Andra Syms Johnston Elementary School Counselor

Thank you so much for the Teacher Vision Grant! The students at JES have really enjoyed using the games and manipulatives I purchased with the money I was granted for my Teaching Social Emotional Learning Through Centers grant. Using centers to enhance my lessons has given the students a learning format that accomplishes a lot in a short period of time. The students were able to focus on targeted topics or skills in each center which gave a small group feel to a whole group lesson. This format allowed me to pull small groups and have a more intense conversation with the students while the others were engaged. I witnessed many students who are often easily distracted during large group activities, using cooperative learning strategies and helping others. In addition, because each center consisted of only 3-4 students, I noticed participation and collaboration from the quiet/reserved students that rarely speak up in large groups. I love this new way of teaching my students and I think they love it too!