

Carthage ISD Education Foundation
72 Grants for \$254,148.31
2024-2025 Summary Report

The directors of the CISD Education Foundation wish to recognize and thank each donor and each educator for the many wonderful opportunities these grants provide for our students.

Carthage Primary
16 Grants for \$53,033.01

Here we G.R.O.W! **Kassie Watson** **\$10,000.00**

The Charles C. Matthews Foundation Campus Grant will enable our teachers and students access to almost three hundred decodable books and teacher cards that go along with them. These decodables cover a wide range of reading abilities so that every student, no matter what reading level they read on, can have access to practice what we are teaching in the classroom.

Texas Studies Weekly **Sonya Shelton** **\$2,354.25**

First Grade students will learn about the world around them, past and current events. This resource supports a wide variety of TEKS including Social Studies and Reading.

“Snow” Much Fun at Sci-Port! **Taylor Fitts** **\$4,878.40**

First Graders will travel to Sci-Port Discovery Center. They will have the opportunity to explore many STEM based activities through hands-on learning. We will tie the learning we do in the classroom to real world experiences.

Sweetest Pick of the Patch **Jessica Alexander** **\$2,731.20**

Kindergarten students will take a trip to Panola Orchards to harvest strawberries. They will learn the life cycle of a strawberry, parts of the plant, and how they are planted and later harvested.

Little Explorers on the Wild Side! **Jenni Miller** **\$2,200.00**

A trip to the Busy B. Ranch Wildlife Park in Jefferson, Texas, gives PreK students a fun, hands-on learning experience. Students will have the opportunity to observe and interact with various animals, fostering curiosity and enhancing their understanding of wildlife and habitats.

What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up? **Callie Jones** **\$2,695.00**

Kindergarten students will learn through play and hands-on experiences as they explore the “Home Town, USA” – a room that consists of a community filled with careers students can explore. “Discovery Landing” will give students experimental play, logical thinking skills and open ended materials. Young minds have the freedom to explore, play and find wonders at Discovery Science Center!

Learning Through Sensory Exploration **Kathy LaGrone** **\$898.70**

These materials will allow students to use their senses and help them learn to attend to a task and help regulate body awareness.

Building Bright Futures, One Book at a Time **Jenni Miller** **\$2,100.00**
Adding these new books to our PreK classes will provide a positive impact on student performance by enhancing critical thinking, imagination, and readiness for future academic success.

Learning is Fun with Osmo! **Melissa Blissett** **\$5,903.64**
Learning is best when it's called play! Osmo puts the FUN in building learning FUNdamentals through the magic of hands-on play, tangible pieces and digital fun! This grant will allow the purchase of 4 Fire Tablets for each of our 9 Kindergarten classes and Osmo bases that will accommodate the Fire Tablet.

Ready, Set, Read **Elisa Berger** **\$4,383.50**
This set of decodable readers is one tool that can allow students to soar to new heights in their journey to be excellent readers. These readers will allow the teacher to connect the day's lesson or prior lessons to the small group reading while making connections to phonics and spelling.

Special Field Day 2025 **Kathy LaGrone** **\$6,500.00**
Special Field Day is an opportunity for students with special needs including those with physical handicapping conditions, intellectual disabilities and emotional issues to participate with high school service clubs and organizations in competing and participate in special events.

Can You Hear Me Now? **Elisa Berger** **\$605.77**
This set of headphones (with microphone) will benefit all students to have the proper devices to get the most out of each app available in the classroom through online student programs. Kindergarten students will use these during independent and small group instruction that require the use of headphones.

Keep Kids on Track with Math Stax! **Amanda Ivy** **\$1,187.60**
First Grade teachers will receive three sets of Math Stax to use during small group lessons and station rotation, making it easy to differentiate and inspire curiosity in math. Students will practice patterns, counting, measuring, adding, subtracting, skip counting and more!

Little Scientists, Big Discoveries **Amanda Ivy** **\$4,449.10**
The Saker Portable Microscope will enable first grade students to explore a wide variety of specimens in detail, from tiny insects and plants to items like feathers and hair. This microscope can be connected to a computer for a wider field of view, allowing for clearer observation of specimens and fostering collaborative exploration.

A Walk on the Wild Side **Kim Smith** **\$1,500.00**
A trip to the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas will provide a positive, entertaining, educational experience that will stimulate our first grade students' appreciation of nature. This field trip is an exciting way to culminate our study of animals.

Lifelong Sports and Balance **Allison Koch** **\$645.85**
This grant allows Carthage Primary students to have equipment for pickleball, soccer and bowling. The purchase of balance stepping stones will provide students with the skills and balance necessary to achieve success in these sports and games. These games will promote physical activity and fitness for a lifetime.

Libby Elementary
15 Grants for \$38,301.61

Blocks & Books: Building a Brighter Future	Staci Davis	\$10,000.00
<p>The Charles Matthews Campus Grant will allow us to further support engagement in reading and STEM. New Books, secure an engaging author/storyteller experience, and purchase reading incentives and LEGO Robotic kits will foster literacy, creativity and learning. These resources will help us build a library that inspires lifelong learning, enriches student academic experiences, and encourages collaboration and problem solving.</p>		
Superbowl Family Literacy Night	Kirbie Munden	\$1,572.00
<p>Family Literacy Night promotes literacy and learning not only at school but in the home as well. Every student will take home a book of his/her choice along with question cards to encourage high order thinking at home. Activities in this special night include: Book Fair, read aloud by teachers, STAAR information, technology tips for parents, book machine information and a snack station.</p>		
Read to Ride – Classroom Cruisers	Kirbie Munden	\$4,022.22
<p>Classroom Cruisers were created with an active learner in mind. These mini spin bikes will allow our students to take a ride while reading their library books which promote active learning engagement. They will be located in our library so that all Libby students can enjoy them.</p>		
Busy Learning at Busy B Ranch	Kirbie Munden	\$2,500.00
<p>Second grade students will learn about all of the animals located at Busy B Ranch and write a research paper over an animal of their choice. They will go to Busy B Ranch in Jefferson, Texas and take an interactive drive thru safari, take a ride on a covered trailer to feed the animals, participate in a scavenger hunt and visit the petting zoo.</p>		
Independent Readers, Yes Please!!	Dena Mitchell	\$2,994.00
<p>Third graders that are struggling readers will have a tool called Reader 2-C-Pen to help become more independent readers. These pens will give these students independence on assignments which will boost their self-confidence.</p>		
Meet the Presidents	Karen Caver	\$1,763.20
<p>Third grade students will learn how each president helped establish the United States of America as a great nation. Students on guided tours will participate in a scavenger hunt for presidents, discovering interesting facts about these great leaders.</p>		
Enhancing Learning Through a Sensory Path	Sherrie Wood	\$2,049.98
<p>The sensory path is designed to engage both body and mind by guiding children through specific movements paired with academic visuals. The paths help reduce sensory-seeking behaviors while enhancing focus and cognition.</p>		
Imagination in Motion: A Discovery Museum Project	Tracey Smith	\$703.60

Libby's Gifted and Talented program will attend the Discovery Science Center in Tyler, Texas, with the purpose of gaining hands-on learning experiences and participating in educational exhibits that foster scientific curiosity and creativity.

Bricks 4 Kidz **Elizabeth Lovil** **\$3,600.00**
Bricks 4 Kidz, a Shreveport-based company, will conduct a STEM based workshop using LEGO bricks and motorized models for second and third grade students. Students will build models and complement science and math lessons using one of the custom Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO motorized or moving models.

The Creature Teacher **Rachel Penner** **\$1,265.00**
Second graders will enjoy a presentation by The Creature Teacher. She will bring the zoo to Libby to teach our students all about the physical characteristics and behaviors of animals that help them meet their basic needs. This activity will help children complete a research project on animals.

Read Across America **Robin Dixon** **\$1,255.00**
Community members will come together in March to remember the famous children's author Dr. Seuss and read his books to Libby students. The students will do special activities to promote reading throughout the day. The students will be given a book of their own to take home, a bookmark and a sticker at the end of the day.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage **Nancy Dominguez** **\$3,800.00**
Mexico 200 Ballet Folklorico's *Navidad en Mexico* will offer elementary students a unique opportunity to experience and appreciate Hispanic Cultural traditions through a vibrant performance. This performance not only celebrates the rich heritage of Mexico but also fosters cultural understanding and inclusivity.

Fidgets for Flourishing Minds **Sherrie Wood** **\$393.00**
Fidgets can be invaluable tools in the classroom, offering a practical solution to help students channel their excess energy and enhance their focus. By providing students with tactile objects to occupy their hands, fidgets can help reduce distractions and improve engagement in learning activities.

Box Cars & One-Eyed Jacks **Karen Caver**
\$1,126.23
Dice and card games are a great way to increase student engagement and solidify student learning. Classroom learning games create a fun, engaging environment where students are excited to learn. These classrooms sets will be a great addition to our existing math curriculum.

Literacy on the Go **Robin Dixon** **\$1,657.38**
Every third grade student will be given a copy of Third Grade Angels along with a custom Carthage cinch bag and a bookmark. Third Grade Angels is a part of a series of books that they will transition into reading in fourth grade. This will help bridge the gap between third and fourth grade.

Baker Koonce Intermediate School
18 Grants for \$66,698.34

Life Lab Program – Phase 11
\$10,000.00

Kiley Schumacher

The Charles Matthews Campus Grant will enable Phase 11 of the **Life Lab Program**. With the development of this program, students use hands on activities to learn valuable skills for life including healthy living skills, self-confidence, problem solving, positive peer interactions and stress management.

Building Knowledge with Books at BK
\$5,400.00

Meredith Johnston

All Baker Koonce ELAR teachers will have a book club within their classrooms from this grant. The teachers can build excitement, interest, and empathy with our students as we expose them to the content within these books as they read a different book to their classes each six weeks. Reading together helps build a connection and reinforces listening skills while improving vocabulary.

Travel to New Velocities!

Cindy Kopecky

\$1,100.00

Fifth graders will travel to The Earth and Space Center at Tyler Junior College to visit the Planetarium featuring the full-dome experience, equipped with the latest in digital technology. The space center is home to the first 40 foot nano-seam domed theater in East Texas.

Read, Explore, Discover: A Science Journey
\$3,759.40

Ann-Marie Schneider

Fourth graders will enhance their understanding of complex scientific concepts and vocabulary through read-aloud books. These books introduce students to important scientific terms and concepts in a context that is easier to grasp than through textbooks alone.

Multiplication Madness

Cinthya Leos

\$4,985.04

Fourth grade teachers will invite the third grade students from Libby to visit Baker Koonce and kick off our summer challenge of Multiplication Madness. Each student will be given a challenge bag with Flash Cards, Dry Erase Multiplication practice charts and 100 days of multiplication practice. To keep students from hitting that summer slump, teachers will get students motivated and excited to take part in Multiplication Madness!

Kidz in the Park

Sarah Humphries

\$3,762.59

The Baker Koonce Choir will perform at the “Kidz ‘N the Park” festival at Six Flags Over Texas. The students will receive positive, helpful feedback from experienced adjudicators, as well as a high-quality trophy for their participation in this event.

STEM Field Trip to SFA	Julie Dieter	\$6,000.00
Sixth Graders will travel to SFA in Nacogdoches, Texas to have a day at the SFA STEM Research and Learning Center. Teachers will choose from a variety of activities for students including Engineering Catapults, Robotics, and the Planetarium.		
Journey to Jefferson	Shelley Goolsby	\$5,421.00
Fourth graders will enjoy a day of painting, visit the Mining Sluice and mine for gems and take a walk down a nature trail for the students to see interesting plants, animals, and other features that can be connected to their science class. This trip will enhance the fourth grade art and social studies TEKS.		
Million Word Club: Part 1	Penni Ratley	\$3,000.00
This grant will stock various snacks/incentives to keep pushing all students toward the goal of ONE MILLION WORDS! The Million Word Club is an Accelerated Reader program that tracks point values but also tracks word counts when students pass an AR test.		
Million Word Club: Part II	Penni Ratley	\$3,043.95
We will honor all kids who read a million words or more with a field trip. Students will shop for a book of their choosing and enjoy a Mocha at Joe Muggs Coffee. Lunch will be provided by Papacita's.		
G.T. on the Go: The Next Great Adventure	Penni Ratley	\$1,620.60
GT students in grades 4-6 will go to NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. A field trip of this magnitude will give our GT students the opportunity to demonstrate self-directed research, thinking and learning from a different perspective while also enhancing their communication skills.		
BK STUCO on the Go	Lauren Clinton	\$1,210.96
The student council provides a platform for students to develop leadership skills, express their opinions, engage in decision-making processes, and contribute to a positive school culture. Their activities during the school year include Thanksgiving Blessing Boxes, visiting a nursing home, ribbon-cutting ceremonies and much more. This grant will fund their activities and outreach initiatives through the school year.		
Our Musical Heritage	Sarah Humphries	\$939.00
Fifth graders will enjoy a "day trip" to The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and The Tex Ritter Museum, The Him Reeves Memorial and The Esquire Theater. These students will understand the importance of our very own historical and cultural markers in our local community.		
Empower Students with Audiobooks	Penni Ratley	\$900.00
Listening to audiobooks offers numerous benefits for students such as improving comprehension and vocabulary as students hear words pronounced correctly and in context, which enhances their understanding of the text. Learning Ally is a digital platform housing thousands of audio and ebook resources.		
Stem Stuff Galore!	Penni Ratley	\$1,412.00

The mission of the UIL One Act Play is to promote interest in theatre arts by providing a competitive platform for schools to showcase their acting and directing abilities, fostering appreciation for quality drama while encouraging friendly rivalry between schools, all while emphasizing the educational value of theatre as an art form. These clinics give our students the confidence and understanding of what is required to be ready for competition day.

ELAR Productions Studio **Isha Brown** **\$3,000.00**

This grant will provide students the opportunity for personalized learning at the highest level of learning – creating. They will learn valuable skills such as digital citizenship, blogging, and producing work for wider audiences.

Agricultural Innovation **April Ramsey** **\$1,377.60**

Soil Science empowers students to make critical analysis and choices about land management, plant operations, yields, and technical farming. The materials with this grant will give the teacher the ability to teach soil science while targeting each child's skill level. This grant would open the door for some children to new knowledge and even the information for a future career path.

Attendance Swag Bag **Drieca Jordan** **\$3,000.00**

Perfect attendance will be rewarded each six weeks by honoring students that have achieved 100% attendance. The swag bags will be filled with Bulldog Goodies.

Carthage High School
15 Grants for \$67,957.90

Flight Path to Success **Justin Smith** **\$10,000.00**

The Charles Matthews Campus Grant will give students the drone education software to add to our high school program and will significantly enhance student success and career readiness while benefiting multiple programs across our school. By incorporating hands-on drone activities, our students will deepen their understanding of STEM concepts in an engaging and practical way, making complex topics more accessible.

Enhancing Computer Science Education **Michelle Cocklin**
\$4,101.07

The integration of physical computing into computer science education provides students with a hands-on, interactive approach to learning key concepts in programming, hardware, and problem-solving. These kits will enable students to engage in real-world projects, build interactive devices, and deepen their understanding of how software and hardware interact.

Fueling Curiosity – Transforming Physics Labs **Baleigh Ferguson**
\$4,720.73

Lab Supplies and equipment will transform the Physics and Honors Physics classroom into an interactive learning environment where students actively explore and apply scientific concepts. These high-quality

manipulatives and cutting-edge tools will enable the teacher to implement hands-on, inquiry-based instructional strategies that deepen understanding of physics principles and foster critical thinking.

Vinyl Cutter **James Foster** **\$699.99**
The acquisition of a new 24-inch cutter will enable students to engage in more complex designs and projects due to its larger size and enhanced capabilities. With this new technology, we would not only meet the needs of our existing customers but also attract new clientele.

Collaborative Seating **Whitney Hadwin** **\$6,074.00**
These movable dry-erase top tables will support classroom instruction with students that have diverse learning styles and abilities. They will enhance student understanding, motivation, and retention. These tables are practical and durable, designed to withstand daily use by many students.

The Sweet Success of the Bulldogs **Ashley Harris** **\$3,100.46**
This grant is for Phase 2 of Beekeeping and Honey Processing. This equipment will be for processing and storing honey. Students will use beekeeping suits, gloves, and hats for protection in processing the honey. The impact for students will be immense and ranges from hands-on skills, like removing honey from the hive, all the way to creating a marketing plan for their product.

Elevating Outdoor Education **Reginald Hill** **\$3,200.00**
The new Outdoor Education Class is designed to provide students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that promote lifelong skills and a deep appreciation for nature. The equipment and outdoor cooking lab will give the students innovative classroom experience that will inspire, engage, and ensure the sustainability of this program for years to come.

Big Dawg Broadcasting Through Livestreams **Julie McVey** **\$4,727.89**
This grant will upgrade the existing live streaming equipment at CHS. It will enhance the quality and accessibility of broadcasts produced through the CHSTV program. Students can create professional-grade livestreams providing clearer visuals, better audio, and a more reliable viewing experience.

3D Printing for STEM Success **Michael Pace** **\$6,497.71**
This grant will integrate two state-of-the-art 3D printer workstations into a dedicated Maker Space within the STEM lab and engineering classes, enhancing project-based learning opportunities.

Building Future Bulldawgs **Trevor Riley** **\$6,497.66**
This grant provides essential tools that will enhance hands-on learning for our students. The students will develop skills in woodworking, construction and improved craftsmanship, better preparing them for possible future careers in the trades.

Heavy Duty Platform Food Cart **Jill Smith** **\$549.98**
Culinary students at CHS will transport meals and prepared snacks to the Bulldog Bistro and to other areas of the campus. This food cart will help the culinary department facilitate the Bulldog Bistro Meals more easily.

UIL One Act Play Clinics**Sarah Funderburk****\$3,345.00**

These clinics (scrimmages) will allow another set of eyes on our contest play. By attending these clinics, the students will be better equipped for contests, build their resume, and learn about different theatre departments/techniques.

AP Biology – Galveston (Boys)**Schelice Reyes****\$4,642.40**

11th and 12th grade AP boys will travel to Galveston National Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch. The students will be introduced to the roles of the Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. The goal is to educate the students about the CBEID mission statement and to reinforce the valuable educational background provided by the CBEID.

AP Biology – Galveston (Girls)**Schelice Reyes****\$4,568.00**

This trip for 11th and 12th grade girls will provide a forum for students who may not otherwise get to see how products are likely to emerge from investigations within the GNL to assist with preventative measures such as vaccines. The students will visit Houston Methodist Hospital and meet Dr. Joan Nichols. She directs and collaborates in research projects examining wound and tissue repair mechanisms.

Bringing Biology to Life**Schelice Reyes****\$5,233.01**

Lab supplies, models, and equipment will revolutionize the Biology, Honors Biology, and AP Biology classrooms by creating a dynamic and interactive learning environment. This grant will foster increased engagement, critical thinking, and collaboration.