

MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS FOR 2013-2014

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce funding of 14 grants for the 2013-2014 school year. The grants, which total \$138,000, will have an impact in all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

LITERACY

Literacy Comes Alive Through Art

Central

Through the art form of bookmaking, this grant will enable third grade students at Central School to develop and enhance their literacy skills. With an understanding that students have individual learning styles, an independent art consultant will work with the third graders to create their own personalized books. In support of the Common Core Learning Standards, this grant will introduce students to different genres of reading and writing (fiction, nonfiction and poetry) across a broad range of content instruction (math, science and social studies).

Visualizing and Verbalizing for Language Comprehension

All Elementary

This grant will aid students who struggle with comprehending spoken and written language by providing training, books and materials to all four elementary schools. The books used are nonfiction stories that will help the children to develop imagery for oral and written language comprehension. Studies have shown that developing concept imagery aids students in comprehension and literal understanding, which in turn fosters critical thinking. Given the increased emphasis on nonfiction reading in the new Common Core Learning Standards, the topics presented will be especially relevant for these students. This grant is funded by the Diane G. Millstein Endowment.

Common Core Books Galore

Murray

In support of the Common Core Learning Standards, this grant will update and enhance the reading material for the Literacy Room at Murray Avenue School. The books purchased will enhance three critical components of reading instruction: guided reading, nonfiction reading and fluency. The materials will help teachers maximize student contact time during the newly implemented Differentiated Instruction Period (DIP). By providing students with optimal and cutting-edge literature, this grant will increase student achievement in integration of reading strategies, the utilization of higher-level comprehension strategies and overall reading fluency.

Bringing Nonfiction Texts to Life**HMX**

This grant will bring children's author Marc Tyler Nobleman and his books to Hommocks. All students will attend a presentation where Mr. Tyler will share his research that revealed the untold story of Batman's real creator. Currently there is a high interest in graphic books/comics, and Mr. Tyler's books and interactive presentation will provide an engaging way of implementing the Common Core Standards and also show students how fun and enjoyable nonfiction can be to read. Each ELA classroom library will also be supplied with copies of his books and eBooks will be available through the school library catalog.

ART**MAS Portable Museum: Showcasing Art****MAS**

This grant will provide students, teachers, administrators and parents at Mamaroneck Avenue School a way of showcasing student artwork with a museum or gallery feel and expose students school-wide to artwork they created themselves. It opens up discussions on art and highlights students' work, thereby nurturing and valuing the creative process, as well as building a greater sense of community across the grades. Students will also be involved in the set-up of art shows, thereby gaining an appreciation of the value of aesthetics and visual organization. The displays will also be used for the Mamaroneck Avenue School's annual Imagination Celebration and will allow for expanded use of the All Purpose Room for various school-wide events. This grant is funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.

Computerized Programmable Electric Kiln**MHS**

By providing a modern computerized kiln to enhance the ceramics program at MHS, this grant will allow students to be trained on the newest technology in ceramics. The computerized, programmable kiln will enable students to achieve optimal results in glaze firing, and will also allow more works to be fired at once.

TECHNOLOGY**More Room for Research****Murray**

By awarding ten new laptop computers as well as a large library table to Murray Avenue School, this grant will increase the library's capacity to support independent inquiry-based research in grades 3-5. Teachers have indicated that students would like to explore more science and social studies projects, but due to demand, access to either the computer lab or existing library computers is very limited. The addition of the laptops and a new designated work area will allow the librarian to reinforce her key role in boosting academic achievement by opening the library to more students per week. During Differentiated Instructional Periods, students will now be able to meet with the librarian prior to starting their research, work independently, and check in with the librarian prior to completion for feedback.

iMath Apps for Middle School**HMX**

This grant will incorporate iPads to the mobile Math Lab to service middle school students who are designated to receive Academic Intervention Services. The iPads will be used daily for individual and group instruction. The children will be able to use a variety of iPad math apps, and take class notes using the stylus, then save, print, email, or upload completed work to their digital locker on E-Chalk.

Bringing App Invention to MHS**MHS**

Thirty state-of-the-art Android tablets will be purchased via this grant to enrich the high school's new computer science program. As the focus of technology shifts from personal computers to mobile devices, it is important that students can adapt to problem solving by means of mobile technology. Once students have acquired sufficient knowledge of computer programming, they will use the tablets to develop mobile apps to tackle real world problems ranging from auto-text messaging while driving to promote safe driving habits to an app that can connect wirelessly through Bluetooth to control a robot. The tablets will also be used by the after-school computer science club. This grant is an important step in promoting STEM education.

FACILITIES**Enhancing Hommocks School Pride; Reinvigorating the Commons****HMX**

This grant will allow the Hommocks Commons to better fulfill its function as the school's Village Square, a place for students to congregate, communicate and socialize, by providing new sofas for additional seating. In addition, two large bulletin boards enclosed behind glass doors will be hung near the Commons and will be used to display posters created by the students with anti-bullying, diversity and/or cyber smarts messages. A laptop computer will also be provided for the campus security officer located at the new main entrance by the pool. The officer will use the laptop to post messages on the large screen TV in the Commons notifying students who need to pick up homework or other items dropped off for them at the main entrance.

Chatsworth Playground**Chatsworth**

This grant will help to fund new, safe play equipment and enhancements such as benches and picnic tables for Chatsworth Avenue School's main playground. The playground is used by every student in every grade every day, and students benefit from the opportunities for exercise and social interaction. In addition, physical education classes for grades 1-5 are conducted on the playground for many units. The purchase and installation of this equipment will be done in conjunction with the district's resurfacing of the Chatsworth Avenue School's playground this summer (2013).

STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

Wellness Coaching Training for Health and Physical Educators

District-wide

This grant brings The Cooper Institute to our district to instruct and certify our health, physical education, and special needs teachers in coaching our children in health and wellness. The three-day course can accommodate up to 30 educators, and will train teachers in techniques to help students set personal goals to improve healthy behaviors and make important lifestyle changes that will have a positive effect on their health and fitness. This goal-setting can be done through physical education class and health class or in conjunction with any other department as needed. The wellness coaching will also give educators additional valuable skills in speaking and working with parents of students regarding any physical fitness or health related concerns.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT & MISCELLANEOUS

The Power of Digital Resources

Chatsworth

This grant will provide a DVD collection that will be housed at Chatsworth School, along with training and resources for all Elementary School teachers. The grant will build a DVD library that will serve to enrich professional development experiences and will aid in expanding the teachers' knowledge across literacy and mathematics. Chatsworth School will loan the DVD collection to the other elementary schools in the school district. In addition, this grant will provide 3 days of training with 2 expert educational innovators. These consultants will provide training and specific targeted modeling. The two consultants are Lucy West whose expertise is mathematics and Carl Andersen who is an expert in the field of writing

Mixing it up for American and International Foods

MHS

This grant provides four Kitchen Aid 4.5 quart stand mixers plus a food grinder and pasta roller attachment for the high school. The mixers will be used in the American and International Foods classes that include over 100 students, mostly junior and seniors. In addition, special needs classes, student clubs, continuing education and other teachers that utilize the foods classroom will also have use of the new mixers. The students in American and International Foods classes cater events such as the RADAR After School Program. At present, the foods classrooms have five kitchens with only one mixer per classroom, and many of which are over 30 years old and in need of replacement. This new equipment will aid students in developing life-long cooking and baking skills.

