

### **VOX Books for All Students**

All elementary schools across CRSD will have expanded access to VOX Books, enhancing literacy, technology, and library resources for our K-6 students. VOX Books are interactive rechargeable books that students can independently listen to and read. Elementary libraries across the district will curate a special collection of VOX Books available for student borrowing on a rotating basis. With approximately 200 students per week benefiting from VOX Books, this initiative will surpass 6000 student interactions in a single school year. The durable nature of the books ensures their usability for multiple years, further enhancing their impact on literacy development.

#### **District Wide Suicide Prevention Program**

The expansion of CRSD's Suicide Prevention Program will directly benefit our 7th-grade students district-wide, as well as 10th graders. The grant will support the training of 10 additional staff in Question Persuade Refer (Q.P.R.) for suicide prevention and awareness. These individuals include counselors and staff throughout the district. The expansion of this initiative and the impact it will have on CR students' well-being, underlines the importance of fostering a safe, supportive learning environment for all.

### **Awesome Autoclaves for STEM**

Awesome Autoclaves for STEM will enhance high school STEM classes at CR North and CR South, as well as science fair students. By acquiring two autoclaves, one for each high school, the project aims to overcome limitations on experiment and project possibilities caused by limited sterilization capacity. The addition of these autoclaves will expand opportunities for students, enabling them to undertake a broader range of experiments and projects, thereby promoting their exploration and understanding of STEM.

# All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten: Social Skills Lessons to Build Confident, Kind, and Resilient Kids!

Goodnoe Elementary School is focusing on literacy, well-being, and the development of interpersonal skills by introducing a program aimed at kindergartners. This project will utilize acclaimed picture books by Julia Cook, which are designed to foster essential skills related to social interactions and emotional management. Teachers throughout the school can utilize these books as valuable resources to guide students in areas such as empathy, personal responsibility, and adaptability. This initiative seeks to enhance students' overall emotional intelligence and social competence.

## Switch On

Provide students in the multi-disabilities program with switch-activated toys to enhance their learning experience. These toys will improve the students' range of motion, hand-eye coordination, and visual targeting while also providing additional sensory input and engagement.

#### Effective Environment...Where History Comes Alive!

Newtown Middle School is immersing its 8th grade history students and various clubs in a captivating social studies experience. The school is facilitating a yearlong government simulation that recreates the ambiance of Independence Hall and the Constitutional Convention. This engaging educational activity allows students to actively participate and gain knowledge of the historical processes that shaped the United States.

#### **Outdoor STEM**

Newtown Middle School will initiate an exciting outdoor STEM weather and climate citizen science project in collaboration with NASA and GLOBE. iPads with protective cases will be provided to engage all 7th and 8th grade science students in hands-on learning. By utilizing these iPads, students can collect dynamic scientific data, facilitating authentic experiences that surpass current tech capabilities. This project not only enhances students' understanding of weather and climate but also ensures alignment with evolving state standards. This project empowers students to actively contribute to citizen science while strengthening their scientific knowledge and technological skills.

## **CALM (Confident Active Learner Mindsets)**

Goodnoe Elementary School is taking a proactive approach to students' health and wellness by implementing an initiative targeting grades K-6 and staff. Throughout the school building, three carts will be strategically placed for easy access, each equipped with tools designed to teach students self-regulation. This program aims to support students who experience dysregulation, be it physical or emotional, which hinders their full engagement in education and social connections. By providing additional tools and resources beyond what is currently available in classrooms, this project supports the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and includes staff training.

## **Autistic Support, Supports**

This endeavor aims to enhance the high school's autistic support program with the acquisition of a dehydrator, mixer, and food processor/blender to further enrich its current project of creating dog treats for the community. This enterprise not only allows students to practice functional reading and math skills but also provides a platform for honing communication and social skills, aligning with students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. The project enables CRN's autistic support program to create meaningful and comprehensive learning experiences while fostering valuable life skills.