



Initiative Grant Review Report – 2024

1. **Making STEM Strong**, Franklin Elementary School, Kristin Lewis, Grades K-5

Amount Requested: \$48,211.19 Amount Awarded \$48,211.19

This request is for the purchase of equipment that will be used for developing coding experiences and STEAM activities for students. Indi Robots, Sphero Minis, and Dash Robots will help support our STEM curriculum. These robots will be used to engage our students in coding and problem solving in interdisciplinary lessons that target our life science, physical science, earth and space science standards. The robots will be used throughout the entire school year by all elementary STEM teachers and will be implemented across all grade levels. Each Mankato Area Public School student participates in a weekly STEM time and this grant will allow students to experience hands-on problem solving from September to June.

2. **Cross-Country Skis for Elementary Physical Ed**, Hoover Elementary School, Adam Hanson, Grades K-5

Amount Requested: \$9,075.00 Amount Awarded: \$9,075.00

This request is to purchase new cross country skis. The elementary physical education department for Mankato Public Schools offers a variety of activities for students that emphasizes life long fitness. Cross Country Skiing is an activity that most elementary schools currently participate in every year. We are in need of an upgrade. If given this grant, we would use them right away next year at all Mankato Elementary Schools if there is snow. Students will be taught how to put on the skis, use them in different snow conditions, create trails, and learn about the cardiovascular benefits of cross country skiing. Getting new skis will help replace old ones that are out-dated. The new skis will also be an easier ski to use than the old models, which will reduce time students need to put them on. Since Nicollet Bike and Ski is local, we can keep them in good shape and maintenance when needed. The skis will get used every year based on the weather.

3. **Yearbooks for All**, Central High School, Freedom, and PEEK Middle School, Crystal Kay, Grades 6-12+

Amount Requested: \$5,115.87 Amount Awarded: \$5,115.87

"Yearbooks for All Students" presents an opportunity to leverage teaching and learning methodologies to actively involve students in the yearbook creation process. The program lays the groundwork for potentially integrating yearbook creation into the curriculum in forthcoming academic terms. Securing access to one-time materials for the current year ensures sustainability for subsequent years. Students will be able to organize, supervise, and publish a yearbook that fairly, accurately and positively documents the events and people of the entire school year. Moreover, the creation of yearbooks serves as a creative avenue for students to apply and enhance their learning skills. From collaborative teamwork in designing and compiling content to utilizing innovative thinking in presenting information, the yearbook project actively engages students in a practical application of their acquired skills within a real-world context.

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 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 2016 - \$43,626

Initiative Grants Funded in 2017 - \$88,819
Initiative Grants Funded in 2018 - \$92,395
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
Initiative Grants Awarded in 2024 - \$62,402

Total Initiative Grants Funded since 1995 - \$1,340,278