**District 205 Foundation**

**2016 Thiems Grants**

**$54,990-29 grants**

**High School & Middle School: $6,750**

**Be a Pro at Being You $5,000**

***Donna Revello, Jackie Tamer***

This funding will help support an Elmhurst Commission on Youth program that aims to bring Chris Herren and his positive anti-drug message to York High School to benefit students and the community. He is a former Boston Celtic NBA player who lost his dreams to heroin and prescription drug addiction. His critically acclaimed presentation is about self-esteem, confidence, respect and getting out in front of addiction. (#2016-22 partial)

**Spotlight on Baroque: Radical Style, Wild History & Unique Performance Practice $1,750 York, Bryan, Churchville, Sandburg**

***Ray Ostwald, Barbara Scott, Stacie Savittieri, Ellen Garey***

Orchestra students in grades 6-12 will work with two specialists dedicated to Baroque performance practice on strings and keyboard. This program will bring students an increased level of expertise regarding historical context, musical characteristics, technical approach and stylistic performance practice, through collaboration with nationally recognized experts in the field from Northwestern and Nashville. (2016-21).

**High School-$14,952**

**Fitness Center Improvement $2,340 York**

**Mark Bibel and Nicole Young**

Two rowing machines will be purchased for the York Fitness Center to provide additional fitness opportunities for the entire York student population. Athletic trainers and PE instructors will also use the rowers to assist in rehabilitation of injured student/athletes. (#2016-07 partial)

**Book Madness Reading Program $1,312 York**

***Erica Drumm***

*Book Madness* is a reading program run by the school library styled after the NCAA March Madness tournament. A selection of books are “bracketed” and students can get involved by reading in one or more rounds, casting votes for their favorites and moving the winners on to the next round until a winning book is crowned. This program encourages leisure reading that positively impacts literacy skills, and the grant will allow the purchase of 112 new titles to support the program and allow for expanded participation. (#2016-29)

**The Evolution of Science… Olympiad $800.00 York**

***Jeff Drach, Jeremy Paschke, and Elizabeth Ferhati***

Students use their creativity and innovation to correctly build and test multiple devices when they compete in a myriad of Scientific Olympiad events that cover the areas of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environment Science, and Engineering. This grant will be used to purchase VEX: IQ super-kit robotics, Field Guides, and other equipment that is necessary to build various devices. (#2016-05)

**ELL One-Stop Shop $500 York**

***Jessica Nall, Maria Valerio-Sokowski, Diane Oliveros***

It is difficult for high school students to feel prepared for school and be focused and eager to learn when they lack the most basic supplies and are often worried and self-conscious about it. This grant will help to establish a new program whereby newcomer ELL students will have the ability to get the supplies they need in a private manner that encourages personal responsibility. The funds will be used for a storage vehicle and to start an inventory of personal items and school supplies. (# 2016-42 partial)

**$10,000 Donor Designated Gift for York High School**

**Future-Ready Classrooms $5,000 York**

***Jill Heaton, Katie Diebold***

This Grant will update the Lincoln Lab to create a future-ready classroom complete with media creation tools including gooseneck camera and phone tripods, video cameras, mics, foldable whiteboards, high-top tables, etc. This will enhance the effectiveness of the space allowing for more collaboration and creativity in a twenty first century learning environment.

(2016-19)

**Monitors for Computer Science Program $3,400 York**

***Bill Barnum***

These 23” computer monitors will allow computer science and programming students to view, edit and manipulate multiple windows simultaneously including Java class files, instructional video files, rubrics, and teacher demonstrations. (2016-18 partial)

**Tech Services Internship (TSI) Learning & Enhancement Projects $1,600 York**

***Kristin Batholomew***

The purchase of Raspberry Pis (peripheral computers used to work with a variety of programming languages) and a Cannon Ti3 Camera plus accessories will offer students in the recently created Tech Services Internship the opportunity to learn and incorporate a broader range of skills in the class with the addition of coding and videography to the curriculum. Additionally, video clips containing Chromebook tips and tricks will be developed, broadcasted and shared with the York student body and potentially middle school and elementary students. (#2016-28)

**Middle School-$6,500**

**Ozobot Classroom Kits $3,600 Churchville,** **Bryan, and Sandburg**

***Debra Segiet and Christi Elliott***

To encourage student exploration of STEM education, Ozobot educational kits will be provided to each middle school technology center. Ozobot kits open the door to computer science, robotics, and coding. This innovative kit teaches sequential thinking, logical reasoning, and coding concepts. Students will learn the basics of static and flash coding within the Computer Lit curriculum. (#2016-02, #2016-39)

**Design for Learning: Sandburg  
Interior Spaces and the Classroom Environment $2,400  
*Jennifer Leban***

This innovative grant will allow a Unified Arts classroom to provide a physical environment for use by all students at Sandburg. Funding will allow dynamic and innovative seating that has shown to increase student engagement, improve collaboration, and provide an aesthetically pleasing space for students to learn. (#2016-01 partial)

**Exploring History through Song: Sandburg  
An Interdisciplinary Approach $500   
B*rian Bartoz, Nicole Boyle, Caroline Branick***A renowned local performer and teacher will visit 6th grade classrooms inviting students to collaborate with peers to write lyrics and create history parodies. Students will have the opportunity to transform popular, contemporary songs into parodies which draw upon content knowledge to communicate about ancient cultures, bringing history to life. (2016-20)

**Elementary Schools-$26,788**

**Making Music with the Ukulele $4,525 All K-5 schools  
*Kenneth Schopp***This exciting opportunity will introduce our elementary students to the ukulele! This traditional instrument allows students to play melody lines (one note at a time) and chords (more than one note at a time), creates music with multiple parts and varying degrees of difficulty and is a stepping stone to the guitar. Two class sets (30 each) of ukuleles with storage racks and tuners will be shared for instruction with equal time at each elementary school. (#2016-10 partial)

**Ready Resources for Reading $5,000 Conrad Fischer**

***Donna Dewar, Pat Moll***

The new 2016-2017 thematic literacy units containing the common core objectives will require literary and informational texts consisting of leveled readers, ELL texts and varied subject matter options for students. This grant will enable the purchase of printed resources for the library and classrooms to support the literacy initiative and help provide equitable and sufficient resources for all students.(#2016-43 partial)

**"Come Grow With Us" Garden $3,000 Conrad Fischer**

***Tamara Kohout***

These funds will help a team of parents, teachers and students to reinvigorate the school garden. In addition to providing an outdoor classroom that will teach curricular lessons with an interactive hands-on approach, this project will expose students to essential health and nutrition topics and may provide an introduction to horticulture for a large student population.

(# 2016-37 partial)

**Standing Desks $2,916 Edison**

***James Pluskota***

Staff at this elementary school have had some success with increased student attention and focus by utilizing standing desks. These versatile and adjustable desks offer students who are easily distractible and more active another option to the traditional seated learning environment. This grant will fund an additional ten desks for use in their classrooms.

(#2016-30 partial)

**Bodies in Motion, Brains in Motion: Jackson  
Research-Based Ergonomic Seating $2,500**

***Margaret Lewis, Ryan Anderson, Stephen Fijor, Sarah Anderson***

Updating the chairs to ergonomic, flexible, child-friendly seating will likely positively impact the teaching and learning in the library. These Hokki stools will allow for multiple groups to more effectively use the library space at the same time doing differentiated activities. (2016-14(partial)

**Number Sense You Can Count On $1,500 Field/Lincoln**

***Leanne Rider and Nicole Martinez***

Research shows that it is crucial to integrate manipulatives into the classroom to improve student achievement. This grant will allow the purchase of the number sense system to enhance instruction and improve mathematical understanding for k-2 students, as well as students in grades 3-5 who still need additional assistance. Materials include Number Sense books, numeration boards, Rekenreks, and dot pattern teaching cards. (#2016-11partial)

**Dyanmic Seating $1,507 Lincoln**

***Katherine Buller, Angela Pollak***

This grant funds the purchase of Hokki Stools as an alternative seating option for students receiving special services to enable and support independence and self-regulation in the general classroom environment. (#2016-35)

**Focusing Can be Fun! $1,400 Hawthorne**

***Kelly Iturbide and Geri Sorrentino***

Focusing is a challenge for many students and studies have shown there are tools for the classroom environment that can assist students to better focus and learn. This grant will provide the 2nd grade classrooms at Hawthorne with Wobble Seats and desktop extenders (to allow standing while working). (#2016-06 partial)

**Rock and Roll While You Learn $720 Emerson**

***Sandy Wenig and Elizabeth Kawa***

Even though our bodies are made to move, and teachers provide more hands-on, active opportunities, we still do expect students to sit for extended periods of time. For some students this is more of a challenge. Hokki Stools allow children to get some additional controlled movement during these times so they may better concentrate and stay engaged. This allows for a few Hokki stools per each 2nd grade classroom so that teachers may assign students that need additional movement in their day.(#2016-12 partial)

**IXL Language Arts: Grammar Guru & More $780 Hawthorne**

***Cyndi Higgins & Geri Sorrentino***

This grant funds a one year subscription to pilot IXL Language Arts for the 5th grade students at this elementary school. IXL Language Arts supports grammar skills and adds additional practice and support for other common core aligned learning. (#2016-26partial)

**Integrating Literacy Into Math $562 Emerson**

***Sandy Wenig and Elizabeth Kawa***

Integration of subject areas is necessary and optimal in today’s classrooms. In order to gain true mathematical understanding, students benefit from literature that supports the same concepts. The purchase of texts for the grade specific libraries and the Math Reads Program will allow teachers to incorporate literature into their daily math instruction. The books include instruction on all critical math areas: operations, algebraic thinking, numbers and operations, measurement, data, and geometry. (#2016-09)

**Closing the Gap with Number Sense: Hands-On Learning $500 Conrad Fischer**

***Kory Curcio***

Concrete instructional materials allow students to make connections and relate those concrete ideas to more abstract mathematical concepts. The purchase of materials for the proposed activities would provide students with hands-on visuals to tap into the very critical area of number sense. (#2016-17 partial)

**Multimedia Social Emotional Learning $490 Jefferson**

***Christine Cusack***

The purchase of a large monitor with stand and speakers will benefit students receiving social work support by incorporating multimedia and online resources as shared educational tools for multi-student groups. The ability to accommodate larger groups of students is necessary due to the growing demands for interventions and increased referrals for support. (#2016-34)

**Third Graders Love to "Rant" Read Authentic Nonfiction Text $414 Jefferson  
*Jennifer Klink\* & Heather Noncek***

This grant supports student learning and the new literacy curriculum by providing informational and non-fiction texts for third grade. Primary and supporting novels will be purchased, then three to four primary novels will be identified to use with reading groups based on student interest and reading level. The supporting novels would then be an option for further independent reading after completion of the primary novel. (# 2016-41)

**Rekenreks Make Numbers Sense! $400 Jackson**

***Jessica Vega, Laura Parat, Laura Rhoney & Sharon Holt***

This grant enables first graders to use a math tool called Rekenreks. These two bar tools allow students to count, understand place value, and compute through 20. This will improve number sense of our first graders allowing them to perceive and manipulate amounts without having to count one to one, bringing them closer to transitioning from concrete to abstract operations. (2016-25 partial)

**Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light: STOP! Hawthorne**

**Safety Skills for the Real World $375**

***Caroline Weaver and Kelly Callahan***

The safety of our students is a primary focus. This grant will provide play traffic signs and other barriers that will be used with special needs classes at Hawthorne. Teachers, with the SLP and Library Media Specialist, will create a curriculum to teach students how to identify safety signs and their meanings, as well as how to react to different warning signs. The Hawthorne staff is willing to share these materials with other district schools. (#2016-03)

**A Friend for All $200 Jackson**

***Dottie Jendreas, Sarah Klowden, Rachel Porzel***

For children to become eager learners, they must feel safe, accepted and happy in their school environment. This grant will help to support the development of a Peer Buddy Program at this elementary school by providing funds to purchase age appropriate games to engage the Peer and Focal Child in structured play. (#2016-38 partial)