



*Serving Learners, Families, and the Community*

## **CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BEPAC AWARDS ANNUAL CLASSROOM PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

**ELKTON, MD** (October 23, 2020)- The Business and Education Partnership Advisory Council (BEPAC), recently awarded its annual Classroom Partnership Grants totaling \$21,000 to schools across the county. This program is open to schools to apply for a proposed project of up to \$1,000.

This year, thirty-two grants were selected from a total of sixty-two applications and covered a variety of topics including support for initiatives in STEM, Career and Technical programs, fine arts, extra-curricular activities, classroom and curriculum, and more.

“It is always one of the highlights of the year in BEPAC to award the Classroom Partnership Grants,” stated Linda Burris, BEPAC President. “Schools are so creative in their requests and there is always such a variety. We are appreciative of all of our partners who support this important initiative and we hope everyone will join us next May at our Preakness Pride event as we raise money to award next year’s grants!”

This year also included the addition of two supported programs with the inclusion of a new partnership with Northrop Grumman and also the first year of the Bettie Murray Classroom Partnership Grant. Read more about these new partnerships as well as details on each awarded grant following this release.

Funds are raised annually at BEPAC’s Preakness Pride event where attendees gather for an evening centered around the second race in the Triple Crown held in Maryland. Due to the delay of the 2020 Preakness to the fall, BEPAC elected to not hold a 2020 event but is looking forward to resuming the celebration on May 15, 2021 with the 146<sup>th</sup> running of the Preakness Stakes. To date, BEPAC has given over \$108,000 through its various grant programs as a result of fundraising from the Preakness Pride event.

BEPAC’s mission is to enhance quality education in the Cecil County Public Schools through business and school interaction to prepare students to meet job market needs, identify viable career pathways, support lifelong learning, and become productive members of our community.

*(List of all grants included on following pages)*

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**Our Mission:** *CCPS serves equitably through positive relationships as a safe, collaborative community. We will ensure all learners acquire the knowledge, skills, and qualities to be responsible, caring, and ethical citizens.*



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## *2020 Classroom Partnership Grants*

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### **Supported Classroom Partnership Grants**

#### *Northrop Grumman Grant Program Partnership*

This new partnership combines Northrop Grumman's financial support with BEPAC's Classroom Partnership Grants program. Northrop Grumman donated a total of \$5700 to go towards STEM-related initiatives submitted through BEPAC's grants program.

#### *Bettie Murray Classroom Partnership Grant*

In its inaugural year, this annual grant is given in memory of the late Bettie Murray, retired CCPS speech pathologist and a constant supporter of BEPAC. This is given through the Classroom Partnership Grant program and funded by her husband and sons. This year's grant was awarded to Ms. Barbarba Pahutski of Bay View Elementary for an initiative to install voice output buttons throughout the preschool classroom to help students who are language-impaired to communicate their wants and needs and learn frequently used phrases appropriate to small group, whole group, and centers. This grant also supports the purchase of communication tools and toys to improve accessibility for students working on pre-linguistic skills.

### **STEM-Related Grants**

#### *Science Equipment/Lab Materials- Elkton High, North East High, Rising Sun High*

Materials and equipment to be used in physics, chemistry, and biology classes and for STEM capstone projects.

#### *Full-scale skeletal model- Elkton Middle School*

This skeleton will provide seventh grade Life Science students with a hands-on learning opportunity to see how all the organs in the human body look, how they are positioned, and how they affect one another.

#### *ELMO Document Camera- North East Middle*

The document camera will be used in classrooms to solve graphing problems on real graph paper through a high-quality image to enhance instruction in a collaborative mathematics classroom.

#### *Green School Initiative- North East Elementary*

Items to be used by the after-school gardening club as part of the re-certification for Green School Status.

*Earth Day Activity- Elk Neck Elementary*

Various activities will be planned for around the school on Earth Day including grounds care, art projects, planting, guest speakers, and more.

**CTE/CCST Grants**

*3D Heart Model- CCMA*

Replaces the sheep heart dissection labs and allows students to gain knowledge of the conduction system of the heart. This is also related to the EKG lab that students are required to complete and show understanding of causes of irregular EKG strips and their treatments.

*Fire Science Equipment*

This grant supports the purchase of props that will be housed at the school for the CCST Fire Science program, maximizing time for learning rather than taking up valuable time to transport students to train at the North East Regional Training Center.

*Mock Restaurant- LFI/STEP*

Materials will be purchased to equip and execute vocational and life skills experiences related to food services, customer service, assembly, and packaging in a mock-restaurant within the classroom.

*Manikin (choking simulation)- CNA*

This life-sized, anatomically correct manikin is utilized for teaching the healthcare provider the emergent care for a choking victim.

**Fine Arts**

*Art Studio Drawing Tablets- Chesapeake City Elementary*

In order to eliminate excessive paper waster, a class set of drawing tablets for the art studio provides students an environmentally friendly alternative for producing practice drawings, sketches, and ideas.

*Drama stage equipment- Perryville High*

This grant supplements the purchase of two geysers and a hazer (fog machines) and related materials for the Perryville High School musical production of Wizard of Oz.

*Instruments and Accessories- North East Middle*

Replacing of percussion accessories and upgrading mouthpieces to make cost-effective improvements to instruments.

**Extra-Curricular Programs**

*Girls STEM Club- Cherry Hill Middle*

This club provides afterschool STEM opportunities for girls in grades 6-8 to teach critical thinking and problem solving inherent in the engineering and design process.

*Drama Club Equipment- North East Middle*

This grant supplements an initiative to purchase headset microphones, transmitters, and a sound system to be used by the drama club, music department, and school assemblies.

*First Tech Robotics Challenge program- Perryville Middle*

This initiative will start a robotics team at the school for students in seventh and eighth graders who will participate in club activities and compete in First Tech Challenge competitions.

*Robotics Club- Calvert Elementary*

This grant supports an after-school robotics program for students in grades 2-5 to increase interest in the fields of STEM through robotics using the LEGO Education We Do 2.0 kits.

**Initiatives**

*Elk Landing Service Learning Project- Elkton Middle*

This initiative is an annual partnership with the historic Elk Landing site where students help to restore and maintain the grounds in order to protect their local historical site for future generations. In return, Elk Landing arranges reenactments to teach the students about the historical significance of the site and of Elkton in general.

*Take-Home Library- Leeds Elementary*

This initiative provide copies of books read in small group reading intervention for students to take home and assist students in establishing an at-home reading life and library.

*One School, One Book- North East Elementary*

Supplements that schoolwide reading program where every family and every staff member will receive a copy of the book *The Lemonade War* as well as a reading guide for families.

*Emmy's Way- Rising Sun Elementary*

This project has gained community support to construct an outdoor sensory pathway at the school in memory of a student who passed away.

*MCAP Tutoring Program- Rising Sun High*

After-school tutoring program for pre-identified students prior to the administration MCAP graduation readiness exam.

*Book Club- Perryville Middle*

The program at the school is in collaboration with the Cecil County Public Library's Young Adult Librarian. The club is open to any interested student or staff member at the school and meets during each grade's lunchtime for five weeks. This grant supports the purchase of books.

**Classroom & Curriculum**

*Fluency & Fitness Program- Chesapeake City Elementary*

This program helps review essential K-12 reading and math topics while providing a movement break, incorporating learning and physical movement.

*Filament Pens for Makerspace- Cecil Manor Elementary*

This grant supports the purchase of filament pens for the school's media center Makerspace in an effort to increase critical thinking and problem-solving skills across content areas.

*Riding equipment for physical challenges- Gilpin Manor Elementary*

This initiative includes the purchase of riding equipment to assist children with disabilities with developing balance, coordination, and motor skills.

*Special Education Curriculum Kits- Cherry Hill Middle*

Kits for students with IEP following the general curriculum will provide additional support in the areas of life skills, reading comprehension, science, and history.

*Light Table- Rising Sun Elementary*

The light table for the pre-kindergarten classroom provides a hands-on learning opportunity for students for sensory play, learning shapes, alphabet tracing, and math manipulatives.

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