Innovative Education Funds Projects

Glendive Public Schools

Last year, the Glendive Elementary School District received $35,000 in Innovative Education Tax Credit donations, and Dawson County High School received $8,000. These funds were used by each of the buildings in our district to support students in a variety of meaningful ways including advanced learning opportunities, new programs, and expanded learning environments to help students reach their academic and personal goals.

Below are the projects that each of our schools have implemented, or are actively working on, using the generous donations of our community partners.

Jefferson Elementary School (JES)

Last year's Innovative Education Grant allowed JES to begin developing a hands-on outdoor learning space that will move learning beyond the traditional classroom. The idea for this project stemmed from a vision of deeper student engagement through real-world, experiential learning.

Using these funds, the school purchased and planned materials and infrastructure needed to support this space. These included:

- Rainwater catchment equipment and a large water storage tank for conservation and sustainability lessons.
- Raised garden beds with landscape fabric and pea gravel for durable planting areas.
- Drip irrigation supplies and an in-line pump to support plant health and efficiency.
- Chain-link fencing with gates to protect the space while maintaining safe egress.
- Design for accessible concrete pathways so all students can fully participate.

Construction and installation will begin this spring once the ground thaws, and students will be actively involved in building and maintaining the space. Upon completion, this outdoor area will serve as a "living classroom" that supports students in science, sustainability, and stewardship through hands-on learning.
We are grateful for community support and welcome continued partnership to grow the impact of this space for years to come.

An example of what we hope to achieve with our garden project:	

Lincoln Elementary School (LES)

LES is creating a welcoming outdoor learning and gathering environment that will provide students with a flexible space for enrichment activities and outdoor engagement. This area is designed to support student interaction through gardening, collaboration, and hands-on activities connected to classroom learning.

The project included plans for:

- Inclusive landscaping and accessible pathways
- Shade structures and seating areas for learning and collaboration
- Turf enhancements and nature-based materials

Work on this project was delayed due to weather and difficulty securing a landscaper, but the school remains committed to moving forward as conditions allow. Once complete, this space will offer students more creative and active learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Washington Middle School (WMS)

WMS is developing a Makerspace learning environment designed to emphasize innovation, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication — the core of what modern educators call the 5 C's.

A Makerspace provides:

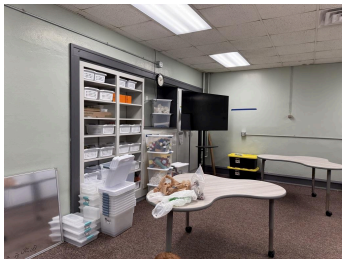
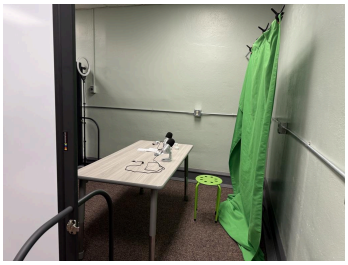
- Flexible layouts and open-ended materials
- A variety of learning tools and resources
- Technology such as 3D printers and VR tools alongside simpler hands-on materials

At WMS, the Makerspace will be used in multiple ways:

- Across all classrooms to support the 5 C's
- Within STEM classes to extend curriculum with hands-on learning
- In extra-curricular activities that encourage student-led experimentation and innovation

This space gives students opportunities to think creatively, collaborate across subjects, and produce original artifacts and projects that demonstrate deeper learning.

"A true Makerspace is defined not by what's in it, but by what comes out of it: projects experiences, artifacts, and learning." — Kevin Jarrett

In Progress Pictures:		
		

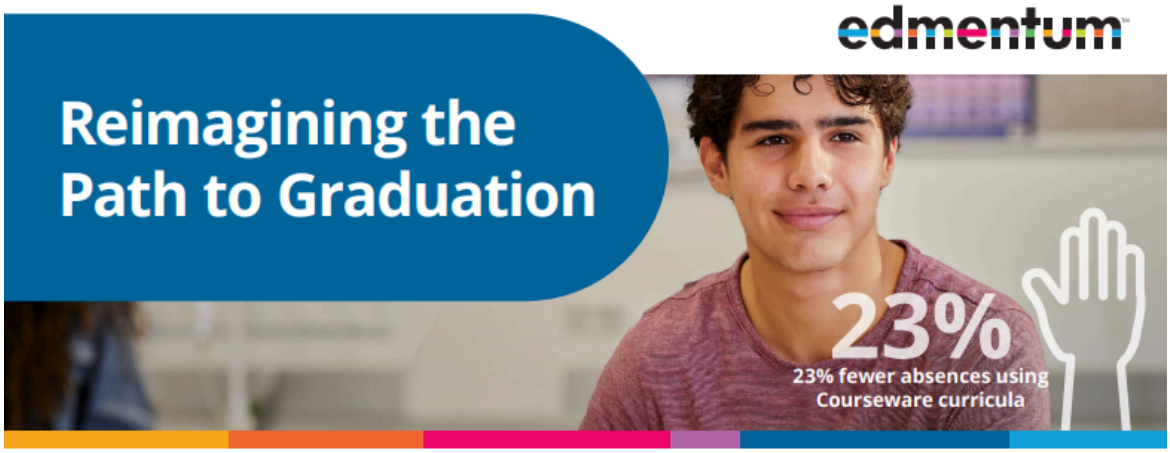
Dawson County High School (DCHS)

At DCHS, Innovative Education funds were used to support the creation of a flexible online learning pathway using Edmentum. This program is specifically designed to help students who face barriers such as health concerns, homelessness, or other challenges that make traditional classroom attendance difficult.

With this alternative pathway students are able to:

- Continue working toward graduation
- Earn credit at their own pace in a flexible model
- Stay engaged in their education even when traditional attendance is not possible

This year, 11 students were enrolled in the Edmentum program, and we remain focused on helping as many students as possible successfully complete their high school education.



Thank You to Our Community

These Innovative Education Funds have made a significant impact across our district, and each project reflects the community's investment in student success, innovation, and opportunity. We are incredibly grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to grow and enhance educational opportunities for all students.

If you would like to see how you can contribute in the future, please contact the Glendive Public Schools at businessoffice@glendiveschools.org.