

2021-2022 MEF Grant Abstracts

Kristi Sniffen, Readfield Elementary School - ***Readfield Elementary School Readiness Skills Program Outdoor Learning Space.***

The Readfield Elementary School Readiness Skills team will construct an enclosed space outside the Readiness Skills classroom exterior doors. Creating such a space would allow the students and staff in the Readiness Skills program to have enhanced educational opportunities as well as provide a needed safety mechanism to support their functional skill growth. The outdoor enclosure would serve two purposes. First, to provide a safety barrier for our most vulnerable students who can be at risk to leave their classroom unexpectedly. This barrier would allow staff the time to keep students safe. Secondly, it will provide an alternative recess area for Special Education students who are learning how to follow general education recess expectations. Without a designated enclosed area, these students sometimes are not able to access outside recess.

Kristen Levesque - Maranacook Community Middle School - ***Wings of Fire Book Club***

Wings of Fire is a book series that is greatly enjoyed by many students at MCMS. This book club will meet regularly to talk about the series, read the series together, and bring the books to life by making 3D dragons and creating school-wide theme days around the books, to ultimately bring the books to life for all students.

Amy Hague - Manchester Elementary School - ***Resource Room Library***

Students in special education are often reading at a lower level than many of their peers. However, if a student is in 5th grade and reading at a 1st grade level, they still have interests that align with their 5th grade peers and books don't always offer text that are easily read at their level. This project will build a classroom library to include a variety of topics and interests at a wide range of reading levels so no students are left feeling like they need to read about topics that are too young for them.

Paul Sveum -Kennebec Valley YMCA - ***Camp KV Music Program***

In anticipation of the 2023 main lodge renovation at Camp KV, we are going to partner with the Snow Pond Center for the Arts to pilot a one-week music program that will serve many students who attend the Maranacook Area School District. This program will allow us to add our own, self-sustaining music program due to the increase in indoor space. This music program will teach drumming and singing as

well as performing and will be the catalyst for all future music programming at Camp KV. This grant will pay for half of the instruction, materials and musical equipment rentals.

Heather Chalmers - District Elementary Library Media Specialist - ***Stem Kits for the Elementary Libraries***

We are so excited to be back in the libraries this year! Library staff spent the summer refreshing the libraries to make them welcoming for students. During library class, we complete a myriad of activities to support the students' literacy growth. We read aloud to students, teach library related lessons and students check out books. We create specific spaces that students are able to use as creation stations, construction/STEM and curriculum related centers, to play games or puzzles, work on KVBA books, use laptops/iPads to access the library website and online reading sites, or read books in our reading areas. Since centers are relatively new to the library, we are trying to build up our resources to enhance learning opportunities for students. This grant will allow us to purchase STEM kits that go with our reading and science curriculums for students to use.

Kathy Corey - Fayette Elementary School - ***Be Lakewise, Be Lake Stewards***

ALL ABOARD for a limnology education of a lifetime! Through outdoor, hands-on experiences, Fayette Student Limnologists will learn that lake stewardship impacts everyone's life directly or indirectly. The experts at Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed will provide engaging watershed experiences and the ability to use scientific equipment not available to our school. Student scientists will participate in water quality & clarity testing, temperature analysis, native and invasive aquatic plant study, and the investigation of plankton and zooplankton living in Echo Lake. Students will also extend their knowledge at other area watershed locations. Students will "Be Lakewise, Be Lake Stewards!"

Hope Lord - Maranacook Community Middle School - ***Creative Glass Art***

The Creative Glass Art Grant will provide the middle school art program the funds to purchase an Olympic glass fusing kiln. The kiln will enhance the art curriculum by providing the equipment necessary to teach glass fusing. Students in the middle school art program would learn glass fusing skills and techniques required to create small decorative plates, soap dishes, sun catchers, ornaments, and many more glass projects that would be fired in the glass kiln. Glass is an exciting medium and teaching students the art of glass fusing will be engaging and provide students a unique art opportunity.

Amy Tucker - Maranacook Community Middle School - ***Making the Hidden Visible***

Students have asked about how things in our world work. We are planning for an engineering unit and would like to supplement our learning with the Turing Tumble and Spintronics to look "behind the curtain" at how computers function and how circuits work. By incorporating the Turing Tumble and Spintronics, students will gain a visual, hands-on understanding of how computers and electronic circuits are used to create the world around them. This new understanding will be used as we engage in further exploration of how complex machines can be disassembled, reassembled, and used to solve real-world problems.

Rachael Boucher - Mt. Vernon Elementary School - ***Page Turners***

Page Turners is a book club that will provide readers in grades 3-5 the opportunity to read a variety of realistic fiction texts that have been carefully selected to cultivate discussions about growing up, facing challenges, and persevering. The intent is for students to collect thoughts from fellow readers and powerful quotes from characters throughout the readings that will help them navigate difficult times in the future in a positive way. A variation of the Page Turners will be provided for students in grade 2 using picture books.

Carolyn Gross - Maranacook Community High School - ***Archery Equipment-Extra Curricular and Introductory Unit for Physical Education***

Archery is a wonderful activity for students to learn and teaches a variety of skills: sportsmanship, physical and mental fitness, confidence and goal setting, just to name a few. This is truly an inclusive activity for all. Mental and physical development are positively impacted through participation in archery. It fosters a growth mindset, provides a self-confidence boost, while bringing forth a sense of accomplishment. Archery also contributes to healthy social interaction and a positive growth mindset in relationship to improved skill levels. It is an activity that can be done year round, with a definite focus on safety for self and others. For many, archery could become a lifelong activity.

Rachel Holland - Maranaook Community Middle School - ***Self Regulation Through Sensory Stimulation and Relaxation***

The ongoing pandemic and periods of remote learning and quarantine has led to increased levels of physical and emotional dysregulation when students return to the school building. Students with special needs often have difficulty regulating emotional and physical energy levels. Changes to daily schedules and transitions can exacerbate these challenges. In conjunction with our District occupational therapist, this grant will purchase sensory items for the Learning Center to help students regulate their emotional and physical energy levels so that they are better able to access the general and special education curriculums