Zionsville Education Foundation
2025 Spring Classroom Grants

Special thanks to the Barth Family Fund for the support of this grant cycle.

The Race to Read…More Books! ($4,279.50)
Brooke Dobrovodsky and Laurel Pilcher – Union Elementary School
Books purchased will fuel volume reading, genre challenges, and game-style competitions, inspiring students to explore diverse texts, build skills, and develop a lifelong love for reading. The books will support the genres explored each quarter: poetry, adventure, historical fiction, and myths. Classroom activities will encourage critical thinking, teamwork, and deep engagement with texts, motivating students to read more and develop stronger analytical skills.

Tuners for Zionsville Middle and West Orchestras ($974.35)
Keegan Lammers, Megan Brenton, Maddie Edwards, Ashley Murray, Sarah Wright – Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville West Middle School, Zionsville Middle School
A class set of tuners will be provided to each middle school orchestra program. Tuners allow students to undertake an authentic, important musical skill independently, and they help students understand an aural concept through visual information. With this visual aid, students have multiple pathways to understanding the concept of playing in tune. This technology will also improve classroom procedures and allow for curricular alignment in 5th-12th grades; high school students use these tuners every day, and having tuners at the middle school aligns tuning procedures.

Lifelong Fitness at Z-West ($4,988.41)
Trisha Smart, Kristina Comer, Steve Simmons, Whit Keadle – Zionsville West Middle School
The addition of fitness equipment including kettlebells, medicine balls, dumbbells, and fitness spots to the Zionsville West Middle School PE department will lead to lifelong fitness skills for students in grades 5-8. Teaching lifelong fitness to middle school students can have a profound and lasting impact on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being by building healthy habits.

Computer Science and 3D Printing ($3,378)
Molly Seward – Trailside Elementary School
The introduction of 3D printers at Trailside will transform the learning experience by promoting collaboration in the design process. This technology connects classroom content with STEM education. Students will learn to create and design models that reflect classroom topics such as specialty animals, human organ models, and main characters from literature or their own narratives. This iterative design process encourages creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking, while inspiring young learners to pursue further opportunities in the field of computer science.

Set the Scene: Act 2 ($10,457.50)
Isaac Spillman and Samuel Chenoweth – Zionsville Community High School

This project expands upon the 2022 grant, "Set the Scene: Constructing Scenery for ZCHS Performances." Between 2022-2025, there has been substantial growth in the utilization of scene shop space and tools for both curricular and extra-curricular activities. In that time period, enrollment in the Tech Theater class has grown from 8-10 students to its current 27 students. Just this year, groups using the shop have included indoor percussion, show choir, fall musical, drama club, spring play, Mr. Zionsville, and it has supported ZCS events such as the 8th-9th grade transition night by building custom signposts to help with wayfinding. This grant will expand the quantity and types of scene shop tools along with several safety-oriented improvements.

ZMS New Pickleball Equipment ($500)
Stephen D. Imel II – Zionsville Middle School
New pickleball equipment will enhance student experience and expand the number of students able to play during a class period. Playing pickleball gives students the opportunity to grow and learn from the many physical, social, and cognitive benefits it provides.

Photography in Robotics and Bringing It to Life ($747)
Karen Stillions and Stephanie Compton – Pleasant View Elementary
A new digital camera and printer will enable robotics students to more easily and accurately keep and complete an engineering notebook. Notebooks depicting the scientific process throughout the season are judged and evaluated during competitions, tournaments, and Zionsville Leagues.

Feelings and Emotions ($278.95)
Amber Dawson – Universal PreSchool 3-4 Class at Pleasant View Elementary
ZCS's youngest learners will have access to books about feelings and emotions. Students will learn about the different types of emotions and feelings, how to recognize them, and how to help themselves become more regulated.

Teamwork, Social Skills, and Fitness Fun with Outdoor Supplies! ($267.89)
Shannon Merrell – Trailside Elementary School
Kindergarteners will have access to outdoor supplies that will give them more options to explore, use their imagination, communicate with peers, and problem solve. They will have fun, stay active, communicate, and work together during outdoor recess.

Graphic Novels for English Classrooms ($1,013.21)
Lisa Geimer – Zionsville Community High School
The purchase of graphic novels for the English course texts will help Multilingual Learners, Special Education, and visual learners better understand the text. Two of each graphic novel will allow English teachers to use one in class and have another copy to loan to students.

Total 2025 Spring Classroom Grants: $26,884.81

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