

### **TRTF Classroom Assistance Grant Recipients 2023**

Chelsea Bivens teaches 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Aquatic Science at Dripping Springs High School. With her grant funds, Bivens will purchase kits and solutions to develop a Texas Stream Team chapter, a program that certifies citizen scientists to perform scientific assessments of the health of local water bodies. The team will work with landowners and the city to monitor waterways on their properties, helping to protect the town's history and natural resources.

Kacey Humphries teaches Biology and Forensics at Brownwood High School. To conduct the arson unit for her class and help her students build a crime scene to investigate the behavior of fire, Humphries will purchase supplies such as gloves, fake blood, glue sticks, popsicle sticks, lighters, and more with her grant funds.

Michael McMullan works at Gilbreath Reed Career and Technical Center in Garland, where he teaches employability skills to autistic students. The grant funds will be used to purchase workbooks, online resources, and equipment for hands-on training and to cover costs associated with job shadowing opportunities for students, such as transportation fees.

Nita Whitman is a librarian at John Tower Elementary in Burkburnett. With the help of the funds from TRTF, a book vending machine will be purchased to create a strong and motivating reading community for kindergarten through second grade readers. Students will earn trips to the machine and be given a gold coin to purchase a book. Their picture will be posted in the hallway showing other students what book they selected.

Adriana Sanchez is a Gifted and Talented teacher at Bel Nafegur Sanchez Elementary in Rosharon. With her grant, Sanchez will buy drone and house kits. The drones will be built by teams of fifth graders, which will then be integrated into engaging learning experiences and challenges. The houses will be built by teams of students then be used in grades 1-5 as part of Storytelling, Writing, and Math activities.

Jessica Womack teaches Science at Honey Grove Elementary. With her grant funds she will purchase an incubator, brooder, feeder, waterer, food, and an egg candler to create the experience of observing the full life cycle of a chicken for her students. Focusing on growth and development, her students will understand how the structures of an organism form to meet its survival needs.

Gina Montemayor is the Special Education instructor at Sonia Sotomayor High School in San Antonio. Her students will learn valuable interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and time management and how to navigate the social demands of the workplace when she purchases two Olde Midway Vintage Style Popcorn Makers. Using the machines will enable students to learn about cooking, transactions, and etiquette during the school's Friends Having Fun social events.

Heidi Aleman will develop a student-run news broadcast at Palmer-Laakso Elementary in San Benito. She will purchase a green screen, webcam and tripod stand, a video editing app, and microphone to start this thrilling broadcasting club for the kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Participants will learn advanced technology concepts, and hone their planning, writing, and editing skills.

Amy Coco will help her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Trivium Academy in Carrollton create a video documentary about the Civil War with her grant funds. She will purchase costumes and props, including soldier uniforms, toy weapons, and bugle horns. Students will study a battle, create a story board, reenact the event acting as historical figures, film, and then edit their project to create the documentary.

Emily Aguilar will purchase multiple copies of the graphic novels Victor, Victor 2, and Esperanza for her Spanish 1, 2, and 3 classes at Beaumont Early College High School. The books provide for classroom activities such as reader's theater, fishbowl, circle the wagon, and pipe cleaner relay, enabling students to be fully engaged and enhance their language acquisition.

Ibtissam Attie's students at Central Junior High in Euless will learn the Thuluth Arabic writing style and how to play the Darbuka, a traditional Arabic instrument. The grant funds will be used to hire artists to implement these artistic lessons from CRAFT N TALK, a women-owned business that hires refugees and teachers in need. All lessons are conducted virtually from the artist's home country.

Kristen Martinez is a Special Education teacher at Santa Fe Elementary in Cleburne, where she teaches life skills to 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. She will create a motor lab in her classroom, incorporating a small trampoline, bean bags, climbing gyms, swings, hammocks, weighted objects, room dividers, and sensory toys to assist students with their occupational and physical therapy goals.

Mark Rogers will purchase 30 class sets of Prime Climb for all of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Austin Achieve Public Schools, giving them the opportunity to grow numeracy and fluency. The game format allows students to add, subtract, multiply, and divide their way through prime and composite numbers in competition with three peers. Students use two pawns starting at zero, roll dice, and then perform operations on the dice in order to "climb" their way up the hundred chart.

Abigail Castillo will implement a library and literacy center in the cafeteria at Laureles Elementary in San Benito, allowing students to read grade-appropriate books while eating lunch. The space will also be used for creative writing and literacy games, and eventually feature the original works of students. Funds will be used to buy bookshelves, tables, flexible seating options, testable books, and games.

Corrine Thompson will have local artist Debra Gorman conduct a "Hooked on Art" workshop for her third-grade students at Mildred Elementary in Corsicana. The workshop will prepare students for the 2023 Texas State Fish Art Contest, which serves to teach students to value fish as a natural resource and learn about conservation efforts. In addition to paying for Gorman's services, Thompson will purchase colored pencils, brushes, folders, watercolor paper, sketchpads, and postage for the project.

Erin Boiles will purchase novel sets and bookshelves to supplement her classroom library, which will enhance independent reading time for her Practical Writing and English students at Burlison Collegiate High School. Many of her students benefit from having tangible versus online books. She will buy multiple copies of MacBeth and Long Way Down.

Sarah Vanginault teaches Science and Social Studies to third graders at Como-Pickton Elementary in Como. She will purchase laboratory and investigation materials such as goggles, thermometers, scales, weights, tornado tubes, iron fillings, plant labs, life cycle kits, magnifying glasses, headphones, rulers, and more to enhance her students' experiences during classroom assignments and experiments.

Tamara Cope is a first-year Special Education teacher at Northwest Elementary in Brownwood teaching first through fifth grade resource math and reading classes. She will purchase math manipulatives and games, as well as phonemic and phonological awareness folder games to help her students with concepts with which they are struggling. Examples include Fraction of the Pizza, Pop and Add to 20, and Mastering Time Dominoes.

Michael Anne Bryant wants to help her students with Cortical Vision Impairment by purchasing light up objects and toys to improve their ability to process images and integrate vision and function. As an educator working with kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Shirley Brothers Elementary in Alvin, she knows these items will be good for development for all ages. She will purchase items such as a cosmic ray wand, bright starts light and learn drums, flashing orbit balls, DNA sensory balls, and more.

Nichole Sanchez will enhance the Pre-K playground at Eloff Steam Academy in Converse by adding music stations, art activities, magnetic storytelling boards, PVC ramps and tubes, and float experiments. To put these stations together, she will buy items such as pots, pans, Tupperware, gutters, magnetic shapes and letters, balls, toy cars, trucks, boats, and Plexiglas.

Renee Moore will use her grant funds to help open a corner store on the Crossroads High School campus in Copperas Cove. Her special education students will learn life skills such as time management, customer service, and entrepreneurship, while economically disadvantaged students may access non-perishable groceries and other essential items using vouchers. The funds will be used to stock the store with a variety of snacks and beverages.

Shannon Cregg is a Visual Art teacher at Ferdinand Herff Elementary in San Antonio. She will use her funds to purchase two iPads and a photography light box, which will allow second through fifth grade students to access and use Artsonia. Students will upload images of their art projects, write artist statements, and receive feedback through Artsonia from teachers and parents.

Claire Schwartz will purchase multiple Print Frogs for her Fibers course, providing her MacArthur High School students in Irving with printmaking abilities. Printmaking is the transfer of a composition from one matrix to another, often fabric or paper. Similar to a printing press, but more affordable, the Print Frog will allow her students to learn a new artistic process, opening up career paths for them at the university level.

Myranda Moody will enhance classroom lessons in force, motion, and energy for her kindergarten students at Northwest Elementary in Brownwood. By purchasing multiple STEM activity sets, such as STEM Perfect Pairing Engineering, Fun With Magnets, and Primary Science Mix and Measure, her students will learn problem-solving and critical thinking skills while understanding how force, motion, and energy apply to their everyday lives.

Janet McKelva will use her grant to fund field trips for kindergarten students at Finley-Oates Elementary in Bonham. Students will attend Seussical the Musical, a Stephen Fite concert, a coral reef program at a nearby planetarium, and a local children's museum. Entry fees and transportation costs will be covered for her students who are of low socioeconomic status, and their experiences will reinforce TEKS standards.

Stancey Hubbard-Winer will establish rotating learning stations for science and math for kindergarten through first graders at McAndrew Elementary in Boerne. Hubbard-Winer will incorporate Lite-Brite learning manipulations, light-up table trays, a Light Bright, peg and template refills, and more, providing hands-on learning that increases students' engagement, curiosity, creativity, and math and literacy skills.

Olga Idrogo is a kindergarten through fifth grade STEM teacher at Raul B. Fernandez Elementary in San Antonio. To enhance classroom engineering activities for her students and establish a STEM club, she will purchase a variety of kits, such as Snap Circuits Green Energy Electronics Exploration, Huaker Kids Construction Engineering Building Blocks, DC Motor Model Car, DC Motor Electronic Assembly Robotic, and Bridge Building Engineering Center.

Angela Pinkerton will purchase a safe solar telescope, allowing her eighth grade science students at Godley Middle School in Godley to see the sun as they study different components of the universe. The telescope will enhance the Sun, Earth, and Moon Unit and students will also create a classroom Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram.

Danielle Lopez works at Austin Academic Center in Sulphur Springs, a high school for students who are at risk of not graduating due to factors such as living on their own, being on probation, or who are enrolled in an alternative program. She will purchase a classroom television to show Capturing Kids' Hearts Leadworthy Character Lessons videos, slideshows, and the Class Dojo points system. Students will be taught empathy, responsibility, teamwork, respect, and integrity based on CKH weekly themes.



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Gigi Azam is a SPED teacher at Crockett Early College High School in Austin whose goal is to implement the Odyssey program to help students with credit recovery, enabling them to graduate. She will purchase items for a rewards program to include thirty Amazon gift cards, which will be given to students who demonstrate courage and perseverance in staying committed to meeting graduation requirements.