



Rosa Quintela works as a librarian at Douglass Elementary in El Paso. The campus now hosts pre-kindergarten, and Quintela is excited to create an Early Literacy Story Area in the library for them. She will purchase board books through Follett, which will be used for read-alouds at school and which can also be checked out by students for reading at home.

Keisha Kirkwood teaches eleventh grade Health Science Theory at Career and Technical Education Center in Beaumont. Her students will demonstrate and identify the steps involved in the chain of infection by collecting bacteria from surfaces throughout the school and observing and analyzing bacterial growth. With her grant funds, she will purchase petri dishes, nutrient and tryptic soy agar, bacteria growth kits, and more, enabling her students to take on the roles of scientist, investigator, storyteller, and researcher.

Stacy Redding teaches Music to kindergarten through fifth grade students at Lowery Road Elementary in Fort Worth. Her purchase of twelve keyboards will give students the opportunity to learn, play, compose, create, and perform as well as participate in after-school programs, enhancing students' social emotional learning and helping them to build confidence.

Vanessa Ontiveros teaches information technology coursework at Pampa High School. Her project will allow students to independently design, assemble, and customize functional mechanical keyboards from individual components. These students operate a student help-desk program, and this project will provide them with a technical learning experience as well as a platform for fostering creativity, innovation, and a holistic understanding of technology. Vanessa will purchase items such as a keyboard case, tune-up grease, switches, and o-rings to help them complete the project.

Tesha Czubinski works at Gustine Elementary teaching Science to pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students. She will incorporate STEM activities and project-based learning into her curriculum through the purchase of coding robots, board brain teasers and puzzles, gravity maze marble runs, pixel art, magnets, and more.

Corrine Thompson is a Gifted and Talented teacher at Mildred ISD in Corsicana. Students in fourth and fifth grade will participate in a two-part multimedia workshop with author Michael Anthony Steele, "Let's Write a Story," that describes what a writer does, where inspiration is found, and what is required to become a successful children's author. After completing several stories, students will submit one for publication to School Mate Publishing. Her funds will pay for the workshop and books for each student.

Ronald Erkert teaches eleventh and twelfth grade Physics and Biology at Hondo High School. By purchasing a Van de Graaff generator and accessories, his students will be able to create steady, high-voltage low-current electrical fields to study static electricity, essentially allowing them to make an invisible phenomenon visible. Erkert will also buy electric whirls and plumes, as well as flying balls and silver snakes with his grant funds.

Elisa Garza works at Palmer-Laakso Elementary School in San Benito teaching third grade. With her funds, she will establish a drama club, purchasing stage materials such as wireless headsets, a projector, speakers, lights, and a green screen. The club will allow students to explore creativity, develop communication and collaboration skills, and build confidence through the performing arts.

Samantha Tudor works at the Keller Center for Advanced Learning, teaching medical microbiology and medical laboratory assistant coursework to eleventh and twelfth grade students. She will purchase electrophoresis kits, allowing students to discover how circuits and electric fields can be used, develop pipetting skills, and explore genetic concepts.

Brandy Cavness is a first-grade teacher at Rochelle ISD. She will purchase a portable science lab cart for the elementary school, stocked with supplies for classroom investigations, including books, lab kits, magnets, beaker and cylinder sets, flashlights, prisms, microscopes, scales, and much more. The STEM lessons will engage all students with meaningful, hands-on activities.

Kimmie Longstreet educates tenth through twelfth grade students in entrepreneurship and small business at South Houston High School. By purchasing a Silhouette cutting machine, heat press, and vinyl transfers, her students will gain hands-on experience in design and learn to create promotional and marketing products.

Juliana Waggoner teaches Music at Steadham Elementary in Rowlett. By purchasing items such as PVC pipe, funnels, strings, cereal boxes, washers, hoses, tin cans, metal rods, glass bottles, wood, popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and more, students will design, build, and test a musical instrument, share their creation, and complete a reflection. This project integrates cross-curricular knowledge (music, science, art, and math), and appeals to all learning styles, especially those who prefer kinesthetic/tactile learning.

Sara Hansen's Health Science Practicum students spend their senior year working towards Clinical Medical Assistant industry certifications at Atascosita High School. By purchasing practice suture kits, demo dose injection trainers, and surgical scrub kits, her students will gain hands-on skills practice that will enable them to gain employment in the medical field upon graduation.

Carla Delgado will create a STEAM makerspace in the Canyon Hills Middle School library in El Paso with her grant funds. Students will be able to explore computer coding and robotics, and invent games, puzzles, and art independently or as part of a group. She will purchase items such as holographic art kits, math games, mosaic sticker art, acrylic paint pens, coloring books, and much more.

Hillary Webb will establish a native South Texas plant garden at Mary Hull Elementary in San Antonio with her grant funds. In addition to plants, she will purchase seeds, shovels, gloves, watering cans, soil, and other tools, allowing students to have a safe and organized gardening experience and improve their environmental literacy while beautifying the school grounds.

Julie Gawel, who teaches Art at Lakeview Centennial High School in Garland, will purchase tools needed to teach and enable students to learn proper contrast, resolution, and quality in photographing their art for portfolios, contest submissions, and scholarships. She will buy a portable large studio LightBox Shooting Tent Kit with backdrops, an LED lighting kit, as well as a Canon EOS Rebel T7 DSLR camera.

Lily Ramos teaches coding to kindergarten through fifth grade students at Los Fresnos Elementary. She will establish an Esports Club for students, helping to foster teamwork and refine critical thinking skills through the use of Nintendo Switch consoles, compact smart televisions, and a variety of video games. This project will also open opportunities for students to earn scholarships, participate in competitions, and join college teams in the future.

Tania Gilbert teaches first grade at Rancho Verde Elementary in Brownsville, where she will build upon her students' reading foundation by helping them master phonics. To accomplish this, she will use interactive magnetic boards, allowing students a kinesthetic and tactile experience that will enhance creativity and understanding.

Dee McCown works at Lakeview Centennial High School in Garland, teaching Audio/Video Production for tenth through twelfth grade students. By purchasing a miniature drone, her students will be able to shoot drone footage, adding a whole new dimension to their work. Learning to operate a drone for video production is a skill that is highly sought after and opens many doors for students professionally.

Jessie Godfrey is a kindergarten through fifth grade Art teacher at Hajek Elementary in Burleson. With the purchase of 3-D pens and filaments, her students will refine their creative and practical skills in 3-D design, which will connect them to careers such as architecture, engineering, illustration, and web design.

Stephanie Alcantara teaches Band at West Brook High School in Beaumont. Her grant funds will be used to purchase a MalletStation, a compact MIDI device that is played like a traditional keyboard but that can be changed to sound like a wide variety of percussion instruments. This device essentially replaces expensive items such as xylophones, marimbas, vibraphones, and glockenspiels and is portable, while offering longevity and the opportunity for students to explore a wide variety of sounds.

Lisa Richardson will create breakout boxes for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students at Lalla Odom Elementary in Austin. Rather than purchasing premade kits, Lisa will purchase reusable tools like cryptex, ciphers, decoders, lockboxes, invisible ink pens, colored glasses, puzzles, and light filters to elevate collaborative learning experiences, allowing her investment in materials to last for years.

Deniz Duncan, an Art teacher at Luna Elementary in Garland, will enable her students to experience hands-on multi-sensory printmaking using kid-friendly, reusable gelli plates. Gelli plates will allow students to learn about layers and transferring, explore crayon wax resist/printing, learn nature printing using leaves and outdoor materials, and study color mixing. With her grant funds, she will purchase twenty-four gelli plates and rubber brayers.

Arthur Liening will purchase high quality rhythmic instruments and give his kindergarten through fifth grade Music students opportunities to play musical instruments from other cultures. These instruments include drums, and rhythmic tools such as a lap conga drum, bongo drums, new mallets, and tone blocks. All students at Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary in Grand Prairie will have access to these instruments, allowing them to perform a varied repertoire of songs, movement, and musical games.

Eileen Cartwright will create three STEM workstations in her classroom that will allow her pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students at Ralph Langley Elementary in San Antonio to explore force, motion, gravity, and other science concepts. She will purchase items such as pegboard packs, scissors, pliers, and wall control accessories, allowing students to build cars, miniature rollercoasters, and more!

Angela Pinkerton teaches eighth grade Science at Godley Middle School and will establish an outdoor classroom, allowing her students to study climate and observe living systems and how they interact. The Godley High School Agricultural Sciences shop class students will build portable outdoor desks with the wood, screws, glue, and tires that Pinkerton will purchase, making for a collaborative project that extends across the district.

Kathy Penn works as a special education teacher at Northlake Elementary in Garland, teaching pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students. She will expand the student crochet club, teaching basic crochet stitches, enabling students to create ornaments, trivets, and clothing, and improving their fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination. Students will also learn financial literacy by selling their products. She will purchase fifty J MARK Crochet kits for beginners.

Rachel Madison will create an Outside Learning Environment at Carroll Peak Elementary in Fort Worth. She will purchase soil, seeds, a wood border, plant minerals, and various gardening tools so that her students may grow fruits and vegetables while learning about the life cycle of plants. Students will be able to donate food to local community refrigerators that feed the homeless where access to grocery stores is limited.

Lynn Verrego is an Early Childhood educator at Willow Springs Elementary in Killeen. A sensory room will provide her special needs students with self-regulation, impulse control, and resilience when they experience stressful events. She will purchase items such as blocks, fidget toys, sand motion art, marble runs, wobble cushions, maze mats, and more to create this sensory space.

Amber Jaime is a kindergarten through fifth grade dyslexia specialist at Vandagriff Elementary in Aledo. She will acquire sixty sets of Kendore Learning card games, which include decks on vowels and consonants, syllable types, and Greek patterns. She will host a family fun night for dyslexia, where students play the games with their parents. Students can also check out the games for practice at home.

Elizabeth Vincent teaches kindergarten through fourth grade students at the Structured Learning Center at Krause Elementary in Brenham, which is a self-contained special education autism unit. Her students have built-in sensory breaks as part of their structured schedule. By purchasing items such as a shatterproof mirror, wall activities, textured rugs and pillows, and sensory bins, she will create a sensory corner for them, sparking their creativity and helping them recharge for their next classroom lesson.