

## ***Maranacook Education Foundation 2018-19 Grant Abstracts***

Michelle Anderson, from Junior Achievement of Maine, received funding to allow 8th graders at Maranacook Community Middle School to participate in a Junior Achievement program called "JA, It's My Future." This 5-lesson program provides practical information about preparing for the working world. Students learn about career clusters, high-growth jobs, career planning, and creating a personal brand. And, through a scavenger hunt, they are introduced to the basic aspects of job hunting. All of the lessons will be delivered by community volunteers who will weave in their own work and life experience to help broaden students' sense of opportunity. The goal is for students to be identifying their skills and interests as an 8th grader and how that might translate to a future career in Maine.

Bonnie Shaw Linder, Educational Technician from Mt. Vernon Elementary School, received funding to support the Yoga Adventure Club (YAC), a project available under the umbrella of Special Education at Mt. Vernon Elementary. The children will explore the globe in search of wisdom through original storytelling, meditation, centering, breath control, self-love and kindness. Our yoga positions are woven into the story and the wisdom that we discover each week is visually represented in our "toolbox".

Kristen Levesque, Principal from Maranacook Middle School, received funding to support six Middle School students who will participate in the Rube Goldberg Simple Machine competition. The students will be designing and creating an innovative machine. Through trial and error, teamwork, creativity, perseverance and use of physics and math, they will build a machine which will be entered into this international contest.

Nicole Blake, District Elementary Art Teacher, received partial funding to support the purchase of a kiln for use with elementary students. This kiln will be used to support the development of 3-Dimensional artwork which is a crucial part of the art curriculum, and one that the students really crave and look forward to. As of now, only Middle School and High School students have access to a kiln that can be used to enhance their art program.

Heather Chalmers, Kindergarten Teacher from Wayne Elementary School, received funding to support the purchase of twelve wobble chairs for her students. These chairs will allow her students to wiggle while they work and will also keep them safe. No more tipping chair accidents or falling out of chairs while they wiggle. Young children are still developing their coordination, gross and fine motor skills. These chairs will help students be more successful with their academics and allow them to focus on work while they are able to move.

Jean Roesner, Acadia Team Teacher from Maranacook Middle School, received funding to support the purchase of literature to help good readers and writers to become better readers and writers. When we surround students with award-winning books, we offer them the opportunity to explore text structure, perspectives, and situations in a variety of genres.

Students learn about themselves through their interaction with complex characters. Maine Student Book Award Nominees are current and engaging and will encourage kids to read and discuss their work. By partnering with local libraries, the students will share their insights with authentic audiences through the writing of “Dear Reader” letters.

Stephanie Conners, Grade 3/4 Teacher from Mt. Vernon Elementary School, received funding to bring robotic, coding, and programming to Mt. Vernon Elementary School. While standards for computing are not embedded into our current RSU #38 curriculum, we would like students to learn how to code and program within RSU #38 reading, writing, and spelling lessons. Stephanie is currently taking a class in which she is learning how to incorporate coding and programming into the ELA curriculum, but they do not have access to robots. We would like to purchase a Sphero and a MakeyMakey set so that we can tinker and create authentic computer experiences in an elementary ELA setting.

Selene Frohberg, District Gifted and Talented Teacher, received funding to support the purchase of software to support musically talented students. There is a need for upper level musicians to have access to 21st century technology to develop skills in the areas of composition, arranging, and music theory skill development. With the purchase of FINALE software and MIDI hardware, we hope that these students can use their talents, the tools provided and a supportive Maranacook audience to grow to their potential.

Paul McGovern, District Elementary Technology Integrator, received funding to promote the understanding and implementation of coding in technology at the elementary level. Learning to code is becoming an essential twenty-first century skill, regardless of a student’s chosen field of study. The best way to learn to code is through hands-on playful experiences starting as early as possible. This project will introduce RSU 38 elementary students to coding. Grant funds will be used to purchase an introductory kit from Wonder Workshop that will include 2 programmable robots, Dash and Dot, and curricular materials.

Victoria Adams, Grade 1 Teacher from Wayne Elementary School, received partial funding to support the purchase of a water filling station at WES. Last year, RSU #38 partnered with Let's Go! 5210 to promote healthy living for students, families, and staff. One of the district wellness action steps is to provide water as a healthy drink option. Installing a bottle filling station will provide students with a place to refill their reusable bottles. This will help Wayne Elementary achieve part of our action plan for the Let's Go! 5210 program. With the completion of this project, every school in RSU #38 will have a water bottle filling station and will make the healthiest drink choice more readily available for students and staff alike!