

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS 2017-2018

Full funding is recommended for 23 (88%) of the projects.

Partial funding is recommended for 3 (12%) of the projects. Partial funding is recommended when:

Single-School Projects

Falmouth High School

Ekphrasis 2017- Lauren Kenny

full funding: \$1430

Ekphrasis brings the experience of a piece of art to a reader through poetry. In this continuing grant, FEF will support transportation and admission charges for a visit to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The staff will instruct students in the Visual Thinking Strategies technique (teachers.mam.org/.../teaching-with-art/visual-thinking-strategies-vts). The project culminates with a formal reception at which students present their written pieces.

Building a More Culturally Proficient Classroom- Mike Feeney

full funding: \$7161

We are living in a world in which we need to provide our students access to curriculum that explores difficult issues such as racism, immigration reform, and international justice. This grant will purchase a set of Chromebooks, along with licenses and charging equipment, to support FHS social studies students' participation in the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum (<https://www.facinghistory.org>). They will create multi-media projects, debate challenging issues, role-play important events, and participate in Socratic Seminars (<https://www.facinghistory.org/.../teaching-strategies/socratic-seminar>).

In Living Color: Ceramic Stains, Slips and Tessellations- Corine Adams

full funding: \$3210

In this project, Ceramics students will learn new ceramic techniques, develop an understanding of the application of mathematics in their work, and produce color without relying on glazes. In addition to working with their art teacher, students will work with the head of the math department to design tiling and tessellations required to proficiently employ the nerikome technique. FEF funds will be used to purchase art supplies for this project, which will culminate in a exhibition of student work at the Falmouth Public Library.

Foreign Language Skill-Building with Chromebooks- Susan Schmidt

full funding: \$7488

Through this grant, students in all foreign language classes will use Chromebooks to increase skills in each of the department's proficiency areas: speaking, reading, writing, listening, and culture. Chromebook apps will provide expanded opportunities for practice, for interaction with native speakers, and for group work. These devices can be used in the classroom at any time, can provide differentiation (www.k5chalkbox.com/differentiation-in-the-classroom.html), and will support equal access for students who do not have computers or personal devices of their own. Teachers will develop differentiated activities and will

assess progress throughout the year. FEF funds will purchase a set of Chromebooks, along with licenses and charging equipment.

Exploring Evolution at the Harvard Nat. Hist. Museum- Heather Goodwin full funding: \$1400

This grant supports transportation and admission costs for a visit to the museum, where high school students will participate in an "Exploring Evolution" class; they will have an opportunity to examine museum specimens and use scientific reasoning to explore evolutionary concepts, such as variation, inheritance, and natural and artificial selection, that explain the biodiversity of life on Earth. After the trip, students will choose one concept or theme and create a hands-on activity or game for a specific grade level that will be played by various ages at the 2018 Science Fair.

Lawrence School

Expansion of the Choices Program- Tracey Crago full funding: \$2500

This grant will support expansion to 7th grade of CHOICES , a VIPS program that promotes financial literacy and career preparedness. Community volunteers will be trained as presenters. All 7th grade students will participate in a foundation workshop focusing on "traits for success" and "behaviors to impress." Grade 8 student workshops will focus on time and money management. FEF funds will pay for course materials and trainer stipend.

Can You Hear Me Now? Amplification for All- Barbara Blumberg partial funding:\$4400

This grant provides amplification systems for classes in one 7th grade team. In a pilot last year, team teachers noticed that student engagement and attention increased for all students when teachers used a wireless amplification system designed for students with auditory processing deficits. Through the grant, teachers will pretest all students to gather baseline data on auditory learning levels, build in whole-class activities to strengthen those skills, and then assess progress in that area. Partial funding is recommended because the committee felt that the pilot could be expanded with less equipment than requested (\$8800).

Lawrence Check One, Two!- Victoria Santos full funding: \$2843

This project is a effort to build the theater program at Lawrence. Theater at Lawrence is a popular activity that includes a diverse group of students, and the goal is to increase participation even more. Falmouth Theater Guild has provided a new backdrop; FEF will provide 10 lavalier microphones to improve poor sound quality in the auditorium. Students will be trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment, which will be shared as needed with performing groups from Morse Pond and FHS.

Morse Pond

Personalizing the Learning Environment w/ Dynamic Seating- Kerri Whipple full funding: \$6182

This grant will allow Morse Pond to expand a successful pilot into three grade 5 and three grade 6 classrooms. As a pilot, students have been utilizing a "dynamic learning environment" in the Library Media Center to increase awareness of their own learning styles in order to improve attention and engagement. This grant will be used to purchase a variety of workstation options---such as standing desks, stools, moving foot rests, portable bike pedals, and floor seats---that facilitate students' self-regulation, focus, and engagement. Students will identify and utilize their best learning environments; results, including surveys, logs, and achievement data, will be tracked.

Re-Kindling Our Battle of the Books- Liz Abbott

full funding: \$1697

Battle of the Books is a popular reading incentive program at Morse Pond in which students are challenged to read a variety of books over the course of several months and compete in all-school reading games. This grant will purchase e-reader Kindle books for students impacted by reading difficulties, making the Battle titles accessible to all. FEF has funded this program in the past.

Teaticket

Teaticket Students are Sew Creative- Lyn Van Etta

full funding: \$953

Sewing requires concentration and focus, problem-solving, and hand-eye and fine motor skills. This grant provides equipment and materials for an after-school enrichment class for 3rd and 4th graders. As an end-of year collaboration, 3rd and 4th grade sewing students will work with Kindergartners to create simple sewing projects based on Kindergarten artwork.

The Growing Kinder-Garden- Stacey Boudrot

full funding: \$1440

This grant supports expansion of the Kinder-Garden Labyrinth of Learning, an interdisciplinary outdoor learning space, which FEF helped construct. This year's grant will provide a shed, seedlings, milkweed seeds for a butterfly garden, books on gardening, and other related materials. Kindergartners will plant and maintain the garden.

East Falmouth

PE Projecting- David Watson

full funding: \$1361

Last year FEF supported iPads in PE class. With this technology, teachers use video to increase skill development. Teacher iPads provide students with video demonstrations, allowing teachers to differentiate. The grant will purchase a projector and screen, so the whole class can view the program and the apps.

East Falmouth Outdoor Classroom- Justine Dale

full funding: \$11,500

In cooperation with Miscovsky Landscaping, the Cape Cod regional STEM Network, the East Falmouth PTO, and many volunteers, FEF will help renovate a neglected central courtyard at East Falmouth school, to be repurposed as "a hub for engaged learning, particularly STEM inquiry." This project puts into innovative practice the "inquiry-based science" that is central to the new national science standards. The outdoor classroom will be surrounded by plantings organized into 3 distinct habitat zones and coordinated with seasonal changes; it will also include a complete weather station. Seating and small-group work areas will be distributed around the space, but the central gathering place will be a covered pergola area, to be used for whole-group meetings, discussions, and presentations. The outdoor classroom will be used by all grade levels and all subject areas. Although science is the obvious discipline, the courtyard will also be used, for example, during daily DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) times. This grant will pay half the cost of the central pergola area.

21st Century Classrooms- Elijah Switzer

full funding: \$8969

In these two 21st century third grade classrooms (<https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/FAQ/what-are-21st-century-skills>) teachers will help students build collaboration, critical thinking, and technical literacy skills. The teachers believe in and want to test the idea that achievement increases when students understand and can optimize their own best learning styles. The grant will pay for a variety of seating and work area options, so students can identify and utilize their most productive learning environments. The grant will also pay for a

Clear Touch panel (www.getcleartouch.com), an interactive screen that can be used by groups of students to "negotiate, collaborate, debate, and compromise while learning academic content."

STEM Bins- Anissa Graff

full funding: \$1340

STEM bins provide meaningful extended or accelerated work for students who have completed tasks and demonstrated proficiency in the skills that are being taught or practiced. STEM Bins come with creative tasks and real world problems that promote higher order thinking and encourage students to think like inventors (teachoutsidethebox.com/2016/08/stem-bins-hands-solutions-early). FEF funds will be used to purchase STEM kits and related materials.

Making It Up: Expanding Our Makerspace- Tara Draper

full funding: \$4057

With materials purchased with this grant, the East Falmouth Makerspace will be expanded to include activities geared to Kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Students will have the opportunity to invent, create, and problem-solve, using both technological and non-technological materials. The materials, including books, will support curriculum in each content area. For more information, see <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/designing-a-school-makerspace>.

Mullen Hall

Animal Habitats: Learning Adventures- Ann McDonald

partial funding: \$4450

For this project, which includes all four grade 1 teachers, the request (\$11,120) was for a class set of 25 iPads and related equipment. iPads will be used to facilitate a large-scale science project, including research, skills reinforcement, photographs, slideshows, video production, presentation, and publishing. In addition, the project will begin to expose first graders to the use of this technology for research and presentation. After consultation with the district Director of Technology, the committee recommends partial funding. The recommendation is that teachers pilot the project, providing access to the technology but limiting screen time.

Shark Bites II: Newspaper for the Kids, By the Kids- Robyn Langmead

full funding: \$4210

Last year FEF funded the technology and printing costs for third grade classrooms to produce the school-wide publication *Shark Bites*. The goal of this continuing grant is to expand the project to include grade 4. The grant will again pay for technology and printing costs.

Group Drumming for Social-Emotional Learning- Teresa Jazo

full funding: \$5500

This grant supports the implementation of a 6-week curriculum through which all 450 students will cycle. The curriculum combines social-emotional learning and group drumming; it utilizes *What is a Thought? (A Thought is a Lot!)*, a children's story and lesson plans for grades K-6, and is based on research indicating that with a combination of social-emotional learning activities and group drumming, children can make significant gains in the areas of emotion management, focus, and listening. The grant will buy 24 tubano drums, 1 "gathering drum", and related materials.

North Falmouth

iPads for Differentiated Instruction- Colleen Durepo

full funding: \$5109

In 2016-17 the Falmouth schools implemented co-teaching, an approach that pairs classroom teachers and special educators to share equally all aspects of planning, instruction, and assessment. (<https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/6847>). These two teachers have completed a

training to learn best practices; they are proposing to use iPads to implement those practices in curriculum development, differentiation, and assessment, and then track student achievement.

Vertical Building: Constructing a Makerspace Lego Wall- Kristin Bergeron full funding: \$550

This grant will add a LEGO wall to the North Falmouth library's Makerspace. This will provide a no-tech way to explore creativity build fine motor and problem-solving skills, collaborate, and raise awareness of fundamental engineering.

Multi-School Projects

To the Lighthouse- Jane Baker full funding: \$6274

(FHS, Morse Pond)

The proposal asks students to take a fresh look at lighthouses of Cape Cod, often over-used images, with a renewed appreciation for their form, function, and history. Students from FHS and Morse Pond will visit lighthouses, learn from experts, and do research. Students will take on a variety of art and writing projects with the intention of "looking beyond the cliché of the postcard landscape to the heart and history of our shared sentinels." Student work will be exhibited in at the Woods Hole Library; reproductions will be sold to raise money for Friends of Nobska Light. FEF funds will pay for transportation and materials.

Engineering Through Competition and Collaboration- Bob Porto full funding: \$ 4035

(Lawrence, Morse Pond, Mullen Hall)

Lawrence grade 8 students will use their Engineering skills in three culminating events: the Rube Run, the Iditarod, and the DaVinci Dash. Each event showcases skills--such as problem-solving, abstract thinking, design planning and implementation---in a motivating competition. Students from Mullen Hall help with construction of the Iditarod sleds. Morse Pond and Mullen Hall students watch the race via video blogs produced by Lawrence students; they also visit Lawrence on the day of the race. FEF funds will be used to purchase construction materials.

Vernal Pools: Living Laboratories- Chris Brothers full funding: \$4760

(FHS, Lawrence)

This grant supports construction and use of two vernal pools: one at Lawrence and one at FHS. These pools will be outdoor laboratories, promoting "citizen science" and allowing grades 7-12 students to observe and study the ecology, species, and water quality of the pools and their seasonal changes. The pools will also provide outdoor classroom space for projects across the content areas. Along with other community partners, such as Mass Audubon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Friends of the Mashpee Wildlife Refuge, and Falmouth STEM Boosters, FEF will help build the pools; the FEF grant will also provide a range of equipment and materials, for example trail cameras, field guides, supplies for native bee houses and butterfly puddlers. In addition, the FEF grant will pay for materials for kiosks that will be built by the 8th grade Engineering students; the kiosks will provide information and display student work.

Windows and Mirrors: Increasing Diversity in Our Libraries- Kristin Bergeron

partial funding: \$4000

(East, North, Teaticket, Mullen libraries)

This grant will support the four elementary libraries as they expand their book collections to more accurately reflect their student populations (mirrors) and to provide students the opportunity to see and understand others (windows). Selections will include titles that illustrate cross-racial connections, diverse families and home lives, and characters with disabilities; the grantees will develop a series of lesson plans around these issues. The committee recommended partial funding of the original request (\$6000), with the notion that the library-tech teachers could begin to build the collection and then identify gaps as the year goes on.