

2017-2018 School Year - Innovative Teaching Grant Winners

Project Purple

Tualatin High School & Tigard High School

A combined effort between both high schools to provide a year-round drug and alcohol prevention program called Project Purple. As part of this program, inspirational speaker Chris Herren, from the Herren Project, will come to both high schools to share his story and try to inspire kids to make the right choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol. In order to prevent students from using drugs and alcohol, you must first grab their attention to the dangers.

Sponsored in part by Wytek Controls

Sponsored in part by Ron Spires & Kim DeMarchi

Virtual Reality Lab

Fowler Middle School – Aaron Bech

Teaching with virtual reality to engage students in real life simulations. Through the use of virtual reality, and also projection to the entire class, students can visualize and experience learning using this unique technology. Students can tour South American countries and visit Machu Picchu, walk the streets of ancient Rome, and fly into space to visit Mars. To experience things “first hand” through virtual reality, all types of unique learning can take place with an endless variety of topics and issues.

Sponsored in part by Michael & Stacie Schoonmaker

21st Century Music Room

Byrom Elementary – Mark Anderson

Provide an interactive whiteboard to a music room to be able to write out music for children to perform, allow students to add their own unique ideas to the music, to edit music as they work with it, to learn music notation, and to preserve a digital copy to save for future edits and sharing to other music classes. This will move music/composition into the 21st century and allow the teacher and students to learn more productively.

Sponsored in part by Matt & Julie Popma

Makerspace

Mary Woodward – Jen Cannon

To implement STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) teaching and learning practices through a Makerspace dedicated space. Makerspaces are creative spaces designed to engage students with hands-on activities that teach 21st century STEAM skills. This will allow students the opportunity to think outside the box, and to create with their own hands relatable and exciting STEM projects.

Audio Books on Wheels

Metzger Elementary – Jordan Mills

Provide a pilot program called Audio Books on Wheels that will put MP3 players and thus audiobooks in the hands of students during their bus commute to and from school. The goal is to help develop student literacy by means of increased exposure to engaging literature to those students in most need of literacy help.

Drum Circle Instruments

Fowler Middle School – Kristen Sacks

Teaching with drums/percussion through drum circles to engage students, teach history through various cultural perspectives, work on student communication skills, build community, and to bring fun back into the classroom.

Strings for Templeton

Templeton Elementary – Leslie Gray

To provide the opportunity to all 4th and 5th grade students, regardless of financial limitations, to learn to play violin in an after-school program. Students will not only experience the joy of creating music, they will engage in the creative process, and will learn skills such as dedication, perseverance, and discipline.