

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
DESCRIPTION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR
2018-2019**

The **Mamaroneck Schools Foundation** is pleased to announce the approval of funding for 24 grants for the 2018-2019 school year. The grants, which total \$185,521, will have an impact on all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Making Texts Accessible for All: Playaway Books

HMX

This grant provides for a Playaway audiobook collection for the literacy team at Hommocks. The audiobooks will allow developing readers increased access to grade level texts, provide students with a model of reading fluency and increase reading comprehension. This grant also enables students to explore books with complex themes for middle school thinkers (what it means to belong, the purpose of family, striving to be your best, etc.) that are often beyond their independent reading level. Use of the audiobooks supports the district's balanced literacy curriculum and approach and provides an additional layer of support for developing readers.

**This grant is partially funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

Expanding Access to Books in World Languages

HMX

This grant will help build a collection of library books at Hommocks in languages other than English. Currently, ENL (English as a New Language) students have few choices when selecting independent reading books in their native language. Book choice is critical to literacy development and engagement. Research supports continued development of literacy in one's native language to bolsters one's acquisition of English. The book selection process will include a literacy event in the library with the World Language teachers, Hommocks families and students to generate wish lists. Based on these lists, a diverse collection of classic titles originally written in Spanish, French, Dutch, Russian, Arabic and Chinese will be purchased as well as popular middle school titles translated from English.

Guided Reading Materials

CEN

This grant provides books for first-grade guided reading. Currently, there is not an adequate supply of engaging and developmentally appropriate guided reading books. Guided reading is an important component of the Balanced Literacy Program. During guided reading, the teacher supports children in reading materials they cannot read totally independently and helps them learn strategies that they can then apply in their independent reading.

**This grant is partially funded by The Diane G. Millstein Endowment.*

Multi-Lingual Library

CHAT

The Chatsworth community is international, with approximately 90 bilingual students. This grant will fund the addition of more foreign language texts to the school library for both students whose primary language is not English and for students who are just being introduced to world languages. The grant addresses student interest in borrowing texts in languages other than English and will help expose the general population to the rich possibilities of world languages.

Social-Emotional Wellness Library for Spanish-speakers

MAS

A social wellness library of English resources was initiated in 2015. However, mental health professionals at MAS have noted a scarcity of resources for Spanish speaking families around mental health issues affecting children, including autism, ADHD, loss, body image, self-esteem, trauma, divorce. Resources in Spanish (books, audiobooks, DVDs) will help students, families and staff to better manage and understand social-emotional issues and difficult behaviors. This will increase the overall awareness and understanding around mental health issues. Ultimately, this should foster stronger partnerships between families and the school to better support children experiencing life challenges. A locked display case will be purchased to showcase these materials.

STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART AND MATH)

Coding in Kindergarten

MAS

This grant provides programmable technology for kindergarten students at Mamaroneck Avenue School. Think & Code-a-Pillars, Ozobots and Dash & Dot Robots will be used to introduce kindergarten students to Code- one of the world's most widely used languages. This grant promotes computer literacy, logical thinking, problem solving skills and creativity. It provides an opportunity to spark students' interest in coding at a young age and begin preparing them for jobs in the 21st century. This grant aligns with district initiatives by enabling an expansion of computer science learning in the early elementary curriculum.

First Grade Take Home Tool Kits

MAS

This grant will provide each child in first grade a math manipulative kit. Families will participate in a "Math Night" supported by the district Math coach, Mariana Ivanov, where they will learn how to use the manipulatives and play games to support the development of mathematical strategies. The kits will be kept at home for the duration of the year which will increase the school-to-home connection and seamless instruction. Teachers will use parent-teacher conferences to check in to ensure families are using the math kits to support math work at home. Teachers can use this opportunity to model more strategies and ways to use the kits with their students.

Google Expeditions: Bringing Virtual Reality into the Classrooms

CHAT

Google Expedition is a virtual reality teaching tool that can take students to extraordinary places -- all over the world, to outer space and back in time. Many of these expeditions are linked directly to the core content and curriculum and provide a great opportunity to enrich the cultural experiences of elementary students. The expeditions are led by the teacher (using a tablet) while students access the scene wearing headsets. Some of the expeditions the students are expected to take include the Amazon rainforest, coral reefs, the moon, and planets – and can even allow them to go with Alexander Hamilton as he ratifies the Constitution. Teachers will use them to inspire research, particularly in conjunction with the 4th grade inquiry and 5th grade Capstone projects. This grant provides two units of 30 kits that can be used across Chatsworth. They are also portable and the District is currently exploring how they might be shared across the four elementary schools.

Math Racks

MUR

This grant will provide magnetic math racks for each kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teacher as well as two professional books per teacher to help guide the teachers' curriculum design. The math rack provides a means for teachers to listen to the strategies of students and represent their thinking on the math rack. The racks are designed to encourage children's innate ability to perceptually subitize, or compose small groups, which serves to build fluency adding and subtracting within 20.

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Electronic Music Studio

MHS

MHS students have become increasingly passionate about creating music and many enter MHS with a strong foundation, due to the success of the Hommocks eMusic Lab. This grant funds seven new eMusic Lab stations at MHS to complement the existing seven stations in the PACE Computer Music studio. Each new music station will include an iMac with Garage Band, an Ableton Push Station, a MIDI keyboard controller, headphones and cabling to play through the classroom sound system. In addition, this grant will fund a recording studio station which will provide students with an experience that simulates a state-of-the-art recording studio. The recording station will include a Mac Pro, Pro Tools hardware, software and plug-ins, GarageBand, an Ableton Push Station, a Moog synthesizer, an electronic drum set, a MIDI controller, and cabling accessories. Finally, this grant will fund the upgrade of the Sibelius software used in the music lab. This grant supports the goal of the PACE Music curriculum to offer a music elective that empowers students to become creative, expressive, and articulate musical artists. This grant will be available for all PACE activities and for use by students in a number of after school clubs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION; HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Physical Education Technology Package

MAS, CEN

This grant will provide iPads and large monitors with Apple TV and data connection for the gyms at MAS and Central School. The technology will allow the physical education department to provide deeper and more differentiated instruction and to more effectively assess students. It will also increase engagement of students, particularly in grades 3-5. Through programs such as quick video loops of teachers demonstrating a particular skill or students self-evaluating through review of videotaped footage, the technology will enhance the PE curriculum and students' experience.

Outdoor Recreation Revitalization

HMX

Because studies have found that productive breaks during the school day provide an increase in concentration and improved mood, this grant allows for inviting and cooperative outdoor spaces for students to use during their non-academic time at Hommocks. The grant will provide a colorful play space with designated areas for group games, including basketball, box ball and kickball, enabling students to release energy and reduce stress levels. It will also provide picnic tables and benches for students who want to read or play a board game outside. Enabling students to make better use of outdoor spaces promotes happier, calmer individuals as they return to class and supports the districts goal of health and social-emotional wellness.

TASC Zen Den

HMX

TASC is a special education program created for students whose social and emotional functioning impacts their learning in the classroom. These students are cognitively and academically capable, but require management and emotional support throughout their day so that they can maintain engagement in their academics. This grant will provide iPods containing mindfulness music and apps which will help the students to reduce stress, anxiety and overstimulation. Research shows that the use of classical music during academic work increases productivity and focus. These tools will be implemented throughout the student's school day and, with the increase of internalization and self-awareness, students may adopt such practices in their lives outside of school as well.

**This grant is funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

Little Flower Yoga**CEN**

The practice of mindfulness alleviates rising stress, emotional dysregulation and attention deficit. The School Yoga Project offered by Little Flower Yoga offers a method of managing physical, emotional and social stress by learning life skills such as emotional regulation, resilience and increased attention. This unique program combines yoga and mindfulness practices in a simple way. A certified Little Flower Yoga instructor will first instruct teachers in the technique during two workshops. Then, the yoga instructor and each teacher will conduct a 20-minute chair yoga and mindfulness session with each class weekly for a 6-week period. Teachers plan to continue the practice with their classes throughout the school year and beyond.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULAR, CLASSROOM & SCHOOL ENHANCEMENTS**Beekeeping: An Opportunity for Cross Pollination****MHS**

Understanding the lifecycle of bees and the important role they play in our ecosystem can be used to teach students about the environment, pollination, and nutrition. The study of bees and their behavior can span science, art, math and culinary arts. This grant funds the purchase of one beekeeping brood chamber to be used as a model, and the materials to build an additional three chambers, which will be built by technology students. In addition, the grant funds four bee nucleus kits and frames and other tools necessary to grow and maintain the bee colonies as well as ventilated suites, veils, hats and gloves. The beehives will be located in an area outside that is visible from the overpass so that all students can observe the activity in the hives. Several MHS teachers have been trained to work with bees, and ultimately, some students will be involved with hands-on activities as they help to manage and maintain MHS's bee colonies.

Culinary Arts Refrigeration**MHS**

This grant provides two professional refrigerators. To ensure the future success of the Culinary Arts program there is a great need for refrigeration that is both adequate and professional. The current kitchen is old and outdated. This grant will enable students to store their ingredients and projects more efficiently, neatly and safely. In addition, the students in the Culinary Arts program will be able to maintain accurate temperature logs, which is an important training for those wishing to enter the culinary workforce in the future.

Listen Up! Classroom Amplification System**MAS**

Data shows that most students are visual learners and have a harder time learning when information is presented orally. This grant will enable the installation of an amplification system that will improve students' ability to listen to and attend to a lesson, not just for those with hearing impairments. The amplification system increases the teacher's voice over the ambient classroom noise. The sound surrounds them and is not just heard in one place. This should result in greater class participation from all students, less teacher repetition of directions and a greater amount of work being completed with understanding and success.

Canine-Integrated Therapy for Special Classes

HMX

Giving Retriever provides a Canine-Integrated Therapy Curriculum that employs the use of Assistance Dog training as a means of providing goal-driven treatment alternatives for individuals with delays in physical, social, emotional, cognitive and communicative functioning and development. Research shows that children with disabilities, especially those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, benefit greatly from animal-assisted therapy. This grant will fund ten sessions during which students will observe and participate in a dog's training, addressing behavioral concepts that include bonding, anticipation, instructing/coaching, additional focus and time sequencing.

**This grant is funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

Standing Up for Education

HMX

This grant will provide 5 pneumatic freestanding desks on casters to accommodate learners in sixth grade math with the intention of increasing their focus and learning. Research touts the benefits for students to stand and move while learning including increased focus, retention and engagement while allowing for the release of excess kinesthetic energy. These desks will serve as a pilot for middle school students.

Podcast Radio Equipment

MHS

This grant funds the purchase of podcast reporting and recording equipment to be used in the Mamaroneck Associated Press class. One objective of the class is to study the realm of the digital listening experience and the medium of radio, which has been re-born with the advent of podcasts and recordable shows. The class dissects and studies different forms of media: visual, auditory and print. Students use equipment throughout the semester, during fieldwork and in the classroom as they perfect their reporting skills and create new stories. Students will use this equipment to produce podcasts for the community and improve the current content of the Medium.com web site for both shows and audio reporting. Students will go through the entire creative process from the ground-up and the goal will be that the shows will be serialized and students will gain a radio following. Use of this equipment will enhance the authentic learning experience for students.

Reimagining Small Spaces

MUR

With limited space and increasing enrollment, Murray is looking for ways to more creatively use some small rooms and large closets that are currently used for storage. These spaces are large enough to house small groups of children working on inquiry-based projects, quiet reading and other activities. In addition, this grant will more broadly consider how the school looks at instructional spaces. It provides for consultation fees to bring in the architects at Fielding Nair to work with the Murray Space Team and determine how smaller spaces can be redesigned and optimized.

Headsets and Microphones

MUR

This grant allows for the purchase of headsets with microphones for the entire 5th grade at Murray while using classroom Chromebooks. The headsets will be used in conjunction with presentations in the computer lab, the library and the classroom, and will allow for higher quality sound than the built-in Chromebook microphones. The headsets will also be used in connection with cross-elementary school collaboration, a District goal. Murray has buddied up with MAS and will be engaged in various live chat activities - the headsets will allow Murray students to better communicate with MAS students. The headsets can also be used to help the striving reader by allowing them to record their oral reading and listen to it played back, thereby building fluency.

COMMUNITY AND STUDENT ENRICHMENT OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

MAS Cubs Pre-Literacy Program

MAS

This program will be a basic pre-literacy/school-skills program for 3 and 4 year-old children who are expected to attend MAS. It will take place during two 12-week sessions after school. Each week, children will choose board books to bring home. In addition, there will be simple instruction in basic pre-literacy and school skills so that students start school on a more level playing field. The program addresses the District's stretch goals of fostering community interconnectedness, helping all students read capably across genres and empowering every family to support their child's learning. The grant provides for the purchase of the board books, school supplies (such as pencils and scissors that students will be allowed to keep), and a small budget for 2 years of replacement costs for the school supplies.

Opportunity Plus Field Kits

HMX

This grant will be used to purchase 30 all-weather "Field Kits" for the Opportunity Plus program at Hommocks, a program that supports "at-risk" students. The kits will be used to provide access to field-based inquiry in the Sound Shore estuary behind Hommocks, referred to as the "Hommocks Swamp". In the past, the Opportunity Plus program served as a remediation program providing homework help. This year, the program looks to get the kids out of the classroom and balance authentic scientific, mathematical and literacy based inquiry with guided fieldwork. The program will expand from two to three days a week and will operate for two, 8-10 week sessions. Through Hommocks' partnership with the Sheldrake Environmental Center, students will spend two of their days each week in the field guided by a Sheldrake naturalist, with each grade having a developmentally minded inquiry goal. The program is specifically designed to provide pathways to academic and personal fulfillment out of the classroom in addition to access to pre-vocational competencies.