

Spring 2016 Venture Grants

Approved by PMEF

(# of students impacted per year)

Soprano Saxophone Project

High School Music Department

A soprano saxophone will be purchased for instruction, concerts and other performances.

Forensic Science/Physics Equipment

High School Science Department

Force plates and a fuming cabinet will be purchased for use in multiple classrooms and labs, improving instruction in physics and forensic science. (250 students)

Career and Post-Secondary Readiness

Manor MS Counseling Department

All eighth-graders will have the opportunity to visit three local college campuses during Career Readiness Day April 28. (200+ students)

AP Exam Fund

High School

The grant will support a fund to pay advanced-placement exam fees for students from families experiencing financial difficulties. (20+ students)

Wellness Works in Schools

High School Special Education Department

Students will participate in the Wellness Works program, which teaches mindful awareness skills and approaches for self-regulation to help students with challenges at school, at home and in the community. (15 students)

Manga and Graphic Novel Sets

High School Library

The library will add five series of manga/graphic novel texts, which appeal to many students who are not interested in reading traditional books. (60 students)

Cross-Curricular STEM Implementation

High School

Math, science and tech classes will collaborate to work on a project to create a catapult out of everyday materials with the ability to toss an object a specific height and distance. (130 students)

Guitars in the Music Classroom

Eshleman and Conestoga ES

Eighteen guitars will be purchased to expand teaching opportunities for fifth- and sixth-grade music classes. (230 students)

CNC and Digital Fabrication in the Classroom

High School Applied Engineering & Technology Education Department

New software will enable the department to utilize current equipment while expanding the curriculum to include 3D Design and CNC Engineering instruction. (200 students)

Long-Term Career Planning for Freshmen

High School Gifted Department

The “Career Choices” curriculum will be used as a basis for a transition seminar for incoming freshmen, leading students to think critically about their lives and develop individual 10-year plans. (40 students)

Spotlight Writers’ Cafe

Manor Middle School, seventh-grade English

A writers’ forum similar to a poetry café will be established in the Manor library, enabling students to write for an authentic audience and share their expressions in an informal setting. (21 students)

Using the Scientific Process

Districtwide second-grade teaching teams

Teaching teams at Martic, Conestoga, Eshleman, Letort and Hambright will receive a document camera to enhance science instruction. (300 students)

Vocal Jazz Amplification

High School Music Department

Ten microphones will be purchased to enhance jazz vocal instruction and student performances. (27)

Document Camera for French Classes

High School French classes

A document camera will be used to share student work and project texts and other classroom materials to improve instruction. (100+ students)

Learning Breakthrough Program with Brain Training

K-1 academic support

A multi-sensory brain training program will be used to strengthen basic brain processes and enable high-level learning skills for students with ADD/ADHD, autism and learning disabilities. (30+ students)

Orchestra Percussion Project

High School Music Department

The grant will pay for snare drums, triangles and a tambourine, enabling orchestra students to learn and perform a wider range of music. (20+ students)

Puzzling Geography

Central Manor grade 2

Large foam puzzle maps of the United States and the world will help students become actively engaged in learning geography concepts in a group setting. (20+ students)

LEGO Robots in the Classroom

Marticville Middle School

The grant will expand the number of LEGO EV3 programmable robots available to teach hands-on STEM skills to students in robotics classes. (160+ students)

Total for 18 venture grants awarded in spring 2016 \$15,572

Fall 2015 Venture Grants

Approved by PMEF

(# of students impacted this year)

Classroom Flight Simulator

High School Applied Engineering Department

Flight simulator equipment and software will enable students to learn about lift, drag, propulsion and aerodynamic properties while piloting a simulated aircraft. (54 students)

Standing Work Stations

Central Manor Elementary School, special-education students

Four standing desks will be utilized to help students who have difficulty staying focused while seated in the classroom become more calm and engaged. (26 students)

Nonfiction Book Closet

Hambright Elementary School, grade 3

Multiple sets of nonfiction books on matter, energy, geography, rocks, plants, light and other topics will be used to complement the new science and social studies curriculum. (75 students)

Expanding Technology in Physics

Penn Manor High School science, grades 11 and 12

Probes, sensors, mirror kits, optics benches, expansion kits and other lab materials will give students hands-on experience with scientific technology, increasing their engagement and understanding. (330 students)

High-Interest Early Reading Improvement Project

Central Manor Title 1 students, kindergarten through grade 2

The grant will fund fiction and nonfiction books designed to hold students' attention at an appropriate level so they can successfully learn to read on their own or in small groups. (184 students)

Fusion Program Field Trips

Manor Middle School

The grant will fund transportation and admission fees for field trips for the Fusion program, which matches male Manor MS staff members as mentors to boys from homes that are "broken" as a result of divorce, separation, imprisonment or the loss of a parent. (100 students)

One School, One Book

Marticville Middle School

The grant will fund copies of "Storm Watcher," a book that will be read by every student in the school to bolster a sense of community. Throughout the year, participants will engage in thought-provoking discussions about the book. (330 students)

Upfront Magazine

High School social studies, grade 10

Students will read timely, relevant and interesting nonfiction articles on topics such as raising the minimum wage and fighting for human rights to encourage discussion and debate. (160 students)

Freshman Transition and At-Risk Mentoring
High school, grades 9 to 11

The grant will pay for self-help books and a ropes course for incoming ninth-graders, who will be paired with MU social workers serving as mentors to ease the transition from middle school to high school. (35 students)

Veterinary Technician Laboratory Project
High school Ag Department

The grant will pay for surgical and medical equipment for labs to familiarize students with the procedures and protocols of working as a veterinary technician, expanding on the science behind the theory. (30 students)

Time for Kids
Central Manor Elementary, grades 2 & 4

The grants will fund copies of Time for Kids for students to read together, providing nonfiction reading experiences that will lead to classroom discussions of current events and other content related to the curriculum. (120 students)

Districtwide Readathon (200 students/parents)

Spanish Classroom Library
Penn Manor High School, grades 9-12

The grant will pay for 25 Spanish language books designed to encourage students to read in Spanish on a regular basis, increasing their reading and writing skills and preparing them for the AP Spanish exam. (90 students)

Kids Building Computers – and a Future
Pequea Elementary, grade 3

The grant will enable students to build 10 computers from kits that will function using open-source software. Students will build the computers and learn coding while using the devices to complete classroom assignments. (42 students)

No-Tech Board Games to Teach Coding
Pequea Elementary, grade 3

The grant will fund eight No-Tech Board Games, which are non-electronic games that help students build cognitive skills by applying logic. The games also teach basic computer coding concepts. (42 students)

Density Lab Materials
All district elementary schools, grade 6

The grant will fund a portable scale, safety glasses, graduated cylinders and other lab equipment to be used to teach students about the volume, mass and density of different solutions. The equipment will enhance the new science curriculum. (430 students)

Scholastic News Subscription
Conestoga Elementary School, grade 1

The grant will fund subscriptions for every student in first grade. The magazine includes grade-appropriate articles on science and social studies covering citizenship, community helpers, economics and the five themes of geography. (42 students)

French Language Readers

Penn Manor High School, foreign language

The grant will fund 15 copies of “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” in French, along with audio book CDs. Students will improve their ability to read in French while being exposed to a classic piece of literature. (14 students)

Shank’s Mare Field Days

Penn Manor High School Ag Department

Students in the Wildlife and Natural Resources class will visit Shank’s Mare environmental center on the Susquehanna River. They will take a kayak tour, become acquainted with macroinvertebrates and run water quality tests to determine stream health. (23 students)

Practicing and Applying Math and Language Arts Skills

Penn Manor High School, special education classes

The grant will fund a subscription to www.ixl.com, a site that allows students to practice and apply skills in language arts and mathematics aligned to the PA Core curriculum. Teachers can use Google Classroom to assign specific skills for students to work on and receive a report pinpointing their areas of strengths and weaknesses. (25 students)

Expanding Expression Tool to Improve Language Skills

K-12, speech therapy/special education students

The grant will fund four Expanding Expression Tool kits, mnemonic devices that provide visual and tactile information to help students with language organization. The kits will be used by speech-language therapists with individual students and in the classroom to improve students’ oral and written expression. (121 students)

Sensory Items to Help Students Focus

Hambright Elementary School, special education

The grant will pay for sit disks and therapy stretch bands and putty to be used by students with sensory processing disorders, autism and ADHD to reduce anxiety, agitation and hyperactivity and increase attention and focus. (25 students)

Document Cameras to Enhance Learning

Central Manor Elementary, academic support students

A document camera will be used to project a variety of documents and texts onto whiteboards, enabling modeling of strategies to improve reading, decoding, comprehension and writing. (70 students)

The Piano Project

Districtwide, grade 7 music students

The grant will fund 15 digital pianos for the seventh-grade piano unit at Manor and Marticville middle schools, enabling more students to get hands-on playing experience. (387 students)

Character Reading Challenge

Central Manor Elementary, grade 2

The grant will fund two series of chapter books designed to address students’ weaknesses in comprehension. Students will be held accountable for each book in the series before moving on to the next. (17 students)

Guitars in the Music Classroom
Pequea Elementary School, grade 6

The grant will pay for 10 guitars and reinforced guitar bags for music classes, enabling each student in the classroom to have his/her own instrument during music instruction. (53 students)

The American Experience Oral History Project
Penn Manor High School history classes

The grant will fund 15 voice recorders to be used by U.S. History II students to complete an oral history narrative requirement of the class. Each student must interview someone who has participated in or witnessed a historic event covered in the class. (60 students)

The Masks of Mexico
Penn Manor High School, ESL students

Students will view the “Masks of Mexico” exhibit at Lancaster Museum of Art and participate in a discussion of the masks with the artist, who will lead them in creating their own masks. Students will critique the masks and display them at the high school. (14 students)

Total for 29 Venture Grants awarded in fall 2015 \$30,357