

Approved 4A Grants - 2022/23

Primary Applicant	Additional Applicant/s:	School:	Grade Level/ Content Area	Project Title	What makes you passionate or excited about this project?	BPSF Approved Amount
Heidi Anderson	Emily Neistadt Andrew Freeman	Brainerd High School	9-12 FACS	FACS Equipment Update	We have two beautiful new rooms. The appliances are new, but all of the equipment that we have to use in these new beautiful rooms is from our old space. It is worn and torn and simply needs updating since some of it appears to be 40+ years old. In the commercial/hybrid lab, we need more industry grade equipment for the students to use. It is just amazing to update and add to our equipment to expand student opportunities. For example: we only have two pasta rollers. For the first time ever in my 25 year teaching career, I decided to have 8 lab groups make pasta dough from scratch and we shared those two rollers to get all of the pasta rolled and cooked in one class period. It was extremely tight to get it all done, but we did it. The idea of adding two more pasta rollers will absolutely make something like that lab sooooo much easier for the students and the teacher. Less pressed for time, they will be more successful and less stressed. Why is this a big deal? If they never make pasta again in their lives, that is ok. But they will always remember making pasta from scratch and sampling what that tastes like when they were in high school. I want to continue to build and add these experiences for our students and grant money like this makes that possible.	\$ 2,000
Amy Aus		Forestview Middle School	6th Grade Language Arts	Character in the Classroom / Picture Books to Teach Language Arts	I am passionate about this project because I can see a desperate need for character development in my 6th grade Language Arts students. I never thought I'd see the day in almost 30 years of teaching that students would be at a reading level this low and the most requested genre would be horror. I don't have those books in my classroom and I see students reading junk or books that don't have much value in making them better for having read the book. I read aloud some wonderful quality titles, but with my limited time, more quality is necessary. Furthermore, there are so many emotional issues at this grade level, the need is high to develop character as they encounter conflict and they need to learn how to develop grit and persevere. I love the idea that I can cover the standards and provide quality books to encourage students to be good people.	\$ 750
Howard Borden	Howard Borden	Athletic Team, Club, Group, or Other	High School Athletics	2022-2023 Hockey Training Gear	Continuous Improvement of our High School Hockey Program & the ability to share these success tools with the Youth Boy's & Girls teams as well.	\$ 750
Landon Brainerd		Brainerd High School	10th - 12th Grade / Business, Finance	Charitable Investment Club Startup Funding	This is a great opportunity for students to learn investment skills that will help them be financially successful in the future. I'm excited to connect with students in a coaching/advising capacity that relates to my content area.	\$ 1,000

Kari Champion		Baxter	Third Grade	Costumes Bring Biographies to Life!	Students and families are engaged and excited about this project. Students are meeting third grade standards and having fun! I have seen students gain an amazing amount of confidence in their writing and speaking through this project. Parents and grandparents come into our building and interact with the students. Feedback has been very positive and I believe this is an experience students will remember fondly!	\$ 700
Jim Conrad	John Tomonovich	Harrison	K-4/science/STEM	Learn through technology	This kind of project gives access to STEM activities that they would not otherwise be able to access. We love seeing their excitement and engagement in this sort of project. It allows students to think outside of the box and have different experiences in our school.	\$ 1,260
Layne A Danielson		Forestview Middle School	5-8	FMS ROBOTICS	I am super excited about the Spike Prime robot because the coding is the same as what we currently use in my multimedia class for scratch. This will enable me to incorporate them into my programming units during the school day. When we are up and running with what we need we will be reaching every 5th and 6th grade student during the school year and those that do after school stem classes.	\$ 2,020
Andrew Dwyer		Brainerd High School	Video Productions (Grades 9-12)	Wireless Microphones for Video Production	I preach to my students that proper audio is just as important as great video. The two go hand in hand. These microphones will help achieve better audio for the students as they work on their projects. The use of microphones also gives students the opportunity to work with real-world equipment that is used in the field.	\$ 1,075
Terri Ebinger	Fifth Grade and PE Staff	Forestview Middle School	5th grade	Recess Fun!	We are excited for students to get outside and play together! It has been 2-3 years of interrupted schooling for these students. We want all of our 5th grade students to enjoy school and enjoy time together with their friends. We don't want them to be bored outside and hate recess time. Having these resources for our students will encourage students to get moving, get others to play in the games with them, and just have fun at school!	\$ 1,457
Adam Extrand		Community Ed		7th & 8th grade boys/girls LAX		\$ 5,900
Amber Finnegan		Warrior Early Learning Center	EC / ECSE	Sensory Overload	I'm passionate about this area because I know that students need an opportunity to use appropriate sensory items in order to learn self regulation. As I mentioned above, students who can't regulate, can't learn. I want students to have one less barrier to learning.	\$ 687
Aline Gilb		Warrior Early Learning Center	Early Childhood Special Education	Learning through Play: Enhancing the STAR program	I've seen the impact of breaking through with a child. I've had families report that siblings are so excited to have their child with Autism notice and play with them. I've had a family report their child has more eye contact and comes to them more engaged and participates in joint activities.	\$ 992
Amy Guardipee	Madeline Hastings	Riverside	EBD - Level III	Academic Supports for Social and Emotional Learning	Teaching through play is an incredibly successful way of teaching behavioral students. Incidental learning increases behavioral student knowledge and ability to demonstrate the same skills outside of the classroom.	\$ 412

Alex Hirsch	Riley Atkinson	Baxter	K-4 Physical Education/D APE	"Snow" Excited for Winter! Youth Snowshoes & Storage	The plan for implementing snowshoeing into our Baxter physical education program has our PE team excited! The winter months in Minnesota can get long, especially being inside the gym day after day. However, having the opportunity to get outside and enjoy Minnesota's great outdoors through snowshoeing will be a fun and exciting way to teach a new lifelong aerobic activity! Staff will also be encouraged to participate in our snowshoeing lessons, as we hope to have enough pairs for classroom teachers and support staff to join in on the fun too! Introducing snowshoeing will also allow us to discuss the benefits of activating major muscle groups (quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes, and calves), burning calories, helping keep a positive mental state, and being able to participate in this type of physical activity for a lifetime!	\$ 3,500
Tracy Pamela Hopperstad		Forestview Middle School	Health Sciences 7	CPR Manikins	It would be great for our kids to have Manikins to practice on, which would help them to be better equipped to possibly save a life some day!	\$ 789
Guy C Kelm	Harrison PBIS	Harrison	K-4	Building Common Language and Behavioral Expectation	With so many changes within our building such as a new principal, building renovations, etc., we feel we need to encourage and support each other as a staff to ensure all people who work and learn in our building can learn with confidence. By creating these graphics, anyone and everyone will know what it means to be a Warrior at Harrison Elementary and how to attain this.	\$ 1,000
Jennifer Jo Klecatsky	Jennifer Klecatsky	Brainerd High School	9-12/Science	New Micropipettes for Science Courses	The opportunities for students in BHS science and engineering courses are top notch. The hands-on experiences provided by these courses are second to none. Many students are not even exposed to these opportunities in college. Training students to use this equipment in high school sets them up for success in future college endeavors and places them above the rest when working towards science and engineering careers.	\$ 1,350
Jennifer Jo Klecatsky	Jennifer Klecatsky	Brainerd High School	9-12/Science	Electronic Balances for Biology Classrooms	My students test the accuracy of pipettes in biological engineering using electronic balances. When the scales are out of calibration or missing pieces, results are affected. I am passionate about my new classroom, teaching science, and providing students with hands-on opportunities. The skills that students develop in science courses are amazing! The new equipment will help!	\$ 3,079
Jessica Lofrano-Larson	None	Athletic Team, Club, Group, or Other	Athletics- all ages	Beam Matting for Brainerd Gymnastics	Brainerd Gymnastics is known throughout the state as a top-notch facility with an incredible legacy behind it. I want the equipment that we have in that facility to live up to that reputation. Our athletes, and visiting athletes, deserve to compete on equipment that is going to keep them as safe as possible and give them the best chance at success.	\$ 1,900
Jennifer Larson		Warrior Early Learning Center	Preschool	Peaceful Kids Classroom	I used to do Yoga/Mindfulness with my kiddos in KinderClub at the Washington building pre-Covid and saw the amazing benefits of taking time to pause and breathe. It was so helpful for the kids but also for the staff. I would love to be able to bring that calming tool to the WELC.	\$ 510
Rita Linder	N/A	Garfield	K-4	STEAM Wind Tunnel	Seeing how excited my students and parents are with STEAM activities at our monthly reading celebration breakfasts. I also see how our attendance numbers are higher with Care Group when STEAM activities are incorporated into our learning.	\$ 870

Nate Macejkovic		Baxter	Fourth/all subjects	Cribbage: Mental Math, Critical Thinking, & Social Skills	I am excited as a teacher to see students apply their knowledge and skills. I want to give them a connection to real life and help create a passion for something that they can do throughout their life.	\$ 925
Amanda Mattsen		Nisswa	PreK Plus: Preschool	Calming Corner	I want my preschoolers to be able to have a safe space to learn how to regulate their emotions to be successful in the classroom and into Kindergarten.	\$ 543
Tamara Nelson	Katie Mains	Garfield	K and 1	LETRS Phonics Materials	We gave phonemic awareness screeners and have been teaching targeted phonics for 6 weeks. My weekly CBM progress checks show great growth for students in the phonics groups in a short time.	\$ 850
Kate Olson		Forestview Middle School	6th ELA	Nonfiction Library	ELA teachers (and teachers in general) are competing with screens. In many cases, we are competing with addictions to screens and a notion that everything in school needs to be entertaining or there won't be buy-in. Buy-in, in part, comes with choice and a sense of control. If a kiddo is passionate about World War II, and will read anything having to do with World War II, then perhaps I have just pushed a kid over the edge into being a lifelong reader by providing that material. That is exciting! Maybe they won't reach for a YouTube video when they know their teacher promotes books on topics they love. I am confident that kids get exposed to a diverse reading experience in my language arts class. Nobody tells me what I should read in my spare time. Perhaps we should provide students with diverse reading options for their independent reading and celebrate when they do pick up a book, no matter what the genre.	\$ 1,000
Andrea Parrington		Nisswa	3rd Grade	Building My Classroom Library	I have enjoyed watching my students get into books. They have loved diving into a few different series and I want to keep that drive going.	\$ 1,550
Danielle Patrick	Libby Gearey, Amy Holm, and Deborah Schlueter	Forestview Middle School	6th Grade Science	Handheld Microscopes	One of the largest concepts in Geology is the concept of crystal formation and how rocks and minerals form. This leads directly into the rest of the geologic standards about erosion and change. Not being able to see the crystals makes it really hard for 6th graders to understand. Also, studying fossilized structures and being able to make conclusions between past and present organisms is a huge skill for kids to get. Also, increasing student interest and engagement within the school forest, allowing them to look at microscopic things and start to get an understanding of things that they can't see with their eyes is a huge and important part of middle school science.	\$ 2,244
TyAnne Guida-Rezac		District Wide	K-12 English Language Learners	Books are Better	Emergent English Language Learners in Brainerd Public Schools go through the day with very little access to information in their home language. They have to work three times as hard to complete a task that a native English speaker has. (Translate text, Comprehend it, then Re-translate their thinking so the teacher can read it) By illuminating the need for translation, students are able work more efficiently both at school and at home.	\$ 500
Alexis Roering	Suzanne Lokker, Kayla Anderson, Eve Langhorst	Riverside	DCD L3	Adaptive Switch Toys	These toys could create an excellent opportunity to allow a barrier of inclusivity to be torn down. Currently some students do not have access to an adequate amount of adaptive tools that allow for them to interact with peers in a way that is feasible for them. These toys also create an understanding of cause and effect which is a precursor to communication.	\$ 700

Deborah Schlueter	Amy Holm, Danielle Patrick, Libby Gearey (Science 6 at FMS)	Forestview Middle School	Science 6	Weather Station	Student engagement in locally-sourced data really drives learning and understanding of concepts. An active weather station would be a way to engage even hard to reach students. The weather station we are requesting funding for posts information directly to the Weather Underground website, and all students (K-12) would be able to access real-time and saved past weather information through that website.	\$ 999
Deborah Schlueter	Amy Holm, Libby Gearey, Danielle Patrick	Forestview Middle School	6 Science	Digital Lab Scales	Students understanding the abstract concept of density is one of the base-line concepts in Earth Science. Without a strong and complete understanding of the concept, students do not understand thermal expansion or convection, which means that accurately describing how the weather, plate tectonics, volcanoes, climate, planetary atmospheres and geology, solar formation, and how the sun works cannot happen. Density cannot be taught without the proper tools for both volume and mass. Digital lab scales is the tool we need that we do not have access to.	\$ 1,887
Melissa Schmeck	Suzie Smith, Brea Musel, Brianna Sand, Amy Foley	Baxter	All Kindergarten Classrooms	Play in Kindergarten	We need more time to play in kindergarten. We are teaching our littlest learners so much throughout the day, these items would allow them to just be kids for a little bit while learning so many lifelong skills.	\$ 850
Katheryn Staley		Warrior Early Learning Center	Preschool	Social-Emotional Classroom Kit	With Covid; I have noticed a significant increase in lack of social and emotional skills in Preschoolers that were home for most of their life. These tools are so beneficial as they continue their education and life in general.	\$ 370
Elsie Stanek	Dave Baloga	Garfield	Kinder-4th grade	Arts and Activities with Blacklights	Blacklights can create a soft, calming light that reduces stress and anxiety. When paired with neon colors, instrumental music, or movement you can create an environment that will enhance learning and create unique experiences. This project is a passion of mine because it encompasses learning in multiple styles, encourages healthy habits, and unites school and family community. As a parent, and a frequent volunteer, I have witnessed the impact of making education interactive and engaging. Adding music, art, and/or movement to a learning experience increases imagination, creativity, and helps share expression. It can also add real world experience by promoting thinking, judgement, problem solving, and teamwork. The current classroom blacklight activities have proven their effect with all the smiles, laughs, and excitement that have been shared. Further, staff, students, and parents have provided nothing but positive comments and feedback. It's the experience children take away that help with growth and development for the future.	\$ 720
Dr. Tammy Stellmach		Baxter	K-4	Bring the Games Outdoors!	I love to see students interacting together and engaging in new experiences. This will be a great way to engage additional students at recess (both outdoors but also on cold indoor days!)	\$ 500
DeeDee K Vagts	Harrison Family Teacher Association	Harrison	K-4	Community Building	Every Harrison family member receiving a t-shirt will give them a sense of belonging. Brainerd Public Schools is a place to Belong, and we want to have our Harrison families feel that same way about Harrison school.	\$ 1,000
Brandi Wynn		Warrior Early Learning Center	Pre-k/All Content Areas	Butcher Paper Rack/Paper Rolls	This will provide so many friendship building opportunities for our young students to work together on projects. The teachers will also be able to plan many art opportunities for students to participate in.	\$ 575
						\$ 47,214