

**Coventry Public Schools**

1700 Main Street

Coventry, CT 06238

[www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org)

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Coventry Public Schools solicited grant proposals for innovative educational concepts in amounts that would range from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Grants have been awarded for the 2016-2017 school year to the applicants who best met the criterion and demonstrated ingenuity and innovation in their proposal.

Funds are required to be spent on educational initiatives that are specifically related to one or more of the following subjects: science, technology, engineering, the arts, or mathematics. Initiatives also needed to be tied to specific, measureable, and achievable academic goals. A Committee was formed to review all grant proposals from throughout the district. The Grant Committee consisted of Daniel Bologna, K-8 Dean of Students; Stacey Fortin, K-5 Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Susan Mike, Social Studies Teacher at Coventry High School; Marybeth Moyer, Coventry Grammar School Principal; Courtney Strekel, Grade 3 Teacher at George H. Robertson Intermediate School; and Jennifer Trueman, K-12 Math Curriculum Specialist.

The following 2016-2017 Innovative Grants were selected:

- **Geodesic Dome Aquaponics Green House** submitted by Timothy Dillon, Science Teacher at Coventry High School, in the amount of \$3,000. This grant involves building a geodesic dome aquaponics green house to serve as a laboratory to teach sustainable agriculture and aquaculture to high school students. The green house would serve as a learning lab for biology, earth science, environmental science, alternative energy, culinary classes, microeconomics classes, and a new unified science course teaming regular education students with special needs students in an ability-level appropriate science course focused on sustainable agriculture with a school-to-work focus. Students will construct the geodesic dome and design, and build the plumbing and electrical system to support a 200 gallon fish production tank, media growing beds, hydroponic flow beds, vertical grow towers, solar heating collector, and thermostatic ventilation systems. The future addition of solar voltaic panels will further reduce the environmental impact of this project.

- **Science Technology Energy Matter Science Museum**, which will be an in-school science museum, was submitted by Angela Puccia, Grade 2 Teacher at Coventry Grammar School, in the amount of \$1,295. The in-school field trip is scheduled for October 3. Students will have the ability to explore Mobile Ed's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Museum with a variety of interactive stations that focus on topics such as conservation of energy, friction, gravity, invention, problem solving, and team building.
- **Wiggle While You Work**, submitted by Erin Beason, K-2 Math Interventionist; and Lisa Dutton, Physical Education Teacher, both working at Coventry Grammar School, in the amount of \$700. This grant involves students working to plan and conduct an investigation in collaboration with their peers to solve a common problem in education. Students will explore ways to keep their bodies alert, focused and on-task throughout the school day in order to enhance their ability to learn and retain new information. Students will work all year to discover if an increase of movement and physical activity results in an increase of on-task behavior, enhance their ability and readiness to learn, and increase their affect toward learning and their learning environment.

This information was provided by Coventry Public Schools. For further information, please contact Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning, at [mmullaly@coventryct.org](mailto:mmullaly@coventryct.org) or call 860-742-7317, Ext. 1114.