments into electric powerhouses. This grant provides for a full string quartet: Two violins, one viola and one cello. All of the necessary portable amplification equipment is also included.
- *Buchanan High and Alta Sierra Intermediate* – The technology includes a class set of eight Vernier LabQuest 2 portable devices and a class set of three different electronic probes. It helps align curriculum and instruction towards the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that will be fully implemented state-wide next school year.
- *Buchanan Area S.T.E.A.M Trunk* – A physical trunk filled with educational devices focused in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to engage and inspire K-8th grade students in all subjects to become thinkers and doers by providing opportunities for creativity, innovation, collaboration and vocabulary building while simultaneously building perseverance and confidence.

Clovis East High

- *College and Career Readiness Seminar Class* – The class is designed to help students learn and practice valuable skills that they need in life. The class helps them identify their personal strengths, areas of interests and potential career pathways. During the semester-long class, they will be strengthening their writing and communication skills.
- *East Side Café* – This grant builds upon the student-run café opened by the special education department last year to create a hands-on learning opportunity for students. Multi-step machines enable students to make a variety of drinks and food items and dress in work uniforms to develop post-secondary life skills, money skills and social/communication skills.
- *Social Applications* – A new class developed for students on the autism spectrum, students develop skills to increase interpersonal skills, build peer relationships, make connections with peers/ community members, develop

sensory processing coping skills, and develop strategies for deficits in executive functioning.

- *The Pack Press* – The Pack Press are students who work as a creative team to promote weekly activities and school programs. Students organize into media teams responsible for filming, editing, and commentating on each activity while gaining techniques in a specialized area of media production and learn career avenues available, and increase the involvement of fellow students, staff members and the community as a whole through their communications.

Clovis High

- *On Golden Pond* – Completes the nine-month pond project for Clovis High School, a joint project with the local Boy Scouts of America, community members, participating staff and administration. The benefits of the Clovis High School Project Pond enhances student learning with the creation of ecosystems in a pond composed of moss, aeriated grasses, mosquito fish and a continual system of free-flowing water to maintain the environmental ambiance of the world beneath the water.
- *“LED”ing Our Students into a Brighter Microscopic and Probing Future* – This grant replaces microscopes and provides new probeware for science classrooms. By updating equipment and providing access to probeware technology used in laboratory settings, students can do meaningful science, using professional tools.
- *Museum Trip for Advanced Placement Art History Students* – All AP Art History students from Clovis High and Clovis West High will visit the Getty Center of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Clovis North High

- *Graphing Calculators* – Improves the access to graphing calculator technology for all students in Honors Math 2, Honors Math 3, Advanced Math and Advanced Math Analysis, more than 600 students each year.

Clovis North High and Granite Ridge Intermediate

- *Environmental Co2 investigation Lab sensors from Vernier* – Utilizing existing Vernier LabQuest computer interfaces, Co2 sensors are used in various experiments during the academic year. Using digital measurement equipment help students prepare for real world careers in the technology dependent fields of engineering and science.

Clovis West High

- *Building Vocational Literacy Skills using Innovative Technology* – This grant enhances our Vocational Certificate Program by providing an innovative solution for struggling adolescent readers with effective curriculum. It also provides computers to increase literacy and technology skills.

- *Go Direct Sensors and Probeware for Science* – Updates the science labs by providing a variety of computerized electronic sensors. These sensors allow the addition of new labs and take existing labs to a higher level for all students in the science department. Teachers are able to have students generate and share detailed data on temperature, electrical current, forces, gas pressure, speed, acceleration, magnetism, light and turbidity.
- *Let's go APES "Probing" the Environment* – Students use probeware and data logging software to analyze the quality, quantity, and chemical composition of water, air, and soil in their local environment and in a laboratory setting to foster inquiry based learning and develop the skills needed to carry classroom/ textbook concepts into the real world. Students in AP Environmental Science, Honors Biology, Biology, and Chemistry use the probeware.

Clark Intermediate

- *"Pocketlab" Wireless Sensors for a Next Generation Science Classroom* – Middle school science students collect and analyze accurate data as they attempt to make sense of scientific principles which relate to the world around them. With the Pocketlab sensors students can combine video with data in order to see the relationship between their variables and the outcome of their experiments.

Reyburn Intermediate

- *Reyburn Video Production* – Leadership students produce video announcements for the Reyburn student body. The grant funds the equipment necessary to create a professional film studio. The studio is used to create announcements in the form of a newscast, similar to the Bear News Network (BNN) at Buchanan. In addition to simply announcing upcoming events and activities, these tapings are used to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of Reyburn students.

Boris Elementary, PALS Program

- *21st Century Learning Technology* – iPads are used to access technology and educational tools that support learning needs to reach the potential of students ages 3-6 who have been diagnosed with developmental delays in the areas of language and social skills and intellectual disability.

Clovis Elementary

- *Makerspace* – Where Curiosity and Learning Grow – To repurpose the library from a space for quiet reading to a space that builds a culture of discovery, interaction, collaboration and creativity for all students. Makerspace is a dedicated area within the school with a wide variety of tools, games, and hands-on materials. Students are encouraged and inspired to collaborate with peers, think critically and problem solve.

Cole Elementary

- *Differentiating and Accelerating Learning with Winbooks* – Winbooks enhance and differentiate instruction for kindergarten students. Students enter kindergarten with a wide range of abilities. It is necessary for the teacher to be able to meet the needs of the struggling students as well as the advanced students via differentiated instruction. The use of seven Winbooks and Cole Elementary's wide existing allotment of apps is a means of delivering this differentiated instruction.

Copper Hills Elementary

- *Task Boxes* – For K-6 Functional Life Skills/Special Day Class students with broad ability levels. The task boxes cover a great variety of skills and levels. Teachers give students appropriate leveled tasks so they remain challenged and engaged.

Jefferson Elementary

- *Jefferson Breakout Boxes* – A Breakout Box is a unique collection of resettable locks, boxes and other items used to play a variety of educational games for a wide variety of subject areas, group sizes and grade levels. The Breakout Box allows for the facilitation of games that require participants to use teamwork and critical thinking.

Miramonte Elementary

- *Computer Science and Coding in Elementary Schools* – Using Sphero Bots, students from diverse populations work together to create, code and use technology. Students with limited technology experience can benefit greatly from others that perhaps have some experience. The classroom-learning environment is enhanced as students are motivated by the Sphero Bots to use their creativity and problem solving skills.

Nelson Elementary

- *LEGO of the Worksheets and STEAM Ahead* – To make math and science more tangible to students through the use of Legos. Legos tap into problem-solving skills, and equip students with the necessary STEM knowledge to be innovative and imaginative thinkers. Instead of students solving problems on paper, they learn about area and volume through constructing their own building structures using Legos.

Red Bank Elementary

- *Red Bank Robotics Club* – Provide upper grade students at Red Bank Elementary the opportunity to be a founding member of our FIRST LEGO League: Robotics Club, as well as provide the necessary equipment needed to participate in the Central Valley Robotics program. This club allows 30

students to take part in the innovative, problem-solving challenges given to them through FIRST LEGO League.

Temperance-Kutner Elementary

- *Creating Brain Waves!* – This project supports students who need additional intervention providing opportunities for success with these skills. Supplying “ergo chairs” for sitting during classwork gives students more focus to tasks, thus, promoting student motivation and higher engagement. These ergonomic options replace some standard chairs in a classroom. This grant provides 30 ergo chairs for the primary grades to share and be utilized on an as-needed, rotation for individual students who would benefit the most.

Adult Transition Program

- *Links and Keys (Special Education) Special Education Adult Transition Program Drama Production* – Students will try out and perform in our very own drama production of “Beauty and the Beast” – exclusively featuring the talents of students with special needs. Grant funds allow license for the rental of Mercedes Edwards Theater, costumes, stage props, building fees for the production and programs/ticket material/printing fees. The goal of this grant is to help students reach their IEP goals in a more unique format, which may include personal/social skills (learning how to work as a team), functional academic growth (reading and learning lines), self-advocacy skills (team building, conflict resolution), fine/gross motor skills (choreographed dances) and daily living skills.

Clovis Community Day

- *Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)* – Implementation offers positive rewards to students who struggle with their behaviors at school. Last school year this program was self-funded by teachers on a small scale. Results driven data showed it to be highly successful so the grant allows PBIS to be implemented schoolwide this year.

Districtwide

- *Yes We CAN!* – Provide students and families a path to stay on the course of success by providing them with a safe, temporary place to sleep while they are connected with the appropriate community agencies. Also provides assistance to homeless students and their families in transition by the purchase of yearbooks, dance bids, and graduation materials, etc.