

2014 Grant Awards

REF is thrilled to award a total of \$51,969 in grants this year, benefiting every school in the District, and supporting all areas of the curriculum: Health and Wellness, Language Arts, Social Studies, Special Education, the Arts, and an array of STEM-based programs (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Grants include:

ALL SCHOOL, COMMUNITY GRANTS

Dr. Michael Fowlin Presentations — for High School and Middle School students, plus a Community Evening. This dynamic show highlights the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention, and personal identity. [Dr. Fowlin's](#) mission is to create an atmosphere of worldwide inclusion, not just tolerance, towards all people. *Sponsored by REF, and Coolidge, Parker, and RMHS PTOs.*

Challenge Day Project for Coolidge Middle School and Beyond
The powerful [Challenge Day](#) experiential workshop is for students and adults (teachers, counselors, educators, parents, and community members), empowering them to create the change in thinking necessary for a more positive school community. The program builds connection and empathy, and teaches techniques (Notice/Choose/Act) that can be applied to everyday experiences. *Grant proposed by Marlene Lifshin.*

HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS

3D Printing Initiative. A 3D printer and tabletop CNC milling machine will enhance STEM and business curriculums by allowing students to test their designs for structural integrity, form versus function, marketability, and manufacturability. *Grant proposed by Hatton, Burke, Strout & Ballantyne.*

21st Century Collaborative Classroom. Together with BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), monitors and speakers will transform this

history class into a prototype for student-driven learning through collaborative workstations. Students will be able to share their passions with one another as they research, design projects together, and present in a more real world environment. *Grant proposed by Kerry Gallager.*

Robotics Team Hardware. Purchase of a Chassis assembly and Crio unit will allow for a second robot to be available to increase community outreach, and allow for more “hands-on” participation of team members. *Grant proposed by Charles Strout.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANTS

Interactive Projectors for 8th Grade Special Education. Projectors provide technology that will improve the learning environment by allowing students to work collaboratively, participate in kinesthetic and tactile learning, and be fully engaged during lessons. *Grant proposed by Morin & Nuegarten.*

Digital Art Lab at Parker and Coolidge Middle Schools. By providing iPads and iPad minis to Middle School Art Departments, students will be inspired to create images through technology. *Grant proposed by Doane, Davis & Ropple.*

Interactive Mobile Device for Coolidge Middle School. This interactive learning tool will promote collaborative learning for the elective, enrichment and team projects that meet in common areas currently without access to technology. *Grant proposed by Marcia Grant.*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRANTS

Ukulele String Program at Killam, Joshua Eaton and Barrows Schools. Extending the successful string program funded last year by REF at Wood End and Birch Meadow schools, now all 2nd through 5th grade students in Reading will have the opportunity to study music

reading and participate in ensemble and solo repertoire on a stringed instrument. This will give students the experience and skills needed to explore opportunities on other string-family instruments. *Grant proposed by Britany Baumann.*

Document Cameras at Barrows Elementary School. These cameras will support interactive collaboration and sharing between students and staff using real-time projection, by providing scanning capability and on-line connection. *Grant proposed by Heather Leonard.*

Health & Wellness Literature Program at Birch Meadow School. This program will reinforce core values through the use of literature with targeted teaching, lesson plans and assessments at all grade levels. *Grant proposed by Eric Sprung.*

Classroom Sensory Integration at Wood End School. Specialized pieces of equipment will provide increased sensory inputs, enabling identified students to be more attentive and sit for longer periods of time. *Grant proposed by Karin Rando.*