



Fall 2023 Grants

Presented to the GPPSS Board of Education, November 28, 2023

1. Ferry Destination Imagination Team (Grades K-3) Ferry (\$200)

This partial grant helps fund an elementary extracurricular club that encourages STEAM education and problem based learning. Expenses covered by this award include a background check for the parent leader and affiliate fees for the DI organization.

Submitted by Heather Rempala

2. Monteith Destination Imagination Team (Grades K-3) Monteith (\$200)

Two parent leaders of the Rising Stars DI team are requesting funds as they guide this extracurricular club toward becoming problem solvers, collaborators and innovation users. This is a partial grant award. *Submitted by Tracie Wells and Aly Dix*

3. DI at Defer (Grades 1-4) Defer (\$1,000)

This partial grant award will help fund new Destination Imagination teams at Defer Elementary. Teams of two to seven students work throughout the year to solve creative challenges given to them by the DI organization. *Submitted by Courtney Dykstra*

4. Pierce Destination Imagination (Grades 5-7) Pierce (\$400)

The coordinator of all the GPPSS DI programs has requested funds for two middle school teams, as they work to solve middle school challenges and perhaps qualify for the DI Global Finals, in May 2024. This is a partial grant award. *Submitted by Courtney Dykstra*

5. Baggie Books for Second Grade (Grade 2) Ferry (\$5,000)

This teacher is seeking to provide high quality leveled books for the classroom library. Suitable for both independent and partner reading, part of this grant also covers durable book bags to allow students to take the books home. This partial grant will be funded through the generosity of the *Lois J. Warden Fund*, that is designated for important early and elementary educational programs within the school system.

Submitted by Theresa Comilla

6. Ukuleles for General Music (Grade 5) Brownell, Parcels and Pierce (\$6,660)

Middle school music instructors have applied for ukuleles for 5th grade students at each building to increase cultural awareness, enhance social and teamwork skills and expand musical skills and engagement. This grant will also be funded by the *Lois J. Warden Fund*. Submitted by *Heather Albrecht, Brad Elstone and Leslie Saroli*

7. CommuniToys: Bridging Community Through Play (Birth-3 years and grades 5-8) Barnes and Parcels (\$2,000)

This creative grant fosters a collaboration between a middle school robotics team and special education students. The Parcels Blown Fuses will modify toddler toys by inserting Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices, which will be activated by a button switch. The toys will then be given to Barnes students with significant communication needs who will then have improved access to educational activities and interactions. Submitted by *Gina Bordato and Lisa Aouad*

8. General Assistance for the Gearheads (Grades 9-12) North and South (\$2,500)

The mentor of the combined North and South robotics team requested funds for needed construction materials, such as an ultrasonic distance sensor and robot drive batteries and battery chargers. Submitted by *Jack Pierick*

9. Sphero BOLT Coding Robotics (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$6,227)

Wanting to utilize creative technology developed in Michigan, this middle school instructor is requesting the purchase of fifteen acrylic spheres that will allow Innovation and Design classes and a new coding club to learn robotics and engineering skills. These interesting devices will also be available for use in other GPPSS schools. Submitted by *Walter Charuba*

10. Digital Drawing Tablets (Grades 5-8) Brownell, Parcels and Pierce (\$4,000)

This grant funds the purchase of ten iPad minis for middle school Digital Art and Design classes. Shared by all three middle schools, the instructors believe the use of this modern technology will connect their students to real world jobs, such as graphic design, marketing and sales and illustrating. Submitted by *Jane Plieth, Cathy Rapp and Karana Hale*

11. High Accuracy Electronic Balances for the Chemistry Program (Grades 10-12) South (\$2,800)

Regular, Honors, AP and Organic Chemistry students at South will have more accurate electronic balances because of this grant award. Submitted by *Jeffrey Swietlik*

12. Screen Printing Equipment (Grades 9-12) South (\$18,000)

This grant requests the purchase of an industry relevant screen printing kit that will be used by Computer Graphics, Art and Design and Drawing and Painting students at South. This instructor has previously used this equipment and believes students will be excited to see their designs go from screens to printed goods. *Submitted by Alex Finney*

13. Wheel Chair Potter's Wheel for Ceramics (Grades 9-12) South (\$4,700)

As the South Art Department prepares to move their location, to allow for greater student accessibility, the Art Department chair has requested this specialized potter's wheel that will promote an inclusive mindset for the entire school community. *Submitted by Tom Szmrecsanyi*

14. South Art IA Consolidation General Fundraising Effort (Grades 9-12) South (\$20,000)

This grant is also connected to the South Art Department's upcoming January 2024 move to a new school location. The head of South's Art Department has requested this grant for assistance in raising funds to outfit the new facility with updated and working equipment. This partial grant supports that effort. *Submitted by Tom Szmrecsanyi*



15. No Place For Hate/Bridge Club (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$2,000)

Funding a psychologically, behaviorally and emotionally safe space for all students, funds from this grant request will work toward improving the school culture for all students to grow and learn, free from hate of all kind. Purchased materials include wristbands, art supplies and a guest speaker from the Detroit Pistons Youth Organization. *Submitted by Nicholas Symonette*

16. BeaTWEEN the Books Therapy Dog Program (Grades 5-8) Pierce (\$586)

This grant funds the Alliance of Therapy Dogs yearly fee and insurance coverage for Bea, the Pierce therapy dog. It also purchases library books that promote social/emotional learning, including titles such as "Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX", "No Ordinary Dog" and "The Town with No Mirrors". *Submitted by Christina Michaud*

Total Fall 2023 Biannual Grant Awards: \$73,687

Total SEED Grant Awards : \$2,586.

Total Fall 2023 GPFPE Grant Awards: \$76,273

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Spring 2024 Grants

Presented to the GPPSS Board of Education, May 6, 2024

1. Defer Destination Imagination Team (Grades 1-4) Defer (\$1,000)

This partial grant award helps fund an elementary extracurricular club that encourages STEAM education and problem-based learning. *Submitted by Courtney Dykstra*

**2. Fueling Student Success with an Engaging Nonfiction Library
(Grades Young 5's-4) Ferry (\$4,000)**

The Ferry Library Media Specialist requested an update to the nonfiction section of the school's library. This partial award will be provided by the generosity of the *Lois J. Warden Fund* that is designated for important elementary educational programs within the school district. *Submitted by Mary Beth Coffey*

3. Dynamite Decodables (Grades K-4) Kerby (\$1,392)

The Library Specialist and principal at this elementary asked for a set of decodable books which focus on certain phonemic reading skills and give students more confidence as they progress through the kit. This partial award is also funded through the *Lois J. Warden Fund*. *Submitted by Georgianna Murray and Walter Fitzpatrick*

**4. Voices Unlocked: AAC Access Grant for Young Communicators
(Young Preschool Learners) Barnes (\$6,174)**

This grant request is for the purchase of essential assistive technology aimed at enhancing communication skills in young learners. This award will help fund the purchase of 5 iPads, needed switches and case protectors. *Submitted by Gina Bordato*

5. Really Great Reading Student Kits (Kindergarten classes) Richard (\$1,344)

The 3 Kindergarten classes at this school will share the sound boards provided by this grant award for the new reading program that was recently adopted by GPPSS for lower

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elementary students. The *Lois J. Warden Fund* will purchase these kits. *Submitted by Cheryl Briggs*

6. Decodable Readers (Grades 1- 2) Monteith (\$567)

Reading teachers and Literacy Coaches at this elementary school are asking for supplemental books that have high quality and engaging stories which align with beginning reader skill levels. These books will be funded through the generosity of the *Lois J. Warden Fund*. *Submitted by Julie Mayo and Kristin Fellows*

7. Book Club Books (Grade 3) Richard (\$500)

This 3rd grade instructor wants various grade level books to provide students a chance to engage collaboratively in a book club where they will explore a variety of genres and titles. The *Lois J. Warden Fund* will purchase these books. *Submitted by Andrea Finney*

8. iPads in the Gifted Classroom (Grade 3/4 Magnet class) Ferry (\$2,790)

This grant requests the purchase of 10 iPads so students in this magnet class can make short films for their project reports throughout the year. In addition, the students will pass on these iMovie skills to other students within the school. Once again, the *Lois J. Warden Fund* will purchase this technology. *Submitted by James Fisher*

9. Book Vending Machine (Young 5's-4) Ferry (\$5,620)

Parents involved in the Ferry PTO are requesting the purchase of a vending machine that will dispense grade appropriate books to students as reading incentives and rewards. Although the machine will be provided by the *Lois J. Warden Fund*, the Ferry PTO will provide the books. *Submitted by Stephanie Cleland, Emily Walker, April Blunden, Samantha Vormelker and Shannon Fulcher*

10. Mason School Accessible Playground (Young 5's-4) Mason (\$12,013)

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education is pleased to offer an addendum to our previous grant of \$25,000 for this important accessible playscape for the GPPSS community. Through the continuing generous legacy of one of our GPFPE founding members, the *Lois J. Warden Fund* will add this additional gift to the Mason Playground Fundraising.

Originally submitted by Amanda York, Kyle Monroe and other Mason Playground Fundraisers

11. 7th Grade Book Clubs (Grade 7) Pierce (\$1,910)

To focus on the reading growth, motivation and engagement of their 7th grade students, these instructors wish to purchase new engaging titles and update the existing book clubs and literature circles in their classrooms. *Submitted by Geneva Scully and Andrea Doherty*

12. DI at Pierce (Grades 5-8) Pierce (\$1,000)

Destination Imagination teams across the GPPSS district have been working with collaboration and creativity to solve STEAM related challenges. This partial grant will help fund these important activities. *Submitted by Courtney Dykstra*

13. Orchestral Instruments for Parcels (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$20,000)

This middle school Orchestra Director is requesting a grant to facilitate the purchase of 'differently sized' musical instruments to be used by the influx of 5th graders into his music program. Ordinary instruments are typically too large for 5th graders. This partial grant will purchase equitable instruments for many Parcels orchestra students. *Submitted by Noah Zogas*

**14. Flexible Seating, Grouping, Chromebooks and a Charging Station
(Grades 6-8) Parcels (\$5,853)**

An Intervention Teacher of Reading and Math at this Title 1 middle school requests some Go Mobile Tablet Chairs and 5 Chromebooks to facilitate her varied instruction to students working on foundational skills. *Submitted by Beth Rainbolt*

15. Sensory Room Refresh (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$2,000)

This grant request comes from a middle school ASD teacher asking for an update to a 6 year old sensory room. The materials funded by this award will provide a variety of equipment to encourage calm, focus or alertness in order to assist in cognitive processing for special needs students. *Submitted by Lauren Brown and Mackenzie Hebert*

16. Pierce Botmasterz All-Girls Robotics Team (Grades 5-8) Pierce (\$600)

This grant award will help fund the annual costs of this team as they strive to achieve their goal of building, programming and wiring a robot to compete in at least 2 annual competitions. Robotics programs play a crucial role in promoting STEM education. *Submitted by Jane Plieth and Sherry Betcher*

17. Botmasterz All-Girl Unified North and South Robotics Team (Grades 8-12) North and South (\$1,000)

The high school arm of the previous grant requests monetary support for registration and competition fees, parts and tools and marketing materials needed to support this team with members from both GPPSS high schools. This partial grant allows the opportunity for girls to use their foundational knowledge from Science, Technology and Math classes through hands-on experiences and collaboration. *Submitted by Jane Plieth and Sherry Betcher*

18. AP Psychology Resource/Learning Materials (Grades 10-12) North (\$1,500)

This partial grant will assist this Psychology instructor in supplying required review guide materials to her students. *Submitted by Jennifer Weisbrodt*

19. Darkroom Renovation, Enlarger Stations and Developing Sink (Grades 10-12) South (\$18,382)

Because of a recent Art Department move at South High School, this Photography teacher is requesting replacement and an update to old and nonfunctional equipment. This partial grant award will be used toward that renovation. *Submitted by Sarah VanDagens*

20. CPR Manikin (Grades 9-12) North (\$3,448)

With the purchase of an official manikin and related materials, the North Health instructor will be able to issue a Red Cross CPR Certification to every student passing his class. *Submitted by Eric Eplin*

21. GPN Quiz Bowl Financial Assistance-Nationals (Grades 9-12) North (\$1,000)

As the North High Quiz Bowl Team has qualified for and will attend the National Quiz Bowl Finals in Atlanta, this grant award will help fund the trip. *Submitted by Jessica Turner*

22. Brass Renaissance: Harmonious Revival for Upgraded Euphoniums (Grades 6-12) Parcels and North (\$12,000)

Wishing to enhance the overall sound quality and performance capability of his ensembles, this Orchestra and Band director is asking to replace dilapidated euphoniums at a middle school and a high school. *Submitted by Tom Torrento*

23. Stop the Bleed Tourniquets (All Grades) GPPSS District (\$1,158)

District nurses have requested Stop the Bleed tourniquets to be put in the AED cabinets of every district building. Staff will then be trained to use these important materials.

Submitted by Janelle Crutchfield, Heather Muschong and Patti Stehlin



SEED Grant (Social, Emotional, Encouragement and Development grants)

Social Emotional Support Materials (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$350)

Games, activities and calming tools will be funded by this grant award, which was requested by the social worker in this building. *Submitted by Nicole Jensen*

Total Spring 2024 Grant Awards: \$105,601