

Coventry Public Schools

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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 2017-2018 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 Stacey Fortin, K-5 Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Susan Mike, Social Studies Teacher at Coventry High School; Jennifer Trueman, K-12 Math Curriculum Specialist; and Audra Leach, Science Teacher at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School.

The following 2017-2018 Innovative Grants were selected:

- **Monkeying Around with Engineering**, submitted by Jillian Miner and Samantha West, both working at the Hale Early Education Center, in the amount of \$768.93.

This initiative will begin with a school-wide, in-depth exploration of the book *Monkey Ono* by J.C. Phillipps. This will include a visit to the school from the author to create excitement around the project and increase children's understanding of stories and book concepts. This story involves a stuffed monkey who is forgotten at home while the family goes to the beach. He develops a plan and tests several strategies to try to join the rest of the family. Students will be introduced to the concepts of investigating ways to make things happen, creating a plan, demonstrating a willingness to take risks, and exploring cause and effect. After many of these concepts have been explored with materials existing in the classroom, the learning will continue to the outdoors with the use of a magnet wall with varying ramps, tubes, etc. that can be continually rearranged. The students will have the opportunity to create plans to move an object (plastic monkey, a ball, water, sand) from one point to another, experiment with different methods, and observe the results.

- **S.T.E.A.M. Museum**, submitted by Victoria Phillips, K-5 Library Media Specialist for Coventry Grammar School and George H. Robertson Intermediate School, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The S.T.E.A.M. Mobile Museum would bring state-of-the-art, hands-on activities from many different high-tech fields of study students never before had access to. Parents, teachers, and staff will be able to observe the following 21st century skills that align to the AASL Standards: inquiry based activities, critical thinking, gaining/applying new knowledge, drawing conclusions. The activities will also encourage divergent student thinking and promote growth mindset.

- **Sound Off for Performing Arts**, submitted by Elizabeth Wright, English Teacher at Coventry High School, in the amount of \$2,179.99.

This project will purchase a new industry standard sound mixer for the Veterans Auditorium that includes effects processors, EQ, compressors, gates, reverb, delay, and other industry needs. This will be purchased and installed in order for the student workers to learn using it and utilize all of the standard industry needs. It will not only replace the current mixer that was purchased with the construction of the Auditorium, it will enhance our capability with effects, recording, and other elements that will enable the students to experience audio engineering as found in the industry. Through the hiring of a working audio engineer, the system will be calibrated with our sound system. Additionally, the audio engineer will instruct teachers, staff, and students on the components and use of the state-of-the-art mixer.

This information was provided by Coventry Public Schools. For further information, please contact David J. Petrone, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, at dpetrone@coventryct.org or call 860-742-7317.