

# Engagement Grants 2026-2027!

**Celebrating 26 Years of Impact with 15 Grants Awarded! Over \$62,000!**

This year's grants reflect the heart of HSF's mission — to ignite creativity, elevate learning, and inspire excellence in every classroom. We are especially grateful for an incredible anonymous donor who made three of these grants possible, demonstrating the powerful impact one act of generosity can have.

## ***Equidad, seguridad y ciencia: Modernizing Chemistry for Dual Language Scholars: Hillsboro HS Talib Amado***

Transforms the outdated chemistry lab at HillHi which serves a low-income majority Latino Dual Language community with Vernier sensors for hands-on learning, closing the equity gap for students in the dual language program. Ensures every 10th grade student in the class will conduct at least 15 probeware based labs.



## ***Poynter Library Student Mural: Poynter MS Kim Vesecky, Students: Alexys, Enzo and Chanel***

High School seniors will design and create a literary mural at Poynter for their senior project. These students also participated in writing and submitting this grant. The mural will be designed to engage and support reading as students will see the literature they love highlighted everyday experiences.

## ***Hands-on Career Learning Cosmetology and Barbering: Brown MS. Mark Striplin***

Provides curriculum for the careers class to add a learning module for informative and hands-on education.



## ***Reeling in Reluctant Readers: Brown MS William Kloster, Mattie Lundy, Anne Tierney & Rachel Cohen***

Fortifies classroom libraries with a diverse range of books to reinvigorate reluctant readers. Students have ten minutes devoted to reading time per class and need access to books that are engaging, educational and encourage them to find genres they enjoy.



## ***First Nation Guidance in Solving Modern Climate and Social Problems: Century HS Mat Leslie***

Tenth grade students will participate in a research project which studies land and resource

stewardship practices of indigenous peoples of the continent. Findings will be used in tandem with modern and emerging technologies to solve real-world ecological and social problems from global climate change.

## ***Swings into Smiles: Lift Every Child: Poynter MS Janae May, Priscilla Matanane, and Carol Payne***

Increases gross motor skills through installation of age-appropriate swing set for Poynter's growing Dual-language Preschool, which is an elective for middle school students.



## ***Inclusive Playgrounds Expanding Communication: Indian Hills ES Victoria Mick-Lipski***

Installs a communication board on the playground to support play and meaningful communication for all students to increase voice, engagement and inclusion.

## ***Gamecon: Century HS Jessica Smith***

Language Arts students create games using writing, reading, creativity and engagement to create board games. All 10th grade students will use grant-provided 3D printers, laminators, clay, cutting mats and other materials to physically create their game and showcase at an event like a capstone just before finals.

## ***Sew What? Engineering with Thread: Tamarack ES Ashley Siebert***

Creates an afterschool club for sewing, creativity and sustainability through hands-on projects and community engagement. Students can apply their learning as classroom leaders during the school day.



## ***Native Garden Project: Century HS Eddie Lavelle***

Provides an opportunity for CHS students to transform a derelict courtyard into a thriving garden with interactive hands-on learning in partnership with PCC, Ash Creek Forest Management, and Food Waves.

## ***Sensory Hallway: Farmington View ES Annemarie Long***

Expands and enhances the current Sensory Pathway by adding tools along the walls and additional vinyl decals on the floor for movement opportunities when students need to self manage their participation and behavior at school.

## ***Science Reading: South Meadows MS***

Enhances science by storytelling with books about the origin of varieties of scientific study related to 7th and 8th grade lessons.

## ***Astro Student Store Expansion: Ladd Acres ES. Jennifer Robbins and Samantha Anderson***

Upgrading the infrastructure and diversifying the products for a comprehensive career-readiness program.



## ***Life in Another Country: Enriching the EL Experience: Century HS***

Allows students to have real world experienced and curriculum-focused acculturative field trips for Newcomer, Early, and Intermediate English Language Development.

## **The three grants below were fully funded this year by an anonymous donor- Thank you!**

## ***Reading Success Expansion: Century HS Eddie Lavelle***

This program centers literacy aid for the in-need readers and students with disabilities like ADHD by funding a diverse classroom library of Graphic Novels for the Strategies of Success class at CHS.

## ***Roaring with Creativity: Art-integrated Literacy for McKinney ES Cougars Rachel Bebee & Chris Wiens***

Bringing back Art Literacy to McKinney including Arts Attack curriculum to deliver high-quality art education to every classroom, replacing passive lectures with tactile, hands-on creation!



## ***The River of Life – A Meaningful Cultural Experience for Families: District Wide Jennifer Williams, Audrea Neville***

Brings together families and students throughout the District in a celebration and engagement event for those that identify as Asian Pacific Islander. The 2027 event will include performances, foods, hands-on activities and intergenerational learning.