



TEACHER INNOVATION GRANT (TIG)

2022-2023 TIG Fellows Project Summaries

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Twenty-three Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG) were awarded in the Allentown School District in 2022-2023 across all grade levels. TIG Fellows presented their projects at a reception in June. This guide provides a glimpse of the projects that were funded with status updates and key takeaways.

The purpose of this guide is to extend the learning beyond the 2022-2023 school year and through the network of ASD professionals.

By sharing what TIG Fellows have done, the ASD Foundation hopes to inspire others to submit proposals to continue innovating in the Allentown School District.

William Allen High School

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Chill Out Sensory Zone

Students Impacted: 40

Lata Ananthan

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Subject/Skill Areas: Self-Regulation Through Sensory InputObjective(s): Special education students use calming sensory equipment to encourage and promote positive behavior in the classroom.Outcome(s): Staff was trained on the importance of sensory integration as a means of self-regulation. A "Chill Out Zone" was set up in the school's adapted gym for students to use as needed. Available equipment included a stationary bike, mini-trampoline, floor mat, weighted blanket, tactile wall tiles, and various types of chairs (bean bag, rocker and bungee). Students learned to request access to the equipment prior to getting agitated which prevented or decreased adverse behaviors.**William Allen High School**

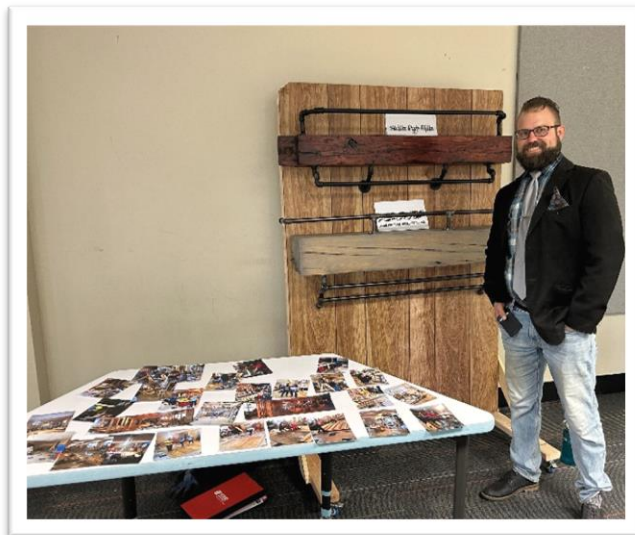
Grant Amount: \$1,200

Barn Beam Furniture

Students Impacted: 30

Brett Wandler

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Subject/Skill Areas: Career Readiness, Life Skills, Math, Science, Technology, Workforce DevelopmentObjective(s): Students are exposed to careers in technology and the trades, develop skill sets used in residential maintenance and construction, and troubleshoot as needed with minimal teacher intervention.Outcome(s): Although most of the participants had no previous experience with hand or power tools, they were able to build a 12' X 14' workshop within their classroom including a floor, ceiling joists, electric switches, lights, outlets, and ceiling fans. They also created two towel/coat racks using barn beams. Several underclassmen involved with the project enrolled in LCTI for the upcoming school year, and four seniors decided to attend trade school after graduation.**Dieruff High School**

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Urban Gardening

Students Impacted: 180

Brandi Kennedy

Grade Level(s): 10-12

Subject/Skill Areas: Community Involvement, Life Skills, Science, Social SkillsObjective(s): Students experience practical applications of lessons learned in biology and environmental science classes while planning, constructing, and maintaining urban garden spaces in and around the school.Outcome(s): Participants assembled an indoor vertical garden, rain barrels, and a compost bin in May and prepared the soil for outdoor planting in June. The project continued over the summer with plans to share their harvest with local families who could benefit from additional food resources.

Pictured Left: Mr. Wandler, Barn Beam Furniture; Right: Dr. Little, Learning Dome Models for All
Front Cover: STEAM Club Jr. at Union Terrace Elementary School, Ms. Solis.

Dieruff High School/Districtwide

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Learning Dome Models for All

Students Impacted: 2,393

Leila Little

Grade Level(s): K-12

Subject/Skill Areas: Leadership, Life Skills, Math, Science, Social Skills, TechnologyObjective(s): Students who visit the ASD Learning Dome at Dieruff utilize solar system models and other manipulatives designed to enhance their engagement, provide experiential learning, differentiate curriculum, and make learning accessible to all.Outcome(s): During their Learning Dome lessons, over 2,000 students in grades K-12 physically interacted with objects such as an inflatable sun and planets, a motorized solar system, smart mats, and an interactive white board. One of the 699 elementary participants stated, "Wow! I never knew how big the sun was until I held it in my hand" while one of the 1,694 secondary students commented, "This totally makes sense now!"**Alternative Education**

Grant Amount: \$1,027

CPR/First Aid Workshops

Students Impacted: 11

Kevin Boucher

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Subject/Skill Areas: Career Readiness, Life SkillsObjective(s): Participants can assess emergency situations and employ the appropriate response including CPR and first aid, if needed. Students can apply successful completion of the workshop towards graduation as a service-learning project.Outcome(s): Eleven students and two staff members participated in a CPR & Advanced First Aid workshop and earned American Red Cross certification. A senior student who was in jeopardy of not meeting graduation requirements was able to graduate on time through his successful completion of the workshop.**Alternative Education**

Grant Amount: \$700

Finance 101 Workshops

Students Impacted: 17

Kevin Boucher

Grade Level(s): 12

Subject/Skill Areas: Life Skills, Social SkillsObjective(s): Graduating seniors have the tools and resources to evaluate financial opportunities and their consequences, discern money management options, and formulate plans to reach their financial goals.Outcome(s): Seventeen students participated in four 2 ½ hour financial literacy workshops. Topics addressed included financial goals, budgeting, good saving and spending practices, credit, financing a post-secondary education, purchasing a car, and buying a house.**Raub Middle School**

Grant Amount: \$1,174

The Empire Builder's Manifesto

Students Impacted: 60

Meghan Smith

Grade Level(s): 8

Subject/Skill Areas: Family and Consumer ScienceObjective(s): Students understand and use key terms related to financial literacy such as investment, interest rate, and savings account.Outcome(s): Throughout the second semester of the school year, students created sketch-notes that included pictures, graphs, tables, and other diagrams to help them understand financial literacy concepts. As a final project, they created their own plan for financial success.**South Mountain Middle School**

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Overcoming Dysgraphia, Visual Impairments, and Learning Needs With Digital Expression

Students Impacted: 4

Erin Rodenbough

Grade Level(s): 7

Subject/Skill Areas: Literacy, MathObjective(s): Students with dexterity issues, visual impairments, and other learning challenges are provided with differentiated learning through the use of iPads and styluses to complete assignments.Outcome(s): As evidenced by teacher observation and weekly check-ins with participants, the students were more motivated to complete work on iPads through applications such as Kami and Classkick than they were to complete handwritten assignments.

Trexler Middle School

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Subject/Skill Areas: Literacy, Science, Social StudiesObjective(s): Students not reading on grade level have access to low level readers to read at school and at home. The readers include non-fiction books that cover science and social studies topics, as well as fiction.Outcome(s): All Trexler Middle School students and teachers have access to close to 250 new books purchased through this TIG project which are available to borrow from the school library.**Reading Resources**

Students Impacted: 800+

Catherine Bianco

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Trexler Middle School

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Subject/Skill Areas: Community Involvement, Literacy, Social Skills, Social Studies, Technology, Visual ArtsObjective(s): Students work in small groups to research young Holocaust victims and to create suitcase displays representing their lives.Outcome(s): Participants created an exhibit of close to 40 era-appropriate suitcase assemblages depicting the lives of Holocaust victims. The suitcases were displayed on three dates during the spring semester, twice at the school and once at the Jewish Community Center of Allentown.**The Suitcase: A Silent Witness to the Holocaust**

Students Impacted: 140

Rebecca Hann

Grade Level(s): 8



Pictured: Trexler Middle School students displaying the Holocaust Suitcase projects.

Trexler Middle School

Grant Amount: \$1,010

Subject/Skill Areas: Family and Consumer ScienceObjective(s): Students investigate conventional and hydroponic growing systems and use both methods to plant and nurture herbs, fruits, and vegetables.Outcome(s): Students planted seeds and took turns monitoring the soil, water, nutrients, and plant growth. By the end of the spring semester, they were able to harvest and sample various herbs, greens, tomatoes, and strawberries.**Welcome to the (Classroom) Jungle**

Students Impacted: 150

Meghan Smith

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Trexler Middle School

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Subject/Skill Areas: Community Involvement, Literacy, Performing Arts, Social Skills, Life SkillsObjective(s): Students utilize slam poetry to develop their listening, writing, reading, and speaking skills and an awareness of body movement, vocal tone, emotional diction, and performance art.Outcome(s): Participants created slam poetry, practiced reciting their poems, and presented them at their school's Evening of the Arts, two school district events, and a school board meeting during which they received a standing ovation.**The SPOT (Slam Poetry of Trexler)**

Students Impacted: 25

John Kikrilis

Grade Level(s): 8

Trexler Middle School

Grant Amount: \$1,167

Subject/Skill Areas: MusicObjective(s): Students learn to read sheet music, play the piano, and perform at least two songs of their choice using electric keyboards.Outcome(s): Almost all of the participants completed their piano playing assignment including students who were not previously interested in learning to play an instrument. After studying additional musical concepts such as key signature, measures, sharps, flats, and chords which could be applied to other instruments, a few students were motivated to join the school band.**Pianos in the Classroom**

Students Impacted: 70+

Justin Tanzos

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Central Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$1,147

Subject/Skill Areas: Music, Performing ArtsObjective(s): Students learn how to correctly hold and play a ukulele, coordinate their strumming hand with chord changes, and perform several songs in front of their teacher and peers.Outcome(s): Students can identify the parts of the ukulele, hold it properly, and play four beginner songs including "We are Dancing in the Forest", "Mary Had a Little Lamb", "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Hey Ho" using basic chords and progressions.**Ukuleles for Excellence**

Students Impacted: 175

Leann Lemperle

Grade Level(s): 4-5

Mosser & Washington Elementary Schools

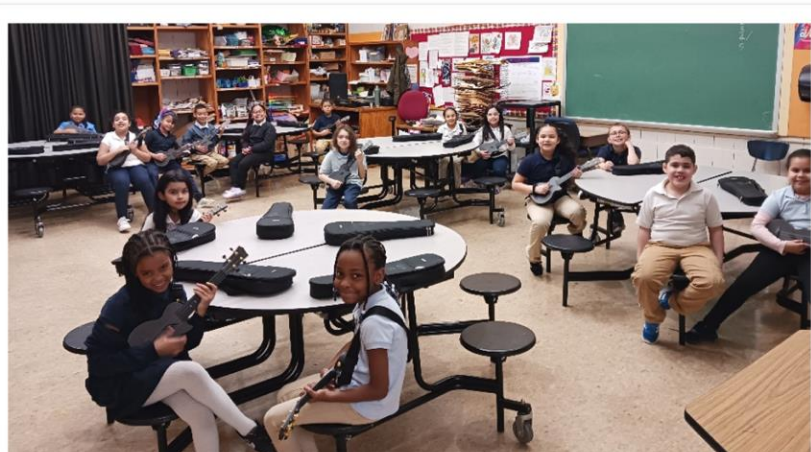
Grant Amount: \$1,169

Subject/Skill Areas: Music, Performing ArtsObjective(s): Ukuleles are used to teach students music concepts including performance, creation, composition, improvisation, identification and application of culturally appropriate musical concepts, and terminology.Outcome(s): Students learned the parts of the ukulele, how to hold it correctly, basic strumming patterns with and without a pick, and how to play simple chords with different backing tracks. Student leaders emerged in each class, and they worked with other students in pairs or small groups to reinforce and practice musical concepts. Some of the fifth graders at Mosser played ukuleles at the school's spring concert.**Ukuleles for Music Education**

Students Impacted: 500

David Sendef

Grade Level(s): 2-5



Pictured: Mr. Sendef and student ukulele players at Mosser and Washington Elementary Schools.

Ramos Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$1,125

Subject/Skill Areas: Social and Emotional AwarenessObjective(s): All Ramos students are provided with a safe, quiet, and controlled environment to work through personal challenges as needed. Participants develop de-escalation strategies and practice self-care and self-advocacy.Outcome(s): Project funds were used to purchase a variety of items to help support students' tactile, auditory, visual, and motor skill needs. Some examples include hand puppets, rain stick shakers, art supplies, and a mini trampoline. A room was designated to create the sensory room, but it needs to be renovated for student safety before it can be used as intended.**Ramos Re-Set Sensory Room**

Students Impacted: TBD

Matthew Bronson

Grade Level(s): K-5

Ramos Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$1,190

Subject/Skill Areas: Life Skills, Literacy, Math, Science, Social Skills, Visual ArtsObjective(s): Kindergarten students participate in learning centers to promote language, social, and emotional development while engaged in meaningful literacy, math, science and art experiences.Outcome(s): At least 6 different learning centers were made available to students every other day for approximately 45 minutes at the end of the school day. Students learned to work and play collaboratively.**Early Learning Centers**

Students Impacted: 25

Andrea Powell

Grade Level(s): K

Ritter Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$1,175

Subject/Skill Areas: Leadership, Life Skills, Music, Performing Arts, Social SkillsObjective(s): Students in general music classes learn to play melodic instruments including xylophones and glockenspiels. Through this experience, they can create and perform music alone and with others.Outcome(s): Participants added melodic music to books and stories and played harmonic accompaniments with songs. They also created their own melodies while learning to improvise and developed repeating musical patterns.**Orff Instrument Enrichment**

Students Impacted: 500+

Michelle Chelton

Grade Level(s): K-5

Sheridan Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$1,199

Subject/Skill Areas: Leadership, Life Skills, Music, Performing Arts, Social SkillsObjective(s): Students in the autistic support class, many of whom are non-verbal, experience musical expression through art, movement, and other creative outlets.Outcome(s): Students were able to creatively express the music they heard in class. Some of the most successful activities were creating sound with an ocean drum, building with magnetic tiles while listening to Beethoven, and playing freeze dance using small balancing logs called Step-a-Forest.**Music Expression with
Creative Sensory Materials**

Students Impacted: 20

Michelle Chelton

Grade Level(s): 1-5

Sheridan Elementary School

Grant Amount: \$950

Subject/Skill Areas: Literacy, Math, ScienceObjective(s): Students use ReWrite Max Boogie Board tablets in place of dry erase boards and markers to quickly respond to classroom activities.Outcome(s): Students were fully engaged in using the tablets to demonstrate their skills in both small and large groups, and the grant recipient was able to share them with other teachers in her building upon request.**Let's ReWrite**

Students Impacted: 40

Stacy Cunningham

Grade Level(s): 4-5

Sheridan Elementary School**Science of Reading:
Growing Literacy****Kimberly Saeger**

Grant Amount: \$1,197

Students Impacted: 23

Grade Level(s): 4-5

Subject/Skill Areas: LiteracyObjective(s): Students' oral reading fluency increases through the use of decodable readers as determined by DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills).Outcome(s): Seventy percent of the participants reached or exceeded their DIBELS oral reading fluency goals. This includes several fifth graders who were unable to decode consonant-vowel-consonant words at the beginning of the school year but were able to do so by the end of the year. Their ability to read blends, digraphs, vowel pairs, short vowel sounds, and high frequency words also improved along with their writing ability.**Union Terrace Elementary School****STEAM Club Jr.****Karen Price**

Grant Amount: \$1,200

Students Impacted: 15

Grade Level(s): 2-3

Subject/Skill Areas: Career Readiness, Math, Science, Technology, Visual ArtsObjective(s): Students participate in a project-based afterschool program designed to foster curiosity, enhance 21st century skills and spark interest in professions related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math.Outcome(s): Students met twice a week after school and completed numerous group projects such as 3-D paper playgrounds, Lego marble mazes, and K'nex moving amusement rides. Through collaboration with their peers, they demonstrated the ability to plan and implement designs and to identify and correct design flaws.**Union Terrace Elementary School****Creating a Sensory Pathway:
Coping, Calming, Comforting****Elizabeth Rhodes**

Grant Amount: \$1,150

Students Impacted: 100+

Grade Level(s): K-5

Subject/Skill Areas: Social-Emotional LearningObjective(s): Through the use of a sensory pathway, students are provided with a multi-sensory experience to increase classroom engagement and minimize unwanted behaviors.Outcome(s): A sensory pathway was created within the school's Relaxation Station, allowing students to use the space as needed to complete activities designed to reduce inappropriate behaviors, anxiety, anger, or excess energy.**SUBJECT AREAS/SKILLS ADDRESSED BY PROJECTS**

<u>3</u>	CAREER READINESS
<u>3</u>	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
_____	DIGITAL ARTS/ COMMUNICATION
<u>3</u>	LEADERSHIP
<u>9</u>	LIFE SKILLS

<u>7</u>	LITERACY
<u>6</u>	MATH
<u>5</u>	MUSIC
<u>5</u>	PERFORMING ARTS
_____	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
<u>7</u>	SCIENCE
<u>8</u>	SOCIAL SKILLS

<u>2</u>	SOCIAL STUDIES
<u>4</u>	TECHNOLOGY
<u>3</u>	VISUAL ARTS
<u>1</u>	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
_____	WORLD LANGUAGES
<u>5</u>	OTHER

ASDF MISSION

The mission of the Allentown School District Foundation is to encourage, promote, support and fund positive educational experiences for students in the Allentown School District.

TIG PURPOSE

Since 2010, the Allentown School District Foundation has invited full-time ASD teachers, guidance counselors, coaches and nurses to submit proposals that enhance learning in the classroom and beyond. The goal of the

Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG) Program is to increase student interest in learning by providing educators an opportunity to exercise their passion for creative teaching and applying unique educational strategies. TIG encourages the ASD faculty to develop ideas, partner with families and colleagues and tap into the wealth of knowledge, expertise and talent globally available in today's world. A limited number of grants are available each year.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Any full-time Allentown School District teacher, guidance counselor, coach or nurse involved in teaching ASD students in one or more of our 25 public school buildings and/or online. Applications are available at: https://asdf.allentownsd.org/about_us/foundation_forms

INNOVATIVE GRANTS

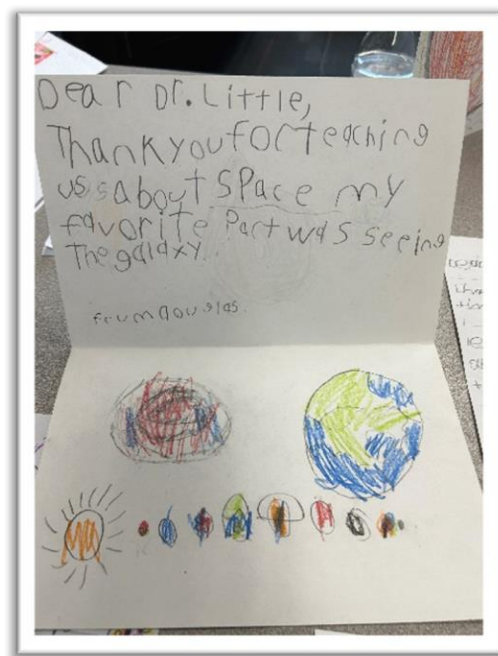
Each project must go above and beyond the customary classroom requirements of the current curriculum and never before have been implemented in your building. The project should be designed to expand and enrich the knowledge base beyond current academic requirements and/or support new teaching practices to support the learning process.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Teacher Innovation Grants are awarded up to \$1,200.00.

KEY DATES FOR 2023-24

- > Q&A sessions for potential applicants: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 3:00 and 3:30 pm via Zoom or upon request.
- > **Proposal deadline: Friday, October 20, 2023**
- > Announcement of awards: Weeks of December 4 and December 11, 2023
- > Distribution of grant funds: Week of January 8, 2024
- > The 7th Annual TIG Reception: Monday, June 3, 2024
- > Final evaluation report and receipts due: Friday, June 7, 2024



Students at all grade levels participated in enhanced learning experiences at the Learning Dome in Dieruff High School.

ABOUT THE ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

Pursuing a vision of developing enriched education for Allentown School District students, the ASD Foundation has a mission to encourage, promote, support and fund positive educational experiences for students in the Allentown School District. Since its founding in 2009, the Foundation has raised over \$8.1 million for supplemental programming and services in ASD schools. The first TIGs were awarded in 2010 and since then the ASDF has awarded over \$188,000 in grants to ASD educators.

All funding for Teacher Innovation Grants comes from individuals and organizations that donate to the Foundation. The Allentown School District Foundation (ASDF) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

If you would like to learn more or contribute, please contact the ASD Foundation.

Beginning in 2022-23 the Foundation will annually award the **Mrs. Finizzi Teacher Innovation Grant (TIG) for initiatives in English Literature and Journalism**. In years where those specific initiatives are absent, the award can expand to broader areas of humanities: history, philosophy, and art history. This annual TIG is possible through the **Mrs. Finizzi TIG Endowment** established in December 2021 through a gift from Mr. William Choi, William Allen High School Class of 1992, in honor of the 25th anniversary of Mrs. Finizzi's death. Mr. Choi served on The Canary and Inklings as Editor-in-Chief and his time with Mrs. Finizzi shaped his life.



Marguerite Finizzi

At right, Mrs. Finizzi as pictured in the 1981 yearbook.

The Allentown School District Foundation gratefully acknowledges all of our donors who make the Teacher Innovation Grant program possible.

2022-2023 Fully Sponsored Named Awards

Gallagher Insurance Award
Dr. John & Anita Stevens Awards
Anonymous Librarian Awards
Arlene Bernhard Memorial Awards

Bill Sugra Memorial Fund Awards
Bob & Sandy Lovett Award
Dr. Dennis and Nancy Blankowitsch Award
Mrs. Finizzi Endowed TIG Award

2022-2023 TIG Contributors

Dr. Karen and Antonio Angello, Ms. Diane Koch, Mr. Carlos and Dr. Carol Ann Lopez,
Ms. Jaime Musselman (In memory of David T. Howard)

The ASD Foundation is grateful for your support!



Learning. Enriching. Growing

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