Lake Central Education Foundation
Grant Round 65
Seed Grant

Number of Grants Funded: 15
Grant Round 65 Amount: $11,196.41
Seed Grant Amount: $3,009.23
Grant Total Amount: $14,205.64

Cumulative Grants Funded: 716
Cumulative Amount: $401.939.52

Impacting Approximately 4,706 Students

Grant #	***Person Awarded***	***School***	***Project Title***	***Amount Awarded 10-19-26***
1	Courtney Leonhardt	Kolling	Kolling Orff Xylophone Program	$600.00
2	Cheryl Hobby	Watson	Hands on Math	$429.96
3	Rachel Paplomatas	Kahler	PLTW 3D Printer	$1,000.00
4	Crystal Lippie	Kolling	Sensory Learning Through Play	$638.69
5	Melissa Ballenger and Sarah Stamper	Protsman	UFLI: Take Us Away with Phonics!	$711.53
6	Brittany Perry, Stephanie Trzupek, Julie Walker and Kim Yelich	Watson	From Phonics to Fluency: Equipping Young Readers with Decodable Books	$989.96
7	Allison Castle	Kahler	P.A.C.K. in Action (Positive, Accountable, Cooperative, and Kind)	$826.04
8	Trish Giese	Homan	Math Stackers	$557.00
9	Brenna Krygsheld and Lea Ann Kerber	Bibich	Interactive Thematic Language Groups	$856.98
10	Rhonda Ferguson	Kolling	Putting Math Power in Kids' Hands	$700.00
11	Amanda Coffman	Kahler	Emergency Bucket Calming Supplies	$899.86
12	Colleen Rock & Randi Lollis	Kahler	The Problem Solving Process Using LEGO in the 5-8 Classroom	$990.51
13	Sheri Venturelli and Kristy Bashara	Bibich	GLOW AND GROW: Lighting up Literacy	$995.88
14	Ashley Kostelnik	Watson and Peifer	Color Me Adaptive	$1,000.00
			Grant Round 65 Total	$11,196.41
Seed Grant	***Person Awarded***	***School***	***Project Title***	***Amount Awarded***
A	Janette Snelson	High School	Broadcast Anywhere: Mobil Podcasting Carts for Helping Students Use Authentic Voice	$3,009.23

			Seed Grant Total	$3,009.23
			Grand Total	$14,205.64

Special thanks to our top Partners in Education for their support of the Lake Central Education

Champion Partners: Tri Kappa, Zeta Psi, Summers Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Town of Dyer, Powers Health, Purdue University Northwest, Peoples Bank, Schererville Chamber of Commerce

Hero Partners: Town of Schererville

Inspiration Partners: Friends of Lake Central Schools, The Czarnik Family, Caleb S. Johnson Law, LLC, IUN School of Education, Core Construction, Olthof Homes, Strack & Van Til, Puntillo and Crane Orthodontics, P.C., St. John Smoothie King, Edward Jones - Adam Robertson, Arctic Engineering, The Carney Family

1. Courtney Leonhardt

To help enhance the LCSC elementary music curriculum at Kolling, I would like to present our students with new and practical learning opportunities. Having the opportunity to learn state and national music education standards through the use of Orff xylophones will help students broaden their knowledge by applying what they have been learning in music class to the instruments used in this unit. This unit of study will cover a variety of elementary music standards and will contain interdisciplinary connections as well.

2. Cheryl Hobby

These math lessons with manipulatives would enhance learning by providing my students with a hands on math intervention curriculum. It provides practice in number and operations, which is a weakness for my students.

3. Rachel Paplomatas

3D printing and design are useful in the classroom because they provide students with an authentic, hands-on way to apply concept that might otherwise remain abstract. Students can see their ideas become real objects, which encourage creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, perseverance, and critical thinking.

4. Crystal Lippie

Themed sensory bins will give Early Childhood students hands-on opportunities to learn through play and exploration. Activities will support communication, fine motor development, social interaction, early academics, and individual IEP goals.

5. Melissa Ballenger and Sarah Stampe

1st grade students will master their phonics skills from simple to complex by using decoding map trays and letter tiles to manipulate phonemes when making words.

6. Brittany Perry, Stephanie Trzupek, Julie Walker and Kim Yelich

The research is clear that explicit, systematic phonics instruction is the most effective path to reading proficiency and decodable books are a core tool in that instruction. Each spiral bound decodable book follows a progression of phonics skills over 5 different units and contains 20 texts in each unit (10 fiction

and 10 nonfiction, with and without pictures). These books will help build students' confidence by giving them more opportunities to practice decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension in small groups, with partners, and individually.

7. Allison Castle

P.A.C.K. in Action connects Clark's core values with Language Arts through collaborative, game-based learning. Students build vital communication, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills while actively practicing being Positive, Accountable, Cooperative, and Kind. Ultimately, this project strengthens students as readers, thinkers, and positive community members.

8. Trish Giese

Through hands-on inquiry, students in Kindergarten through fourth grade will strengthen their number sense, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. These reusable materials will support students in developing confidence, perseverance, and a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

9. Brenna Krygsheld and Lea Ann Kerber

These interactive thematic language groups will support gestalt language processors, autistic students, AAC users, and early communicators in their language learning. This system enhances these students' ability to learn by approaching their academics and language acquisition with a system that supports how they learn language.

10. Rhonda Ferguson

Kindergartners learn best through hands-on experiences rather than passive listening, and they need to physically interact with math to understand abstract concepts. Math Stackers will provide this tactile interaction in my classroom and help my kindergartners to be mathematically proficient students.

11. Amanda Coffman

This project equips Kahler Middle School classroom emergency buckets with sensory fidgets and calming tools to help students, particularly those with special needs, self-regulate emotions and remain calm and safe during school emergencies and drills.

12. Colleen Rock & Randi Lollis

Using LEGOs om the classroom will impact the entire Kahler student body by instilling engineering resilience, spatial reasoning, and teamwork. Experiencing failure as a normal step in the design process helps students develop confidence and problem-solving strategies that directly transfer to science, mathematics, and everyday life.

13. Sheri Venturelli and Kristy Bashara

GLOW AND GROW: LIGHTING UP LITERACY will meet kindergarten students and learners receiving grade-level interventions at their individual instructional levels through hands-on, engaging literacy activities. Students will celebrate the skills they already "glow" in while setting goals and developing the foundational reading skills they need to "grow" into confident, independent readers.

14. Ashley Kostelnik

Color Me Adaptive will provide K-4 students with a colorful and inclusive way to develop fundamental movement skills while connecting Physical Education to literacy, mathematics, science and problem solving. By offering innovative and imaginative opportunities to participate and succeed, the project will enable students of varying physical abilities to learn and move together, utilizing equipment that is

diverse in color, shape, size, density etc., ultimately creating a more engaging, accessible and meaningful learning experience.

SEED GRANT
A. Janette Snelson
By providing a plug-and-record mobile recording space, this project introduces an innovative, cross-disciplinary pilot that transforms traditional coursework into dynamic audio storytelling and provides new opportunities for learning and creating. It directly meets the urgent need for AI-resistant, authentic assessment while engaging students across all subjects.