

2013 Grants

The following grants were awarded in 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year:

Program: Creating Common Core Authors

Target: Meadowbrook Elementary

The Common Core State Standards were implemented across all content areas in the School District of Waukesha this year. To continue to develop best practices in Writers' Workshop, it is important to provide teachers with resources that provide strategies and teaching techniques that align to the writing standards. In the past with Writers' Workshop, we have used Lucy Calkin's "Units of Studies" as a primary writing resource. The Common Core has an emphasis on Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing. Therefore, Lucy Calkin's recently developed new "Units of Studies" that are organized and emphasize these types of writing.

Program: Listen and Learn

Target: Whittier Elementary

As the world of education seeks to captivate and engage the minds of early literacy learners, it is important to consider the impact technology has on reading growth. Technology integration in the elementary classroom is a crucial component to catering instruction to students of the digital generation. Putting digital devices in the hands of young children (pre-programmed with high-quality literacy resources) allows for teachers and students to take teaching and learning to a whole new level. Using iPods as transformative tools paves new ways to maximize academic growth, and allows students to take responsibility for their own learning. An iPod "Listen and Learn" classroom activity center offers students interactive digital phonics activities, phonemic awareness games, sight word songs, and many other enriching literacy resources. Students' active engagement in these authentic technology-based learning opportunities has the power to lay a strong literacy foundation for today that will shape tomorrow's reading success.

Program: Double Basses, South HS Orchestra

Target: South High

The double bass in the orchestra is unarguably one of the most important instruments in the orchestra. The bass is the foundation of all melodies, without them the melody is not supported. Having that rich and resonant tone adds to the overall orchestral experience for not only the musicians but audience too. The Waukesha South High School orchestra is seeking funds because it is in need of replacing its existing basses as they are of inferior quality and in a poor state of repair. They are therefore difficult to learn and perform on. Due to the program's skinny school budget, the operational and instrument upkeep costs eat up most, if not all of the budget; leaving nothing for yearly capital expenditures or wish list items. In order to meet the needs of the growing bass section at South, the program is asking to put the funds towards two ½ size Samuel Eastman Basses, at a cost of \$1880.00 per outfit. This purchase will allow the students to learn on and play an instrument that is handmade, responsive and resonate; making learning and performing music a more rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Program: Stepping to 100!

Target: Blair Elementary

My request is for a 6'x6' colorful 100-grid carpet. This project will provide first and second grade math students with a hands on, large visual of the 100-grid.

Program: Alternative Education Program Community Learning Service

Target: Harvey Phillip Alternative High School

The Community Learning Service Project's intent is to get students identified as 'at-risk' into the community of Waukesha area neighborhoods and institutions. Specific learning service projects could include, but not be limited to, Christmas Tree decorating at Linden Heights, yard work assistance for the elderly, outdoor work for the Waukesha County Park System, and the Channel 10 auction. Additional excursions outside of the school, but within Waukesha and environs, could be addressed toward team building of student groups and the greater school community. Examples of such excursions would be a canoe trip and participation in ropes courses. The Community Learning Service Project would serve as a logical implementation and extension of the Harvey Philip Circle of Courage Philosophy. The tenets of the circle are Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. Within the value of Belonging, youth learn to become a respectful part of a group; Belonging is demonstrated by being friendly, caring, cooperative, trusting, respectful, and having healthy relationships. Within the value of Mastery, youth learn to achieve their goals; Mastery is demonstrated by being creative, persistent, competent, self-motivated, a problem solver, and accepting of challenges. Within the value of Independence, youth learn how to demonstrate personal responsibility; Independence is demonstrated by being assertive, confident, showing leadership, using empowerment, demonstrating self-control, a problem solver, demonstrating self-discipline. Within the value of Generosity, youth learn how to contribute positively to others; Generosity is demonstrated by being caring, sharing with others, supportive, helpful, compassionate, showing social concerns.

Program: Mini Mobile Literacy Lab

Target: Butler Middle

The Mini Mobile Literacy Lab is an initiative designed to bring a systematic approach to teaching targeted skills to the seventh grade reading and writing workshop students while at the same time empowering students to be 21st Century Learners. Having access to technology regularly will not only increase specific skills, but it allows the students to explore and enrich their current curriculum. Using a combination of a standards-based learning approach, a personalized-learning approach, and a project-based learning approach, the 7th graders will be able to create amazing projects that meet a common core standard while being personally meaningful to them.

Program: 3D Design and Printing

Target: Juvenile Center

A trend in 3D Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) design is to use more prototypes in the design and development process, thus improving design and reducing errors before tooling and production begin. Business and Industry have begun using 3D printing and prototyping to streamline product development. Our goal is to tap the creativity, technicality, and entrepreneurial drive of young people in the area of 3D printing and design. Students will create a 3D design on the computer and produce a solid prototype using the CubeX 3D printer.

Program: High School Health- CPR/AED Choking Skills and Assessment

Target: West High

Purchased choking vests will provide safe hands on practice with immediate feedback on mastery of life saving skills.

Program: Get Hooked on a Book!

Target: Hillcrest Elementary

We are in need of book series that make kids want to read and then read more and more. This project is written in hopes of updating and filling the second grade literacy classroom library with sets of newer and wildly popular author series to promote more excitement and more reading.

Program: Leveled Readers

Target: South High

There are many students who need to learn how to read more effectively. We are trying to meet that need through Academic Options, but the materials that were created are not working. I would like to request funding for the Leveled Reader Program created by Irene Fountas.

Program: Physics Inquiry Lab Supplement (Aluminum Tracks)

Target: North High

Physics education research has shown that students do not effectively learn physics through traditional modes of instruction. Instead inquiry-based activities and student-centered activities in which students discuss and develop physics concepts and equations have been found to create longevity of conception and true conceptual change. This project is intended to support these efforts through the acquisition of equipment that allow students to collect data using Vernier sensor equipment. These tracks are vital in developing inquiry oriented labs that allow students to collect data, develop equations, and then use inductive reasoning in order to create the general kinetics, dynamics, and energy equations we use throughout the year in physics. (Having the students develop the physics equations through data collect has been shown through research to be HUGE when it comes to student buy-in, deep understanding of the equations, etc.) These tracks allow us to connect the content to both technology and inquiry-based pedagogical strategies. Currently, North does not have these low-friction, aluminum tracks that can allow for collision carts to move at constant velocities and with constant acceleration. Instead, I hand-made 12 wood tracks (that are FAR from ideal) to make due for this year. These tracks are mediocre at best since they have friction, have no track feet or ends, and are very unstable for data collection. With actual, aluminum tracks, the students will be able to collect clean and meaningful data for core physics topics such as: uniform motion accelerated motion, Force & acceleration (develop Newton's Laws), Impulse and momentum (collisions) and Work-Energy Theorem.