

2021-2022 Grant Awards Report (as of May 16, 2022)

Thanks to donors’ generous support, the Chatham Education Foundation funded the following grants so far in its 2021-2022 fiscal year, in the current sum of $78,547.96.

**The Thinking Classroom – Phase 2 (CHS)**

Alex Elgart, Meredith Kempson, Kyle Lynott, Laura Scerbo, Stacy Winters, Aaron Yamamoto

This $23,222 grant expands the “Thinking Classroom” within the CHS mathematics wing to four additional classrooms. The initial phase of CEF’s “Thinking Classroom” grant in 2018 demonstrated the validity of the current research that supports students working on whiteboard surfaces in the mathematics classroom, resulting in observed increases in student productivity, critical thinking, and wellness. These design changes include vertical non-permanent writing surfaces on flexible seating/standing tables, and the de-fronting of the traditional classroom setting.

Photos of teachers:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_MpQEvMy2VxfCeUzatemLid2i2aIIT3J/view?usp=sharing>

**Reimagining Geometry (CMS)**

Stacy Winters

Building off the success of the Thinking Classroom, this $31,524 grant award allows for the redesign of Chatham Middle School math classrooms to coincide with a curriculum sequence change in which 8th grade Chatham Middle School students now take Geometry prior to Algebra 1. This sequence change provided an opportunity to reimagine what students can do with the knowledge of Geometry, and this grant provides the technology and materials to allow students to demonstrate this new knowledge. All three 8th grade math classrooms will be transformed into thinking classrooms, and the grant provides whiteboard vertical spaces and whiteboard desks and tables of different and adjustable heights for students to complete problems. Some of the whiteboards can even be brought into the math hallway, extending the classroom reach so that all students can work on math while social distancing.

CMS math teacher Carmelo Sortino says of the grant, “Thank you again for the desks and whiteboards. The students love them and utilize them every day.”

Photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gNHKV4un7rxuus\_DUd\_HCgwMifms-ZSS

https://drive.google.com/file/d/116T05y6-k53JxWAuhDF3OagoIDnhiy96/view?usp=sharing, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dr6sKqnTHoIfSoxX\_-sAIA6ku--kA1au/view?usp=sharing, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GN4zymeDHGjFwY\_E5pEBuAOQ57pSI0a\_/view?usp=sharing, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hc6BfJj7w2XfaEpOXK0GMrnhOA\_YzynB/view?usp=sharing

**Enriching Kindergarten Reading Workshop and Word Study Programs (WAS & MAS)**

Lisa Kressler, Annemarie Steigerwald, Kelli Finn, Francesca Verducci

Four kindergarten classrooms at WAS and MAS are enriched in this $2,136.14 grant with materials to enhance reading and writing, including boogie board tablets, consonant-vowel-consonant games, and manipulatives. The grant materials are supported by research showing that students learn best when learning with a multisensory approach. The boogie board tablets allow students to participate in interactive writing activities, apply letter-sound and spelling knowledge with a quick, easily erasable alternative to paper and pencil and dry erase boards, and can be used for math and other curricular areas.

Photos of teachers: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FFQYhOezYH5flapt1flRkw4tR3Wm6NCY/view?usp=sharing>

Photos of children:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pb4m_lNkUkCkR56IRFH56wrf-qn_rYdB>

**CMS Self-Contained Classroom Furniture**

Pamela Wichot, Nicole Moschella

Two self-contained special education classrooms at CMS will now receive updated, flexible furniture and seating options with this $5,342 grant award. Rocking chairs and floor rocker seats encourage healthy movement and a moderate range of motion, and wheelchair accessible desks with adjustable leg heights fit those that need it. By having flexible seating options, the students will have the opportunity to be in a conducive learning environment tailored for them and their various educational, social, and emotional needs.

Photos: Pending

**District Choral Festival (LAF, CMS, CHS)**

Ken Bryson, Amber Blakovich, Dana Goodstein

This grant awards $2,330 for a first ever district-wide Choral Festival. The grant brings all the choirs in grades 4-12 together on March 10, 2022 for a day of learning, singing, and program development. The students will be taught for the day by legendary composer and musical artist, Stacey V. Gibbs.  During the event, Mr. Gibbs will work with the students on pieces they are familiar with, including a piece of his that has yet to be premiered, on text expression, music history, and vocal technique, both as individual schools and as a whole unit. In addition to working together musically, they will incorporate social-emotional learning through various musical and non-musical team building activities.

The final performance of the students performing together is being recorded with very high audio recording devices, which were funded by a prior grant from CEF.

\*This grant is funded in part by the Ryan T. Ganley Memorial Endowment Fund (Metviner Family).

Photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xpqydbHvR4bXntYNN4jOINKLhY5P0hLm>

**The Scientific Investigation and Collaboration Classroom (CHS)**

Emily Cafaro and Rebecca Ryan

This grant transforms two science classrooms at CHS, similar to what has been done by CEF for nine math classrooms at CHS and CMS. These classrooms will have different furniture than a traditional classroom, including whiteboard tables, and it creates a more collaborative space to further investigative learning. The grant teachers shared, “Students are consistently completing labs and investigations which require them to share their data analysis and results as well as evaluate peer work. Redesigning the classroom and incorporating whiteboard tables would enable students to easily work through an investigation and share their findings.”

**Let Our Fingers Do the Poppin' (MAS, SBS, WAS)**

LeeAnn Wertheim, Aaron Yomamoto and 19 other elementary teachers

MAS teacher LeeAnn Wertheim had a great idea to use a math manipulative to help K-1 students. Ms. Wertheim applied for a grant with five other teachers from MAS. With the help of math supervisor Aaron Yomamoto, we were able to expand the grant. Now 20 teachers at MAS, SBS and WAS will have math manipulatives to help their K and 1st grade students understand the relationships between numbers and quantities, and aid in their addition and subtraction skills.

**Read for Pure Joy! (CMS)**

Lynne Ann Collier

This grant adds alternative, comfortable reading locations in a 6th-7th grade classroom at CMS where small group ELA is taught to struggling students. Ms. Collier explained that when students are comfortable and relaxed, it contributes to a joyful reading experience, which leads to longer sustained periods of reading and a positive connotation with reading.

The supervisor for student support services Dr. Kimberly Lanza said, “I can’t wait to see our middle school students getting comfy and settling in with their books. We are fortunate to have the support of CEF.”

Typically we give about $100,000 per year in grants, and we are on track to give more this year. So far this year we have given $78,547.96 to the District in grants, and we have nine applications pending for the last grant cycle. We would love to fund many more grants in June before our fiscal year ends on June 30. Our annual fund appeal is going on now. Because of COVID, we haven’t been able to have our traditional fundraising events, so we are extremely grateful to our donors who help fund our grants.