

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program 2026



Fellowship recipients and project descriptions funded by grants of up to \$15,000

Note: Year in parentheses denotes year of a previous Teacher Creativity Fellowship grant.

AKRON

Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation

Tippecanoe Valley High School

Lisa Lynch

"In the Footsteps of Light: An Artistic and Spiritual Pilgrimage Through the Impressionist Lens" - retrace the lives of Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet on a journey through the Netherlands, France and Italy

ANGOLA

MSD of Steuben County

Angola High School

Mikaela Howard

"Stargazing Across the Country: Exploring Dark Skies for Renewal, Reflection and Creativity" - photograph and write about visits to some of the most unique and diverse night skies within the national parks

ARCADIA

Noblesville Schools

MOSAICS Program (Hamilton-Boone-Madison Special Services)

Rachel Stacy

"Wilderness Within: A Journey of Independence and Renewal Through America's National Parks" - embrace physical and emotional challenges, deepen self-awareness and build resilience through visits to Mammoth Cave, Acadia and Yellowstone national parks

AVON

Avon Community School Corporation

Avon High School

Dina Gulley

"Flavors of Europe: A Journey for Cultural Immersion and Professional Renewal" - blend passion with professional growth by exploring European culinary traditions, focusing on the relationship between food, culture and health

Devin Noyes

"Still Waters, Rising Peaks: A Journey Through Asia's Sacred Landscapes" - explore the physical and spiritual geography of Bali, Cambodia, Laos and China and study the interconnection of the natural features of the region with the spiritual practices of the people

River Birch Elementary School

Samantha Smith

"Daydreaming of Romantic Alpine Heights and Peaceful Vibes" - deepen cultural perspective, inspire new ideas, and restore physical and mental well-being while hiking 105 miles along the Tour du Mont Blanc trail and engaging in a yoga retreat

BEECH GROVE

Beech Grove City Schools

Beech Grove Middle School

Jonee Sutton (2015)

"Asphalt to Easel: A Teacher's Journey of Artistic Renewal and Inspiration Along Route 66" - fulfill a lifelong interest in exploring and capturing the vivid colors and untold stories of the American dream

BERNE

South Adams Schools

South Adams Middle School

Rebecca Dailey

"My Personal Renaissance: Cook, Stretch and Heal in Europe" - after battling a debilitating illness, embark on a sensory healing journey in Europe; reawaken taste through Andalusian cooking, restore mindful movement in an Umbrian yoga retreat and receive therapeutic healing at Italy's pioneering wellness spa

BLOOMINGTON

Monroe County Community School Corporation

Bloomington High School North

Edward Allanson

"Friluftsliv: Awakening My Inner Viking" - use friluftsliv, the Norwegian philosophy of "open air living," as a vehicle to unpack, explore and connect with pieces of lost Scandinavian heritage

Jason Speer

"Hardwood to Highlands: A Pilgrimage to Reclaim Purpose Through Sport, Story and Self" - retrace the ancestry and origins of two beloved games - golf and football (soccer) - to explore how sport, place and tradition shape identity

Christopher Sturgeon

"Courage in Dark Times: Learning from Resistance to Fascism" - explore authoritarianism and resistance in 1930s-40s Europe and return home equipped to inspire students and family to safeguard democracy through human-centered stories

Bloomington High School South

Susan DeVries

"Ancestry as an Anchor: Connecting with the Past to Ground and Sustain in the Present" - deepen sense of identity, strengthen family connectedness and inspire meaningful support of students by engaging in a course on identity, traveling to ancestral regions in Wales and the Netherlands, and attending a silent retreat

Sheila McDermott-Sipe (2018)

"Parler, Peaks and Promises: A Trail Runner's Pursuit of Language, Landscape and Lyricism" - engage in an intensive French language program and immersive cultural and outdoor experiences, including paragliding, hiking, trail running and camping

Tri-North Middle School

Tajharjha Gibson

"Claro Que Sí, Mon! A Journey of Heritage and Language" - explore maternal heritage in Jamaica and study Spanish in Mexico

BOONVILLE

Warrick County School Corporation

Boonville High School

Julie Kemp

"Into the Wilderness I Go, to Lose My Mind and Find My Soul: A Principal's Quest for Renewal" - use the writings, notes and maps of naturalist John Muir to explore the wilds of Alaska, following in his footsteps as a way to disconnect

BRAZIL

Clay Community Schools

Northview High School

Brion Blanc

"Pedal to Perspectives: A Journey of Physical Renewal" - after recovering from spinal fusion surgery, engage in a solo cycling and camping expedition through America's national parks

BRISTOL

Middlebury Community Schools

York Elementary School

Nicole Sheridan

"Rest, Relaxation and Renewal: Island Style" - travel to the Islands of French Polynesia to explore local culture and discover ways in which Hawaiian upbringing was influenced by the people of French Polynesia

BROWNSBURG

Brownsburg Community School Corporation

Brownsburg High School (Harris Academy)

Daniel Miller

"Catching Fire: Finding Recovery and Embracing Change in America's Forests" - seek healing after a devastating house fire through journaling, pursuing hobbies and visiting state and national parks

BRYANT

Jay School Corporation

Bloomfield Elementary School

Kristen Gibson

"Tracks to Renewal: Painting Inner Peace Mile by Mile" - travel by train across the American West and Pacific coastline to slow life's pace, watch the landscape, capture moments by painting en plein air, and pursue inner healing and meaningful connections with others

CARMEL

Carmel Clay Schools

Carmel High School

Carly Lindley

"Muay Thai and the Educator's Path: Strength, Spirit and Cultural Connection" - build a strong body and resilient mind by engaging in Muay Thai, or Thai boxing, training in Thailand

Rebecca McBride

"French Flourish" - engage in immersive language study and cultural experiences by traveling across France to explore food, flowers, music and movement

Carmel Middle School

Kristen Milewski

"From Memory to Mission: A Journey of Healing and Heritage" - research ancestral ties in Ireland and Scotland to continue the genealogical work of a beloved family historian and create a meaningful legacy document for current and future generations

University High School

Christopher Bradley

"Pilgrimages Outward and Inward: Exploring the Camino de Santiago and the Pyrenees" - explore the concept of pilgrimage by taking part in a traditional pilgrimage - hiking the final 100 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago, and a personal pilgrimage - climbing a mountain peak in the Pyrenees

Henry Johnston

"The Celtic Folklore of Wales" - use the medieval text "The Mabinogion" as a guide and map on an immersive exploration of the mythological Welsh landscape and its close ties to familial history

Jannie Kim

"Reconnecting Korea: A Personal Pilgrimage of Identity, Roots and Renewal" - explore heritage through cooking traditional Korean meals; travel to experience modern Korean life and more deeply understand the history and layers of Korea's story

Daniel Knox

"Finding Renewal Through the Road" - restore a grandfather's 1987 Pontiac Grand Prix and drive west to retrace the musical and natural landscapes that shaped his life and mine

CEDAR LAKE

Hanover Community School Corporation

Hanover Central Middle School

Thomas Martin

"Via Alpina or Alta Via? Both!" - engage in two immersive hiking experiences in the Alps through Austria, Germany and Italy

CHESTERTON

Duneland School Corporation

Chesterton High School

Rebecca Uehling (2015)

"Glass Bead History, Culture and Artistry of the Czech Republic: a Documentary" - travel to and film a documentary about the bead-manufacturing districts of the Czech Republic; learn advanced bead-making techniques at the Chicago Glass Collective

CLAYTON

Mill Creek Community School Corporation

Cascade Middle School

Helen Hearon

"Practicing What I Teach: A Sustainable Father-Daughter Horseback Safari" - experience an eco-friendly horseback safari through Botswana's Okavango Delta

CLINTON

South Vermillion Community School Corporation

South Vermillion High School

Juan Montañez

"Reservations for Inspiration: Searching for Renewal in Piedmontese Cooking" - explore the culinary arts of the Piedmont region of Italy to rediscover personal and community culture

Heather Scott

"Reefs and Wreck-creation" - explore shipwrecks and reefs in Lake Michigan and around Key Largo; volunteer in coral restoration, marine research and nautical archaeology

COLUMBIA CITY

Whitley County Consolidated Schools

Indian Springs Middle School

Amy Brown

"Sacred Stillness: A Healing Psalm Writing Pilgrimage" - inspired by Psalm 23, engage in journaling, reflection and contemplative hikes in rural America and Portugal's Schist Villages

COLUMBUS

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

Columbus East High School

Cassandra Gonsior

"Wandering to Wonder: Renewal and Reflection on the Tour du Mont Blanc" - seek holistic wellness, explore new cultural and natural environments, and complete the Tour du Mont Blanc, a 105-mile trek through France, Italy and Switzerland

Aaron Lynott (2015)

"A Whale of a Journey: Fins to Flippers In and Out of the Water" - travel to the Bay of Fundy to observe whales as they migrate towards the North Pole; observe whale evolution through fully intact specimens discovered in the desert of Wadi Al-Hatin

L.C. Schmitt Elementary School

Michelle Wells

"New Adventures, Pushing Personal Boundaries and Quiet Reflection" - engage in an immersive experience in the Pacific Northwest to reset, recharge and reaffirm identity

Northside Middle School

John Voelz (2010)

"Coming Full Circle: Returning to the Place That Sparked My Journey as a Teacher" - revisit the New Zealand village and school where student teaching was completed; rejuvenate passion in the place that cemented love for teaching and curiosity about the world

W. D. Richards Elementary School

Lyndsey Linneweber

"Rooted in Connection: Exploring Africa to Reimagine Relationships in the Classroom" - explore diverse cultures and histories to deepen empathy, connection and belonging through travel to Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya and South Africa

EAST CHICAGO

Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

East Chicago Lighthouse Charter School

Ryan Schoon

"Where Stillness Holds Us Fast" - seek presence and healing through nature, sketching, writing, meditation and Tang Soo Do practice while engaging in four seasonal retreats in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Community School Corporation

East Side Elementary School

James Todor (2018)

"The Power of Mālama: 'Give Back!'" - engage in environmental projects with specialists on the island of Kaua'i; bring the Mālama spirit to home community by leading students in planning of an annual town clean-up day

ELKHART

Elkhart Community Schools

Eastwood Elementary School

Cambria Neely

"Three Decades, One Journey: Renewal Through Strength and Stillness in Greece" - engage in immersive Pilates and yoga in Santorini, mindfulness practices in Crete and cultural exploration in Athens and Mykonos to restore balance, strengthen resilience and spark creativity

Mary Feeser Elementary School

Lisa Regan

"Growing Through Grief: Renewal in Life, Love and Teaching" - inspire creativity and continue processing grief by visiting 10 botanical gardens; bring perennials and canvas prints for home and school to honor beauty, resilience and hope

Premier Arts Academy

Ashley Molyneaux

"Living in Color Again: An Artistic Journey to Renewal" - rekindle creative spirit through Italian arts immersion, drawing inspiration from timeless masterpieces and history

ELWOOD

Elwood Community School Corporation

Elwood Junior-Senior High School

Jennifer Tackett

"Through My Son's Eyes: Following Footsteps, Finding Hope" - retrace late son's travels through the Pacific Northwest and visit the places where he planned to travel

EVANSVILLE

Catholic Diocese of Evansville

Holy Rosary Catholic School

Margaret Arabia

"Rediscovering Overlooked Women Scientists: A Journey to Inspire and Reinvigorate Myself" - restore spirit and celebrate health after decades of caregiving through illness and loss by following in the footsteps of women scientists like Franklin, Curie, Anning and Meitner

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

Cedar Hall Community School

Tammy Dougan

"From Survival to Revival: Reclaiming Joy, Courage and Wonder in Kenya and Tanzania" - engage in wildlife conservation, cultural learning and personal growth on a guided safari

Harrison High School

Emily Snodgrass

"Studying Spanish in Malaga" - study Spanish language and culture through intensive language classes and cultural experiences in Malaga, Spain

Signature School

Tina Grant

"A Literary Pilgrimage to Oxford" - attend an immersive graduate program in English literature at Oxford University; explore literary sites and the world-famous Bodleian Library

FAIRLAND

Triton Central Schools

Triton Central Middle School

Kitzie Nelaturi

"Australia Rocks: Rediscovering Passion Through Earth's Formations" - honor a late mother's lifelong love of rocks while exploring Australia's world-famous geological landmarks; bring authentic STEM lessons and inspiration back to middle school students

FISHERS

Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Fishers Elementary School

Nathan Frazer

"The Smoky Path Back to Myself" - restore health and reconnect with joy while traveling and learning to cook whole, simple foods over open flame

Fishers High School

Andrew Jones

"Slick Rock Renewal" - combine physical challenge with reflective renewal on a mountain biking and environmental stewardship expedition across the Colorado Plateau

Matthew Swaim

"Mountains of Renewal: A Journey Through the Swiss Alps to Restore Perspective and Creativity in School Counseling" - inspired by John Muir's wisdom, hike the Swiss Alps to renew body and mind

Fishers Junior High School

Kelly Watson

"Oceans of Sacrifice" - research, photograph and interview the Haenyeo, the women divers of Jeju, and explore their stories of commitment to their daughters; create and publish a children's book to honor the sacrifices of mothers

Hamilton Southeastern Intermediate/Junior High School

Alexander Chisley

"Reigniting the Artist Within" - engage in an immersive study in painting, animation and visual development at leading European academies

Hoosier Road Elementary School

Bradley Striegel

"Rails and Trails: Riding the Trains of Central Europe to Access Awe-inspiring Treks Throughout the Region" - backpack through historic cities and remote landscapes, experiencing different cultures and exploring natural beauty

Riverside Intermediate School

John Hochstetler

"Coastal Currents of Curiosity: A Nature Journaling Trek from Forests to Islands" - immerse in diverse ecosystems while deepening nature journaling practice on a journey to Olympic National Park in Washington state and to the Channel Islands off the French coast of Normandy

Katharine Nicole Thurston

"Seeking Renewal in the Land of Myths: A Journey of Healing and Inspiration in Greece" - engage in an immersive experience of the landscapes, history and culture that shaped democracy and storytelling

FLOYDS KNOBS

New Albany Floyd County Schools

Floyd Central High School

Susan McKay

"Rolling in the Dough: Exploring Wellness Through Baking and Cycling" - renew body and mind through traditional bread baking with freshly milled grains in baking classes and cycling through countrysides in Vermont, and in England and Scotland

Katrina Uhl

"Cooking Across Cultures: Discovering the Origins of My Family's Recipes" - blend hands-on cooking school experiences with historical and cultural exploration in France, Italy and Greece; trace the traditions, techniques and stories that shaped dishes passed down in family

FORT WAYNE

Fort Wayne Community Schools

Snider High School

Tonya Stoller (2014)

"The 'Write' Retreat to Pen a Dream" - engage in a writing retreat; complete and publish a children's history book on the Civil War, combining engaging storytelling, historical accuracy and original illustrations

Indiana District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Concordia Lutheran High School

Chad Hoover

"Explorations in Faith: A Pilgrimage of Spiritual Renewal and Creative Expression" - trace Christianity from the early church to the Renaissance through experiencing catacombs, cathedrals and sacred art

Northwest Allen County Schools

Carroll High School

Nicole Croy (2013)

"Pressed into Presence" - practice frottage, the art of taking rubbings from textured surfaces, during an immersive journey in Italy

Carroll Middle School

Theresa Silveus

"Centered: Reclaiming My Identity as Woman, Mother, Wife and Educator" - deepen relationships, rediscover joy, reflect on faith and develop creative practices through intentional travel, reflection and journaling

Cedar Canyon Elementary School

Sarah Vargas

"Epicurean Exploration: A Culinary Journey to Rediscover Joy in Cooking" - study diverse cuisines through cooking classes and local food experience on a culinary journey through Italy, Spain and Denmark

Eel River Elementary School

Brittany Neireiter

"Steeping in Renewal: Finding Mindfulness Through Tea and Yoga" - explore tea traditions in Seattle, Taiwan and Ireland while completing a 200-hour yoga teacher training

FORTVILLE

Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation

Mt. Vernon High School

Heidi Kensinger

"The Kensingers and the Trip to Hogwarts" - visit iconic Harry Potter sites across the United Kingdom and Ireland

FRANKLIN

Franklin Community Schools

Franklin Community High School

William Shepherd

"Finding The Universal in the Specific: Bloomsday and Shakespeare" - travel to Dublin, London and Stratford to connect the works of two foundational figures in anglophone literature—James Joyce and William Shakespeare—with the environments that shaped their lives and works

FRENCH LICK

Springs Valley Community Schools

Springs Valley Jr.-Sr. High School

Chad Goldman

"The Road Goes Ever On" - blend exploration and storytelling in New Zealand, where science, storytelling and spirituality converge in J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle-earth

GAS CITY

Mississinewa Community School Corporation

Northview Elementary School

Cheryl Branock

"Koalas, Echidnas and Crocs, OH MY!: A Journey to the 'Land Down Under' in Search of Biodiversity and Spiritual Healing" - explore diverse ecosystems, see iconic animals and visit wildlife sanctuaries in Australia; participate in a reef renewal project at the Great Barrier Reef

GOSHEN

Bethany Christian Schools

Christa Janzen

"Loosen Up! A Scottish Sketchbook Journey" - experience an intuitive painting workshop in rural Scotland to learn to quiet inner critic and develop a free and authentic style; hone this style while exploring and sketching in Edinburgh and Glasgow

Goshen Community Schools

Waterford Elementary School

Mark Yoder

"Vuelta de España: Revisiting My Roots, Growing My Branches" - travel to Spain to revisit sites and friends from a college study abroad program

GRANGER

Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation

Discovery Middle School

Jamie Atkinson

"Reclaiming Myself: A Journey Through Myth, Memory and Loss" - travel across four countries, weaving together physical adventure with folklore exploration, to reclaim pieces of self lost to grief

GREENCASTLE

Greencastle Community School Corporation

Greencastle Middle School

Wendi Evans

"The Missing Peace: Discovering my Birth Country" - return to homeland of Korea to explore the landscapes of Seoul, Gyeongju, Busan and Jeju to unlock the mystery of heritage and culture

Ridpath Primary School

Jill Dombrowski (2014)

"Healing Harps and Healing Drums: Nurturing Hearts and Minds through the Power of Japanese Music" - seek healing and renewed joy through an immersive experience of the music and cultures of Japan; learn to play the koto harp, experience the power of taiko drumming and reignite passion for the Suzuki method

GREENFIELD

Greenfield-Central Schools

Greenfield Central Junior High School

Brad Sevier

"Reawakening Mathematical Wonder: Discovering Patterns and Possibility in the Spirit of Aloha" - rediscover the wonder and relevance of mathematics while exploring Hawaii's landscapes, cultures and community

New Palestine Community Schools

Brandywine Elementary School

Ashley Arnold

"Astrophotography Adventures" - explore the art and science of astrophotography through online coursework and hands-on workshops at three dark sky locations

GREENSBURG

Greensburg Community Schools

Greensburg Junior High School

Nicholas Parcell

"A Study in Scale: Sketching the Giants of Sequoia to Find a New Perspective" - study landscape sketching and use new skills to capture the beauty of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks

GREENWOOD

Central Nine Career Center

Tamara Augustine

"Finding Beauty in the Broken: Renewal Through Stained Glass Artistry" - foster self-care and a renewed connection to faith and family through stained glass art workshops and solitary retreats in France and Indiana

Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation

Clark-Pleasant Middle School

Stacey Kern

"Open Doors: Libraries as Bastions of Hope" - visit historic libraries and Catholic sites across Europe and the United States, exploring sacred spaces and sanctuaries

Greenwood Community School Corporation

Greenwood Community High School

Daniel Watson

"900 Miles of Song: Artistic Renewal Through Mediterranean Port Cities" - study with choral composers, attend performances and explore historic sites in Spain, France and Italy's port cities

HOBART

School City of Hobart

Veterans Elementary School at Mundell

Audrey Amsler

"On With the Show! An Adventure Through Music, Art and Stage Craft at the Broadway Teachers Workshop" - travel to New York City to attend Broadway shows and participate in the Broadway Teachers Workshop, seeking inspiration and a deeper understanding of stage craft

INDIANAPOLIS

Cathedral High School

Brian Gross

"An Adriatic Odyssey: Returning to Writing through Historic Research" - travel around the Adriatic Sea exploring first century B.C.E. Rome and Illyria (modern day Croatia, Montenegro and Albania) to renew passion for writing historical fiction

Jennifer Hollis

"Following the Footsteps of the Silverbacks: Through the Lens of Hope and Wonderment" - explore and understand the historic context of the Rwandan genocide; expand photography skills while trekking and observing wildlife in the Ugandan jungle and Kenyan savanna

Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Chelsea Brackman

"Discovering an Open-Air Life" - travel across Norway by camper van exploring the Norwegian philosophy of friluftsliv, visiting outdoor schools and attending an international outdoor research conference

Roncalli High School

Caren LeMark

"Threads of Faith and Beauty: A Pilgrimage to Japan" - travel across Japan tracing the footsteps of Christians, including St. Francis Xavier and other martyrs, to deepen faith and courage

St. Monica Catholic School

Christine Exline

"Climb Every Mountain: A Journey of Faith, History and Renewal" - reconnect with faith, history and culture through "A Sound of Music"-inspired journey across Austria and other Central European countries

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Bethany Borland

"Seeing Anew: Entering Life's Next Chapter Through Art and Faith" - explore the art of Bosch, Vermeer, Rubens and van Gogh through museum visits, expert lectures and guided tours in Belgium and the Netherlands

Franklin Township Community Schools

Franklin Central High School

Paul Osterman (2013)

"My Woodworking Dream Come True: Designing and Building Danish Modern Lounge Chairs" - learn mid-century modern chair-building in Michigan, master the use of wood lathes in Crete, and receive expert design advice in Denmark before creating Danish Modern lounge chairs for use in the classroom

Suzanna Tejada (2018)

"Becoming the Mountain: Rooted, Strong and Full of Beauty in Patagonia" - explore the beauty of Chilean and Argentine Patagonia through a series of cultural tours and immersive experiences

Indiana District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Holy Cross Lutheran School

Lukas Riley

"Walking in the Footsteps of the Reformation: A Journey of Faith, Heritage and Renewal" - explore historic Reformation sites in Switzerland, France and Germany to renew Lutheran identity and connect with German heritage

Indianapolis Public Schools

Broad Ripple Middle School

Matthew Kramer

"One Sketchy Proposal: A Teacher's Journey Into Comedic Storytelling and Renewal" - travel to Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City to study sketch comedy and complete a course at the Disney Institute

Brookside School 54

Alexis Johnican

"In the Footsteps of My Ancestors: Discovering the Land of My Ancestral Roots" - explore the culture, history and traditions of Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Kenya; document journey to understand life before and after the transatlantic slave trade

Ernie Pyle School 90

Rebecca Zirnheld

"Painting Portugal: Responding to Beauty in Nature and Architecture" - study and practice watercolor painting by participating in an art retreat and classes in three regions of Portugal

International School of Indiana

Yu-Ching Hsiao

"The Unbroken Thread: A Cross-Cultural Journey to Reclaim Silenced Heritage" - explore Hakka, Dai and Austronesian roots through immersive travel, language study and cultural documentation in Taiwan and China

MSD of Pike Township

Pike Preparatory Academy

Alexis Warren

"Reef-lections of Renewal: Conservation, Family and Global Perspectives" - explore the Great Barrier Reef, hike national parks, engage in coral conservation and learn from Aboriginal traditions while traveling in Australia

MSD of Warren Township

Raymond Park Intermediate and Middle School

Lucas Gobel

"Rhythms of Renewal: Rediscovering Joy Through Irish Music and Storytelling" - explore traditional Irish music and storytelling culture through live performances, cultural archives and personal reflection in Dublin and Belfast

Warren Central High School

Julie Holtke

"Discovering Darwin's Path and Myself" - trace the explorations of Charles Darwin in the Galápagos Islands

MSD of Washington Township

North Central High School

Graham Collins

"The Dynamic Minority Languages and Cultures of the Pyrenees" - study the history and efforts to celebrate, preserve and grow the languages of Basque, Catalan and Occitan found in and around the Pyrenees mountains

Christopher Huntington

"The Knight of Swords" - study with a traditional blacksmith in England and forge a sword inspired by the story of King Arthur

Northview Middle School

Nicole Goodman

"Kayaking, Hiking and Cultural Exploration: Discovering Nature, History and Family Origin across Greece" - explore the Greek Islands through hiking, kayaking and visiting cultural and historical sites

Westlane Middle School

Kevin Melrose

"Summer Slam: A Teacher's Quest to Learn the Culture and Art of Japanese Professional Wrestling" - explore the history of professional wrestling by traveling to Japan and build the confidence to make wrestling debut

MSD of Wayne Township

Ben Davis High School

Joseph Cardoza

"From the Moon to Europe: Tracking Goodwill Moon Rock Fragments Across Europe" - explore and document fragments of the Goodwill Moon Rock while traveling across ten European countries

Kristine Hendrix

"The 'Poetry of a True and Noble Life': Creating Art to Share, Connect, and Belong While Living in Portugal" - attend an artist's residency in northern Portugal to create work and explore motherhood, womanhood and identity; share art publicly to model creativity, authenticity and community connection for students

The Oaks Academy

The Oaks Academy, Fall Creek

Sarah Leistner

"Seasons of Renewal: A Nature Sketching Journey" - engage in nature sketching in the Canadian Rockies and Yosemite and Acadia national parks

The Oaks Academy Middle School

Jennifer Houdek

"All Nature Sings: A Watercolor Retreat into Wonder" - study plein air watercolor painting in the Sierra Nevada, complete an intermediate watercolor class at the Indianapolis Art Center and practice daily plein air painting in coastal Maine

Claire Raway

"Toi: A Study of Māori Culture and Art" - travel to New Zealand to explore Māori art and culture and experience the natural beauty of the island, culminating in creation of an art series inspired by the trip

Perry Township Schools

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

Megan Burgess

"A Renaissance of Spirit: Rediscovering Joy Through Learning" - explore the art, history and humanism of the Italian Renaissance

Douglas MacArthur Kindergarten Academy

Andrea Gasaway

"Through the Lens: Finding Renewal in Photography and Nature" - travel to the Pacific Northwest to hike the Columbia River Gorge, photograph landscapes and capture the energy of the Dave Matthews Band

Southport High School

Hiba Al Awadh

"Exploring the Beauty of Nature to Achieve a Sense of Belonging" - travel west across the United States to explore national parks; seek belonging and beauty after living in the United States for 15 years

Danielle Grehn

"Phoenix Rising: Reclaiming My Voice Through Folklore" - explore folklore, landscapes and heritage in Ireland and Scotland as inspiration to write a fantasy series for teens

JEFFERSONVILLE

Greater Clark County Schools

Jeffersonville High School

Dana Schenk

"Magical Coastal Landscapes: Following the Colors of Light of the Impressionists" - engage in an artistic and cultural journey, inspired by the Impressionist artists, along the French coasts

Stephanie Soper

"Alma Maters of American Authors and Their Archives" - explore college campuses with strong connections to five classic poets and novelists; delve into their library archives to gain firsthand access to original manuscripts and historical documents connected to each writer

Lisa Weber

"Perspective: Using Art to Teach Students to Look at Themselves and Others in a Fresh, New Light" - engage in intensive art classes at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, find painting inspiration on Mackinac Island, and support students to create their own masterpieces

KENTLAND

South Newton School Corporation

South Newton Middle School

Tansey Mulligan (2017)

"Kilts, Quilts and Castles" - explore personal heritage and a connection to a 14th-century castle in Scotland, meet known relatives and explore Scottish history, culture, and textile and quilting techniques

LAMAR

North Spencer County School Corporation

Lincoln Trail Elementary School

Lacey Kilbarger (2013)

"Machine Dreams, Human Hands: Exploring Art, Authorship and Renewal in the Age of AI" - travel to Germany and Switzerland to study AI's impact on art and authorship; share learnings during a public exhibition and through a four-unit curriculum

LEO

East Allen County Schools

Leo High School

Jenna Hattaway

"I Will Follow in Your Footsteps" - honor father's memory by exploring Machu Picchu and surrounding areas, learn about Peruvian and Incan culture and improve Spanish language skills

LOWELL

Tri-Creek School Corporation

Lowell High School

Megan McAllister

"Piecing Us Back Together: The Art of Grieving and Healing" - engage in a creative journey of healing, renewal and peace within the natural tranquility of the Pacific Northwest

MADISON

Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Shawe Memorial High School

Curt Gardner

"Bridging France and Spain's Art and Architecture: A Journey of Renewal and Inspiration" - trace a path from Barcelona to Paris to explore medieval fortresses and experience Gaudi's modernism, Picasso's genius and Monet's Impressionist vision

MARION

Eastbrook Community Schools

Eastbrook High School

Scott Clamme

"A Mindful Birding Adventure" - combine birding, photography and mindfulness at various locations in the United States, photographing some of America's iconic birds

MARTINSVILLE

MSD of Martinsville

Bell Intermediate Academy

Angela Stremming

"Palette of Purpose: An Artistic Journey Cultivating Wellness" - explore iconic artwork and architecture from the Tuileries Garden in Paris to the French Riviera

MUNCIE

Cowan Community Schools

Cowan Elementary School

Christopher Rodgers

"Steps Toward Wellness: A Year of Running in Reflection in the Great Outdoors" - train for and participate in three half marathons and one marathon in different states to promote lasting health

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities

Christyann Buczek

"Elements of Discovery: A Personal Odyssey to Chemistry's Historic Heartlands for Educational Renewal" - travel to Europe to explore chemistry through history's greatest scientists (Curie, Rutherford and Copernicus) and discover how historical context transforms scientific understanding

Dain Kavars

"Recapturing Wonder: How Minor League Baseball Can Transform Educational Vision" - attend minor league and semi-pro baseball games across America to better understand how to sustain community, inspire achievement and bring people together

MUNSTER

School Town of Munster

Wilbur Wright Middle School

Tiffani Gibson

"Following the Footsteps of Civilization" - follow the paths of ancient merchants and explorers by sailing the Mediterranean and exploring historical ports that defined Western civilization

NAPPANEE

Wa-Nee Community Schools

NorthWood High School

Heather Bontrager

"Stretching My World, Sketching My Way: A Journey from Indiana to Italy" - learn how to urban sketch, tour Italy and connect with the global urban sketching community and establish a student sketching club upon returning home

NASHVILLE

Brown County Schools

Brown County Middle School

Charles Roush

"Following 'Doc Ford' to the Depths of the Ocean and Back" - explore, photograph and study Florida's fragile coastal ecosystems, inspired by the adventures of author Randy Wayne White's protagonist Marion "Doc" Ford

NEWBURGH

Warrick County School Corporation

Castle High School

Eric Antey

"My Act Two: Rediscovering Stage and Self in the American West" - nurture two passions, hiking and theater, while exploring the American West, visiting national parks and attending professional theatrical productions

Sarah Rollins

"The Stories We Tell" - develop a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and other aspects of Jewish history through travel to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and France, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic

NOBLESVILLE

The Excel Center

Carolyn McKinney

"Self-Discovery and Connections on the Camino de Santiago" - hike the 485-mile Camino de Santiago, beginning in southwestern France and ending at Santiago de Compostela in Spain, experiencing nature, Spanish culture and language, camaraderie and solitude

Noblesville Schools

Noblesville High School

Eric Thornbury

"Avant Guard: The Divine Comedy" - establish a new production company and premiere a "color guard ballet," blending a concert band suite with theater, dance, equipment, staging and live music

Noblesville West Middle School

Stephanie Barrientos

"Restoring the Heart, Renewing the Work: A Journey of Reflection and Reconnection" - walk the Portuguese Coastal Camino, restore well-being at a French retreat, and connect with family in Italy to heal after profound loss

Emily Denny

"Pilgrim's Postcards: Every Step is a Story" - visit sacred sites and participate in ancient Christian practices on a pilgrimage in the United Kingdom; improve digital storytelling skills by learning to create, produce and edit podcasts

NORTH VERNON

Jennings County School Corporation

Jennings County High School

Neil Snyder

"Blackthorn Vale: A Narrative Design Retreat for Renewal" - engage in immersive research, structured playtesting, and professional coaching to develop a historically inspired narrative board game and companion novel

OSSIAN

Norwell Community Schools

Norwell High School

Robert Simons

"Die Suche nach Christian Siemann (The Quest for Christian Siemann)" - engage in a cultural and literary tour of Germany, improve language skills and deepen understanding of family's origins in Western Europe by tracing ancestors

PARKER CITY

Monroe Central School Corporation

Monroe Central Elementary School

Taryn Moore

"Kneading Renewal: Baking My Way Back to Self" - rediscover passion for baking and expand creative expression through immersive courses in artisan bread, pastry and cake-making at premier culinary schools across the United States

PORTAGE

Portage Township Schools

Central Elementary School

Samantha Kubik

"La Det Ga! (Let It Go!): Channeling my Inner Elsa to Regain my Inner Peace after Cancer" - trace ancestors' footsteps in Norway, view aurora borealis and create a photo library to help regain inner peace and move on from triple-negative breast cancer

PORTLAND

Jay School Corporation

Jay County Jr.-Sr. High School

Charles Roesch

"The Maestro's Cookbook: Everything from Crescendo to Cannoli" - pursue personal and intellectual renewal through professional-led cooking classes and varied musical performance in Italy

RUSSIAVILLE

Western School Corporation

Western Primary School

Melissa DeWeese

"Rooted in Renewal: Lessons from Giants of the West" - hike, railbike and attend wellness retreats on the West Coast, documenting the journey through writing and photography

SHELBYVILLE

Shelbyville Central Schools

Hendricks Elementary School

Brandi Rady (2013)

"Seasons of Bloom: A Floral Pilgrimage of Self-Reflection, Renewal and Transformation" - hike, kayak, journal and photograph native wildflowers during changing seasons in varied landscapes throughout the United States

SOUTH BEND

Trinity Academy South Bend

John Lee

"Born to Create: Honing My Technical Skills and Design Aesthetic in Woodturning" - improve woodturning skills by traveling to Ireland to train with woodturning master; travel to Oxford, England to spend time reading, writing and reflecting

SUNMAN

Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

St. Nicholas Catholic School

Julie Stockman

"In Pursuit of Beauty, Goodness and Truth: Illustrated Journaling across the Sacred Sites of Christian History" - visit Catholic sacred sites that fortify faith and practice slow, prayerful reflection through illustrated journaling

THORNTOWN

Western Boone Community Schools

Western Boone Jr.-Sr. High School

Daniel Pierce

"Rainforest Reflections, Hoosier Roots" - explore the ecosystems of Costa Rica, Guntersville, Alabama and Southern Indiana by hiking, boating and fishing to reconnect with nature and family

UNION CITY

Randolph Eastern School Corporation

Union City Jr.-Sr. High School

Molly Mote (2017)

"The Art of Millinery" - learn hat construction and trimming from couture award-winning milliners, experience millinery supply markets and visit museums to sketch and study the history of millinery while traveling in England and France

VALPARAISO

Porter Township School Corporation

Boone Grove High School

Becky DeRuntz (2016)

"A Journey in Equine Ethology: Ponies, Paris and Promises" - study the intuitive and healing connection between humans and horses by examining equine ethology and capturing observations in journals, photographs and films

East Porter County School Corporation

Morgan Township Middle/High School

Jennifer Leek

"A Picture's Worth 1000 Miles....or More" - embark on a 2,500-mile road trip to explore national parks and other iconic locations in the Western United States and document the journey through photography

Valparaiso Community Schools

Porter County Career Center

William Guinee

"Flipping Out!" - renew passion for design by creating and building a custom pinball machine; share with pinball fans at the world's largest pinball expo in Chicago

WATERLOO

DeKalb County Central United School District

DeKalb High School

Jennifer Oberlin

"A Deeper Sense of Place" - explore Great Britain's historic sites, protected lands and vibrant communities to better understand how love for place fuels story, stewardship and creativity

WEST LAFAYETTE

Tippecanoe School Corporation

Battle Ground Middle School

Megan Zwolanek

"The Song of Portugal" - collaborate with a Portuguese ethnomusicologist to study the country's music and culture, culminating with a trip to Portugal to participate in a choral performance tour led by a world-renowned conductor

William Henry Harrison High School

Samantha Wagner

"From YouTube to Uke Tunes" - foster a deeper understanding of the ukulele, its history and uses in folk music; improve compositional and performance techniques to share with students

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

West Lafayette Intermediate School

Sarah Spears

"From Sheep To Svalbard To Sweater" - study sustainable fashion through fiber processing, knitting and climate education in Norway and Denmark; design a sweater that documents the effects of climate change in the Arctic

WEST LEBANON

MSD of Warren County

Seeger Memorial Junior-Senior High School

Brian Greene

"Birthing Bangers and Phat Beats"- explore the world of professional songwriting and recording; create a short EP of original music

WESTFIELD

Westfield-Washington Schools

Monon Trail Elementary School

Carly Miller

"Journey Beyond Comfort: Discovering Growth Through Challenge" - engage in adventurous new experiences including traveling by helicopter, horseback riding, kayaking and whitewater rafting in the Southwest

WINCHESTER

Randolph Central School Corporation

Lee L. Driver Middle School

Kyle Byard

"Old Bones and New Horizons" - travel the Montana Dinosaur Trail, participate in a fossil dig, and create a written and photographic record of the fossils and land features found in Montana's Hell Creek Formation

YORKTOWN

Yorktown Community Schools

Yorktown High School

Matthew Moulton

"The Art of the Possible: Exercising Creative Thinking Through Art, Music and Architecture" - take acoustic guitar lessons and explore arts and cultural sites in Pittsburgh, Sedona and Phoenix

ZIONSVILLE

Zionsville Community Schools

Zionsville Middle School

Cristina Soboleski (2015)

"Twinkle, Twinkle: Finding Light in Darkness Through Dark Sky Exploration" - explore and learn about the wonders of the night sky by visiting dark sky parks, space centers and planetariums