



## **GRANTS AWARDED 2017-2018 (TOTAL = \$43,512)**

- **Digital Piano for High School (SHS)** – The digital piano will be used in the chorus, theory and jazz band classrooms as well as for drama performances and concerts.
- **Mellophone (MBA and SHS)** – This mellophone will be used for marching band functions at the middle school and high school level.
- **Digital Microscope (SHS)** – The digital microscopes allow the students to view microscopic details as a whole class projected onto the screen in order to explore and discuss topics in class. The digital microscopes will be used in the Biology, Honors Biology, Botany, Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology, Zoology, Marine Science, Forensic Science and AP/UCONN Biology classes.
- **Inspirational Guest Speaker Wendelin Van Draanen (MBA/SES)** – We funded this guest speaker with the Somers PTO. Her talk included embracing uniqueness, inclusion, friendship, anti-bullying, overcoming barriers, hard work, and perseverance, along with what it takes to be a successful writer.
- **Classroom Redesign (MBA)** – Mrs. Scholes pre-algebra purple class worked on this project to make the classroom into a more efficient learning environment for the students. They drew out the plans to scale, measured, calculated cost, used data analysis and calculated the dimensions of the furniture. This pilot will see if a change in chairs will help students to be more focused on the lessons.
- **Chill Zone (MBA)** – This “Chill Zone” area within the current classroom will provide a “softer” space for calming down, relaxing, overcoming stressful situations and a quiet place to work.
- **Sondy Systems Let’s Play Learn (SES)** – This system offers structured, systematic multi-sensory practice for preschool through kindergarten students. It is used as a tool to develop foundational reading skills and prevent reading difficulties, or as an intervention for those who need to strengthen pre-reading skills.
- **Anonymous Alerts anti-bullying app and safety reporting system and Smart Button silent panic button (SHS)** – This system is a simple to use app and reporting system that enables students to quickly report incidents related to bullying, family problems, self-harm, drugs, sexual harassment, campus threats, sensitive student concerns or unusual student behavior.
- **Flexible Seating for Struggling Readers (SES)** - These alternative seats offer students who find it difficult to sit quietly and remain attentive, an alternative. This allows them to burn focus during class, increasing learning and attention.
- **Printer for SHS Art Department (SHS)** - This printer will be used in the Art Department to print out artist statements, reflections and critique work as well as source photography and media manipulations for art projects.
- **School Messenger (All District)** – The School Messenger System allows all teachers, administrations and the Superintendent to maintain essential communications about significant school events, individual child updates, and transportation events. Additionally, it



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becomes a critical component of the emergency plan allowing the district to effectively and efficiently communicate with parents in the event of an emergency in the schools and/or town.

- **Second Step Program (SES)** – The Second Step Program is a research-based collection of scripted skill lessons which help to build student's social and emotional skills. This program provides teachers and staff a program that directly teaches students skills for learning empathy, emotion management, and problem solving skills.
- **Technology Grant (SHS)** – The Dash robot will be used as part of the Health curriculum to encourage teamwork and community building while encouraging students to use fun activities and make healthy choices.
- **Executive Functioning Training (SHS)** – BrainHQ is a website and app that trains executive functioning skills with engaging activities, lessons and games.
- **Kiln and Vent replacement (SHS)** – The Skutt Kiln is an electric Kiln designed specifically for volume production and fast turnaround of high mass loads. This kiln is built to withstand many years of constant use.
- **Quizlet Pro (SHS)** – The Quizlet Pro system allows teachers to provide all students with an interactive, independent method of vocabulary practice that is also an enriching activity that increases student collaboration.
- **Foundations for Tier 2 Instruction (SES)** - Foundations is a multi-sensory, systematic, cumulative, and explicit program that focuses on student development by differentiating instruction, and actively engaging students in their learning.
- **Spartan News Network Equipment for High School (SHS)** – This grant allows the purchase of a Digital Video Mixer, Video Camcorder and Broadcast Video Camera for the High School so that they can provide the students an amazing opportunity to create innovative projects.
- **Historical Archive Project (SHS)** – This mobile historical library will house tangible, authentic artifacts from various time periods in American history. The goal is to teach history through the use of tangible artifacts and primary sources that the students can see and touch.
- **Wobble Stools (MBA)** – These seats are ergonomic seats that rocks in any direction and provides an active way for children to sit. This helps improve focus, attention and muscle movements, and enhancing student learning.
- **Video Production in Language Arts (MBA)** – The Padcaster Kits are portable recording studios that enhance student learning through various video creation projects within the 7th grade Language Arts curriculum.