## Lake Oswego School District Creatively Used ESSER III Funds to Hire Substitute Teachers

Submission by Mary Kay Larson, Executive Director of Communications



Caption: Image of elementary students collaborating during a hands-on project in their Innovation Lab at River Grove Elementary, something only possible in person at school. It speaks to what we worked hard to protect with our ESSR funds.

One of the most impactful uses of our ESSR fund allocation was to hire permanent substitutes for each site to keep our schools open during the 2021-22 school year. We had a substitute licensed teacher and a substitute classified educational assistant permanently on staff at each of our schools for the year, helping bridge gaps created by unexpected and extended quarantines and isolations. Without these permanent substitutes, we likely would have had to cancel school for days or weeks when hit hardest with illness and absences.

LOSD was steadfast in its commitment to keep schools open safely for the health and well-being of students. Being together in school makes a difference. Students grow and develop the greatest when learning in the supportive and rigorous environments of our schools.