Zionsville Education Foundation
2025 Fall Classroom Grants

Read Richly: Expanding Literacy with Enrichment Resource ($1,804.79)
Krista Westfall – ZMS
Books purchased through this ZEF grant will complement and extend the new middle school literacy curriculum, offering students greater opportunities to engage deeply with the key concepts, themes, and contents of each curricular module. These enrichment texts will deepen students' understanding, facilitate differentiated learning for students of all abilities, encourage development of critical thinking and comprehension skills, and foster a love of reading.

Hands-On Physics for All: Revitalizing the ZCHS ICP Curriculum ($5,400)
Matthew Mulholland – ZCHS
New sets of modern, durable laboratory and demonstration equipment will enable ZCHS Integrated Chemistry and Physics (ICP) teachers to revitalize the physics portion of the ICP course to boost engagement, consistency, and STEM pathways for over 500 ZCHS students annually. The new equipment will allow ICP students to engage in consistent, inquiry-driven activities that replace passive observation with authentic experimentation.

ZWest Brew Crew ($1,516)
Sarah Livengood, Emma Huhta, Kristi Godfrey - ZWMS
Project funds will support the creation of a student-run coffee business within the functional academics classroom at ZWMS, providing students with hands-on opportunities to practice skills that include social communication, problem solving, teamwork, and money management. The "ZWest Brew Crew" will allow students to build relationships with staff, create and deliver a product, and feel a sense of belonging within the school community while practicing essential life skills.

Robotics and coding in and out of the classroom ($2,649.99)
Michael Murphy, Michael DeLand – ZWMS
The purchase of additional VEX IQ education kits for the ZWMS Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes and extracurricular Robotics program will allow teachers to ensure more students have the chance to participate, explore, and challenge themselves in the fields of engineering, robotics, and coding.

"Disc"covery with ZWMS PE ($2,534.51)
Trisha Smart, Kristina Comer, Steve Simmons, Whit Keadle – ZWMS
ZWMS's physical education department will build on its life-long fitness initiative by expanding their offerings for fifth through eighth grades and adaptive physical education to include frisbee golf. This grant, which will facilitate the purchase of durable frisbee golf equipment, will enable students to develop throwing skills, coordination, strategic thinking, and appreciation for lifelong physical activity in a fun, inclusive, and low-impact environment.

Maker Space Expansion at ZWEST ($5,148.00)
Michael DeLand, Michael Murphy - ZWMS
New, modern fabrication tools will enable ZWMS to enhance its dedicated makerspace to support 900+ Project Lead the Way (PLTW) students, student clubs, and cross-curricular projects. The expanded maker space will promote students' creativity, problem solving, and real-world application of STEM skills that bring their big ideas to life.

From Blood Spatter to Bones: Equipping the Next Generation of Forensic Scientists ($2,500)
Dawn Makley, Stephanie Dudley - ZCHS
ZCHS forensics teachers are seeking to elevate the forensic science curriculum by adding new units, lab experiments, and mock crime scene activities that will give students hands-on experience in forensic applications and procedures. This ZEF grant will support the purchase of new lab equipment and materials that will bring these impactful ideas to life.

art REDEFINING disability: Artist in Residence ($1,800)
Jen Gibson, Jill Phipps – ZMS
This project represents an exciting collaboration among ZMS art, life skills, and functional academics teachers at both ZMS and ZWMS along with Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization ArtMix. Project funds will facilitate the engagement of an ArtMix Teaching Artist – a professional trained in one or more art disciplines and experienced in creating adaptations to serve students with disabilities. They will guide ZMS and ZWMS adaptive art students through hands-on artmaking experiences tailored to students' abilities and interests, culminating in a showcase of student artwork at The Sullivan Munce Art Center.

Hands-On Science: Building Understanding Through Interactive Learning ($1,800)
Jessie Showalter - ZCHS
This project will provide ZCHS students with hands-on science materials and manipulatives in order to boost engagement, deepen understanding, and build problem-solving skills through interactive, inquiry-based learning. The newly-acquired tools will be integrated into units across biology, chemistry, environmental science, and physical science.

Adding Color to STEM with a Color Printer and a Digital Camera ($757)
Andy Seward, Terry Rowe, Gary Werner - ZMS
ZMS Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes and extracurricular competitive Robotics teams will benefit from a new color printer and digital camera. This new equipment will enable students to create more detailed and compelling engineer notebooks for Robotics competitions, vibrant images for students' PLTW classroom diagrams and presentations, and better signage for PLTW classrooms and ZMS-hosted Robotics competitions.

Total 2025 Fall Classroom Grants: $25,910.29

###