



GRANTS AWARDED 2019-2020 (TOTAL = \$24,906)

- **Lunch Bunch Book Club - (MBA)** - This book club is open to all 6th graders and will provide opportunities for reading and discussion. In each session, 6 students will read the same book. The goal is to run 6 sessions so that up to 36 students could be involved during the year. The books were selected in consultation with students. When the books are finished, they will be added to the MBA library collection for all students to read.
- **Rachel's Challenge - (MBA)** - A central goal at MBA is to create a culture of kindness. Rachel's Challenge is a national non-profit organization dedicated to creating safe, connected school environments. Rachel Scott was the first victim of the Columbine tragedy. After her death, her journals were found and identified her affinity for showing and paying forward kindnesses. In a one day presentation with follow up, The Rachel's Challenge program calls for students to understand the value of kindness and then trains representatives from all grades to develop projects of kindness that can be carried out in the school and/or community.
- **Guest Artist Program – (MBA)** – This grant would hire 7 high level performers to teach flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, low brass, percussion, and voice. Each professional would come in once per month to work with students for an hour. They would be paid a standard private lesson rate for their time. This instruction would be scheduled during music classes and would take the place of the students' regularly scheduled pull out lesson, which means students would not be pulled from their other classes for lessons that week. All outside professionals would go through the background check process for the Somers Schools.
- **Wobble Cushion – (MBA)** – Wobble cushions proved a way for students to sit for extended periods to do work, but to still have enough movement so that they can maintain attention. They allow students to expel energy without distracting others.
- **Transition Program Activity Account – (SHS)** – Establishing this account will provide students with greater opportunities to grow in each transition area: employment, community participation, and independent living. It will be used to buy additional equipment for the auto detailing business run by the students, underwrite advertising for the program, provide socialization opportunities with other transition students throughout the year, and other program needs. The funds will help the program to become more self-sustaining.