

## **MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS 2012-2013**

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the awarding of 17 grants for the 2012-13 school year. The grants, which total \$200,000, will have an impact on all six District schools, as well as on the entire community.

### **LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT**

#### **Innovative Readers – Literary Resource Center**

#### **Chatsworth**

This grant will aid in the development of a sustainable Professional Literary Resource Center for Chatsworth Avenue School. Within this space, teachers can work collegially using innovative lesson plans designed to achieve the objective of enhancing students' reading while differentiating instruction. The center will include high-interest, guided reading sets for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade which will enable teachers to instruct students at their appropriate instructional level in small group settings, allowing them to develop into confident and independent readers.

#### **Making the Hommocks Library a Hub of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

#### **Hommocks**

This grant will provide the library with a class set of netbooks, significantly enhancing the flexibility of the library as a space for collaboration, instruction, and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The addition of the netbooks will greatly increase students and teachers' access to digital resources such as eBooks, online databases, and search engines that have become a pivotal means of knowledge acquisition and instruction. Students will be taught how to search these new online resources and access scholarly, reliable information from credible nonfiction texts. Students can also use the netbooks to collaborate in groups or work independently in the library before, during, and after school.

#### **eBooks for the Elementary School Libraries – Spotlight on NY**

#### **Elementary**

This grant will allow each of the four elementary schools to purchase an interactive eBook collection; "Spotlight on New York", which is specifically aligned with the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum. Each collection contains twelve volumes of interactive, media-rich eBooks with enhanced content related to New York State history. These resources will be used by the 4th grade teachers, the library and in the computer lab. Additionally, students may independently access these online resources to revisit content introduced in the classroom.

### **eBooks for MHS and Hommocks Libraries: The Next Phase      MHS/Hommocks**

This grant builds on last year's pilot grant that provided the High School and the four elementary schools with a collection of eBooks. The grant funds access for Hommocks to a shared collection of eBooks and audio books for schools in Southern Westchester. It also provides the High School with a satellite collection of titles that only High Schools students can access. Both libraries will receive 5 eReaders, and their covers, that can be loaned out to students. Enabling the libraries to pilot the loaning of eReaders to students who do not have the resources to purchase their own, will also make this emerging medium available to all students.

## **SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

### **Enriching Physics and Chemistry Using an Infrared Camera      MHS**

This grant will enrich the High School physics and chemistry classes studying 'heat and thermodynamics' with high-quality demonstrations using an Infrared (IR) camera. The IR camera can be connected to SMART boards (already present in the science classrooms) and will allow teachers to demonstrate interesting phenomena including: different ways of heat transfer, exothermic and endothermic reactions, effect of temperature on rates of chemical reactions, and the relationship of temperature to volume and pressure of gasses.

### **Nanoscale Physics      MHS**

This grant brings the materials for three cutting edge labs to the High School Science Department. These labs help spark student interest in physics and other sciences while exposing them to hands-on laboratories that are relevant in today's world. The labs involve: the study of how switches work with Foutan Boards, understanding the concept of current electricity with a water circuit lab and the exploration of the nature of photons through the use of different colored LED lights.

### **iPads for Earth Science      Hommocks**

A District initiated pilot program incorporating the use of iPads into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science classrooms has been underway. This grant will equip the remaining classrooms with iPads equalizing the entire eighth grade and allowing them to use iPads on a consistent basis. Web-based activities, animations and presentations have been designed to allow students to interact tangibly with abstract scientific concepts. Some of these concepts include: pushing and pulling continents in a virtual earthquake, physically sorting and classifying rocks and minerals, tracking a virtual hurricane across an ocean, and identifying constellations by connecting stars all with the touch and drag of a finger.

**Interactive Student Response Systems for Sixth Grade Math****Hommocks**

This grant will provide each of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math classes at Hommocks with an interactive student response system. Each system consists of wireless remotes for each student, a receiver and assessment software. The systems will be used to make learning more interactive, to provide students with immediate feedback, and to assess students' knowledge during the lesson so that 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.

**Manipulatives make Math Meaningful \*****Hommocks**

This grant will create a mobile Math Lab to service middle school students who are designated to receive Academic Intervention Services. The Lab will bring mathematics to life by creating an environment that is engaging and fun. Students will have opportunities to explore concepts and deepen their understanding by working independently with manipulatives or through cooperative games. The Math Lab will also pilot the use of iPads in small settings to engage a variety of learning styles through technology.

*\*Funded by the Diane G. Millstein Endowment.*

**TECHNOLOGY****8<sup>th</sup> Grade Robotics****Hommocks**

Robotics education in public schools is on the rise across America in response to society's demand for young people to be more proficient in "STEM": the combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. With that in mind, this grant will provide the 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a programmable Robotics system to enhance their Technology unit. The system, Lego NXT Mindstorms, will present the students with multiple opportunities to design, build, program and test a variety of robotic programs.

**Around the World with Videoconferencing****Central**

This grant will provide Central School with a portable, state-of-the-art videoconferencing unit that will enable both students and staff to interact with a variety of people around the world. Without leaving their classrooms, children will be able to communicate interactively with classrooms, both at home and abroad, attend virtual field trips, and talk with and watch demonstrations by experts. Initially, the system will be piloted by Central's 4th grade teachers, however, the portability will allow all classrooms immediate access.

## **MUSIC AND THE ARTS**

### **McLain Auditorium Podium**

**MHS**

With the growing enrollment in the High School's music program, it is more important than ever that the conductor is visible to all students during their musical performances on the stage of the McLain Auditorium. This grant will provide an orchestral podium of appropriate proportion, size, and height to serve that purpose.

### **Sprung Dance Floor for the PACE Program\***

**MHS**

This grant will pay for a sprung dance floor to be installed in the upstairs PACE classroom that will be more "body friendly" for the students and allow them to safely explore a wide variety of movement exercises, activities, and choreography. The PACE upstairs classroom is used all day, every day and throughout the evenings for rehearsals by the 200 students that participate in the PACE Program.

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

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND AT RISK STUDENTS**

### **Jump Start - Pre-grade 6 Summer Program**

**Hommocks**

This grant will allow a selected group of students who have struggled in 5th grade to participate in a 2-week summer program that will provide learning opportunities prior to their middle school experience. The Jump Start program will focus on academic literacy enrichment, and organizational and planning skills. In addition, social skills interventions will become part of a counseling curriculum for the participants. The goal is to nurture and empower students and provide them with a foundation for middle school success.

### **Let's Grow Together Garden Project**

**MHS**

This grant provides the equipment to allow students in the STRIVE, STEP and Transition Academy Programs to witness the process of germination and decay firsthand, which is relevant to the curricula in their classes. This grant also helps to create an opportunity for both the Special Education and General Education students to work together by having a sale of the seedlings created in the spring to the High School community.

## **STUDENT WELLNESS**

### **Yoga for Physical Education Program**

**District-Wide**

This grant will provide certification for physical education teachers at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels to conduct yoga classes for students of the District. The teachers will attend an intensive 2-day training program, which will certify them to teach the Yoga Ed Curriculum as part of PE. Yoga Ed is a nationally recognized health and fitness curriculum that fulfills the National Challenge PE standards.

**First and Second Grade Inclusive Playground****Central**

This grant will aid in the funding of a new inclusive playground and playground surface at Central School. The playground will provide an age-appropriate environment for outdoor play for 1st and 2nd graders with equipment specifically designed to accommodate students with special needs. Kindergarten classes will often use the playground as well.