



Meet Ivy, the newest student at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood School.



When Sarah R. from Cesar Chavez Ravenswood School applied for her EPAK grant this year, she wrote:

We learned about the evolutionary relationships between living things in our last science unit. We researched the first birds that evolved from dinosaurs and wrote news articles presenting our findings. Our principal purchased a bearded dragon for us as our class pet as a result of observing that student project. The students have been making lots of real-life connections with science concepts as we learn how to properly care for Ivy, our bearded dragon. The students are bonding with her, and she has had a calming effect on the classroom environment. They seem to have a greater sense of responsibility and empathy for Ivy. There are many things that a bearded dragon needs! She needs a substrate to create a functional and stimulating environment. She prefers live crickets over freeze dried worms along with fresh fruits and veggies as part of her omnivore diet. She also requires both UV light bulbs and a heat light bulb to keep her warm and give her the right nutrients. Most of my EPAK grant will be used for Ivy and the upkeep of her terrarium! Thank you, EPAK!

Educators know how to engage students in the classroom by hand-on learning and in science, bringing in the living world:

“Increasingly the research shows that engaging students by establishing connections between the curriculum and their observations about the world outside the classroom leads to better academic outcomes and better preparation for careers and their future daily lives.” (STEMscopes, K-12 science)

EPAK is proud to support an imaginative project at Cesar Chavez, in this case, featuring a real “bearded dragon” beloved by students.

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For 30 years, we have provided grants to teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) and public charter schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

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