



OAR Announces Fall 2020 Autism Education Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the winners of the fall 2020 Autism Education Grant Program. Launched earlier this year, the Autism Education Grant Program supports projects that aim to promote autism awareness and acceptance among students in grades K-8 using OAR’s peer education program. OAR funds projects ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Congratulations to the five grant recipients of fall 2020!

Promoting Autism Awareness & Acceptance in Our School

*Michelle Chemaly, Autism Coach/ESLS Specialist
Lakeside Elementary School, Pembroke Pines, Fla.*

Chemaly will launch an autism awareness and acceptance campaign at Lakeside Elementary School next April. The campaign will include students performing skits, a poster contest, the Kit for Kids materials, and an installment of sensory paths throughout the campus.

Increasing ASD Education at Wood Creek Elementary using Kit for Kids Curriculum

*Kyle Curtis, Autism Resource Teacher
Wood Creek Elementary School, Farmington Hills, Mich.*

Curtis will coordinate with general classroom teachers and the school social worker to guide students through the Kit for Kids lesson. Curtis will also provide training to the general education teachers using OAR’s Understanding Autism Professional Development program.

Autism Awareness Chicago Project

*Denise Davidson, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Loyola University Chicago & St. Bartholomew Grade School, Chicago, Ill.*

Davidson has partnered with St. Batholomew Grade School to teach third grade students using the Kit for Kids and Autism Tuned In programs. Students will read the “What’s Up with Nick?” story, watch the video, and complete related activities through remote-learning technology. The study will evaluate the efficacy of the program in teaching students facts about autism through a baseline test and post-test, as well as feedback collected from the students and teachers.

Autism Awareness: Learning Together

*Carla Swartz, Special Education Manager
Commonwealth Charter Academy, Johnstown, Pa.*

Swartz will hold an in-person information fair and develop a video series related to autism and the “What’s Up with Nick?” characters. The videos will be distributed to students and staff to help them better understand autistic students.

ASD Awareness for 2nd and 3rd graders

Diane Zedan, Director

Brandon School District, Ortonville, Mich.

Zedan will host the Disability Awareness program across multiple elementary schools within the Brandon School District. Social workers, psychologists, and speech therapists will support the teaching and integration of the lessons in the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms.

OAR has helped educate more than 135,000 children through the [Kit for Kids](#) Peer Education Program since 2012. The next rolling [application deadline](#) is January 22, 2021 for projects starting as early as April 1, 2021.

For questions or comments, please contact OAR at programs @ researchautism.org.

About OAR: The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at their website: www.researchautism.org.

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