

# WCCU 2024 Teacher Grant Awards

## Project Descriptions-

### **Step into Our Garden** – *Jessica DeRemer of Narragansett Elementary School*

The entire Narragansett Elementary School will be creating a magical garden. Works of art that represent a garden inspired by flowers and nature will be displayed. Part of the display will be an interactive “Monet’s Garden” with a lily pond, flower arbor and bench. Artwork made from flower petals will be a focus. Art supplies will be purchased with their grant.

### **Collective Voices: A Student-Authored Publication** -*Melissa O’Neil and Sarah Dully of Narragansett Elementary School*

This project will empower students with a range of disabilities to collaborate on the writing, publishing, and presenting of an original children’s book. Books and printing supplies will be ordered for this project.

### **After School STEM Enrichment Program** – *Chris Haase of Dunn’s Corner Elementary School*

A Youth Engineering Rescue Shuttle program will be purchased through the Boston Museum of Science to foster critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Students will engage in “Instant Challenges” culminating in a showcase where students will display their designs.

### **Science of Reading Phonics Kits** – *Paula Rekos of Peace Dale Elementary School*

Nine phonics kits will be purchased for kindergarten classes. These kits will incorporate strategies, methods, and resources that ensure literacy success for all students.

### **Funds for First Aid/CPR/AED Certification** -*Kelly Kramer of Coventry High School*

This project will ensure that all students in the Coventry High School Sports Medicine Honors class are certified in First-Aid, CPR, and AED. The grant will cover the cost of the certifications that equip students with essential life-saving emergency skills.

### **Lego Based Theory** -*Alexis Moniz of Deans Mill School*

Lego therapy is a form of play base therapy that focuses on collaboration, creativity and problem-solving in a fun and structured format. Lego kits and training materials will be purchased for the mental health staff at Deans Mill School to utilize with their students.

### **Stop The Bleeding Training Materials** -*Emilie Cunningham-Joost of Coventry Regional Career & Technical Center*

Students will be trained, able to demonstrate, and become certified in the STOP the Bleed techniques during their first aid training. This grant will fund the supplies needed for this specific training.

### **Numeracy & Consultants Math Intervention Training E-Library** -*Kristen Deschene of Western Coventry Elementary School*

This project focuses on early Numeracy, and it will utilize K-5 Bundles that include materials for Numeracy, Multiplicative Thinking, and Fractional Reasoning. These resources will benefit all teachers and students in the Western Coventry Elementary School.

### **Food and Kitchen Safety** -*Krystal Uricchio of Narragansett Transition Academy*

Transitional students from the Narragansett School district ages 18-22, will learn important food and safety measures by taking a food and safety course with the grant provided by WCCU.

### **Improving Student Outcomes in Chemistry Through Fun & Games-** *Rosamaria Burger of the Stonington High School*

Balancing chemical equation kits, ionic bonding tiles and other materials will be purchased with this grant. By integrating games and manipulatives, abstract Chemistry concepts will be more tangible and foster collaboration among students.

### **EWG Woofies Cookies** – *Christine Conley of Exeter West-Greenwich High School*

Exeter-West Greenwich Junior and Senior students will advance their dog biscuit business by creating more biscuits and donating some to local animal shelters and/or veterinarians. This grant will allow for the purchase of equipment and supplies and the opportunity for additional students to participate and increase their community-based learning.

**Little Free Library Initiative** - *Marika Heughins of Stonington Middle School*

This grant will allow for the purchase of free standing "little free library" to be placed on the school grounds. This project provides students with continuous access to a wide range of reading materials, which will be especially helpful while Stonington Middle School is transitioning into a new building and lacking a dedicated library space.

**Big Nazo Puppet Making Collaboration-** *Ryan Muir of the South Kingstown High School*

South Kingstown High School will be purchasing a life-size, interactive Dragon puppet for their musical production of Shrek with their teacher grant. Theater students will engage in puppet-making techniques such as the creative planning process, construction, and movement training of the Big Nazo Dragon puppet.

**A Taste of Culture** -*Jonathan Sigman of the West Kingstown Elementary School*

This grant will provide funding for underprivileged families to participate in the West Kingston Elementary School school-wide multi-cultural night. Eight families will receive money from the teacher grant so they can prepare a dish to share at the event.

**Composition Commission for the School Orchestra-** *Anthony Costa of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry*

A current Rhode Island College student and graduate from Coventry High School will be composing an original piece of music for the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry orchestra. The composer will visit the school, review the piece in detail with the students then conduct the first rehearsal. The composer's fee and software will be funded with their teacher grant.

**"Read a Library Book to Jovie"** - *Esther Wolk of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry*

Jovie is the Comfort K-9 for the Coventry Police Department. Students will have an opportunity to read aloud to "Jovie" which will provide students with an opportunity to improve their reading fluency and help alleviate anxiety for those students who are uncomfortable reading in public. Books and supplies for Jovie will be purchased.

**Media Playground** – *Kirsten Anderson of the West Vine Street and Deans Mill Elementary Schools*

This project aims to transform a traditional school library into a dynamic, interactive learning environment. This new innovative program will foster hands-on experiences in media creation, digital literacy and storytelling. The grant will enable the purchase of kits and tools for the interactive library setting.

**Building Thinking Classrooms in Humanities** – *Jennifer Loiselle of the Narragansett Elementary School*

This project aims to create an active, student-centered learning environment where students engage deeply in historical, literary, and philosophical content. Wipebook flipcharts will be purchased with this grant so student groups can have a portable surface to record notes and ideas to be shared between teachers and across schools.

**Just-in-Case case** – *Amber Horton Lambert of the South Kingstown High School*

South Kingstown High School life skills class students will build travel-size First Aid kits for local community members, including The Welcome House and Jonnycake Center. This project will provide opportunities for the students to develop work-like skills and connect to the community. First Aid supplies will be purchased with this grant.