

**Maranacook Education Foundation
2023-24 Grant Program
Funded Proposals**

Mary Conlon, Readfield Elementary, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Hands on Learning Experiences for ESY Students***. Extended School Year occurs every summer for qualifying students in special education and, through this funding, she will provide an exciting hands-on learning experience for the students this coming summer. A presentation from Mr. Drew and His Animals Too will give students a fun learning experience where they will learn about different reptiles, Maine wildlife, and ways to protect the environment.

Tom Ferrero, Maranacook Community High School, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Pole Vice for Forging***. Due to the growth in popularity of the blacksmithing course at the high school, students are experiencing longer wait times at tools they need to complete their assignments. One particular piece of equipment that is in high demand is their single Pole Vice. This tool is necessary for many forging applications and therefore generally has a line of students waiting to use it. It is for this reason that he is requesting MEF funding to purchase a second one. This should resolve the delay in workflow.

Nicole Blake, elementary art teacher, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Admiration and Presentation - Student Artwork Displays***. Through this funding, she will be acquiring the correct resource for displaying student artwork at the end of the year art presentations at her 3 elementary schools.. At the current time, to display student work, she has been required to make tape bubbles by the hundreds, and tape artwork up around the gyms of the schools, usually after the school the same night as the intended art show (or the night before). The tape doesn't always work well, things fall down, and sometimes it even damages the work. This takes a lot of time, and it is not the best way to showcase the hard work of her students. She will be purchasing folding room dividers, in black, which is the preferred color to be able to properly highlight all types of art. This resource will make admiration and presentation of the Elementary Arts program not only more manageable, but more successful for all involved.

Paul Sveum, Program Director for Camp KV (Kennebec Valley YMCA), submitted a proposal entitled, ***Music by the Lake at Camp KV***. Snow Pond Community Arts Music Club program will offer age-specific group classes that provide developmentally appropriate music education, appreciation, and performance. Participation in interactive games and engaging activities will provide participating students with an opportunity to gain exposure to various musical genres, advance their music literacy skills, receive group instrumental instruction, and perform in both informal and formal solo and ensemble settings while having fun! Camp KV serves a number of students who attend our district's schools.

Rachael Holland-Mathieu, Maranacook Community Middle School, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Math in Real Life***. Students often ask, "When will I ever use this in life?" She helps students make that connection by giving real life examples, such as bringing in receipts from grocery shopping or sale flyers from stores to teach applying decimals and ratios. The current classroom at the Middle School she uses with her students has an oven hood but no oven. This funding will allow her to purchase an electric range. This will allow her to cook with her students which not only teaches fractions, weights, measurement and ratios, but also life skills such as meal planning, budgeting, and kitchen safety.

Juliet Tinkham, Maranacook Community High School, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Writer's Workshop***. This funding will provide funds to purchase on-site writing opportunities for all students during our Teen Issues Day(s). We were awarded an MEF grant last year and were able to successfully serve a

subsection of juniors in their English classes. Because it was such an amazing experience, this funding will allow the expansion of this opportunity to all students! Content of the activities, as well as the outcomes and goals, are different this year. Writing alongside the highly respected Telling Room authors will enrich the lives of our students while providing a sense of accomplishment, ownership, and creativity.

Nick Daigle, Maranacook Community High School, submitted a proposal entitled, **Gaga Pit Project**. He will be using funding from this grant to construct an outdoor Gaga pit to be used for Gaga Ball. This game is a very popular recreational game that keeps kids moving and active. They hope to have Mr. Stockford's IA classes assistance in constructing the pit so they are using the grant for the materials only.

Eric Hathaway, Readfield Elementary School, submitted a proposal entitled, **Solar Science STEM Kits**. He will use this funding to enhance the exploration of solar science with some kits that allow students to use the sun's energy to power different small devices. The current curriculum touches on both energy sources and electricity. He would like to blend the two areas with some hands-on activities that students will get excited about.

Michele Briggs, the librarian at the Underwood Memorial Library in Fayette, submitted a proposal entitled, **STEM Centers for the Underwood Library**. This library of course serves Fayette students, many of whom attend our district's schools. Libraries large and small are becoming essential hubs of STEM education for people of all ages. Through free access to the internet, computers, tablets, books, DVDs, workshops and programming, libraries remove barriers to STEM literacy and inquiry. These services are especially vital for children and youth whose families might not have the means for extracurricular STEM enrichment opportunities." (stemlibraries.org). The library has implemented children's programs this year for our community, which we were lacking. Our community members have volunteered their time to make this a success. We would like to add STEM centers to our Kid's Night program to go along with our story time nights. We serve the community of Fayette with children attending our programs from Fayette and our surrounding towns.

Jeanette Jacobs, Wayne Elementary School, submitted a proposal entitled, **Bringing our Curriculum to Life**. The district has implemented a new curricular resource for literacy instruction called Core Knowledge Language Arts. The Knowledge Strand in this resource is centered around complex narrative and informational read-aloud texts. Grade-level domains include fables and stories, the human body, early American civilizations, astronomy, and so much more! To help bring this learning to life, this funding will allow Wayne Elementary to host two educational programs from the Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine. Based on availability, we would like to bring a Whale's Tale in December focusing on Environmental Science, and Earth Rocks focusing on Geology and Earth Science in January.

Jill Worster, Wayne Elementary School, has submitted a proposal entitled, **Story Walk**. Storywalks are interactive reading experiences. Each walk is created from deconstructed books, where pages are set along a path or trail. As readers walk the path, they are able to read the story. Our walk will consist of more permanent wooden posts with plexiglass so that we can easily change out stories or even showcase student work. The story walk will be placed on school grounds so that students, their families, and the community can enjoy it throughout the seasons!

Liz Guillemette, Maranacook Community High School, submitted a proposal entitled, **Live from Maranacook! Supplies for Maranacook's Media Club**. She is joined in this project by Mandy Poulin and Sam Watson. The Maranacook Media Club is a new club at Maranacook Community High School. It focuses on technology, community, and collaboration. This funding will allow students to experience

projects such as interviewings, podcasts, and video production. Students will also learn production and interpersonal skills.

Cami Wilbert, Education Director for the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Watershed Field Experiences for Maranacook Students***. The Friends mission statement "protecting the lakes, ponds and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed through community engagement, conservation & education" helps to establish the important connection between surrounding communities and the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. The Watershed Science Program (WSP) is an integral component of the Friends mission and features highly adaptable lessons that interweave science, social studies, language arts and math together all within the context of the local watershed. As a culminating portion of the Watershed Science Program, students within the Cobbossee Watershed have the opportunity to participate in the Friends Watershed Field Experience (WFE) at the end of the school year. The WFE enables students to experience activities that connect science, math, language arts and history to the local natural environment through hands-on exploration and data collection in the field at a local water body. This funding will allow many of our district's students to participate in this program.

Hillary Koch, Maranacook Community Middle School, submitted a proposal entitled, ***German Immersion***. This grant funding will allow year-long German students to experience an immersive language experience. Through a visit to the Colby College Museum of Art, students will engage with parts of the museum's German art collection, deepening cultural awareness and artistic appreciation. Students will interact with college-level German speakers and educators. Level-appropriate activities will help students practice their skills, fostering language fluency and confidence. This experience, enhanced by indulging in treats from a local German bakery, will create an authentic cultural experience. This holistic approach will nurture students' global perspective, and ignite a passion for learning, making it a valuable, multifaceted experience.

Jean Roesner, Maranacook Community Middle School, submitted a proposal entitled, ***Community Conversations about the Holocaust and Refugees***. The world we live in is experiencing humanitarian crisis after humanitarian crisis - and it often feels like we can do nothing about it. Students and community members will read *Night* (by Elie Wiesel) and *Man's Search for Meaning* (Viktor Frankl) as a way to explore and examine the experiences of ourselves and others. Our community will gather to talk about current events, what we have learned in our reading, and how we can respond to the history being forged in our time.