

**17th Annual  
Virtual  
Recognition Breakfast  
Saturday, September 26, 2020**

**9:30 AM Preview on WCNY - TV  
10:00 AM Virtual Watch Party**

**Presented in Partnership with**





*Congratulations*

**Bob Leslie**

for being recognized  
as the foundation's 2020  
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## Good Morning & Welcome

**Heidi Hart-Gorman**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**



## Thank you for joining us for our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual Recognition Breakfast!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation, I want to welcome you to our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual **Virtual** Recognition Breakfast fundraiser. Originally scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Liverpool in March as an annual in-person celebration event that actually included breakfast, we have reimagined and reinvented our program. We have addressed the challenges of our times and focused on keeping everyone safe. We are so grateful to have WCNY as our partner in presenting this year's on-air preview and streaming OVEE event. WCNY President and CEO, Mitch Gelman, and his incredibly talented team of professionals have been invaluable in presenting this year's program.

For the past 17 years, the support and generosity of our sponsors and donors have allowed the SCSD Educational Foundation to fulfill its mission: to supplement, support, and enrich the student experience to prepare them for a successful future. The contributions by corporations and individuals like you fund the grants given to schools and teachers, providing resources, books, technology, and teaching materials for projects that would not otherwise be possible. A few months ago, we used funds to make a significant donation to support **TV Classroom**, a WCNY televised program that provides students with remote learning opportunities.

Since the Foundation was started in 2003, we have provided more than \$875,000 in grants to Syracuse City Schools! We are changing children's lives in a direct and meaningful way.

I do not know what this school year will bring, and what challenges and opportunities our Syracuse City teachers and students will face. But I do know that the SCSD Educational Foundation will be here for them, and we are committed to helping with those challenges and supporting those opportunities. We couldn't do any of this without you, and I share my profound gratitude for your support.

In addition to kicking off a new school year with annual Educator of the Year and Recognition awards, we are excited to also kick off our 2020/2021 **"Year of the Syracuse City School Teacher"** campaign! In the upcoming year of uncertainty, we know that all our District teachers, staff members, and administrators should be recognized and celebrated for their dedication and commitment. We believe that they are heroes and we will be creating events and programs throughout the year to thank them, and to raise funds to support them in their efforts to teach our children! Stay tuned for more information on our website ([www.scsdfoundation.com](http://www.scsdfoundation.com)) on how you can participate in this exciting campaign.

With great pride and gratitude, I welcome you to this year's SCSD Educational Foundation awards celebration. I hope you enjoy watching and participating as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

**Heidi Hart-Gorman**

Chairperson, Board of Directors  
SCSD Educational Foundation



# Day

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# Good Morning

## *Superintendent Jaime Alicea*

### *Syracuse City School District*



Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation Virtual Recognition Breakfast.

While this is the first time we have had to host this event digitally, I am pleased that we are still able to recognize the important work of the SCSD Educational Foundation. Thanks to the twelve grant projects funded by the Foundation last school year, students in all grade levels were able to experience unique enrichment opportunities. Projects ranged from STEM, the arts, mindfulness, agriculture, creating cultures of positivity and more – and they are each so crucial to helping students discover new interests and develop important skills.



It is also important that we come together today to recognize this year's Educators of the Year award recipients. These individuals were nominated by their colleagues, students and families for the exceptional work they are doing and the contributions they make not only to the Syracuse City School District but also to the larger Syracuse community. We are so proud of these dedicated staff! Congratulations to the 2020 Educators of the Year:

- Carol Thresh – First Grade Teacher, Franklin Elementary School
- Kyle Voyer – Special Education Teacher, Clary Middle School
- Roger Sanford – Recreational Aide/Support Staff, Meachem Elementary School
- Rachel Murphy – Director of Food and Nutrition Services
- Robert Leslie – Director of Career and Technical Education



We are also honoring Bankers Healthcare Group and Salem Hyde parent, substitute teacher and volunteer Amanda Murphy with this year's Recognition Award. The Recognition Award is intended to honor community organizations and individuals who go above and beyond in supporting SCSD students, teachers and programs. Bankers Healthcare Group has been a partner to Dr. Weeks Elementary for several years, annually providing a toy to each child in the school prior to holiday recess and summer recess, in addition to other support. Ms. Murphy is a true partner to Salem Hyde school leaders, helping to create a welcoming environment in the school building, managing the school's clothing closet and more.



Syracuse City School District students continue to benefit not only from these exceptional community partners, but also from your support of the SCSD Educational Foundation. Thank you for your participation today – your support allows the Educational Foundation to continue funding special experiences for our students and staff, and we appreciate you! Thank you.

Sincerely,  
**Jaime Alicea**  
Superintendent of Schools





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# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR BEN WALSH

September 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome everyone to the Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Breakfast, which has been re-imagined and produced in partnership with WCNY as a "virtual" fundraiser due to COVID-19.

It has been my honor and privilege to support the hard work and tireless hours that the teachers, administrators, parents, and students in the Syracuse City School District have provided during these challenging times. Under the exceptional leadership and compassion of our Superintendent of Schools, Jaime Alicea, we have been able to teach, feed, and motivate our students. Together with organizations such as WCNY, the MOST, the RedHouse Arts Center, Southside Community Center, MercyWorks, church groups, and community advocates, our community has come together to ensure that our children continue to learn, grow and flourish.

At this year's event, the District and the Foundation are presenting Educator of the Year Awards to five nominees that were submitted by their peers in the District. They include Carol Thresh – First Grade Teacher, Franklin Elementary; Kyle Voyer – Special Education Teacher, Clary Middle School; Rachel Murphy – Director of Food and Nutrition Services; Robert Leslie – Director of Career and Technical Education; and Roger Sanford – Cafeteria Recreational Aid/Food Service Helper, Meachem Elementary School. In addition, Recognition Awards are being presented to the Bankers Healthcare Group and Salem-Hyde Elementary School Volunteer, Amanda Murphy. It is an honor to acknowledge the contributions of these dedicated professionals for going above and beyond to enhance the learning experience for our students.

I would like to thank the staff and board of the SCSD Educational Foundation for the valuable work this organization has been doing, and I encourage everyone to consider supporting their mission to ensure that students in Syracuse City Schools get the education they need to succeed.

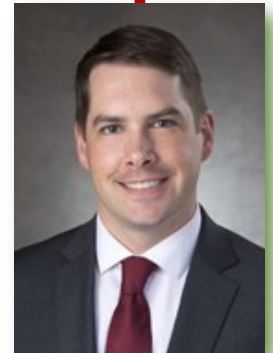
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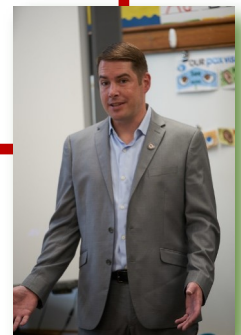
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Mayor



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Jan Quitzau  
Phone: 315.391.0259  
JQuitzau@scsdfoundation.org

The Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation is an independent fundraising organization charged with providing supplemental resources for educational programs in our Syracuse City Schools. Founded during the 2003 school year, the SCSD Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation overseen by an active and working Board of Directors. Board members include representatives of local corporations, school district administrators, government officials, parents, and two district high school students.

The Foundation has successfully provided over **\$875,000** in education grants for projects that otherwise would not have been possible. We have purchased a wide array of educational resources including technology such as iPads, computers and SMART Boards, classroom programming aides, books, tutorial programs, supplies, instructional software programs, equipment, and the components necessary for presentations and classroom initiatives.

The Foundation has actively supported STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs, environmental responsibility (green projects), literacy, and living and learning through arts education. The success that the SCSD Educational Foundation has achieved has been made possible with the generous support and donations from major corporations, local businesses and individuals, SCSD alumni, and from individual United Way contributions or donations provided by school district employees and administrators.

The SCSD Educational Foundation hosts two fundraising events each year. In the spring, the Foundation has its Annual Recognition Breakfast and presents awards to companies and individuals who have gone above and beyond to support the students in Syracuse City Schools. At the breakfast the Foundation also presents Educator of the Year awards to noteworthy SCSD teachers, staff, and administrators. In late summer the Foundation also hosts a successful golf tournament giving sponsors and contributors an opportunity to make donations and still enjoy a day of golf and fellowship.

The SCSD Educational Foundation volunteers are first and foremost its dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors. In addition, the Foundation has benefited from the volunteer involvements, commitments, and contributions from school administrators, staff, teachers, councilors, and has continuous support from the Superintendent of Schools, Jaime Alicea and his dedicated staff.



Please visit our website at: [www.scsdfoundation.org](http://www.scsdfoundation.org)  
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# Spring

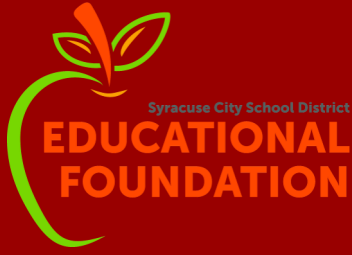
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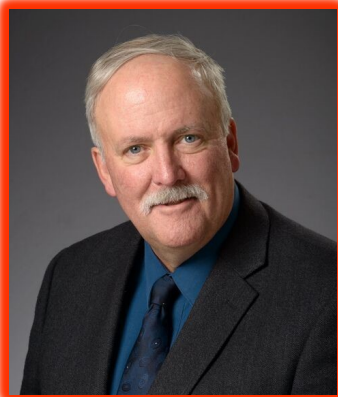






# Congratulations 2020 Educators of the Year

Each year, the SCSD Educational Foundation, together with the Syracuse City School District, is proud to recognize the men and women who help to ensure educational excellence in Syracuse City Schools. To be eligible, an Educator of the Year candidate must be a full-time District employee. Key factors considered in this nomination process are the unique abilities that make these individuals outstanding among his or her peers. Winners of these awards are teachers, administrators, or support staff who demonstrate a willingness to go **“above and beyond”** and who provide support to students in an exceptional manner. Nominations are submitted each year by peers, students, parents, community organizations, businesses, colleagues, and District administrators.



**Robert Leslie**  
**Director, Career and Technical Education**

Thanks to Robert Leslie, SCSD Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Syracuse City School District students now have the option to enter an impressive 27 different CTE programs as they begin high school, setting them up for success in both college and career. Bob Leslie was nominated for this award by district administrators, college partners and community business groups. All three recognize the impact that Mr. Leslie's expansion of the district's CTE programs have had not just on Syracuse City School District students, but also on the greater Syracuse community as a whole. Since 2014, Bob has led the expansion of career and technical education pathways from just 7 to 27. These programs have helped lead students to experience lower rates of absence,

higher GPAs, higher Regents passing rates and higher graduation rates. They have also helped provide students with the mentoring, job training and work experience to set them ahead no matter what path they choose to follow after completing high school. Mr. Leslie has created strong partnerships with local educational institutions, local businesses and more, all while navigating the complexities of state and federal regulations pertaining to these programs. His leadership in the field of Career and Technical Education has made the SCSD a leader in CTE programs.

**Kyle Voyer**  
**Special Education Teacher**  
**Clary Middle School**

Clary Middle School Special Education teacher Kyle Voyer was nominated by not one, not two, but three parents. All three spoke of Mr. Voyer's above and beyond commitment to their children. Mr. Voyer has gone out of his way to keep the lines of communication open with the families of his students. He sets clear goals for his students to achieve and works with families to ensure that his students have the support necessary to achieve them. He shows genuine care and concern for his students and families. As one parent noted, "Mr. Voyer is more than a teacher to my son. He has pushed my son to limits I didn't know he could reach." Another noted that Mr. Voyer cares about his students not just as a teacher but also as a friend. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher serving our Special Education students.



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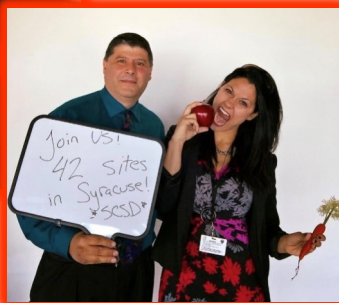
**Roger Sanford**  
**Cafeteria Recreational Aide**  
**Food Service Helper**

Roger Sanford – or Mr. Roger, as he likes to be called – has served the Syracuse City School District for 22 years. He has served as a Cafeteria Recreational Aide, a Food Service Helper, has packed food for the Snack and Supper programs, made deliveries for the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program and more. But more importantly than all of that, he has contributed to a positive culture within Meachem Elementary School. He arrives at work at 6:30 each day, dressed in a shirt and tie, with a positive attitude and ready to assist wherever needed. He is passionate about bringing a smile to the faces of students and staff he works with, and he singlehandedly demonstrates the power and importance of support staff.



**Rachel Murphy**  
**Director of Food and Nutrition Services**

Rachel Murphy joined the Syracuse City School District in 2016 as Director of Food and Nutrition Services. Over the course of the past four years, Ms. Murphy has partnered with students, staff and community agencies to improve our existing food and nutrition programs, implement successful new programs and plan for future programs. In 2018, Ms. Murphy created a Student Menu Committee, where high school students from throughout the district came together to provide their thoughts and feedback regarding the district's meals. She provided students with the opportunity to help develop new meal options that have since been entered into the SCSD menu rotation. In 2019, Ms. Murphy led the effort to start Sharing Tables at schools across the district, to help reduce food waste and provide an added support for students facing food uncertainty. Our students are lucky to have a leader so passionate about hearing and reacting to their feedback!



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**Carol Thresh**  
**First Grade Teacher**  
**Franklin Elementary School**

Carol Thresh was nominated not only by one colleague, but several. She was also nominated by several current and past students, as well as a parent! Franklin Elementary teacher Carol Thresh was selected as an Educator of the Year not just because of the multiple nominations she received but because of the common message among them: her love for her students is unmatched. Her colleagues spoke of Ms. Thresh's passion for helping students or staff who are struggling. Her students spoke of the welcoming classroom environment and the way she made them feel happy and safe as they learn. A parent spoke of how Ms. Thresh did not give up on her children and helped instill in them confidence in their own abilities. Carol retired at the close of the 2020 school year, and we thank her for her extraordinary commitment to the students, families and staff of the Syracuse City School District. We wish her all the best, and we will miss her at Franklin Elementary School!





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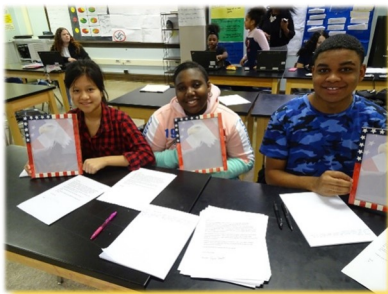
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## Congratulations!

Bousquet Holstein congratulates Recognition Award Winners  
**Bankers Healthcare Group** and **Amanda Murphy**  
and Educators of the Year **Carol Thresh, Kyle Voyer, Rachel Murphy, Robert Leslie** and **Roger Sanford**

**Thank you for all you do for students in our Syracuse City Schools!**



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## *Congratulations to all of the Foundation's Award Winners*



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# 2020 Recognition Award Bankers Healthcare Group



Our first Recognition Award recipient for 2020 is Bankers Healthcare Group (BHG). Founded in 2001, BHG has provided more than \$5 billion in financial solutions to thousands of customers nationwide. BHG is recognized regionally and nationally for innovation, continued growth, and being a "best place to work." More than 200 people work at BHG's downtown Syracuse financial headquarters.

At Dr. Weeks Elementary School, and for Principal Diane Vitello, they are so much more than that. BHG and Dr. Weeks have been partners since 2017. The first year, BHG donated turkeys to help families have a proper Thanksgiving dinner. After meeting the staff and students, they wanted to do more.

The following year, when Diane Vitello had just started as Principal at Dr. Weeks, she was told that BHG would visit in December and bring every one of her 800 students a gift to take home over the holidays. It seemed too good to be true! As it turns out, it wasn't an adequate representation of the generosity BHG would ultimately show toward the Dr. Weeks

families. The first time Diane was able to meet the employees in their identical blue shirts, she immediately understood that this company had an incredible level of dedication to the Syracuse community. They also showed up with boxes and boxes of toys for the smiling excited children! They inquired about doing more.

Diane explained how food insecurity affected many of the school's families over long breaks from school. Within

hours, bags and bags of food were brought into Dr. Weeks to send home with families. Then BHG set up their next visit to equip the students with summer games to increase physical

activity and outside play time over the summer break. And the generosity and commitment to the families and children at Dr. Weeks has continued.

Diane says she has never had the opportunity to work with a company like Bankers Healthcare Group before. Their level of generosity has been overwhelming! In fact, the Banker's

Healthcare Group never feels as though they've helped enough!

For this dedication, corporate giving, and overwhelming generosity, the SCSD Educational Foundation is proud to present Bankers Healthcare Group with its 2020 Recognition Award.



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# 2020 Recognition Award

## Amanda Murphy



Amanda Murphy is a parent, a building substitute teacher, and a volunteer at Salem-Hyde Elementary School.

She was nominated by Salem-Hyde Principal Rebecca Groat, and a parent...Tanya Eastman, whose daughter was a student at Salem- Hyde.

Amanda has provided long-standing support to the students, families, staff, and administration of the Syracuse City School District for almost a decade since her eldest daughter, who recently graduated from Henninger High School, began her academic journey at Salem-Hyde many years ago.

She started decorating bulletin boards for the school one summer and ended up decorating nearly every bulletin board in the school.

She offered ideas, a creative and positive vision for the school, and the energy and work ethic to put behind those ideas. She volunteers to help run school events both during the day and outside the school day.


She also enlists the help of her family, her husband and children and her mother, all who share that same servant's heart and passion that she possesses.

She has an annual Valentine's Day Tea party where students get "dressed-up" and learn about etiquette, have tea and cookies (all donated through her hard work and fundraising), and go home with a special tea cup to commemorate the experience. She works with several of the grades to provide "wish list" activities ranging from crafts to grade wide projects directly tied to curriculum.



Amanda solicits donations for the Salem-Hyde clothing closet and single-handedly gets donations throughout the year for Halloween Parade, Thanksgiving and Christmas. She collected dozens of costumes for students so they would all be dressed for Halloween and given out coats to almost 50 students during the winter. She also organizes a Holiday Fair that has local crafters come in to sell affordable Christmas gifts students can purchase for their families. She has collected over \$6,000 worth of donations for our families for Christmas. She has purchased, organized, and wrapped presents for 120 children. She even weeds the gardens in front of the school!

She is a true **giving** "rock star", also known as a selfless servant who is called to give and does so abundantly. For that reason, the SCSD Educational Foundation is proud to present Amanda Murphy with its 2020 Recognition Award.





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SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

# 2019-2020 Grant Projects

With the generous support of our sponsors and contributors, the SCSD Educational Foundation was able to fund and support the following projects in Syracuse City Schools:

*(Project summaries were provided by the teachers as part of their grant applications)*

## **Spreading a Positive Message**

**Teacher: Lisa Lambert**

**School: Expeditionary Learning Middle School**

The 7th grade students at Expeditionary Learning Middle School (ELMS) are learning to spread a positive message of change in our community. Students will meet with local individuals who not only inspire change but put in the time to make it happen in Syracuse. We call these special individuals "Agents of Change." Our students will work alongside these agents of change in service-learning projects that create positive change here in Syracuse. Our students will grow from learning about agents of change, spreading the message and contributing to already existing "quests for change," to our students becoming agents of change themselves. Students will set out to create a campaign that brings an awareness to the community about stepping up and becoming an "Agent of Change" within the City of Syracuse. Students will explore different ways to market their campaign through conventional media, promotional items, and digital media outlets of video and website design. With the support of the Educational Foundation the students can create a more authentic campaign and products. This project brings together the humanities, arts and technology to inspire students to see that they can do more than they think they can.

## **Paint Knight Meets the Middle (Paint Knight Gives Back)**

**Teacher: Lori Lizzio**

**School: Henninger High School**

Sharing the experience of making art with our community is the continuing goal of Paint Knight. My high school art students will create art with 8th grade art students from our feeder schools. The middle school students will bring a parent to also paint, so the parents can connect to a subject and skill that means something to their child. This experience will help the middle school students make a connection to Henninger and the art students at Henninger, as well as provide an opportunity to for my high school students to teach, model and lead the experience.

## **Marilyn Jones Life and Learning Through Arts Grant**

### **Bringing Fine Arts to Life**

**Teacher: Joseph Foster**

**School: Salem Hyde Elementary School**

Fifth grade students will research famous art works and/or artists of their choosing. After researching the students will work to create a ceramic tile mural for installation in the school. This project will allow students to do an in-depth



study of art and artists. Our 5th grade has a yearly scheduled field trip to the Everson Museum and this project will allow students to have a choice to incorporate artwork from the Everson into their tiles. This project will help build an awareness of the importance of art in our community. Students will have an opportunity to make a real-life connection between art and our community.





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SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

# 2019-2020 Grant Projects

## Stonework Play

**Teacher: Kristin Lisi**

**School: Montessori at Lemoyne Elementary**

The teacher explains to the students they will be using stones to create a design to tell a story. The teacher then encourages students to be thoughtful in their stone selection and design they create. Examples will be shown. Children will select a bucket full of stones to create their design. Then students will begin working in silence. Once the student is finished, they will use a clipboard, paper and pencil to draw a sketch of their creation. Working with an adult, the student will tell their story and the teacher will write it in the exact words given. Student will share their drawing, narration and stone design to the class.

## Work Based Learning - The Greenhouse Project

**Teacher: Patrick Gillette**

**School: PSLA@Fowler**

The work-based learning program at PSLA provides our students with the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge practical applications. Students will gain practical job skills by working in our greenhouse at PSLA. Students will be assigned tasks to perform in the greenhouse and work on employing ability skills. The employed ability skills include being on time, following directions, working well with peers and task completion. The students will be monitored and mentored daily for progress on these skills. One of the equipment requests we are making is for a grow light for the greenhouse. The grow light will need to be hard-wired in the greenhouse. Mr. Wilson's electrical trades class will install this light in the greenhouse. This provides Mr. Wilson's Career and Educational students the opportunity to practice skills learned in class on an actual real-life applications.

## Inclusive Teaching with a Montessori Mind Frame

**Teacher: Nicole Kline**

**School: Lemoyne Elementary School**

Inclusive Teaching with a Montessori Mind frame is a project with an aim to improve the teaching environment in three different classrooms. The Montessori philosophy incorporates many elements of students' choice. We would like to purchase materials that reflect the diversity of our classrooms. The inclusion of these materials to the array of work that students may choose from will enable us to fulfill our vision. Our vision is to have a cultural work area in each of our classrooms that reflects students of differing physical abilities, cultures, and languages. All of our students from the ones born with chronic medical conditions to the ones who do not speak English should see a classroom that reflects them and everything about that makes them special.

## Personalized Learning Through the Arts

**Teacher: Mary Juman**

**School: Ed Smith K-8 School**

Personalized Learning Through the Arts provides instruments and equipment that will be used to create learning stations in our Middle School Music Rooms. Each room was previously equipped with 7 keyboards and some drums; however this grant allows us to create a guitar and a listening station as well. It also provides 9 new drums to round out our drum centers. Student will use these stations to meet Common Core Fine Arts Standards including Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting to music. Because the keyboard and listening stations use headphones there can always be a teacher led station as well. Students will have choice in what and how they want to meet the objectives on any given day. Finally, ALL students in Grades 6-8 will perform in a recital or concert during the school year.



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Donations to the SCSD Educational Foundation are offered to schools to support projects and programs throughout the District. Now more than ever, our teachers and students need your help.

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SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

# 2019-2020 Grant Projects

## **Carrier Corporation STEM Grant STEM & Agriculture Lab**

**Teacher: Jing Xu**

**School: Franklin Elementary School**

This STEM and Agriculture Lab project provides unique hands-on experiences to all students at Franklin Elementary School to stimulate their interest in science. It intends to build long-term and ongoing opportunities for students to be successful applying concepts to life experiences. Farm Futures describes that agriculture aligns with STEM learning, whether it's the science behind farming itself, engineering and programming new technology to increase the efficiency of farming, or developing the mathematical concepts necessary to help engineer the new technology. It's clear that agriculture involves all aspects of STEM, making it necessary to "boost the lagging K-12 Ag education." A Gree research paper indicates that the U.S. economy will prosper with strong productivity gains in both the agricultural and industrial sectors with better trained professionals, and that work must begin in elementary and secondary schools. This will also include food-related as well as agriculture-related topics. Franklin Elementary school is an urban school, where very few students, if any, can experience the agriculture products growing cycle or how a farm works. The STEM and Agriculture Lab project is easy for teachers and students to use and helps to create a learning-friendly and productive school experience. The project provides hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities for elementary students to inspire their interest in science, which will build in all students lifelong skills, and lead to health and a well-being living style. The project engages students in aligning knowledge to life experience that creating a cooperative and supportive learning environment to enhance overall students' performance and success. Hands-on farming related tasks and assignments together with field trips and guest speakers from the farming community will be included in this project curriculum.

## **Process Portfolios in COLOR!**

**Teacher: Jeanette Capria-Lazzaro**

**School: Corcoran High School**

Mrs. Capria-Lazzaro's Art students will be creating process journals throughout the year for the art projects that they develop and create. Using iPads and a color printer which they received from the Foundation grant, students will be able to record the stages of each project. They will print them to experiment with different art elements such different textures, colors, backgrounds, and problem-solve, trying many solutions. They will then finalize their art works after self-reflection and modification.

## **Mindfulness for Learning**

**Teacher: Crysten Rushmore**

**School: Frazer Pre-K-8 School**

Teachers in two Frazer School first grade classes will receive training as children's yoga teachers so that the students can have formal yoga classes in their classroom but also incorporate the lessons throughout their day. The students will learn to focus their attention in a way that will improve their learning. The students will learn to be aware of their emotions and bodily sensations and what to do when they are struggling. The grant will provide a cool down corner in each classroom where students can take a break, use a breathing ball or their calming jar, read a mindfulness book, or listen to calming music. Their families will be invited to an event to see what the students have been learning, learn some yoga themselves, and take home some items to encourage practice at home, including a tool kit that each student will create for themselves with their personal most useful items. This will allow students to apply their learning at home and teach what they have learned to their families.



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SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

# 2019-2020 Grant Projects

## The Knights of Lincoln

**Teacher: Mark Dubey**

**School: Lincoln Middle School**

The Knights of Lincoln is a citizenship project that will engage a core group of 15 at-risk students in book study and activities intended to decrease the occurrence of negative behaviors, while developing models for students to become upstanders (citizens who choose to do the right thing and influence others to do the same). During weekly meetings three Lincoln staff members will use the book, *Rules for a Knight*, as a basis for introducing students to a model of core beliefs that can be learned and practiced and expressed throughout the learning community. The project will integrate activities that include field trips for team-building and personal growth as well as community outreach events. The main goal of the project is to decrease the occurrence of negative behaviors in our most at-risk population by introducing, teaching, practicing and normalizing a model of core beliefs. These core beliefs are gleaned from letters purportedly written by Sir Thomas Lemuel Hawke to his children in 1483 prior to being killed in battle. The letters were later chronicled by his heirs and eventually published by Ethan Hawke in a book entitled *Rules for A Knight* in 2010. The secondary goal is to spread the ideas and beliefs of the writing by creating a group of upstanders (The Knights of Lincoln), students who model citizenship and foster interpersonal growth.

## The Great Debaters

**Teacher: Scott Daley**

**School: Grant Middle School**

The Great Debaters project will involve middle and high school students from across the Syracuse City School District. The goal is to offer students an opportunity to participate in formal competitive debate, an opportunity that is not otherwise available to students in Central New York. The Educational Foundation grant will help to sustain this annual competition for the next three years.

Funds for Foundation education grants are donated by businesses, organizations, district employees, and individuals through personal donations, United Way contributions, and sponsorship of annual events such as this Annual Recognition Breakfast and our Annual Golf Tournament in August. Donations provide the needed support for extraordinary learning opportunities for children in Syracuse City Schools. Contributions from sponsors and individual donors have helped the Foundation raise more than \$875,000 and have funded more than 300 supplemental education projects since the Foundation was founded.

At the beginning of this school year the Foundation funded projects for arts, science, math, literacy, technology, and more. Then we pivoted our support and also use donated funds to pay for **TV Classroom** sessions at **WCNY-TV** for students learning remotely during this pandemic. Our goal is to continue to support teachers, parents, and students with whatever they may need as they face continuing challenges during these difficult times.

On behalf of the teachers, students, parents, and District administration and staff,

**THANK YOU!**



From our family to yours,  
we wish you good health  
as we come together in support of  
our children, parents and teachers,  
as a dedicated and caring  
community.

