

2012 Grants

The following grants were awarded in 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year:

Program: Central Community Reads

Target: Central Middle School

The goal of this "Central Community Reads" project is that students at Central Middle School will be invited to participate in book clubs, outside of class, to advance their reading skills and increase the quality of inter-student relationships, along with outreach into the community. We would like to develop a reading community at our school in which all students will be offered the opportunity to participate in quality literature discussions during lunch hours and after school for those who have alternative transportation available. The grant would be used to purchase multiple copies of books so that family income will not be a deterrent as to whether a student can participate. We have tried to offer the book clubs in the past, but even within the resources of our school libraries, the public library, and book stores, it is still difficult to acquire enough reasonably priced copies of current, engaging text for the students who would like to participate. We would like to include our ELL population also and since many of those students are able to participate in the discussion of text, but struggle with the rigor of reading the text in a timely fashion, we are including funds for MP3 or CD versions of the titles. We will also utilize the time we have with our Carroll University Work Study students to work with our Central struggling students so that they can see the text, hear the college students reading, and participate in smaller group discussion to improve their vocabulary and background knowledge prior to a whole book club discussion. We currently have a connection the pre-school program at St. Luke's Church, across the street. We would like to find mentors within our community of readers to further that connection as "Big Buddy Readers."

Program: Positive Behavior Intervention

Target: Waukesha South High School

We are seeking funds to support the acknowledgement system for students and staff within the PBIS model at South. This is a significant part of the implementation and resulting positive impact of the program.

Program: Connecting students to 21st century skills through the use of iPod touch

Target: Summit View Elementary

The use of technology in the elementary classroom allows students the opportunity to take an active role in their education. Technology can be used as a tool to support students in performing authentic tasks. iPods provide a level playing field in the digital classroom. Every student has access to a device that can offer thousands of educational materials that run the gamut from basic math tutorials to activities that promote higher-order thinking skills. The iPod features audio books that can be read aloud to students. It comes equipped with a recording device which could be used to record the students as they read to measure their fluency and expression. With a set of iPod touches, a teacher would no longer need to schedule time to take the class into the computer lab. Time could be better spent with an "always-on" device like the iPod.

Program: Drum Line Replacement

Target: Waukesha South High School

Re-entry of the Blackshirt Bands into marching band competition is exciting and with challenges. The drum line, which is the backbone of the marching band, is falling apart and so the band has a goal to raise \$13K over the next 4 months to purchase a demo (slightly used) drum line. In addition to helping the Marching Blackshirts perform their best this marching band season, the drums will continue to impact students at South as they are used to expand the band program, enhance extracurricular activities, and further community outreach.

Program: Thermal Energy Lab

Target: Waukesha STEM Academy

Saratoga Thermal Energy Lab Proposal: To educate students at Saratoga S.T.E.M. Middle School about how thermal, mechanical, and electrical energy is used in the school building. Visual graphics combined with real time data collection will show how we produce and regulate hot water for the heating system and hot tap water for the plumbing system. We also hope to display and compare electrical building energy usage month to month and water consumption quarterly.

Program: Math Games & Materials that Motivate Learning

Target: Lowell Elementary

Participants will use the contents of the various math games to develop skills targeting the second and third grade School District of Waukesha math curriculum expectations and the National Common Core Standards. Math Games & Materials that Motivate specifically focus on the areas of problem solving, fractions, and measurement.

This includes items at multiple levels for activities that target different learning levels:

- Fraction Games and Fraction Real Life Problem solving Cards
- Measurement Manipulatives for Exploration and Measurement Real Life Problem Solving Cards
- Real Life Problem Solving Cards for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Hot Dots Learn to Solve Word Problems and Math Review Cards which incorporate the use of Hot Dots Power Pens for instant student feedback

Research supports that differentiated instruction and a hands-on approach is necessary to reach all students. Antiquated approaches from the past rely on memorizing information and practicing concepts through the use of worksheets. Attempts to develop ideas without employing the process skills lead only to rote learning and knowledge that is confined to the situation in which it was learned. Students learn best by experiencing real-world mathematical situations and developing solutions to strategic problems, which require higher-level thinking. Allowing children to experience and think about the concepts they are studying “enhances the depth of their content understanding, their interest in the subjects they are learning, and their retention of the material.” (Swartz, 2008, *Educational Leadership*).

Program: Mentoring Seeds in Blossoms

Target: Waukesha North High School

The S.A.D.D. club from Waukesha North High School would like to develop a partnership with Summit View Elementary School to promote healthy and positive characteristics along with learning about the environment. The high school S.A.D.D. students would service as positive role models and mentors to the Summit View students through various monthly character building activities. The main focus of these activities would be around developing a "Positive Path" garden. The mentors would instill good values and lessons through this process, including lessons on the developing and maintenance a flower garden, making stepping stones and learning the importance of what a plant needs to grow and in return what the students need to grow as well.

Program: El Sistema of Greater Milwaukee @ Hadfield

Target: Hadfield Elementary

El Sistema of Greater Milwaukee, a new organization, began offering daily music programming at Hadfield Elementary this year for students interested in orchestra. Collaboration between the school, Carroll University and the White House of Music, it offers students the value of music education. Since there is no orchestra program now offered in K-5 schools in the district and many Hadfield students cannot afford private instruction, this new initiative fills an educational gap while offering after school programming.

Program: Jardín Green

Target: Waukesha South High School

Jardín Green is a project that will bring high school Spanish students from Waukesha South and Heyer Elementary together to collaborate and learn from hands on experience of cultivating and maintaining a garden together for all to enjoy. The objectives are to:

1. Develop communication and collaboration skills of elementary ELL students and high school Spanish Students.
2. Create a garden that will add to the appearance and environment of South High School as a reminder of our roots and how students can grow together through collaboration.
3. Create respect for social, environmental and cultural awareness in our student population
4. Grow plants that not only add to a more attractive and vibrant appearance, but that can feed the participants and plant sunflowers that will naturally attract Cardinal (Blackshirts) around the school.

Program: Teen Mentor and Leadership Program

Target: Butler Middle School

The Teen Mentorship and Leadership Program is a cross-school mentorship program between Butler Middle School and Waukesha North High School that connects high school students with middle school students who are struggling academically. The Teen Mentorship and Leadership Program provides middle school students one on one tutoring and guidance with the intent to raise student academic achievement, positive decision making, and connection to school. The Teen Mentorship and Leadership Program will positively affect numerous struggling middle school students as well as provide leadership, mentoring, collaboration, and volunteering opportunities for high school students. This program allows for middle school students an opportunity to make connections with peers that attend their future high school. This collaborative relationship has not formally existed in measurable form before the implementation of this mentorship program. The Teen Mentorship and Leadership Program has the potential to be replicated across the District of Waukesha with middle schools connecting not only with high schools, but also with middle schools connecting with elementary schools as well.

Program: Real Life Exercise

Target: Harvey Philip Alternative School

This proposal is intended to fund a Xbox360 Kinects gaming system with additional games to promote health and exercise at the Harvey Philip Alternative School. With limited time and little to no gym time for physical exercise, gym class is often turned in to pick-up basketball games or leisure time. I would like to provide students with a fun way to get active and work on physical fitness that is accessible for teenagers and is engaging at their level. This gaming system also has the potential to be used in other ways to promote school engagement. By providing fun and relevant activities, student attendance will increase. Early morning physical exercise energizes students who may then be more ready to learn.

Program: Master Artisans in the Classroom

Target: Summit View Elementary

Beginning in 2012-2013, Summit View Elementary will kick off a unique educational opportunity for kindergarten and 1st grade students. Two classrooms have been identified to deliver an integrated arts workshop with long range plans to include the greater Summit View population.

Our focus will continue to be on the Common Core Standards; however it will be enhanced through innovative plans to integrate and infuse the arts in everyday learning using the workshop model. In order to enable this innovative opportunity, we need additional financial support to purchase resources that are not typically found in grade level classrooms. The support will greatly help us differentiate our method of delivery.

Program: Books for All

Target: Waukesha North High School

In researching reading initiatives that have proved successful in classrooms, I have found that offering choice in texts and offering leveled books is most appropriate and successful for students. Knowing this, I have changed my teaching over the past three years, in order to accomplish this. Because of this, I have seen tremendous gains in reading comprehension and reading motivation. As the years have progressed, I have been trying to keep current with contemporary reads students can connect to. I have used most of my own money to provide students with these reads, but now am asking for some assistance. The money would go towards new books for my students.