

MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS FOR 2011-2012

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce funding of 25 grants for the 2011-2012 school year. The grants, which total \$205,000, will have an impact in all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

ART

The Photography Program

MHS

The art of photography is changing, with more emphasis on digital applications. By providing five additional iMacs, a camera, and font software, this grant completes the technology portion of the tools required for a robust digital curriculum. This is critical for a rich, contemporary program that addresses all the students' needs

Macintosh Computers for Advanced Art Program

MHS

Aging PCs in the art classroom will be replaced with three new iMacs. These new computers are the platform of choice for digital art and can run Adobe Creative Suite software. They will be used by students for image research, creating digital artwork, photographic work and college application portfolios. The computers will also be used to create the High School course catalog and the district calendar. The grant includes the purchase of a document camera, scanner and external hard drive for the High School art program.

21st Century Art: Bringing the Artist to the Classroom

MAS

This grant will provide the art program at Mamaroneck Avenue School with a document camera, large LCD monitor and document scanner. This technology will offer an effective way to show the work of famous artists from the past to the present, enrich class discussions, and enable students to see their own work on digital display and share their work with other students. This technology may also be used to create student digital portfolios, allowing students to keep their work and track their growth as artists over the years.

MUSIC

Legacy Piano

Central

This grant contributes funds towards the purchase of a new piano for the Large Group Instruction room, the main gathering place at Central School, complete with stage, open space and tiered seating. Most of the money towards the piano's purchase has already been raised by Central School; this grant will help fill the gap. The acquisition of a new piano will promote the continued excellence of the music program.

Music Lab Recording Workstations**Hommocks**

The Hommocks computer music lab, which had become outdated and was dismantled, will be reintroduced, thanks to the introduction of four electronic keyboard workstations with iMac computers. General music students, as well as all students in the band, orchestra and other performance ensembles, will have access to the recording equipment, both to learn how to compose music, as well as to record and play back performances. Students can record their own midi keyboard playing, as well as pre-recorded looping and edit it into their own songs using Apple's GarageBand software.

Band Room Document Cameras and Projectors**Chatsworth/Murray**

This grant will provide projectors and document cameras for the band rooms at Chatsworth Avenue and Murray Avenue Schools. Music will be enlarged as it is projected at the front of the classroom. Band students will be able to follow along together and the music can be marked as new concepts are taught.

Music, History and Pop Culture: Visual Literacy Through Digital Media**MAS**

This grant will enhance the music and choral program across all grades at Mamaroneck Avenue School by providing a SMART Board. This interactive technology will allow students to access music visually and compose their own music. Students will be introduced to musicians, pop culture and history through video, pictures and sound.

LITERACY**Connecting Readers and Writers****Chatsworth**

In conjunction with the "Words Their Way" word study program already in use, all 1st grade classrooms at Chatsworth Avenue School will receive "Words Their Way" text sets, which will provide students with leveled reading texts that directly correspond to and incorporate the word patterns they are focusing on in their daily word study. Text sets at three different reading levels will be used for guided reading, shared reading and independent reading, to help enhance the instruction of both reading and writing in a balanced literacy approach. **Funded by the Diane G. Millstein Endowment.*

E-Books for Libraries**MHS and Elementary Schools**

This grant will pilot a collection of e-books as digital editions of print titles for the libraries of the four elementary schools and High School. The approach is twofold: at the elementary schools, a selection of top fiction titles will be available as e-books for students to read at home. At the secondary level, the High School will begin building an e-book reference collection. All of these books will be available via school or home computers and can be accessed online or downloaded onto any computer, e-reader or electronic device. Accessing books digitally will allow students to use the built-in dictionary, integrated search tools and create worksheets or flash cards.

Netbooks for High School Writing**MHS**

Every student needs to develop good writing habits. Currently at the High School, this goal is achieved through daily handwritten exercises, which are later typed at home, compromising the writing process and the continuity of a student's work. Netbooks in the classroom will allow students to write on demand and continually revise their work. Combined with existing technology, student work can also be projected to the class for immediate feedback. This grant will serve two upper level English classrooms by providing a complete set of netbooks, a portable charging cart, and two classroom printers.

SMART English Classroom**MHS**

Learning to effectively revise essays is a critical, but difficult process for high school students. By granting a SMART Board to a High School English class, students will be able to use this technology to "feel" their way through constructing and analyzing complex writing. They can thoroughly learn the editing process, cutting, pasting and revising text in front of their classmates. This technology also translates handwriting into text and enables them to save their work to their computers so they can have a permanent record of the work they did to save as notes. This is only one specific use for this technology. The possibilities are limitless.

LANGUAGE ARTS**Interactive Whiteboards World Language Classrooms****MHS**

This grant will provide five interactive whiteboards for the French and Spanish classrooms and two SMART Boards for the Chinese classrooms at the High School. This interactive technology allows teachers to create dynamic multimedia lessons. The interactive whiteboards will accomplish this goal in the French and Spanish classrooms; the SMARTboard technology is necessary for the Chinese students to manipulate word/character structure and syntax.

Interactive Response Systems for World Language Classrooms**Hommocks**

This grant will provide the language department at Hommocks Middle School with four sets (32 units per set) of Smart Response PE systems. Each system consists of wireless remotes for each student; a receiver and assessment software. The system will be used to make learning more interactive and to assess students' knowledge during the lesson so adjustments can be made as needed. It will allow teachers to obtain instant and personalized data from each student as well as to evaluate and compare overall class performance.

TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Interactive Projector for 5th Grade Classroom

Central

This grant provides one interactive projection unit for a 5th grade classroom at Central School, allowing all 5th grade classrooms at Central School to have similar capabilities. This technology gives teachers and students concrete, interactive tools that have been shown to improve attention, sharpen critical thinking skills and provide dynamic forms of communication in the classroom.

Netbooks and Interactive Projectors for 5th Grade

Murray Avenue

Building on a 2010 grant that provided SMART Boards to three of the five Murray Avenue 5th grade classrooms, two interactive projection units will be added. This will allow the entire grade to reap the benefits of this technology. Additionally, this grant provides a set of ten netbooks and a portable charging cart to each of the five 5th grade classrooms. The netbooks will increase opportunities for student writing, research and presentations in all subjects.

Netbooks for 5th Grade Classrooms

Central

The 5th grade classrooms at Central school will be equipped with ten netbooks each along with portable charging carts, to improve the students' computer literacy and better prepare them to enter Hommocks Middle School. The netbooks will give the students more time to develop research and writing skills and provide access to relevant websites.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND AT RISK STUDENTS

Is There an App for That? Using New Technologies in Special Education

Central

This exploratory grant will evaluate the vast opportunities offered by the iPad and iTouch in self-contained and resource room classes at Central School. 'Apps' to help learners access information and communicate more effectively are being created and updated daily. Some anticipated uses for the new technologies are: picture exchange communication, tactile apps for learning letters and sounds, repeated practice in math facts, and graphic organizers for writing, reading and scheduling.

Special Education Nook Books

Hommocks

This grant funds the purchase of 24 Nook e-book readers for use by 6th and 7th grade students in the special education program at Hommocks Middle School during English and Skills classes. Nook Books will enhance teaching and learning and will help to motivate low-level readers. Nooks allow students to access reading in a modality that best fits their needs, for example, the option of audio allows a child to listen to the book independently. Nooks will also provide children with a wider variety of appropriate leveled texts, thus increasing their volume of reading.

High School Jump Start: Pre-Freshman Summer Program**MHS**

This grant will allow a selected group of students who have struggled in 8th grade to participate in a 4-week summer program that will provide learning opportunities prior to their Mamaroneck High School experience. The program will be focused on academic literacy enrichment, organizational and planning skills and college and career counseling. In addition to high school awareness, the counseling curriculum will demystify the high school experience for participants. The goal is to nurture and empower students and provide them with a foundation for high school success.

** Funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment*

STUDENT ENRICHMENT**Cyber Safety: Cyber Bullying Workshops and Assemblies Hommocks and MHS**

This grant funds a “Cybersmarts” program and training for all faculty and students at Hommocks Middle School and the High School. Staff training and two High School workshops will be led by noted expert Katie Koestner from Campus Outreach Services. A second facilitator who specializes in middle school audiences will lead eight Hommocks workshops. The Cybersmarts online Resource Center will be made available with customized training modules for yearlong use by students and faculty.

Heart Rate Monitors**MHS**

The High School physical education department will use this grant to purchase 20 heart rate monitors to be implemented in many activities throughout the school year. The heart rate monitors will provide accurate feedback to both the students and teachers and will instantly measure students’ progress. Teachers will be able to read the data and use it to adjust instruction, review program goals and objectives, and develop the curriculum as needed.

Building Inner Strength**Chatsworth**

This grant proposes to introduce the Chatsworth community to the practices of mindfulness, stress reduction and self-awareness through training provided by the Inner Resilience Program. The primary goals are to strengthen the social and emotional resilience of the students and of the adults interacting with them, as well as to improve student attention and learning. Mindful awareness practices taught to students can strengthen their ability to direct and focus their attention and can improve social and emotional well-being.

FACILITIES

MHS Library Sound System

MHS

The purchase of a permanent sound system for installation in the High School Library will enable the main reading area to be better utilized for presentations and assemblies both during and after school hours. This permanent system will also be easy to use, and can be turned on with the flip of a switch, instead of requiring a special set-up of equipment every time there is a presentation.

Mamaroneck Avenue School Playground

MAS

This grant helps to fund a new inclusive playground and playground surface at Mamaroneck Avenue School. The playground will provide an age-appropriate environment for outdoor play for kindergarten and 1st grade. In addition, the district-wide pre-kindergarten and Small Treasures program will have a safe play area to develop social skills and physical coordination, strength and flexibility. The playground is also being funded by the Mamaroneck Avenue School PTA, community fundraising and private donations.

Greenhouse – Growing Seeds, Minds and Connections

Hommocks

This grant will help to fund the construction of a greenhouse at the Hommocks that will serve as a learning center for the Home and Career Skills classes, as well as science and elementary school classes. This grant follows up a previous MSF grant that provided for an engineering and structural analysis, and architectural plans. This grant will provide for the actual construction and implementation of the greenhouse, to be used to teach students about growing, eating and cooking with healthy, organic vegetables and herbs.