Keystone Area Education Agency

WWW.AEA1.K12.IA.US
1400 Second Street NW
Elkader, Iowa 52043
P: (563) 245-1480
P: (800) 632-5918
F: (563) 245-1484

R.J McElroy Trust Excellence in Education Enrichment Grant Program Recipients announced

Keystone AEA has partnered with the R.J. McElroy Trust for approximately nineteen years to provide teachers with grant money to fund innovative classroom projects. Keystone provides the administrative support for the application/selection process while McElroy Trust provides $25,000 for the grant awards. Bev Berns, Keystone AEA School Improvement Consultant, facilitates the grant application process.

Process: Each fall AEA 1 teachers are invited to develop and submit grant proposals for up to $2,000. Projects are to be implemented during the second semester of the school year. A group of six readers, selected from the education environment, read and score the grants based on a rubric. The grants that meet selection criteria and score the highest, are awarded funding. Grant recipients are required to submit a report detailing the activities, lessons learned, and expenditures of the project. Keystone staff visits some of the classrooms to monitor the projects and to get ideas to help other teachers. Keystone submits a report to McElroy in June each year.

For the 2018-19 school year, Keystone received fifty-seven grant applications for a total amount requested of $59,253.00. Fourteen of the grant applications were awarded funding.

Please follow the McElroy grant blog for updates on the projects awarded!

2018-19 McElroy Grant Recipients (listed alphabetically by district):

"Beat Your Gums" WWII Literacy Unit
"Beat Your Gums" was a term used during WWII to describe talking about a topic. This project will focus on an in depth study on WWII in middle school language arts and social studies classes. Students will be drawn into the issues of hardships on both sides of the war through the event based historical fiction novels by Alan Gratz. The project will serve approximately 300 middle school students. This experience includes literature circles, book studies, role playing, and an author visit.

- Amount awarded: $1,996.00
- Grade level: 6-8
- School: Waukon Middle School
- District: Allamakee
- Teacher(s) name(s): Lisa Snitker, Tim Bulman, and Mary Milewsky

Digital Library
This project builds a digital library for kindergarten students. Student will be able to listen to stories and interact with posted questions by using a tablet and headphones. The goal is to get students using technology as a way to read or listen to books and increase interest. This allows students to self-discover books that fit their interests.

- Amount awarded: $1,898.00
- Grade level: Kindergarten
- School: West Elementary
- District: Allamakee
- Teacher(s) name(s): Joey Lapel

Keystone Area Education Agency

WWW.AEA1.K12.IA.US
1400 Second Street NW
Elkader, Iowa 52043
P: (563) 245-1480
P: (800) 632-5918
F: (563) 245-1484

Sweeten the Learning Experience with Swivl

In this project approximately 100 Family and Consumer Science students in grades 9-12 will participate in a cake baking and decorating competition, similar to the popular Food Network TV series *Cake Wars*. As a culminating activity, students will be given a client and work in teams to use knowledge learned to design and create a cake as requested by the client. The process will be documented through video captured with Swivl and edited into a final "episode" to be shared publicly at the end of the project.

- Amount awarded: $1,292.00
- Grade level: 9-12
- School: Clayton Ridge Middle School/ High School
- District: Clayton Ridge
- Teacher(s) name(s): Angela Williams

ALC Memory Project

In this project, students will create portraits for children living in a refugee camp in Syria so that they can have individualized gifts and spread kindness. We will partner with with The Memory Project (https://www.memoryproject.org/) to receive photos of children living in the refugee camp. Our art students would turn photos into finished 9x12, 2D portraits that The Memory Project will send back to the children. The goal of this experience is for students to make a connection between art and humanity on a global scale, and have an authentic, public audience for their 2D art.

- Amount awarded: $1,870.00
- Grade level: 11-12
- School: Alta Vista Campus
- District: Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Kate Eshelman and Lisa Lueken

Designing Our New Digs

The purpose of this project is to have students redesign the classroom to include flexible seating that provides students comfort, offers sensory options, and promotes collaboration. Our fourth grade class includes twenty-five students that will measure classroom space, determine seating that will maximize space and functionality for classroom activities (leisure reading, writing, group work, games, drawing, etc.), and shop online using a set budget. Students will consult the custodian to ensure all items meet district standards/policies. They will begin with individual plans, analyze and evaluate each one, then collaborate to synthesize plans and create the ideal classroom for all members. Students will also collaboratively create a class agreement for taking care of our newly developed classroom.

- Amount awarded: $1,842.00
- Grade level: 4
- School: Prescott Elementary
- District: Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Carolyn Wiezorek and Stacy Morley

Out of this World; Virtual Reality in the Classroom

This project includes purchasing eight sets of Oculus Go Virtual Reality Goggles and 360° experience apps, and integrating them as a differentiated station rotation in classrooms to help enrich the curriculum and enhance learning. Using the Oculus Go Goggles and 360° experience apps, students will virtually transport to another time, country, or even another planet! We would use the goggles with sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts, Health, and Art classrooms. We will use the googles with all student in our building, 1148 students, in a variety of ways including enhancing language arts lessons by virtually touring Anne Frank's secret annex where she lived for two years in hiding to bring her cramped living quarters to life for our students. Another activity we would like to

WWW.AEA1.K12.IA.US
1400 Second Street NW
Elkader, Iowa 52043
P: (563) 245-1480
P: (800) 632-5918
F: (563) 245-1484

facilitate is stepping back in time for a virtual tour of historical Olympia including the Olympic Stadium, Temple of Zeus and many more historical monuments as students study Ancient Greece in Social Studies class. The possibilities are limitless, but our overarching goal will be to provide an innovative and engaging way to interact with lessons to meet each standard.

- Amount awarded: $1,692.00
- Grade level: 6-8
- School: Roosevelt Middle School
- District: Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Samantha Hancock

The 4C's + Osmo

Our project includes using Osmo technology with 151 kindergarten and first grade students during daily instruction to improve reading comprehension, problem solving and team building skills. With the use of Osmo technology, our students will be able to explore, build, and create through visual, kinesthetic and auditory learning. This project will provide many opportunities for first grade and kindergarten students to collaborate while manipulating tangible game pieces such as letter tiles and coding blocks. This project strives to improve science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics skills by creating a MakerSpace and STEAM experience for the youngest students in our building. Not only will this technology tool change the way students interact with the iPad and with each other, it will scaffold students' development of visual spatial abilities, nonverbal reasoning, and fine motor skills.

- Amount awarded: $2,000
- Grade level: K-1
- School: Carver Elementary
- District: Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Donna Schmitt, Kelly Neumann, Joan Gerdemann, Peggy Goerdt, Diane Treanor, Donna Cluff, and Tanya Lex

Math Manipulative

Manipulatives in the math classroom help build students' confidence by giving students a way to test and confirm their reasoning. If students have physical evidence of how their thinking works, their understanding is more robust. This project will impact 57 students in eighth grade.

- Amount awarded: $1,671.00
- Grade level: 8
- School: Edgewood-Colesburg High School
- District: Edgewood-Colesburg
- Teacher(s) name(s): Jenny Thier

Introducing Hydroponics to Future Farmers

This project will provide students with the opportunity to learn about an alternative agricultural method while learning real-world skills such as plant care, food safety, sanitation, and customer service. Activities include building a hydroponic system, growing lettuce hydroponically, and marketing and selling the produce.

- Amount awarded: $2,000
- Grade level: 3, 9-12
- School: MFL MarMac Elementary and High School
- District:MFL MarMac
- Teacher(s) name(s): Sarah Wille, Jennifer Wilwert

Keystone Area Education Agency

WWW.AEA1.K12.IA.US
1400 Second Street NW
Elkader, Iowa 52043
P: (563) 245-1480
P: (800) 632-5918
F: (563) 245-1484

What's Cooking? A Recipe to Create YouTube Videos
In this project, students will create recipes for the units we cover in FCS labs. An example would be when we cover the Grain Unit; each group will choose a recipe to make. One group might choose to make Cheddar Bay Biscuits. Each cooking lab contains four students and we have six kitchens. The students will then create and edit their own short movies while they are making their food. We will post these videos to our school Facebook page and create YouTube videos. This innovative project is an excellent way for students to demonstrate their knowledge. We will also invite guest chefs from the community in our school and have students visit restaurants and other culinary opportunities to get a "taste" of future culinary careers and opportunities.

- Amount awarded: $1,651.00
- Grade level: 9-12
- School: New Hampton High School
- District: New Hampton
- Teacher(s) name(s): April Schmitt

PBL News Broadcast
Third grade students will create a live newscast program to share with all students, staff and community in the district. It will also be shared on social media to a worldly audience. The students will learn about the different roles of creating a professional news broadcast, from the cameraman and scriptwriter, to the on air personalities. The broadcast will consist of 6 different segments, in which the students will create both individually and while working together in a small group. Students will be required to research and present their findings in a kid-friendly manner, while keeping their audience in mind. The goal of this project is to immerse our 3rd graders in a real world authentic project based learning experience.

- Amount awarded: $1,200.00
- Grade level: 3
- School: Wings Park Elementary
- District: Oelwein
- Teacher(s) name(s): Kelcie Bormann, Kristi Druvenga

Uke Can Do It
In Uke Can Do It, students will blend the art of music and storytelling. Student will work in small groups to compose, record and learn a new instrument.

- Amount awarded: $1,996.00
- Grade level: 4-8
- School: Turkey Valley Elementary
- District: Turkey Valley
- Teacher(s) name(s): Evie Milbrandt

Taking Flight
Our project, "Taking Flight" will allow approximately 200 of our 7th and 8th grade students per trimester to explore the value of aviation, aerospace engineering, and drone technology. Students will complete a variety of rigorous activities including exploring the history and principles of aviation, learning the basic concepts of aerial mapping and photography, completing a research project on an aviation career or drone profession, listening to a guest speaker, and learning how to fly mini-drones with progression to flying more advanced drones. Our goal is to expose students to cutting-edge technology that is becoming a more prevalent tool in the workforce.

- Amount awarded: $1,996.00
- Grade level: 7-8
- School: Drexler Middle Intermediate School

WWW.AEA1.K12.IA.US
1400 Second Street NW
Elkader, Iowa 52043
P: (563) 245-1480
P: (800) 632-5918
F: (563) 245-1484

- District: Western Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Jared Diers, Matt Breitbach, Peggy Keegan

Print to Know, Print to Grow

Students will use a 3D printer to create physical representations of their learning through modeling, engineering, and design. In math, student opportunities to experience 3D models brings geometric concepts to life. Students will create their geometric configuration projects to cement their learnings with physical representations.

- Amount awarded: $2,000.00
- Grade level: 9-12
- School: Western Dubuque High School
- District: Western Dubuque
- Teacher(s) name(s): Ben Wilson and Renee Wagner