

Initiative Grant Review Report – 2023

1. **INDI Robot Initiative**, Franklin Elementary School, Kristin Lewis, Grades K-5

Amount Requested: \$3,219.98 Amount Awarded \$3,219.98

This request is for the purchase of equipment that will be used for developing coding experiences and STEAM activities for students. Sphero Indi Learning Robot helps our youngest learners explore the world of coding using colors and block coding. Students at this young age can start using this robot to learn and understand block coding in the simplest form. With this project I could reach every student in our building and teach them the fundamentals of computational thinking and the principles of computer science.

2. **Earth Science Visual Planetarium Dome Project**, East High School, David Burgess, Grades K-12

Amount Requested: \$30,000.00 Amount Awarded: \$30,000.00

This request is for materials to enhance the planetarium. The project will involve the installation of a GeoDome Globe in the space before you enter the planetarium. We hope to do this before the new science standards start. We believe that this would impact all our ninth graders at Mankato East as well as Dist 77 elementary aged students and West High School during visits. We will also use this for after hour shows and specific public shows. So maybe 15,000 plus students and people in the Mankato area.

3. **Tchoukball**, Roosevelt Elementary School, Josh Engel, Grades K-5

Amount Requested: \$1,415.25 Amount Awarded: \$1,415.25

This request is for the purchase of equipment to enhance the offerings of the Physical Education Program. specifically for a new game that combines team handball and basketball. Pronounced "chuke-ball" it aligns with SHAPE America National Standards for Physical Education guidelines. Players throw the ball at the rebounding frames and the opposing team must catch it without it hitting the ground. This equipment will provide an additional activity to teach catching, throwing, moving in open space, while allowing students to work cooperatively in a game while getting their heart rate up! Equipment that would be purchased is from Gopher Sports and would get shipped out within a week. The equipment would be implemented into our school immediately and would impact our 300+ students.

4. **Adventure ED**, Futures/SUN Program, Tyler Kamm, Grades K-12

Amount Requested: \$3,128.08 Amount Awarded: \$3,128.08

This request is for equipment for students with unique needs (SUN) to introduce students to outdoor adventures and experiences to foster confidence and stepping out of their comfort zone. These tents, sleeping bags, and outdoor equipment will help foster team building and generalize daily living skills and interdependent.

5. **Podcasting in the classroom**, East and West High School, Ethan Dado and Robin Tidd, Grades 9-12

Amount Requested: \$3,844.24 Amount Awarded: \$3,844.24

This project would allow the agriculture department to purchase podcasting supplies needed to meet our goals. We are in collaboration with the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, Agricultural Communications Department to develop a supplies list and will partner with them for staff professional development and guest speakers. Two years ago, they implemented a digital communications course at the U of MN and are excited to engage with a high school audience. Through our conversations with them, we will engage our students in the production cycle (more information on the production cycle is in later answers), including gaining information, networking, and eventually sharing the information. With this project, we would be able to implement the production cycle and podcasting in our classes. Students would be able to plan, record, and edit podcasts relating to agricultural topics. Once materials are purchased, they can immediately be used in the classroom to teach students how to use them, and then start recording podcasts. The agriculture department sees around 350 students each year and with this project, we would be able to utilize it in almost every class. Once we have a greater understanding of the equipment, we will share with other departments within MAPS to utilize as assessment tools

Initiative Grants Funded in 2009 – \$54,259

Initiative Grants Funded in 2010 – \$56,000

Initiative Grants Funded in 2011 – \$50,723

Initiative Grants Funded in 2016 - \$43,626

Initiative Grants Funded in 2017 - \$88,819

Initiative Grants Funded in 2018 - \$92,395

Initiative Grants Funded in 2012 – \$56,999
Initiative Grants Funded in 2013 – \$63,146
Initiative Grants Funded in 2014 - \$55,000
Initiative Grants Funded in 2015 - \$64,209

Initiative Grants Funded in 2019 - \$57,124
Initiative Grants Funded in 2020 - \$76,223
Initiative Grants Funded in 2021 – \$40,282
Initiative Grants Funded in 2022 – \$96,083
Initiative Grants Awarded in 2023 - \$41,607

Total Initiative Grants Funded since 1995 - \$1,277,876