

## 2018/19 ESPO Grant Fund Recipients

**ESPO Grant Fund** The purpose of ESPO grants is to support and enhance academic, extracurricular, and social experiences for Emerson students. Grants may be used to bring resources to the classroom, acquire special materials, or provide unique experiences related to the curriculum and overall school experience. All teachers, staff, and student organizations in the community may apply for grants. Grant requests are forwarded to the ESPO Chair and Co-Chair by the administration and evaluated by the ESPO Coordinating Committee. Requests are prioritized based on school-wide benefit, available funds, cost, and need. Grant requests should be for experiences that are not otherwise funded by the school.

Five ESPO grants were given in the 2018/19 academic year. Following are the five ESPO grant fund recipients:

### **Connie Weber - Elmo Projector**

*How will these funds be used?* Used in class and can be shared with other classes, the purpose is to be able to share documents on the big screen. *Funding: \$100- \$200*

### **Mike Wilson & Kelly Vohland - Butterfly Garden**

*How will these funds be used?* These funds will be used to reimburse the initial purchase of plants and soil in the fall of 2018, the future purchases for spring planting in 2019, and the maintenance and upkeep of plants and soil for the Emerson Butterfly Garden. Students throughout the lower school will utilize the garden as a learning lab to support curricular studies of plant parts and processes, pollinators, and food chains, as well as the importance of being active and informed stewards of the environment. *Funding: \$474.14*

### **Brianna May and Sam Heidtke - The Wonder Workshop Curriculum**

*How will these funds be used?* We would like to provide our students with opportunities to explore technology in collaborative, hands-on experiences that we cannot currently provide in our rooms. The Wonder Workshop curriculum will provide us with lessons, activities, and professional development that will teach coding and robotics with age appropriate robots. It will also allow us to use the robots during our math workshop and literacy centers as well as in our STEAM activities. For example, they can practice sight words, shapes, patterning, sequencing in literacy and programming, etc. Each class will have a Dot and a Dash robot along with accessories. We believe it is important for our kids to view technology as a tool and not just for entertainment. We can work on collaboration, listening skills and problem solving skills as they work together to code and solve problems. We also hope to be able to incorporate activities with our 4th grade buddies. Our kindergartners have been asking how old they have to be on the robotics team. This would provide them with opportunities to begin learning the skills needed not just for the robotics team but for their future. *Funding: \$578*

**Marchell Burgess - LEGO Educational Materials for STEM Curriculum**

*How will these funds be used?* This project will allow me to buy LEGO educational materials to develop a STEM curriculum that the fourth graders will use in the classroom. This purchase will include a Simple Machines kit, a set of classic LEGO bricks, a wheels and axles kit and an additional (more specific) wheels and tires kit. My hope is to set up a STEM center where the kids will be offered the opportunity to learn how to complete challenges for problem solving, integration of math and science, build different types of vehicles and then do a bit of programming with their creations. The center will allow the kids to also use some of the math topics being covered to explore the topic in a hands on manner. For instance, the students may be challenged to use a LEGO board to build a two dimensional figure that includes a rectangle, triangle, and pentagon. Being able to manipulate LEGO bricks while thinking through their design, and then being able to explain their creation to their peers will allow the students to problem solve, communicate their ideas, work in a small groups and creatively exhibit their thoughts. Thanks for considering this project. *Funding: \$274.00*

**Matt McCoy - 4 Sets of Nesting Remo Tubanos (congo-style drums)**

*How will these funds be used?* This grant would be used to purchase four sets of nesting Remo Tubanos (conga-style drums) to be used with students in 2nd through 5th grade music classes. World drumming activities promote group collaboration, awareness, and enhanced participation. Four sets of drums (each set has a 10", 12", and a 14" diameter drum that allow for compact storage in the classroom) would add to the existing equipment, bringing our number to 18 (enough for all students in a large Lower School class to participate). It is also hoped that these resources can be used for lunchtime extra-curricular activities such as drop-in drum circles. *Funding: \$1,400*