



Richland School District
Press Release-*Office of the Superintendent*

To: All local Media.

From: Arnie Nadonley, Superintendent

Date: December 8, 2017

Re: Richland School District Foundation Announces 2017 Innovative Teaching Grant Awardees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richland School District Foundation Announces 2017 Innovative Teaching Grant Awardees

The **Richland School District Foundation** is pleased to announce that ten (10) innovative teaching mini-grants have been awarded to the following individuals:

- **Kaitlin Aurandt-Gibler** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 for a Keystone Assessment Incentive Program to provide gift cards as incentives for students to put forth their best efforts and do well in the Keystone Assessments.
- **Richland Elementary First Grade Teachers** were awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$800 for the purchase of TumblePremium, an on-line library software subscription with over 1100 titles designed to build reading, math, and literacy skills. Mrs. Karen Roman submitted the application on behalf of her colleagues.
- **Eric Tedjeske** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 for the purchase of Blue USB Digital Recording Microphones designed to incorporate digital recording into the 8th grade music curriculum.

- **Karen Teklinsky** and **Maryann Korenoski** teamed up and were awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$200 for the purchase of Document Cameras to serve as a visual medium in their elementary classrooms.
- **Ben Easler** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to Electrify Your Strings and Choir by exposing music students to guest artists Mark Wood and Laura Kaye. Mark Woods was the founding lead violinist of the *Trans Siberian Orchestra* and Laura Kaye is a singer who has worked with artists such as James Brown, Lenny Kravitz, and Aretha Franklin.
- **Casey Williams** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to conduct a Dancing Drums, an age appropriate interactive workshop for all students in grades Kindergarten through grade 6 to build musical literacy and teamwork, self-confidence, and a greater awareness of cultural diversity through music.
- **Lauren Podlucky** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to purchase Full Steam Ahead kits and materials that are designed to create on-going student centered, cooperative learning opportunities to engage and promote critical thinking, problem solving skills, and make connections across the curriculum.
- **Jenalyn Pierce** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to purchase Flexible Seating (Phase I) which will allow for the purchase of five different types of student seating arrangements (wobble stools, floor seats, stability balls, bean bag chairs, and a large reading bench).
- **Kim Mock** was awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to purchase equipment and supplies for Sensory Integration and a Calming Area for her special needs classroom.
- **Richland Elementary Second Grade Teachers** were awarded an *Innovative Teaching Grant* in an amount up to \$500 to enroll in the Steve Spangler Science Club, where the second grade classrooms receive a different science kit each month that promote high-level thinking and foster the *STEAM* approach to learning. Mrs. Meredith Stouffer submitted the application on behalf of her colleagues.

The **Richland School District Foundation** truly appreciates the efforts and dedication of our applicants and grant awardees to our students and your initiative to apply for our very first round of annual grants.

For further information contact: Arnold Nadonley, Superintendent at 814-266-6063.

###