



Reaching Out Grants 2023-2024

Expanding the Capacity of the Sensory Room, Western Middle School - \$10,000 (Year 2):

This grant purchases sensory enriching items/kits for the teachers and staff to access these tools in their classrooms to help students regulate right where they need it. These smaller tools complement the Sensory Rooms that were created last year, which contain larger pieces of equipment and sensory items that students use for calming and self-regulation with their mental health provider, special education teacher, and/or Occupational Therapist (OT). All students at Western have access to the sensory rooms and the new sensory enriching items/kits based on their needs.

Theater Arts, New Lebanon School (NLS) - \$32,320 (Year 3): All 317 students, including the PreK students, experienced theater during the '22-'23 school year and they will again! This program continues to grow and expand both with student and teacher participation in all aspects of the assorted programming. Once again, students can attend the after school Theater Arts Clubs, memorize dialogue for the Declamation Contest, and sing and dance in a musical performance. Theatreworks USA will come back to perform for all grades. A trip per grade to the Ridgefield Playhouse gives everyone the chance to experience the excitement of a live theater performance. After every performance, Play Group Theater does in-school, interactive drama workshops related to the show each grade saw. In 2022, New Lebanon School was named a Connecticut State School of Distinction in the area of high growth with high needs populations in English Language Arts. The faculty links some of the recognition to the theater program as it helps students grow with background knowledge, speaking and listening skills and confidence building.

Theater Arts, Julian Curtiss School (JC) - \$28,784: Students at JC are about to experience a full range of theater experiences similar to programs offered at New Lebanon School. Students in 4-5 grades will partake in an after school enrichment opportunity focused on the musical arts where they will learn, perform and design sets and costumes. This production will be performed

for their school community, family and community friends. Other grades will take part in the Declamation Contest and all will enjoy seeing a professional theater performance.

K-5 Afters, Hamilton Avenue School (HAS) - \$12360: All HAS students will have the opportunity to enroll in an assortment of free afters enrichment programs to spark curiosity and have some fun. Programming will be offered throughout the school year.

Designing an After School Extended Day Experience for K, HAS - \$10,000: This grant allows teachers and staff to spend the year designing a program for K students that will enrich the STEAM academics at HAS and meet the needs of working families looking for a safe space for their children with extended hours after school. HAS has many four year olds in kindergarten and there are few programs that can accommodate this age group.