

2020-21 Mini-Grant Awards

The LHS PTO funded just over \$8,600 in mini-grant requests from the talented and dedicated teachers and staff at Lexington High School for the 2020-21 school year. Thank you to all the Lexington families who support the PTO. Your generous donations make the PTO Mini-Grant program possible!

ENGLISH

Grant funded to Karen Rusell enabled 168 students to take ThinkerAnalytix's online course, "How We Argue". According to Ms. Rusell "the course introduces argument mapping, a research-backed method for learning logic and reasoning skills. A growing body of research shows that practice with argument mapping significantly improves critical thinking skills. In fact, meta-analyses and the argument mapping courses at the college level yield nearly double the gains of standard critical thinking courses, and 5 or 6 times the gains of a standard semester at college. The ThinkerAnalytix argument mapping course targets high school students."

PTO also funded Samatha St. Lawrence 11 audio books to make summer reading event accessible to all learners.

SCIENCE

PTO funded three projects in science department. Ms. Gimbell requested to purchase copies of "Antiracism and Universal Design for Learning: Building Expressways to Success" for LHS biology teachers. Mr. Hobbs requested purchasing wearable devices for Data Collection & scientific inquiry using PhysioQ: LabFront Software. Jonathan Ng requested three observational astronomy kits with large telescopes for classroom & club use.

SOCIAL STUDIES

PTO funded Kristin Strobel year subscription to SquareSpace so students can share photo essays with the community on-line.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Ryan Casey in Spanish language program requested Modern Classrooms Project Virtual Mentorship Program: A training and mentorship program to design a unit's worth of blended, self-paced, mastery-based lessons.

COUNSELING

Francisco Hernandez Salgado requested a grant for Restorative Justice Teacher Training. According to Mr. Salgado this training will provide guidance on how to use restorative justice practices to build a restorative classroom and to respond when classroom issues and disruptions arise. The training will provide hands-on skills training, interactive sessions, and realistic scenarios for participants to practice.

Kristie Borges requested a grant for "Effective and Compliant Section 504 Plans: From Development to Implementation" webinar. Ms. Borges said the goal of this grant was to improve the Lexington School District's Section 504 plans to better ensure compliance and effectiveness.

VISUAL ARTS

Rachel Durocher requested portable washer to launder student canvas desk mats, student aprons and a portable dish washer to sanitize student tools after each use to ensure that students continue to have access to the full curriculum during COVID.

Monique Harris Schramme requested to purchase a series of adaptors and tracks to aid students in creating camera movements, pans and to steady students filming and animating. According to Ms. Schramme Video Production, Animation, and Advance Digital art have become a highly popular class at LHS, with numbers growing it will be able to serve more students in coming years.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ashley Gillooly requested to purchase variety of games and activities for Leisure Skills Group in LHS DLP ((Developmental Learning Program)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

PTO funded the Navigation Games training workshop requested by Eamonn Sheehan. Sheehan highlighted that Navigation Games is tech-based adaptation of orienteering which uses a QR code based computer program to read and verify participants orienteering points. The workshop is intended to train the PE dept.

on the set up and use of this equipment. According to Sheehan, adding this unit of Study to the curriculum will further strengthen the program and will align with and support the 5 essential standards identified (aligned with LPS standards) by SHAPE AMERICA the national organization.

PTO also funded Pornography-Literacy Curriculum for High School. The grant would provide funding for Porn literacy curriculum training for LHS health educators and access to free curriculum through the Boston University Department of Public Health. This comprehensive pornography-Literacy Curriculum for high school students is designed to reduce sexual and dating violence. Julie Fenn said this new, research based curriculum will provide students with more comprehensive information about the health risks/harm to a young person, teach critical health literacy skills, offering a perspective and information including current research as it relates to healthy relationships and pornography. This training will enhance the existing curriculum in providing knowledge that promotes healthy dating relationships, sexual consent, respect, and safety.

PERFORMING ARTS

Mini Grants funded the Upbeat Global - Student Leadership Series requested by Mr. Jared Cassidy. This was a student leadership symposium led by Dr. Matthew Arau of Lawrence University who worked with our band students (approx. 160) to focus on ensemble and program culture, student leadership and agency, and relating these considerations to their own role within the program and their learning experiences at large.