



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Ellington-Based Non-Profit Grants \$45,773 to
Ellington and Vernon Public Schools' for Innovative Programming**
EDUinnovate has awarded approximately 130K in grants to educators since 2019

ELLINGTON, CT - EDUinnovate, based in the Town of Ellington, has awarded \$45,773 for their Spring 2022 grant cycle to Ellington and Vernon Public Schools' educators for innovative programming.

Since 2019, EDUinnovate's mission has been to stimulate innovation and support excellence in education, both in Ellington and beyond, by providing funding for projects and programs that enhance the educational experience for public school students. To date, EDUinnovate has awarded educators, primarily in Ellington, approximately \$130K in grants.

This grant cycle was a first for the Vernon Public Schools as EDUinnovate's Board endeavored to expand to surrounding towns. Six Vernon educators representing Center (CES) and Lake Street (LES) Elementary Schools, Vernon Center Middle School (VCMS) and Rockville High School (RHS) were awarded a total of \$17,063. Vernon Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Macary stated, *"EDUinnovate is a creative way to support students and educators by providing additional funding to enhance Vernon's curriculum."*

The grants will fund a makerspace to facilitate problem solving through coding and technology (CES), technology and materials for a 3D printing unit (VCMS), technology and materials for a wall clock project (RHS), IPADs for an activity based learning program (VCMS), two audio systems for students with hearing difficulties (LES), and various materials for the creation of an outdoor mindfulness garden (CES).

Grants will officially be adopted at the May 9th Vernon Board of Education meeting.

At the April 27th Ellington Board of Education meeting, the Board unanimously approved \$28,710 of EDUinnovate grants to fund projects at all three elementary schools and Ellington Middle School. A \$20,200 grant has been allocated for K-6 students to utilize virtual reality technology to engage in virtual field trips exploring various science based topics such as biology, astrology and geology. Other grants included drone technology and a digital lab for Ellington Middle School and an innovative K-3 STEM program with a literacy focus for Windermere Elementary School.

EDUinnovate President Jon Moser commented, *"We saw the need in the local schools to provide grants for teachers and students that wanted to be innovative but funding was limited from the local school budgets. It's been an amazing journey over the past three plus years but we need the help of local businesses and donors to continue to support our children."*

To donate to EDUinnovate including ideas for Mother's and Father's Day gifts please click [HERE](#).