

# LEAFlet

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
LEDYARD EDUCATION  
ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

## Fall 2019 Teacher Grants Awarded

### THANK YOU

We are so excited to announce that SEVEN teachers received LEAF grants this fall, totaling over \$13,500! These grants promote excellence and support student achievement in Ledyard Public Schools. This is all possible because of our generous donors and our amazing teachers! Thank you! If you would like to support more teacher grants donate [here](#).

We also are happy to announce that two of the grant applications have been turned into [Fund-a-Teacher Wish](#). Our Fund a Teacher Wish (FATW) program allows teachers with GREAT ideas to seek funding directly from donors. These two FATW projects are worth a total of \$5,000. Please consider donating directly to support [these](#) projects!

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## Lights! Camera! Action! Ledyard High School

### **Kathleen Smith, Melanie Cometa, and Zach Thomas**

The music department and library will purchase a professional video camera to share. The camera would be stored in the new Media Recording Studio in the high school library. This room is for the LHS school community to use when creating video and audio projects for class. The camera would be used by the music department to film events for students to analyze, evaluate and learn from their performances. The new camera would be handheld to use outside with marching band and could be used with a tripod. The long-term benefits of viewing and evaluating musical performances, will give students the ability to reflect upon their work, in various forms, and to constructively find ways to improve. In addition, students will develop music appreciation skills as they hone their listening skills. In the library the camera will be used to teach about communicating information through media, in a variety of formats. The ability to create media makes students better critical thinkers. Student's become better at evaluating the media they consume every day when they learn the tools and



tricks to create media. This critical thinking is an important life skill.

[Check out Ledyard Music on YouTube.](#)

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## 1st Graders Work Standing Tall Gallup Hill School

### **Sandi Lucy**

Each year Mrs. Luci has more and more students who stay more focused while standing as they work independently. These first grade students are still developing a growth mindset about their individual learning abilities. First grade students can range from the age of 5 up to the age of 7. Many are high energy and require movement during their day. Mrs. Lucy's goal is to create a diverse learning environment that caters to all learning styles. These standing desks and table will help create another learning area in my classroom where students do not have to sit and can stand to focus and complete their work.



One of the desks has a fidget bar on the bottom area close to the floor. This will allow some movement for the child using the desk. By creating a movement rich environment, this will create the possibility of movement for students without being disruptive. Students who have ADHD will be able to use this fidget bar to help release their excess energy.

The standing table will allow for multiple students to work together. This will also be a tool for students who may just need to get up and move. There will be a designated place in the classroom for them to spread out and be in their own space. This will also allow for all students in the classroom to have an option to stand instead of sit. This specific table also has a white board finish on the top. The will let students doodle to help focus, if needed, or work directly on the table instead of traditional paper and pencil.

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## Sensory, Engineering, Creative Play! Gallup Hill School

### **Kathleen Colosi**

This grant is designed to enhance the materials and learning opportunities already created for first graders. Research shows they need more opportunities for sensory play, sensory integration, problem solving and hands on engineering and mathematical thinking. The intent is to help students achieve by giving them hands on experiences and successes with engineering, problem solving, interactive play and real life problem solving. We want to create meaningful play to build their confidence as learners and creators. the cash register/store/restaurant model is a wonderful way to integrate verbal, social,team work, and mathematical skills. Plus it is fun!



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## Digital Audio Workstations - Midi Keyboards Ledyard Middle School

### **Brian Sturm**

The introduction of digital audio computer technology into the Ledyard music curriculum is of great importance to S.T.E.A.M. learning. The current general music class at Ledyard Middle School is utilizing a subscription to a web-based DAW (digital audio workstation) called Soundtrap as a tool to explore digital music production, editing and songwriting. The software, through the Chromebook platform, uses the QWERTY keyboard to enter piano keyboard pitch and rhythm.



External Midi Keyboard Controllers will be used for entering pitch and rhythm into the audio software via a piano keyboard, will be integrated into digital music composing/editing and used as an extension to the curriculum which is currently in place at the middle school. Fundamentals of playing the piano keyboard will be an integral part of student learning as they explore composing, arranging and digital editing of their music. Students will learn to use the piano keyboard in the traditional manner, reading and performing through traditional music notation. They will also be tasked with using piano skills in their composing and editing projects.

The middle school music curriculum currently offers introductory piano keyboard performance skills and basic music theory to every student at some point during their time at LMS. The Midi Keyboard Controllers can be used to supplement and eventually replace the outdated electronic piano keyboards now in use. The Midi Controllers will support the teaching of the same basic piano skills while utilizing the Chromebook platform and without the need for external AC power adapters or special furniture. Further, the Midi Controllers offer students the ability to expand their musical creativity when used as an accessory to the digital composing/editing component that is becoming standard in music education.

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## Photosynthesis & Cellular Respiration in Real Time Ledyard High School

### **Kirsten Montgomery**

These sensors and the accompanying software could be used to explore 3 main concepts within biology (a required freshman course), diffusion, photosynthesis, and cellular respiration & fermentation. The sensors allow students to collect real data in real time rather than inferring using non quantitative data.



The goal is to improve student understanding of the concepts of photosynthesis, cellular respiration and diffusion through real-life, hands-on, real time data collection. PASCO provides video tutorials and ideas for incorporating these sensors into these units of study. Visualizing is key to understanding and much of what we teach in biology is difficult for students to visualize. We use a lot of modeling to help students, but the use of real technology in the classroom is something that inspires students while also making it easier for them to grasp challenging concepts. These concepts relate directly to the life science disciplinary core ideas of NGSS, as well as the NGSS science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. The use of technology in the classroom is a key aspect of NGSS and the modern classroom in general.

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## Journalistic Publications Growth Ledyard High School

### **Claire Malavazos**

The journalism class would like to purchase five laptops and eight cameras for the Journalistic Publications class. The journalism class is responsible for writing articles for Colonelnews.com and creating the yearbook, Horizons. The students create the yearbook on a web-based application that is hard to manage on their school-issued Chromebooks due to the low capacity of the computers to run the programs. They also cannot run some of the programs, such as Photoshop, that need to be downloaded onto a computer to work. The older computers and laptops that the students have been using are no longer keeping up with the updates in the programming in creating the yearbook.



The cameras will be used to take high-quality images for the yearbook and Colonelnews. The images can also be used to promote and advertise for the school, a helpful bonus for a school of choice.

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## Minitab for Statistics Ledyard High School

**Sean Law**

Minitab is a statistical analysis software that is used extensively in the real world at Fortune 500 companies and universities, including local employers. It is a powerful tool for analyzing data and performing inferential testing. This software is also used by College Board to produce computer outputs for analysis as a part of the AP Exam. The goal is to enhance instruction in both AP Statistics and the Statistics Level 2 elective beyond just graphing calculators but with statistical software that is leveraged in the real world by companies that perform statistical analysis.



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