

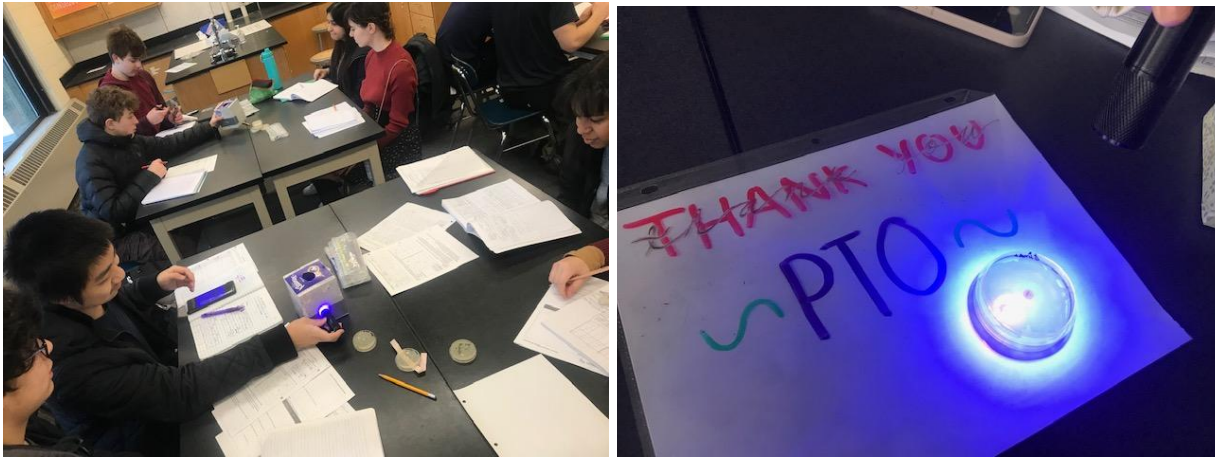
## Mini Grants 2022-23

PTO funded 29 grants for a total of about \$15, 500 towards mini grants to various departments during the school year 2022-23 thanks to generous support from the parent community.

Here are some of the grants funded during the course of the year.

### **Science**

- PTO funded the purchase of pGLO UV pen light replacements. These are being used by CP1 and CP2 Biology while conducting the labs.



- PTO funded Ms. Legge in the Biology department towards the purchase of a class set of Go Direct CO2 Gas Sensors for use in a variety of Biology labs. According to Ms. Legge “This grant will directly benefit 10th graders enrolled in Biology at Lexington High School. These materials could be used by approximately ~500 students per year. The wireless capabilities of these sensors are an improvement over our current sensors and will simplify their use with students. It will also increase our options with our labs, allowing students to record results even in dark conditions (an important variable for photosynthesis labs).”
- PTO funded Mr. Davis \$220 towards the purchase of case studies that can be incorporated into Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics classes.

### **Social Studies**

- PTO funded a mini grant to the History department to bring Ms. Sylvia Ruth Gutmann Holocaust Survivor Guest Speaker to LHS. We had 150 10th grade students, 125 grade 9-12 students, and about 25 staff partake in her presentations over the course of the day on 3/31. It was a great day!

Here are some pictures from the event.



### **PE and Health**

- Ms. Fenn received a mini grant titled “Health Education and Prevention program Resource Grant For High School”. According to Ms. Fenn “this grant would provide funding for classroom materials for the LHS health education and prevention rooms. Providing more Interactive learning opportunities can be challenging but important to meet the diverse learning styles of our students. Our department strives to create engaging, fun and challenging lessons. This aligns with the district goals and strategic plan including: Joy in learning, curiosity in life and compassion in all we do. Creating a school that acknowledges and affirms the gender diversity of our students requires thoughtful and intentional approaches to learning. In order to reflect our gender inclusive practices we would like to include products that reflect the diverse needs of our students. Our curriculum strives to destigmatize menstruation/periods by educating all students about different period products, normalizing periods and empowering students. There are many new period products now available. This grant would provide funds for us to purchase some of those new and inclusive products.”

Here is a picture of one of the shipment of products they received:



- PTO funded grant to purchase portable speakers for the PE classroom. Ms. Ciarletta said “The wireless Bluetooth speakers have been working out fantastic for the PE department! We have been able to utilize them in multiple locations (gym, fieldhouse, outside, etc.). Because they are wireless and have wheels, we are able to move them and utilize them in all of our teaching spaces--this is especially due to the fact that they are holding charge and do not need to be plugged in 24-7 like our old ones. The LHS PE department appreciates the PTO and the mini-grant program as it has allowed us to upgrade our speakers so that students can not only listen to music while they are engaging in healthy activities, but also have a positive social experience in class as well.”

### **Performing Arts:**

PTO funded several mini grants to the performing arts department.

- PTO funded String Amplification system that allows easy amplification of string instruments.
- Funded the Sound system for LHS Room 131 to purchase and install a new, high-quality and state of the art stereo system for one of our rehearsal rooms.
- Funded grant towards Upgrading and updating the scene shop! The Money is being used for the purchase of tools for the scene shop.



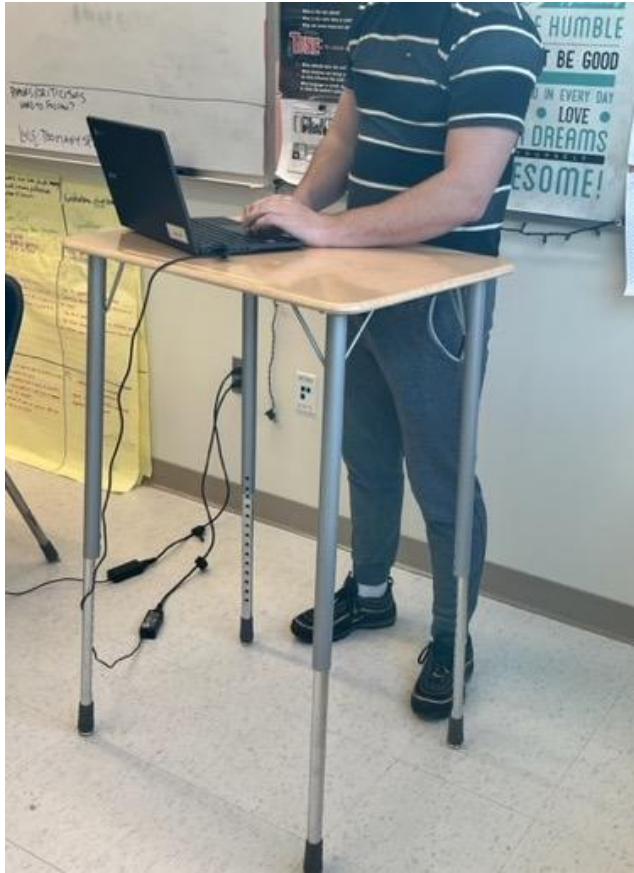
- Membership towards Composer Commission Consortium! Jessica Meyer is a composer of new music for orchestras and wind ensembles. We have the opportunity to be a part of her composer commission consortium with other directors across the nation to support an arrangement of her orchestral work, "Go Big or Go Home" for wind ensemble. The goals of this project would be to expose our students to new music composed by an underrepresented musician - in this case, Jessica Meyer (a female orchestra composer and musician) as a means to celebrate the diversity that exists within the medium and art form of music.

### World Language

- Ms. Rankin was awarded a grant for purchasing the French III Honors DVD / Digital Film library. The French III Honors course has a spring activity where students watch films that include activist themes and write critiques. Some DVDs purchased were La Dérive des continents, Deepan, Nous trois ou rien, Il a déjà tes yeux, L'ascension, Coco avant Chanel, Beau Travail, La Haine, Annie Colère, Nos Frangins, La fracture, Une histoire de fou, De nos frères blessés, Un divan à Tunis, Twist à Bamako, France, On est fait pour s'entendre, La Prunelle de mes yeux, Le Havre, Le huitième jour, Chamoultout, Coeurs Vaillants, Tu te souviendras de moi, Youssef Salem a du succès, Madame Brouette, Persepolis. These purchases will add on to the library of movies the students can watch.

### **English:**

- Four stand up desks were purchased for the English department in order to provide options in the classroom to support ADHD students in self regulation.



- Various props were purchased for 9th grade ELA, to draw students in and to make them see our classroom productions of classic literature as more legitimate. Students also love having props at their disposal to pick through for independent work, so that they can make assigned scenes their own with their creative directing.
- A grant to pay for printing costs of the Folio Literary Magazine, in order to garner more student readership and submissions and to have physical copies of the magazine available at Cary Library and local bookstores. This wider audience will help student writers feel even more established in their identities as writers and artists, as well as to allow the community to access student voices, perspectives, and talents.

### **Special Education:**

- Mrs. Malouf was awarded a grant of \$400 to pay for groceries at Stop n Shop for her functional life skills education in the DLP program.
- Mrs. Grant was awarded a \$250 grant to update her shared resource classroom. They plan to use it to purchase a room Divider to support students who use our space as a separate setting for assessments in accordance with their Individualized Education Plans as well as a bungee chair to

accommodate students that use our Resource room as a space to decompress. They would like to purchase a flag that aligns with the “We All Belong” core value of Lexington Public Schools.

- A \$480 minigrant was awarded to a special educator to offer a crochet/knit option during I-block for students who want to unwind.

### **Math:**

- A grant was awarded to the math department for an innovative approach to teaching, which included the purchase of a set of textbooks for ninth grade math 1 students, to support developing of the Common Core Mathematics Practices. Specifically, the math practice standard 1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them (as the housekeeper does), which aligns with the core value of curiosity in learning. They will be learning how to apply math to everyday problems by:
  - communicating a mathematical idea in a particular situation
  - deciding what strategy will work best in a given problem situation
  - using patterns to make predictions

### **Counseling:**

- Community Conversations is a response to student requests for meaningful conversations around issues they are facing and would like to discuss. The topics are student driven and food is always a motivator, so donuts were provided for the PTO to sustain those participating in these forums.
- We also supported the Transfer Peer Mentor group’s purchase of t-shirts to foster a sense of community amongst the mentors, provide visibility around school, and advertise for recruitment and public relations purposes.
- The volume of students needing social work support has grown exponentially at LHS post-pandemic, and we need to explore new ways of delivering services that can foster change and growth in meaningful and impactful ways for all students. In an effort to learn new practice methods, treatment models, assessment techniques, and resources/activities, we paid for Mrs. Queenin to attend the National Social Workers Conference 2023. She plans to share her new knowledge with her department upon her return.
- The Social Workers celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month in May by organizing a number of activities throughout the month that focus on infusing the LHS culture with themes of resilience, wellness, strength, positivity, joy, connection, and self-care. We helped them purchase stress balls to share with students during these activities.



**Visual Arts:**

- The PTO purchased frames and framing materials to be used by the Lexington High School Art Department for displays at Cary Library, the K-12 show at Central Office and the Regional High School Show at LexArt. These frames will be used by students in grade 9-12 at LHS when framed by the art teacher. Seniors for the Senior Art show and AP Art students will be framing their own work and curate work within a gallery space. Access to ready-made frames and matting materials at school will provide equity to all students.

- The adaptive turntables and shelves purchased by the PTO benefit approximately 400 students per year across both general education and special education students, as well as our collaborative program, by providing assistive utensils for persons who have disabilities. These materials are non-consumable and will continue to benefit students for many years to come.



- The PTO also funded the art department to pilot the use of a full range of colors in Posca pens and markers and Arteza alcohol markers to 125+ 10-12th grade students to determine whether to add them to the curriculum, providing equity of access for all students.

**Library:**

- \$200 gift card for incidentals

**Tech:**

- The PTO bought the Tech Team a green screen for staff to borrow for their classroom or for students to borrow for recording in any class where video projects are assigned. This allows them the ability to explore video projects that don't limit their scenes to what is in front of them.