

**TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2022-2023  
(TOTAL = \$55,320)**

**EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED 2022-2023  
(TOTAL = \$49,524)**

- **Makerspace (MBA)**

This grant will fund the inclusion of a maker space in the Mabelle B. Avery media center. Maker spaces encourage students to brainstorm, design, and create virtually anything they can think up. These spaces provide students access to tools, machines, and materials which they may not have an opportunity to experience otherwise. They promote curiosity, innovation, experimentation, and entrepreneurship, and have the potential to awaken new interests and influence career paths. The addition of a maker space to the MBA media center will allow students to learn skills, like sewing, knitting, and designing, and to use machines, like 3D printers, sewing machines, and laser engravers, in a safe and supportive environment.

- **Nutmeg Nominees Book Club (MBA)**

Students in the club will choose the books to read from among those nominated for the Nutmeg Book Award. They will then all read the same book, supplied by the Book Club's advisor Ms. Lipman, and discuss it after. The Nutmeg award nominees are chosen by Children's Library Specialists and School Media Specialists from among the new publications in young adult literature. The grant's goal is to encourage students to read the best in young adult literature and discuss it with their peers, helping to foster a reading culture in the Middle School.

- **Three Dimensional Architectural Tours (SHS)**

One important student assignment in Architectural Design classes is to design a custom home. Once students have completed their design, they will be able to use the Virtual Reality headsets purchased by this grant to walk around in and explore their custom designed home, finding how it feels and looks. The immediacy of this feedback can motivate students to expand their learning.

- **Rewarding Good Choice with the Gift of Literature (SES)**

This program adds to an already flourishing PBIS system in which students earn tickets as reinforcement for their positive behavior. The tickets can be traded in for prizes, such as pencils, bouncy balls, mini erasers, etc. This grant allows students to use their tickets to purchase books. It builds on a program funded last year by SEF that makes an outdoor mini-library available to students who are not participating in active recess play. These books are constantly read and returned. This latest grant

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purchases a book vending machine where students cash in their tickets to purchase books. The model has been very successful in other districts. The grant also underwrites the purchase of a starting collection of books, but plans are already in place to supply replacements for the books as they are purchased, so the program would be ongoing and self-supporting.

- **Flexible Seating and Blue Filters for Art (SES)**  
This grant allows students to find seating that best fits their learning style. The blue filters have been shown to reduce eyestrain and headaches while increasing working memory and attentiveness. Filters are a fabric construction that is attached to existing lighting and does not damage the lights.
- **Technology for Teacher Reflection (MBA, SHS)**  
This technology uses the SWIVL, a simple robot, and an iPad to provide teachers with a visual and audio reproduction of their classroom teaching. This allows teachers to have an accurate and unbiased record of their teaching practices. The real work begins after the video recording is completed. The teacher, on his or her own, can examine the recording, note problems, and consider improvements. Teachers could also meet with colleagues to view footage and discuss teaching techniques. The technology gives the teacher an unthreatening way to observe and reflect on his or her teaching practice. It is a valuable, new tool for teacher improvement.
- **Mimeo Boards for World Language (MBA)**  
This technology makes learning more efficient for both teacher and student. The systems attach to whiteboard and drastically increase their usefulness and flexibility.

**NOTE:** The remainder for the SHS Weight Room Upgrade granted in the Spring of 2022 (\$15,000) was paid during the 2022-2023 Fall Semester.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS  
AWARDED 2022-2023  
(TOTAL = \$5,796)**