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Golden Apple Foundation Awards \$32,000 for Local Classroom Projects

(12/13/2022) Golden Apple Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of educators who received a total of more than \$32,000 for classroom, school and community projects. Golden Apple Foundation and sponsor Collins Aerospace will recognize the recipients at 4 p.m. on Dec. 14 in the Visitor's Center at Anderson Japanese Gardens, 318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford. Projects selected focused on STEM skills; literacy; the environment; Social Emotional and Sensory needs; critical thinking; comprehension; and student engagement. All projects feature creative ways to encourage student achievement.

Project	Teacher(s)	School/District	Granted
A Chance at Success – To supply Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine to reward students with tokens they can use to "buy" a book. The books will help address literacy needs, create a culture of reading and engagement and increase academic achievement.	Rebecca Bielawski	Poplar Grove Elementary/ North Boone CUSD 200	\$2,500 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
iPads for Boost app - To provide students access to use mClass Intervention App to improve reading skills. The iPads will also be used for other curriculum components that are highly engaging and specifically for struggling learners.	Sue Szymanski	Durand Elementary/Durand CUSD 322	\$2,500 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
First LEGO League Challenge – to provide LEGO Spike Prime kits to enhance competition program so participants can gain hands-on STEM experience, build confidence, grow knowledge and develop habits of learning.	Christina Magee, Kristine Caballero, Jessica Owens, Nichole Gesner, Jennifer Peterson	Rolling Green, Spring Creek, Whitehead, Lathrop and Montessori at Marsh Elementary Schools/ RPS205	\$2,500 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant

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<p>Let's GO! Let's Bring STEM to Life with VEX Go! – To introduce students to robotics, engineering and coding fundamentals. Student learning will increase through constructing kits, developing hands-on knowledge with complex concepts and problem solving in a fun, engaging manner.</p>	Lori Granite	Rockford Christian	\$2,498 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>Flyleaf Reading Series 1 & 2 - To teach students to become strong independent readers and to combat low decoding abilities since the pandemic.</p>	Kim Adams	Prairie Hill School/ Prairie Hill District 133	\$2343 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
<p>Kinesiology in the Classroom – TRX Suspension Trainers and Professional Development will help teachers safely and effectively train students about movement. Suspension trainers will provide the range necessary to work with students who have physical disabilities as well as those who are the most gifted movers.</p>	Megan Bremer	Winnebago Middle School/Winnebago CUSD 323	\$2,270 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>The Science of Clay – Students will gain insight and engage in research about the process of pottery, then create artwork. Social emotional focus will be on growth mindset and persistence.</p>	Beth Stuckey	Caledonia and Perry/Belvidere CUSD 100	\$1737 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant

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Automotive Technology (thermal imaging camera) – to modernize automotive technology program to engage the next generation of employees and increase Career and Technical Education offerings.	Jason Andrews	Harlem High School/Harlem CUSD 122	\$1,523 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Virtual Reality "Calculus through new dimension" – to help students visualize surfaces, curves and vectors of 3D objects. VR, with limitless applications within STEM, will be an open resource for Math and Science departments.	Rohini Gupta	Harlem High School/Harlem CUSD 122	\$1,517 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Droning for the Future – To bring the world of aerospace alive with drones that have photo ability for Flight & Space and Energy & the Environment classes.	Stacy Wallace	Thurgood Marshall Middle School/ RPS 205	\$1,500 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Extending the Growing Season-Harnessing the Sun's Energy – for students to use STEM based projects to learn to grow things despite weather limitations.	Kari Morris de Hernandez	Guilford High School/RPS205	\$1,500 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Forces and Motion Kick Start Rube Goldberg Project - For students to apply knowledge from research & testing with electronic trucks and carts. Students will be able to apply knowledge to practical problems.	Zena McFadden	North Boone High School/ North Boone CUSD 200	\$1,495 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant

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Hydraulic Arm - To continue to build STEM learning program and introduce students to moving forces around them.	Mindy Clark	Whitman Post Elementary/Rockton CUSD 140	\$1,309 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Metamorphosis Brought to Life – For each classroom to have kits to watch caterpillars become butterflies.	Rebecca Johnson	Fairview Early Education Center/RPS205	\$720 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Stack 'n Nest Cups, Toddler Traditional Multicultural Clothing; Excellerations Insect Life Cycle Specimens, Science Vocabulary Paperback books, Excellerations Classic Balane Scale with Bears - To gain skills in social , emotional, math, science and literacy areas for large or small group lessons.	Katelynn Horton	Donald C. Parker Center/ Harlem CUSD 122	\$300 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Bacterial Transformation Lab Equipment, Fruit Fly Mutant Cross Materials and Cultures - To provide two integral labs for AP Biology students so they can do them hands-on rather than virtually. Will benefit more than half Keith’s high school students.	Allison Cunningham	Keith School	\$300 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Versa Tiles Literacy Classroom Kit Grade 4 - To give students hands-on skills practice with self-checking answer system to build math and literacy proficiency in a challenging, rewarding way.	Nicole Gleason	Thurgood Marshall Elementary/RPS205	\$300 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant

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<p>Osmo Genius Starter Kits - To help students with technology skills. Math, physics, spelling, problem solving and art practice for literacy and math centers. Game levels differentiate to meet academic needs.</p>	Morgan Bauch	Cherry Valley Elementary/ RPS205	\$300 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>Life Cycle of a Frog figures, Butterflies, Sea Turtles - Hands-on project will stimulate minds and encourage exploration as students learn about animal life cycles in an interesting, interactive way.</p>	Julie Foltmer	Montessori at Marsh/RPS205	\$300 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>White boards & erasers; clipboards; floor cushions, wobble chair - To enhance flexibility and learning tasks to meet students' learning needs and preferences.</p>	Todd Anliker	Kinnikinnick School/Kinnikinnick CUSD 131	\$285 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>STEM Bins Comprehensive Kit and Bins - To provide students materials for STEM activities to enhance creativity and inspire problem solving in math and science. Students will develop collaboration skills.</p>	Kelly Cleaveland	Rockton Grade School/Rockton CUSD 140	\$280 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
<p>Table, chairs, storage box, sensory sand set, marbles, letters & numbers - To reach children at development level. Sensory tables increase interaction, encourage discussion and facilitate motor development and hand-eye coordination.</p>	Melissa Mershon	Christian Life	\$277 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant

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Hydroponic Grow and Submersible Kits, Growing System, Planting Equipment, Gardening tools - Students will construct concrete pads and greenhouses; grow plants and raise fish; grow and harvest produce for recipes.	Lucas Kramer	Winnebago High School/Winnebago CUSD 323	\$265 Collins Aerospace STEM Grant
Books – To offer books about different racial or ethnic backgrounds.	Kimberly Tenner	Shirland School/Shirland CUSD 134	\$300 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Books to update classroom library with high interest books.	Lindsey Keppel	Poplar Grove Elementary/ North Boone CUSD 200	\$300 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Raz Plus and Raz Plus Espanol subscriptions - To support individual learning of geography, ancient civilizations and U.S. history. Will allow students to read non-fiction books in multiple languages and reading levels.	Yuri Moctezuma	Belvidere South Middle School/Belvidere CUSD100	\$300 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Standing desks - To replace broken or outdated desks and to provide safe, comfortable, alternative options for students, especially those with ADHD who will benefit from standing at desk while learning.	Kassandra Bowman	North Boone CUSD 200	\$300 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
To add books elevating diverse voices, speaking up about personal experience with disability and acceptance for special education students.	Kathleen Dingle	Washington Academy/Belvidere CUSD 100	\$298 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant

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Yoga mats - To incorporate movement in speech/language therapy sessions. To target receptive language, allowing each student to follow verbally-presented directions using mat shapes and colors to integrate concepts.	Kelly Friesema	Poplar Grove Elementary/North Boone CUSD 200	\$295 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Copies of book for each student for unit about taking a stand and Social Emotional topics	Kim Mecum	Winnebago High School/Winnebago CUSD 323	\$294 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Bean bag and saucer chairs, and graphic novels - To help students with dyslexia, ADHD and other learning disabilities with comfortable seating where they can focus on learning. Graphic novels help these students because stories aren't too wordy, are still age appropriate and appeal because of bright colors and the lack of overwhelming text.	Elaine Ahrens	North Boone Upper Elementary/North Boone CUSD 200	\$275 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Books for each student for a unit about the Holocaust.	Andrea Cox	Willowbrook Middle School/ Prairie Hill CUSD 133	\$275 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Spanish books - For students to read, comprehend and make predictions in the target language. Teachers will be able to scaffold to support growth in comprehension and proficiency. Language skills will increase while enjoying story.	Erin Weldon	Hononegah High School/Hononegah District	\$250 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant

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Electronic writing/drawing tablets for students in special education class to use them in place of paper/pencil or dry erase board tasks. The electronic format will accommodate more diverse motor and development needs plus be more engaging and age-appropriate.	Cindy Heckman	Stephen Mack/Rockton CUSD 140	\$240 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Braille books - For students with low vision or blindness. Books also have printed text so family members and friends who can't read braille can read along. To open world of literacy.	Meghan Hembrough	Donald C. Parker Early Education Center/Harlem CUSD 122	\$195 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant
Binding machine, covers and combs - To create unique books to showcase writing to engage students with real-world audiences.	Jennifer Beksell	Roosevelt CEC/RPS205	\$153 Meg & Rob Hodge and Golden Apple Foundation Grant

Golden Apple Foundation opened the application process to enhance the learning of PreK – 12th grade students throughout Winnebago and Boone counties for projects that would go unfunded by school budgets. Since its inception, Golden Apple Foundation has provided funding to 323 educators for 294 projects totaling more than \$238,600.

Golden Apple Foundation inspires, celebrates and supports educational excellence in our community.

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