

**Brooke Matthys, Three Oaks School, Cary**

Brooke is a special education teacher who wants to further support her school's commitment to STEM. She requested money to purchase STEM kits for grades K-6 that will support learning for all students in the school. The emphasis will be on designing, building testing, and improving solutions to problems with all students working together learning how to listen to each other, work as a team, and manage their emotions.

**Cathy Cartland, Jefferson Elementary, Harvard**

Cathy works with 9-11 year-olds and is requesting funds to purchase the complete works of Beatrix Potter in English and Spanish. These books will be used to inspire creative writing centered around the students' interest in the live rabbits that the school uses to expose students to living/loving animals and their environment.

**Kecia Griffin, Westwood Elementary, Woodstock**

Kecia is the leader of the Chess Club at Westwood which meets 20 times a year and includes over 60 members. She is asking for funds to purchase new chess boards and pieces. The students enjoy competing against other schools in the district and are learning strategic thinking skills and sportsmanship while building relationships and making friends.

**Amy Frishman, Briargate Elementary, Cary**

Amy is a Technology Innovative Coach, working with students in grades K-5. She will use her money to purchase Specdrums for the music teacher to use in the music enrichment groups and for the computer lab teacher. Specdrums are app-enabled rings that turn colors into music with a simple tap. Students can create music anytime, anywhere, making the world an instrument.

**Scott Becker, Dean Street Elementary, Woodstock**

Scott works with 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade special education students. He is planning to use his award to purchase high interest, engaging books to encourage his students to understand that reading is both a social and enjoyable activity. Books will have engaging subject matter, including science, technology, and current events.

**Laura Dill, Lundahl Middle School, Crystal Lake**

Laura works with grades 6-8 autistic students in a self-contained classroom. She wants to purchase gel floor tiles that help students when they are feeling overstimulated. As students step on the tiles, the gel shifts and changes color, creating a calming space with a unique sensory component that supports students struggling with sensory processing.

**Edgar Pereda, Evergreen Academy/McHenry County Safe Schools program, Union**

Edgar works with students in grades 6-12 in a small school environment that allows staff members to focus on individual needs. He will use the award to purchase software and other tools that students will use to create their own t-shirt business.