2022-2023 School Year
Over $44,000 awarded this year

Microgrants (up to $750):

T.A.C.O. (Teaching Academics through Culinary Opportunities) – PTHS
PTHS Spanish students will grow and cook traditional Latin American dishes. Starting with the work of planting seeds in the PTHS garden and culminating in the preparation of meals in the Culinary Arts room, they will make connections to both the joys and hardships of people whose cultural legacy has brought us these magnificent foods, and they will develop their appreciation for the labor of those who grow our food. All the while, they will learn Spanish communication skills to talk about nature, outdoor work, food preparation, food enjoyment, celebrations, and cultural aspects of food and fellowship.

If "eating is an agricultural act," what does it mean to eat here? - PTHS
Wendell Berry wrote that "eating is an agricultural act." From agribusiness conglomerates to small organic farms and restorative agriculture, our society offers competing visions of how food should be grown. From the fast-food chain to the supermarket to the Coop and Chimacum Corner Farmstand, our local economy offers competing visions of what should be eaten and how. In this place-based project, AP Language & Composition students will explore what it means to eat here and cultivate their own philosophies of how food should be grown and what they want to eat. PTEF funds provide the some of the choice books needed to run this unit successfully and to offer the range of perspectives required.

World History & Civics Extension Library Update - PTHS
This project will encourage students to follow their own passions in the humanities & learn to read adult-level non-fiction by updating a library with the latest and most gripping non-fiction that centers on World History, Civics & Contemporary World Problems. Hopefully every student will leave the classroom having engaged with an extension book on a topic they are interested in and be on the way to becoming a life-long reader and learner.

Publish it! - PTHS
When students create work for a real purpose and audience, they become powerful participants in community conversations. They become engaged citizens. They become more skilled communicators more quickly. "Publish It!" is a project that spans the year and provides students with the professional printing they need to get their voices out into our city. "Publish it!" gets student posters, signs, and campaigns from the screen to the street corner, farmer's market display table, and more.

A Cut Above - PTHS
Currently students and staff cut metal and plastic stock using a hand-held hack saw. For metal and plastic stock used in the CNC milling machines, this process becomes laborious and, since manufacturing facilities do not use hacksaws for this purpose, students do not receive the

proper experience that they would need in the current workforce. A horizontal band saw will allow students and staff to cut stock quickly so that the milling process can commence. It will allow students to go from raw stock to a finished product in much less time. This will also allow more students to access the milling process and skill set.

Free Voluntary Reading (FVR) Spanish language Library - OCEAN

This grant provides funds to begin the creation of a Free Voluntary Reading (FVR) Spanish language library that will serve the OCEAN high school Spanish students as well the OCEAN community as a whole. As a program in its infancy, this is an opportunity for OCEAN students and heritage speakers in OCEAN to build their language skills, improve their cultural competencies, and gain invaluable knowledge about Spanish speaking cultures in Spain, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and the United States. The library will be an opportunity for students to connect their own passions and interests with the Spanish language through a low stakes reading environment. Most importantly, the OCEAN students will build their reading proficiency in the Spanish language and develop interest in Spanish speaking cultures through fiction, biographies, nonfiction, and immigrant histories and present-day stories.

Hi/Lo Reader's Library and Resources - OCEAN

OCEAN has 20 students receiving either Special Education or General Education reading services. These students are on average reading one or two and in some cases four or more grade levels below their current grade. High Interest /Low Level (Hi-Lo) books are designed for students who are reading below the reading level for their grade. They contain subjects that are appropriate for their grade and interest level and emphasize the most common words in English. By increasing exposure to these words, students increase their chances of learning them, and their ability to read and comprehend more complex sentences. Because of this, Hi-Lo books can also be appropriate for individuals who are learning English.

Electrostatic Attraction – Blue Heron

Funds will be used to purchase a Van de Graaff generator to demonstrate static electricity, forces-at-a-distance, electrostatic attraction and repulsion, and that a charged field can exist around an object even when not physically connected to a source of the charge. Currently, magnets are used to demonstrate forces-at-a-distance. We can't really turn off gravity or magnetism, but the Van de Graaff will allow the teacher to generate a field and to turn it off, showing a different type of field. Students can then generate hypotheses about forces-at-a-distance and support or nullify them within the field the Van de Graaff generates.

Foldscopes – Blue Heron

Seeing is believing! We can talk about microscopic objects or organisms but being able to watch a mite crawling on your eyelash, or to see the spiky legs of an insect, that makes the learning real. A Foldscope is a durable, paper, 100x microscope designed to work with just about any camera to take high quality digital photos and videos. This project would purchase a foldscope for every Blue Heron 7th grader.

Building Virtual Worlds – Salish Coast
Students will use "Minecraft for Education" to build a virtual model town in the first grade and a virtual model Salish Sea habitat in the second grade. During the TOWN project, students work on building a model town that includes dwellings, businesses, and infrastructure. After the town is built, the students are given various "problems" that they need to solve in the town. Similarly, for the Salish Animals project that students complete in second grade, each student has an animal that they research, learning about its habitat, where in the Salish Sea biosphere it lives, and what connections it has to other animals in our region. Building animals and habitats in a virtual space allows interaction between students' animals as they cohabitate in a virtual landscape.

Community Speaker Series – Salish Coast
This is the first year the fourth-grade level will be teaching the 'Since Time Immemorial' curriculum, which was recently created and mandated by the state. This curriculum is supported by all 29 federally recognized tribes in our state. Sabrina McQuillan gave an inspiring talk during our recent 'Equity Conference,' on the missing pieces within our teaching of history, culture, and social competencies concerning our local indigenous community, and is ready to come support our teaching of this new curriculum. This grant will help recognize the value of her time and experience while working as a guest teacher in all three fourth grade classrooms.

Traditional Grants (range approximately $800 to $7000):

Improving College Access - PSAT Funding for All 11th Grade Students - PTHS
Previously, the Practice SAT at Port Townsend High School was optional, and families were expected to pay for their child to take the test. As a result, many of the students who could most benefit from taking a practice test before taking the actual SAT for college admissions did not get that chance. A strong score on the SAT not only improves a student's chance of college admission, it also increases a student's chance of receiving merit-based financial aid. By ensuring that all students have the chance to participate in the PSAT, we increase the likelihood that more students will see themselves as college-ready and consider pursuing higher education.

Updating High School Lab Equipment - PTHS
This grant funds the updating and resupplying of the equipment used by students for authentic and precise science experiments. The equipment is used in all of science classes, grades 9-12. The pH probes will be used to help both the Intro to Chemistry, Biology and Chemistry classes as they work through place-based units on ocean acidification and climate change. The dissolved oxygen sensors and PAR Sensors are used in both Biology and Environmental sciences to help study the effect that plants such as Eelgrass have on the amount of dissolved oxygen in an aquatic environment. In the physics class, the motion sensors will help to build up a class set of sensors that students can use in hands-on experiments around motion and forces. The labquest 3s are the hub that all of these sensors connect with. These units provide students

with live readings during the experiment, and the ability to take the data collected and turn it into visuals so students can see the change more easily.

Forensic Aspects of Fire Investigation - PTHS
Forensic Science students travel to the East Jefferson Fire and Rescue training grounds to learn about the Forensic Aspects of Fire Investigations. Students rotate through stations with Fire Science professionals where they learn the specialized techniques of evidence collection in cases of fire. Students are also able to investigate, firsthand, an 8'x8'x8' "burn cell" fire, constructed from materials at a reduced price by Arrow Lumber.

MiniOne - PTHS
This grant updates and expands the high school's collection of MiniOne equipment for electrophoresis and adds the new Winston Fluorescence Reader so they can run bacterial transformation labs more efficiently. The lab kits associated with this grant will be used in Biology and Forensic Science classes. The new equipment will work with the previously PTEF funded Polymerase Chain Reaction machines, allowing for personalized DNA testing.

Developing Critical Thinkers and Lifelong Learners through Digital Access to the NYTimes – OCEAN, PTHS
Students are assaulted by the deluge of information they receive daily. Often the information comes from social media and is not vetted. The group of teachers participating in this project have a goal of helping students wade through the sea of information, identify reliable sources, and challenge misinformation. It is crucial that students have access to reputable, national news sources so they can connect what they are learning in the classroom to the wider world. The New Times (NYT) is well respected and regarded as the national "newspaper of record". This grant would give all high school students (PTHS and OCEAN) and staff in the Port Townsend School District full digital access to the NYT and its resources for a year. Combining media literacy classes with access to the NYT will enable students to have authentic opportunities to practice critical thinking skills, recognize bias and multiple points of view, identify the role of media in our culture and understand their role as media consumers and creators

Port Townsend School District BIPOC Student Unions – Blue Heron, PTHS
What do you remember from school? What caused you to be who you are today? Chances are a group project, a special speaker, or a field trip helped you decide. This grant supports field trip opportunities across the state of Washington for the Port Townsend High School and Blue Heron BIPOC student unions. Last year the two unions took 28 students to Seattle, where they toured the international district. The tour provided an educational, empowering experience and brought 28 students closer together. Both unions want to continue providing these empowering educational experiences for our BIPOC students. This student group is organized to promote racial justice and equity and engage and elevate BIPOC student voices. Historically, as indicated by evidence-based research, the Port Townsend School District has underserved our students of color. We are 21% students of color, and the district has an opportunity to improve positive identity development.

Diversity in Music Project – Blue Heron, PTHS
The goal of this project is to diversify the PTSD music curriculum for the secondary level (6-12) while also incorporating music creation, notation, publication, and technology skills. This project would allow bringing in musicians from culturally diverse backgrounds to work with our students. In addition to exposing our students to music that is culturally diverse, these professional musicians would work with various student ensembles as well as relay historical information about said music. Students learn to notate this music, and its relevant information, and create a set of repertoire books which would then be used in our curriculum this year and into the future. Repertoire would also be used for performances at future school programs.

čičməhán and Maritime – Blue Heron
Blue Heron has long been known for its work in the Maritime trades and discovery projects. This project supports the alignment of Maritime instruction with čičməhán ("Since Time Immemorial") instruction while also integrating life-long learning, increasing partnerships and community involvement, creating citizens of the world, directly involving students with choice and voice, and addressing specific learning objectives and goals aligned to Washington state standards.

Dystopian Genre Novel Choice - Blue Heron
Students want more choice when it comes to reading and accessing books in the ELA classroom. One way to do this is to keep the same genre, but offer choice novels in that genre with strong, modern texts that students are appealed to read. This project is specific to the Common Core and Washington State standards in relation to reading and analyzing various texts. Furthermore, students will take specific topics from their choice dystopian novel that they feel very strongly about, and write a persuasive paper and speech, highlighting those larger claims and connecting those themes to their novels, as well.

Leadership: Reducing Food Waste through Everyday Composting – Blue Heron
Students in the Blue Heron Leadership Academy class will research, plan, and implement a composting infrastructure and system to reduce the amount of food waste going into our trash.

Telling Our Stories: Digital Media Arts Literacy - Blue Heron
Support from the Port Townsend Education Foundation purchased a set of (6) renewed 12.9" iPad Pro Devices with ApplePencil and Logitech protective keyboard case accessories. These devices are loaded with a variety of software programs to increase student literacy in the areas of Photography, Photo Editing, Video Production, Digital Illustration, Disney-style frame animation, and Multimedia Presentations across subject areas. These specific hardware and software tools are not only "phone-like" and intuitive for students to use, they also reflect industry-standard tools in Media Arts and allow for seamless workflow between camera and touch/pen inputs, editing software apps, file management, and finished project output. We will use these tools to tell our stories, express what we've learned, and build relationships within the community.

Let's Store it – Salish Coast
In this project the 5th grade students will be learning about gravitational force through play. They will use GraviTrax and Snap Circuits to help them understand gravity, kinetic energy, and material properties like magnetism and electrical conductivity while building predesigned models or their own freestyle designs. These kits have multiple parts and once they are out of their boxes, they never fit back the same way. It is because of this that storage containers and cabinets are needed to house everything in an organized manner.

Equity with Accessibility – Salish Coast
Headsets, which are headphones with an attached microphone, enable students who are struggling or who are learning below grade level to access grade level curriculum without the stigma of being treated different than their peers. Often only 1 or 2 students in a classroom are offered headphones or headsets and when this happens, the likelihood of those students feeling singled out means they will refuse to use the support, even if they need it, so they don't stand out. Being able to provide headsets for all fifth-grade students will promote equity in learning, encourage greater student participation and increase academic understanding.

AAC Access for All – Salish Coast
Some students at Salish Coast are non-speaking and use Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) to communicate with their teachers, peers, and community at large. LAMP Words for Life is a robust AAC app based on neurological and motor learning principles that support the language development and communication needs of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. The app contains thousands of frequently used pre-stored words, as well as the ability to store customized vocabulary, which allows for unlimited language growth opportunities. The aim of this project is to increase the number of LAMP Words for Life communication apps and iPads available at Salish Coast, which will a) provide a backup if the student's device is left at home or broken and b) provide a separate device for adults or peers to model/use the same app with our non-speaking students. This will greatly increase their opportunity for participation in their education.

WITS for 5th - Salish Coast
Writers in the Schools (WITS) provides opportunities for published writers to come into our classrooms to empower our students. These local professionals provide writing tools and life experiences to help aid our students with their creative writing. By providing our students an opportunity to share their love of writing, it allows students to have a unique learning experience with professional writers within our school community. Students learn to express their voices and have power with words!