

## **Mamaroneck Schools Foundation Grants for 2010-2011**

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce funding of 31 grants for the 2010-2011 school year. The grants, which total \$275,000, will have an impact in all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

### **SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

#### **Computerized Physics Labs and Demonstrations**

**MHS**

This grant enhances the physics curriculum at Mamaroneck High School by expanding the amount and use of state-of-the-art PASCO equipment. It updates the demonstration equipment available to physics teachers, and will allow the number of students in each lab group to be reduced, giving each student more hands-on time in the lab, using college-level high-tech resources.

#### **Original Science Research Technology Upgrade**

**MHS**

This grant will provide the Original Science Research program with two Mac mini computers and create four new student workstations, plus a teacher laptop. In addition, the purchase of the high school's first large-scale printer, which can be shared among all departments, will create high-quality large-format posters to better showcase student work in research contests such as the Intel Science Talent search and the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair.

#### **SMART Board for Physics Classroom**

**MHS**

In 2009 the MHS science department was granted nine new SMART Boards. This grant will provide an additional SMART Board, allowing MHS science teachers to work with the same technology so that unified curriculum plans can be used. For both teachers and students, SMART Board technology has consistently raised instructional successes in science classrooms.

#### **SMART Boards for the Science Classrooms**

**Hommocks**

This grant will greatly enhance the teaching of science at Hommocks by providing a SMART Board in all 12 science classrooms in grades 6-8. Using SMART Boards, teachers can illustrate complicated processes; manipulate detailed, complex diagrams; make interactive graphs and charts; perform virtual laboratory activities and demonstrations; and present fun and challenging games. With this grant, the district's secondary science department is now equipped with SMART Boards from Hommocks through the high school, allowing for an integrated curriculum approach.

#### **New Math SMART Board Software**

**Hommocks/MHS**

SMART Notebook Math is an add-on (with 12 new tools) to SMART Board software already in place in the district. This grant provides 15 site licenses for a software enhancement that gives math teachers more flexibility in creating dynamic, interactive lessons and provides instant access to math-specific tools. The grant also includes teacher training.

**Growing Seeds, Minds and Connections****Hommocks**

With the ultimate vision of installing 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 will fund an engineering and structural analysis and provide cost estimates to determine if this project is feasible (Phase One). If the project is deemed feasible, the Foundation will fund the cost of the architectural plans, specifications and construction documents required for State Education Department approval (Phase Two).

**SOS: School-Wide Opportunities for Sustainability****Chatsworth Ave.**

This grant will provide opportunities for children to understand and make the connection between the natural world and the effect of their actions on the environment. The grant includes the building of an outdoor classroom/garden; a hands-on student eco-footprinting program that helps students calculate the carbon footprint of their school; and teacher training workshops, helping teachers develop lessons in sustainability.

**TECHNOLOGY****Podcasting to the World Revisited****Hommocks**

This grant provides an additional 15 iPod Touches to the 13 iPod Touches MSF previously funded for a Podcasting Studio at Hommocks. These additional units allow one iPod per student, greatly improving the effectiveness of lessons through videos and images, audio clips, and real-time data via the internet. The podcasting studio is being used in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Sciences curriculum, but has the potential to influence instruction in a variety of curriculum areas.

**Technology CAD Software and SMART Board****Hommocks**

This grant will supply the Hommocks Technology Department with one SMART Board plus CAD (Computer Aided Design) software, in an effort to introduce more applicable technology-related skills to the curriculum. Students who become proficient in CAD software develop a greater ability to visualize and reverse engineer technological objects; better understand how math and science relate to technology; and improve the quality of their projects. Additionally, it is hoped that students will enter high school with a greater interest and proficiency in technology and engineering.

**Classroom Amplification****Central**

With this grant, five classrooms at Central School will receive wireless infrared sound field amplification systems. Research shows that when a teacher's voice is clearly heard above ambient noise, student attentiveness is increased and greater educational benefits result.

**Smarter Learning and Technology****Central**

This grant funds two of the latest forms of SMART technologies: SMART Response Interactive System and SMART Wireless Slates, available for use in Central classrooms with SMART Boards, as well as the Central computer lab, benefitting all students. The Interactive System allows students to answer questions electronically, giving teachers instant feedback to assess students' prior knowledge, review material and judge the effectiveness of new curriculum being taught. The lightweight wireless slates can be passed around so both students and teachers can easily add new material to any SMART Notebook file.

**Technology-Enhanced Differentiated Learning****Central**

This grant will fund the purchase of document camera/projector systems for two 4th grade classrooms at Central School. The camera projects student work, texts, maps, even three-dimensional objects onto a screen, which makes the curriculum more accessible for students with different learning levels and styles. Class participation is also increased, facilitating meaningful connections to curriculum.

**The Common Thread****Central**

This grant will provide an amplification system, including wall-mounted speakers and two wireless microphones, within the Central School Library, making it easier for the librarian, as well as students and teachers to hear and be heard. Overall, the system will benefit all learners, regardless of hearing ability and susceptibility to external distractions.

**SMART Board for Fifth Grade Classrooms****Murray Ave.**

This grant equips three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Murray Avenue School with SMART Boards, dedicated laptop computers and document cameras. SMART Boards elevate the use of technology to the next level, providing teachers and students with concrete, interactive tools for improved attention, sharpened critical thinking skills and exciting new forms of communication.

**Projecting Early Learners to Succeed****Murray Ave.**

This grant will provide document cameras and projectors for the six 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms at Murray Avenue School, enhancing teaching in all subject areas. The cameras instantly display documents, as well as three-dimensional objects, on the wall or a screen. The teacher can thus share student work; display maps, texts or books; or even project small objects such as insects or coins for the entire class to observe. Ease of use also allows teachers to take advantage of "teachable moments" spontaneously.

Because three of the Murray 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are receiving MSF-funded SMART Boards, their existing document cameras and projectors will be moved to three 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms. This grant will provide three new document cameras and projectors for the additional three classrooms.

## **ART AND MUSIC**

### **Solo Ensemble String Instrumental Lending Library**

**District**

This grant creates a new music library of sheet music accessible to all string students and teachers to be used for both solo and small ensemble pieces in preparation for NYSSMA auditions. The grant also includes “SMART Music,” a software-based music teaching program with four stations, one at each elementary school, and accessible from home computers. The same SMART Music program, also provided by MSF, is currently being used successfully at Hommocks.

### **The MHS Photography Program**

**MHS**

Over 100 MHS students participate in the photography program and more are anxious to join. The “art” of photography is changing with more emphasis on digital applications. By providing computers, a camera, a photo printer, and a scanner, this grant will dramatically update the curriculum and help meet growing student demand. This grant also funds 16 additional easels and timers, and a print dryer for the darkroom.

### **Ceramic Program: Glaze Formation**

**MHS**

Glazing is the final step to finishing a ceramic piece – the “glass” that covers the artwork. It is a complex chemical process with seemingly infinite variations of mixing and applying techniques. By supplying two 10-bin glaze-formulating tables and four scales, this grant will enable intermediate and advanced students to learn the complicated process of glazing. This grant will further enhance the use of the 15 pottery wheels funded by MSF in 2002.

### **McClain Auditorium Enhancements**

**MHS**

This grant will provide state-of-the-art acoustical shells for MHS’s McClain Auditorium. The five new rectangular and two tapered sound shells will significantly improve the characteristics of the auditorium as both a rehearsal space and a performance venue by solving the problems of echoes, reverberations and ‘dead spots’ within the auditorium.

## **LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT**

### **Historical Fiction and Non-Fiction Classroom Library**

**Hommocks**

This grant will create a classroom library of historical fiction and non-fiction books for teaching social studies to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. The grant will also advance the teaching of balanced literacy across the curriculum, enabling students of varying reading levels to access both history and literature in a more meaningful way.

### **Seventh Grade Historical Fiction Book Clubs**

**Hommocks**

This grant will provide high-interest historical fiction books for students across all four teams to read both in literature circles and independently. By incorporating historical fiction into the curriculum, English and social studies teachers can increase the depth and breadth of their collaborative work, with the texts becoming springboards for planning interdisciplinary lessons and class discussions.

**Traveling Trunks for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies** **Mamaroneck Ave.**

This grant is designed to create curriculum-related trunks for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades at Mamaroneck Avenue School. The contents of the trunks will enable teachers to immerse students in artifacts and hands-on activities that encourage students to speculate, think critically, and synthesize information from multiple sources. The trunks will also enhance the BOCES program piloted by our district.

**Library Learners at Mamaroneck Avenue** **Mamaroneck Ave.**

This grant will add nine new Dell desktop computers to the library, bringing the total number of computers to 18. These additional computers will give students the choice of working on projects either with a partner or independently. The grant also includes four computer tables, six stools and shelf end panels.

**Make It BIG—Bringing the Outside In** **Mamaroneck Ave.**

This grant will greatly expand the social studies and science curriculum of the entire 1<sup>st</sup> grade team at Mamaroneck Avenue School. Document and Flip video cameras, monitors and other computer equipment will allow students to experience learning, discover the outside world, and express their findings in a variety of ways. This grant will also give parents an eye into their child's classroom activities through video clips of projects posted on the school Web site.

**Class Connect** **Chatsworth Ave.**

This grant will help connect the students in two 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms to their work, their learning, each other and the wider world by providing two document cameras and large-screen monitors. Being able to project lessons on the monitors enhances learning by facilitating sharing of student work and curriculum-related Web sites.

**Supporting School Initiatives through Literature** **Chatsworth Ave.**

This grant provides books for the Chatsworth library. The books, recommended by the Chatsworth Values Character Committee and the Literacy Design team, will benefit all grade levels.

**Expanding Literacy and Literacy Horizons\*** **Central**

This grant will provide "Playaway" audio books to students in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at Central School. The grant will also include print copies of the same titles so students who read below their grade level and/or are English Language Learners will be able to follow along as they listen.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SafeRides GPS Systems**

**MHS**

SafeRides is a student-run volunteer program that offers free rides home to students every Friday and Saturday night between 10pm and 2am. This grant will provide two GPS systems, which will allow the student drivers to find their destinations quickly, safely and accurately, shortening their driving time and allowing them to serve even more students. More than 200 students and 50 parents in the community volunteer for this worthwhile service.

### **MHS: After School at the Café \***

**MHS**

Based on several student studies conducted by RADAR, many at-risk teens are largely un- or under-supervised. This grant will fund a diverse series of events and healthy, age-appropriate activities that will appeal to a wide range of students, conducted by the Rye-YMCA with help from MHS social workers.

### **Yearbook Computers and Chairs**

**MHS**

The Mahiscan, the popular, award-winning high school yearbook, is produced by a volunteer staff of 40 students who work hundreds of hours. The current computer equipment is straining to handle the software and large photo files used in today's production. This grant will provide six new Dell computers and new chairs for the yearbook office.

### **Tiger Pride Communications System**

**District**

This grant will fund the purchase of a new Tigers scoreboard and sound system for the new all-weather Memorial Field at MHS. This system will replace the current 40-year-old systems. A modern scoreboard and sound system will ensure that this field becomes a reliable venue for all of the field sports teams, cheerleading squads and pep bands, plus the additional recreational and youth programs that use Memorial Field on weekends. The grant will also benefit the greater community of students, teachers, parents and alumni district-wide who attend athletic and community events throughout the year.

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