

2017-2018 Grants for Innovative Teaching Recipients

Ebeliz Rodriguez

Electronics & Coding

Alex W. Spence Middle School & TAG Academy

This project will encourage students to explore computer science beyond the basics and is based on a new curriculum designed by code.org. Circuit Playground mini circuit boards are a great way to practice programming on real hardware with no soldering or sewing required. Students will learn electronics with an all-in-one board that has sensors and LEDs built in, and will ultimately prototype an innovative design.

Katie Turck

Magical Metamorphosis

Anne Frank Elementary

Students will use the butterfly kits and materials to fully immerse themselves in the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly. They will be able to study and document the butterfly's adaptations and roles in food webs. The culmination of the entire project include each student's observations and findings in the form of photos, videos, time-lapse photography and oral presentations.

William Lee Adkins

Adventures in Central Asia: Trekking Through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan

Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy

These projects will address the urgent need to build global competencies with a particular focus on understanding the Muslim culture of Central Asia. This grant encompasses four different projects that explore international cultures through documentaries, a mural, and other mediums.

Kimberly Harmon

Building Minds with Mindful Building

Ben Milam Elementary School

Students will help design and create a structure for seating in a reading center that will build a relaxing classroom environment conducive to enjoying reading. This grant will allow the teacher to add a loft to the reading area with stairs and add to the book collection.

Jessica Bell

Woodshop Wonder

Booker T. Washington High School

The project's goal is to build a comprehensive program that scaffolds learning through the development of a full-service wood shop studio. This studio would add power tools, handheld tools, safety equipment, and consumables to the school's preexisting supply. The additional materials and equipment will allow students to create competitive artwork for their Advanced Placement 3D portfolio for potential college credit, and be more competitive in the arts scene through more complex projects.

Carl F. Hess

3D Printer Pen Project

Bryan Adams High School

High schoolers will be exposed to modern art programs and art technology by using 3D printer pens to create 3D artwork. This project will help level the playing field with private schools, financially gifted programs, and more advanced technological countries like China. The art students will participate in an art competition that offers art scholarships and requires the students produce college-level projects.

Jose Delgado

The Solution to Our Solutions Problem

Bryan Adams High School

The project exposes high school chemistry students to how solutions are studied in an authentic laboratory setting. Students will utilize Spectrometers – instruments that split light into an array of separate colors – to analyze the concentrate of various solutions including commercial drinks such as Gatorade or Kool- Aid. The skills developed through the lab work are directly applicable to college-level science courses and post-secondary job opportunities.

Elizabeth Villalta

TAG is (Adobe) Suite!

Cigarroa Elementary School

The Talented and Gifted students at this school are resilient, perceptive, and show problem solving and innovating in their daily lives. The projects that will be accomplished with the Adobe Suite purchase for classroom desktops with grade-appropriate projects. This software will allow them to improve their typing, design, and content knowledge, which will make them more competitive for magnet schools, colleges, and employers down the road.

Monalisa Chadha

Envo Charger Aquaponic Garden

Conrad High School

For the high schoolers enrolled in the Environmental System class, students will be learning about and comparing different types of gardens. With this project, these students will focus on the benefits of aquaponics – from plants to fish to bacteria. This project teaches students the cost, time and resources needed to maintain a garden while simultaneously preparing them for the STAAR test.

Tamara Thomas

Powerful City

D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School

The goal of the Powerful City project is to help teach students about all three forms of energy, soil, and scale models in a tangible way. Students will build wind turbines, solar panels, and hydraulic generators to power a small city that they will build based off of scale models of actual buildings that the students will design and create using a Makerbot 3D printer. All these concepts are things that are taught in science and math, and the children will receive an enhanced learning opportunity through this project.

Katie Hairgrove

The Wall Book Study and Comic Strip Project

Dallas Environmental Science Academy – Middle

Students will improve their comprehension of the characteristics of free enterprise and communist economic systems by reading and analyzing a graphic novel, *The Wall*, by Peter Sis. Students will showcase their understanding by creating a comic strip describing their journey into the world of Peter Sis, where they experience communism as he did as a young child.

Amy Coates

Project-Based Learning in TAG!

Dan D. Rogers Elementary

Project-based learning techniques will be implemented in the Talented and Gifted program. The students will participate in two research projects over the course of the school year, which will be tailored to their grade level and curriculum. The first project will involve a study of current and ancient world cultures and their impact on society. In the second project, students will build age-appropriate terrariums that model various ecosystems.

Jeannot Jonte Boucher

Bright Beginnings and Firm Foundations: Early Childhood Developmental Materials

Eduardo Mata Elementary School

Eduardo Mata Montessori is specialized public campus admitting children as young as 3, offering specialized Montessori curriculum and teaching materials. In this population, at least one child out of 20 is likely to present features of cognitive delays that extend beyond the pre-K age. Additional Montessori materials will help young, delayed children to progress to age-appropriate education levels.

Irasema Coy

From Pawns to Kings & Queens

Edward Titcher Elementary School

Teacher Irasema Coy started a chess club that became so popular and successful (including wins at competitions), that some students are following her to a new Dallas ISD school this year to stay involved. With the grant, the chess club students will have a new opportunity to practice reading and comprehension skills, discipline, foresight, and good sportsmanship by learning how to play chess using the chesskid.com website on iPads. Through chess, these 3-5th grade students will improve their literacy skills in English, view instructional videos, and work on chess puzzles. All of which will help improve their visual-spatial memory as they move in levels from a pawn to a queen.

Tanishia Horton

Pease Greenhouse

Elisha M. Pease Elementary School

For the Pease Greenhouse project, students will construct and maintain a greenhouse, which will consist of different types of plants, fruits and vegetables. A greenhouse project will provide hands on, curriculum integrated learning experience, access to healthier options to fuel our bodies and support our community and an opportunity to teach our students about nutrition. By providing students with a hands-on experience as it relates to multiple science TEKS (3.1-3.4, 3.9 and 3.10), we will introduce our students to careers that they may have not previously considered.

Nadja Ruffin

Shakespeare Is Not a Foreign Language

FP Caillet Elementary School

Shakespeare Is Not a Foreign Language is a reading project geared toward struggling readers to engage them in reading diverse, classical literature and improve their fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, confidence and desire to read. The project will provide classical literature in the form of graphic novels, streamlined text, and theater scripts for students to read and then engage in

interpretation and presentations.

STEM CLUB

Robotic Legos

Frank Guzick Elementary School

This grant will help improve and expand the current STEM Club created last year at Frank Guzick Elementary School, a school where the majority of students are Low SES. The elementary school students will create robots together using EV3 Core Sets, thus incorporating more challenging and engaging activities for the kids where they will have the opportunity to create, discover, and solve problems as a team. The STEM Club had 25 students last year from grades 1-2, but will expand to all grades 1-5 this school year.

Dawn Walker

Get Moving: The Active Classroom Initiative

Fred F. Florence Middle School

The Active Classroom Initiative pairs activity and academics to create an active learning environment. This grant provides the physical environmental supplies for an active classroom: balance boards, pedal desks, stability ball chairs, juggling scarves, etc. The students get excited to go to class and have an outlet for their energy allowing them to focus more on the lessons at hand.

Maliha Dhanani

Stargazing with the Astronomy Club

Fred F. Florence Middle School

Space is not only vast, but an abstract concept for students. With access to telescopes students will be provided an opportunity to learn how to use new scientific equipment and compare celestial objects to enhance their learning of content and process skills laid out in the TEKS. Through the Stargazing with the Astronomy Club project, students will be able to connect the pictures, models, and diagrams, learned in classes to the sky when they look up at it and encourage interest in the subject matter with special events and offerings through extracurricular activities.

Aleksandra Marczyk

George H. W. Bush Robotics Camp

George H. W. Bush Elementary School

The George HW Bush Elementary Robotics Club is designed to boost creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving as well as technical knowledge of students. The goal of the project is to go beyond the Science and Mathematics curriculum to spark the students' interests in STEM fields of study. The scholars will use blocks to build over 40 robots including a Line Tracer, Avoider, Battle Robot, and Soccer Robot, utilizing the Elementary Robotics Camp designed by STEMfinity. The final product will be a robotics competition in which students will build a racecar.

Amanda Sopera

Big Centers: Math and STEM

George H. W. Bush Elementary School

This campus is assembling a "Big Centers Room" to provide kindergarten students with an opportunity to choose from structured activities, which will complement and enrich classroom academic goals. The campus is becoming a Leader in Me school during the 2017-2018 school year and will address multiple habits that are the key components of the Leader in Me program (such as being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, putting first things first, synergizing).

Dawn Mattingly

Big Centers: Reading and Writing

George H. W. Bush Elementary School

This campus is assembling a "Big Centers Room" to provide kindergarten students with an opportunity to choose from structured activities, which will complement and enrich classroom academic goals. The campus is becoming a Leader in Me school during the 2017-2018 school year and will address multiple habits that are the key components of the Leader in Me program (such as

being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, putting first things first, synergizing).

Ashley Jacobs

Big Centers: Science and Social Studies

George H. W. Bush Elementary School

The goal of the Big Centers project is to provide kindergarten students with an opportunity to choose from structured activities, which will complement and enrich classroom academic goals. The campus is becoming a Leader in Me school during the 2017-2018 school year and will address multiple habits that are the key components of the Leader in Me program (such as being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, putting first things first, synergizing). This project will reach a minimum of 110 Kindergarten Students within its first year of implementation.

Ashley Ward

A Real Life Reading Adventure

H.I. Holland Elementary School

For this project, first grade students participate in a learning experience that incorporates literature outside the classroom. Students will participate in field trips that correspond to the science-related book they will be studying.

Candice Jimoh

Show Me the Money: Project Based Learning

Hexter Elementary School

By building a Classroom Economy, students will focus on financial literacy by applying for jobs and earning money for character skills tied to our school rules. The class will create a simulated consumer experience and each student will be responsible for creating a budget to save, spend or share their money. This is a real-world scenario that will give them the tools, tasks or standards they can utilize as adults.

Chaka Broughton

Woodshop 101: Think It, Plan It, Create It

J. W. Ray Elementary School

Woodshop 101 will be hands-on after school program that focuses on low-income students being able to be creative, integrate, and reinforce skills from the classroom. This program will benefit the lives of these students by increasing skills such as: eye-hand coordination, dexterity, fine motor, problem-solving, role-playing, creative thinking, independence/self-esteem, stress reliever (pounding), matching, classification, sorting, comparing/measuring, cooperation, respect for tools and materials, increased awareness and understanding of the world around them, and last but not least language development.

Saniyyah Thomas

Neutralizing the Problem

James Madison High School

In this design challenge, students will take the engineering design process and apply it to their knowledge of acid and bases to come up with a short term as well as long term plan to help these individual dealing with acid reflux and indigestion. Students will have to brainstorm and established at least four different methods of testing the pH of various antacids, foods, and drinks using LabQuest kits and Vernier probes attached to Samsung Galaxy tablets.

Shannon N. Decker

Full STEAM Ahead

Jerry Junkins Elementary School

This grant will help to develop a STEAM lab on the Jerry Junkins

Elementary School campus that is integrated into the library program. This program will be available to all 655 students at a very diverse campus. The idea behind this initiative is to allow students a time to collaborate, think outside of the box and create things that are out of the normal realm of a typical school day, yet still allow for connections to be made to class work and STEAM projects. With STEAM projects, students learn by inventing, creating and designing and understanding the true meaning of design.

Courtney Davis

Garden on Wheels

Dallas Environmental Science Academy

The Garden on Wheels will provide all teachers and students from the school a litany of supplies and lesson plans to more effectively utilize the existing garden. Teachers will work with science-based lesson plans to instruct students at their grade level. All students will also complete a writing assignment in conjunction with the science lesson.

Lynn DeFord

Invent an Alien

Johnston Elementary School

Students will create an alien who could inhabit the planet or other environment that they have chosen. They will create a 3D model, diagram or poster of this alien out of materials they can find at home. Students will want to consider the atmosphere, composition, atmospheric pressure, gravitational pull and the other characteristics of their planet.

Gabrielle Herrera

Nature Exchange

Jose Joe May Elementary School

The Nature Exchange will engage students in grades K-5 in learning beyond the classroom by encouraging hands-on observation and research of the natural world. Students will earn points for natural items they bring in to trade based on the quality, rarity and their knowledge of the item. Student will use Brock Magiscopes and magnifiers to identify objects and will also be responsible for setting the value of each item in the exchange.

Amanda Meyer

Musical Mavericks

Jose Joe May Elementary School

The students will be grouped into positions to help with the production of a musical; whether it be the main cast, ensemble, set design, costume design, fundraising ideas, lighting, instrumentation, etc. It will be a year-long opportunity to learn the importance of team work, and how every member of the team must put in their own work effort for the production to come to life.

Kelli Hale

Flexible Seating Classroom

Lakewood Elementary School

Flexible seating will provide the students a unique way to exert restless energy while in class so that students can remain focus on the task at hand. A classroom with flexible seating has yoga balls, bouncybands on chairs, comfortable seating areas for comfort and reading and stability balance disks.

Tommie Hylkema

Y.E.S. Young Engineers and Scientists

Learning Alternative Center for Empowering Youth – Middle School

The Young Engineers and Scientists project will target at-risk middle school students assigned to the Learning Alternative Center for Empowering Youth (L.A.C.E.Y.). Providing opportunities for students to arrive early and have hands-on building projects, Mrs. Hylkema will help students explore possible careers in engineering and science. In addition, these building projects will help students learn to work together, build confidence, and develop a mentoring relationship with their teacher.

Iris Reagins

Girls Love Science: Womens' Careers in Science

Maya Angelou High School

This project will expose pregnant teens to the different areas of STEM and provide them with mentors from the STEM profession. Students will research different science careers, participate in field trips, and complete hands on interactive activities. In conjunction with professionals from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, our students will the opportunity to perform interactive hand-on labs that are relevant to our students and what they are learning in the classroom.

Terry Stotts

Kids Helping Kids

Multiple Careers Magnet – High School

The special needs students in the Construction Trades Cluster at Multiple Careers Magnet will be constructing wooden toy rocking horses to be donated to Maya Angelou students, children staying at the Ronald McDonald House during the holidays, and the Scottish Rite Hospital. This project helps prepare students with good work habits, attitude, and career skills, in addition to becoming productive and responsible citizens. The main objectives are to help them realize the importance of giving to others and implant the idea that each of us has talents to be shared.

Rocio Bernal

The Wobble Experiment

Nancy Moseley Elementary School

The Wobble Experiment will encourage and support excellence in teaching in our school by helping the students that are struggling to concentrate by using active sitting. Active sitting is based on the idea that it is not healthy for the body to be seated for long periods of time. Active seating corrects these problems by promoting slight movements and adjustments for the user while they sit. These movements keep the body more engaged, alleviating the negative effects of prolonged sitting.

Victor Mendoza

Using Multimedia to Succeed RELOADED

Nathan Adams Elementary School

This project will allow the teacher to take student engagement to the next level. This extension of the original project will provide students with the opportunity to increase their participation during the creation of videos. A kit of wireless microphones will allow students to be the ones narrating their own learning supporting new instructional methods.

Alain Mota

Factorem Orbis Makerspace

Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School

In this project, the school will transform a portion of its library into a creative environment where students can learn and experiment by taking risks. Students of all grade levels will use the "makerspace" to design and build objects using a wide-variety of STEM kits and tools, being challenged to improvise and redesign along the way. The design challenges will be inspired by children's literature that has been re-imagined to create and solve a STEM-based problem.

Samantha Best

Multi-User Ebooks with STEM Emphasis

Obadiah Knight Elementary School

The goal of this project is to combine high-interest literacy with STEAM topics through graphic novels. With these multi-user e-books, students can read books together as a class or individually using the school's Nook readers or laptops. Books with mythological creatures will allow students to compare and contrast what is real and provable scientifically to what is not. They will complete book reports that analyze the science content (or lack thereof) in the literature.

Barbara Ruth Hale

A Student Generated News Broadcasting Station

Quintanilla Middle School

Students in the Advanced Theater class will participate in the Student Generated News Broadcasting Station to learn the skills of using tools and equipment involved in film production. Students will plan broadcast, design storyboards and solve problems as they arise. Students will also edit and analyze the recorded information to determine the best way to present their stories to the public in a fair and unbiased fashion.

Jerica Rentie

Making Instruction Personal

Reinhardt Elementary School

Blended Learning introduces new, innovative ways to reach and teach students through the use of technology. Students will spend a portion of their instructional time engaged in online learning utilizing lessons developed by the teacher and part of their time engaged in direct, face-to-face instruction with the teacher. Students have some degree of control over time, place, path, and space. This results in independent thinkers who are problem solvers and take ownership of their own learning.

Eliana Tseng

Ringmastering VEX IQ Robots

Robert T. Hill Middle School

During this project, students will use robot parts to create different mechanical systems, investigate their functions, integrate motors and sensors, and then apply their understanding into designing robots that can perform specific tasks. Students will extend their learning beyond the classroom and participate in robotics tournaments, where they learn lifelong skills through the practice of teamwork, collaboration and communication.

Shelly Thibodaux

Greenhouse on the Hill

Robert T. Hill Middle School

This project's focus is on bringing the activity of gardening to the Functional Living Skills (FLS) students at Robert T. Hill Middle School through the Partner PE program. Through Partner PE, general education students are paired with FLS students for the benefits of increasing physical activity time for our FLS students in a guarded environment, while focusing on safety and structure. This grant will help to support the building of a greenhouse, where students can begin growing seeds and transplanting them in to the raised beds and planting winter vegetables in the hydroponic set-ups.

Marvin Gonzalez

SciGirls

Roger Q. Mills Elementary School

According to Ford Company, women make up only a quarter of the auto industry. Through this project, we will help our girls embrace the exciting world of STEAM in a hands-on experience where they will race head-to-

head in a pinewood derby race. They will participate in a fiercely fun competition, applying the fundamental principals of physics, the force of gravity, friction, and aerodynamic drag. Our goal is to foster the true innovation that comes with combining the mind of a scientist or technologist with that of an artist or designer.

Nicola Muchnikoff

Hands-On Fractions

Rosemont Elementary School

The project helps 3rd through 5th grade math students better conceptualize fractions through hands-on activities. The project will have a bifurcated approach – teachers will receive instruction on best practices for teaching fractions, and students will get “manipulatives” which will allow them to take their understanding of fractions from the abstract to real-world application.

Karen Romo

Photo Journal Story

Sam Tasby Middle School

To improve literacy, students will create a "Personal Narrative Story Photo Book." Students would take photos of their life, write a narrative story along with the photos, add drawings or decorations to the pages, and create a book cover. These books will reflect the unique personality of the individual student.

Capriis Anderson

Genius Hour

Sam Tasby Middle School

In Genius Hour, each student will chose a passion area to research, as inspired by Google which allows engineers to use 20 percent of their time to work on any passion-driven project. Students will create blogs, Instagram pages, websites, Twitter pages, and Power Points to present their projects not only to their class, but to the entire school as well.

Adriana Marroquin

The 1st Annual STMS Book Trailer Festival

Sam Tasby Middle School

Book Club students will read and create a book review trailer for the First Annual Sam Tasby Middle School Book Trailer Festival. Using their writing and computer skills to create and edit a book trailer provides the students a unique opportunity to blend their talents.

Keishar Dewberry

Leftover Food Scraps? ...Vermicomposting to the Rescue!

School for the Talented and Gifted

This project will have environmental science students creating and monitoring worm composter bins over a 4 month time period. Students will keep a weekly log of the weight and type of food scraps being deposited into the worm composter bins. Students will design an ideal vermicompost based upon optimal temperature, pH, gas pressure, carbon dioxide, and specific measurements.

David McLoda

Engineering a Bluetooth Personal Fitness Device

School for the Talented and Gifted High School

Students will build their own Bluetooth enabled personal fitness device. Students will develop skills in the fields of embedded systems, product development, computer architecture, operating systems, and Bluetooth networks.

Mary Machovsky

Blind Dragon Café – Students Slay the Hangry Beast

Seagoville High School

The Blind Dragon Cafe is a student-run gourmet coffee shop where teachers can go to purchase coffee and food. Students in the Functional Living Skills classes (deaf, auditorily-impaired and others) will run the cafe by creating a budget, taking inventory, preparing food, cleaning, and maintaining the financial books. The goal of this project is to teach independent living and employability skills that can be utilized outside of the classroom.

Mark Hillegass Jr.

Joia Tubes Pipe Instrument

Sidney Lanier Expressive Arts Vanguard Elementary

Joia Percussion Tubes will expose 3-5 grade general music classes to the art of percussive learning and the science behind the sounds being created. These tubes were inspired by the Blue Man Group. In addition, there are a lot of cross-circular elements that can be discussed such as art, science, math, and history.

Gianna LoScerbo Starkus

Minority Artists: Inspiring Students to Develop Career Pathways Through Intersections of Art, Literature, History, Science and Math Skyline High School

Students will learn how certain minority artists were connected to literature, history, science, or math movements. The project allows the students to study their careers while inspiring them about their future careers and college opportunities. Students will create drawings and take

photographs of themselves in their future careers focusing on objects they would use for these careers (i.e., stethoscope for a doctor). Small groups will create a portfolio with PowerPoint about their artists, career aspirations, and their artwork

Tina Aguilar

Fiber Arts + Literature: Cultivating Critical Thinking and Culture
Skyline High School

This project will bridge critical thinking skills, culture, and visual literacy through connections between the fiber arts and sense of place for project-based learning. Scholars will learn to knit and quilt individual swatches or items with a goal of weaving together an arts and humanities approach - a three-prong passage that fuses literacy, culture, and life-long learning. By actively creating and analyzing contemporary craft and culture students will explore and learn to contribute to a mosaic of ideas and express the dynamism of analytical thinking and project-based learning.

Sherwin Macalintal

Bolstering Skyline Robotics
Skyline High School

Bolstering Skyline Robotics ultimately aims to introduce the field of computer science and engineering to a broader audience by breaking the stereotypes associated with it as course, and as a career. With acquisition of parts and tools, the robotics team will be able to maximize their potentials in designing and building so that they may eventually win state level competitions. Success of the robotics team will spark interest in students throughout the school and eventually build a passion for computer science and all its fields and possible applications amongst the students.

Octavio Gutierrez

Programming and Robotics for Low-Income Minority Students
Stevens Park Elementary School

Low income and minority students from Stevens Park Elementary will have the opportunity to learn how to design and build programmable robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 educational robot set. Students will be able to design and build a fully functional programmable robot.

Bennett O'Connor

Ecosystem Assessment (Water and Air)

Trinidad Garza Early College High School

Ecosystem assessment includes techniques and concepts to characterize and evaluate ecosystems. The central objective of this grant will be to quantify anthropogenic disturbances on water bodies and watersheds and their impacts on ecosystems, as well as the impact of air pollution on these ecosystems. Trinidad Garza Early College High School Campus sits on a semi-wooded area with three artificial watersheds that makes it ideal campus for ecosystem assessment. Students at Garza will investigate water pollution and air quality on their local school ecosystems, as well as the interactions of chemistry, the environment, and will engage students in hands-on multidisciplinary activities using scientific literature, real-life science skills, and applications of technology, chemistry, and environmental literacy.

Donielle Edwards-Tyeskie

Creating a Sustainable Garden Using Aquaponics VI: Effects of macronutrients on vegetation in media based Aquaponics Systems

Trinidad Garza Early College High School at MVC

Aquaponics is a sustainable food production system that combines a traditional aquaculture with hydroponics in a symbiotic environment. In this project, students will embark on an endeavor that serves as a multidisciplinary project combining aquaculture with mathematical application, zoology, biotechnology, chemical analysis, and more; culminating in a presentation of data collected throughout the year. Students will develop a natural curiosity concerning life and living things, as well as the ability to apply scientific skills to real world applications.

Chantrelle Lovett-Andrews

Busy Bees Buzzing for a Honeycomb Hideout

Umphrey Lee Elementary School

Busy Bees Buzzing for a Honeycomb Hideout will focus on early childhood, preschool, and kindergarten programs for children with

disabilities scholars to promote an active learning environment. Their classroom is designed with learning stations within the classroom, which promote active learning for the young scholar.

Bonita Reece

Authors of Our Own Destiny

Umphrey Lee Elementary School

This project will provide students with an opportunity to learn about portfolios and their role in educational endeavors. Students will be introduced to the art of photography to document their learning. It is natural for young children possess the desire to be pleasing, but taking pride in their work and accomplishments is something that often has to be nurtured or developed. Prekindergarten and kindergarten students will document their learning journey to produce a student-generated portfolio.

Carmen R. Slater

Farming for Kids

Umphrey Lee Elementary School

While prekindergarten and kindergarten programs provide on the basics regarding organisms and the life cycle, this project aims to help the students develop a deeper knowledge that will lead to great success not only this school year but as they matriculate through school. Students will visit a farm and then watch, observe and record data on an egg becoming a chick.

Stephanie McCloud

Startling STEM Study

Umphrey Lee Elementary School

The project will consist of a three-day transformation in which the learning environment morphs into rotating stations, simulating specific science concepts while providing an engaging and exciting atmosphere for students to master science TEKS. Through this noteworthy hands-on experience, students will establish a solid knowledge base and develop an understanding of how science pervades every part of our lives.

Sara Taylor

Blended Literacy Development

Victor H. Hexter Elementary School

Blended Literacy Development is a project at Victor H. Hexter Elementary aimed at meeting the literacy needs of every 2nd grade-reading student using interactive teaching designed for each particular student, via the Words Their Way program. With the grant, this educator will be able to use Kindles and Spelling City app to create customized spelling lists for kids, provide immediate feedback for kids, track the students' progress, and communicate with parents. The goal is for all of these students, from the lowest end of the literacy continuum to the highest, to show one year's worth of growth within the stages of spelling.

Henry Agredo-Montoya

Promoting Second Language Acquisition Through Coding and Cross-Curricular Experiences

Walnut Hill Elementary School

This project seeks to teach coding using mini robots to students attending a dual language program, particularly the ones who are learning English as their second language. The teacher will design and implement bilingual (English-Spanish) modules that connect language learning, science, mathematics, technology, and arts education. This project aims to offer science and language supports to dual-language students by creating practical experiences in which students use language in a meaningful way to solve engaging science, technology, mathematics, and arts experiences around coding.

Karem Averanga

Becoming Biliterate with iPads

Whitney M. Young Jr. Elementary School

The goal of the project is to increase second grade bilingual students' literacy in both English and Spanish using iPads, apps and Websites that target specific skills tailored to each student's literacy level. This project motivates and engages a population of students who are having Language Arts in English for the first time.

Paula Gonzales

Research & Robots Oh My!

Winnetka Elementary School

This project will have 3rd-5th grade students creating robots that will solve a real-world scenario. These students will be asked to pick a problem, research a solution and build their robot.

Rodolfo Estrada

Winnetka Robotics

Winnetka Elementary School

Winnetka Robotics students will create, document, and present robots that do a specific task in a manner that is fast, accurate, and designed to

score the most points in competitions. In the past two years, Winnetka Robotics has competed in state, U.S. Open and World VEX IQ challenge robotic competition.

Faysha Smith-Hammock

Mindfulness Matters

Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs Middle School

Mindfulness Meditation teaches students how to use meditation to cultivate awareness and reduce stress. Low-income, urban students will gain access to their deepest inner resources for living, healing, and coping with stress. With practice, students can apply these skills to everyday situations and connect more fully with themselves, loved ones, and the life that they are living.