

Awarded by Friends of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (FOCRLS), Faculty Innovation Grants fund projects created by staff members to energize learning and expand services for students. Grantees have included teachers, club advisors, counselors, librarians, liaisons, social workers, and administrators across departments and programs of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (CRLS), the Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA), and the High School Extension Program (HSEP). Since 2007, we have had 273 grantees (as of 2025) who've received grants up to \$1,000 for individually led projects and collaborations. The experiences, equipment, materials, improvements, and resources Faculty Innovation Grants have funded — including the founding of Falcon's Market, the School Store, and the Bike Repair Shop — have over the years so far benefited an estimated number of students exceeding 10,000!

LIST OF ALL FACULTY INNOVATION GRANTEES AND THEIR FUNDED PROJECTS

2025

- **Dana Gauthier, CRLS Librarian and Nikki Walter, English Language Arts (ELA) Teacher — “Partners in Rhyme: An Intergenerational Poetry Exploration”** to arrange a collaboration between 10th grade ELA students and older Cambridge residents to read, discuss, and write poetry together, facilitated by professional poetry therapist Patti Russo and wrapping up with an open mic party.

FOCRLS's 2025 Faculty Innovation Grantees



Clockwise from top:
Dana Gauthier, Allison Wade, Kathryn Copley,
Matt Hochkeppel, Zachary Mino,
Jennifer Sloan Green,
Dr. Norbert Hootsmans,
Sasha Featherspoons, Jason Evers,
Leah Beidler, Dr. Sunny Gupta

- **Allison Wade, School Social Worker — “Here for Our Hair and Bodies”** to stock a personal care pantry with products created for people of color, which are rarely donated, with the results of increasing students' self-esteem, attendance, and engagement due to an overall better feeling of self-concept.
- **Kathryn Copley, Special Education Teacher & Drag Club Advisor — “Identity Affirming Upcycling Project”** to shop for and upcycle secondhand clothing for students to express their identities creatively and hold a fashion show, while also addressing climate change by reducing demand for new clothes.
- **Matt Hochkeppel, American Sign Language (ASL) Teacher — “Paid ASL Video Actors”** for hiring professional ASL actors to provide students with high-quality, authentic signing examples that align with the themes and goals of the ASL 4 curriculum.
- **Zachary Mino, Physics Teacher — “Expanding the Scope of Project-Based Physics”** to purchase two mini 3D printers, filament, tools, and hardware for students to develop visual-spatial skills and mechanical experience as well as create replacement parts for class equipment.
- **Jennifer Sloan Green, RSTA Business Educator & Business Club (DECA) Advisor — “Credit for Life-Financial Literacy Fair”** to expose every CRLS student to financial literacy education and offer fun practice activities using the National Financial Literacy Standards on topics including money management, budgeting, credit scores, and investing for the future.
- **Dr. Norbert Hootsmans, Math Teacher & Model United Nations (MUN) Club Advisor — “RindgeMUN”** to create an inclusive, accessible MUN conference at CRLS designed to break down all financial and logistical barriers that might prevent students with less experience and/or higher financial need backgrounds from participating in Model UN events.

- **Sasha Featherspoons, School to Work Specialist** — “**Professional Attire for Work-Based Learning Experiences**” to purchase customized polo shirts so every student in the program has their own professional clothing, instilling pride and confidence as they adhere to the professional expectation and represent the program in their workplaces.
- **Jason Evers, English Teacher & Black Student Union (BSU) Advisor** — “**BSU Museum Visits**” to cover students’ admissions to the Museum of African American History and the Museum of Fine Arts to foster community, celebrate cultural diversity, and provide enriching learning experiences.
- **Leah Beidler, General Education (GE) Social Worker LC C; Susie Espinosa, Dean of Students LC C; Dawn Heartwell, GE Education Social Worker LC L; Reyita Ramos, GE Social Worker LC S; Vera Duarte, Teacher-in-Charge Multilingual Learner/International Education; Laura Montoya, Enroot Program Director; Diecline Bazile-Dorvil, Bilingual Family Liaison Coordinator Haitian Creole** — “**Parent and Community Outreach and Engagement**” to offer a welcoming space for multilingual students’ parents/guardians, where they can share a meal and gain insights into their children’s academics, daily schedule, school environment, social and emotional supports, and community resources.
- **Dr. Sunny Gupta, Science Teacher & Hiking Club Advisor** — “**Community Building, Social Development and Wellness Advancement through Hiking in Nature**” for transportation to Mount Washington NH for an overnight trip, where students will explore their strengths, connect with peers, and challenge themselves, empowering each participant to grow, learn, and thrive in a supportive, nature-based setting.

2024

- **Jeannie Martin and Casey Crosby, Teachers in the Special Education Post-Grad Program** — “**Post Grad Adaptive Kitchen**” to create a program where students who have disabilities will learn life skills in an inclusive kitchen using adaptive tools and appliances, empowering them to lead more independent and fulfilling lives. These students “often face unique challenges related to their disabilities, their socioeconomic status, and their environment, and our project aims to address their specific needs.”
- **Anays Baez, Math Teacher at the High School Extension Program (HSEP)** — “**Math Game Night**” to bring joy and awareness through math in the HSEP community by inviting caregivers to engage in problem-solving games with their children.
- **Lynette R. Belle, Best Buddies Club Advisor** — “**Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign**” to increase awareness about isolation of students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs) and promote a more inclusive school environment by launching a ‘Pledge to Include’ poster campaign throughout the school, challenging more general population students to engage with and advocate for students with IDD.
- **Kara Brown and Mary Shinkwin, Athletic Trainers** — “**Concussion Role Delineation: From Field to Classroom and Back Again**” to research and create a concussion management procedure and manual for CRLS so student-athletes in all LCs are effectively evaluated and appropriately guided through their recovery (including a return to school without a return to field component).
- **Dr. Norbert Hootsmans, Math Teacher and Model United Nations Team Advisor** — “**Cambridge Rindge & Latin’s MUN Team for Everyone**” to reduce travel costs for team members, particularly those with significant financial concerns, to the National High School MUN conferences in New York City, where they will visit with diplomats at a UN country office, hear speeches and discussions with senior diplomats, do research, and participate as delegates.



Jeannie Martin, Casey Crosby, and Anays Baez 2024

2023

- **Leah Gordon, Joel Tenenbaum, and Afrah Farrah, Physics Teachers** — **“Enhancing 9th-Grade Hands-On Labs with Pasco Equipment”** to purchase durable equipment to be used year after year in a course taken by all 9th grade students to collaborate in experiments measuring gravity as part of the teaching team’s dedication to “making a hands-on laboratory experience for every student to master physics.”
- **Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah, English Teacher, and Sharon Lozada, STARs Peer Leadership & Community Action Teacher** — **“CRLS Poetry Festival”** to invite three established poets to lead poetry workshops, followed by a performance featuring readings from the three poets and student participants.
- **Drake King and Casey Leonard, Math Teachers** — **“Calculus Roller Coaster”** for students to apply their developing knowledge of calculus to real-life physical objects with the engaging hands-on project of building roller coasters ridden by marbles and “help answer, in at least one way, the age-old question: ‘How is this actually used in real life?!’”
- **Nicholas Yeh, MUN Team Advisor** — **“CRLS MUN Travel Grant”** toward travel and lodging for Model United Nations Team members to participate in the conference in New York City, where they will practice research, public speaking, debate, negotiation, problem-solving, and more.
- **Brenda Divelbliss, Dance Teacher** — **“Dance and Projection: Exploration and Collaboration”** to have projection artist Pamela Hersch work with students to prepare a feature for the spring DanceWorks show that will integrate interactive projection with choreography to expand students’ creativity and extend their movements.
- **Margaret Hans, Social Worker for Structured Academics Program (therapeutic program)** — **“Building Better Social Skills Support: Addressing Post Pandemic Needs”** for the purchase of an Everyday Speech materials bundle for teachers to implement evidence-based supports for social-emotional learning and social communication curriculum, which will “bolster the confidence of students and help them meet the goals that they have set for themselves.”
- **Allison Wade, School Social Worker** — **“Here for Our Hair”** to address needs, honor differences, and increase confidence among students of color and students with textured hair by developing a hair care products pantry with specially-formulated products that are cost-prohibitive for many students.
- **Brendon Snyder, English Teacher** — **“Comic Studies Classroom Library”** to purchase books for students of different cultural, linguistic, and economic backgrounds to converse about, debate on, share an enthusiasm for, and bond over the world of comics.”
- **Rachel Williams-Giordano, Teacher** — **“Afrocentric in Various Media”** for AP African American Studies students to learn about the impact of the African Diaspora by analyzing methods used to trace ancestry and make connections to modern identities for African Americans, including viewing films centered around the African and African American experience.



Faculty Innovation Grantees 2023



Daniel Goldman 2023

- **Josh Marden, Interim Dean of Mathematics LC L and Michele Watson Maxwell, Creative Design Educator at Rindge School of Technical Arts — “CRLS Math Department Logo Design”** to award prizes to graphic design students who submit the best-judged potential logos for the math department, one of which will be printed on t-shirts that will be for sale.
- **Daniel Goldman, Teacher, HSEP — “Joy Committee”** to hold community-building events based on the themes of equity, diversity, and opportunity with the goals of boosting attendance by promoting joyful learning, wellness, and a sense of belonging.
- **Samuel F. Matson, Teacher, HSEP and Ryan Souliotis, Principal, HSEP — “Bridge Academy”** to hold community-building gatherings and trips to college & career events for students whose school hours are individualized due to competing life priorities.

2022

- **Lynette R. Belle, Best Buddies Club Advisor “Bringing Back Best Buddies”** to re-establish the chapter, which will provide leadership, networking, and support opportunities for students of varying abilities.
- **Laura Borrelli, Advisor of CRLS Bicycle Advocacy Club and Biology/Zoology Teacher — “Free CRLS Bike Shop”** to create a recurring pop-up shop where students would provide free bike repairs and fix up old bicycles to make them available to students who need them.
- **Xiaoshu Jing, Pan-Asian Club Advisor and Chinese Teacher; Dongyeon Helen Shin, SEI Mathematics Teacher; Jenny Chung, Training Specialist with the Office of Equity, Inclusion & Belonging; Adrienne Stang, JK-12 History Curriculum Coordinator — “Asian Visibility Initiative”** to create a modern Asian history elective as well as host a panel discussion event on visibility and activism featuring guest speakers from Harvard Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and the Mayor of Cambridge.
- **Sam Matson, HSEP Math Teacher — “HSEP Joy Committee”** to create meaningful experiences among students, including those who are opting to have a hybrid remote / in-person school year, and build better relationships with teachers and other members of the community.
- **Kristin Knowlton, Postgraduate Transition Program Teacher (OSS) — “Daily Living -- Budgets, Baking & The Basket, Oh My!”** to purchase Market Basket gift cards for ten classes to learn meal planning and prep, account budgeting/balancing, and grocery shopping.
- **Katy Greene and Lily Rayman-Read, OSS Co-teachers, History — “Culture Builds a Nation: How Food and Music Impact History Course Hands-on Experience”** to give students studying the continents opportunities to sample flavors from around the world.
- **Nicholas Yeh, Model United Nations Club Advisor — “Model United Nations Conference Travel”** toward travel and lodging for MUN members to participate in the conference in New York City, where they will practice research, public speaking, debate, negotiation, problem-solving, and more.



Lynette R. Belle 2022



Jose Luis Martinez, Kristin Newton, and Paige Graves 2022

- **Jose Luis Martinez, Computer Science Vocational Program Teacher, RSTA — “Radio Remote Control Vehicles Challenge”** to attract students new to STEAM fields by offering opportunities to build and compete with remote control racecars.
- **Kristin Newton and Tal SebellShavit, Physics Teachers — “Science Breakout Games”** to provide fun, content-rich activities that encourage collaboration to solve problems.
- **Paige Graves, Instructional Technology Specialist — “Portable Audio Recording Booths”** to bring the real world experience of high quality podcasting and recording to any educational space in CRLS.

(2021 — none)

2020

- **Elizabeth Sher, English Language Arts Teacher — “Creative Writing Master Class with Poet Melissa Lozada-Oliva”** to bring the internationally-recognized poet – a young woman of Guatemalan and Colombian heritage who grew up in Newton and graduated from Simmons as a first-generation college student – to perform her poems and discuss life as a professional poet with creative writing students.
- **Matt Mena-Landry, Director of Media Arts Program, and Angelica Brisk, Media Journalism Teacher — “Youth View Cambridge Student Media Site – youthviewcambridge.org”** to redesign the website, which showcases student journalism, adding a user-friendly podcast player, creating workflows, and expanding the scope to include media content created by students.
- **Brett Cramp, Drama Teacher — “August Wilson Monologue Competition Guest Acting Coach”** to bring Keith Mascoll, CRLS graduate and professional actor, to CRLS to help prepare students for participation in the national event celebrating the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright renowned for his plays that chronicle the African American experience in the 20th century.
- **Elizabeth Hansel, Physics Teacher — “Making Lectures Digital!”** to develop a video series of physics lectures and demos to help students take notes and complete homework more easily and so class time can be more dedicated to questions, hands-on activities, and problem solving.
- **Ashley Sitkin, BRYT Program social worker, and Sam Bensley, BRYT Program social work intern — “The BRYT Program: Cultivating a Therapeutic Holding Environment”** to add more sensory objects, yoga, and mindfulness practices, as requested by many of the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) students to help support students feeling overwhelmed or having a difficult time with school after an extended absence due to mental health.
- **William McDonald, Barbara Dorritie, and Pei-Yun Chu, Biology Teachers — “Antibiotic Resistance Lab”** for students to witness evolution in real time using current techniques used by lab researchers.
- **Janani Nathan, Guidance Counselor; Devan Hannigan, School Psychologist; Allison Wade, Social Worker; and Susie Van Blaricum, Dean of Students — “Building Community in School L”** to host a series of lunches and conversations with groups of students so they know the LC office is a safe place with adults who can help in a sensitive, culturally appropriate way.
- **Vera Duarte, Teacher-in-Charge, ELL Dept — “Bringing the Prom Experience to Immigrant Youth”** for half-price prom tickets so English Language Learners can immerse themselves in the CRLS community.
- **Amy Dolan and Kathleen McCormick, Math Teachers — “Equity in the Math Classroom begins with Calculators”** to help bridge the access gap between CP and honors/AP students with TI-84 Plus graphing calculators for the CP algebra 2 classroom.

- **Charlotte Dumont, Teacher, ELL Department — “CRLS Department of English Language Learners Community Building Project”** to foster a sense of belonging in the school community by presenting CRLS t-shirts and hoodies as prizes and awards to deserving students at ELL events, including the spelling bee.
- **Conrad Hauck, James Pringle, Henry Donaldson, and Jose Martinez, Engineering Instructors — “CRLS Robotics Club”** to promote students’ success in technology and engineering as they design, build, and program a robot to compete in various regional tournaments.



“CRLS Department of English Language Learners Community Building Project” 2020

2019

- **Sandra Cañas, Enroot Program Director, and Juan Casillas, Faculty Latino Club Advisor — “African American and African Caribbean Showcase / Latino Club”** to bring performers to CRLS to showcase the different music and dances from Afro Caribbean cultures at an event organized by students.
- **Charlotte Dumont, Teacher, ELL Department — “CRLS Department of English Language Learners Community Building Project”** to foster a sense of belonging in the school community by presenting CRLS t-shirts and hoodies as prizes and awards to deserving students at ELL events, including the spelling bee.
- **Ivan Stefanov, Chorus Teacher, A Cappella Advisor — “A Cappella Guest Artist”** to invite producer Evan Linsey to work with CRLS a cappella students in learning techniques characteristic of collegiate groups.
- **Brett Cramp, Drama Teacher — “Guest Artist Theater Maker & Choreographer”** to collaborate with dancer/choreographer/actor Junior Cius, a CRLS alum, on an original physical theater piece.
- **David Figueroa, Teacher, ELL Department — “The Common Ground through Dance Initiative”** to provide workshops led by Jean Appolon, director of Haitian contemporary dance company JAE, addressing themes of identity through dance and movement.
- **Laura Umbro, Music Teacher — “CRLS Chamber Music Collaboration”** to invite chamber music professionals from Longy School of Music and Radius Ensemble to perform, facilitate master classes, and coach student musicians.
- **William McDonald, Biology Teacher — “Antibiotic Resistance Lab”** for students to witness evolution in real time using current techniques used by lab researchers.
- **Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah, 11th Grade English Teacher — “CRLS Open Mic + Poetry Series”** to invite local poets to share their craft, working towards creating a youth-centered space for expression.



Some of our 2019 Faculty Innovation Grantees

- **Alvaro Amaral and Shantu Salvi, Health and Wellness Teachers** — “**Development of Nutrition Education Curriculum with Healthy Foods**” to make the Nutrition course in the wellness department more skills-based by introducing students to new foods and ways to prepare food.
- **Vera Duarte, Teacher-in-Charge, ELL Department** — “**Bringing the Prom Experience to Immigrant Youth**” to provide half-price prom tickets to English Language Learners so money is no barrier to immersing themselves in the CRLS community.
- **Drew Pierce, Math Teacher at HSEP** — “**Mountain Classroom for HSEP Students**” for students to spend 3 days exploring the trails and learning about environmental science, ecology, culinary arts, and leadership at the Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell MA.
- **Susie Van Blaricum, Advisor to CRLS Student Government Junior Representatives** — “**Junior Prom**” to provide a more cost-effective dance for 11th graders, with students involved in planning.

2018

- **Kendall Boninti and Emily Houston, Library Media Specialists** — “**Collaborative Learning Spaces at CRLS Pearl K. Wise Library**” to empower student choice and two technology-rich collaborative learning spaces in the school library.
- **William McDonald and Barbara Dorritie, Biology Teachers** — “**Antibiotic Resistance Lab**” for students to witness evolution in real time using current techniques used by lab researchers.
- **Drew Pierce, Math Teacher at HSEP, and Sam Matson, History Teacher at HSEP** — “**Mountain Classroom Trip for the Students of HSEP**” for students to learn environmental science and ecology as well as leadership and teambuilding by exploring nature in Western Mass.
- **Kathleen FitzGerald, Teacher, Civics Teacher and Internship & Project Coordinator** — “**Storied Landscapes: An Exploration and Sharing of Cultural and Natural Resources Across Urban and Rural Youth Communities**” to provide students with an opportunity to experience a region and a way of life vastly different from their own by collaborating with students in Lubec, Maine.



Faculty Innovation Grantees 2018

- **Vera Duarte, Teacher-in-Charge, Department of English Language Learners** — “**Community-Building Opportunities for CRLS Immigrant Students**” to provide half-price prom tickets to English Language Learners so that money is not a barrier for them to fully immerse themselves in the CRLS community.
- **Marlin Kann, Computer Science and History Teacher** — “**I am CS @ CRLS**” to boost the interest of more students in computer science with a STEM Classroom Invention Literacy Pack of Makey Makeys and “I am CS @ CRLS” T-shirts for the Computer Science Fair and classroom.
- **Elizabeth Hansel, Physics Teacher** — “**Team America Rocket Challenge**” to design and build a rocket for the CRLS team to fly in the world’s largest student rocket competition.
- **Jeff Gaglione, Dean of Curriculum & Program, Mathematics** — “**CRLS Mathematics Department Summer Math Preview Program**” to prepare students to succeed in AP and Honors classes.

- **Laura Borrelli, Biology Teacher and Advisor of Student Bike Advocates — “Bike Advocacy Club Helmets”** to provide 30 bike helmets that Student Bike Advocates can customize for bike safety promotion events to increase enthusiasm for helmet wearing.
- **Amy Dolan, Math Teacher — “T1 84 Graphing (in color) Calculators for Easier Access to Math”** to inspire students to enjoy Algebra 2 and discover math benefits by increasing the supply of graphing calculators.
- **Marya Wegman, English Teacher — “We Need Diverse Books”** to increase the classroom library to reflect a broader variety of cultures, races, religions, genders, and identities.
- **Brenda Divelbliss and Mila Thigpen, Dance Teachers — “Residency with Brother(hood) Dance!”** to expand students’ exposure to contemporary dance and increase their creative potential by hosting and learning from a New York based dance duo.
(A collaboration with the CRLS Arts Committee and the CRLS Visual & Performing Arts Department.)
- **Allison Deban, Vanessa Black, and Caitlin Plummer, Special Education Teachers, Severe and Moderate ASD Programs — “Accessing Cambridge through Community-Based Instruction”** to provide students on the autism spectrum with opportunities for community-based instruction, building functional life skills.

2017

- **Michelle Li, English Teacher — “Genius Hour: Creating a Makerspace in the English Language Arts Classroom”** to empower students as self-directed learners using a design-thinking process and communicating their learning with digital multimedia storytelling.
- **Andrew Miller, AVID and Physics Teacher — “Connecting US History Curriculum to the Greater Boston Landscape”** to give students a sense of how history is still alive and pertinent today with a visit to Road to Revolution sites in Lexington and Concord.
- **Monica Murray, Drama Teacher — “CRLS Improv Club Guest Artist/Teacher”** to have teaching artist Danny Babel from ImprovBoston work with students to prepare them for upcoming performances.
- **Conrad Hauck, Engineering Instructor — “CRLS Robotics Team 2016-17 Funding”** to promote students’ success in technology and engineering as they design, build, and program a robot for tournaments.
- **Ariane Buchholz, SEI History and ELL Teacher — “Increasing Literacy Through Reading Among ELL Students”** to purchase multicultural books addressing various interests to motivate English language learners.
- **Jacqueline Cesario and Laurraine LeCorps, Class of 2017 Co-Advisors — “Discounted Prom Pricing for Families in Need of Financial Assistance”** to enable seniors from diverse backgrounds to celebrate and commemorate.
- **Amy Dolan, Math Teacher — “Graphing Calculators in Algebra 1”** to aid students with their skills in mathematics, technology, graphing, dexterity, and attention and to better prepare them for Algebra 2.
- **Mawakana Onifade, HSEP Principal — “HSEP Engagement & Leadership Development”** to improve student participation through shared leadership responsibilities in planning field trips for 60-100 students and events that build community.



"Veterans History Project" 2016

2016

- **Brenda Divelbliss, Dance Teacher & Director of CRLS Modern Dance Company** — **"The Etude Project"** to host the American Dance Legacy Initiative from Brown University in learning and performing "Battleworks Etude," a challenging dance in the style of master choreographer Robert Battle.
- **Elizabeth Menges, Visual Arts Teacher** — **"Seeing the Unseen Part III: Portraits of Adults with Disabilities at Windsor House Adult Daycare"** to build intergenerational friendships while students learn skills in creating portraits and biographies.
- **Kathleen FitzGerald, Teacher/Internship and Service Learning Specialist** — **"Veterans History Project"** to purchase recording equipment for interviewing Vietnam veterans, building intergenerational connections, and learning history and techniques in podcasting oral history.
- **Jacqueline Cesario, Class of 2016 Faculty Advisor** — **"Prom Funding for Low-Income Families"** to enable seniors from diverse backgrounds to celebrate and commemorate.
- **Mawakana Onifade, High School Extension Program (HSEP) Principal** — **"HSEP Community Building"** to boost student attendance and family involvement through community events planned by students.
- **Elizabeth Hansel, Physics Teacher** — **"Educational Games in Physics"** for materials to build games to review content, practice MCAS questions, and build community in the classroom.
- **Jeff Gaglione, Dean of Curriculum -- Learning Community 'S' & Mathematics** — **"Summer Math Preview Program"** to help students succeed in AP and Honors classes with advance preparation of higher-level math and the development of studentship skills.



2015

- **Kimberly Parker, English Teacher** — **"The Achievement Gap Literacy Initiative"** to "increase the literacy outcomes of CP10 English students through the creation of a robust classroom library."
- **Nicole Hart, Instructional Technology Specialist, and Ginny Berkowitz, Media Arts Manager** — **"The CRLS Legacy Project: An Interactive Portrait of Cambridge's 366 Year-old Public High School"** to "create an interactive online experience that will capture the past, present, and future" of CRLS.
- **Jennifer Sarmiento, English Teacher/Advisor, Literary Arts Magazine** — **"CRLS Literary Arts Magazine"** to create a magazine in which CRLS writers and artists can showcase their work and to make copies of this magazine affordable to students.
- **Marlin Kann, History Teacher** — **"Beacon Hill's African American History Experience"** for 39 tenth graders who've demonstrated commitment in AP US History to have a fun educational event.
- **Kate Greene, Special Education Teacher, High School Extension Program** — **"HSEP Community Building"** to encourage struggling students to take leadership roles in building a positive school community.
- **Jesse Kaplan, Office of Student Support** — **"Food for Thought: Providing Healthful Snacks to Improve Student Achievement"** to nourish students in self-contained academic classes who do not have access to other nutritional resources.

- **Elisabeth Macias, World History Teacher** — “Funding for CRLS Model Congress” in which “students will learn how to think globally, respond to moral or ethical dilemmas, and present their arguments in a clear, informed manner.”
- **Douglas Carey, Carpentry Teacher** — “Rolling Planters for Physically Disabled Nursing Home Residents” for carpentry students to develop the skills to plan, budget, and complete the project and then donate the planters, enabling nursing home residents to grow flowers and vegetables.
- **Janet O’Reilly, STEP Team Advisor** — “CRLS Steppers are Stepping Out!” for personalized team shirts and bandanas for the 32 members “to develop unity, pride, and a sense of feeling valued in our community [and to celebrate] the hard work, dedication, school spirit, and cultural relevance of STEP.”
- **Jack Haverty, Senior Class Advisor** — “Prom Funding Needs” to make prom tickets available to 25 low-income seniors at half-price to bring inclusiveness to this community-building celebration.
- **Conrad Hauck, Engineering Instructor, RSTA** — “Funding for 2015 FIRST Robotics Team 97” to help students “surpass the achievements of last year and anticipate increasing popularity in our robotics team due to our success.”



“Rolling Planters for...Residents” 2015

2014

- **Barbara Weaver, History Teacher** — “Exploring Black Cultural History” to enable students to visit the Schomburg Center and attend a performance of *A Raisin in the Sun* in NYC in spring 2014 and then create an exhibit as part of the CRLS-wide Black History celebration in February 2015.
- **Brenda Divilbliss and Lauren Simpson, Dance Teachers** — “Transforming a Space” to buy a new curtain to cover mirrored walls in the studio to encourage students’ positive body image and convert the studio into a space for performances.
- **Edna Leith, English Language Learners Teacher** — “A Classroom Reading Library” to expand students’ motivation, confidence, and language skills.
- **Jessica Young, Visual Art Teacher** — “Building an Object Library” to provide students with images for digital studio and animation works.
- **Greta Hardina, Family Liaison** — “Bringing CPS’s Weekend Food Backpack Program to CRLS” to nourish students who rely on school for weekday meals.
- **Brett Cramp, Drama Teacher** — “A Fight Coordinator for the Play *Anon(ymous)*” to choreograph scenes of the production chosen for students to perform at the METG Drama Festival primarily because the play’s “casting requires the diversity that is unique to CRLS.”
- **Kristin Knowlton, Special Education/Math Teacher** — “Mindful Mathematics” to utilize meditation to alleviate math anxiety and increase memory, focus, confidence, and test scores.
- **Leslie Davis, AVID Coordinator** — “StoriesLive” to help AVID students, many the first in their families to attend college and all enrolled in honors and AP courses, to develop leadership skills and confidence.
- **Kris Newton, Physics Teacher/Coach, and Desiree Phillips, Special Educator in Physics** — “Stop-Motion Animation and Video Production” to buy new cameras for students to learn skills in creating physics videos and make the videos electronically available to CRLS students.
- **Conrad Hauck, Engineering Instructor** — “Funding for FIRST Robotics Club 2014 Season” to allow students “to not only build the best robot but also to have a strong team where everyone contributes and can be proud of their contribution.”

2013

- **Deborah Haverty** — “Merging Old and New Murals” for an installation representing 5 years of the work of our student muralists.
- **Sherry Madden and Eydie Garcia** — “Living the Culture in *In the Time of the Butterflies*” for a trip to New York City for students of Spanish language and history to see a production of Julia Alvarez’s novel.
- **Andrew Miller** — “Project-based Learning in Physics” with optics, motion, and force featuring real-time problem solving, engineering, and experimentation in the lab.
- **David Mish** — “The Houses on Cambridge Streets: English Language Learners Write Books to Become English Language Authors” for the creation of students’ stories and “button books” inspired by Sandra Cisneros’s best-seller, *The House on Mango Street*.
- **Courtney Wilkes** — “Spreading Spoken Word at CRLS” for students across grade levels to refine their writing techniques through participation at a Mass Student Day of Poetry at Salem State.
- **Susie Van Blaricum, Diane Elinskas, Jacquie Cesario, Marya Wegman, Jack Haverty, and Rick McKinney** — “Grilling Up Opportunity, Diversity, and Respect!” to buy equipment co-funded by FOCRLS and Student Government to facilitate community-building and good eating across cultures.

Fall 2012

- **Kimberly Parker** — “Black History Month Performance Poetry Celebration featuring Joshua Bennett”
- **Ed Byrne and Larry Aaronson** — “Technology Upgrades for CRLS Yearbook and Defraying the Cost of Yearbooks for Students Experiencing Financial Hardship”
- **Patricia Cronin and Alice Chen** — “Go, GO, GO Graphic Novels!!!”
- **Karla Gandiaga** — “Exposing SEI Science Students to Museums and Climate Change Workshops”
- **Kris Newton** — “Supporting the CRLS Science Team”
- **Janet O'Reilly** — “STEP It Up!”
- **Bianca Hegre** — “Soldering in Jewelry Making”



“Black History Month Performance Poetry Celebration featuring Joshua Bennett” 2012

Spring 2012

- **Jon Baring-Gould (Art Educator)** — “Repair and Reinstall of *The Fall*” to repair the mosaic that was damaged when taken down for the renovation and prepare it for reinstallation at CRLS.
- **Ginny Berkowitz (CPS Media Arts Manager)** — “Media Arts Studio Archive Project” to build an archive system for MAS/CEATV to provide access to the programs the Media Arts Studio creates.
- **Elizabeth Hansel (Physics Teacher)** — “Electricity and Magnetism Inquiry Investigation” to provide equipment to test circuits and link it to final student projects in the Electricity and Magnetism course.
- **Jessica Young (Art Teacher)** — “Stop Motion Animation” to purchase site licenses of Boinx iStopMotion computer software for all student workstations in the Digital Studio computer lab.

- Elizabeth Menges (VPA Art Teacher) — “Seeing the Unseen Part II: Portraits at Youville House” to form a collaboration between the students of the Portrait Drawing & Painting class and Youville residents in assisted living.
- Leslie Davis, Gail Stein, Erin Leggett, Lynsey Page, and Andrew Miller (AVID Coordinator and AVID Teachers) — “Supporting Independent Reading” to create a classroom library to enhance literacy skills as part of the AVID program’s focus on reading strategies and comprehension.
- Brian O’Connell (Choral Director) — “A Cappella at CRLS (Take Two)” to bring the Overboard professional a cappella group for a workshop and a performance with CRLS singers for all students.
- Emily Samek, Dionne Harden, Janet Goldman, Jesse Kaplan, Michael Lee, Katie Robinson, and Vanessa Smith (Algebra 1 Teachers) — “Organizational Skills for Students to Overcome Barriers to Learning” to implement a binder system for all incoming Algebra 1 students.



“Seeing the Unseen Part II: Portraits at Youville House” 2012

Fall 2011

- Larry Rubin (Business Education Teacher) — “The School Store” to provide start-up funds for a student-managed school store.
- Alvaro Amaral and Shantu Salvi (Physical Education Teachers) — “Alternative Fitness” to expose students to fitness programs such as yoga, tai chi, aquatics, and zumba.
- Chandra Banks (Peer Mediation Coordinator) — “Interrupt Us in Cambridge” for a screening of *The Interrupters* documentary with the CRLS Mediation Program hosting a discussion afterwards.
- Jennifer Fries (Cambridge School Volunteers) — “Computer Upgrade” to provide new computers to support CSV’s tutoring, writing and math labs.
- Clare Garman (Career Counselor, RSTA) — “Real Jobs for Real People” to produce a video project to inform students of growth industries in Massachusetts.
- Conrad Hauck (Engineering Instructor, RSTA) — “FIRST Robotics 2011-2012 Season” to support the Robotics Team in its efforts to design a robot and compete in regional and national competitions.
- Jodi Mace and Dan Weathersby (Guidance Counselors) — “Improving Access to College Campuses” to fund transportation for area college visits.
- Elizabeth Menges (Visual and Performing Arts Teacher) — “Student Midterm Art Show” to provide new display materials.
- Monica Murray (Visual and Performing Arts Teacher) — “Supporting *Hairspray*” to help make possible the fall theatrical production, with an alumnus/assistant choreographer/director.
- Barbara Weaver (History Teacher) — “Research and Advocacy in Washington, D.C.” to aid the History Club in promoting history education among legislators.

Spring 2011

- Elizabeth Menges (Visual Arts) — "Mural at Cambridge Hospital"
- Anjelica Allende Brisk (Media Arts) — "Music and Podcast Project"
- Edward Byrne, Vera Outeiro, and Sharon Lozada (Diversity/STARS) — "Technology to Support Cultural Dialogue at CRLS"
- Jennifer Garcia and Karen Whiteside (Special Education/Social Development) — "CRLS Best Buddies"
- Elizabeth Hansel and Andrew Miller (Physics) — "Pedal Power Generator"
- Brian O'Connell (Visual and Performing Arts/Music) — "A Cappella Workshop"
- Jennifer McConnell (Language/Spanish) — "Spain/CRLS Cultural Exchange"
- Rene Meshon and Natasha Labaze (Literature/Language Arts) — "Shakespeare at Huntington Theatre and Visit to Northeastern University Campus"



"Student Mural at
Cambridge Hospital"
2011

Fall 2010

- Kathleen Fitzgerald (Internship and Service Learning Specialist) — "Storied Landscapes"
- Conrad Hauck (Engineering Instructor, RSTA) — "Funding for FIRST Robotics Club 2011 Season"
- Matt Landry (Media Instructor) — "Experimental Media Lab"
- Michele Watson Maxwell (Commercial Design Teacher) — "Anti-Discrimination Awareness Posters"
- Deborah Milligan (Photography Teacher) — "Mix It Up, Cook it Up"
- Robert Ponte (Instrumental Music Teacher) — "Contemporary Jazz at CRLS"
- Jaci Rubin (Cooperative Education Instructor) — "Create a Press Kit for Cooperative Education"
- Jessica Young (Art Teacher) — "Animation Sound Studio"

Spring 2010

- Janet O'Reilly and Yen Tieu (Math) — "Getting Smarter! Live Document Imaging in the Classroom"
- Kristin Knowlton, Peter Mili, and Cale Moore (Math) — "Math Applause"
- Jeff Gaglione (Math) — "Document Projectors"
- Jennifer McConnell (Spanish) — "Clickers in the World Language Classroom"
- Juan Casillas (Spanish) — "International Community Service with Dominican Republic"
- Maria Giacchino (Latin) and Ramazan Nigdelioglu (Physics) — "CRLS Trip to Turkey"
- Catherine Thomas (Culinary Arts) — "Slow Food Movement: A Food Revelation"
- Angelica Allende Brisk (Media Arts) — "YVC Online! Summer 2010"
- Tobe Stomberg (Biology) — "Compost Club Educator T-Shirts"
- Barbara Weaver (History) — "Part #2 History Club Research/Advocacy Field Trip to Washington DC"
- Greta Hardina (Parent Liaison) — "CRLS Parent Ambassadors"

Spring 2009

- Ann Marie Ciccarelli (Medical Assisting program) — “Medical Careers Fair”
- Patricia Cronin (Special Education), Alice Chen (Library) — “Audio Access as a Literary Lift”: MP-3
- Doug McGlathery (Math) — “Collecting Mathematical Stories”
- Rene Meshon (Tutor Center) and Maria Athanassiou (English Language Acquisition) — “Field Trip to Huntington Theatre”
- Deborah Milligan (Photography) — “Here and Now: Documenting Student and Teacher Learning”
- Jameel Parker (Fine Arts) — “Schools as Museums”
- Katherine Rocco (Social Skills) — “High School is an adVENTURE”
- Alison Wade (Social Skills) — “Learning Social Skills for Life at CRLS and Beyond”
- Barbara Weaver (History) — “History Club Research/Advocacy in Washington, D.C.”

Spring 2008

- Susana Castillo, Jack Haverty and Anne Hotzman (Physics) — “Momentum Collision Lab”
- Sarah J. Colby (Ecology) — “Ecological Field Research”
- Brenda Divelbliss and Mila Thigpen (Dance) — “Thanksgiving in New England”
- Paul McGuinness (Marine Science) — “Updating Marine Science Equipment”
- Kristin Newton (Physics) — “Precision Data Collection for Honors Students”
- Alice Chen and Barbara Shea (Library) — “Audio Books”
- Rachel Otty (History) — “CRLS Travels to Tanzania”
- John Samp (Physics) — “Precision Time Measurement and Energy Calculation”
- Catherine Thomas (Culinary Arts) — “Culture of Food in Cambridge”

Spring 2007

- Holly Samuels (Visiting Author Series, Library) — “Mitali Perkins Visit”
- Edward McGillicuddy (Chemistry) — “Measuring Indoor Air Quality at CRLS”
- Jennifer McConnell (Spanish) — “Dreamweaver 8 Web Design Software”
- Ana Hristic (Transition Coordinator) — “Best Buddies”
- Brenda Divelbliss and Mila Thigpen (Dance) — “Essential Costumes”
- Parul Matani (Biology) — “Molecular Modeling with Computer Graphics and LEGO”
- Jessica Young (Fine Arts) — “Using Graphics Art Tablets to Explore Drama”



For more information about Friends of CRLS, Faculty Innovation Grants, College Scholarships, Student Travel Fellowships, Unsung Heroes, or Faculty Distinction Awards, please visit focrls.org or email info@focrls.org.