

2007 GRANTS

The following grants were awarded for the 2007-2008 school year. The grants were awarded to 13 programs; 7 elementary, 2 middle school and 4 high school.

Program: Writing Mentor Workshop

Target: Hawthorne, Lowell and Prairie K-6

Description: Provide high-quality literature as mentor texts as examples that students can use as reference during independent writing time. These quality mentor texts will match and enrich the curriculum, be differentiated to meet a variety of learning needs and provide students with high quality examples of writing. Writing workshops for modeling how writing works will use this literature to increase student motivation to write, improve and increase the volume and stamina for writing, enlighten students, and build understanding of the skills and strategies essential for writing.

Program: High School Math

Target: North, South and West High School Algebra Classrooms

Description: Proposal is to purchase one of four Navigator software systems for Texas Instrument graphing calculators. The other three systems will be purchased through the district technology budget. Buying four systems qualifies the district for free professional development and on-site setup from the vendor (an additional \$1975 value). The Navigator system is designed to work with TI graphing calculators by providing wireless communications between students' calculators and the teacher's PC. This allows teachers to attain a new level of interactive learning and better engages the students in lessons. The system also allows real-time formative assessment, supporting research-based instructional strategies, leading to improvements in student achievement.

Note: A Ken Hollub Fund Grant will cover part of this program.

Program: Science Nights

Target: All elementary students are invited

Description: Students and their parents will engage in hands-on, inquiry based laboratories to build problem solving skills using the scientific method. Science Nights are designed to offer a wide range of intriguing scientific topics to spark student interest and draw upon different background experiences based on a problem given to them.

Program: Summer School and the Feeling is Graduation

Target: Harvey Phillips Alternative Charter School (HPACS)

Description: Proposal is to begin a computer-based summer school program that will enable the HPACS seniors that are short of graduation credits to complete their requirements. Rather than enroll in traditional high school summer school, this would allow HPACS students to continue their connection to a familiar educational environment with smaller class sizes and consistent teacher expectations.

Program: Automation and Robots

Target: Central Middle School 8th Grade Science

Description: Program would introduce robotics as a unit within the 8th grade science curriculum. Students would receive experience in building and programming basic robotic systems through a computer interface. This early exposure to automation and robotic systems will benefit students and aligns well with pre-engineering courses and would particularly benefit students interested in the charter Engineering Preparatory Academy.

Program: Building Literature Circle Materials

Target: Summit View Second Grade

Description: Proposal is to purchase the books needed to build the school equivalent of adult "book groups". This type of reading instruction encourages conversation among students which strengthens comprehension as students help each other visualize, connect, question, determine importance, infer and synthesize. Students use structured note taking or journaling strategies to capture their responses as they read and to guide their discussions when they meet.

Program: Environmental Excursion for ELL's

Target: South High School ELL Students

Description: The goal of the program is to provide Bilingual/ELL students who are participating in a required biology class the opportunity to experience the Schlitz Audubon Center for a special Ecology & Lake Michigan program with an additional stop at Retzer Nature Center. Many of these students come from other parts of the world and by and large, they are not comfortable or familiar with the local environment. This trip will give them exposure to the natural areas that will enhance their understanding of ecological concepts and introduce them to the natural world which they can share with their predominately immigrant families.

Note: A Ken Hollub Fund Grant will fully cover this program.

Program: Mentor Writing Research Materials

Target: Bethesda K-6

Description: See Writing Mentor Workshop at Hawthorne/Lowell/Prairie above.

Program: Fine Arts Project

Target: Saratoga 4-6 grades

Description: Create and reinforce new connections between art forms to enrich the lives of students. The program components include trips to the Milwaukee Symphony and Milwaukee Art Museum and culminates in a spring Fine Arts night at which the students will display a variety of their artistic efforts created throughout the school year along with the presentation of a school musical.

Note: Partially funded by the WEF Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

Program: Math in a Bag

Target: Blair K-1

Description: The main goal of the program is to increase positive attitudes toward the subject of mathematics and to increase student confidence in problem solving. Also, parents will gain a stronger understanding of the new path problem skills and what is often required of their child. Every other week a child will take a math bag home that includes a fiction story based on a specific math concept (finding area, multiplication, etc.) as well as corresponding manipulatives. Each book has designed activities to accompany it. The child and family will be required to complete a journal response about their experience with the book, explaining their math thinking.

Note: Partially funded by a grant from the Wiesner Family Fund

Program: Tribes

Target: Banting

Description: Tribes engages teachers, administrators, students and families in working together as a learning community that is dedicated to caring and support, active participation and positive expectations for all students. Ultimately, the goal is to strengthen classroom and school community, reduce disrespect and disruptive behaviors and increase academic achievement.

Program: Reality Store – Financial Fitness 101

Target: High School Finance and Econ Students

Description: Interactive, hands-on financial literacy event for high school seniors around personal finance, money management, and other “life” financial skills. Students will practice applying sound money management skills while interacting with business and community volunteers as they determine how their money will be spent for an entire month.

Note: Partially funded by a grant from the Merlin & Grace Birk Fund

Program: Middle School Store

Target: Horning

Description: Provide students with opportunities for hands-on, work-based experiences that focus on mathematics, business education, marketing, reading and writing through the startup of a school store.