

2025 GOTEACH! CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Celebrating Our Special Agents of Classroom Innovation

October 30, 2025

Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation

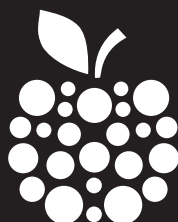
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DEAR GRANT RECIPIENTS,



This year's GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards ceremony is both a celebration and a launch! On the one hand, we want to congratulate you and celebrate your spirit of innovation and dedication. Your commitment to educating our students is evident to all. Our GoTeach! Grant Review Committee was thoroughly impressed with your proposals, and thus, we celebrate YOU!

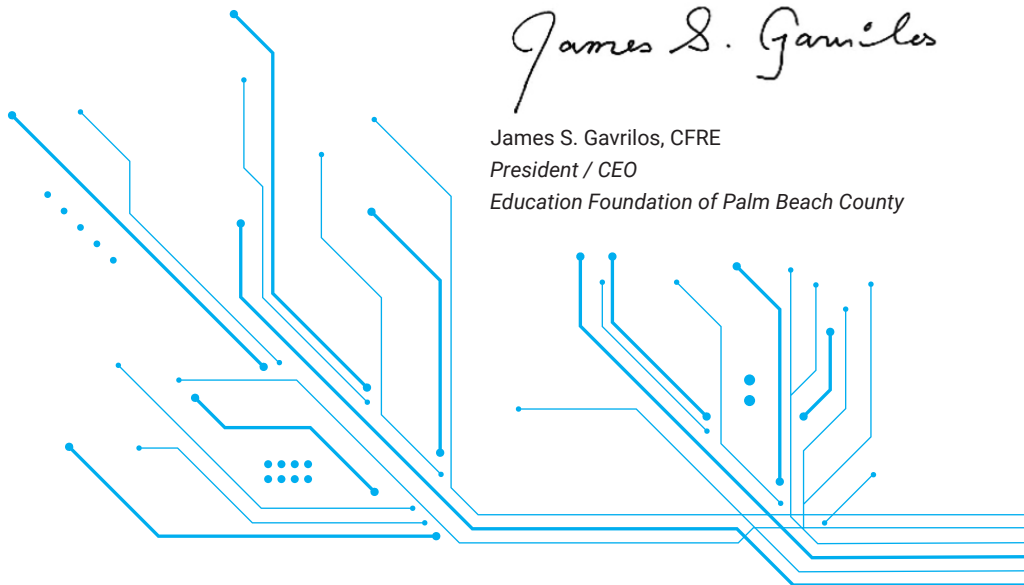
But – and there is always a “but” – there is more work to do. We not only want to celebrate you, we need to replicate and duplicate you. We have officially opened our brand new Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation, and we want to maximize the use of the rooms designed for professional development. We want to bring in our best and most effective, most innovative, and most creative teachers to lead seminars for other educators. In short, we want to bring in YOU so that you can share your ideas, methodologies, successes, and even your failures with other teachers. Let them learn from you and your journey.

So tonight, we CELEBRATE YOU and we LAUNCH YOU. We celebrate your past and present work, and we launch you into the future as a guide and inspiration for others. Keep up the great work. It is an honor to be your partner in education.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James S. Gavrilos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'G'.

James S. Gavrilos, CFRE
President / CEO
Education Foundation of Palm Beach County



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The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County is the nexus of Palm Beach County's public school system, the private sector, and the community. We facilitate student achievement by supporting high quality public education through partnerships, grants, events, and public awareness.

Established in 1984 by Palm Beach County business leaders, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County serves as the philanthropic support organization for K-12 public education and partners closely with the School District of Palm Beach County and the greater business and charitable community to fund programs that close achievement gaps in learning and that create positive, measurable change for students. This is accomplished by using the funding to provide innovative classroom grants, as well as providing quality professional development to foster excellence in teaching.

We all know that children succeed in school when they have all the tools, resources, and support they need in order to achieve. That's why the Red Apple Supplies program was created as a free school supply store that serves the highest-needs Title I schools throughout Palm Beach County. Red Apple Supplies is the signature program of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. Since opening its doors in 2016, more than \$9 million in free school supplies has been provided to teachers and students in 100 public schools throughout Palm Beach County.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to those who have served on the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards Committee and/or Grant Review Panel

- Kate Arrizza**
Alan Baseman
Nadege Bernard
Ronnie Boriskin
Kathy Burstein
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Congratulations! GoTeach! Recipients

We create partnerships, innovate learning, and impact Florida students coast to coast through our alliance of local education foundations in nearly every county-wide school district.

We believe strong local education foundations are essential for communities to ensure educational success for all students.

EducationFoundationsFL.org

CLASSROOM RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES



Red Apple Supplies

A FREE resource store providing over \$9 million in essential school supplies and classroom resources since the program's inception in 2016. The program will provide support and resources to 106 high-needs schools throughout the district this year, ensuring teachers and students have the supplies they need to succeed.

Funded in partnership with Asofsky Family Foundation, Boca West Children's Foundation, Carrier, CBS12 Stuff the Bus Campaign, Children's Healthcare Charity, Great Charity Challenge, Florida Blue, Lost Tree Foundation, Members of the 2022 NextEra Energy, Inc. Operating Committee, Office Depot, School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, Stiles-Nicholson Foundation, The Breakers Palm Beach, Ventus Charitable Foundation, and Wanda and James Moran Foundation along with the generosity of individual donors and various companies and philanthropic organizations throughout the community.



School District Education
Foundation Matching
Grant Program



CONSORTIUM
OF FLORIDA EDUCATION
FOUNDATIONS

TEACHER QUALITY/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

GoTeach! Classroom Grants



A competitive grant program for individual or team-teaching projects, GoTeach! grants range from \$1,000-\$5,000 and promote an original, creative and innovative teaching approach that addresses student needs in multiple subject areas, grade levels, and schools throughout the district.

Santaluces Community High School's Finance Academy

Designed to provide high school students an opportunity to learn and prepare for college and secure entry-level positions in the business and finance industries, emphasis is placed on a college preparatory curriculum linked to the financial world and meeting industry standards. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Future Business Leaders of America Club and learn from experts in field from local industry. In future years, students will earn up to two industry certifications throughout the course of the 4-year program, participate in work-based learning opportunities through mentorships, career shadowing, and internship programs connecting the resources of business, economics, and finance.

Funded in partnership with Bank of America and the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

School District of Palm Beach County's Healthcare Career Pathway

This program is proactively addressing Florida's projected healthcare worker shortage by building a robust pipeline of skilled, diverse professionals. Currently serving over 7,500 students in Medical Academies throughout the School District of Palm Beach County, the program will expand to four additional schools this year and strengthen support for its existing academies. Participating Junior and Senior Medical Academy students in existing academies will demonstrate clinical competency and increased employability skills by passing at least one of the industry certification exams offered within the program

Continued on next page.

providing opportunities for post-secondary success including immediate employment in healthcare.

Funded in partnership with the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation, HCA Healthcare Foundation, Quantum Foundation, and the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Literacy and Early Childhood Programs

Building Oral Language and Vocabulary in VPK

This interactive literacy project serves to increase kindergarten readiness by supporting students in increasing their Oral Language and Vocabulary scores on the VPK Assessment, as well as demonstrating an increase in Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) behavioral markers. Through this project, children will develop oral language and vocabulary, print knowledge, and fine motor skills—and develop their identity as a writer and author. Teachers will be engaged in professional development that builds an understanding of the principles behind using writing to increase oral language and vocabulary development, and the value behind creating electronic books.



Funded in partnership with PNC Foundation and the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Educate, Affirm, Inspire, with S.P.I.R.E.: A Reading Intervention Program

The Educate, Affirm, Inspire with S.P.I.R.E. program will support approximately 300 underperforming students in 13 elementary schools in Boca Raton, Florida by providing targeted, researched-based instructional support and supplemental computerized remediation to help improve students' reading skills in the five construct areas of reading. Using S.P.I.R.E., an Orton-Gillingham-based, multisensory, explicit, systematic reading intervention program for students who have been identified to need intensive phonics/phonological awareness/text processing instruction. This spiraling phonics program is proven to close the achievement gap for struggling readers.

Funded in partnership with the Golden Bell Education Foundation and the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

S.T.E.M. Programs

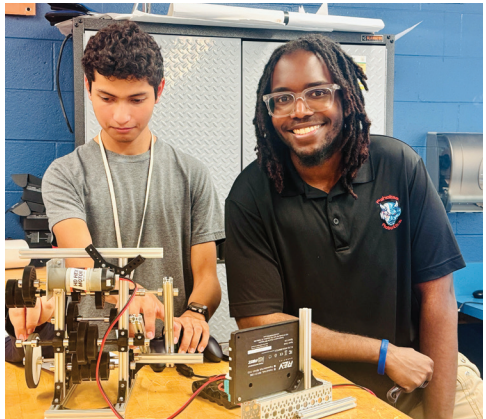
Rocket Powered Robotics

The Rocket Powered Robotics program supports teams competing in the FIRST Lego League, First Tech Challenge, and First Robotics Challenge Robotics Programs in Palm Beach County. This program produces champion design teams rooted in the disciplines of STEM education. It provides targeted support to multiple teams with participating students from 12 district schools, including one middle and high school in the Glades region, where access to robotics clubs can drastically improve STEM participation and interest in STEM-related careers.

Funded in partnership with the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations and the Support Education License Plate Program Revenue.

Stepping Up STEM in Pahokee

This program creates a pipeline of Computer Programming and Robotics Course offerings to increase skill development and opportunities for students in 6th through 12th grade. These opportunities will engage students in rigorous instruction leading to success in computer programming, robotics, and STEM courses throughout middle and high school in preparation for post-secondary success in college and future STEM-related careers.



Funded in partnership with Ventus Charitable Foundation and the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Our Amazing
GoTeach! Classroom Grant Recipients



Your dedication to innovating in the classroom and engaging your students truly inspires the next generation, igniting a passion for learning that will last a lifetime.



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GOTEACH!

INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

\$1,000 Classroom Grant Award

Improving Literacy Skills in First Grade through a Project-Based Learning Approach

Imelda Bangun / Barton Elementary School

This project will support first grade dual language students at Barton Elementary School in developing grade-level reading skills through a project-based learning approach. The majority of these students are English language learners, many of whom began the school year reading at beginning or middle kindergarten levels. Project-based learning will provide meaningful, hands-on learning that builds literacy, communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. It encourages collaboration and integrates English language arts with science and art to create a well-rounded academic experience.

Turning Pages, Sparking Minds: Revitalizing Media Center Engagement

Rachel Bennett / Boca Raton Elementary School

"Turning Pages, Sparking Minds: Revitalizing Media Center Engagement" aims to boost reading proficiency and literacy by encouraging students to explore the media center and self-select books by title and genre. Students will track their reading on a bookmark, earning a prize after reading and returning 10 books. The project will also introduce students to collaborative coding through both plugged and unplugged activities, which will spark creativity, align with Florida science standards, and provide accessible STEAM learning opportunities for all students, regardless of experience.

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Building Bridges to Literacy: A Pre-K Blocks and Literacy Initiative

Maria Soto-Perez / Coral Reef Elementary School

This project is a play-based learning initiative designed to integrate block play with early literacy instruction in a pre-kindergarten classroom. The project will establish a dedicated classroom center where children explore language, storytelling, and foundational literacy skills through hands-on building activities. By combining construction materials such as wooden blocks, foam bricks, and manipulatives with literacy tools like story prompts, vocabulary cards, environmental print, and writing materials, this center will provide rich opportunities for students to develop oral language, letter and sound recognition, print awareness, and emergent writing skills. The goal of the project is to ensure that all students, regardless of background or prior experience, have access to a high-quality learning environment that strengthens early literacy skills through meaningful, playful interactions. This project doesn't just build with blocks; it builds bridges to communication, confidence, creativity, and literacy.

Building Social Skills through Structured Play

Kaitlyn Engle / Diamond View Elementary School

This project aims to enhance resiliency, social-emotional learning, and problem-solving skills among kindergarten students through structured play with board games. The initiative addresses social skill and learning deficits for our students who are English language learners or lack prior preschool experience. Key project goals include improving students' ability to follow multi-step directions, fostering turn-taking and sharing, enhancing emotional management skills, developing problem-solving abilities, and increasing oral language skills. The project integrates engaging gameplay with skill-building activities to boost social skills and classroom cooperation, helping students become more confident communicators. Additionally, games will aid students in recognizing character traits, numbers, colors, and counting, enriching their overall learning experience.

Discovering the Magic in Math

Jennifer Tobin and Nicole Galavage / Elbridge Gale Elementary School

The "Discovering the Magic in Math" program offers students a unique opportunity to connect Florida's math standards with real-world experiences and potential career pathways. This innovative initiative aims to spark students' passion for solving mathematical problems and build their confidence, ultimately leading to academic success. As part of the program, students will have the chance to interview professionals who use math in their careers. They will also tackle real-world problems, applying mathematical thinking to develop solutions. By participating in this program, students will leave with a deeper understanding of math and its applications in society.



The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation in Lake Worth Beach officially opened on January 16, 2025, ushering in a new era of public education in Palm Beach County.

**Cultivating the Love of Reading with Real Books...
While Improving Literacy Skills**

Marie Volcimus / Forest Park Elementary School

This program aims to cultivate a love for reading while enhancing literacy skills for struggling readers, starting with the joy of reading real books that come with a hidden gem: an audiobook. This program will support the purchase of Wonderbooks, which will engage emerging readers by allowing them to see the words and hear them brought to life, creating a truly enjoyable experience while improving sight word retention, fluency, and vocabulary, which is especially beneficial for students learning English as a second language.

Mind Matters

Amy Yglesias / Galaxy E3 Elementary School

"Mind Matters" is an innovative second grade project designed to boost science and literacy achievement for students at a Title I elementary school with a high population of English language learners. Through six engaging units, "Mind Matters" will use hands-on activities and leveled texts to explore the science of the brain and how we learn. This project aims to improve students' understanding of basic brain functions, enhance their reading comprehension of informational texts, and foster a greater interest in science.

Creating a Calm Corner in the Classroom

Fritz Casimir and Gina Francis / Heritage Elementary School

This initiative aims to build a calming and transformative classroom environment that greatly improves students' focus, emotional regulation, and overall well-being. The Calm Corner will act as a dedicated space where students can retreat to when they feel overwhelmed, helping them regain their composure and reconnect with their learning.

Highland Sparks: Igniting Young Scientists

Deanna Jones / Highland Elementary School

This project will bring the science fair tradition back to Highland Elementary School for the first time in three years, providing every fifth-grade student with the materials, workspace, and guidance needed to become true young scientists. Students will learn how to design experiments, collect and analyze data, and present their findings to a live audience of peers, families, and community members. By fostering curiosity, creativity, and real-world problem-solving skills, "Highland Sparks" aims to raise science proficiency to 45% while inspiring a lifelong interest in STEM careers such as engineering, medicine, and technology.



Thank You

**STUDENTS & TEACHERS FOR SHOWCASING YOUR TALENTS
AT THE 2025 GoTEACH! CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS**

ALEXANDER W. DREYFOOS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS JAZZ BAND

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BOYNTON AEROSPACE SCIENCE ACADEMY

BOYNTON BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

PALM BEACH LAKES COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ESPORTS ACADEMY

SIPS, SCENTS AND SUDS

SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Riding For Regulation

Julie Highsmith / H.L. Johnson Elementary School

"Riding For Regulation" empowers students with the chance to ride a stationary bike in the classroom, offering a dynamic self-regulation tool. With guidance on safe usage and a calming corner filled with supportive resources, students can engage in movement to alleviate anxiety and enhance emotional balance. This initiative not only fosters resilience and social-emotional well-being, but also aims to create a more focused learning environment. Together, we are cultivating a space where every student can thrive!

Civically Correct Academy

Timothy Shannon / Jeaga Middle School

The "Civically Correct Academy" project is an innovative, AI-powered civics intervention program designed to increase student proficiency on Florida's Civics end-of-course exam. Through adaptive tutoring, gamified assessments, interactive video instruction, and individualized student data folders, the program will deliver personalized, benchmark-aligned learning experiences that will build civic knowledge, engagement, and confidence. This multi-platform instructional model aims to empower students with the skills and content mastery needed for academic success and lifelong civic participation.

Who's for Dinner?

Gabrielle Balatovis-McNally, Leslie Kennedy, Dina Crew, and Stacey Snyder / Jupiter Farms Elementary School

This project will provide students with a unique, hands-on opportunity to explore animal adaptations, predator-prey relationships and forest ecology in an engaging and memorable way. Through this immersive experience, students will directly observe and analyze real biological evidence owl pellets, deepening their understanding of food webs and ecological interactions. By connecting classroom science content to real-world ecosystems, this investigation will foster critical thinking and support meaningful, lasting learning.

Earthlings

Gabrielle Balatovis-McNally and Erica Scherb / Jupiter Farms Elementary School

The "Earthlings" project will provide students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of science through environmental education. By applying what they learn, students will create meaningful changes in their local environment while recognizing their global impact. The program will foster creativity through art and outdoor projects, hands-on learning experiences, and the development of responsible citizenship.





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OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Through your generous support, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County can continue to provide FREE essential classroom resources to teachers in approximately 100 Palm Beach County public schools, along with funding for innovative educational programs.

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TODAY**



Building Reading Success in a 7th Grade Special Education Classroom

Janaina Oliveira and Koralisse Padin-Lopez / L.C. Swain Middle School

This project is a transformative reading initiative for seventh-grade students with significant learning differences, including nonverbal learners. By combining adaptive technology, evidence-based reading programs, and personalized instruction, this project aims to help all students, regardless of starting point, to make at least two years of reading growth, develop key comprehension skills, and discover a lasting love for reading. With the right tools and support, our learners can reach better reading potential. This project will be a difference-maker, ensuring students not only gain new skills, but also a renewed sense of confidence and joy in their ability to read.

The Sky's The Limit!

Sandra Noakes and Thomas Hinrich / Meadow Park Elementary School

The students at Meadow Park Elementary are taking learning to new heights - literally! In this exciting hands-on program, kids will dive into the world of drone technology by learning to code, navigate flight paths, and conquer creative obstacle courses. Along the way, they will build critical thinking, teamwork, and 21st-century tech skills. It's STEM education with a twist of adventure, curiosity, and sky-high fun!

Future-Ready Lab: AI-Powered Problem Solving for Young Innovators

Janette Camacho / Loxahatchee Groves Elementary School

This future-ready bot lab will be where innovation meets inspiration! This transformative program is designed to ignite a passion for AI literacy, spark computational thinking, and cultivate a lifelong curiosity for STEM in every student. Over the course of six weeks, students will have the opportunity to dive into the world of technology, harnessing the power of Micro:bit Bit:Bot robots and cutting-edge MIT AI tools. Students will not only learn the basics of machine learning, but they will also create their own models, seamlessly embedding them into autonomous robots that tackle real-world challenges.

STEM + Behavior = Success!

Tammy Baysden / Pine Jog Elementary School

The "STEM + Behavior = Success!" project is an initiative that will combine exciting monthly STEM challenges with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Students will collaborate on hands-on projects from building balloon-powered cars to engineering eco-friendly shelters while practicing essential social skills like teamwork, responsibility, and perseverance. By integrating PBIS values into real-world problem solving, this project will nurture both academic growth and positive behavior.

Tech Garden: An Introduction to Using Technology to Grow Food Efficiently

Eusebius Williams and Robert Fletcher / Roosevelt Community Middle School

The students at Roosevelt Middle School are transforming their schoolyard into a hands-on learning laboratory with this garden project. Using Micro:Bit microcontrollers and various sensors, students are growing a garden while also learning to code. This project will enable students to expand the garden, acquire more advanced sensors, and further their understanding of environmental science and sustainability, proving that technology and nature can thrive together.

Lights, Camera, Literacy!

Lizzette Leborgne / Royal Palm Beach Community High School

This program aims to empower high school students by fostering their voice, confidence, and literacy skills through the creation and live presentation of animated children's stories. This initiative will not only enhance early reading skills in younger learners but also provide authentic opportunities for older students to express themselves and develop leadership skills. Recognizing the significant literacy challenges faced by younger students, such as difficulties in phonics and comprehension, and the lack of creative outlets for older students, this program will offer a community-focused mentoring experience. By training 10th graders to write, animate, and present stories to early readers, "Lights, Camera, Literacy!" will address existing literacy gaps while encouraging meaningful connections across generations.



Investigating Water Quality: Monitoring pH, Nitrate Levels, and Bioindicators in Aquatic Ecosystems

David Croll / Seminole Ridge Community High School

This project will provide water quality testing tools to enhance hands-on learning about local waterways and human impact. Students will analyze various water parameters in local bodies of water (ponds, lakes, canals) and compare those results with statewide government data. Additionally, students will monitor in-class aquariums, which will serve as controlled ecosystems for studying local and invasive species, the nitrogen cycle, and nutrient uptake by plants.

What's Old Is New Again

Andrea Scaturo / Suncoast High School

As a way to encourage high school students in AP English Literature to engage in independent reading and increase their literacy, this project will pair classic texts such as “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen, “Jane Eyre” by Emily Bronte, “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Death of a Salesman” by Arthur Miller, and “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley, with a modern reimagining. By creating opportunities for students to read original complex texts and their modern versions, students can see the importance of the classics and how their conflicts and situations show a universal understanding of the human condition. Students will work in groups of three or four, which will increase participation and encourage a deeper dive into the texts.

PBL Power: Igniting 3rd Grade Reading Success through Project-Based Learning

Ivania Fullerton / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

This project aims to motivate struggling readers in third grade through engagement in project-based learning throughout the school year. By embracing project-based learning, educators can inspire students to strengthen the fundamental building blocks of literacy, reading fluency, and comprehension. Hands-on projects can ignite students’ curiosity and enable them to tap into their unique learning styles. Through this project students will be able to identify their strengths and become empowered to meet Florida’s third grade reading requirements, achieve Level 3 proficiency, and confidently progress in their education.

Family Voices: Sharing Our Heritage through Food, Storytelling, and Art

Kristin DeLaTorre / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

Through the “Family Voices” project, middle school students will explore their cultural heritage by interviewing family members and recording personal podcast episodes. Students will also create a collaborative heritage tapestry representing their cultures, traditions, or family recipes. QR codes linking to their podcasts will be stitched into the tapestry, blending technology with visual storytelling. The project aims to help students develop communication skills, cultural awareness, and a stronger sense of identity and will culminate in a community showcase where families can view the completed tapestry, listen to student-produced podcasts, and celebrate the many voices that shape our school community.

Art in Science

Rebecca Patterson and Shanna Lillis / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

In this seventh-grade science project, students will explore the connections between art, engineering, and the natural world. Using scientific concepts such as energy transfer, ecosystems, and the engineering design process, students will work in collaborative teams to identify a real-world environmental issue such as habitat loss, invasive species, human impact and develop an artistic and functional solution. Throughout the project, they will document their process, reflect on challenges, and present their final designs to the class. This hands-on experience will encourage critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity while deepening students’ understanding of how science, engineering, and art can work together to solve real problems.

Checkmate With ChessUp

Todd LaVogue / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

Chess is a time-tested tool for developing critical thinking, patience, and decision-making. This project will engage students in intellectually rigorous, tech-integrated activities that will empower them to build strategic thinking, focus, and resilience in a collaborative, game-based learning environment using ChessUp 2 Smart chess boards. This technology tool provides immediate visual feedback and allows for AI-assisted self-paced learning, making chess more accessible and enjoyable for all learners, regardless of skill level.



Doing our part for our shared future.

We have a plan to create a more inclusive future. A series of commitments to help close the digital divide, protect our planet's climate and better prepare people for the jobs of tomorrow.

A plan to digitally empower 10 million youth and to upskill 500,000 individuals by 2030.

A plan to become carbon neutral in our operations by 2035.

It's Citizen Verizon. Our plan for economic, environmental and social advancement. Learn more at www.CitizenVerizon.com.

verizon✓



Members of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's Board of Directors, leadership in the School District of Palm Beach County, and local dignitaries attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation on January 16, 2025.

Antonio Vivaldi Masterwork Performance
Bradford Chase / Wellington Community High School

This project will allow students a musical experience that is extremely rare for most high school choral programs. For this project, students will perform a 30-minute masterwork by one of the greatest composers in history, Antonio Vivaldi. Typically, students in chorus programs sing works that are about 3-4 minutes long and only have piano accompaniment. However, this project will allow us to hire a professional orchestra making it a truly extraordinary experience not only for students but for the entire school community.

Transforming Spaces, Inspiring Minds
Marwa Jaber / Westward Elementary School

The project "Transforming Spaces, Inspiring Minds" aims to convert traditional classrooms into dynamic, flexible learning environments that promote creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. By introducing adaptable furniture, dedicated collaborative zones, and accessible technology, students will take ownership of their learning through real-life simulations and problem-solving scenarios. This initiative will enhance engagement and equip students with essential skills for the future while exposing them to valuable experiences they might not otherwise encounter.

MISSION: POSSIBLE

2025 GoTEACH! CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS



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Your Health Solutions Partner

10.30.2025 | 5:00P.M. - 7:30P.M.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION

1515 BARTON ROAD | LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL



**Celebrating those
who make Palm Beach
County brilliant.**

At PNC, we celebrate those members of our
community who help make it shine more brilliantly.
Thank you for the difference you make every day.



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BORING
SINCE 1865™

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GOTEACH!

TEAM CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

\$1,500 Classroom Grant Award

Math + Reading + Writing = SUCCESS! **An Integrated Learning Adventure with Numberblocks**

Karina Moran and Allison Beaumont
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary School

"Math + Reading + Writing = SUCCESS! An Integrated Learning Adventure with Numberblocks" is a cross-curricular initiative that aims to integrate mathematics, reading, and writing in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way for first grade students. Using Numberblocks stuffed toys, students will take turns bringing home a Numberblocks buddy to read with, write about, and solve math word problems alongside. This playful, literacy-rich math routine will enhance math fact fluency, early literacy skills, and creative expression while building strong home/school connections.

Thinking, Talking, and Trying: **Empowering All Learners through Building Thinking Classrooms**

Karina Moran and Beth Souther
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary School

This project aims to increase student agency, engagement, and overall performance in mathematics and language subjects. Paying special attention to English language learners and students who may struggle with verbal or academic communication, this initiative will incorporate vertical non-permanent surfaces to create intentionally structured classroom environments that value student voice, risk-taking, and collaboration. Throughout this project, students will develop problem solving and communication skills while working creatively and collaboratively in groups.



The 20,000-square-foot warehouse inside the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation in Lake Worth Beach.

Counting Collections for Curious Kids: Building Number Sense One Count at a Time

Karina Moran and Jessica Hackett / Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary School

"Counting Collections For Curious Kids" seeks to strengthen students' early number sense. This project will help students progress from rote counting to deeper understanding of cardinality, magnitude, and the base-ten system through hands-on experiences. By aligning instruction with students' developmental stages, this project will promote both conceptual understanding and positive math identity, making math accessible to all learners, especially English language learners who benefit from visual tools and bilingual supports.

Unlocking Math through Literacy

Kimberly Hewitt and Karina Moran / Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary School

This project focuses on an interdisciplinary approach to strengthen students' reading fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension skills with a direct focus on improving their ability to solve math word problems. By intentionally integrating reading strategies into math instruction, particularly through the use of numberless word problems and explicit vocabulary instruction, the project aims to close proficiency gaps among students, especially English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans. The project will also incorporate a school/home connection by providing take-home kits with manipulatives and supports to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Beyond the Classroom: Exceptionally Navigating the Real-World

Marissa Kase, Kavita Rambharose, and Sophia Fredman / Congress Middle School

This project will enable students to apply classroom-taught skills in real-world community settings. Students will practice financial literacy, explore post-secondary job opportunities, and develop essential career readiness and communication skills. This initiative aims to help students generalize their learning and prepare them for life after graduation.

Readers Theater for Fluency

Lisa Keating and Cori Silio / Crystal Lakes Elementary School

Fluent readers are able to process information efficiently, which significantly enhances their comprehension and overall confidence in reading. This project will support struggling readers to improve their fluency skills, enabling them to shift their focus from decoding individual words to understanding the meaning of the text. Through repeated and supported reading practice, students will enhance their oral reading fluency, which is a critical step toward developing strong comprehension skills and empowering students with the confidence and competence they need to become successful, independent readers.

Money Smart from the Start

Ally Van Valkenburg and Olivia McCoy/ Diamond View Elementary School

The project "Money Smart from the Start" allows for students to participate in their own classroom economy where they will be able to earn and spend classroom 'money' while building financial literacy skills. Fourth graders who are eager to become more independent and show responsibility will have the opportunity to apply for jobs to earn classroom money. Students will also participate in financial literacy lessons throughout the year and then engage in their own student-created marketplace at the end of the year.

Diamond View Mission S.H.I.F.T.:

Science Hands-On Instruction for Future Thinkers

Elizabeth Sheppard, Vanessa Dazza, and Syndie White / Diamond View Elementary School

Diamond View's "Mission S.H.I.F.T." is a bold, research-driven program designed to transform how students experience science in elementary school. Born from the success of a hands-on instructional model, the program will blend active learning, real-world exploration, and vertical teacher collaboration to ensure students not only understand science but apply it. Every lesson is aligned to Florida standards and built on proven strategies that boost engagement, deepen understanding, and increase performance on high-stakes assessments like the F.A.S.T. Program highlights.

Blockbusters in Action: Esports & STEM Excellence

Michelle Martello, Gary Somrajit, and David Wysong / Diamond View Elementary School

This project will expand the Esports program to engage students in STEM learning and leadership development. The initiative aims to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and academic growth through hands-on experiences. Students will also participate in competitions while exploring career pathways in technology and media.

The Dolphin Theatre

Diana Tobin and Taylor Einstendor / Discovery Key Elementary School

While research indicates that repeated oral reading with purpose improves fluency, prosody, and comprehension, many students lack opportunities to practice reading aloud in authentic, motivating settings. This project will allow students to perform Reader's Theater and Poetry Readings to an audience of their peers, family, and guests in the third-grade classroom, showcasing their growth in fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and expressive communication.



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Hands-On Science is Gr8t

Susan Russo and Nan Smith / Dwight D. Eisenhower K-8 School

This project aims to spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and boost achievement in science by increasing hands-on science experiments in the eighth-grade curriculum. Throughout the year, students will actively engage in labs that connect scientific concepts to real-world applications, promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as students troubleshoot and adapt their methods in real-time.

Empower Sensory Spaces: Supporting Inclusive Learning and Self-Regulation

Veronica Zeppa Pacheco and Jacqueline Cuomo / Eagles Landing Middle School

This project will enhance the creation and use of sensory spaces to support students on the autism spectrum and other disabilities. Teachers will implement rotational breaks throughout the day to allow students the opportunity to interact with sensory-friendly tools and activities which help them to self-regulate, improve focus, and reduce anxiety, promoting a positive learning environment.

Experiment Express Kits

Deanna Jones and Aaron Atkins Rivers / Highland Elementary School

This project aims to improve science instruction by providing fully organized, ready-to-use lab kits for every science unit. Each kit will contain pre-measured, labeled materials along with printed, standards-aligned lesson plans, step-by-step instructions, and science vocabulary lists. By improving efficiency, increasing lab frequency, and fostering deeper science engagement, this project will help raise student proficiency rates, close achievement gaps, and inspire a lifelong love for science learning.

Next Steps - Career Planning for Middle Schoolers

Juanita Deal and Jennifer Cullity / Jupiter Middle School

The "Next Steps" program will provide an opportunity for identified seventh- and eighth-grade students to participate in a career exploration program. This program will offer 'lunch and learn' sessions with staff and professionals who work in our community. Students will learn about opportunities from vocational programming to college four-year degree programs. Students will also have the opportunity to take field trips that will further expose them to potential future careers.

The Memory Project, Pacific Northwest Totems, and Ceramic Fun

Britt Feingold and Brent Bludworth / Lake Worth Community High School

This project will encourage students to discover new techniques and ideas with clay and ceramics to learn more about the Pacific Northwest indigenous people, totems, and culture. Through this initiative, students have the opportunity to integrate their love of art, literacy, and painting, and to experiment in new mediums with various art projects throughout the school year.

Let's Talk About It: Language Lab

Meredith Abrams and Dawn Harrison / North Grade K-8 School

For students to read and write, they must first be able to speak. "Let's Talk About It" provides K-2 students with a place to practice speaking during their weekly visit to the media center. The goals of the program include reading proficiency and an increased desire to read for pleasure. Using common objects and wordless picture books, students will learn to communicate better with each other and with adults.

Igniting Potential and Unlocking Futures of ELLs through Literacy

Shandel Ramlochan and Natalia Gloria / Olympic Heights Community High School

This project will provide English language learners with targeted resources and instruction to strengthen academic success. Teachers will expose students to rich texts and supplemental learning materials using small group instructional strategies to accelerate language acquisition, help students transfer strategies across all areas of the curriculum and close achievement gaps. This initiative will empower students with the confidence and skills to ignite their potential and unlock their futures!

Bright Start Biliteracy

**Leah Arico and Damaris Rosado-James
Palm Springs Elementary School**

Palm Springs Elementary School's "Bright Start Biliteracy" program will transform two dual-language kindergarten classrooms into dynamic, language-rich learning environments. Flexible seating will invite collaboration, while bilingual books, interactive vocabulary tools, and storytelling kits will make learning active, engaging, and joyful. By celebrating language and culture, this project will empower young learners to thrive in school and beyond, equipped with the communication skills and curiosity needed to explore the world around them.

2nd Chance Program

Mercia Kelly and Lakanjala Rideau / Riviera Beach Preparatory and Achievement Academy

This high school initiative empowers students to strengthen their literacy skills while exploring real-world connections to careers, financial literacy, and STEM. Through engaging texts, writing projects, and interactive experiences, students will develop critical thinking and communication skills essential for success in both academics and life.

Fable And Fairytale Garden

Michelle Dunlap and Stephanie Stinchcomb / South Olive Elementary School

This project will transform a dull car loop area into a vibrant garden inspired by fables and fairytales. Students will design and paint murals, plant greenery, and create a welcoming space. The initiative will instill pride in the school environment while fostering creativity and teamwork.

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Enhancing CTE Literacy and Instruction through High Interest Books in ELA Classroom Libraries

Janice Konigsberg and Scott Shapiro / South Tech Academy

The “Enhancing CTE Literacy and Instruction Through High Interest Books in ELA Classroom Libraries” project aims to address the academic challenges and career readiness of students reading below grade level. By pairing career-aligned classroom libraries featuring diverse, high-interest and industry-specific texts with teacher training to integrate these resources into daily lessons, this project will boost students’ literacy, engagement, and long-term success.

SouthTech Starlighters Understand Conflicts in Literature through Theatre Arts

Julie Mandel and Eric Wilson / South Tech Academy

SouthTech Academy Starlighters will bring their study of literary conflicts to the stage through a live theatrical performance, deepening their understanding of conflict and its impact on plot and character development. Through the theatre arts, students will engage in kinesthetic, hands-on learning to enhance their comprehension of complex literary concepts such as the use of conflict to drive the plot and shape literary characters. This project is ideal for diverse learners because it complements visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic learning styles.

Hydroponic Garden at Sunrise Park

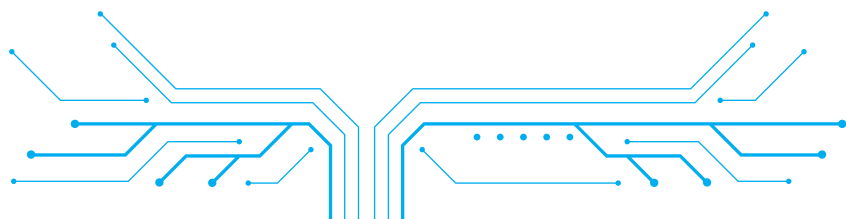
Samantha Silver and Alan Geppert / Sunrise Park Elementary School

This project will establish a hydroponic butterfly garden that connects science learning to sustainability. Students will grow plants using hydroponic systems and study pollination through butterfly habitats. The initiative will strengthen environmental awareness and hands-on STEM education.

Building Strong Readers with Learning A-Z

Marwa Jaber, Phelia Antoine, and Murph Sandra / Westward Elementary School

This project aims to enhance literacy skills for second grade students by incorporating Reading A-Z, a comprehensive digital reading program. This resource provides leveled books, engaging activities, and assessments tailored to each student’s reading level. Through this project, educators will offer personalized reading experiences that foster a love of reading, improve fluency, and build strong comprehension skills, helping all learners reach their full potential.



GOREACH! HIGH IMPACT AWARDS

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A Synergistic Approach to Early Literacy: Integrating Spanish Heritage Songs with the Estrellita Methodology **Daniel Rincon Casas / Barton Elementary School**

This project aims to strengthen early literacy for bilingual and struggling readers. Students will participate in targeted phonemic awareness activities paired with interactive resources. Through this initiative, students will build strong foundations in reading to support long-term academic growth.

Leading with Literacy

**Caitlin Watson, Veronica Carner, April Kirton, and Donna Remon /
Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will provide students with expanded access to high-quality literacy materials. Teachers will integrate engaging texts to build reading fluency, comprehension, and critical thinking. This initiative aims to foster a love of reading while supporting academic success.



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Advancement in Mentoring

Michael Matos and Cheletia Morgan / Coral Sunset Elementary School

This transformative mentoring program aims to empower elementary students in leadership, accountability, and character development. Student and staff mentors will engage students in reflection, goal setting, and service projects that foster self-confidence and a sense of community. This program will equip students with the tools needed to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Hatching Success: A School-Based Poultry Program

Mari Orsenigo and Kenneth Lutz / Glades Central Community High School

This innovative project will establish a student-run chicken coop as part of the Agritechnology Choice Program at Glades Central Community High School, benefiting both students and staff. Over 100 students will gain hands-on experience in poultry care, embryology, and sustainable agriculture while managing a school-based egg business. Fertilized eggs donated by a local 4-H agent will be incubated in class, and eggs produced will be sold to staff as part of an FFA fundraiser, providing real-world agribusiness experience.

Creative Hands

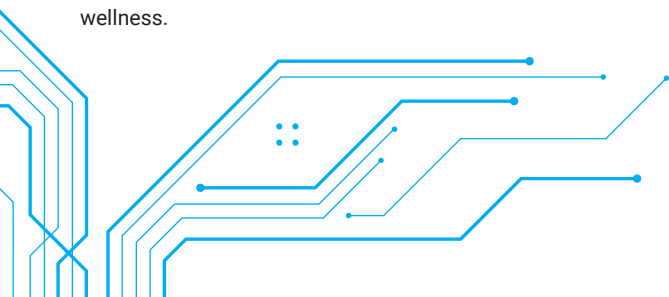
Dennisse Melendez and Gabriela Overbey / Hagen Road Elementary School

The “Creative Hands” project at Hagen Road Elementary School will empower second graders to become the creators of their own learning by designing and publishing their own stories. Students will work with partners on their stories to produce mini books and creative posters, which they will share with classmates, families, and the school community. Through this experience, students will strengthen their writing, reading, and teamwork skills while building confidence and creativity that will support their academic growth.

The Agriscience Adventure

Rachel Lutz and Maria Silva / Lake Shore Middle School

This project empowers students through hands-on learning in agriculture, science, and healthy living. Students will gain practical experience in growing food, understanding plant science, and making nutritious choices by building a large-scale vegetable garden and launching a school-based agriscience program. The project will cultivate curiosity, responsibility, and a deeper appreciation for sustainability while promoting lifelong wellness.



Culinary Café

Renee Engelhardt / Lake Worth Community High School

This program will prepare students for careers in the culinary hospitality industry by learning advanced baking and culinary techniques. The students' culinary classroom will transform into a bakery/cafe business where the students can sell inexpensive, healthy snacks while sustaining the project with the profits earned.

i-Ready, i-Set, i-Grow!

Melissa Levine / Loggers' Run Community Middle School

This project will incorporate i-Ready, which is an evidence-based digital platform. Through i-Ready, students will receive personalized, data-driven instruction tailored to their individual learning profiles. The adaptive assessments and interactive lessons are designed to build reading comprehension and fluency for students in grades K-8, ultimately supporting academic growth across all content areas.

Access First: Equitable STEM Access for Students with Disabilities through Assistive Technology

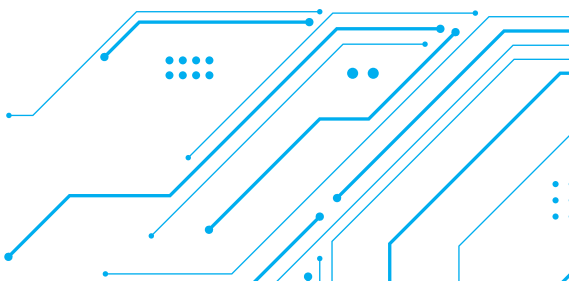
Alyssa Croll and Jennifer Dodson / Loxahatchee Groves Elementary School

This project is a pilot program that focuses on providing a PreK classroom of students with disabilities, primarily nonspeaking or minimally speaking, with iPads that are preloaded with a robust augmentative alternative communication (AAC) system. These students often face significant communication barriers that prevent them from fully participating in early STEM learning, which is essential for cognitive development, including critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and curiosity. This project will remove those barriers by giving students the tools to express ideas, ask questions, and engage actively in hands-on STEM activities.

Make Me Want to Read it: A School Library Media Center Reading Incentive Program

Meredith Abrams and Sue Cutler / North Grade K-8 School

This unique reading incentive program encourages students in grades 3-8 to read for pleasure as well as to discuss what they have read with the School Library Media Specialist - and be rewarded for it! The program aims to increase the overall reading proficiency of over 400 students and will increase the time students spend reading for pleasure.



The Next Chapter: Creating Inspiring Spaces and Shelves Full of Stories

Amy Ramsdell / Pierce Hammock Elementary School

This project will transform the school library into an inspiring hub for literacy and innovation. New resources, décor, and flexible seating will encourage students to read, collaborate, and explore. The initiative will make the library a welcoming space that fuels imagination and learning.

FAST Forward: Building Proficiency and Confidence for Rolling Green's Learners

Shevella Denson and Katiria Mateo / Rolling Green Elementary School

This program will create a comprehensive tutorial program for students in grades 2-5. It will focus on strengthening skills in reading, math, and science to help Title I students achieve proficiency on their state assessment tests. Each student will receive all of the instructional materials needed to boost academic achievement, build confidence, close learning gaps, and create equitable opportunities, preparing students for long-term educational success.

ELLs Leveling Up! Alzando El Nivel!

**Martha-Paula McAliley, Kamara Bernard, and Tonya Newkirk /
Roosevelt Elementary School**

This project will support over 60 Hispanic and Creole-speaking English language learners to reach new heights by providing tools to bridge learning gaps and strengthen communication skills. Visual vocabulary cards, multilingual dictionaries, cognate posters, and headphones with microphones will be used to clarify misunderstandings and enhance oral practice. Over 20 teachers will have access to tools and resources to help struggling students improve communication and comprehension, and lift their spirits while leveling up academically.

Boys and Girls Club Culinary Leadership & Cultural Enrichment Program

Anser Pierre Louis / Santaluces Community High School

This project will expand culinary programming to teach students leadership, teamwork, and cultural appreciation through food. Students will practice applied math and science skills while preparing meals. This initiative aims to help students develop life skills and confidence that extend beyond the kitchen.

Crafting Calm: School-Wide Creative Coping Skills for Student Wellness

Michelle Ferrer Resto and Kelesa Robinson / Santaluces Community High School

This project aims to address the critical mental health needs of a diverse immigrant student population. Recognizing the cultural stigma surrounding mental health in students from Haiti, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, the program will offer a safe, welcoming space for students to explore emotional well-being through hands-on, creative workshops. This project will not only improve individual student outcomes but also foster a more supportive, understanding environment for the entire community.

Calming Corners to Facilitate the Use of Positive Self-regulating Strategies in Elementary Students

Kelli Kuzniar-Bonevento / South Grade Elementary School

This project will implement a Calming Corner in each classroom to support students in using self-regulation strategies, a core component of a student's ability to focus. Encouraging students to use calming strategies will lead to a more peaceful and engaging learning environment. When teachers consistently use tools like the Calming Corner, classrooms will function more effectively, allowing all students to perform at their best.



4th Grade Literacy Florida Standards through Novels

Jessica Frouge, Karen Howard, and Jeni Hollister / South Olive Elementary School

This project will bring Florida history to life through engaging novels that align with both literacy and social studies standards. Fourth grade students will read "Kidnapped in Key West," "Escape to the Everglades," and "Henry Flagler: Builder of Florida" to strengthen reading comprehension, cultural awareness, and state pride. Through storytelling, hands-on activities, and cross-curricular projects, students will deepen their understanding of Florida's past while improving key literacy skills.

Exploring Fluorescence Microscopy in the Biotechnology 3 Classroom

Mary Fish and Helmuth Quinonez Molano / Spanish River Community High School

This project will allow students to explore a fluorescence microscope, an advanced instrument not usually found in a high school science lab. Students will observe and analyze living cells and tissues in real time and learn why molecules and proteins that fluoresce are genetically engineered in cells and tissues of model organisms in order to identify processes that may or may not be working in these living systems. Students will also build a fluorescence microscope to use for classroom experiments and science fair projects.

Start Strong: Early Interventions for Emotional Wellness and Academic Growth

Luzmarina Salcedo / Starlight Cove Elementary School

This project will empower young learners through early intervention strategies that promote emotional wellness and lay the foundation for long-term academic growth. By integrating social-emotional learning with targeted academic support, this initiative aims to create a nurturing classroom environment where students can thrive. These efforts will help students build a strong foundation for both emotional resilience and academic achievement.

LEGO Science in the STEAM Lab

Kristin DeLaTorre and Loren Foster / The Conservatory School At North Palm Beach

This project will bring hands-on, inquiry-based science learning to life for grades 3–5 using LEGO Education science kits in the STEAM Lab. Students will explore core science concepts through creative, standards-aligned challenges with the LEGO BricQ Motion Essential bundle and other complementary STEM materials. The experience will help students build curiosity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills while supporting Florida science standards in a high-engagement environment.

Strengthen Achievement in Reading for 6th & 7th Grade

Melinda Dzenutis and Melissa Quinn / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

This project will supplement the IXL curriculum with StudySync to help students master the standards by focusing on Florida standards in informational text, cross-genre reading, and learning vocabulary through context and knowledge of Latin and Greek prefixes, roots and suffixes. Through consistent implementation, we aim to close learning gaps and celebrate success as students demonstrate mastery using a wall of awards and classroom competitions to earn House Points and a semester pizza/ice cream party for students with the most gains.

From Book to Bot: STEM-Powered Animated Movies

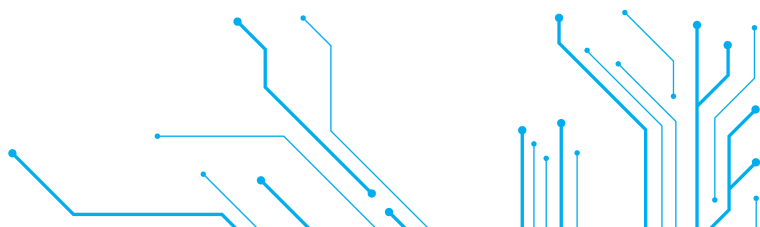
Shannon Solis and Sharmagne Solis / Village Academy on the Art & Sara Jo Kobacker Campus

Literacy meets innovation in this dynamic, interdisciplinary project where students will explore compelling texts and transform their understanding into original animated movies powered by STEM tools and AI technology. Students will write scripts, design characters, record voiceovers, and use animation software to bring stories to life, collaborating in teams while learning to solve problems creatively, as they apply real-world skills.

Expanding the Library's Reach

Kristine Cannon / West Boca Raton Community High School

This project will implement independent reading in language arts classrooms to foster lifelong readers and support college readiness. The library's reach will expand into other subject areas, beginning with social studies and science, by rotating crates of curriculum-related novels each term. Teachers will guide students in selecting enriching titles that match their passion and will create a cross-curricular reading culture exposing them to a plethora of literature.



Dash Robot: Empowering Young Coders

Marwa Jaber, Linda McDonough, and Ridgell Terrill / Westward Elementary School

This project will revolutionize our STEAM library by introducing Dash Robot Wonder Packs to engage students aged 6+ in hands-on coding experiences. Students will use Dash's intuitive coding apps and accessories to explore geometric designs, discover physics by launching projectiles, and cultivate engineering skills by building and manipulating the gripper. The robots will foster critical computational thinking, creative problem-solving, and collaboration, becoming a cornerstone of our school's STEM library for sustained access to cutting-edge educational learning tools.

Innovate, Create, Elevate: Wynnebrook Wildcats STEM Lab

Carlene Rejc and Michael Mann / Wynnebrook Elementary School

This project will establish a STEM lab where students can engage in hands-on learning experiences that ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math while also building problem-solving skills, fostering critical thinking, and encouraging collaboration between students. The STEM lab will provide a space where students' creativity can flourish, inspiring innovation as students solve real-world problems.

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FusionSTEM: Certifying Tomorrow's Innovators

**Syndie White, Michelle Martello, Kaitlyn Byrne, and Brittany Starr /
Diamond View Elementary School**

"FusionSTEM: Certifying Tomorrow's Innovators" is where curiosity meets career dreams starting in kindergarten! Through dynamic programming and hands-on projects like building robots, designing websites, creating podcasts, or even teaching their own lessons, kids can earn badges in all 17 of Florida's Career Clusters. With a vibrant STEM space in the Media Center and STEM Lab and with support from families and community partners, FusionSTEM will make learning exciting, purposeful, and full of possibility.

STEMMates: Powered by PEERS - Connecting Minds and Building Friendships through Science

Jennifer Tobin, Yola Pinette, and Amy Desiderio / Elbridge Gale Elementary School

This innovative program aims to combine hands-on STEM learning with evidence-based social skills to support students with diverse learning and social needs. This collaborative initiative will connect students from Elbridge Gale Elementary with partner schools through engaging activities such as coding, robotics, and design challenges. Teachers will work collaboratively to plan and facilitate these integrated learning experiences, fostering inclusive environments that promote both academic and social success. Families will also receive digital resources to support learning beyond the classroom.



Robotics Technology Competition Lab

Matthew Shea / Forest Hill Community High School

This project will enhance our high school's FIRST Robotics competition team. With up to 25 students participating, this hands-on STEM initiative will empower students to design, build, and compete with a working robot while developing skills in engineering, coding, teamwork, and leadership.

FHCHS Comp Sci: Advanced Tech Bridge to Literacy & Equity

Nellie Fernandez / Forest Hill Community High School

The "FHCHS Comp Sci: Advanced Tech Bridge to Literacy & Equity" project aims to empower rising juniors and seniors through dynamic, hands-on learning experiences. Students will be transformed into active urban planners and engineers, blending a mix of traditional planning and engineering software, game-based learning, and professional-grade tools (i.e., drones and Trimble GPS units) to capture and analyze data to solve real-world problems. This innovative approach is designed to tackle literacy challenges, using the logical precision of computer science to reinforce critical thinking and reading skills.

Math+ology: The STEM Edition

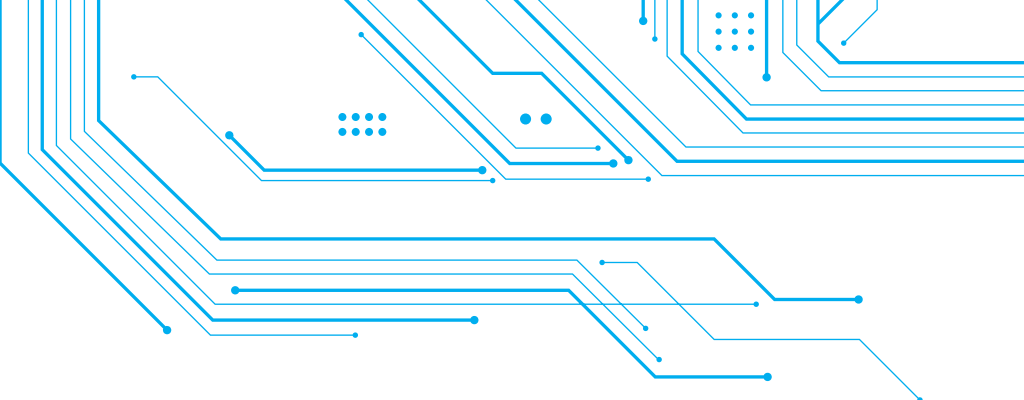
Aaron Atkins-Rivers / Highland Elementary School

Students in grades 3-5 will explore real-world applications through engineering challenges, coding with Micro:bits, and tracking data for STEM investigations. By blending math, science, and technology in a supportive environment, this program aims to build confidence, close learning gaps, and inspire students to see themselves as capable learners prepared for success in the classroom and future STEM opportunities.

Building Future Innovators: 3D Printing & Design for Middle Schoolers

Thaydra Ward and Phyllis Handford / Lake Shore Middle School

The "Building Future Innovators" initiative is a hands-on 3D printing and design program designed to equip our middle school students with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the 21st-century workforce. By integrating digital design and additive manufacturing into the classroom, students will gain exposure to real-world STEM applications, develop critical thinking and collaboration skills, and explore pathways in engineering, product design, and technology.



Take Flight with Palm Beach Lakes Esports

Julius Edwards and Michael Marrero / Palm Beach Lakes Community High School

The “Take Flight” project will expand the Esports Academy at Palm Beach Lakes High School by integrating hands-on 3D design into its curriculum. The project will support the academy’s teachers in becoming certified drone pilots, empowering them to guide students toward FAA UAG certification and future careers in technology. By incorporating 3D printing into the classroom, “Take Flight” will build students’ interest in design, allowing them to bring engineering ideas to life, and gain access to tools often unavailable in Title I schools.

Empowering Students to Become Effective Researchers through Virtual Technology in the Classroom

Rachel Wellman and Ganissa Cabrera / Palm Beach Lakes Community High School

While hands-on science labs are not always feasible, this project will give students the opportunity to experience wonder and excitement for science research by exploring virtual labs, simulations, and data analysis and interpretation tools such as DataClassroom. This project aims to improve student success rates in Science Fair, AICE and AP exams, and end of content exams.

Automation and Agriculture

Ryan Jackola and Joseph Melillo / South Tech Academy

SouthTech Academy’s “Automation and Agriculture” project will engage 300 students in hands-on training with coding, digital sensors, and automation to prepare them for high-skill careers in modern agriculture. Developed with industry input, the program will cover biotechnology, hydroponics, aquaculture, horticulture, and drone operation, equipping students for high-wage careers or post-secondary success in one of the nation’s largest agricultural regions.

Science in Bloom - Where STEM Meets Creative Careers

Olena Sinko / Spanish River Community High School

This project equips high school students with practical skills in horticulture, floral design, and environmental science to prepare them for high-demand careers in South Florida's expanding green industries. Through monthly, hands-on sustainability activities, students will gain real-world experience, explore workforce pathways beyond the traditional college track, and build confidence in fields such as floristry, greenhouse operations, and urban agriculture.

Coding Over Land and Air

Todd LaVogue / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach

This project will bring cutting-edge robotics and drone technology into the classroom through the purchase of EarthRover Mini+ robots and CoDrone EDU drones. Students will engage in hands-on challenges that combine coding, engineering, and problem-solving, helping them develop the skills needed for the future of STEM.

GOTEACH! FINLIT INNOVATION AWARD

\$5,000 Classroom Grant Award

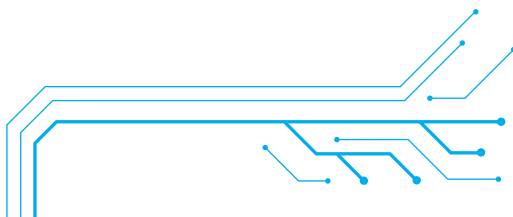
Program Funder:



Make Money Make Sense: Leadership, Tech & Entrepreneurship

Jessica Estel / Westward Elementary School

This project will connect mathematical thinking to daily life, future careers, and financial literacy for those students most in need of support. Fourth-grade students will explore industries of interest and use digital tools to plan and create projects focused on entrepreneurship, where they will be inspired to become business owners through a hands-on, tech-integrated model.



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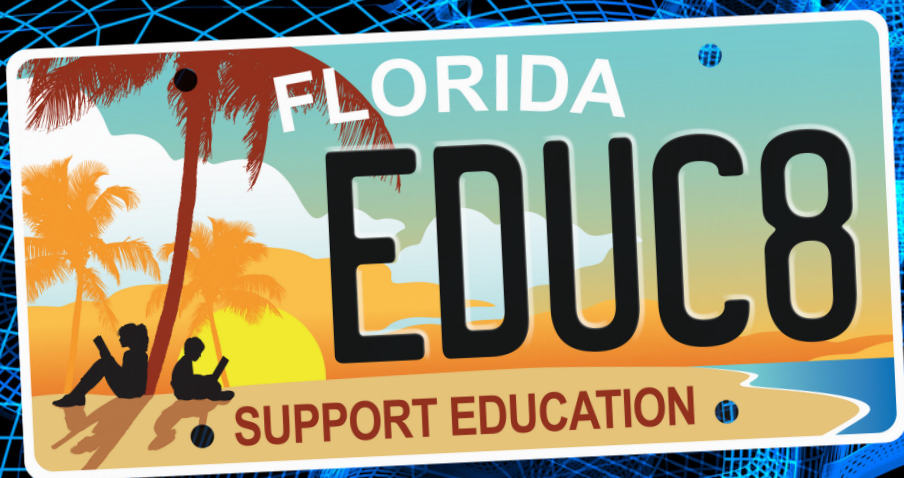
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