

YEF 2016 Grant Summary to School Committee, 6/15/2016

YEF was able to fund almost \$40,000 in grants this year to all four schools in the District, thanks to the generosity and support of the York community.

Village Elementary will have a wide variety of **leveled books in their Dynamic Literacy Library** to support differentiated learning and instruction in kindergarten and first grade. Natalie Peabbles will stock the room with books that will support students as they strive to meet reading listening and speaking standards. With a wide range of topics and levels of difficulty, students and teachers will be able to select appropriately challenging material that is of interest to the students.

CRES will also have **curriculum-related nonfiction texts in their “shared library,”** with books geared toward particular topics in each grade. This will support the Lucy Calkins reading curriculum by providing many books at all levels, covering an array of topics. Alice Rose, with Nadine Donnell, continue to transform the **Jane A. Stephenson Library into a “Learning Commons”** and **YEF will provide funding to create a “maker space”** which will provide students more flexibility and hands-on approaches to learning. This space will promote the development of creativity, communication collaboration and critical thinking for CRES students, preparing them for the demands of the 21st century. Finally for CRES, Tara Morin will have a **flat screen and Apple TV for the CRES art studio, and a flat screen and Chromebit for the CRES lobby.** This technology will change and greatly enhance the instruction in the art studio and it will create a connection between the art program and the greater CRES community by enabling CRES families, staff, students and visitors to see a consistently fresh presentation of artwork and students at work.

YMS will see a lot of transformation next year, much of it with the support of YEF. We will help to furnish a new **technology Maker Space in the 5th/6th grade wing** to support hands-on learning, engineering and problem-solving opportunities beyond the classroom. Nick Shuman will create this flexible space to enable the expansion of high-interest offerings during enrichment blocks and align with the school’s commitment to promoting authentic 21st century learning experiences for students. This room will also be the meeting place for the new **YMS Lego Robotics Team**, which is possible due to a YEF grant this year as well. Mike Harris will lead a team of YMS students, as they compete in the Maine State First Lego League, whose goal is to inspire curiosity in science and technology among middle school students, as they master the dynamics of teamwork and problem solving. The program will start as soon as possible in September to prepare for the December competition, then in the second semester, Mr. Harris will work with students interested in robotics but who were not able to compete with the team.

The YMS library will have some new equipment to support students who need to be moving while they work or read or study. Erin Mawn will manage **bicycle pedals and a treadmill desk station in the library**

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for students who need a place to expend some energy while getting their work done. She will work with the Health & Wellness teachers to integrate this activity into the Health goals and curriculum, and she will post a map for students to track distances they have travelled and make connections to significant places.

Tony Beaumier has been transforming the way he teaches his students, and how they learn and interact, through the Harkness method of teaching. This transformation will culminate with the addition of a **Harkness Table** in his classroom to promote collaborative, active learning where students actively support each other, as well as develop higher order thinking skills. He is every excited to educate his colleagues in this approach, has plans to share the table with other teachers, and already is working on ideas for his class next year. Our hope is that Tony's passion for Harkness will spread throughout the school and more tables will appear in the future.

Finally, Sue Parshley will be able to provide students throughout YMS with the chance to participate in authentic elections, with **privacy screens as voting booths, a ballot box, signs and a supply of "I Voted" stickers**. Students will be able to use these materials for student government elections each year, and the school can conduct authentic mock elections. And Rebecca Geranis will be able to purchase some **games to support executive functioning skills** that will be kept in the library and available to students throughout the school.

The YHS library has begun a transformation of its own, as **Amy Roberson converts a room off the library into a multi-use learning commons**. YEF will fund the purchase of specific tables and seating that will facilitate both small group study and larger, collaborative work. It invites creativity and collaboration and may easily be reconfigured to meet students' changing needs. **YHS will soon have its own Garden Center**, thanks to a student-initiated grant from Mike Masi's Environmental Science class. While the project will start with this group of students, it will ultimately become a school-wide endeavor and the food services department will be the recipient of the produce to include in student lunches. A long-term composting program will also be an outcome of the garden center. YEF will fund the purchase of materials to build the garden center, which will include raised beds, a seasonal hoop house and composting bins. And finally, **Christine Caprio will offer an orientation program in the fall to students in the Alternative Education program at YHS**, in an effort to improve their self-confidence and sense of belonging within the school community. Students will create portfolios throughout the year that highlight their accomplishments and goals for their education, which will be presented to a panel of teachers and staff at the end of the school year.