

## 2021-2022 Classroom Assistance Grant Recipients

1. Abby Ford teaches Science and Technology at Elm Grove Elementary in Kingwood  
Project: She will create six classroom transformation kits (Super Mario video game, Boot Camp, Camping, Hospital/Operating Room, Space, and Picnic) that are available to every teacher on campus, creating unique learning opportunities for 600 students.
2. Amanda Moore teaches Math at Chisum Junior High in Paris  
Project: She will purchase Ozobot markers so that her 7<sup>th</sup> grade students can learn to code a robot to trace patterns laid out on the floor. This will then learn more about calculating lateral and surface area.
3. Amber Prentice teaches Technology and Robotics at Buffalo Gap Elementary in Buffalo Gap  
Project: She will purchase a Lego Mindstorm EV3 kit so her Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students can build a robot to solve a real-world problem that they face in today's environment.
4. Amy Smith teaches Orchestra, Mariachi, and Percussion at Young Women's Leadership Academy in El Paso  
Project: Her students will analyze and perform works by female composers, research compositional techniques, and careers in music. The funds will purchase music and pay to bring in guest speaker and successful composer Lauren Bernofsky.
5. Bill Becker teaches Math at YES! Prep North Forest in Houston  
Project: He will establish a Youth Garden Program to help his 6<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students learn day-to-day gardening tasks and sustainable agriculture practices.
6. Brandy Cavness teaches Reading for dyslexia students at Brady Middle School in Brady  
Project: She will create a dyslexia parent education program as well as help her students work on dysgraphia and working memory by purchasing a variety of relevant books.
7. Brent Ritchey teaches Texas History and Social Studies at Dolph Briscoe Middle School in San Antonio  
Project: He will purchase a class set of Texas: A Historical Atlas to teach his students about key landmarks and events and how to read maps, graphs, and charts.
8. Britney Haynes teaches Special Education at West Graves Early Learning Center in Port Arthur  
Project: She will add a light table and binding machine to her classroom to help her students with special needs explore letters, numbers, colors, and shapes and to create adaptive sensory books.

9. Caroline Bryson teaches Math, Science, and Social Studies at Navarro Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will use her funds to purchase a variety of flexible, portable seating options for her students such as stability and balance balls and handled floor cushions, in addition to magnetic building block sets to help them explore their creativity through STEM projects.
10. Christina White teaches English at La Marque High School in La Marque  
Project: Her project "Stop, Rewind, Define" will help students enhance their language acquisition skills and vocabulary through the use of individual Merriam-Webster dictionaries.
11. Corrine Thompson teaches Gifted and Talented at Mildred Junior High School in Corsicana  
Project: She will use her funds to register five student teams for the online "Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl" and to purchase practice sets for the teams.
12. Crystal Baker teaches Reading Intervention for dyslexia students at Koennecke Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will purchase large print, dyslexia-friendly high interest books for K-5 students to help them prepare for TEKS, as well as tracking bookmarks to help them keep their place while reading.
13. Dallena Nash teaches Gifted and Talented and Social Studies at Sloan Creek Intermediate in Fairview  
Project: She will encourage "visible thinking" in her students by having them collaborate in small groups to cover a content subject. They will use whiteboards and multi-colored markers to color-code their drawings and ideas.
14. Debbie Hazelwood teaches Math and Science at Tibbals Elementary in Murphy  
Project: She will create classroom transformations, such as "Hospital Operating Room" for dissecting word problems and "Big Top" for teaching concepts using circus games.
15. Denise White teaches Reading, Language Arts, Writing, and Spelling to dyslexia students at Port Neches Elementary in Port Neches  
Project: She will purchase "All About Spelling" intervention activity kits to help her dyslexic students improve not only spelling, but also writing skills and reading achievement.
16. Evelyn Terry teaches all subjects to Pre-K students at Halpin ECC in Houston  
Project: She will create "Family Engagement Kits," including math start kits, number tales boxes, and solve and play kits for in-person parent learning to help students transfer their school skillsets to the home environment.

17. James Gaylord teaches Principles of Architecture at Summer Creek High School in Houston  
Project: He will purchase Apple Pencils designed to work with Apple iPad design and sketching programs to help students prepare for Engineering Design and Architecture fields.
18. Jessica LaPete teaches Language Arts at Dolph Briscoe Middle School in San Antonio  
Project: She will use her funds to purchase copies of the novel *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* to help students learn about culture, community, poverty, immigration, voting, and the U.S. Census while aiding their reflective writing skills.
19. Johnie Flores teaches Pre-K through second grade students at YES! Prep North Forest Elementary in Houston  
Project: He will develop a school gardening program to help students grow produce and learn about healthy food options. The program will provide free food to families of students in need.
20. Kambri Cowey teaches all subjects to third grade students at Jefferson Elementary in Seguin  
Project: This first-year teacher will purchase headphones for the Istation reading program, as well as culturally relevant books and materials for a math escape room classroom transformation.
21. Kathryn Hiatt teaches Math and Science at Hunt Elementary in Cuero  
Project: She will create a Sensory Pathway including “Count by 5 Insects” and “Meditative Movement Animals” to help improve students’ joint stimulation, alertness, and focus when feeling overwhelmed.
22. Kaye Cooper teaches all subjects to Pre-K students at Aaron Parker Elementary in Powderly and applied along with fellow teachers Christine Rian and Erin Harkey  
Project: They will create an outdoor learning environment with a musical element for their pre-school students by purchasing a glockenspiel.
23. Kelly Taylor teaches Reading at Milano Junior High in Milano  
Project: She will purchase new books for her classroom library, as well as art supplies for reading projects such as creating movie posters, dioramas, and mobiles.
24. Laci Carter teaches English as a second language and Social Studies at Port Neches Elementary in Port Neches  
Project: She will purchase Scholastics Storyworks magazines to help her students learn English Language Arts TEKS standards and improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

25. Laura Clark teaches Forensic Science and Biology at Turner College and Career High School in Pearland  
Project: She will purchase a variety of bones to use in a mock crime scene investigation and help students learn how to differentiate between human and animal remains while solving a crime.
26. Leslie Kuch teaches Math and Social Studies at Rains Elementary School in Emory  
Project: She will use her grant to purchase VersaTiles with math workbooks and manipulatives, which will allow her students to self-check and self-correct their math comprehension work.
27. Liliana Garcia teaches Essential Academics and Activities of Daily Living to students with disabilities at Seguin High School in Seguin and has applied with her colleagues Cailey Donahoe and Andrea Taylor  
Project: The team will implement a School Store, including a cashier box, fake money, calculator, and items to sell to teach students with disabilities real-life transition skills and money management.
28. Lisbeth Santisteban teaches all subjects to Pre-K students at Langford Elementary in Austin  
Project: She will purchase items for supply bags for her virtual students so they can participate from home in math and science experiments.
29. Loura Salazar teaches Life Skills at Taft Elementary in Port Arthur  
Project: She will foster independent learning for children with special needs by setting up rotating, structured work systems and sensory stations.
30. Mark Keddal teaches English and Social Studies at Seguin High School in Seguin  
Project: His students will explore literature written during pandemics with the purchase of class sets for six books (such as Thucydides' Peloponnesian War and Boccaccio's Decameron) and host Socratic, seminar-style discussions with his students.
31. Misty Martinez teaches Instrumental and Choir Music at Carpenter Hill Elementary in Buda  
Project: With her funds, she will help start a new piano program for the elementary school and will purchase "Way Cool Keyboarding for Kids" sequential books to teach the children beginner finger placement and dexterity.
32. Molly Kacal teaches Early Childhood and Special Education at Belton Early Childhood School in Belton  
Project: She will purchase items to establish a school-wide sensory room for improving students' visual, auditory, and tactile processing. Items include a swing, cozy canoe, crash mat, peanut ball, and LED light projector.

33. Mong Tran teaches Reading, ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies at Taft Elementary in Port Arthur  
Project: She will set up a Mini STEAM Lab in her classroom by purchasing engineering and designing kits that inspire students to explore, create, and solve problems. With the kits, students will build furniture, bridges, roller coasters, ramps, and more.
34. Morgan Weeks-Boyer teaches all subjects at Navarro Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will purchase STEM challenge cards, a circuit kit, engineering kit, and more to engage students in learning about reading, math, and science combined.
35. Noemy Talamantes is the Attendance Clerk at Blanton Elementary in Austin  
Project: She will host attendance incentives throughout the year by rewarding students with perfect attendance each cycle with prizes such as bikes, gift cards, healthy snacks, and certificates and also create a student recognition bulletin board.
36. Paula Richard teaches Social Studies at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont  
Project: She will purchase a yearly subscription to Kids Discover Education to teach them about current events as part of social studies curriculum.
37. Raja Donawho teaches all subjects to third grade students at Houston Elementary School in Mineral Wells  
Project: She will purchase a laptop charging cart to safely store a new set of classroom laptops and will help teach her students responsible computer care.
38. Risa Zizmont teaches all core subjects to second grade students at Ridgewood Elementary in Port Neches  
Project: She will purchase six Kids Kore Wobble Chairs for small group interventions to help limit distractions and keep students on task.
39. Robert Barbosa teaches Special Topics in Social Studies at Sharyland High School in Mission  
Project: He will purchase a Super Stock Soap Box Derby Kit, allowing his students to construct a moving car in his American Amusement History class.
40. Samantha Keaton teaches Social Studies and High School Leadership at Young Women's Leadership Academy in Fort Worth  
Project: She will continue her literacy chairs project, where her high school students repair and hand-paint used, broken chairs based on children's book themes and donates them to elementary students. The funds will be used to buy tools, sandpaper, and paint.
41. Samantha Palacios teaches Extreme Reading to dyslexia students at Jim Barnes Middle School in Seguin  
Project: She will buy printed and digital Scope Scholastic magazines, providing access for all 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to relevant and engaging reading material.

42. Sara Hansen teaches Health Science at Atascocita High School in Humble  
Project: She will purchase multi-use supply kits for an in-classroom, hands-on suturing activity to help her students prepare for the Patient Care Technician certification.
43. Sarah Klesel teaches STEM Lab at McQueeney Elementary School in McQueeney  
Project: She will create a mindful maze in the school courtyard, including a buddy bench and relaxing walking path. She will purchase landscaping materials such as gravel and brick along with the bench.
44. Sharen Underwood is a Librarian at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus in Waco  
Project: She will purchase a puppet tree and puppets for the campus library to create rotating learning centers around the themes of Community Workers, Fairytales, and Diversity.
45. Stephanie Adams teaches Reading and Writing at Navarro Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will encourage her students to read at home by creating take-home literacy bags and home MakerSpace kits. The bags will include books and a journal that includes reading response activities.
46. Tanya Webb teaches Math, Science, and Social Studies at Navarro Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will purchase a FlashForge 3D printer and supplies for the second-grade classrooms, allowing students to transform 2D geometric objects into 3D shapes.
47. Traci Jones teaches Music at Vogel Elementary in Seguin  
Project: She will buy a class set of ukuleles to teach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about chord structures and progressions, composition, and the connections between folk and modern-day music.
48. Wendy Morgan teaches Science at Milano Junior High in Milano  
Project: Six microscopes will be purchased for the school science lab, allowing her students to investigate water quality, soil composition, and basic characteristics of living organisms.