

# MetroTex Charitable Public Education Grants

## History

### 2017 Fall Semester

A.E. Butler Intermediate School

Quinlin ISD

This project adds current and award-winning library books to replace those purged due to age, wear, and damage. This school serves students of extreme poverty. Many of the students do not have running water or electricity and lack the comforts of a traditional home. Butler's library provides many students their only exposure to books, but the library is seriously outdated. This School previously received a grant from the MetroTex Charitable Trust which helped purchase books in order to advance a campus-wide literacy program. This grant will continue to fund the existing program, which serve the needs of nearly 600 students, grades 3 through 5. Amount Awarded: \$1661.

Lancaster ISD Anti-Truancy Initiative

Lancaster ISD

This Anti-Truancy Initiative seeks to help keep students in school and return them to the classroom so they can get educated and be present in their seats to learn and achieve by eliminating some of the barriers the students face that causes them to miss school.

Truancy is an issue that can come from several contributing factors such as bullying, not being able to fit in, no friends, embarrassment and being belittled due to having or wearing dirty clothes. Students begin missing days and weeks of school and it affects their grades.

This grant will help purchase 3 washers and 3 dryers and will provide a great opportunity for the Lancaster ISD staff to reach out and offer additional services to the students and siblings. It can also help eliminate diseases and help with their hygiene. Furthermore, this will help some students attend school again, build self-esteem, gain confidence in the school district employees, feel included and it will help eliminate low self-esteem and build strong character driven abilities. Amount Awarded: \$2,700.

Woodrow Wilson High School

Dallas ISD

This project will consist of students creating multi-views by hand-sketch and Computer Aided Design before manufacturing a Large Wood Pet Kennel End Table. Once constructed and sanded by engineering students, the project will be painted by art students for aesthetic appeal.

The hands-on experience will validate students' year-long academic experience in several ways: Engineering Students will receive beneficial experience by producing a tangible product, Art students will be able to show their craft by making the product aesthetically appealing, and the business department will receive the material cost, man, hour and production time from start to finish to determine a price point for the product. The houses will be donated to the PTA to auction and the money will be given to the STEM department and used for school/

academic/ learning that are deemed worthy, which include, but are not limited to STEM, Liberal Arts, Finance, Business, or IB. Amount Awarded: \$3,000.

William L. Cabell Elementary School

Dallas ISD

Funds from this grant will be used to purchase equipment and supplies to create two complementary spaces with the school, Heavy Work and Mindfulness spaces, that promote student self-regulation particularly among students with behavior issues, and student self-direction.

A Heavy Work space is a dedicated area where students can engage in evidence-based physical and self-soothing activities to help them become calm enough to learn in a mainstream classroom. A Mindfulness space is a calming space for meditation and reflection that gives students a dedicated area to be quiet and reflect. Both projects will help with the student's social and emotional learning through the strategy of Proactive Behavior Management. Amount Awarded: \$2978

Eduardo Mata Elementary School

Dallas ISD

This grant is for Rolling AquaUrban Systems, also known as Aquaponic Carts. Aquaponics is a food production system that combines aquaculture, the raising of fish, with hydroponics, the soil-less growing of plants in water, into an integrated system.

Mata is currently in a stage of growth. The current garden has approximately 9 rudimentary garden beds and are tended to by students, teachers, and parents collectively. However, Mata was recently approved for middle school and construction to add grades seven and eight will start in the Spring of 2018. As a result, these 9 garden beds will be abandoned and more than likely destroyed. These Aquaponic Carts will be the only form of "gardening" the students will have until the middle school is completed. Amount Awarded: \$1661

### **2017 Spring Semester**

Gray Elementary School

Mesquite ISD

To strengthen the library's role as the informative, collaborative and technological hub at Gray Elementary, they would like to establish a STEAM program using the "Dash & Dot" Robot Wonder Pack system. "Dash & Dot" are real robots that teach kids to code while they play. Using free apps and a compatible tablet or smartphone, kids learn to code while they make Dash sing, dance and navigate all around the house. The grant will be used to purchase four iPads and "Dash & Dot" Robot Wonder Packs. Amount Awarded: \$2,836.

Woodridge Fine Arts Magnet Academy School

DeSoto ISD

Students who are struggling readers and writers will benefit from the exposure of the use of technology with reading and writing. The students will work through a step by step process of coming up with ideas to write about using pictures, words and symbols (emojis). The grant will be used to purchase 12 – 15 chrome books, which will be housed in the school library. Amount Awarded: \$2,585.

Lamar Middle School

Irving ISD

They would like to revamp their deteriorating courtyard into an outdoor space where students can enjoy lunch outside, science classes can go to explore and maintain a garden and for math classes to venture outdoors. Awarded Amount: \$2,364.

Dan D. Rogers Elementary School

Dallas ISD

Because their campus is diverse and many of their students have a first language other than English, a listening library would allow students to listen to reading in English and to build language and reading fluency. The grant would allow the purchase of three listening stations, which allow several students to listen to a book at the same time. A selection of audio books for grades K-5 would also be purchased. Amount Awarded: \$2,000.

A.E. Butler Intermediate School

Quinlin ISD

This school serves students of extreme poverty. Many of the students do not have running water or electricity and lack the comforts of a traditional home. Butler's library provides students only exposure to books, but the library is serious outdated. They recently had to throw away hundreds of books because they were shredded from age and overuse. Many were taped together, torn and tattered – some were even molded. The grant will be used to fund the purchase of new books. Amount Awarded: \$3,000.

Math Science Technology Magnet School

Richardson ISD

Their campus recently installed an outdoor learning garden in their courtyard. They would like to add a hydroponics tower system to allow students to have access to growing plants year-round, no matter the weather or season. They can even start plants indoors and move them to the garden for spring planting. They would also like to build a "student-powered" pump using a bicycle to manually pump the water from their existing rain barrel to the garden beds. Amount Awarded: \$1,800.

## **2016**

Rosemont Elementary School, (Dallas ISD) Bison Robotics will be awarded \$3,000 in order to fund VEX Robotics classroom Lab kits and extra. This program is designed to help students master the fundamentals of robotics and the engineering design process while learning to use design software and the leading classroom robotics solution, the VEX Classroom Lab Kit. The kits will increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on sustainable and affordable curriculum-based robotics engineering programs.

Lancaster Middle School, (Lancaster ISD) STEM Infinity 8th Grade Student Organization will be awarded \$2873.51 in order to build a STEM Makers' Laboratory (SML), where students can engage in higher order thinking, experimentation, engineering, collaboration, and other 21st century activities. The SML will be a place where robotics, computer science, circuitry, and electronics become haptic experiences, as opposed to abstract concepts. Students will learn to disassemble, examine, and reassemble electronic devices. Soldering new components, transplanting new and used components for repairs, and using old components for new purposes will be commonplace. 3-D printers and Raspberry Pi computers will allow learners to research, design, develop, and engineer components for a multitude of projects.

Silver Lake Elementary, (Grapevine / Colleyville ISD) Dual language prekindergarten will be awarded \$500 in order to purchase headphone sets to use with existing hardware that run educational apps like IStation, Doceri, ABC apps and preschool Math apps.

Heritage Elementary School, (Keller ISD) Library will be awarded \$500 in order integrate computer coding devices into the library's Makerspace, a place where students gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover. The specific coding gadgets requested include Dot and Dash, an explorer that students can code to zip around the room, the Code Bug, which allows a student to use an iPad to program a "bug" to create their own games, robots or other wacky inventions, and the Ozobot, which allows students to practice their coding skills to get the Ozobot to follow colorful lines they've drawn on a page. Students will be able to work with these devices during their classroom library visits and during open library times. Since computer classes are no longer available at the elementary level, Heritage students will be able hone their technology skills in an engaging and supportive environment.

Early College High School, (Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD) ECHS SPTSA will be awarded \$3,000 in order to advance literacy for English Language Learners. This grant will enable students to advance their English language literacy during their Advisory time and the school will offer intense literacy instruction on Saturdays for students and to provide them with supplemental materials for their college classes. Early College High School is an innovative program which offers students the opportunity to earn over 60 college credit hours during their high school career. Over 75% of ECHS students are students living in poverty, nearly 90% of our students will be the first in their family to graduate from college and over 65% of our students have learned English while in school. Many students do not have the funds to purchase the books and supplies required of college students. All ECHS students will benefit from this project.

Central Elementary, (Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD) Makerspace & Coding will be awarded \$2,999.95 in order to implement a High Tech Makerspace project which will empower Students in Pre K through 5th grade to create and share resources and knowledge using 3D, robotics, and coding technology.

These new High Tech Makerspace stations would give students the opportunities to create, tinker, design, and discover with materials they do not have at home. The resources will provide students with the chance to think, share, and grow. Since most students will be using some kind of technology in their future jobs and many of these future jobs students haven't even been created, it's imperative that libraries provide opportunities for students to create and problem solve using technology.

Hurst Eules Bedford ISD, (HEB ISD) Dyslexia Department will be awarded \$2,100 in order funds to implement a strategy for providing effective technology to over 900 students with dyslexia. Dyslexic students need iPads to access programs such as Learning Ally and Bookshare as well as many other apps that will promote reading independence for students. These are free resources that have enormous data bases of audio/visual textbooks and books for pleasure.



## **2015**

Richardson High School, (Richardson ISD) will be awarded \$2,807 in order to fund the Transforming Obstacles into Opportunities video project, which involves the production of a series of five professionally produced video vignettes highlighting former students who endured significant obstacles and tremendous hardships while attending high school, yet found their way to enroll in college and engage in a successful and productive career. Videos will be shared with 3 other High Schools in RISD through a district-wide venue called MediaCast.

Houston Elementary School, (Lancaster ISD) will be awarded \$3,000 for a mentoring program called "The Unity in the Community Service Learning Project" In this program, young men of Society of Gentlemen student organization team up with local business owners and community residents to build relationships and beautify the community in which they live. They will also be engaged in conversations along with the city council about the current needs in the community and how they as students could be of assistance. In the month of December they will come together and also host a Christmas tree lighting ceremony thus bringing the community back together by unifying the youth with local businesses.

Inspired Vision Elementary School, (Charter School in Pleasant Grove) will be awarded \$3,000 for an Educational Outdoor/Green Classroom that will benefit the entire school campus grades Pre-K 4 through sixth grade. An Outdoor Classroom connects the school to the neighborhood and the world at large. Through learning and stewardship activities, students come to understand that their schoolyard microcosm reflects global environmental issues. Accessibility to the Outdoor Classroom provides opportunities for out-of-school programming. High visibility and interest encourages local volunteerism.

Golden Rule School (Charter School in Cockrell Hill) will be awarded \$3,000 for a literacy project for PreK3-3rd Grade called Literacy Alive!! Learning to Read & Reading to Learn. The grant will be used to help build a campus literacy center library for general education and bilingual learners to increase reading comprehension as well as surround learners with age-appropriate text. Expanding the literacy program throughout the campus will help to increase students' vocabulary in English and Spanish.

Springer Elementary and Jones Elementary (Rockwall ISD) will be awarded \$2,879.64 for a project called Endless OSMO Possibilities. This project uses a device called an OSMO to connect students across campuses to unite two Title 1 schools within the district of Rockwall ISD, for a common purpose to improve student engagement, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Students will collaborate together to make inferences, decode, and create 'vocabulary albums'. The OSMO is a kit which includes, a set of tangible IPAD games played with real hands on letter tiles, tangram shapes and a simple piece of paper and pencil. The OSMO uses a reflective mirror along with software to allow students to play outside the screen. The OSMO re-invents how we connect the kinesthetic learner with technology. The goal is for at least 80% of students to increase scores by over 25% and 100% of students will show growth and progress on campus unit tests and district benchmarks.

## **2014**

Early College High School (Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD) will be awarded \$3,000 to purchase college-level text books. ECHS is a program designed to help students who have been identified as at-risk of dropping out of high school by the state of Texas enroll in dual credit classes at Brookhaven College. The books will be beneficial to help students be successful in their college classes and to reach the level of College-Level Ready on the Texas Success Initiative college entrance exam.

McCowan Middle School (DeSoto ISD) will be awarded \$3,000 to purchase equipment to create and host a weekly 30 minute math show. Students will use technology to create shows involving math problems and their real-world applications. Not only will they be tackling math problems in a new way, they will learn about creativity, video production and teamwork.

Ralph H. Poteet High School (Mesquite ISD) will be awarded \$3,000 to purchase materials for their wood & metal shop classes. Not all students are college bound. These classes provide skills for the work place and provide the possibility for certifications in an industry specific area. Funding for these classes has been significantly cut. The entire school benefits when students are creating successful projects. The climate of the school improves as well.

Albert Farine Elementary School (Irving ISD) will be awarded \$3,000 to purchase 175 – 200 library books for their Read to Succeed Summer Reading program. This program involves the student, book club interaction, internet assignments and family participation.

## **2013**

Hillcrest High School (Dallas ISD) received \$3,000 to purchase robotic competition kits. The Hillcrest High School Robotics Team is designed to introduce STEM projects to students. They need additional equipment to expend their program from an extra curricular activity to a class.

Barbara Bush Elementary School (Grand Prairie ISD) received \$2,108 for their after-school photography club called "Shutter Bugs". Many of the club members do not have their own camera to use and they must share the available two school cameras. This grant will allow for the purchase of 15 cameras. The remaining funds will be used to print photos and posters of some of the photography.

AC New Middle School (Mesquite ISD) received \$2,000 to add an edible garden to their outdoor learning center. The grant would expand their existing project-based life science experiments.

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD received \$2,900 to create a district video promoting positive choices including kindness, anti-bullying and drug prevention. This video will benefit all GCISD elementary students, staff members, parents by spreading a message of hope for a future filled with kindness and positive choices.

Furneaux Elementary School (Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD) would like to have all students to read on or above grade level by the end of the school year. The school does not have enough grade level appropriate, high interest, gender preferred books for their students. Furneaux Elementary School initially requested \$3,000 to purchase 600 books. Furneaux Elementary School received \$1,000, which should allow them to purchase 200 books.

## **2012**

Richardson High School (Richardson ISD) received \$3,000 to be used to produce a play version of William Goldman's "Lord of the Flies" and document the experience, with discussion of how the play reflects the modern educational problem of bullying. They would also like to distribute this in the form of a DVD, for free, to local high schools and middle schools for viewing.

Curtistene S. McCowan Middle School (DeSoto ISD) received \$2,000 to set up a peer training center in the library. Members of the Student Council and National Junior Honor Society will provide the peer-to-peer training. Their goal is to have 90% of the student body succeed on the STAAR test. The grant will provide school supplies, software and an online tutorial website license.

Rolling Hills Elementary School (Lancaster ISD) received \$877.03 to create a school garden that will allow the students to learn about nutritious foods, taking pride in their school community and by sharing their crops with the Sterling Nursing Home facility.

Heritage Middle School (Grapevine-Colleyville ISD) received \$3,000 to integrate the Rachel's Challenge Middle School "anti-bullying" program into their character education initiative. Students will be engaged in role-playing activities that mimic behaviors typical for their age group. While involved in these activities, they will learn the language (verbal and nonverbal) for addressing the bully or group and the steps for helping to put an end to bullying.

Harry C. Withers (Dallas ISD) received \$3,000 to modernize their library. They plan to create a "MetroTex Technology Corner", which will replace their 7-year old CPUs and monitors.

2011

**W.T. Francisco Elementary School located in Birdville ISD.**

This school currently has an enclosed courtyard/outdoor classroom space where their students can explore the pond life, read, eat lunch, take photos, work on an art project or just enjoy the beauty of the outdoor life. This space has been existence for twelve years and is beginning to need repair. The MetroTex Grant would enable the school to maintain and expand the area for their growing student population.

**Robert T. Hill Middle School** (Dallas ISD) received \$3,000. This school would like to teach students how to make an ordinary drawing from paper, make it a silk screen and then turn it into a marketable product. While overseen by the Art Department, art concept will be utilized for all Departments/School Clubs & Organizations. For example, Social Studies can create uniforms for Civil War reenactments, the Band will be able to create shirts for competitions and spirit groups will be able to design bandanas. The MetroTex Grant would enable the school to purchase the required machinery for this project.

**Judge Frank Berry Middle School** (Mesquite ISD) received \$3,000. The school utilizes the Lone Star Reading Program to promote extra-curricular reading among 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each year, the school's approximately 800 students are encouraged to read books from a Lone Star Reading Program recommended list. Incentive prizes are given to students for each book read. As these books are in high demand, the MetroTex grant will be used to purchase additional books for the school library (in regular print, large print and in Spanish) and to help underwrite the cost of the incentive celebration.

**Aikin Elementary School** (Richardson ISD) received \$3,000. The Aikin Garden Club would like to use the MetroTex Grant to design and building a larger discovery garden, which will give students an hands-on opportunity to connect the science curriculum to real life by learning how to grow food for themselves and others.

## **2010**

**Cesar Chavez Elementary School** (Dallas ISD) received \$3,000 do that the Student Council can bring Chess to all students in every classroom at Cesar Chavez Elementary. This effort will aid in analytical learning and improve reasoning and problem solving.

**Gene Pike Middle School** (Northwest ISD) received \$3,000 to sponsor a Safe School Ambassador Project that will serve to identify and educate students about bullying and intimidation and how to stop its rise and help them as they reach high school and beyond.

**Scurry Rosser High School** (Scurry- Rosser ISD) received \$3,000 for four 6 foot benches to create an outdoor commons area for all students to gather. This is a small 242 student facility and there is not place for them to gather, study or visit.